

THE BEST OF IRELAND *Series*

Limerick

COMPLIMENTARY COPY

INCLUDES
MAP

*Discover a Vibrant
City and County!*

“Lotta stories in this town. This town. This old, bold, cold town. This big town. This pig town. Every house a story...This gets up under your skin town...Fill you with wonder town...This quare, rare, my ho-o-ome is there town. Full of life town.

Extract from **Pigtown** by local playwright, Mike Finn.

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Limerick: Past Master...

Set on the mighty River Shannon, Limerick tells a compelling story from Viking settlement to cosmopolitan city...

It is thought that Luimneach (the Irish name for Limerick) initially referred to the general area along the banks of the Shannon Estuary, then known as 'Loch Luimnigh'. The earliest provable settlement in Limerick dates back to 812 AD but most likely there were people living here for centuries before that. The Vikings sailed up the Shannon and took charge of the land, settling on an island - later known as 'King's Island'. The Vikings and the Irish fought over the site and it was eventually taken over by Brian Ború's forces in the late 10th century.

In the 1170s, the Normans ousted the Irish. Limerick was granted its first charter and mayor by the then Lord of

Ireland, later English King John I, in 1197 - a full decade before London! King John ordered a castle to be built and that was finished by around 1210. By this time, the city was divided into an 'Irishtown' and an 'Englishtown' around which strong walls were built. Those ruins still exist.

“ Limerick tells a compelling story from Viking settlement to cosmopolitan city

Limerick's motto is a quote from Virgil's Aeneid and translates as "an ancient city well versed in the arts of war". The city was under siege at least three times in the 17th century alone - the last siege a bitter battle between the

forces of William of Orange and James II, which ended with the signing of the Treaty of Limerick in 1691. The historic treaty granted Catholic rights. Limerick flourished as a port and trading centre.

The Georgian era is responsible for some of Limerick's finest buildings, many still standing today, and the city had several booming industries such as lace, flour milling, clothing and bacon (one of Limerick's nicknames is 'Pigtown'). Limerick played a big part in the War of Independence with several notable incidents - especially those in the latter months of the war before a truce was called.

In 1919, the Limerick Trades and Labour Council organised a general strike which became known as the 'Limerick Soviet'. A radical challenge to society - and to British rule - the Soviet even went so far as printing its own money!

“ Limerick is one of the oldest cities in Ireland with a fascinating history involving everything from sieges to soviets



Great Presence

Highlights for the local economy were the founding of nearby Shannon Airport and the growth of the manufacturing sector in the city—both of which still have a strong presence. Limerick still has many small independent businesses too and a reputation for innovation and entrepreneurship.

In recent years, important heritage sites like King John's Castle have been developed. There have been massive changes to the industrial landscape and Limerick's outward appearance. Several main city thoroughfares have been made over in recent years and the newest addition is a riverside boardwalk. The revamp of older buildings as well as the construction of new structures like the iconic Riverpoint and Thomond Park Stadium has added new vibrancy. Schemes to regenerate residential and commercial areas are also currently in motion.

Local artists, media figures and business people have broken new ground in various disciplines. Some of these natives have brought Limerick to prominence on an international stage like acclaimed actor Richard Harris, BBC presenter, Terry Wogan, businessman and philanthropist, JP McManus and technology entrepreneurs, John and Patrick Collison.

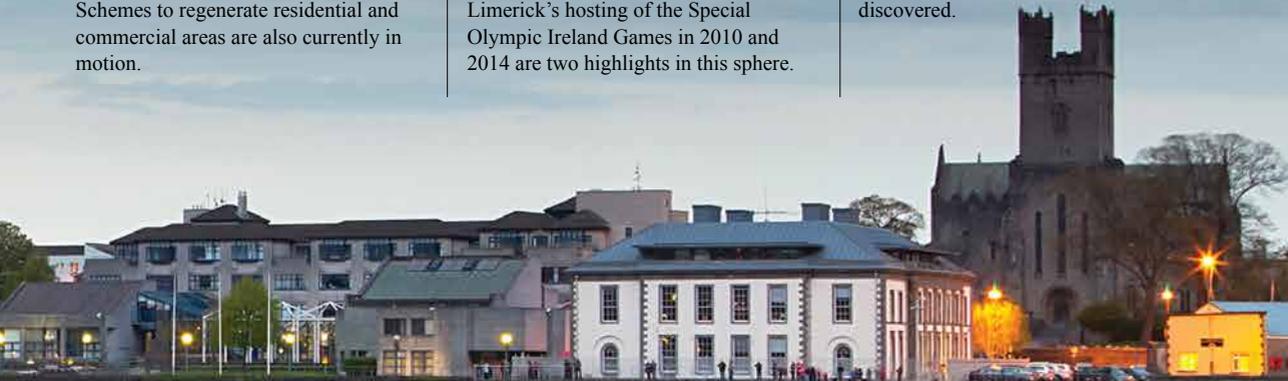
Limerick was Ireland's National City of Culture in 2014, hosting a huge number of events and attracting thousands of visitors.

Limerick today has a reputation as a modern city with the friendly feel of a town. It now has a growing multi-cultural population and a youthful feel thanks to a large student population. The city and its people still have the energy of those that founded it hundreds of years ago.

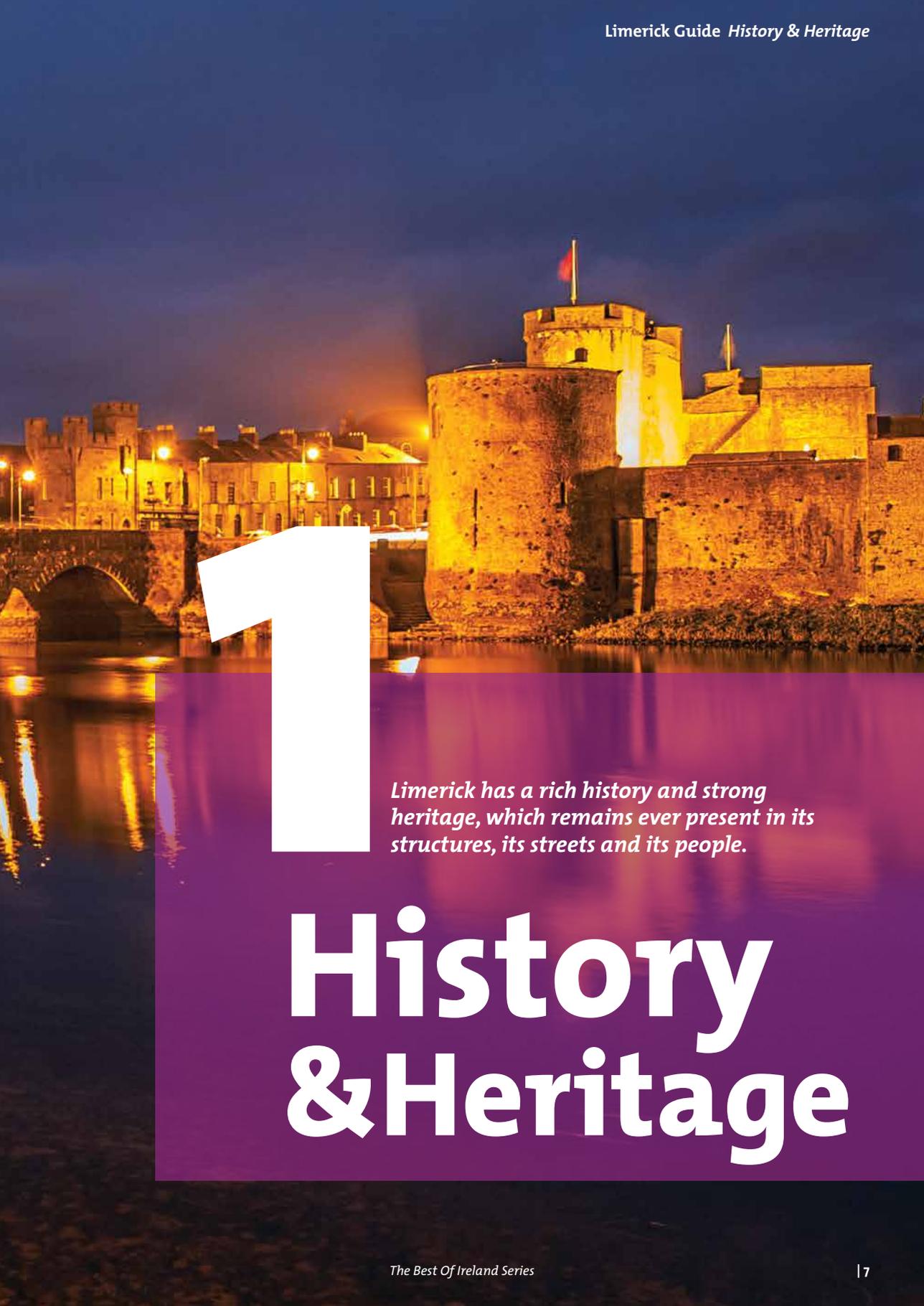
Limerick is known by natives and visitors alike as a destination for culture, heritage, sports, shopping and leisure. Like the resilient River Shannon, Limerick has not stood still but is constantly moving and changing. This is a destination just waiting to be discovered.

“A reputation for innovation and entrepreneurship

Limerick is renowned as a sporting county. The success of the Munster Rugby team internationally and Limerick's hosting of the Special Olympic Ireland Games in 2010 and 2014 are two highlights in this sphere.







1

Limerick has a rich history and strong heritage, which remains ever present in its structures, its streets and its people.

History & Heritage

Don't Miss!

- * Taking a time machine back to medieval splendour in majestic King John's Castle.
- * Marvelling at the architecture and interior of landmark Limerick buildings.
- * Basking in the reverent atmosphere of Limerick's cathedrals, abbeys and churches.
- * Visiting The Treaty Stone, which played a vital role in ending conflict in the city.
- * Tracing the footsteps of an ancient people on a prehistoric site.

St. Mary's Cathedral

Bridge Street

061-310293

www.cathedral.limerick.anglican.org

The Cathedral of St. Mary Blessed Virgin is not only Limerick's oldest building still in regular use but also one of its most historical and beautiful.

It is located in the medieval quarter, adjacent to City Hall and a stone's throw from King John's Castle. It was founded in 1168 on the site of a palace donated

by Donal Mór O'Brien, King of Munster. Further back again, the site held a Viking meeting house. It is believed that parts of the palace were incorporated into the current structure such as the west door, which was the palace's main entrance.

Stories about former uses abound. Legend has it that during the many sieges, defenders used to sharpen their swords on the stonework and when Cromwellian forces captured the city, St. Mary's was used as a stable!

Today, the Church of Ireland cathedral is open to the public subject to church

services. Its grand exterior is impressive but the inside is also full of character. Each of its skillfully appointed stained glass windows has a background story as colourful as the panes. The chandeliers, statues and wooden decorations are all striking.

One trait of St. Mary's is music. The choir sings on Sundays and instrumental recitals are often held there. The tower is home to the famous bells and their distinctive sound has resounded through Limerick life for centuries.

St. John's Cathedral

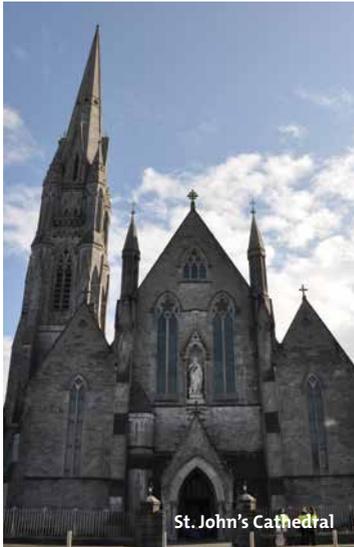
Cathedral Place

061-414624

www.limerickdiocese.org/st-john-s-cathedral

One of the most iconic sights on the Limerick skyline is the magnificent spire of St. John's Cathedral.

The foundation stone was laid in 1856 and its crowning glory, the magnificent tower, was completed in 1882. The Catholic cathedral—which replaced a church founded in the 1753—was designed by English architect of note, Thomas Hardwick.



St. John's Cathedral

The Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, to give it its full name, has many interesting features. The exterior, in Victorian Gothic style, was influenced by Salisbury Cathedral and was built by local builders, Wallace & Sons, out of Limerick limestone.

The altar table is of Limerick marble and there are numerous fine examples of stained glass windows, statues and ecclesiastical art within. Six bishops are interred here.

The tower, designed by local firm, Messrs. Hennessey, measures around 81 m (including a cross atop it) and is one of the tallest church spires in Ireland. The bell was carried from Dublin via canal at the time.

Although it has undergone restoration over the years, the cathedral has been in continuous use since it opened in 1861. Mass times are available on the website.

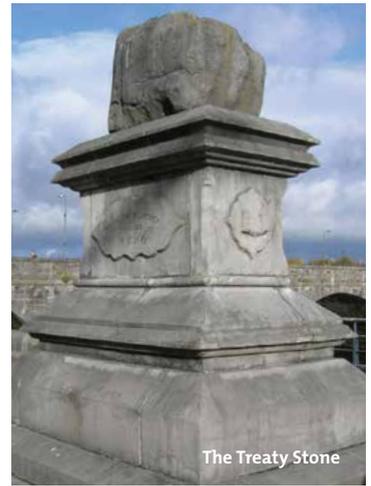
The Treaty Stone

Thomond Bridge

No visit would be complete without seeing Limerick's most famous landmark, the Treaty Stone. According to lore, the Treaty of Limerick was signed on this very stone on 3 October 1691 within sight of two opposing armies on Thomond Bridge. The treaty ended the second Siege of Limerick and a bitter war between William III and his father in law, King James II.

The Jacobites sheltered in Limerick and were besieged by the opposition.

“No visit would be complete without seeing Limerick's most famous landmark, the Treaty Stone



The Treaty Stone

Jacobite commander, Patrick Sarsfield, sued for peace. The treaty agreed terms including tolerance of the Catholic religion in Ireland.

It is thought to be a stone step used to mount a horse and has had several resting places over the years. It currently resides directly across the river from the castle.

Bishop's Palace

Church Street

061-313399

www.limerickcivictrust.ie

Bishop's Palace was painstakingly restored by Limerick Civic Trust and now stands as a testament to their great work in the city as the organisation's headquarters.

When the trust acquired the building in 1986, it had been vacant for two decades and was condemned, but LCT would not let such a prominent part of the city's history go to ruin. The corner site, just across from the castle on which the building rests, is a fixture on early maps. The building today is an early 18th century reproduction in the Palladian style - the only example of its kind in Limerick and one of the oldest buildings in 'Englishtown'.

The massive building has a classical facade and doorway; it also has a unique balcony window on its gable end. The interior is lavishly decorated with period features like fireplaces and a stained glass window bearing the trust crest. It incorporates items salvaged by the trust such as a mill wheel, a gothic entryway and an iron gate.

Under the Acts of Settlement after the Cromwellian Wars from 1649-51, it was granted to the Church of Ireland bishops. The bishops are believed to have occupied the building until 1784 and then it was privately owned.

The trust's HQ is the starting point for many projects for its mission: "Improvement of our environment through positive action."

Limerick Civic Trust runs walking tours and other events.



Bishop's Palace

limerick
2020

Limerick 2020

Limerick is currently one of three Irish cities vying to be awarded the prestigious designation of European Capital of Culture in 2020. Here Limerick 2020 Bid Director, Mike Fitzpatrick, discusses the next steps on this journey—which began with Limerick’s term of Irish National City of Culture in 2014.

“The task ahead is to develop a second bid book that the jury will read and assess as part of next stage of the competition. This will include the development of a 12 month programme for 2020 that shows how we in Limerick are connected to Europe in our history, heritage culture and work and how Europe connects with Limerick,” he explained.

This Bid Book will be submitted by 17 June. A month later up to four jury members will visit Limerick and the bid team will go to Dublin to present the proposed programme and face questions. The final decision will be made on 15 July 2016.

“A dialogue with Europe and common cultures in an open way will inform the projects. The Capital of Culture designation is the embodiment of what’s best about Europe—bringing an openness, transparency and connectivity.

“Each city has stories and Limerick

has fantastic stories and a tradition of telling stories. As Mike Finn eloquently put it in his play *Pigtown* “lotta stories in this town. This town. This old, bold, cold town... This gets up under your skin town... Fill you with wonder town... This square, rare, my ho-o-ome is there town. Full of life town.”

Mike acknowledged that there is a tremendous task ahead.

“One of the big questions asked is: “What would attract European audiences to come to Limerick during the year?” so that’s our challenge. A lot of it is about dealing with what you have, what are your best strengths, what are the local issues you want to look at and examine but in another way, how do you make it an attractive location?”

Some of the exciting developments due for 2016 include: the completion of top class facilities for making film and television in the city with Troy Studios, the staging of visual art biennale, Eva International (and building on the event for 2018 and 2020) and the abundance of improvements to public spaces here including the train station to “benefit both the citizens of and visitors to Limerick” to name but a few.

And why does Limerick deserve to be the European Capital of Culture in 2020?

“We deserve it because we need it.

We’re a city that was broken but we decided we had to change, to rebuild our city using culture to restore our confidence and our ambition. Through this confidence we are rapidly building our economy and our belief in what we can bring to Europe is this energy that surrounds our redevelopment and reawakening,” Mike outlined.

“What Europe can give to us is this opportunity to reach out and be aspirational—making it all about how much we want to change. The difference between us and the other cities involved is that Limerick understands the power of culture to transform our relationship with ourselves and the world.

Find out more on www.limerick2020.ie.



Fascinating Fortress

King John's Castle

King's Island

061-360788

www.shannonheritage.com

King John's Castle has been an imposing fixture on the banks of the River Shannon since the 13th century. With a 21st century makeover to all its facilities, it is now a landmark you can't miss.

With the help of an interactive visitor experience, a trip to the castle is an exercise in time-travel—illustrating its history with over 800 years of stories.

After Limerick was awarded its first Charter and Mayor in 1197, the Anglo-Normans wanted to make their mark on the city and fortify its defenses. King John ordered a castle to be built and work started around 1200. The castle was built on an existing fortification in the oldest part of Limerick with a good vantage point up and down the river. Though it was attacked many times, its high outer walls, corner towers, battlements and gate towers remain intact.

The many events in the castle's fascinating history are illustrated in the interpretive centre. It has everything from touch screen technology, 3D models, discovery drawers to computer-

generated imagery, animations and projections.

There are games designed for kids and they can try on historic costumes like chainmail tunics or 18th century dresses. There is a spectacular, panoramic 360 degree view from the tallest turret.

“The castle courtyard bustles with activities as costumed characters interact with visitors

In peak season, the castle courtyard bustles with activities as costumed characters interact with visitors.

An archaeological dig in the grounds has been opened for viewing and is now connected with an archway into the bowels of the castle so people can see the great medieval hall excavated in the 1990s. For history buffs, some of the 1,000 items discovered during digs here are on display—some for the first time!



The castle towers have been dressed to recreate the daily operation of a military castle and new additions include a special education room and a new café.

Open year round: April- September, 9.30am-5.30pm (last admission 4pm) and October-March, 9.30am-4.30pm (last admission 3.15pm). Opening hours may be extended in peak season. Reservations are not necessary, except for groups. Lower rates are available by booking online.

Rock Solid *Heritage*

Image: Lough Gur

From ancient settlements to medieval splendour, abbeys to castles, the structural heritage of Limerick has endured through the ages and there are lots of sites to explore.

Ireland's Prettiest Village Adare

With its thatched cottages and grand manor house, Adare is a picturesque village with a rich history. The shell of Desmond Castle, which shadows the banks of the River Maigue outside the village, and the Franciscan, Trinitarian and Augustinian Abbeys suggest a long-term settlement. But Adare really sprang up in the 18th century when the Earl of Dunraven built a huge house and estate. The 19th century rebuild of Adare Manor is now a spectacular hotel and golf resort. The Adare Heritage Centre can inform visitors about the history as well as point them towards a wealth of shops, fine bars and restaurants and local activities like golf and angling.

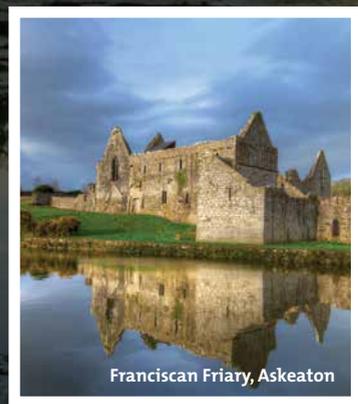
The Medieval Village of Askeaton

The medieval village of Askeaton was once a stronghold of the Munster Geraldines, the Anglo-Norman Earls of Desmond. Today, the impressive ruins of Askeaton Castle are an imposing sight in the town. It has a fascinating history. The building, which hosted Askeaton's Hellfire Club dates back to the 17th century. 'Hellfire clubs' were gentleman's clubs where men would gather to drink and make merry but there are various spooky, occult associations with them too. The ruins of the well-preserved 14th century Franciscan Friary are also in the village. Tours are available from a local guide. The village has many modern conveniences too, including a well-equipped leisure complex.

