

*le boat*

# THE RIVERS SHANNON AND ERNE

Region Guide





		Approx time		No. of locks	
	Belleek	5 hr	9 hr 30 min	1	1
	Enniskillen	1 hr		0	
	Bellanaleck	1 hr		0	
	Carrybridge	2 hr 30 min		0	
	Inishfendra	2 hr 15 min	12 hr 15 min	2	17
	Ballyconnell	4 hr		3	
	Ballinamore	6 hr		12	
	Leitrim	45 min	45 min	0	0
	Intersection of River Shannon and branch to Lough Key	30 min	30 min	0	0
	Carrick-on-Shannon (Le Boat)	3 hr	10 hr 50 min	1	3
	Dromod	15 min		0	
	Roosky	2 hr		1	
	Tarmonbarry	1 hr 35 min		1	
	Lanesborough	4 hr		0	
	Athlone	2 hr 15 min	7 hr 30 min	1	2
	Clonmacnoise	1 hr		0	
	Shannonbridge	1 hr 15 min		0	
	Banagher	3 hr		1	
	Portumna (Le Boat)	30 min	4 hr	0	0
	Terryglass	2 hr		0	
	Dromineer	45 min		0	
	Garrykennedy	15 min		0	
	Middle of Lough Derg	30 min		0	0
	Killaloe				

		Approx time		No. of locks	
	Leitrim	1 hr 45 min	1 hr 45 min	3	3
	Drumshanbo				

		Approx time		No. of locks	
	Intersection of River Shannon and branch to Lough Key	2 hr	5 hr 15 min	1	2
	Lough Key Forest and Activit Park	45 min		0	
	Boyle	2 hr 30 min		1	
	Intersection of River Shannon and branch to Lough Key				

		Approx time		No. of locks	
	Middle of Lough Derg	30 min	3 hr	0	0
	Mountshannon	1 hr 15 min		0	
	Scarriff	1 hr 15 min		0	
	Middle of Lough Derg				

		Approx time		No. of locks	
	Inishfendra	45 min	45 min	0	0
	Belturbet				

Times are an approximation only and are calculated on the basis of an average speed of 7.5km/h and an average time of 12 minutes to pass through a lock. Your speed, the flow of the water and the time it takes to go through locks will all affect your progress.



5

Maximum speed allowed on canals in km/h

There are no speed limits on rivers and in lagoons, although please slow down as you pass moored boats, marinas, fishermen and in narrow channels where your wash can cause damage to the bank and wildlife.



Pass oncoming boats on the right-hand side

# BELLEEK



Although just a small village, Belleek is one of Ireland's top five tourist destinations due to its world-renowned history in pottery, china and porcelain production. Cycle around town before stopping at the Visitor Centre where you'll learn all about the famous porcelain, and pick up a gift at the shop. You can also enjoy a walk to the pretty Castle Caldwell in the west of the town.



**Recommended restaurant:** The Forge Restaurant, Main Street. 15 minutes walk from the harbour

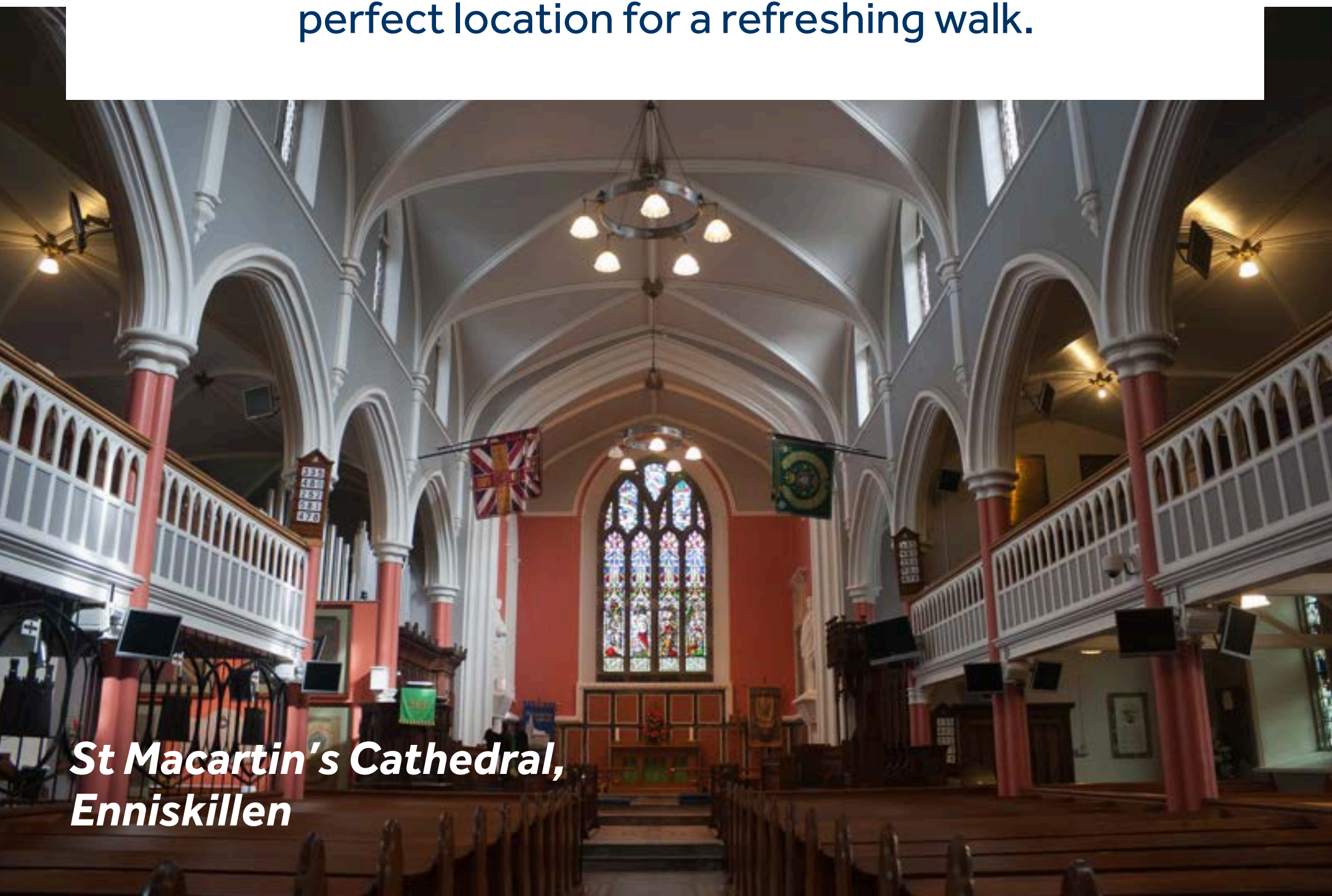


**Amenities:** There are two supermarkets, Centra and Mckeoughs Foodmarket.



# ENNISKILLEN

Enniskillen is the biggest city of Fermanagh County. Downtown, take a walk and visit the magnificent Anglican Cathedral, St Macartin. On the outskirts, there are pretty places to stop and admire, including the gardens near the old fortified house in Tully Castle. Visit the imposing Castle Coole, a magnificent 18th-century mansion and landscape park owned by the National Trust, and a perfect location for a refreshing walk.



***St Macartin's Cathedral,  
Enniskillen***



**Recommended restaurant:** The Devenish Lounge, located on Darling Street, close by to the River Erne.



**Amenities:** You'll find everything you need here – shops, supermarkets, pharmacies, bakeries, butchers, cafés and restaurants.



## GOLFING WITH A VIEW



Enniskillen Golf Club is within easy walking distance from the town centre. This superb 18-hole parkland course has mature tree lined fairways along with elevated tees overlooking the surrounding area. You won't fail to notice the outstanding views over the town and surrounding countryside.