Kilmallock History Trail

063-91300

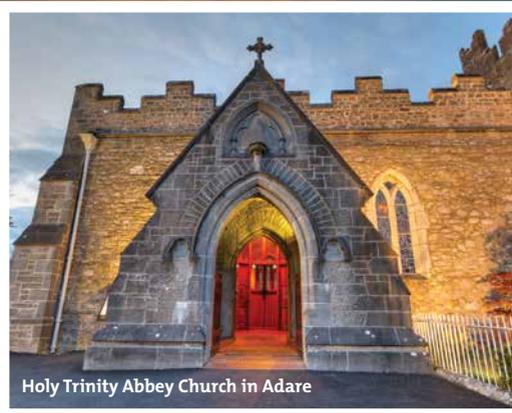
Kilmallock, known as the 'crossroads of Munster', was an important Norman town and was at the centre of Ireland's political development from the 13th through to the 17th century. This history is evident through the rich architectural heritage that is the town's monuments.



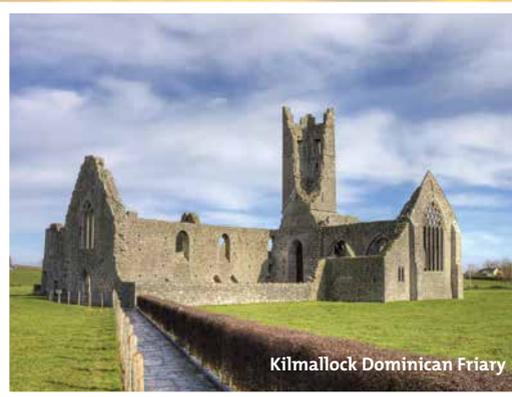
Franciscan Friary, Askeaton



Medieval Cannon in Glenstal Abbey



Holy Trinity Abbey Church in Adare



Kilmallock Dominican Friary

Along with the well-preserved ruins of the Dominican Friary, there are the remains of medieval walls with a huge castle gate type entrance when entering the town from the Limerick City direction. There is also an interesting museum and history trail to enjoy.

“The impressive ruins of Askeaton Castle are an imposing sight in the town

Glenstal Abbey

061-621000

Glenstal Abbey is a Benedictine monastery in Murroe in east Limerick and on its impressive 500 acre grounds, it has a secondary school and a farm. The current Abbot is Mark Patrick Hederman and the community has around 40 members. The abbey itself—dedicated

to St Joseph and St Columba—is based in and adjacent to a Normansque castle built by the Barrington family. The grounds are ideal for exploring and walking and include lakes, woodland and a walled, terraced garden containing a unique ‘Bible Garden’. Visitors are welcome, especially those seeking spiritual respite.

Mungret Abbey

Just to the south of the road from Limerick to Askeaton on the R859 road, Mungret Abbey reportedly dates back to 551 AD when a monastery was founded here by Saint Nessan. It grew into a thriving community with six churches and 1,500 inhabitants but declined after many Viking raids.

The site was reputedly given over to the Bishop of Limerick in the 11th century and one church later became a parish church. Three churches, one with a 15th century tower, and a graveyard survive now.

These are just a small selection of the heritage sites around Limerick, which also include Limerick Masonic Centre, Desmond Hall, Killagholehane Cemetery & Church, Carrigogunnell Castle, Glenquin Castle and more.

“The grounds are ideal for exploring and walking and include lakes, woodland and a walled, terraced garden



Neolithic Wonder

Lough Gur Heritage Centre

Lough Gur, Co. Limerick
061-385186
www.loughgur.com

Lying just 21 km south east of Limerick city, the “magical and mysterious” Lough Gur is one of Ireland’s most important archaeological sites.

The story of the first settlers in the area stretches back 6,000 years—beginning in the Stone Age and continuing right up to modern times. You will be captivated by the beauty, charm and tranquility of this ancient place, its glassy lake and undulating hills.

Along with history, there is a wealth of folklore associated with Lough Gur. There are ancient dwellings, megalithic tombs, crannogs and castles to see here. The heritage centre is also located 5 km from the Great Grange Stone Circle, which is Ireland’s largest stone circle.

Guided tours and walking tours

are available. Schools and groups are catered for, as is anyone who requires a personalised guided tour.

The newly refurbished visitor centre tells the story of pre-Celtic Ireland with the help of audio-visual features, interactive elements and displays of artifacts and replicas.

“You will be captivated by the beauty, charm and tranquility of this ancient place

The Honey Fitz Theatre here hosts regular events and is a venue for festivals such as the annual storytelling festival.

Visitors can also engage in natural pursuits like bird-watching, walking and cycling on a variety of trails (available

for download from the website).

Opening times are Monday to Friday, 10am-5pm and 12 noon-6pm on Saturday and Sunday. Please note that opening times are reduced during the winter.

Admission rates: Adults, €5, senior citizen/student, €4, children, €3 and a family ticket is €15.

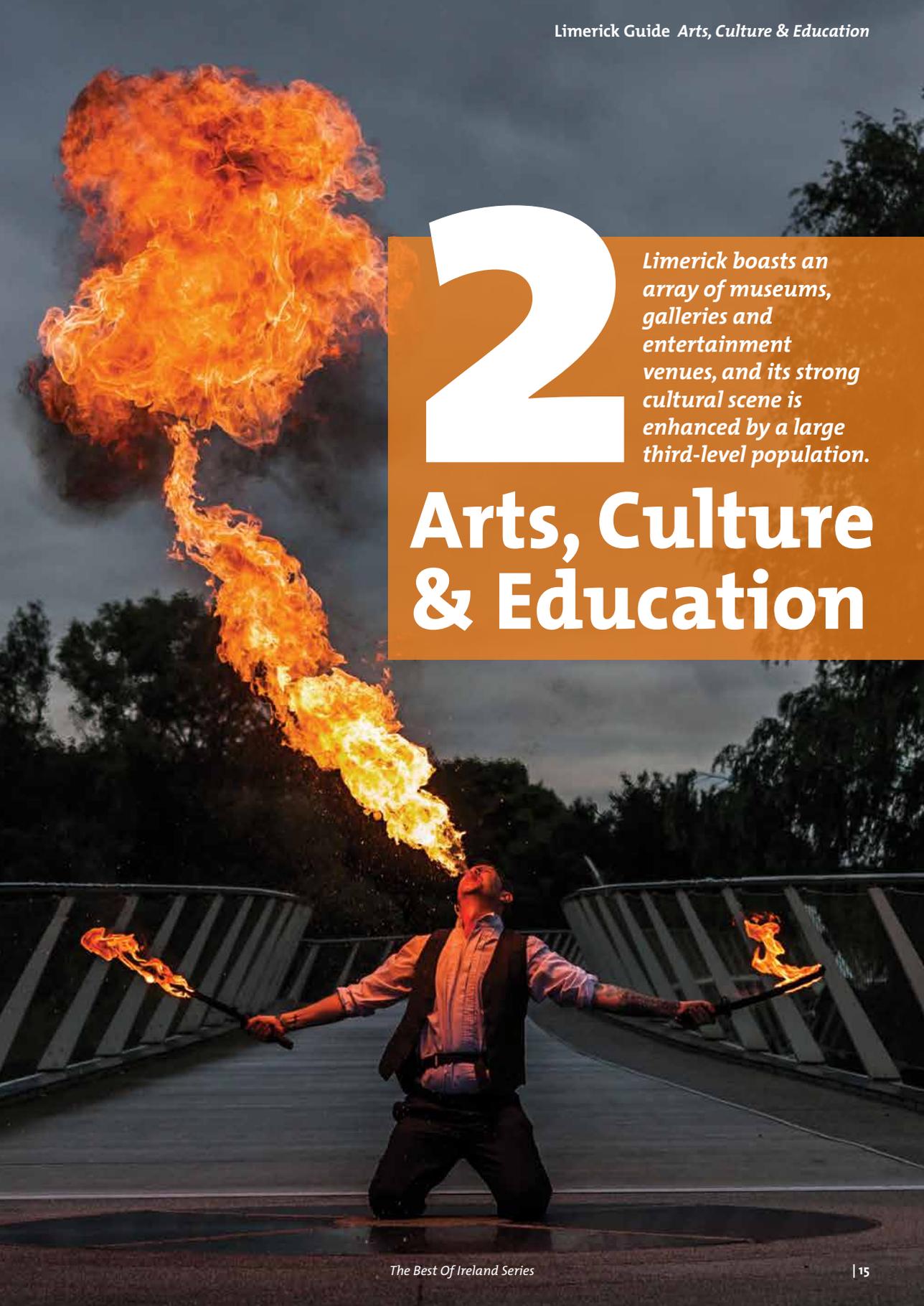


Lough Gur Heritage Centre

2

Limerick boasts an array of museums, galleries and entertainment venues, and its strong cultural scene is enhanced by a large third-level population.

Arts, Culture & Education





Culture Mecca

If as writer, Thomas Merton, said that “art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time”, then Limerick is the ultimate lost and found collection. The Treaty City and wider Shannonside has long had a burning passion for heritage, culture and the arts.

Limerick remains the most vibrant cultural hub in the mid-west today and has a great deal to offer whatever your interest. It is teeming with heritage sites, museums, galleries and performance venues.

Limerick has been immortalised in several famous texts by those “bred and buttered” here. In Frank McCourt’s memoir, *Angela’s Ashes*, the lanes, life and local characters of 1930s and 1940s Limerick are vividly drawn. In Mike Finn’s play, *Pigtown*, the protagonist, Tommy Clocks, illustrates a century of vibrant Limerick history from the ‘Limerick Soviet’ to ‘The Emergency’. In John Breen’s *Alone It Stands*, the momentous rugby victory of Munster

over the All Blacks in 1978 is recounted in all its mud-soaked, bone-crunching glory. Breen’s play highlights the sporting culture in the city, which was European City of Sport in 2011.

From award-winning fiction writer, Kevin Barry to wildly successful children’s writer, Darren Shan to Irish language writer, Críostóir Ó Floinn, Limerick residents have proven they have the ‘write’ stuff.

Limerick has produced its fair share of stars of stage and screen too. Oscar nominated actor, Richard Harris, of *Gladiator* and *Harry Potter* fame is in good company with broadcasters, Terry Wogan, Geri Maye and Emma O’Driscoll and Jon Kenny and Pat Shortt of comedy duo, D’Unbelievables as well as Liam O’Brien who starred in the UK soap, *Emmerdale*. Film director, David Gleeson, hails from Limerick.

Theatre—amateur and professional—and musical theatre has a massive presence here. Local companies

include Bottom Dog Theatre Company, Limerick Youth Theatre, Amalgamation Theatre Company, Magic Roundabout Theatre Company, Wildebeest Theatre Company, Beyond the Bark puppet and installation theatre, Honest Arts, the Cecilian Musical Society, Limerick Musical Society, Quarry Players and Torch Players. These are in addition to many individual practitioners and groups working here currently, and a constant stream of touring productions in local venues.

“It remains the most vibrant cultural hub in the mid-west today

Local band, The Cranberries, have played to stadiums full of people across the globe but other musical artists like Tuesday Blue, Hermitage Green, Windings, Fox Jaw, Moscow Metro,



Brad Pitt Light Orchestra, Niamh Dunne and Andreas Varady, to name but a few, have carved out niches in the music industry too. Limerick's music scene is as vibrant as ever.

Bill Whelan's, *Riverdance*, forged an iconic legacy as the soundtrack accompanying the skill of traditional Irish dance in the acclaimed stage show. Classical music is popular here too. The Irish Chamber Orchestra is based at the University of Limerick. The choral tradition is continued by Limerick Choral Union, Ancór chamber choir and Limerick Gospel Choir.

Artists like John Shinnors and Sean Keating, along with biennial art exhibition, eva International, have put Limerick on the wider visual art map. Limerick boasts a wealth of working artists, art collectives and galleries. Limerick Craft Hub, a retail and workspace for craft-workers, is a recent addition.

Limerick School of Art and Design has an excellent reputation, not alone for fine art but its fashion department is ranked as one of the world's top 50 fashion colleges too. The University of Limerick, Limerick Institute of Technology and Mary Immaculate College have established themselves among the best third level colleges in Ireland—cultivating creativity in all areas of local life, from business to architecture and from technology to sport.

The copious amount of voluntary and special interest organisations in Limerick contribute vastly to the city's richness and character. The diverse offering in everything from practitioners to performances was one of the reasons why Limerick was chosen as the first National City of Culture in 2014 and the legacy is expected to continue for many years.

It would be impossible to sum up Limerick's plentiful cultural offering in its entirety except to say that city and county have it down to a fine art.



Don't Miss!

- * Experiencing tradition and history through interacting with it in Limerick's museums and heritage centres.
- * Beholding the visual art and sculpture on display in Limerick City Gallery of Art and other local galleries.
- * Joining the audience for a vibrant live performance in a nearby venue.
- * Getting out in the air to see some of the many examples of public art and monuments.
- * Exploring the campuses and facilities of some of Limerick's third level institutions.

Limerick Museum

061-417826

www.limerick.ie/historicalresources/limerick-museum

Limerick's exciting past never gets old and the municipal museum aims to showcase the city in its full glory.

In recent years, part of the museum's huge collection was temporarily housed in City Hall on Merchants Quay but it is due to move to its new permanent home at the former Franciscan Church on Henry Street in spring 2016.

The museum has thousands of interesting objects, which span centuries of local and regional history. From the Bronze Age to Georgian times to the 20th century, there is something to help you step back in time including photographs, old money, letters, documents and many more artefacts.

Important events like the War of Independence take prominence. Many personal collections have been bequeathed to the museum so there are genuine local touches and the museum is leading a project to conserve the city's ancient walls.

Limerick's commercial pursuits are represented in memorabilia such as a tin

for Spillane's 'Garryowen' tobacco, old tools, a printer's block and a collection of Limerick silver and lace. Sports collectables are a prominent element including items like books, medals and match tickets/programmes such as those from Munster's historic win against the New Zealand All Blacks in 1978.

The museum was founded in 1906 and was opened to the public in 1916. It has had several homes since then. Coupled with the City Archives (housed in the city library at the Granary on nearby Michael Street), the museum is a valuable resource. Its extensive online catalogue is well worth a look.

The Hunt Museum

Rutland Street
061-312833

www.huntmuseum.com

Located in the grand surroundings of Limerick's former Customs House, The Hunt Museum is a private collection turned public wonder.

The museum, set over three floors with many rooms, contains over 2,000 antiquities and works of art, which were acquired by John and Gertrude Hunt. As professional antique dealers, they also gathered interesting objects that appealed to them so the collection is unique and eclectic.

The building is beautifully restored and retains many period features such as the immense staircase and high windows, some of which look out onto the calming waters of the Shannon. Rooms are divided into loose categories such as the ancient world with artifacts from Greece, Rome, Egypt and more and pieces from early Ireland like Neolithic flints, a Bronze Age shield and cauldron.

Other displays are dedicated to Christian objects such as a unique 9th century Antrim Cross, jewellery like the Mary Queen of Scots cross and 18/19th century decorative arts with fine examples of silver, glass and ceramics.

Browse works by leading artists such as Picasso, Yeats, Moore and Renoir, imagine what battles the fearsome weapons saw and in the treasury

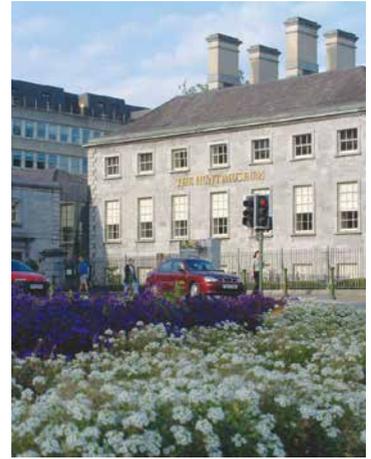
section, see what is reputed to be one of the 30 pieces of silver paid to Judas for the betrayal of Christ. Everything from pottery to chalices, sculptures to tapestries, brooches to spears are on display.

The history of the museum is as interesting as the many items in it. The Hunt family moved to Lough Gur from Britain in 1939. As their collection grew, it was their dream to put it on display. The Hunt Museum Trust was established in 1974 to achieve this.

“The museum contains over 2,000 antiquities and works of art

Parts of the collection were displayed in what is now the University of Limerick and in a tower house the Hunts restored at Craggaunowen in Clare. Eventually, thanks to a public-private partnership and the efforts of many, the landmark Customs House was renovated and the museum opened in 1997. Sadly, the couple passed away before they could see their wish fulfilled. Their family and trustees are dedicated to keeping the spirit of the Hunts' curiosity and generosity alive.

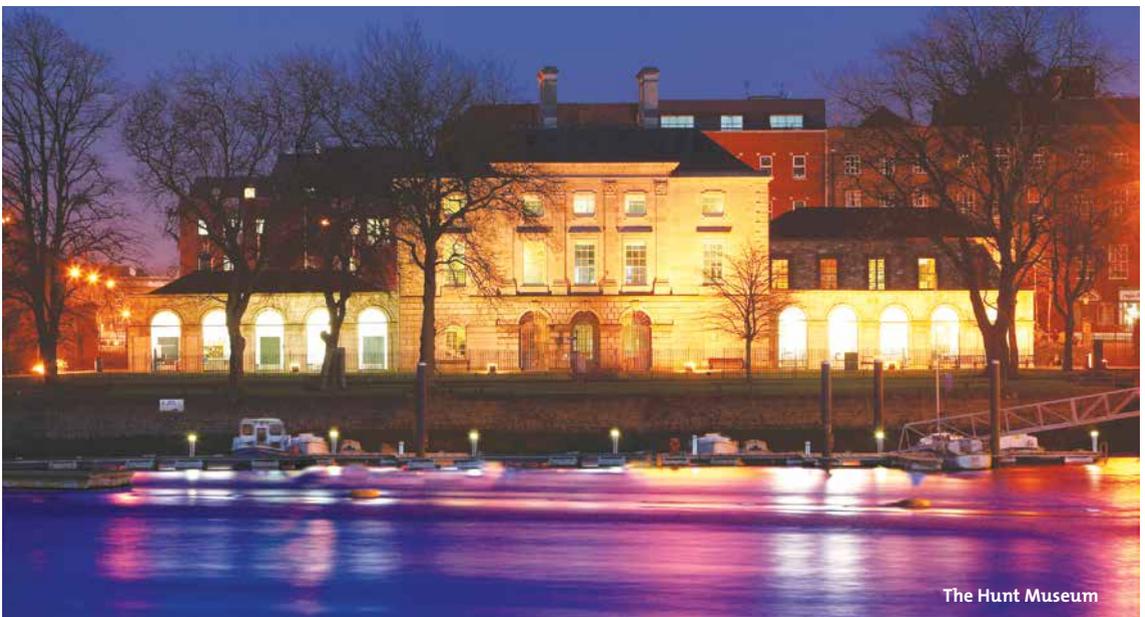
Since the museum houses one of the greatest private collections in the country, there are panels celebrating the Hunt Museum and Hunt family. It also



has an extensive online catalogue and is constantly researching the provenance of items in the collection.

The museum runs an education programme and facilitates school visits/workshops. It can host meetings and other events, including its regular schedule of lectures. A few steps up from the gift shop, there is a café/restaurant to enjoy a snack or meal and on the basement floor, there is a space for visiting exhibitions.

Admission prices: adults €5 (conc. €3.50), children €2.50, students in primary/secondary school groups €2 and a family ticket is €12. The Hunt Museum offers guided tours on request (booking required and a fee of €2 per person applies).



The Hunt Museum

Limerick's World Class University



University of Limerick
Castletroy, Co. Limerick
061-202700
www.ul.ie

“Ireland’s most dynamic and innovative university”, the University of Limerick (UL) is situated on the outskirts of Limerick City on a superb riverside campus of over 300 acres with the River Shannon as a unifying focal point.

Known nationally and internationally as an energetic and enterprising institution with a proud record of innovation and excellence in education, research and scholarship, UL aims to make a difference by shaping the future through educating and empowering its students.

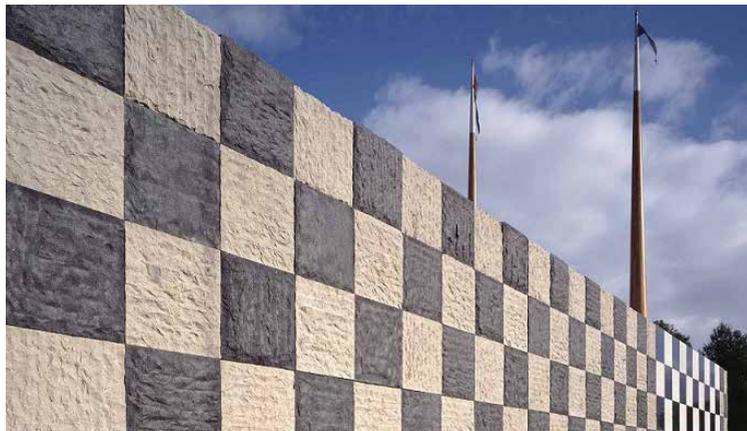
From humble beginnings as a National Institute for Higher Education in 1972—becoming a university in 1989—it was *The Sunday Times* University of the Year 2015 and boasts over 13,000 students and 1,300 staff.

UL offers a wide selection of opportunities with 77 undergraduate

programmes and 90 postgraduate programmes as well as outstanding recreational, cultural and sporting facilities that further enhance this

“**Ireland’s most dynamic and innovative university**”

exceptional learning environment. The campus has extensive sporting and recreation facilities including a selection of pitches, tracks, courts (including custom-built all-weather facilities) and Ireland’s largest indoor sports complex—the UL Arena. The arena has an Olympic-size swimming pool, an indoor running track, a multi-purpose sports hall seating 1,000 people, a state of the art gym and other facilities. It also has a range of cafés, restaurants and bars on-site and the award-winning





entertainment venue, the University Concert Hall. As well as students and staff, the general public is welcome to use the facilities on campus.

Courses are offered across the four faculties in the university: the Kemmy Business School, the Faculty of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences, the Faculty of Education & Health Sciences and the Faculty of Science & Engineering. UL is also linked with Mary Immaculate College in Limerick and St Patrick's College, Thurles, Co. Tipperary.

The University of Limerick also welcomes a large number of international students annually; the largest cohort of international students in its history was in September 2014 when 2,500 students representing over 100 countries attended UL.

In the QS World University Rankings, UL is the only Irish university to receive stars for Employability, Facilities, Teaching, Innovation, Engagement and Internationalisation. It was also voted number one in 'Best Student Support'

and 'Warmest Welcome in Ireland'. UL has taken its motto, 'wisdom for action' literally, and has a leading position in graduate employability (85% of 2012 graduates are in employment or further study) as well as strong research commercialisation in the form of initiatives like the €52 million Bernal Project in science and engineering and the Irish Software Engineering Research Centre (LERO), among others.

“ UL welcomes a large number of international students annually

Aside from the many fine buildings used for teaching, UL has extensive accommodation on-site and adjacent to it.

Student welfare and social life is to the fore in the very active Students' Union (ULSU) and a long list of clubs, societies

and volunteering opportunities. UL is very strong in the area of arts and culture. The Irish World Academy of Music and Dance is based here, as is the Irish Chamber Orchestra and it is home to several fine art collections too and its own dedicated display space, the Bourn Vincent Gallery. The university art collection includes some outdoor sculpture by international artists including Michael Warren, Peter Logan, Antony Gormley and Sean Scully to name but a few.

UL is conveniently located 5 km from Limerick City and 20 km from Shannon International Airport.

Whether learning or researching with one of its excellent programmes, taking a stroll around the beautiful campus, diving into the fun at the sports arena or enjoying a show in the concert hall, the University of Limerick is a vibrant local landmark with much to offer.



Experts in Education

Mary Immaculate College

South Circular Road
061-204300
www.mic.ul.ie

With an attractive campus just a 10 minute walk from the city centre, Mary Immaculate College (MIC) has a rich history as well as an exciting future.

MIC is currently undergoing one of the most exciting phases of growth and development in the history of the college with the overall student population witnessing a tenfold increase since 1992. This remarkable rate of expansion has brought with it a significant expansion and broadening of MIC's academic provision, as well as a re-development of the campus which now offers state-of-the-art teaching, learning and research facilities as well as excellent events and conferencing facilities.

Founded in 1898, the university-level College of Education and the Liberal Arts is academically linked with the University of Limerick. The college now has a student population of over 3,500, enrolled in undergraduate programmes for B.Ed and BA degrees, a new and

exciting Contemporary and Applied Theatre Studies programme and a range of postgraduate programmes at Diploma, MA and Ph.D level.

“The college has expanded with the recent incorporation of St. Patrick’s College in Thurles

MIC also offers Continuing Professional Development (CPD) courses and is committed to improving access to higher education for adults—a range of tailored programmes and supports that make the journey for adult learners as easy as possible.

The programmes on offer at MIC continue to be amongst the most highly sought-after in Ireland. The college has a reputation for excellence in teaching, learning and research and is known for the high calibre of students it has attracted since its establishment over a century ago.

More recently MIC has expanded its geographical footprint following the recent incorporation of St. Patrick’s College in Thurles—another well-established college offering four degree programmes preparing students to become second-level teachers.

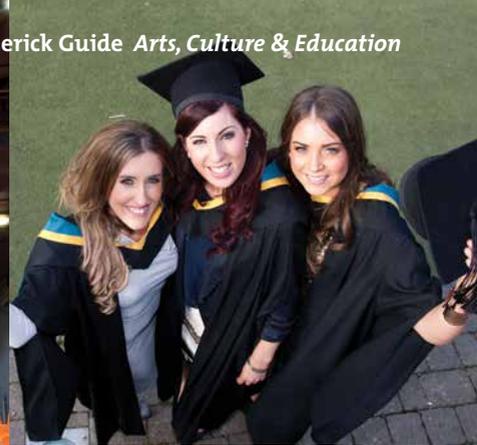
Speaking on the development, Minister for Education & Skills, Jan O’Sullivan, T.D., said:

“The announcement underlines Mary Immaculate College’s pre-eminent role in the provision of initial teacher education in Ireland. The quality and dedication of teaching staff in the Irish education system is recognised internationally as one of our great strengths. MIC has contributed hugely to this positive aspect of education in Ireland and this new development will ensure that the college continues to go from strength to strength.”

MIC President Professor Michael A Hayes added: “Clearly MIC is held in the highest regard by the Minister and the Department of Education & Skills and is seen strategically as the ideal vehicle for the continuation of the important subject areas taught at St. Patrick’s College, including Irish, Religion, Business Studies and Accounting, all of which are



and Events



in high demand by secondary schools searching for the most highly qualified graduates.”

Following the incorporation MIC will now offer a choice of nine undergraduate honours degree programmes for intake in September 2016 including four undergraduate programmes specifically geared towards teacher education for the second-level school sector. The programmes are accredited by the University of Limerick and the Teaching Council and offer unique content and subject combinations.

MIC Campus, Limerick will continue to offer two four-year B.Ed. programmes, for those wishing to become a primary teacher (with the option of specialising in Educational Psychology), a programme for those who wish to work in the area of professional childhood care and education, a Liberal Arts programme offering a wide array of subjects such as Media & Communication Studies, Psychology, English and the new BA in Contemporary and Applied Theatre Studies.

The most distinctive aspect of student life at MIC is the emphasis that is placed on providing students with a

“One of the leading event locations in the Limerick region for meetings, seminars, conferences, shows

range of supports and opportunities that correspond to their individual and diverse needs, enabling them to enjoy a rich and rounded learning experience within a relaxed, harmonious environment in which to study. The college is characterised by an informal atmosphere, friendly rapport between students and staff, concern for the individual student and a warm welcome for new students from Ireland and abroad.

As well as its excellent programme provision, MIC is now recognised as one of the leading event locations in the Limerick region for meetings, seminars,

conferences, shows, exhibitions and sporting events. The campus boasts a range of unique facilities from period rooms to modern state-of-the-art lecture theatres and conference facilities. The impressive 510-seat Lime Tree Theatre, along with an award-winning sports complex, attracts conferences from all over the country and abroad.

All lecture theatres, classrooms, seminar and meeting rooms are equipped with the latest audio-visual facilities and Wi-Fi access. There are also a number of exhibition and display spaces available to hire. In addition, its popularity as a venue is boosted by the fact the college is based on a leafy 25-acre campus, which includes a sculpture trail.

It is also equipped with restaurant and catering facilities, is close to cultural and social amenities in Limerick City and beyond and it is easily accessible via public transport and from Shannon Airport.

For further information, visit www.mic.ul.ie.

Museums Galore

The past is ever present with Limerick’s fantastic museum and heritage centre offering.

Frank McCourt is one of Limerick’s most famous sons having won a Pulitzer Prize for his childhood memoir, *Angela’s Ashes*. **The Frank McCourt Museum** in Hartstonge Street (061-319710) in his former school is a tribute to the writer and an era. The 1930s schoolroom is recreated in detail, with memorabilia on display including an antique bicycle, schoolbooks, paintings and photographs. Upstairs from the schoolroom, there is a recreation of the McCourt family’s flat.

The Foynes Flying Boat & Maritime Museum in county Limerick

(069-65416) explores the golden age of aviation when dignitaries like John F. Kennedy, Humphrey Bogart and Ernest Hemingway passed through here on Atlantic crossovers. The award-winning facility is the only aviation museum in Ireland and the only museum in the world dedicated to flying boats and passenger travel. The amazing story of how Foynes became a fixture in the aviation world from 1937-1945 is told through interactive exhibits in the original terminal building. You can even hop on board a full-sized replica of the plane in question - the only existing full sized replica Boeing B314 flying boat in the world.

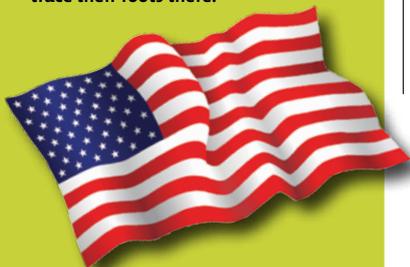


Frank McCourt Museum

DID YOU KNOW?

JFK

Former US President, John F. Kennedy, has Limerick roots. President Kennedy’s great-grandfather, Thomas Fitzgerald (the man who gave the family the ‘F’ in their name), hails from the east Limerick village of Bruff. He was born in Bruff in 1823 but emigrated to Boston in 1852. In June 2013, the president’s daughter, Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg, and her family visited the village to trace their roots there.



Richard Harris

Actor, singer, film director, theatrical producer and writer, Richard Harris, was born in Limerick in 1930. The Oscar nominated actor is known for film roles as King Arthur in *Camelot*, Bull McCabe in *The Field*, Marcus Aurelius in *Gladiator* and Professor Dumbledore in two *Harry Potter* films. He also released numerous music singles and albums. There is a statue depicting Harris as King Arthur on Bedford Row in the city.

“The 1930s schoolroom is recreated in detail

The De Valera Museum and Bruree Heritage Centre (086-3949230/087-3116008) is dedicated to Ireland’s former president and renowned statesman, Eamon De Valera. Born in 1882, De Valera spent his early years in Bruree and there is a unique collection of his personal belongings here in his former school as well as artefacts and displays

recording village life at the time. The cottage in which he lived is also preserved.

The Irish Palatine Heritage Centre (069-63511) in Rathkeale, Co. Limerick houses an exhibition charting the Palatine experience in the ‘Emerald Isle’. The Palatines came from Germany and after a period of persecution, came to settle in Ireland and all over the world. The heritage centre outlines their historical origins, their contribution to Irish farming life and their formative role in the development of world Methodism through displays of articles, photographs and more.



© Tourism Ireland

Foynes Flying Boat Museum



Limerick City Gallery of Art

Limerick City Gallery of Art

Pery Square
061-310633
www.gallery.limerick.ie

Picasso once said that “art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life” and the best place in Limerick for a ‘cleansing’ visit is the Limerick City Gallery of Art.

“Limerick’s municipal art collection is one of the finest in the country

Limerick’s municipal art collection is one of the finest in the country outside Dublin. The gallery is based in the two-storey Carnegie Building, originally built in 1906 and in 1985, the entire space was given over to the gallery. It has been refurbished over time; the most recent revamp was completed in 2011.

LCGA is home to an important

collection of Irish 18th to 21st century art in all media, a total of 831 works with artists including Camille Souter, Evie Hone, Jack B Yeats, Sean Keating and Paul Henry. It also holds the National Collection of Contemporary Drawing and the Michael O’Connor International Poster Collection.

Some of the permanent collection is always on display and that is a diverse mix of classic and contemporary in a range of media. The gallery also holds exhibitions several times a year so the art is always changing so every visit unique. One exhibition of note is the acclaimed biennial of visual art, *eva International*.

The Carnegie Building is a strange hybrid of old and new. It has some charming features like sash windows and the original wooden floor. The freshest works added an extension including a delightful café and a new wing. There is a striking wall of windows looking out onto an oasis in the city - the People’s Park. Upstairs, the ultramodern, white space is a blank canvas with several rooms coming off a balcony overlooking the ground floor.

After an amble around the gallery, the airy café is an ideal place to watch the world go by with a coffee.



Smaller Galleries

In Limerick, art is everywhere but not least in the fine collection of smaller galleries and artistic spaces.

With over 50 members, the skill of printmaking is kept alive at **Limerick Printmakers** (061-311806) at its studios and gallery at 3 John’s Square. Exhibitions cover printmaking, painting, drawing, mixed media, sculpture and installation work and it also runs classes for adults and children.

Ormston House in Patrick Street (www.ormstonhouse.com) is a cultural resource centre and gallery space, which runs a year round programme of contemporary art exhibitions.

Normoyle Frawley Gallery (061-315401) in John Street aims to support the work of both established and emerging artists, particularly those resident in Ireland. It also does framing and sells art supplies.

“Fine collection of smaller galleries and artistic spaces

Two other galleries regularly exhibiting new and established artists are the **Bourn-Vincent Gallery** in the University of Limerick in Castletroy (061-213052) and **LSAD Gallery** in Limerick School of Art & Design, Clare Street.

County Limerick has several venues displaying art in assorted media. **Friars’ Gate Theatre** in Kilmallock (063-98727) and the **Red Door Gallery** in Newcastle West (www.facebook.com/pages/Newcastle-West-Arts) both hold regular art exhibitions.

Draíocht Gallery and Shop (061-395539) in Adare displays contemporary Irish art and crafts from paintings to ceramics, sculpture to furniture. The **Lucy Erridge Craft Shop and Art Gallery** (061-396898) in Adare displays the work of many talented artists and craftspeople.



Ballymorris Pottery

Ballymorris Pottery

Ballymorris, Cratloe, Co. Clare

061-357118

www.ballymorrispottery.com

“Classic and yet contemporary”—the artisan pottery on sale in this bijoux workshop is all of this and much more.

Established in 1994 on a 17th century farm steeped in history, the talented artists at Ballymorris Pottery create

beautiful, hand-thrown stoneware pottery that is both functional and decorative. The work has, as its defining character, distinctive shapes and strong colours—a trademark for Ballymorris Pottery.

There is a wide range available in the retail outlet, where also examples of sculptural ceramics, commemorative and one-off pieces can be seen. Individual commissions, big and small, are welcome.

Ballymorris Pottery also has a pottery school with classes proving popular and fun. These classes have expanded into pottery parties and one-off, hands-on events for colleagues, friends and families—all held in a newly refurbished class room, which holds up to 35 people. Summer camps and specialist tuition are also offered.

Ballymorris Pottery opens Monday to Friday, 10am-5pm. Weekends by appointment please.

Local Urban Art

In recent years, Limerick has become synonymous with edgy urban art and there are numerous murals in various styles dotted around the city.



The annual Make a Move Festival in July, which celebrates hip hop and urban art, has seen visiting (and local) artists use sites as a canvas to great effect. Arising from the event is ambitious project, Draw Out - Urban Exhibitionists.

In 2014 when Limerick was Ireland's National City of Culture, Draw Out brought street artists from around Ireland and the world to the city to create unique pieces on buildings and derelict sites. Initiatives like these have resulted in a burst of colour on the streets.

Prominent works around the city include ‘The Fisherman’ by artist, Fintan Magee, in Roches Street (left) eye-popping mural ‘Smug’ by the artist of the same name adjacent to King John’s Castle (see pg 5) and ‘Love Me So’ by DMC, which adorns the urban garden site on Thomas Street.

Others include Joe Caslin’s portrait

of a young man in Mallow Street. The transfer was done as part of a project called ‘Our Nation’s Sons’ and a similar image was put onto the former Ranks Flour Mill on the Dock Road (see pg 17) but unfortunately that has since worn away completely.

“ Draw Out brought street artists from around Ireland and the world to the city to create unique pieces

Handmade in Limerick



Limerick Craft Hub

9 Lower Cecil Street
061-315668
www.limerickcrafthub.ie

Immerse yourself in local craft and design at Limerick Craft Hub, where local craft-workers showcase their work, their methods and run classes, workshops and events for public and corporate, individuals and groups.

Enriching Limerick's cultural tapestry, the Craft Hub includes the city's premier craft shop, craft gallery, craft classroom and open studios where you can meet the makers and see their skills in action.

The craft disciplines on show by resident craft-workers include ceramics, jewellery and feltmaking. The Design & Crafts Council of Ireland (DCCoI) has accredited Limerick Craft Hub as an Irish craft studio experience. The Limerick Craft Hub has stock from many

award winning artisans across multiple crafts.

The retail area in the airy, light-filled space has these and more to offer including clothing, accessories, candles, soap & cosmetics, books & bookbinding, wall art, homewares, toys, sculptures in iron, wood & ceramics and a wide range of artisan foods from jams to chocolate.

Corporate gifts and awards, bespoke commissions, gift hampers and vouchers are among the wide range of services available Monday to Saturday.

“Includes the city's premier craft shop, craft gallery, craft classroom and open studios

Those with an interest can also get crafty and learn to make unique items themselves with a variety of classes taught by experienced makers.

Limerick Craft Hub does not just allow artists a full-time space to create and show their work but also engages with the community staging and hosting regular events, including a twice weekly Community Craft Corner.

This non-profit resource—developed in partnership with Limerick Craft Collective—was founded as a legacy project as part of Limerick City of Culture 2014—celebrating the talent and diversity of native designers.

For more information on Limerick Craft Hub, see: Facebook, [LimerickCraftHub](https://www.facebook.com/LimerickCraftHub), Twitter @ [LimCraftHub](https://twitter.com/LimCraftHub) or email info@limerickcrafthub.ie

Art All Around

Limerick has lots of fine examples of public art, monuments and memorials. From the county's roadside sculptures to celebrated figures immortalised in bronze in the city, there is a wonderful selection to wander about and see.

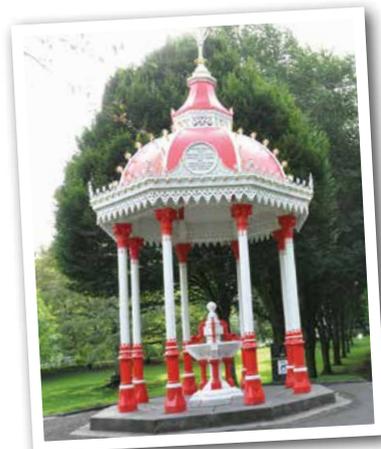
In the Georgian Quarter, several monuments are scattered among the greenery of People's Park. These include the high column honouring Limerick MP, Thomas Spring Rice, a restored Victorian drinking fountain and bandstand and the Children's Remembrance Plaque. In Pery Square, there are two memorials to military personnel. A short walk away, the 19th century Tait's Clock stands over Baker Place.



Outside Leamy House on Hartstonge Street is a bust of the author, Frank McCourt. Part of the building, the writer's former schoolhouse, is now a museum in his honour. On the upper end of O'Connell Street, there is a tall statue of the thoroughfare's namesake, political leader Daniel O'Connell. Further down O'Connell Street, between Cecil Street and Shannon Street is 'Players', a statue depicting a hurler and a rugby player—twin passions in Limerick. On Bedford Row stands a sculpture of renowned Limerick actor, Richard Harris, in his portrayal of King Arthur in the film, *Camelot*.

Outside Jury's Inn Hotel on Lower Mallow Street, the Broken Heart Memorial commemorates victims of the Great Famine. Along the quays, there is also a memorial to merchant seamen and another to Limerick's hard-working dockers.

In Cruises Street, 'The Singer from Quimper' by Rowan Gillespie is permanently entertaining. In the Medieval Quarter, there are a host of landmarks including a statue of 'The Bard of Thomond', Michael Hogan, outside King John's Castle. Behind City Hall on the riverside walk, there



is a sculpture of a group of 'Wild Geese' set amid a fountain pool. On George's Quay, there is an unusual 'Anti-War Memorial' featuring two figurative metal busts.

Further afield on the UL campus, there are many pieces of art including Antony Gormley's 'Together and Apart'.

These items are just a taste of Limerick's public art offering. When exploring, make sure to be on the lookout for interesting pieces.

The Lime Tree Theatre

Mary Immaculate College,
Courtbrack Avenue (off Dock Road)
061-774774
www.limetreetheatre.ie

Other performance venues should take a leaf out of the book of one of Limerick's newest offerings—the Lime Tree Theatre.

The 510 seat theatre is located in Mary Immaculate College, only five minutes from the city centre. As one of the largest additions in the recent development project in the third level institution, the Lime Tree is both versatile and state of the art.

The proscenium arch layout, over two levels, means that the audience views are first-rate from all angles.

It hosts all types of live performance as well as other events including theatre, music, comedy, traditional arts, children's shows and conferences. Its year round programme incorporates all these art forms and more.

Since opening in late 2012, the venue has attracted some big names in the Irish



The Lime Tree Theatre

theatre world including prestigious tours by the Abbey Theatre, Druid Theatre Company and Rough Magic—tempting them back to the Treaty City after a long break!

It has also fostered a relationship with the community as a venue for schools performances and local theatre/musical society productions.

The Lime Tree offers refreshments and bar service on performance nights and offers pre-theatre dinner deals with a number of nearby eateries.

Box Office opening times are Monday-Friday from 12-5.30pm and two hours before a performance (in the venue where the performance is taking place). For current programme details, see www.limetreetheatre.ie.



University Concert Hall

University Concert Hall

Foundation Building, University of
Limerick, Castletroy
061-331549
www.uch.ie

University Concert Hall is a 1,000 seat multi-purpose entertainment venue located on the beautiful University of Limerick campus.

Winner of the 2014 IMRO Award for Munster Live Music Venue of the Year, UCH boasts a hugely varied, year round programme which caters for all tastes whether your passion is opera, comedy, music, drama or pantomime!