# BELTURBET



***Staghal Church***

Belturbet is a peaceful and welcoming town by the canal. Take a walk downtown to discover the beautiful Staghal Church. If you stay the night, you can dine in one of the many fine restaurants.





**Recommended restaurant:** Seven Horse Restaurant on Main Street, a 10 minute walk from the town moorings.



**Amenities:** You'll find supermarkets, pharmacies, a butchers and a bakery.

**Farmers Market:** Fri (4pm-7pm, May-Oct) – Village Hall carpark

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# BALLYCONNELL

A picturesque town with a number of good restaurants and typical pubs. Fishing fans are spoilt for choice with a warren of lakes and rivers containing everything from tench to monster pike. 2km south of the river, the Slieve Russell Hotel and Golf club will impress the most avid golfer and must be visited, even if just for afternoon tea. And a short taxi ride in the other direction is the enchanting Bear Essentials teddy bear gift shop and visitor centre, which includes a vintage teddy bear collection.

*Bear Essentials, Ballyconnell*





**Recommended restaurant:** Angler's Rest, located on Main Street a short distance from the river banks.



**Amenities:** You'll find a supermarket, butchers and pharmacy here.

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# BALLINAMORE

Ballinamore is a green and peaceful town with many activities on offer. Walk the hiking paths around the town, take to your bicycle or visit the equestrian centre (353 71 964 5708). Drumcoura Lake Resort is located just outside the town of Ballinamore. The resort has a horse riding arena, a saloon bar and restaurant which combines the best elements of a wild west saloon, with the atmosphere and friendliness of an Irish bar. The Drumcoura Lake Resort is also a great place for trekking.



**Recommended restaurant:** Smyth's Bar, a traditional Irish pub located on Main Street, a short walk from the canal.



**Amenities:** You'll find supermarkets, pharmacies, butcher, bakery and various shops here.



# DRUMSHANBO

Drumshanbo is a typical Irish village, with a once-thriving iron-mining industry. The city has a great religious past, and has three churches that you can visit. Around the lake, there are also beautiful walking paths. The present parish church, St. Patrick's was erected in 1845. Before that, parishioners worshipped in a church which stood near the site of the Famine Graveyard.



**Amenities:** You'll find a supermarket and pharmacy and a café here.

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# LOUGH KEY



*Lough Key Castle*



Explore Lough Key Forest and Leisure Park (+353 71 967 3122) for guaranteed family fun, come rain or shine. Lough Key Forest Park is renowned for its stunning views, varied wildlife and historic buildings. It also has a wonderful visitor centre with a treetop canopy walk, outdoor adventure playgrounds, segway tours and activities, and a Lakeside Café. Inside, you'll find the innovative Boda Borg, a Swedish concept and unique to Ireland. A challenge for both adults and children, once you enter the two-storey complex only teamwork, ingenuity and trial & error will allow you to progress through its 47 rooms! It contains fun-filled activities, imaginative puzzles and enjoyable tasks, but no instructions.



**Recommended restaurant:** Take a short taxi drive to the Historical town of Boyle with lots of Bars & Restaurant.



**Amenities:** There's a few small supermarkets here, and a pharmacy.



# LEITRIM



*Carrick-on-Shannon town, Leitrim*

A quiet and pretty little village straddling the canal, Leitrim is a great place for scenic walks or countryside bike rides. The village lies in the heart of the Blueway and has a variety of nature trails for walking enthusiasts, and the area is full of forests and lakes. Archery lanes and an electric bike hire scheme are also available.