Some of the biggest names in their fields have performed on the UCH stage, from comedian Billy Connolly, singer/songwriter Van Morrison and legendary Irish musician Christy Moore to large scale opera, the annual Irish Chamber

Orchestra season and performances by the RTÉ National Symphony and Concert Orchestras. There is truly something for everyone.

“Some of the biggest names in their fields have performed on the UCH stage

At Christmas bring the family to what is regarded as one of the best pantos in Ireland, and the only full scale professional production in the region, starring national celebrities and local stars alike!

Come early and dine in one of the on-campus restaurants, have a drink at the bar, browse the Watercolour Collection of Ireland located in the lobby then sit back, relax and enjoy the show.

A visit to University Concert Hall is a truly unique experience.

Check out www.uch.ie for full listings or keep in touch on Facebook or Twitter (@UChLimerick).

Venues Aplenty

Aside from larger scale venues, Limerick doesn't want for performance spaces of all shapes and sizes.

Dolan's Warehouse (061-314483; www.dolans.ie) is a venue beloved among musicians and fans alike for its electric atmosphere. The renowned live music venue, adjoining Dolan's Pub and Restaurant facing Limerick Docks, has played host to hundreds of leading music, comedy and theatrical artists since 1998. The **KASBAH Social Club** next door to Dolan's (061-314483; www.facebook.com/KASBAHsocialclub) is another good spot for live music.

The Belltable Arts venue @ 69 O'Connell Street (Listings/bookings currently on 061-774774; www.limetreetheatre.ie) is a multi-purpose venue for theatre, music, film and visual art.

Friars' Gate Theatre in Kilmallock (063-98727; www.friarsgate.ie) has a diverse, year-round programme of theatre, music, visual art and other cultural events. **The Honey Fitz**



Theatre near Lough Gur is used both as a theatre and community hall. It hosts occasional events, often for the Lough Gur Dramatic Society and the Lough Gur Storytelling Festival at Halloween (061-385386; www.loughgur.com/honey-fitz-theatre).

Dance Limerick is based in a beautifully refurbished former church

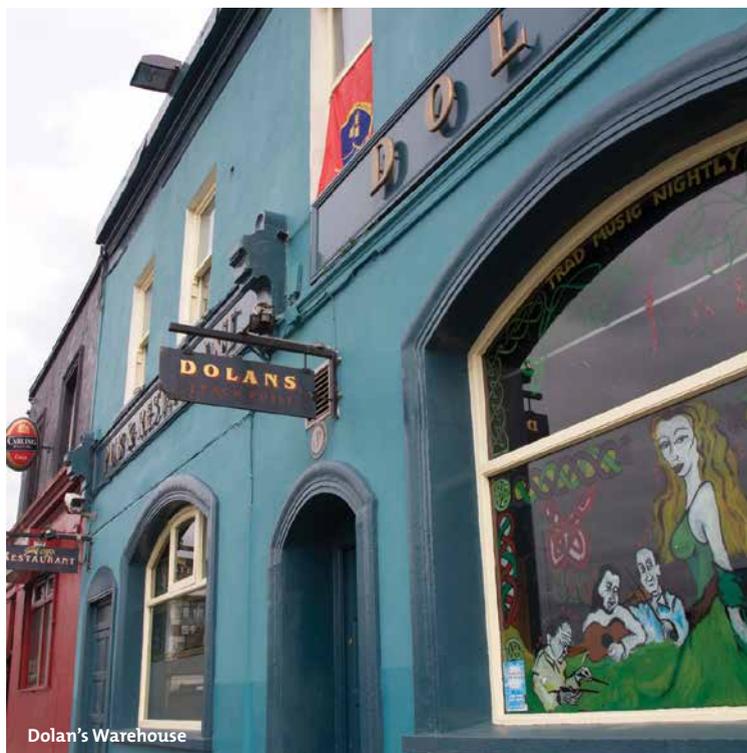
in the city's St John's Square—hosting dance and other artistic events (061-467813; www.dancelimerick.ie).

The Millennium Theatre in Limerick Institute of Technology (061-293190; www.litmt.ie) hosts performances of all types and **The Irish World Academy of Music and Dance** at UL has regular concerts and dance recitals (www.irishworldacademy.ie).

“ Played host to hundreds of leading music, comedy and theatrical artists

The White House Pub (061-412377) on Glentworth Street has its unique 'Poetry Revival' every Wednesday night, The Acoustic Club on Thursday nights and other events. **The Loft** (061-413733; www.lockebar.com) overhead the Locke Bar on George's Quay, is a multi-purpose venue hosting occasional cultural as well as a monthly literary event, On the Nail, for Limerick Writers' Centre.

Live music is the most common form of entertainment in local bars. In the past few years, site-specific events are more common too so non-typical venues are often used. Keep an eye on local press and www.limerick.ie for up to date event listings.



3

Limerick has an excellent range of festivals and events all year round with something to suit everyone.

Festivals & Events



Festival Fever

From sports to literature, family fun to music, Limerick hosts a wide variety of festivals all year round. There are well over 40 cultural events in any given year in Limerick and below is just a taste...

February

Readers and writers both can enjoy a host of readings, discussions and more for the **Limerick Literary Festival**, which is held in honour of prominent Limerick writer, Kate O'Brien (www.limerickliteraryfestival.com).

March

Mid-month, the streets come alive with the **Limerick St. Patrick's Day Festival**. The St. Patrick's Day parade on 17 March attracts up to 70,000 spectators. The festival also incorporates the **Limerick International Band Championship**—a hotly contested competition to find the best marching band.

The **Fresh Film Festival** screens the work of young filmmakers and holds workshops in March (www.freshfilmfestival.net).

April

The **Éigse Michael Hartnett Poetry, Arts & Literary Festival** takes place in Kilmallock in Co. Limerick (www.eigsemichaelhartnett.ie). Honouring the well-known poet, it includes lectures, poetry readings and more.

“Limerick hosts a wide variety of festivals all year round

In 2016, the renowned biennial of contemporary art, **eva International**, will commence from mid-April for 12 weeks in numerous city venues. In honour of the centenary of the 1916 Easter Rising, the exhibition 'Still (the Barbarians)' will investigate the post-colonial condition of Ireland (www.eva.ie).

May

Arguably the biggest event on the local calendar is **Riverfest**, which gets the entire city into party mode. A celebration of all that is great about Limerick, there

are barbeques, fireworks, markets, street performances and much more (www.limerick.ie/riverfest).

The Barringtons Hospital **Great Limerick Run** (held at the end of the Bank Holiday weekend) has grown hugely since it began a few short years ago, attracting thousands of participants. The road race through the city caters for walkers and runners of all abilities right up to marathon level (www.greatlimerickrun.com).



© Munster Images



June

At the **Foynes Irish Coffee Festival** in late May/early June competitors vie for the title of Champion Irish Coffee Maker and attendees enjoy the spoils and associated events. (www.foynesfestival.com). The **Limerick Sings International Choral Festival** this month (www.limericksings.com) is a non-competitive celebration of choral music.

July

Ireland's largest tag rugby festival, the **Pig 'n' Porter Festival** attracts teams from all over Ireland and the world for fun and sport (www.pignporter.com).

The **Make a Move Festival** celebrates hip-hop culture and urban art, showcasing the creative talents and skills of dancers, rappers and graffiti artists among others (www.makeamove.ie).

Limerick turns rainbow coloured during the **Limerick LGBTQ Pride Festival** during the summer (www.limerickpride.ie). The lively and positive atmosphere celebrates Limerick's diverse culture. The programme includes a pride parade and the crowning of Mr and Mrs Gay

Limerick as well as other artistic and information events.

August

The **Beast of Ballyhoura Adventure Race** pits teams against each other and the elements as they compete in mountain biking, kayaking and other challenges (www.beastofballyhoura.com).

September

During **Westfest** in September, the county town of Newcastle West holds a series of fun events revolving around the themes of music, family and food (www.westfest.ie). In the county village of Adare, test your endurance with **Adare to Survive**—a 7.5 km military style obstacle race in Clonshire Equestrian Centre (www.adaretosurvive.com).

The **Limerick Jazz Festival** attracts the best Irish and international contemporary jazz artists (www.limerickjazzfestival.com). For a broader display of Limerick's cultural offering, the **Elemental Arts & Culture Festival** has a lively weekend of events (www.elementalfestival.com). National annual event, **Culture Night**, is always

bursting with events and late opening in Limerick's cultural hotspots.

October

Limerick's love of poetry is celebrated in the **Cuisle Limerick City International Poetry Festival** (www.cuisle.org). Events include readings, book launches and a special programme for schools.





© Alan Place

© ILEN



© Munster Images



“ Lively and positive atmosphere

The **Richard Harris International Film Festival** marks the outstanding career of one of Limerick’s most famous sons—actor, director and producer, Richard Harris (www.richardharrisfilmfestival.com). There are a variety of events including film screenings. The charity sporting event, **Limerick Women’s Mini-Marathon**, takes place late in the month too (www.limerickminimarathon.com).

December

At **Christmas** time, the city transforms into a winter wonderland which brings Santa Claus, ice skating, special markets, concerts and pantomimes to the city to warm the heart on chilly days.

The **Limerick Christmas Racing Festival** (www.limerickraces.ie) is a highlight of the festive celebrations in Limerick. This four-day racing festival features national hunt racing as well as lots of extra entertainment at Limerick Racecourse. The course has a year round calendar of racing events too.

These are just a selection of what’s on in Limerick and there are numerous other events and festivals from Live at the Big Top to the Bualadh Bos Children’s Festival. Dates and details are subject to change. See www.limerick.ie for more information.



4

There is oodles to see and experience in Limerick so whatever your interest, you'll never be short of something to do.

Get Active in Limerick

Don't Miss!

- * Seeing amazing sights and learning new facts while taking a walking or bus tour around Limerick.
- * Setting your pulse racing with excitement with an active pursuit or adventure activity.
- * Shouting encouragement until hoarse at a sports match or event.
- * Enjoying indoor fun at a play centre, bowling alley or cinema.
- * Getting out in the fresh air in a city park or county beauty spot.
- * Using Limerick as a gateway to the Wild Atlantic Way, Ireland's vast coastal driving route.

Walking Tours & More

If you fancy exploring on shanks' mare as the old saying goes, Limerick offers a variety of interesting walking tours.

There are two guides who run guided walking tours leaving periodically from Limerick Tourist Office on 20 O'Connell Street. The three tours on offer include **Medieval Limerick**, **Georgian Limerick** and the **Angela's Ashes Walking Tour**—which takes in places mentioned in Frank McCourt's Pulitzer Prize winning memoir. The tours cover many notable locations in the city. Call 061-317522 or see www.limerick.ie for more information on these tours and booking.

Limerick Civic Trust runs several walking tours. There is a choice of a tour of **Medieval Englishtown**, a tour

of **North Munster Masonic Centre** and a **People's Park Tour**. For more information on these, call 061-313399 or see www.limerickcivictrust.ie.

Historical Limerick Up Close and Personal is a tour by the community project, St Mary's AID. The tour takes in St Mary's Cathedral, the Hunt Museum, the Treaty Stone and King John's Castle, for example and the price includes a complimentary tea/coffee at Hunt Museum Café. For more information, call 087-6163250 or see stmarysaid.blogspot.ie.

Experience Limerick Tours is a handy leaflet (available widely) outlining self-guided driving tours around Limerick but the Limerick City section sums up many attractions worth visiting on foot.

If you want to tour the main sights in a horse-drawn carriage, **Limerick Carriage Tours** (085-1578356; www.limerickcarriagetours.com) can do just that.

There are a few self-guided options in County Limerick such as the free downloadable audioguide to Bruff, available from www.visitballyhoura.com, and a tour of Kilmallock on www.abartaaudioguides.com.

There are other guided/walking tours of sites in the county available too for Lough Gur and Desmond Castle in Adare, for example.

For more information on tours in Limerick, see www.limerick.ie.



Red Viking Tours

Red Viking Tours

061-394033

www.redvikingtours.com

No city trek is complete without a good guided bus tour and Red Viking promises to give the visitor 101 fascinating facts about Limerick while you sit back and enjoy the sights.

“Hop on hop off route with a ticket valid for two consecutive days allows great flexibility

Travel back through time as you are ferried around historic Limerick, where Viking warriors and Anglo-Norman royalty once set foot. A treasure trove of

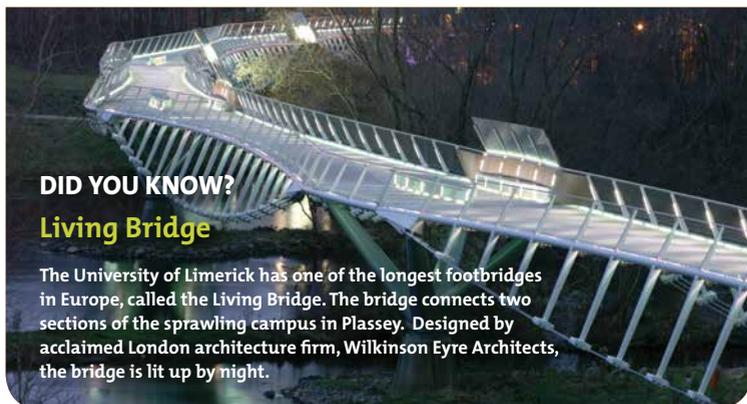
history and folklore awaits, along with striking views of the city on this self styled “fun and educational tour”.

The tour takes approximately an hour and begins at Arthur’s Quay in the centre of the city—operating daily from 1 May until the weather gets too cold!

“A treasure trove of history and folklore awaits

The new hop on hop off route with a ticket valid for two consecutive days allows great flexibility to explore the city at your ease. The company can also provide private customised tours of Limerick.

The tour fares are: €10 for adults; €7 for senior citizens/students; €5 for kids under 12 (under fives are free) and a family ticket (two adults/two under 12s) is €25.



DID YOU KNOW? Living Bridge

The University of Limerick has one of the longest footbridges in Europe, called the Living Bridge. The bridge connects two sections of the sprawling campus in Plassey. Designed by acclaimed London architecture firm, Wilkinson Eyre Architects, the bridge is lit up by night.

TIMELINE

Limerick History

812 – A settlement at Limerick is founded by the Vikings.

1197 – Limerick City gets a Charter of incorporation from King John 1 of England.

1212 – King John’s Castle completed.

1650/51– Oliver Cromwell’s forces besiege the city. The opposing force of Irish Confederate Catholics and English Royalists eventually surrender.

1690 – Jacobite forces are besieged by the Williamite army in Limerick.

1691 – Second siege of Limerick by Williamite forces. Treaty of Limerick is signed as Jacobites surrender.

1765- Edmund Sexton Pery commissions an engineer to plan a new city on his land. ‘Newtown Pery’ makes up a large portion of the city’s central business district today.

1852- Limerick Market Trustees are incorporated, running the city’s markets.

1877- People’s Park opens to the public.

1919- Limerick’s self declared ‘Soviet’ lasts for 12 days in April.

1942- Shannon Airport begins to operate.

1972- First enrolment of students in Limerick’s National Institute for Higher Education (NIHE), which later becomes the University of Limerick in 1989.

1979- Pope John Paul II visits Limerick.

1981- The Belltable Arts Centre is established.

1998- US President, Bill Clinton, visits Limerick.

2010- Limerick hosts the Special Olympics Ireland Games

2011- Limerick is designated as European City of Sport

2014- Limerick City is the first Irish city to be national City of Culture.

Shannon Ferries

Killimer, Kilrush, Co. Clare

065-9053124

www.shannonferries.com

Shannon Ferries offers a gateway between the south and mid-west with unrivalled comfort.

The ferry service between counties Kerry and Clare saves travellers a huge 137 kilometres of driving. Offering a restful option to tourists and locals alike, going by boat allows them to take in more of the spectacular scenery and tourist hotspots with ease.

“ Take in more of the spectacular scenery and tourist hotspots with ease

Shannon Ferries links the picturesque Tralee and Dingle regions to the untamed beauty of the Burren, the Cliffs



of Moher and the Ballyhoura Mountains in the Golden Vale of Limerick.

Established in 1969, Shannon Ferries operates two ferries—the Shannon Breeze and the Shannon Dolphin—between Tarbert in Kerry and Killimer in Clare. Both docks boast fully serviced facilities.

Ideally located on the Wild Atlantic Way, the service offers travellers a break from the road with a 20 minute passage across the Shannon. Sit back, relax and watch out for dolphins swimming

while indulging in some delicious refreshments!

The service accommodates pedestrian passengers, cyclists, cars, coaches, minibuses and commercial vehicles. Ticket prices start at €4.50. Throughout the summer months, the ferries run 7am-9.30pm.

For further information or ticket bookings (discounts for online reservations), visit www.shannonferries.com.



Paddywagon Tours

Unit 4, Arthur's Quay Shopping Centre

061-419341

www.paddywagontours.com

With top reviews across Tripadvisor, not to mention being voted ‘Most Fun Tour’ by close to a million travellers from across the world, Paddywagon Tours is a

safe bet if you're looking to see Ireland and have the craic!

With a range of day-long tours running all year round from Limerick, there's no better way to see the beautiful Irish landscape. Tours include Dingle (encompassing Inch beach, Ventry, the Beehive Huts, Sleah Head grotto and Clogherhead), the Ring of Kerry (Killorglin, Dingle Bay, Cahersiveen, Waterville, Killarney National Park and

Torc Waterfall), and the Cliffs of Moher (Doolin, the Burren, Bunratty Castle and, of course, the cliffs).

Paddywagon also caters for private hire so you can design your own tour for groups and special occasions.

“ Paddywagon Tours is a safe bet if you're looking to see Ireland and have the craic!

Each Paddywagon comes armed with free Wi-Fi on board so sharing all your travel snaps with your friends is a breeze.

Paddywagon does everything from two-day to nine-day tours from its headquarters in Dublin and also has hostels countrywide.

Visit the Limerick office for information, bookings, gifts and souvenirs. Be sure to check the Facebook and Twitter pages regularly for special offers and competitions.



Limerick Carriage Tours

Limerick Carriage Tours

085-1578356

www.limerickcarriagetours.com

For a tour with a difference, enjoy spectacular views from a traditional weatherproof carriage as a guide recounts the wonderful history of proud and majestic Limerick City from Viking settlements to modern day!

Limerick Carriage Tours offer bespoke horse and carriage tours, which take 40 minutes, and take in over 23 points of interest. The tour route includes major sites like King John's Castle, The Bishop's Palace, the Treaty Stone, the Hunt Museum and St Mary's Cathedral. Your friendly local guide will show you all the rich culture and heritage of this beautiful city. Don't forget your camera!

The horses are all traditional Irish Gypsy Cobs and great care is taken to

ensure their welfare at all times.

The exquisite custom-made carriages can seat up to 10 passengers and boast an elegant table with cup holders if you'd like to bring along some traditional Irish refreshments.

Limerick Carriage Tours run all year round with daytime tours or why not see Limerick by night on one of the magical evening tours?

“The exquisite custom-made carriages can seat up to 10 passengers

There are great family, senior and student packages (which include admission to King John's Castle) and also corporate deals. The company offers private/special occasion tours too. For seasonal operating hours, visit the website www.limerickcarriagetours.com or call Sarah on 085-1578356.



Get West

Get West
Sarsfield Bridge
061-278747
www.getwest.ie

To get a truly unique view of Limerick from its most prominent feature, the mighty River Shannon, take a guided kayak tour with Get West.

Tours run April to September and the activity is suitable for beginners, non-swimmers and people of all ages.

The Limerick City Kayak Tour departs from Sarsfield Bridge and travels up-river to King John's Castle and beyond. Along the way, you will play some fun games while learning about the city's history.

The comfortable, safe, sit-on-top kayaks are perfect for the 90-minute tour and with friendly, experienced staff close at hand, your enjoyment is guaranteed.

The tour costs €35 per person and under 12s can go in a double kayak (with an adult) for €20.

Another tour option is the Urban SUP Safari where you can try the fun activity of Stand Up Paddleboarding.

Get West also offers a kayak tour from the University of Limerick to the city centre. You can see more of the natural environment on this longer, river cruise but still take in the city sights.

“Get a truly unique view of Limerick from its most prominent feature, the mighty River Shannon

All tours are dependent on tides (and weather) so times vary; advance bookings are essential.

Get West also caters for stag/hen parties, birthday parties and corporate team building days.



From the ‘Red Army’ to the ‘Super Blues’ to the green and white of GAA, Limerick is famous for its sporting prowess.

Not only has the Treaty City produced a large number of great sports people but also has a reputation for excellent facilities and resounding support. Sport is so prevalent that Limerick had the honour of being the European City of Sport for 2011. Not bad for the third largest city in a small nation like Ireland!

Sport is woven into the fabric of the city. Rugby, hurling, Gaelic football and soccer are the most popular sports around the city with teams from school children right up to senior levels. Cricket, boxing, basketball, tennis, golf, handball, athletics and more are also played. With the river Shannon such a prominent feature, it is no wonder that rowing is another widespread pursuit.

Munster Rugby has a huge presence but club rugby in city and county has enjoyed a lot of success too, with many players rising through the ranks to represent province and country.

Limerick GAA is another giant on the sporting landscape. The Shannonsiders’ jerseys bears the legend ‘Sporting Limerick’ instead of a traditional

sponsor. This is a non-commercial entity that aims to capture “all that is good and positive about Limerick sport”.

The logo is carried by several other teams and bodies and available to everyone. This initiative is strongly supported by millionaire businessman and philanthropist, JP McManus. McManus is a lifelong GAA fan and there are many more like him who turn out in their thousands for home games in the Gaelic Grounds during GAA season. The Gaelic Grounds is the largest capacity stadium in the city with space for nearly 50,000 people.

Both the men’s and ladies’ teams have done their county proud many times. In 2014, the Limerick Senior Hurling team made it to the semi-final of the All Ireland Championship, while the Minor team won the Munster title. In 2013, the Limerick Senior and Minor teams won their respective Munster titles and both made it to the semi-final of the All Ireland. The senior team has won around 18 provincial, seven All Ireland championships and 38 other honours between all levels and competitions.



© Liam Burke/Press 22

In camogie (ladies' hurling), the county team has won honours in various categories at national level. Limerick's Intermediate camogie team won the 2014 All Ireland title.

In Gaelic football, the senior team has won two All Ireland championships and 12 other honours. The local club championships are fiercely contested, as are the schools competitions. For fixtures and information, see www.limerickgaa.ie.

Limerick also has a proud tradition of soccer. There are hundreds of local teams playing, from the schoolboy league upwards. Limerick FC is currently in the first division of the League of Ireland. It has a rich history, winning several regional and Irish titles and competing in European competitions six times. Its home games are now played at its historical home at Market's Field. Fixtures and information are on www.limerickfc.ie.

Its stellar reputation has meant that Limerick has hosted many large sporting events. These have included the 2010 and 2014 Special Olympics Ireland Games, the World Rugby 7s 2014 and 2015, the All-Ireland Corporate Games, the 2008 and 2009 Irish Open Golf Championships, the JP McManus Pro-Am, the European Duathlon Championships and the World Powerlifting Championships.

“The motto of the Munster Rugby team is ‘To the brave and faithful, nothing is impossible’

The motto of the Munster Rugby team is “To the brave and faithful, nothing is impossible” and Limerick natives have taken that to heart, taking on amazing tasks of endurance. Sean McGowan was

“A reputation for excellent facilities and resounding support

the first Irishman to row solo across the Atlantic Ocean. Mark Quinn was the youngest Irishman to summit Mount Everest. During an illustrious climbing career, in which he won accolades for heroism, Ger McDonnell was the first Irishman to reach the top of K2. He died in a tragic accident on his descent.

Limerick people have excelled in many other sporting endeavours. Boxers, Andy Lee and Willie Casey, contested many a fight for European and World titles. Limerick physical therapist, Ger Hartmann treats many world-class athletes. Tennis player, Conor Niland, played at Wimbledon in 2011. Just a few of Limerick's sports personalities include many rugby stars like Peter Clohessy and Paul O'Connell, Olympic rower Sam Lynch, GAA legends, Mick Mackey and Ciarán Carey, International soccer player, Al Finucane and Transplant Games medal-winner, John Loftus.

With thousands of Limerick's young people participating in sports regularly, its heritage will live on for a long while yet. ‘Sporting Limerick’ will continue to draw the crowds to behold its success.





The Rugby Capital

In Limerick, rugby union is less a past-time and more a passion which has endured for over 130 years.

For a relatively small city, Limerick punches well above its weight in terms of the quality of its club rugby teams and has produced countless fine players for the professional and international field of play.

The sport is played widely in city and county, at all levels from schoolchildren up to the provincial team, Munster.

Where rugby elsewhere has an image of being somewhat a sport for the elite, rugby has traditionally cut across all classes in Munster. With a band of supporters known as ‘the Red Army’, Munster Rugby has been a fixture in Limerick since 1879, based at Thomond Park Stadium (the team also plays games at Musgrave Park in Cork).

The city is often ‘painted red’ with everything from flags to shop fronts for matches because of the proud tradition of the sport.

Its striking motto is “To the brave and faithful, nothing is impossible”. This adage has held strong over the years. Even before rugby turned into a professional sport in Ireland, Munster beat several international touring sides including Australia and New Zealand.

In the late nineties and early 2000s, Munster reached the finals of the European Cup twice only to be disappointed. After numerous daring attempts, Munster won the prestigious cup in 2006 and again in 2008. Giant screens broadcasted these finals live to thousands of people in the city centre. This was in addition to thousands of fans who attended the games, so Munster is famous for its fervent supporters as well as its winning ways.

“Munster Rugby is bolstered in part by strong Limerick club sides

Munster also competes in the Pro-12 league, with teams from Scotland, Wales and Italy, and has also won that three times.

Munster Rugby is bolstered in part by strong Limerick club sides. Since the All Ireland League started, it has been dominated by teams from the city. Three clubs, Shannon, Garryowen and Young Munster, have won the competition 13 times between them. Other prominent Limerick clubs are Old Crescent, UL Bohemians, St. Mary’s, Thomond, Richmond and Bruff.

The popularity of women’s rugby is also on the rise and Limerick women have

often been fixtures on Ireland and Lions squads. Joy Neville from the city is considered one of the greats of the game.

Local secondary schools like Crescent College Comprehensive, St. Munchin’s College and Ardscoil Ris have also enjoyed much success in junior and senior provincial competitions.

Renowned rugby players from Limerick include Colm Tucker, Tom Clifford, Mick English, Gerry McLoughlin, Peter Clohessy, Paul Wallace, Anthony Foley (currently the Munster coach), John Hayes, Paul O’Connell, Eoin Reddan, Marcus Horan, David Wallace, Jerry Flannery, Conor Murray and Keith Earls...the list goes on!

The Pig’n’Porter, the largest tag rugby festival in the world, is held in Limerick every July and in 2014 and 2015, Thomond Park hosted the World Rugby 7s competition.

The love of rugby in Limerick has spawned many texts. *Alone it Stands* by local playwright, John Breen has toured nationally and abroad. The play is about Munster’s win against the All Blacks in 1978. The current editor of *The Limerick Leader* newspaper, Alan English, has written two bestselling books on Munster Rugby including *Stand Up and Fight: When Munster Beat the All Blacks*.



Thomond Park Experience

Thomond Park Experience

061-421100

www.thomondpark.ie

Limerick has often been referred to as the spiritual home of Irish rugby and part of that is due to the fearsome reputation of the provincial team, Munster Rugby, and their base at the mighty Thomond Park Stadium.

Munster Rugby has grown into a global brand since the sport of rugby turned professional. The humble provincial pitch was transformed into a world-class stadium in 2008. Holding nearly 27,000 people on match days, the venue is famed for its unique atmosphere for games and events such as concerts with the likes of Bruce Springsteen and Elton John.

For an opportunity to follow in the footsteps of the players themselves, there is a stadium tour available, which gives visitors unprecedented 'back stage' access. Visitors can see the home and away dressing rooms, press conference areas, the Munster dug-out and walk down the tunnel to stand on the hallowed pitch.

The tour also includes a visit to the Munster Experience museum. The history of Munster and Thomond Park is outlined with lots of memorabilia and interactive/ multimedia exhibits that allow you to practice your line-out skills, among other things. The museum and stadium tour is open on a daily basis (groups can be catered for too).

The newest additions include a Fan Zone Plaza, a dedicated Family Fun

Zone area, a revamp of the Guinness Dug Out Bar and upgraded food and beverage facilities—all adding to the ultimate match-day experience.

The stadium also includes a first class range of conference and banqueting facilities. It can host conferences, gala dinners, exhibitions, weddings and all types of functions, large and small.

For more information, email info@thomondpark.ie. For fixtures/match tickets, see www.munsterrugby.ie.

Delta Sports Dome

Delta Retail Park, Ballysimon Road

061-444455

www.deltasportsdome.ie

For sporty types and fitness fanatics, Delta Sports Dome offers a range of active pursuits like pitch/court rental, a fully equipped gym, fitness classes and more.



Delta Sports Dome

Delta Sports Dome offers Astroturf pitches and tennis and badminton courts for rent for fun or training. Sports that can be played here include soccer, Gaelic Games, rugby, wheelchair sports, tennis, table tennis and badminton.

Jumplines is Ireland's newest indoor trampoline, which is now open here. Bounce on down today and see the latest craze that's been taking Limerick, Munster and the world by storm—trampolineing!

Boasts Ireland's first and only Altitude Gym

Delta boasts Ireland's first and only Altitude Gym—a sealed room that reduces oxygen for many benefits. There is a busy schedule of classes in spin, circuit training, Bikram yoga, pilates, pre and post natal pilates as well as yoga for parent and baby. Personal training is offered too. Individual, group and squad rates are available on request for all services.

Limerick Sports Injury Clinic (www.limericksportsinjuryclinic.ie) is also based here.

There are meeting rooms and kids' birthday bashes—soccer or pop star parties—at the sports dome are quite popular, as are school outings to the facility.

Delta Sports Dome runs sports/ activity camps for children aged four to 12 over the school holiday periods such as Easter and summer.

Opening hours are Monday-Friday, 6am-11pm and Saturday/Sunday, 9am-6pm.

Limerick Golf Club

Rosbrien, Ballyclough, Co. Limerick
061-415146
www.limerickgolfclub.ie

Limerick Golf Club is situated on the outskirts of Limerick City and has the honour of being one of the oldest golf clubs in Ireland, founded in 1891.

Based on the one-time site of Roxboro Castle and grounds, the Par 72 mature parkland course presents many challenges to beginners and experienced golfers alike.

“ Hosted the JP McManus Invitational Pro-Am

Dr. Alistair McKenzie, the architect of eminent courses like Lahinch and Augusta National, designed several of the holes on the course.

With 1,300 members, Limerick Golf Club has won 12 national titles. The club hosted the JP McManus Invitational Pro-Am—the largest pro-am event of its type in Europe—three times from 1990 to 2000. Professionals like Walter Hagen,

Pádraig Harrington, Mark O’Meara and Tiger Woods have played here.

The state-of-the-art clubhouse allows golfers to unwind with refreshments after a game. Visitors are always welcome to Limerick Golf Club.



DID YOU KNOW?

Irish Coffee

Irish coffee, a brew infused with native whiskey, was invented in Limerick village, Foynes, in 1943. Chef, Joe Sheridan - who worked in the seaplane terminal there - devised it to warm some passengers up one chilly night. Today, there is a festival in the village on the June Bank Holiday weekend to celebrate the birth of this unique treat.

Golf in Limerick

Golf is a passion in the mid-west and aside from those profiled here, there are many other fine courses to be found in Limerick and in nearby counties.

In city suburbs, you can find well-maintained parkland courses at the municipal course in Rathbane Golf Club and another at Castletroy Golf Club. Ballyneety Golf Club is just under 10 km south of the city.

There are also a number of parkland courses a short distance away in County Limerick at Adare (Adare Golf Club, located at Adare Manor Hotel & Golf

Resort and Adare Manor Golf Course), Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale as well as in Charleville in north Cork and Shannon, Ennis and Dromoland in Clare.

If you fancy some stunning coastal scenery to accompany your game you can find fantastic links courses in Lahinch and Doonbeg in Clare and Ballyunion in Kerry.

If you wish to perfect your short game, UniGolf in Castletroy or Monaleen Pitch & Putt will have you putting like a pro while the driving range in Coonagh or Ballyneety are a great place to work on strategies to hit the fairway every time.





A Night at the Dogs

**Limerick Greyhound Stadium,
Greenpark, Dock Road
Bookings: 1890-269969
Stadium Direct: 061-448000
www.limerickgreyhoundstadium.ie**

A night at Limerick Greyhound Stadium provides live, adrenaline pumped entertainment. Top class facilities ensure it is comfortable to watch the action from inside and out. There is live racing on Fridays and Saturdays. Gates open at 6.30pm and the first race is at 7.40pm.

The state of the art stadium caters for all occasions—family events, team nights, corporate nights, hen/stag parties and fundraisers for non-profit organisations.

The Leger Restaurant offer stunning panoramic views of the stadium, excellent food, Tote betting at your table and also the option of a private hospitality suite. The hospitality suites offer an excellent opportunity for both private functions—whether it be an off-site night for a corporate group, a venue for a stag/hen party activity such as cocktail making or a private dinner. The restaurant offers a wide range of four course set menus to suit all tastes.

There are two bars within the stadium—The Mezz Bar (located on the mezzanine level) provides a more relaxed and informal racing experience. The Market's Field Bar on the ground floor is a nod to the former home of Limerick Greyhound Racing from 1932 to 2010.

With excellent entertainment and delicious fare on offer every weekend at Limerick Greyhound Stadium, there has never been a better time to 'go to the dogs'!

“There has never been a better time to 'go to the dogs'”

Here is some information for visitors from abroad: Bonjour, Hallo, Ola and Ciao.

Français: Profiter d'une soirée passionnante de courses de lévriers. De courses chaque vendredi ed samedi.

Portes sont ouvertes 18.30; première course 19.40. Merveilleux restaurant disponibles.

Deutsch: Genießen Sie einen spannenden Abend des Windhundrennen. Racing jeden Feitag and Samstag. Tore sind offen 18.30; erstes Rennen 19.40. Wundervolles restaurant verfügbar

Español: Disfrutar de una noche emocionante de las carreras de galgos. Competir con todos los viernes y sábados. Puertas están abiertas 18.30; primera Carrera 19.40. Maravilloso restaurante disponible

Italiano: Godere di una serata emozionante di corse di livrieri. Corse ogni Venerdì e Sabato. Gates sono aperti 18.30; primo Race 19.40. Meraviglioso ristorante disponibile.





Boskill Equestrian Centre

Caherconlish, Co. Limerick
085-7673468
www.limerickhorseriding.com

In the scenic setting of Caherconlish in east Limerick, this family-run facility offers horse-riding lessons, trekking and much more.

The AIRE approved centre and livery yard has an excellent selection of horses and ponies—chosen specifically for their good temperaments—for pleasure riding, showjumping, cross country and trekking all year round.

Lessons are available for absolute beginners, experienced riders and everything in between, delivered by highly qualified instructors. Boskill caters for children from age four up to adults.

“Boskill caters for children from age four up to adults

The centre offers an all weather, outdoor arena, clipping, livery and ample hacking. Specialist equine assisted learning and therapy are available too.

Boskill runs a Saddle Club on Saturdays, summer camps for kids (no experience required) and holiday packages for teenagers/young riders who want to improve their English skills as well as improve their riding and knowledge of horses. There are regular

cross-country ride-outs, which people can sign up for.

The Ryan family brings generations of experience in breeding, training and horse riding to the centre. Safety, learning and fun are the priorities at Boskill Equestrian Centre and that's straight from the horse's mouth.

Ballyhoura Trailriders

Ardpatrick, Co. Limerick
087-2717330
www.trailriders.ie

Based at the trailhead of the stunning 92 km Ballyhoura Bike Trail in Ardpatrick, Trailriders bike rental and shop is here to give you the best mountain bike

experience of your life.

Established in 2007 by Chris O'Callaghan and Liam Sheedy, both keen mountain bikers, Trailriders provides a number of services.

“Trailriders offers courses and workshops on mountain bike skills

It has the exclusive permit from Coillte to operate the Coillte Mountain Bike Trail in the Ballyhoura region—the largest network of its kind in Ireland. Both Chris and Liam offer the best advice on the five looped trails in the area to suit your individual needs. You can also rent bikes and equipment here at reasonable rates and the Trailriders shop sells both as well. Servicing and maintenance are available too.

If you want to learn more about mountain biking and maintenance, Trailriders offers courses and workshops on mountain bike skills from MBLA qualified staff—a recognised qualification by Scottish Cycling, British Cycling and Cycling Ireland for trail centres in remote mountain regions. These instructors also offer summer camps for kids.

Trailriders opens from Tuesday to Sunday, 9am-6pm (2016 summer opening hours are due to change; ring for details).





Clonlara Equestrian Centre

Clonlara, Co. Clare
061-354172/087-6892373
www.clonlaraequestrian.com

Clonlara Equestrian Centre is nestled in the scenic countryside of east Clare just five miles from Limerick City.

The centre boasts an international size indoor arena and both outdoor and dressage arenas. They offer cross-

country riding too, with plentiful trekking options through the farm and local countryside.

At Clonlara, they host main events across all disciplines such as showjumping, dressage and cross-country. Whether you're a competition or leisure rider looking to improve your skills in showjumping, dressage or cross-country, want to see the countryside from horseback, want somewhere pleasant to stable your horse, want to buy a horse or are part of an equine organisation

looking for an excellent, high quality competition venue, Clonlara Equestrian Centre is the place for you.

The highly trained staff offer a variety of lessons for adults and children of all levels, either private one to one or in a group. They also run summer camps through the school holidays and can cater for children with special needs.

Check them out on Facebook: www.facebook.com/clonlara.equestriancentre or for more information email clonlaraequest2@eircom.net.

Delta Karting

Delta Retail Park, Ballysimon Road
061-603603
www.facebook.com/deltakarting

Imagine yourself as the next Formula 1 superstar with an adrenaline-filled few hours at Delta Karting.

Limerick's premier all weather karting facility boasts two top class tracks—designed by rally drivers. The tracks incorporate banked corners, tunnels and overpasses. You can enjoy all this while racing along at 65 kilometres per hour and sitting just two inches off the ground.

There is also a children's track with electric karts—suitable for kids from four to eight years old.

Delta Karting is an ideal high-octane and fun activity for individuals as well as for groups of family, friends, clubs and birthday parties. It is also the perfect activity for team-building and corporate gatherings. Offering a comfortable viewing area, with a pool table, for

relaxing or to have refreshments after the racing, it will be hard to leave.

The facility runs regular deals and promotions, which are available on the Facebook page. With summer, Halloween and Easter camps run over the year, Delta Karting offers the perfect high-speed adventure when on holidays with the kids.

Delta Karting offers a professionally run Grand Prix, the only karting centre in Limerick to offer this, with practice laps, lap heats, quarter finals, semi-finals and finals. Feel like a real Formula-racer when collecting your trophy on the podium!

Delta Karting opens Monday-Saturday, 11am-9pm and Sunday, 11-7pm.





Family Fun!

There is plenty for families and children of all ages to see and do in Limerick whatever the weather or location. From tiny tots to teens, there are activities to suit everyone.

For a swim, you can pay a visit to a number of facilities. The 50 m swimming pool at the **Sports Arena in the University of Limerick** (061-213555) also makes for happy splashing. **Grove Island Leisure Centre** (061-350221) has a 25 metre swimming pool and two kids' pools. Both the UL Arena and Grove Island have gyms too and UL has a multitude of other sporting facilities like running tracks, tennis courts and sports fields.

If you want to play at being Rory McLroy, try your hand at **Monaleen Pitch & Putt** (087-6954839), **Adare Pitch & Putt** (087-6963420) or **Unigolf** (061-633300).

For something a little different, why not try some roller skating at **Rollerjam** (061-422500) or rock climbing at the **Nevsail** indoor climbing wall (086-

3308236)? Take to the skies with your feet on the ground with flight simulation at **Atlantic Airventure** (061-363687) in Shannon.

For an exhilarating rush, go-karting is an exciting option. Make sure and check suitability for younger children. Rev up at **Delta Karting** (061-603603), the **National Kart Centre** (061-340161) or **Kilcornan Karting** (061-393733).

“You can get up and close with a whole host of animals

Rain needn't put a dampener on plans because there are several great indoor activity centres offering a vast array of fun forays for kids. From imaginative play to super energetic physical play, these facilities have it all. They include **Tons of Fun** (061-431141), **Delta Lazer & Adventure Centre** (061-423994),

Formula for Fun (061-603200) and **Kids Town** (061-348111).

In good weather, then a trip to either **Buttercup Farm** (061-397556) and **Stonehall Visitor Farm** (061-393940) is a must. You can get up and close with a whole host of animals, from goats to llamas and sheep to owls. There are picnic areas and other activities on site too.

For older kids and teens, **Funworld** (061-325088) offers bowling, pool tables and arcade games.

The city and county are filled with free parks and playgrounds too. Horseriding and trekking are family-friendly activities and Limerick and its environs have several equestrian centres. There are also many child-oriented tours and activities at many of the city's heritage and cultural outlets.

For more ideas on family activities, this guide has lots of information features in this section and others. For even more suggestions, see www.limerick.ie.

Tons Of Fun Children's Activity Centre

Unit H1, Eastway Business Park,
Ballysimon Road V94 NP4o
061-431141
www.tonsoffun.ie

Safe, clean and secure, Tons of Fun provides a fun-filled soft play and adventure experience for children aged between 0-10 years.

Play areas are dedicated to babies and wobblers, with a roundabout, ball pool, assorted soft toys, ball jugglers, and ball lifters. The Junior Play area for 3-5 year olds is on two levels, with double wavy slides, ball pool and climbing maze. For the over fives, there is a three-level adventure maze, with overhead crawling nets and runways, wavy and tubular slides.

Other amenities include giant Lego blocks, soccer and basketball pitch, mini trampolines, and a quiet playhouse area.

While the children are busy at play, adults can relax in the comfortable seating areas and avail of magazines, newspapers and free Wi-Fi. The coffee

shop offers a range of hot and cold drinks, snacks, hot food, ice cream and smoothies.

“An ideal venue for birthday parties, school tours and corporate kids events

The warm and friendly atmosphere makes Tons of Fun an ideal venue for birthday parties, school tours and corporate kids events.

Parent & Toddler sessions for pre-schoolers run every weekday morning between 10am-12.30pm during school term time.