**Recommended restaurant:** Waves Restaurant and Bar located within Leitrim Marina Hotel, overlooking Leitrim marina.



# CARRICK-ON-SHANNON

Carrick-on-Shannon is the largest town in the county of Leitrim, and one of Ireland's fastest growing resorts. It is the perfect destination for a short break with an abundance of visitor attractions, top-class restaurants, nightlife and shopping. The beautiful 19th Century former Courthouse has been wonderfully restored into Leitrim's first integrated centre for the arts – The Dock. Housing a 100+ seat performance space, three art galleries, artists' studios, an arts education room and is home to The Leitrim Design House. Carrick on Shannon is known as 'the marina capital of Ireland' and the Marina is an attractive focal point of the town. Walking along the boardwalk towards the Marina and People's Park after a delicious meal is a lovely way to spend a summer evening. Visit the unique Costello Memorial Chapel, reputed to be the second smallest chapel in the world, and erected by Edward Costello to mark his devotion to his wife, who died in 1877. The ruins of the old Carrick Castle can be glimpsed on the Carrick Bridge. The Mulvey Centre offers a children's play area and indoor bowling (+353 71 96 21605).



**Recommended restaurant:** The Oarsman, based in the heart of town on Bridge Street or Cryans Hotel, overlooking the quay.



**Amenities:** There's various supermarkets and shops here.

**Farmers Market:** Thu (10am-2pm) - The Market Yard Centre



## TEE OFF BEFORE YOU SET OFF?



Golf lovers can enjoy a round at Carrick Golf Club, a stunning 18-hole course situated on the banks of Drumharlow Lake and Boyle River. It's just a short taxi ride from the our base. The course offers a wonderful mix of breath-taking scenery and there are some spectacular holes, not least the eighth where the tee-box is surrounded by water.

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## DROMOD

This small village has three lovely pubs and a restaurant, and is noted for its excellent fishing on nearby Loughs Bofin and Bodergh. The Bog Oak water feature in the centre of the village is entitled 'The Weeping Tree' and was made by a local craftsman from a piece of bog oak which was found nearby.



**Recommended restaurant:** Cox's Steakhouse, The Brandy Well, and The Copper Still – all located a short distance from Dromod Harbour on Harbour Road.



# ROOSKY

The beautiful village of Roosky is a very well-known and popular tourist destination along the Shannon. The old town is famous for its angling and the waterways are well stocked with perch, roach and bream. If you're in the mood for exercise, there are some lovely peaceful walking trails around the area. The harbour is well equipped with mooring points to spend the evening and there is plenty of 'craic' (the Irish term for fun) to be had in the local pubs.



**Amenities:** You'll find a supermarket and pharmacy here.

# TARMONBARRY



*Keenan Hotel,  
Tarmonbarry*



Tarmonbarry is a welcoming town with many signs of the past. Discover the hidden Abbey in the church grounds, built in the 12th century, or enjoy the sight of the great Carriglas Manor. Built in the early 19th century, this Tudor revival house was designed by Daniel Robertson and formerly the residence of the Lefroy Family. It is now owned by the Ireland National Trust. If you stay for the night in Tarmonbarry, enjoy the plentiful local pubs and restaurants.



*Fishing near Tarmonbarry*



**Recommended restaurant:** Keenan Hotel, next to the moorings, or The Purple Onion.



**Amenities:** You'll find a supermarket, pharmacy, butcher, bakery and various shops here.



# LANESBOROUGH

In the small town of Lanesborough stands one of the oldest centres of Christianity in Longford, Saint-John's church, a beautiful building built on an older church dating from the 5th century.



**Recommended restaurant:** The Sister's Bistro, located on Main Street in Lanesborough.



**Amenities:** You'll find a supermarket, pharmacy, butcher and bakery here.

## LAKESIDE GOLFING

On the south-eastern shores of Lough Ree is Glasson Golf Club, boasting superb lakeside scenery and tour-quality fairways and greens. And nearby, in Hodson Bay, you'll find Athlone Golf Club which has been chosen many times by the Golfing Union of Ireland as a venue for competitions at all levels.