Opening hours are Monday to Saturday, 10am-6pm and 11am-6pm Sundays and Bank Holidays. Admission for 90 minutes play is €7.50 for over 3s, €5.50 for under 3s, with discounts for families, groups, and children with special needs. Babies under one year old



Tons Of Fun Children's Activity Centre

or not walking are free of charge.

Tons of Fun also operates a Party Shop on site, selling a wide variety of helium balloons and accessories for all occasions. Plenty of free car parking is available outside the building. GPS: 52.649, -8.585.

Delta Lazer & Adventure Centre

Building 4, Unit 1 Delta Retail Park,
Ballysimon Road
061-423994
www.adventurecity.ie

With a huge range of indoor and outdoor activities, Delta Lazer & Adventure Centre provides an action-packed few hours out for kids.

The massive 55,000 square foot facility has all sorts of attractions. Indoor activities include a soccer pitch, bungee trampolines, zorb balls, slides, climbing frames and much more. The newest addition is an exciting Lazer Tag experience for children aged seven and over.

Outside, little ones can climb aboard the pirate ship, kick about on the Astroturf pitch and clamber up one of the many climbing frames.

For parents, The Jolly Roger Café offers a variety of hot meals (including children's meals with toys), snacks, drinks, gourmet coffee and free Wi-Fi.

“Party packages are a specialty here

Party packages are a specialty here and can be tailored to suit individual needs. There are parent and toddler mornings—with organised activities/supervised games—every Tuesday and Thursday morning from 10am-12 noon during the school term. Parents can enjoy a complimentary tea/coffee and social atmosphere.

Safety and fun are the priorities here with the staff team members, who will help in any way they can.

Delta Lazer & Adventure Centre opens Monday-Saturday, 10am-6pm, Sundays and Bank Holidays, 11am-6pm and early/late bookings are available by appointment.

The admission rate (for 90 minutes of play) is: Ages five to 12, €8, ages one to four, €5 and infants under 12 months, €3.



Delta Lazer & Adventure Centre



Parks and Playgrounds



People's Park



People's Park

Naturalist John Muir said “everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul” and there are plenty of parks around Limerick where you can take a break and recharge in the quiet of a well-maintained park, away from the hustle and bustle. Read on to learn about the local parks to discover.

People's Park

Located at the heart of the Georgian Quarter, the People's Park in Pery Square was formally opened in 1877, and gifted to the people of Limerick City in memory of Richard Russell, a prominent local businessman.

People's Park boasts a number of interesting items including two gazebos, a 19th century bandstand and an ornate drinking fountain, which was recently restored to its original glory.

In the middle of the park, there is a free-standing limestone column erected in 1829 by the Barrington family as a

memorial for Thomas Spring Rice, MP to Limerick city in the 19th century.

More recent additions to the park include a children's playground.

The park has a large selection of mature, deciduous and evergreen trees such as ash, beech, elm, flowering cherry, hawthorn, lime, maple, oak, poplar and willow as well as a beautiful array of flowers.

The People's Park won the Best Local Park Special Category Award in 2003.

Arthur's Quay Park

By the banks of the River Shannon, opposite the Arthur's Quay Shopping Centre is Arthur's Quay Park. Populated by lime trees that surround a central plaza, the park has spectacular views of Curragour Falls and the Clare hills. The park was opened in January 1991 by former president Mary Robinson. It is often a venue for local events.



The Custom House Park

Behind the Hunt Museum, one can find the Custom House Park. This riverside park forms part of the riverside walk and contains some beautiful specimens of horse chestnut, London plane, maple and sycamore trees.

O'Brien Park

On Clare Street, your eye will be drawn to the freestanding concrete gateway



with a classical triumphant arch that marks the entrance to the delightful O'Brien Park. Among the mature trees here you can find alder, birch, hornbeam, mountain ash, ornamental pear and whitebeam trees. There is also a park shelter and cast iron drinking fountain, as well as a small children's playground, which was updated in 2002.

Robert Byrne Park

Previously known as the Curragour Park, the Robert Byrne Park is situated on Clancy Strand. Sit beneath the lime trees and watch the river flow by or feed the famous Shannon swans.

Russell Park

Between the North Circular Road and Condell Road lies Russell Park, which is popular with walkers and runners. The park is well known for a glorious host of daffodils that appear in the springtime.

Shelbourne Park

Reopened in 2009 following extensive renovations, Shelbourne Park has a

710 metre looped walk for walkers and cyclists, two soccer pitches and a children's playground. It is located between Hassett's Cross and Union Cross.

Mount Kennett Skate Park

Skateboarding and roller sports are quite popular in Limerick City and this riverside skate park caters to those needs. With smooth concrete, ramps and rails, this is a great space to practice tricks and perfect your skating. The riverside location provides excellent views of the adjacent bank and wildlife.

There are also a variety of playgrounds in the suburbs and the county like Castletroy, Adare, Abbeyfeale, Askeaton, Ballingarry, Cappamore, Castleconnell, Doon, Foynes, Glin, Kilfinane, Kilmallock, Murroe, Newcastle West and Rathkeale. See www.limerick.ie for details.



Walking & Cycling *in Limerick*

Walking and cycling are some of the best ways to get fit and a multitude of designated walking routes and cycling trails are the perfect way to explore the sights, sounds and history of Limerick City.

Medieval Limerick Walking Trail

This 3 km trail can take anywhere between one and two hours to complete depending on how long you wish to linger on the various sights. Starting at Merchant's Quay with the Potato Market, County Courthouse, City Hall and St. Mary's Cathedral, the riverside and pavement walk takes you past the remains of the medieval city walls. Along the route you will see the Bishop's Palace, now home to the Limerick Civic Trust, and St. Munchin's Church. Crossing Thomond Bridge you will see King John's Castle and the Bard of Thomond Statue. The walk loops

around back along to Fanning's Castle and Barrington's Hospital on George's Quay.

The Three Bridges Riverside Loop

This walk is similar to the medieval walk but also takes in the beauty of the Shannon River. The loop starts at Arthur's Quay travelling up towards the Hunt Museum through Arthur's Quay Park and the Custom House Park. Leaving King John's Castle follow Castle Street across the Thomond Bridge then turn left to see the Treaty Stone. The new riverfront boardwalk to Sarsfield Bridge provides excellent riverside views of the castle and City Hall. Continue straight on to Clancy Strand where the ramp at St. Michael's Boat Club will take you to the Shannon Bridge. Coming across the bridge and on to the quays, you will see the Seaman's and Dockers memorial, as well as a few pubs and restaurants if you have

worked up an appetite. The underpass at Sarsfield Bridge will finish the loop.

City Centre Slí na Sláinte

The 3.8 km city centre Slí na Sláinte ('path of health' as designed by the Irish Heart Foundation) is best toured during daylight hours. The trail starts on the newly pedestrianised Bedford Row. The route goes down O'Connell Street, passing the Augustinian Church on the left, moving on to the Georgian Quarter, where you can visit the People's Park. The route turns up onto Barrington Street and continues down O'Connell Avenue onto New Street. As you come around South Circular Road you will see Mary Immaculate College on the left. Continue on to Henry Street to finish the loop at the bottom of Bedford Row.

There are other Slí na Sláinte routes in the county, including one in Adare. See www.irisheart.ie for more information.



Limerick Smarter Travel

Limerick City has been designated a Smarter Travel Demonstration City and as such there have been a range of improvements aimed towards cyclists, such as bike lanes, installed across the city. Route 1 connects Corbally to the City Centre with a travel time of 10 minutes to cycle or 25 minutes to walk.

Route 2 takes in the Tow Path that was once part of the Grand Canal system. This cycle route is flat and sheltered from the wind and links UL to the city centre.

Route 3 is a direct route for commuters between UL and the City Centre. Route 4 goes the same way but avoids the hills along the Dublin road. Travel time is double that of Route 3 but the ease of travel will appeal to unseasoned cyclists. Route 5 links South Hill to Roxboro Shopping Centre and Colbert Train Station. For more information on Limerick Smarter Travel, see www.limericksmartertravel.ie.

“ A multitude designated walking routes and cycling trails are the perfect way to explore the sights, sounds and history of Limerick City

There are also plenty of cycling and walking clubs in Limerick such as the Limerick Cycling Club, UL Mountain Bike Club and Limerick Climbing Club. For more information on local clubs, visit www.limerickcitysports.ie.

Bike Share

A bike sharing initiative has recently launched in Limerick City. Coca-Cola Zero® Bikes is a self-service bike rental service open to all from 14 years up. There are 23 stations (215 bikes) strategically located throughout the urban area. Stations have a terminal and stands for the bikes, which are locked in and released when hired. On return, the bike is locked back into a stand at any station and hire is then completed. Hire options include an annual subscription, a three-day pass and a pay as you go option (first 30 minutes free). In all cases, a security deposit is required. The bikes can be used for everything from commuting to sightseeing.

More information on www.bikeshare.ie.



Explore the Great Outdoors

Limerick City offers shopping, entertainment, sport, history, culture, family fun and more (outlined in this and other sections of the guide) but it doesn't have to mean a break from outdoor and adventure activities. Both city and county boast a range of attractive sights and active pursuits to enjoy.

Visitors can enjoy the mighty River Shannon in all its glory with a Limerick City Kayaking Tour from **Nevsail Watersports & Rock Climbing** (086-3308236). Nevsail also has an indoor climbing wall in the city and also offers activities like sailing, stand up paddleboarding, windsurfing, coastering, powerboating and outdoor rock climbing at locations in Limerick and Clare.

Kilfinane Outdoor Education Centre in east Limerick has a range of indoor and outdoor activities to enjoy from canoeing to orienteering, abseiling

to basketball (063-91161). Team challenges are a speciality!

For face-paced **mountain biking**, the Ballyhoura area has over 90 km of cross country trails where you can get muddy on forest road climbs, get high on the steep inclines and try to keep steady on the tracks. **Ballyhoura Trailriders** in Ardpatrick (087-2717330) has the exclusive permit from Coillte to operate the Coillte Mountain Bike Trail here (the largest network of its kind in Ireland) and provides bike rental and other services too. Hiking and orienteering are also popular in Ballyhoura.

For lovers of all things equestrian, you can engage in horse-riding, trekking and other variations at many sites including **Clonlara Equestrian Centre** in Clonlara (061-354172/087-6892373); **Boskill Equestrian Centre**

in Caherconlish (085-7673468) and **Clonshire Equestrian Centre** in Adare (061-396770).

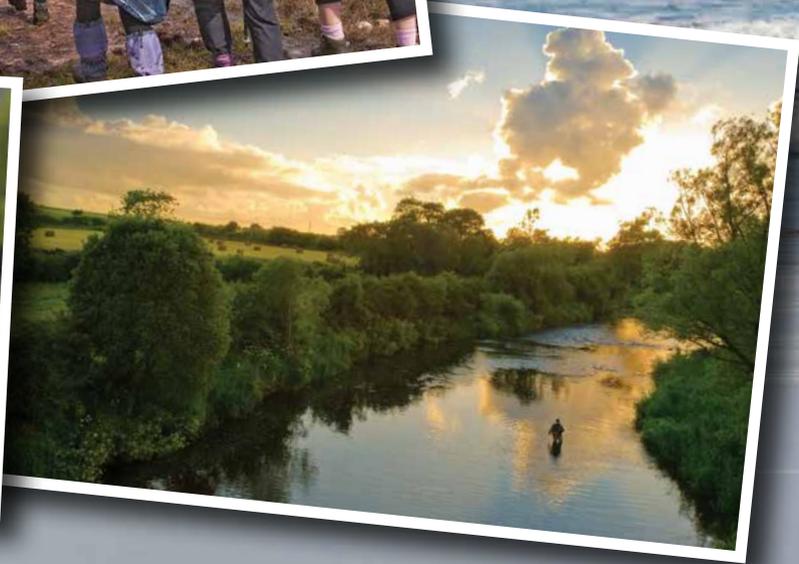
Limerick has several great **angling** locations. Plassey and Annacotty (both close to the University of Limerick) are popular fishing spots, as is Castleconnell. **Bleach Lough**, between Kildimo and Pallaskenry in county Limerick, is a trout fishery (087-1845736). Brown trout are also on the menu at **Glasha Lake** in Athea (068-42295).

Millbank House in Murroe (061-386115) has an angling centre on-site and is located close to sites for trout and salmon fishing, course and game fishing. **Celtic Angling** (069-68202) offers guided angling tours around county Limerick and Kerry. Don't forget to enquire about seasons and permits before casting your hook!

To enjoy nature in all its glory,



“ The Wild Atlantic Way is Ireland’s spectacular coastal driving route



Cratloe Woods (061-337322) just over the border in Clare overlooks the estuary of the river Shannon and contains walking/hiking trails, a picnic area and viewing points. A climb up Woodcock Hill in the same parish offers spectacular views of Limerick and the surrounding countryside.

The 777 acre **Curraghchase Forest Park** in Kilcornan (061-337322) has picturesque scenery, a multitude of walkways and nature trails, a lake, a playground, a picnic area and the remains of grand, Curragh Chase House.

There are a number of looped way marked trails in the park to suit all visitors. They vary from the multi-access trails suitable for wheelchair users and family walkers to the longer Curragh and Glenisca trails suitable for those looking for more demanding walking and cycling. The large area of mixed forest

has stands of mostly beech, ash, oak and Norway spruce trees. For naturalists, try **Aughinish Alumina Nature Trail**, a self-guided nature trail near Askeaton (061-604000). The area offers observation areas, bird-watching, wild fowl and butterfly sanctuaries.

“ Visitors can enjoy the mighty River Shannon

The Wild Atlantic Way is Ireland’s spectacular coastal driving route, which stretches 2,500 kilometres all the way along the west coast from Donegal to West Cork. Limerick’s close proximity to both Shannon Airport and the coastline means that you can access the route from here by travelling a reasonable

distance by car. The Wild Atlantic Way is illustrated by signs bearing a symbol with a blue background and a white representation of waves.

The pretty village of Foynes in west Limerick is featured on the Wild Atlantic Way. **The Foynes Flying Boat & Maritime Museum** (069-65416) explores the fascinating role played in the establishment of passenger flights across the Atlantic, which is superbly captured in this museum.

Limerick has very good rail and road links for travelling to Clare, Kerry, Cork, Galway and even farther. The coast is never far away, particularly in Clare and Kerry, and opens up a world of stunning sea views, days at the beach and activities like swimming and surfing.

For more information see www.limerick.ie and www.wildatlanticway.com.

Drives Around Limerick

Visitors should always be in the driving seat when it comes to exploring with a number of fantastic routes around County Limerick and beyond. Why not load up the car with a picnic and take in the sights?

N69 Drive: This picturesque drive along the N69 offers a number of choices. Driving from the city, you can pass through towns like Clarina, Kildimo, Kilcornan and Askeaton before hugging the southern coastline of the Shannon estuary heading towards Foynes and Glin. Keep an eye out for the estuary dolphins and see the Foynes Flying Boat & Maritime Museum. You could continue along to Kerry or take the ferry crossing at Tarbert, which will take you across to Clare where there are any number of attractions en route back to Limerick.

Limerick Drive: Following the N21, your first stop is Adare, dubbed the prettiest village in Ireland. With so much to see and do here, you might be forgiven for lingering a while. Follow the signs along the country roads to Curraghchase Forest Park and then the R518 and N11 will bring you to towns like Rathkeale and Newcastle West. Heading north on the N20 you will come to Croom, noted for its restored riverside granary and mill. A short trip through

Hospital will bring you to the newly refurbished Lough Gur Heritage Centre to learn about the neolithic people who once lived by the lake.

Lough Derg Drive: Lough Derg is the largest lake on the Shannon and perhaps the most beautiful. Limerick is only a short distance from Killaloe and Ballina where you can drive along the lake banks. Follow the M7, signposted Dublin before taking the exit for Birdhill/Killaloe. If you want to head towards Portumna, you can take in Ogonnoloe, Scariff, Mountshannon and many other pretty villages.

Clare Glens: You could take a short trip to Murroe Village and the Clare Glens Walk. The road is the R506. This looped walk through lush forest

alongside the clear rushing waterfalls of the river has some stunning natural scenery.

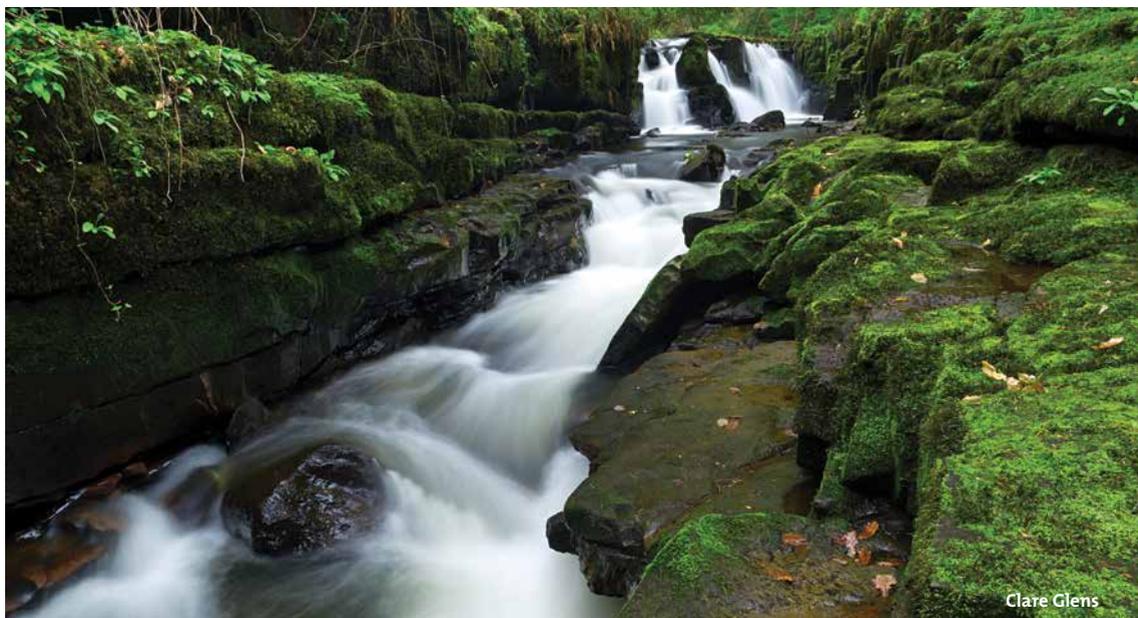
For more information on drives in the vicinity, see www.shannonregiontrails.ie.



Killaloe



Adare



Clare Glens



5

If you have a passion for fashion or are picking up the ultimate gift, you can truly 'shop 'til you drop' in Limerick.

Shopping Heaven

New Retail

Whether you are indulging in some retail therapy, searching for the perfect souvenir or simply window shopping, you'll be spoiled for choice in Limerick.

Limerick city centre is compact, easy to navigate and boasts a range of big brands and independent stores. O'Connell Street has been the main thoroughfare and backbone of the city for centuries. It has a multitude of shops from end to end as do pedestrianised streets like Bedford Row and Cruises Street. William Street also recently got a revamp and has lots of stores.

The area around Thomas Street, Catherine Street and Roches Street, is dubbed 'The Fashion Quarter' because of an array of boutiques. The many cafés here offer a variety of places to have a coffee or lunch. The Milk Market, running Friday, Saturday and Sunday has grown into one of the best-known markets in Ireland and has all the charm of an outdoor market but is covered by a tensile roof.

This is just a brief outline of the main highlights. A wander off the beaten track in Limerick is just as rewarding, with hidden treasures just waiting to be found. Some of Limerick's county towns have lots to offer in terms of boutiques and crafts too. If the weather is hindering your shopping, there are a selection of shopping centres including Arthur's Quay Shopping Centre and the Crescent Shopping Centre.

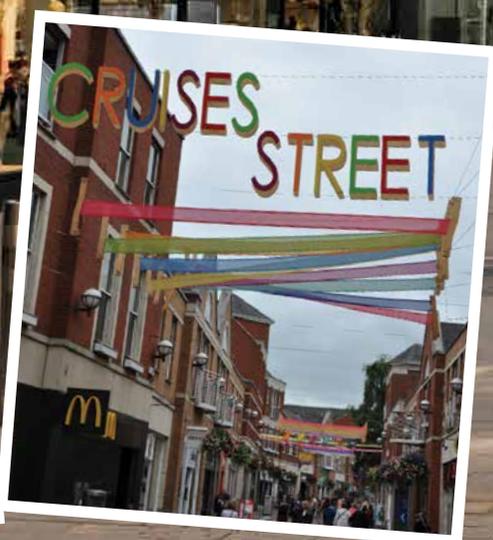
There is a huge collective effort locally to encourage visitors to explore and enjoy the city centre.

“Limerick city centre is compact, easy to navigate and boasts a range of big brands and independent stores

Catherine Duffy, President of Limerick Chamber and General Manager, Northern Trust, explained that “retail and hospitality are very important sectors for Limerick Chamber members”.

“The city centre has undergone many changes over recent years including improvements to streets and public spaces, such as a recently developed boardwalk along the quays. Our city centre parking offering is second to none and the very successful Coca Cola Bikeshare initiative is another welcome addition that has boosted our urban living and visiting experience. Limerick city centre is an attractive place to relax, shop and socialise.”

“From independent stores to large chains, there is a lot to choose from here. There has been an increase in the number of new outlets setting up so the offering is growing and improving all the time. In Limerick, we have a selection of great shops, eateries, visitor attractions and places to stay as well as a packed calendar of festivals and events to offer. On behalf of Limerick Chamber: Welcome and enjoy!”



Vigour

Dr. James Ring, CEO of Limerick Chamber and Head of the Limerick Chamber retail strand, had this to add.

“We’re in an exciting growth phase in the city centre with lots of new shops and outlets opening. We currently have a really good offering but have lots of ambitious long term plans. We’re encouraging people to look at Limerick City as an alternative to going outside the city to shop,” he said.

“The city centre has undergone many changes over recent years

“Our objective is to have a city that is first of all, safe, and we have worked very closely with the Garda on that front. Secondly, the Tidy Towns initiative has focused on improving the image and cleanliness of the city and there has been lots of progress there. Thirdly,

we strive to give people a good overall experience so when people come in, they can park up and spend a day shopping and enjoying all the city has to offer and socialise into the evening with lots of options for dining and entertainment. The very fact that we are currently working on achieving a purple flag for Limerick with the local authority further shows our commitment to this.”

“Our Milk Market. Our Fashion Quarter. Boutique stores. Pedestrian streets and friendly can-do service. All these elements give us the right to proclaim Limerick as the retail centre of the mid-west region,” he explained.

“With an internationally recognised school of art and design located right in the heart of the city we are perfectly positioned to continue to develop and promote new indigenous designers as well as attracting many of the leading international brands to our city. Limerick’s retail offering really has something for everyone.”

Welcome



Catherine Duffy

Limerick Chamber President

“Our city centre parking offering is second to none and the recent launch of the Coca Cola Bikeshare initiative is another welcome addition that will boost our urban living and visiting experience. Limerick city centre is an attractive place to relax, shop and socialise.”



Dr. James Ring

Limerick Chamber CEO

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Silverwood Jewellery & Craft Gallery

32B Cruises Street

061-415973

www.silverwoodjewellery.com

For a truly unique piece of jewellery crafted to the highest standards, pay a visit to Silverwood Jewellery, located on Cruises Street. Inside, the store is artfully arranged and all the display cases are full of unique pieces. It is an Aladdin's cave to entice all jewellery lovers.

Silverwood has a vast Celtic jewellery collection. The store specialises in amber and has the largest range of marcasite



From the Silverwood Jewellery range

jewellery in the south-west. Staff can custom-make that special handmade piece with treasures like freshwater pearls and semi-precious stones. All jewellery is exclusively Irish hallmarked silver.

“Silverwood Jewellery is an Aladdin's cave for jewellery lovers

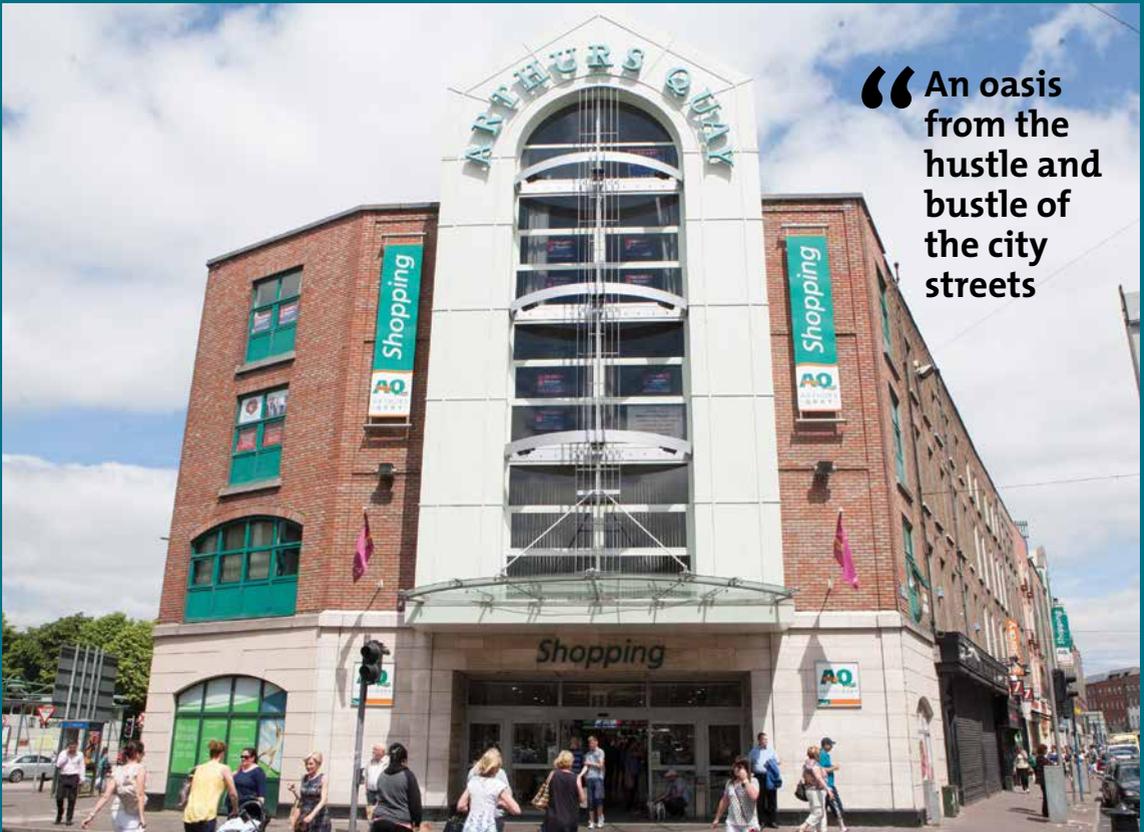
Styles vary from Celtic to abstract to those inspired by nature. Silverwood has an exclusive bridal range, which is available both in store and on the comprehensive website. This range of handmade bespoke jewellery and hair accessories are guaranteed to add extra sparkle to your big day.

Also the Craft Gallery hosts a lovely mix of Irish artists with work such as ceramics, original art, prints and bronze sculptures. Customers will definitely find that special something for that special someone, even if that someone is you!



Silverwood prides itself on excellent customer service and can help you find and customise the perfect piece you or a loved one will treasure forever.

“Silverwood Craft Gallery has a wonderful selection of gifts such as candles, prints and ceramics



“An oasis from the hustle and bustle of the city streets

Arthur's Quay Shopping Centre

Arthur's Quay

061-412462

www.arthursquay.ie

For the past 26 years, Arthur's Quay Shopping Centre has been at the heart of the Limerick city shopping scene.

The 600 space multi-storey car park means you don't have to worry about parking and browse through nearly 30 stores in comfort.

The open plan interior of the centre offers an oasis from the hustle and bustle of the city streets.

You can find a great mix of stores here. The anchor tenant is Tesco, stocking everything from groceries to homewares, toys to clothing.

For those in need of a fashion fix, there is Regatta Outdoor for the very best of outdoor clothing and accessories, Remix for mens casual wear and Irish Handcrafts for traditional Irish fashion and handmade sweaters.

Should you need your favourite outfit cleaned, Ambassador Drycleaners offers a full laundry and dry cleaning service

and the Sewing Workshop specialises in dressmaking, alterations and repairs.

Gadget geeks will find a treasure trove of mobile phones, accessories, and much more in Carphone Warehouse and Funtech. For reading material, the quaint Quay Books stall stocks a range of books with Quay News providing newspapers, magazines and more.

For customers in search of health foods and alternative therapies, Holland and Barrett is a renowned health food store stocking vitamins, supplements, natural beauty products and other products. At Kosmos Health you can avail of treatments like acupressure, acupuncture, reflexology and cupping. Take a trip upstairs to Cats hair salon and Looking Good Beauty Salon to make sure you look as good as you feel!

If you are feeling a little peckish, you can choose between a zingy juice at the Jump-Juice bar or a 'moody-licious' milkshake in Moody Cow and a hot chocolate at Fine Things Café. Upstairs, there is The Foodcourt, The Café and The Wok where you can enjoy a pleasant refreshment or something to eat.

You can also find outlets here offering Sky TV subscriptions, Smoke Green

electronic cigarettes and the Natural Beauty Products Kiosk. There is also an information and booking outlet for Paddywagon Tours, which offers bus/coach backpacking tours of Ireland.





Play the Market

The Milk Market has been a bustling hub of activity and meeting place for the people of Limerick since the mid 1800s.

The Milk Market
Cornmarket Row
www.milkmarketlimerick.ie

When the market started it mostly sold fresh food and produce and this proud tradition continues today but the market also has infinitely more to offer...

Running at full capacity, the market has up to 80 shops and stalls offering foodstuffs (whether fresh produce or delectable creations), crafts, beauty products, plants, jewellery, clothing and art. Thanks to a thoroughly modern makeover in the last few years, the

main market area is now covered by a tensile roof to protect against inclement weather.

The most popular market day, Saturday, is now bookended by Friday and Sunday markets—each with their own unique flavour. Friday (10am-4pm) has more of a food court feel, supplemented with lunch deals and mixed with an eclectic selection of fashion, craft, books to bric-a-brac and live music. Sunday (11am-3pm) is a kind of Family Day Market with a broad mix of stalls. There are often street entertainers and buskers, along with dance, yoga and tai chi classes, creating a relaxed atmosphere.

“ There are often street entertainers and buskers, creating a relaxed family atmosphere

A visit to the market on Saturday (8am-3pm) is an ideal way to kick start the

weekend. Lots of casual traders turn out for the market too so all around Cornmarket Row is buzzing with people and activity. The busy din inside the ‘big top’ is music to the ears and you could easily spend hours browsing.

It’s hard to pass such tempting fare. You might find yourself sampling a delicious crêpe from the Bon Appetit Creperie or the magnificent Grill at Country Choice (recent winner of Best Market Stall Ireland in the *Irish Times*) and revelling in handmade delights from Wilde Irish Chocolates or sipping a hot drink at the Harper’s Cafe. Any gourmand would be spoiled for choice. Your visit could start with freshly squeezed juice, followed by a stop at Sarah’s Pantry for tasty soups and meals, the finest homemade Macarons at Jody’s, Turkish delights to dazzle the taste buds washed down with a squeezed pomegranate juice from Sefik or gluten-free goodies from Jenny and Patrick. Anne Lloyds offers out of this world bacon butties and there are many more options.

If you’d rather take something home, Country Choice is famous for its fresh home made food, including real hams,



organic vegetables and wholemeal breads. Renowned local fishmongers, René Cusack, sells a range of white fish and shellfish along with their own tasty calamari. They sell delicious freshly cooked fish at their new Fish Bar.

There is a range of fruit and vegetable stalls to rival any supermarket including Rose Cottage Fruit Farm, Killowen Orchard, Quinn's Fruit & Vegetables, Ken Miller's and several more that are dedicated to fresh produce. If baked goods are what you are after, you are in for a treat. The award winning Sunflower Bakery, the Alternative Bread Company, Abloom Tasty Pastries and the Gourmet Tart Company are among the best in the country. For meat and fish you need to pop over to West Cork Fish, Quaramount Burther and Lisduff Traditional Fine Food stalls.

The Milk Market is a genuine haven for foodies, abounding with high quality specialty goods such as sauces, relishes, chutneys and more including The Real Olive Company, Green Apron and Piog Pies. There are also several cheese outlets including The Flying Cheese Brigade, Old Irish Creamery and

Greenacres Cheese & Coffee Shop—a market institution for over a decade. Recent additions include the Itea cafe with a broad range of filling sandwiches, designer cakes made to order and a range of teas.

“ The Milk Market is a genuine haven for foodies, abounding with high quality specialty goods

While some are laden down by groceries, others prefer to browse clothing, crafts, accessories and art. To stand out in the crowd, The Edge deals in retro, vintage and gothic clothes. If you need some sparkle in your life, Walk in Closet shop has the latest ladies fashion, Virgo Jewellery & Accessories has a large variety or for the more 'crafty' customer, the selection of gifts and artisan products from local producers, will have something unusual. For an investment in

some art, visit the Market Gallery where the Limerick Art Society exhibits every week with some very appealing works.

Plant and shrub enthusiasts are spoilt for choice with many experts among the line up of traders. Rich pickings and sound advice can be had from Kiely's, McNamara's and Cormac McCarthy to name a few.

Some shops in the market complex open outside of market days. Further information on all the traders in the market is available on the website

The market, in conjunction with Dolan's Warehouse, now runs evening music concerts under the big top and details of upcoming gigs are on the website.

The Milk Market is truly an energetic, multi-purpose venue and has become Ireland's leading market.

Find it on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/LimerickMilkMarket.

Tailor of Blue

Bedford Row
061-446484

The writer, Mark Twain, famously said that “clothes make the man” and Tailor of Blue has a great selection of high quality menswear to ensure a good impression.

Spanning two floors, the shop offers the best in casual and formal wear brands—perfect for leisure time, work and special occasions.

“ In business for over 50 years

Owned and run by McGovern Fashions Ltd, which is in business for over 50 years in Limerick, the experienced staff team is always on hand to help and advise.

On the ground floor, Tailor Of Blue stocks jeans, chinos, shirts, t-shirts, and more with the latest of European trends represented. Upstairs is dedicated to suiting, with waistcoats, shirts, ties and more available.



Tailor of Blue

Tailor of Blue has a range of footwear and accessories as well to complete your look. It also offers a tailoring and alteration service so your new purchase fits just as it should.

With attentive service and a range of stylish stock, Tailor of Blue has everything to have a gentleman looking his best.

DID YOU KNOW?

Local Cinema

Cinema has always been one of Limerick's most popular pursuits. Aside from the three cinemas operating here currently, at least 13 cinemas of various sizes and locations existed previously in the city and environs—often doubling as concert halls and dance venues. The county town of Dromcollogher was the site of one of the biggest fire disasters in Irish history when 48 people died in a timber barn being used as a temporary cinema in 1926. The fire started when a candle ignited a reel of nitrate film stock.

Broadcasting Legend

Ciarán Mac Mathúna, famous radio broadcaster and authority on Irish music, was born in Limerick in 1925. He spent his life travelling around Ireland, the British Isles and America collecting music, songs, stories and poetry to ensure their preservation. He joined Radio Éireann in 1954, where he recorded many Irish traditional musicians. He began his Sunday morning radio series *Mo Cheol Thú* in 1970 and the programme continued for 35 years.

Riverdance

Composer, musician and producer, Bill Whelan, was born in Limerick in 1950. He is perhaps best known for composing *Riverdance*. It began as a seven minute piece, accompanying a dazzling display of Irish dancing, for the interval of the 1994 Eurovision Song Contest but became a full-length stage production. The original piece was released as a single, reaching Number 9 in the UK charts. He composed several film scores and played with several bands including Planxty and Stockton's Wing. As a producer, he has worked with U2, Van Morrison and Kate Bush to name a few.

Mr Writer

Author, Kevin Barry, was born in Limerick in 1969. Widely travelled and now living in Sligo, he won the Rooney Prize for Irish Literature for his first short story collection, *There are Little Kingdoms*, in 2007. In 2011, his debut novel, *City of Bohane*, was published and subsequently won the prestigious International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award in 2013.

Buried Treasure

One of Ireland's greatest treasures, the Ardagh Chalice, was found in County Limerick in 1868. Two boys digging in a field near a ring fort discovered the artefact among a large hoard of objects. The silver chalice is thought to be from the Early Christian period (around the 8th century) and is decorated with enamel, gold, bronze, pewter and brass. The chalice now resides in the National Museum of Ireland (Archaeology) in Dublin.

TV for tots

RTÉ children's television presenter, Emma O'Driscoll, is a Limerick native. She first came to prominence on reality television show, *Popstars*, in 2001 and became a member of the band formed on the show, Six. After the band went their separate ways, she eventually became a presenter of shows like *The Disney Club*, *Den Tots* and more. She also sings, acts and has written a children's book.

“The biggest and most successful shopping complex outside of Dublin



Crescent Shopping Centre Limerick

061-228560

www.crescentshoppingcentre.ie

Limerick is home to premier retail destination, the Crescent Shopping Centre, which is the biggest and most successful shopping complex outside of Dublin.

Celebrating 42 years in operation this year and covering a massive 37,000 square metres of space and 2,400 free parking spaces, the Crescent is a mecca for fashionistas and families alike.

There are over 90 outlets, including big brand and independent stores, a 12 screen Omniplex cinema, numerous eateries, a drop-in crèche and much more.

The centre's main anchor tenants are Tesco, Penney's, Shaw's Department Store, Heaton's, Argos and Boots to mention a few.

Some of the hottest trends in ladies', men's and children's fashion are to be found here in stores such as Next, Zara, H&M, River Island, Monsoon, Tommy Hilfiger, Pamela Scott, Mego, Diesel, Carraig Donn and Mothercare to name but a few.

From jewellery outlets, health & beauty outlets, shoe emporiums, hobby shops to bookshops, giftware stores and don't forget the sports outlets, there is truly something for everyone. There

is also a range of services on offer including hairdressers, a locksmith, banks, ATMs, a post office and a travel agent.

The qualified staff in the drop-in crèche located inside the Shannon Mall entrance will look after your little ones while you take that well-deserved break for some retail therapy and coffee. The newly opened Crescent Playground is proving very popular with children and parents.

If you're in need of a boost after shopping, there is a selection of food outlets from BBs Coffee and Muffins, O'Brien's Sandwich Bar, Costa Coffee, Quigley's, McDonald's, Subway, KFC, Butler's Chocolate Café, Ristorante Del Arte and Franklin's Restaurant.

It also hosts events like Inspire—Munster's biggest fashion event—and a spectacular arrival of St. Nicholas to Santa's Grotto during the festive season. There is also a Crescent gift card available, which can be used in all stores. News and special offers regularly appear on www.facebook.com/pages/Crescent-Shopping-Centre.

With an emphasis on value, comfort and choice, the Crescent Shopping Centre is well worth a visit. Opening hours are Monday-Wednesday and Saturday, 9.30am-6pm, Thursday and Friday, 9.30am-9pm and Sunday 12 noon-6pm.

Connolly Man

12-14 Patrick Street/Crescent Shopping Centre
061-410324
www.connollyman.com

The Connolly group have justly earned their reputation as one of Ireland's top menswear retailers and the name is synonymous with quality menswear for over 45 years.

Providing an unrivalled selection of leading labels, expert service, a personable atmosphere and a genuine commitment to customer satisfaction.

From classic business suiting, weekend casuals, leading denim labels, contemporary suiting collections and formalwear, Connolly stores have got it all.

Stores are located in Patrick Street, the Crescent Shopping Centre Limerick and O'Connell Street, Clonmel. Connolly outlet stores are located in Crescent Shopping Centre and Bedford Row Limerick (massive discounts on oddments and end of season stock). Stitch (Superdry) is also located on Patrick Street.



So if you're looking for something a bit special that you can't find easily elsewhere, why not come visit and

discover whats in store for you...

For more information, email info@connollyman.com.



M. Cahill & Son

47 Wickham Street
061-311821
www.mcahillandson1870.com

Housed in an old tobacco and snuff factory, Cahill's Shop has been serving the people of Limerick since 1870 and has maintained its unique atmosphere through the years.

It is the only tobacco and cigar shop outside Dublin. Through the decades it has had many changes and while it still has many cigar, tobacco and snuff customers, it stocks a wide range of gentlemen's gifts.

It is packed with one-of-a-kind items like walking sticks, hip flasks, lovely tweed caps, silk handkerchiefs, cufflinks, shaving gear and grooming sets, leather wallets and penknives. The store prides itself on carrying a large range of Irish-made giftware for men, together with international brands.

Cahill's also has a great range of teas and tisanes (herbal teas), which are blended and weighed in the shop.

There are many reasons to visit Limerick but no visit is complete without

calling to Cahill's. Visiting the oldest shop in the city is like stepping back in time.

M. Cahill & Son opens from Monday to Saturday, 9.30am-5.30pm.

“The store prides itself on carrying a large range of Irish-made giftware for men, together with international brands



Brown Thomas

14-16 O'Connell Street
061-417222
www.brownthomas.com

Brown Thomas, located on O'Connell Street at the centre of Limerick's main shopping district, is an iconic name in retail that attracts the most coveted names in fashion, beauty and homeware.

This is a luxurious setting to discover brands like Roland Mouret, Michael Michael Kors, McQ Alexander McQueen, Peter Pilotto, Victoria, Victoria Beckham, Tiger of Sweden, Smyth & Gibson and Hugo Boss.



The renowned department store also offers a personal shopping experience for both men and women. Experience a luxurious, relaxing space that is exclusively yours, while the team of personal shoppers bring the store to you. The professional style gurus are in constant demand so it is advisable to call ahead and book. Reservations can also be made for a complimentary introductory personal shopping session. Don't have time to stop by? Their experts also offer out-calls to your place of business for an even more intimate shopping experience.

“An iconic name in retail that attracts the most coveted names in fashion, beauty and homeware

Brown Thomas' chic café, Brown's, is the ideal place to have a delicious lunch or sit with a gourmet coffee and mouth-watering cake while perusing the day's purchases before setting out to find what other hidden treasures the store has to offer.



The unveiling of the Christmas window display is a local festive tradition in itself and is a must see every year.

Opening hours are Monday-Wednesday, 9.30am-6.30pm, Thursday and Friday, 9.30am-8pm, Saturday, 9am-6.30pm and Sunday, 12-6pm.