*Glasson Golf Course*



# ATHLONE



Athlone, the capital of the Midlands, is a welcoming town. Come and discover its culture, especially Athlone Castle, built to defend the island against French attacks and then partially destroyed by a lightning strike in 1967. Visit the Derryglad Folk Museum where a collection of Farm & Folk life in Ireland from 18th Century is showcased. Athlone is home to the oldest pub in the world, Sean's Bar which attracts visitors from all over the world and is situated on the banks of the River Shannon. Take time to see the visitor centre and the beautiful landscapes over the river.



**Recommended restaurant:** The Left Bank Bistro, located on the left bank of the river on Athlone High Street or Hatters Lane Bistro, a 10 minute walk away from the River on Strand Street.



**Amenities:** There's supermarkets, pharmacies, a bakery and butcher available here.

**Farmers Market:** Sat (10am-3pm) – Market Square



# CLONMACNOISE



Clonmacnoise is a wonderful vestige of the past, lost to nature. Come here and discover many beautiful monuments, like the old monastery, the cathedral ruins and various temple ruins. To dig deeper into the fascinating history of Clonmacnoise, visit the on-site interpretive visitor centre, which displays a number of cross slabs and the 9th century Cross of the Scriptures. Tours and visits need to be booked in advance.

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# SHANNONBRIDGE



## *Shannonbridge Fort*

Shannonbridge village has one of the oldest bridges still in use over the River Shannon, completed in 1757. Take a free self-guided tour of the Shannonbridge Fort, a Napoleonic site that has been standing strong since 1810 (get in touch on [shannonbridgefort.ie/](http://shannonbridgefort.ie/) for more information). For another must-see stop steeped in history, visit the Clonony Castle – the ancestral home of the Coghlan family. Learn about its history and restoration process (book your tour on [www.clononycastle.com](http://www.clononycastle.com)). Before heading back off on the river, stop off at Lucker's Bar for dinner and a pint. Dating back to the 1800's, Lucker's Bar is one of Irelands best kept secrets offering an authentic pub experience not to be missed. Enjoy live music from some of Irelands best bands and musicians performing up to 6 nights a week during the summer season. The excellent food and stunning view of the river are just a few more reasons to add this experience to your list. Plus, locks are now free to visitors.





**Recommended restaurants:** Luker's Bar, the steak and a pint of Guinness is a must. The Organic Kitchen at Fallon's Bar, serving delicious, locally-sourced organic food. And JJ Killeens, loved by the locals!



**Amenities:** Restaurants and a gift shop at Clonmacnoise.

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# BANAGHER

Banagher is steeped in history. Come here and discover this peaceful and quiet town hiding many treasures of the past, like the old Castle Clonony. Head downtown and visit the pretty Saint-Paul's church. There are numerous fortifications around the town which date back to the 14th century. In 1760, Crank House was built – a two storey, six bay Georgian townhouse with bow front and superb limestone doorway. The long sloping street in Banagher is lined with late-Georgian houses running up to the river where a bridge links Offaly with Galway.



**Recommended restaurant:** Flynn's Bar & Restaurant located on Main Street, Banagher, just a short distance from the river or Cranks Restaurant - a 10 minute walk from the River.



**Amenities:** There are a couple supermarkets and pharmacies here.



# PORTUMNA



*Portumna Castle*

Portumna is home to one of our Emerald Star bases. Situated at the head of Lough Derg, Portumna is one of Galway's most attractive towns and is famous for Portumna Castle, which both King James I and Queen Elizabeth I of England visited, and for the lords that once lived there. You can also visit the Irish Workhouse Centre, the last resort of the destitute from the early 1840s to the early 1920s. Visitors are guided through the original workhouse buildings and view a short film on life in the workhouse. Portumna Forest Park is an excellent, well-maintained area with picturesque views, different walking paths, biking facilities, and lots of beautiful wildlife.





**Recommended restaurant:** Modena Restaurant, a family-run spot in the heart of Portumna. The Ferry Inn, a 10 minute walk from base.



**Amenities:** You'll find everything you need here – shops, supermarkets, pharmacies, bakeries, butchers, cafés and restaurants.

**Country Market:** Fri (8:30am-12:30pm) – Town Hall

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# TERRYGLASS

A pretty and welcoming village where you will enjoy having a rest. Terryglass is also the site of a 6th century monastic settlement, of which only a small part remains; but the area is very historic. It is believed that baptisms were held in St. Augh's Eye Well by Saint Patrick when he visited Terryglass. Saint Columba's Headache Well is also situated in Terryglass, and gained its name from Columba and its alleged powers of helping to cure migraines and headaches.



**Recommended restaurant:** Derg Inn, a 10 minute walk from Terryglass Harbour, or Paddy's Bar.



**Amenities:** You'll find one small grocery store, one café and two pubs here.



# MOUNTSHANNON

Mountshannon is a beautiful and scenic village.

It was designed as a model village and completed in 1742. The village was designed and built from scratch by Alexander Woods, a Limerick merchant, who intended it as a purely Protestant settlement to impress the surrounding Catholic population, in the hope they would convert to the Reformed Church. In fact the reverse happened – it was the Catholics who colonised the village, and the picturesque Protestant church in a wooded churchyard bears testimony to Woods and his scheme.



**Recommended restaurant:** berrytree café, for home-baked goods. The Snug Pizzeria, located on Main Street, 10 minutes walk from the river bank. Cois Na hAbhna, a pub restaurant in village.



**Amenities:** You'll find a small grocery shop in the petrol station, a short walk from the village centre. Market: Sat (11am-3pm) – Main Street.





***Lough Derg***

## FISHING HEAVEN!



Lough Derg is a spectacular stretch of water and probably the best in Ireland for fishing, with huge shoals of quality bream, roach, hybrids and big pike. The lough is huge – over 25 miles long – and aboard your boat you will have the pick of the ‘swims’. The bays around Mountshannon Harbour are perfect for Trout, while Ferrox can be caught around Derry Castle near Killaloe. Remember, you can add an angling dinghy to your boat hire in Ireland to access shallow backwaters to catch tench.



# SCARRIFF

Scariff is best known for its harbour. The Scarriff Market House is recognised as the main representative of the town. Every July the towns hosts the Harbour Festival, an open-air event which has been running since 2003 and showcases the many attractions and amenities accessible from Scarif.



**Recommended restaurant:** McNamara's Bar, located in the centre of Scarriff on Market Square or Nuala's Restaurant Tuamgraney 10 minutes walk from the River.



**Amenities:** There's a couple supermarkets, a butchers and a pharmacy here.

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# DROMINEER

Once an important port, Dromineer is now a popular tourist town with various points of interest. Its ivy-clad castle, overlooking the lough, dates back to the 14th century. One of the world's oldest yacht clubs, Lough Derg Yacht Club, was first inaugurated in 1835, and is based at Dromineer.



**Recommended restaurant:** The Whiskey Still, a local favourite.



**Amenities:** There is a café and a pub here. A tiny shop selling basic groceries is also open during the peak summer months.



# GARRYKENNEDY



Garrykennedy is a quiet village that was once the residence of the powerful Kennedy family. Its harbour was once an important stop on the canal for transporting goods, particularly slate from the nearby mines. Visit the old Kennedy Castle, built in the 15th century, or explore the lakeside forest walk and woodlands. There is also an access to the biggest lake of Ireland, Lough Derg, where you can enjoy various water sports and fishing.



**Recommended restaurant:** Larkin's Bar and Restaurant, a 2 minute walk from Garrykennedy harbour.



# KILLALOE



Killaloe and Ballina are two wonderful green villages separated by the river. Take time to have a walk on the old stone bridge and appreciate the amazing river views. The old Roman Catholic Church is also worth a visit. The surrounding area of Killaloe is popular for hill-walking, while the town itself is a maze of narrow streets lined with old shops and houses that line the steep hillside and look down over the 13th century cathedral.



**Recommended restaurant:** Molly's Bar & Restaurant, Lakeside Drive in Ballina. Just two minutes from the Killaloe Bridge Or Flanagans on the River - 2 minutes walk from Killaloe Bridge.



**Amenities:** You'll find supermarkets, a bakery and pharmacy here.

**Farmers Market:** Sun (11am-3pm)



# LOCKS AND LIFTING BRIDGES

All of the locks on the River Shannon are operated by a lock keeper. You and your crew should stay on board as you enter the lock, looping your lines over the bollards and holding firmly to steady the boat as it ascends/ descends. There is a fee of €1.50 for passage through each lock and lifting bridge – payable to the lock keeper in cash only.

Locks on the Shannon-Erne Waterway are electric and user-operated. You need to purchase a 'smart card' from the Le Boat/Emerald Star office (€6.35 for 10 units / €12.70 for 20) – each lock will use 1 unit. On arrival at each lock, set a crew member ashore so that they can walk to the control panel, scan the card and the lock operation will begin. The crew member should always stay next to the control panel while the lock is in operation, ready to push the red stop button in case of emergencies. Please refer to the onboard Boat and Navigation Manual for more information about how to operate and pass through locks.



# OPENING TIMES

	RIVER SHANNON	
	Mon - Sat	Sun
14 <sup>th</sup> Mar - 31 <sup>st</sup> Mar	09.30 - 18.30	09.30 - 18.00
1 <sup>st</sup> Apr - 30 <sup>th</sup> Sep	09.30 - 19.30	09.30 - 18.00
1 <sup>st</sup> Oct - 31 <sup>st</sup> Oct	09.30 - 18.30	09.30 - 18.00
1 <sup>st</sup> Nov - 13 <sup>th</sup> Mar	09.00 - 12.00	09.00 - 11.00

***Closed from 13.00 - 14.00***

*Please note the lifting bridges at Rooskey (+353 (0)71 963 8018) and Tarmonbarry (+353 (0)87 922 2020) are also operated by a lock keeper. There are no set times - they check them intermittently, so please be patient. They will be off-duty for lunch between 1pm and 2pm. All locks and bridges remain open on public holidays.*



	<b>PORTUMNA BRIDGE</b> (+353 (0) 90 974 1011)	
	Mon - Sat	Sun
<b>14<sup>th</sup> Mar - 31<sup>st</sup> Mar</b>	10.00, 11.00, 12.30, 14.30, 16.30, 17.30	10.00, 12.30, 14.30, 16.00, 17.00
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Apr - 30<sup>th</sup> Sep</b>	10.00, 11.00, 12.30, 14.30, 16.30, 17.30, 18.30	10.00, 11.00, 12.30, 14.30, 16.00, 17.00
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Oct - 31<sup>st</sup> Oct</b>	10.00, 11.00, 12.30, 14.30, 16.30, 17.30	10.00, 12.30, 14.30, 16.00, 17.00
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Nov - 13<sup>th</sup> Mar</b>	09.30, 10.30, 11.30	09.30, 10.30

# MOORING

You should only moor in designated moorings spots – please consult your onboard waterway map for exact locations. Most public moorings are free, although there is a fee of €12 per night in Athlone Harbour, which we would recommend you use. Competitor boat yards also usually offer moorings for a charge of approx. €10 a night.

# WATER

You will need to fill up your water tank once or twice during the course of a week. Most towns, village and locks have water points which you can use for free. Consult your onboard waterway map for exact locations.



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**Disclaimer:** We have endeavoured to ensure that all the information in this Guide is correct at time of printing. However, opening times and prices are subject to change. Attractions, restaurants, locks and even stretches of the waterway can close without notice. Le Boat is happy to recommend all of the attractions and eating establishments featured within this Guide. However, they are not owned or managed by Le Boat and, as such, we cannot guarantee the quality of your experience at any particular time. If anything in this guide is not correct, we'd love to hear from you at [guides@leboat.com](mailto:guides@leboat.com) so that we can revise future editions.

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