A visit to Brown Thomas Limerick is to “Experience the Extraordinary”.

The Wine Buff

17 Mallow Street
061-313394
www.thewinebuff.com

The Wine Buff, located in a beautifully restored Georgian building, can tell you everything you ever wanted to know about wine but were afraid to ask, along with selling a fantastic selection of wines from all over the world.

Owner, Mike O'Mara, would be delighted to welcome you to his shop, whether you are looking for a single bottle of wine or wines for a special occasion of any size or type. The wines are carefully chosen and prices start from €10.99 so great quality does not have to cost the earth.

There is always a friendly staff member on hand to ask for advice if you wish.

Wine tastings take place on Fridays and Saturdays. These social events have

a lovely, relaxed atmosphere coupled with a chance to sample and learn more about wine.

Stock includes wine from all over the world, champagne, wine gifts/accessories, Lough Derg handmade chocolates, Brona Handmade Chocolates, olive oil and chutneys.

“The country's biggest independent specialised wine retailer

The Wine Buff is now the country's biggest independent specialised wine retailer and has expanded to include 14 stores nationwide along with one in Madrid and St. Emillion, Bordeaux.



Lucky Lane

9a Catherine Street, Limerick
089-4378240
www.luckylane.info

Eclectic, quirky, and a magical treasure trove for bargain-hunters, Lucky Lane is a great stop-off for any curious traveller looking for a one-of-a-kind item.

“Popular meeting place for regulars and tourists alike

The award-winning variety store opened quietly in 2013 and has since blossomed into somewhat of a Limerick institution, nominated yearly for

The Irish Times Best Shops Awards, and garnering five-star reviews on TripAdvisor and Facebook.

Old-time music selections play around this airy and cheerful space while shoppers browse through racks of brand new designer clothing, alongside vintage and second-hand outfits.

“Five-star reviews on TripAdvisor and Facebook

And above the upcycled furniture, antiques, jewellery, rare books and vinyl LPs, local artists have decorated the walls with original paintings, screen prints, and photographs.

The lane features occasional music and poetry performances and visitors are encouraged to entertain themselves (and others) by playing Limerick's first and only public piano—little wonder it's become a popular meeting place for regulars and tourists alike.

Whether bustling with action on a festival day, or offering a calm retreat on a rainy afternoon, Lucky Lane remains a unique experience in the city.

Lucky Lane is open Tuesday to Saturday, 10am-5pm.

6

Limerick is the ideal place to 'eat, drink and be merry' with more than its fair share of fine restaurants, cosy cafés and vibrant pubs.

Food & Drink



The Cornstore Restaurant

19 Thomas Street
061-609000
www.cornstore.com

The multi award-winning Cornstore Restaurant boasts “The best steak in Limerick and the Best Cocktail in Ireland!” and provides a warm and lively dining experience in the heart of the city.

The establishment was voted ‘Best Restaurant in Limerick’ by the Restaurant Association of Ireland, got an award for ‘Best Kids Menu’ and won ‘Cocktail Bar of the Year’ at the Bar Awards. The Cornstore also won Blas na hÉireann Food Awards for its Cornstore at Home steak rub, fig whiskey jam and plum whiskey chutney.

It has received glowing reviews from many of the country’s top hospitality critics including Georgina Campbell and Lucinda O’Sullivan.

Spanning three floors, guests can enjoy a unique dining experience complete with a wine and cocktail bar, private dining room and contemporary smoking area.

Specialising in quality local seafood and aged steak (dry aged in-house and flavoured with their own steak rub), the restaurant works on the ethos of



The Cornstore Restaurant

‘quality food sourced locally’ under the stewardship of Head Chef, Maura Baxter.

“ Works on the ethos of ‘quality food sourced locally’

Menus are numerous and varied in price. The Early Bird three course menu at €25 is available all night Monday to Thursday and up to 6.30pm Friday and Saturday. The three course Set Menu

is €32.50 and the a la carte offers a combination of both menus and more. The Cornstore has a varied lunch menu too (including Sunday lunch) and a great kids’ menu with ‘proper food’ (kids under two dine free).

For cocktails, the mixologists use only the finest ingredients. Fruit and vegetable based elixirs are infused in-house over a time period of anything up to 14 days, resulting in a new range of Signature Infused Cocktails.

Open every day for lunch and dinner from noon onwards, book at limerick@cornstore.com or phone 061-609000.



Kaya Thai

Kaya Thai

28 O’Connell Street
061-279788
www.kaya.ie

Specialising in contemporary Asian cuisine, this Thai restaurant and noodle bar endeavours to provide the best healthy Thai food in the country.

The kitchen is manned by a team of highly experienced Thai chefs each with many years’ experience cooking Asian food. The Kaya team members pride themselves on producing high quality food from locally sourced produce. All meat is traceable and 100% Irish.

The extensive menu has many Thai favourites as well as some other Asian dishes for you to try. The menu has plenty of appetisers, salads, soups,

curries, fish dishes and noodle dishes including beef noodle soup, Indonesian lamb Rendang curry, cod with mango and Singapore noodles as well as tasty vegetarian options.

“ Specialising in contemporary Asian cuisine

As well as having an early bird, lunch and dinner menu, Kaya also does take out and a kids’ menu; a delivery service also available. There are also many mid-week specials and a special weekend menu. Now that is choice!

The restaurant interior is sleek with dark wooden furnishings balanced with beautiful statues of the Buddha and photographs of various Asian city scenes to reinforce the wonderful culture behind this tasty food.

DID YOU KNOW?**Poetry**

A 'limerick' is a short, humorous poem with a strict rhyming scheme (AABBA). It is not conclusively known if the name of the form refers to Limerick City or County specifically but many say that the name is a reference to the renowned 'Maigue Poets'. Many of these poets wrote limericks and one such verse by publican poet, Sean O'Tuama, in the 18th century read: "I sell the best Brandy and Sherry/ To make all my customers merry/But at times their finances/Run short as it chances/And then I feel very sad, very."

Limerick in Numbers**91,456**

Population of Limerick City and environs

3

Limerick is the third most populous city in Ireland

202

Distance in kilometres from Limerick to Dublin

1197

Year Limerick got its Charter from King John 1

2,000

Approximate number of art works in Limerick's Hunt Museum

4

Number of bridges across the Shannon in Limerick City

2

Limerick has the second largest Polish community in Ireland

675

Length in metres of the Shannon Tunnel

13,000

Student population of UL during the academic year

250,000Estimated number of people who gathered in Limerick City centre to see *The Giant's Journey* on September 5-7, 2014**Marco Polo****O'Connell Street****061-412888****www.marcopolo.ie**

Marco Polo has fast become one of Limerick's hot spots and the latest in a restaurant group which includes other local favourites Chocolat and Jasmine Palace. It doesn't fail to deliver on the high standard that the group is known for.

The surroundings are spectacular with a colour scheme incorporating black, grey and cream tones, distinctive chandeliers and a variety of opulent booths and seating set ups, catering for large groups and more intimate evenings.

“Why not try the shredded pork crostini followed by homemade burgers?”

Marco Polo serves lunch and dinner seven days a week. It opens from 12.30pm offering a very popular two course menu for €9.95 until 5pm, which

includes a starter and main course.

Why not try the shredded pork crostini followed by homemade burgers or Malaysia Land & Sea?

For the evening, the value menu starts from as little as €18.50 for three courses. Popular starters include Aromatic shredded duck rolls, rustic goat's cheese crostini and spicy chicken wings. For the main course, choices include aromatic duck confit, trio of seafood (fish of the day with prawns and scallops), and a large selection of pasta.

“All the classics are catered for here and made to perfection”

Marco Polo also boasts a stylish and contemporary cocktail menu, which is not to be missed. All the classics are catered for here and made to perfection, but if you're feeling brave, sample a 'Serial Killer' or a 'Strawberry Shortcake'.



Marco Polo

Chocolat

109 O'Connell Street
061-609709
www.chocolatrestaurant.ie

A sweet tooth isn't as essential as a keen palate if you're dining out at Chocolat in the near future.

Part of a restaurant group in the city, Chocolat's opulent surroundings cater for everything from a business lunch to a celebration dinner.

Open seven days for lunch and dinner, it is often crowded but the buzz created makes for an enjoyable atmosphere. The menu is a mix of classic and continental dishes, aiming to bring as many cultures as possible to the table.

Lunch is from 12-5pm, with a sandwich combo deal from as little as €8.95 or a three course lunch for €15. Whether you want an open tuna sandwich on brown bread with a healthy salad or deep fried calamari followed by barbecued pork ribs, all tastes are accommodated.

In the evening, there is a three course early bird menu from 5pm for €19.50 or



four course set dinner for €27. Popular starters include General Tso's chicken salad or local mussels with chilli and coriander. For the main course, choices include vegetarian paella, grilled cod, braised lamb shank or Singapore fried noodles.

It may be cliché to say of a menu that “there's something for everyone” but with Chocolat that is true. The service is fast without compromising on the quality of the food or going overboard on price. Booking is advisable.



Hook & Ladder

7 Sarsfield Street
061-413778
www.hookandladder.ie

Hook & Ladder 'Living Café' offers customers a unique experience with a variety of store concepts under one roof—café, cookery school, furniture and home accessories store.

Serving food all day from breakfast through to evening meals, you can drop in and sample whatever takes your fancy

from the extensive menu.

There is also a wide selection of premium coffees, speciality teas and fine wines. The in-store bakery is filled with delicious products, all baked freshly each day.

Decorated in a unique and homely style, the shop offers an extensive range of affordable, high quality furniture and home accessories, including soft furnishings and vintage products to transform any living space into a cosy kingdom.

Hook & Ladder is continuously striving to create and provide the ultimate customer experience by constantly evolving

The dedicated cookery school is a haven for culinary enthusiasts, with classes and courses to suit all levels and abilities. It also caters for private and corporate events.

Based in the iconic corner building on Sarsfield Street, Hook and Ladder opens Monday-Saturday, 8am-7pm and Sunday, 9am-6pm.

Hook & Ladder also has locations in Unit 4, Castletroy Shopping Centre and Corbally Road in Corbally. Information and enquiries to sarah@hookandladder.ie.



The Copper Room

The Copper Room

100 O'Connell Street

061- 211000

www.thecopperroom.ie

In the elegant setting of Georgian Limerick, The Copper Room offers a little something different—specialising in atmosphere, music and comfort.

The two large open fireplaces, generous smoking areas and candlelight features make for an incredibly European feel.



Their philosophy is simple: To share their passion for cheese, wine and port with their customers. The Copper Room, located at 100 O'Connell Street, prides itself on having the most comprehensive wine, port and champagne selection around.

With food being served to 1am at weekends there is an extensive menu including various types of cheeses, pâté, meats and breads. All served on rustic slates while being accompanied by various oils and side dishes, each is tailored for you and your own choice.

“Large open fireplaces, generous smoking areas and candlelight features making for an incredibly European feel

The Copper Room is open seven evenings a week from 5pm 'til late, and offers later closing times of 2am on Fridays and Saturdays as long as you are in by 12.30am. Various activities take part at the weekends including DJs with live music and popular jazz on Sunday evenings.



The Copper Room does not take reservations and operates on a walk-in policy and prides itself on having a very laidback bar feel for the customer.

It is possible to book for corporate gatherings and parties with two separate areas available and there are also gift vouchers available for that someone special.

Will Leahy, 2FM DJ and television personality had this to say about The Copper Room: “I just love this place, a little taste of the continent—the atmosphere, the fires, the wine, the food—it really has it all!”

For more information, see www.copperroom.ie, email info@copperroom.ie, Facebook, [TheCopperRoomLimerick](https://www.facebook.com/TheCopperRoomLimerick) and Twitter, [@Copper_Room](https://twitter.com/Copper_Room).



Bella Italia

43A Thomas Street
061-418872
www.bellaitalia.ie

Bella Italia brings a slice of Italy to Limerick and gives you a chance to sample ‘la dolce vita’ in culinary delights.

This family-run restaurant/deli opened in 1990, offering fresh traditional Italian dishes for home cooking. Having extended over the years to include a comfortable, relaxing seating area, the menu now offers a great selection of antipasti, salads, pastas, pizzas and steaks. If you just want to catch a quick bite at lunchtime, an afternoon snack with a glass of wine, or an evening meal, Bella Italia has it.

Whether it’s simple but tasty spaghetti and meatballs, or the most popular dishes like tagliatelle boscaiola or penne al salmone, it’s definitely worth a visit. All pastas are freshly handmade on the premises every day. Pizzas are freshly made to order. Meat lovers have options

of the fabulous steakstones, cooking their own steak on a heated stone to their liking—all at the table.

“All pastas are freshly handmade on the premises every day

Bella Italia is fully licensed offering a selection of Italian and European beers, wines and spirits. Why not top it all off with traditional tiramisu and a neat espresso?

Bella Italia has an early bird menu from 5-7pm (until 6.30pm on Fridays and Saturdays) with two courses for €19.95 and three courses for €24.95. It also offers a kids’ menu, take-away and catering services.

The restaurant opens Monday to Saturday 10am-9.30pm and is closed Sundays and bank holidays.

Texas Steakout

116 O’Connell Street
061-410350
www.texassteakout.com

In 1988, the Wild West came to Limerick in the form of the Texas Steakout but don’t be fooled by the novel theme, the quality of the food has made it one of the city’s most popular restaurants.

The décor is modern and stylish, with lots of solid wood, exposed brick, fascinating photographs and even life-sized cowboys and Indians.

“The quality of the food has made it one of the city’s most popular restaurants

The Steakout serves lunch Monday to Saturday 12-4pm, with light options as well as hearty meals. The three course Sunday lunch guarantees you a good meal for €21.



Texas Steakout

Dinner is available seven days a week from 4-10.30pm (10pm on Sundays). Appetisers include spare ribs, loaded potato skins and mussels. The extensive list of mains takes in chicken, meat, fish and vegetarian meals from fajitas to braised lamb shank, fish and chips to colcannon chicken with bacon, enchiladas to Texas fried shrimp. Of course, juicy steaks and steak burgers are a speciality.

There are great value set menus from €24.95 to €29.95 with numerous dishes to choose from as well as the à la carte menu.

Families are welcome and booking is advisable. Try not to have a ‘Gunfight at the OK Corral’ over the buffalo bill!



Jasmine Palace

Jasmine Palace

O'Connell Street

061-412484

www.jasminepalace.ie

Outstanding Chinese cuisine with a contemporary twist is the *raison d'être* of the Jasmine Palace, which is one of the largest restaurants in Limerick and the province.

The original in a restaurant group, which has grown to include other local favorites Chocolat and Marco Polo, Jasmine Palace has proven hugely popular with visitors and natives alike.

The newest addition to the Jasmine Palace's dining experience is an extensive and varied buffet, which runs for lunch Friday to Sunday. In the evening from 4-7pm, you can choose from the early bird menu which is €19.50 for starter, main course and tea or coffee.

The eatery is lavishly decorated with traditional Chinese touches everywhere. The team of talented chefs hail from areas like Shanghai, Szechwan and Hong-Kong and these diverse tastes are reflected across the menu. After a starter of aromatic duck rolls or BBQ spare ribs, you can tuck in to a range of main courses.

All the classics are there including curry, satay, kung po, sweet and sour etc with a choice of beef, chicken, prawns, special or vegetables. The General Tso sauce is second to none. If you would rather something more audacious, the

aromatic duck, sirloin steak or scallops are just a taste of what's on offer.

The restaurant opens Monday to Thursday from 4pm and from 12.30pm Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

The French Table

1 Steamboat Quay

061-609274

www.frenchtable.ie

The essential dash of 'je ne sais quoi' in a restaurant can be very hard to find but The French Table is perfect for the bon vivant.

The restaurant overlooks the River Shannon, in the shadow of the famous Clarion Hotel, and prides itself on giving guests a warm, relaxed experience with authentic French hospitality.

“ Perfect for the bon vivant

The interior is modern and bright, lit from the large windows. Chef, Thomas, is from Strasbourg and has cooked all over Europe while his wife, Deirdre, hails from Limerick.

Lunch is available Tuesday to Friday from 12 noon. There is a good selection and set menu is very reasonable at two courses for €16 and three for €20. Options include croque monsieur, tiger prawn salad, confit of duck leg cassoulet and steak sandwich.

Dinner starts from 6pm Tuesday through Sunday. The a la carte menu is extensive, featuring classics like duck a l'orange as well as grilled beef sirloin and fresh fish.

The three course Menu du Soir for €28 offers a broad selection of dishes including French onion soup, seven-hour shoulder of lamb, spinach, mushroom & camembert pithivier and more. The desserts are delectable and the wine list suitably patriotic.

The French Table has impressed many a food critic with its panache and has been recommended by Tom Doorley, Georgina Campbell and Lucinda O'Sullivan.



The French Table



Absolute Bar & Grill

Absolute Bar & Grill

Absolute Hotel, Sir Harry's Mall

061-463600

www.absolutehotel.com

In the heart of Limerick's historical Medieval Quarter, you will find the award-winning Absolute Bar & Grill, which is as vibrant and diverse as Limerick City itself.

Located on the first floor of the Absolute hotel, it is surrounded by Limerick's best known tourist attractions like the Hunt museum, King John's Castle, St Mary's Cathedral and Limerick's lively Milk Market.

In the Absolute Bar and Grill, you will find local people enjoying the best of local Irish produce—including the steaks and beef for the burgers, which come from Noel O'Connors grass-fed cows only six miles away. There is also a large selection of craft beers, including the locally brewed Harris Pale Ale.

The team is personable and professional, the menu innovative with food that 'hits the spot' and the surroundings bright and stylish. Diners can sit back and watch the water flow by from the floor to ceiling windows overlooking the Abbey River.

Fresh, made-to-order lunches are served Monday to Saturday 12.30-5pm or bring the whole family for Sunday lunch between 1-3pm, with kids' entertainment and relaxed surroundings.

As night draws in, the bartenders can shake up perfectly blended cocktails with the city skyline in the background.

Dinner is served Monday to Sunday 5-9.30pm with three course meals starting from €25.

The Absolute Bar & Grill has a Tripadvisor Certificate of Excellence 2015 and had been recommended by food critics, Lucinda O'Sullivan, Georgina Campbell and Paulo Tullio but don't take their word for it, visit for yourself.

Da Vincenzo Food & Wine Hall

The George Boutique Hotel, Shannon Street

061-460425

www.davincenzo.ie

For an authentic taste of Naples in a contemporary setting that manages to be both chic and casual, Da Vincenzo is the place to go.

The eatery is decorated with a spectacular abstract, monochrome mural depicting all things Limerick. Vincenzo himself learnt the art of perfect pizza and pasta at his grandmother's knee and shares his passion for fine Italian food and wine here.

Da Vincenzo serves lunch and dinner daily. Salads, pasta, pizza and other traditional Italian fish and meat dishes are featured on both wide-ranging menus.

“An authentic taste of Naples

Lunch is available daily from €10. It can be a light affair with soup or a panini or a three course meal for €14.50.

For dinner, there are sharing boards as well as regular starters. For something a little different, why not indulge in the “ultimate Neapolitan street food”—white pizza, which has no tomato sauce on it. The desserts include homemade gelato and classics like tiramisu. The three course Value Menu Perfetto is competitively priced at €25. Everything can be paired with one of the 200 available wines, supplied by Findlaters.

Da Vincenzo also runs events like wine tastings and you can even bring some ingredients home from the deli to experiment yourself.



Da Vincenzo Food & Wine Hall



Hong Kong

Hong Kong

44 William Street

061-411505/085-1531761

www.facebook.com/HKCRlimerick

The Hong Kong was the very first Chinese restaurant in the Treaty City and celebrated 50 years of serving superb Oriental cuisine to people in 2014.

The Choi family first founded the restaurant and then sold it to their friends, the Lees, who had come to Ireland from Hong Kong. They renamed

it after their homeland and the décor reflects that heritage, as does the tradition of great service.

Starters include meat sung, crispy aromatic duck and skewer chicken in satay sauce as well as soups. Mains cover poultry, meat, seafood and vegetables in various delectable combinations.

Whether your preference is crispy chilli chicken, beef Szechuan, king prawn kung po, house special duckling, char siu or the chef's special 'hot, hot chicken', there is something for every

palate. The menu includes European dishes like chicken Maryland and omelette, among others.

The Hong Kong can boast of having one of the best value meal deals in the city, offering a starter and main course for €10.50 from 4.30-7.30pm daily.

There are also set dinner options for two people and four people, ranging from €38-84 and a full wine list.

The Hong Kong also offers takeaway and delivery services. It opens seven days a week from 4.30-10.30pm.



The Treasury Restaurant

The Treasury Restaurant

74 O'Connell Street

061-590005

www.thetreasuryrestaurant.com

This self-styled original artisan eatery combines the best produce and atmospheric surroundings to create a fine dining experience to be cherished. Based

in a historic Georgian building, the basement space is elegant with exposed brick, period décor with a twist and features such as open fireplaces.

The cuisine has flair as well as providence. Starters include chicken liver parfait, warm smoked haddock, braised pig's cheek and Dingle Bay crab cocktail. Delectable main courses are a treat for even the most discerning palate. The options take in confit duck leg, rib

eye beef, roast cod, slow cooked pork belly and stuffed rabbit loin to name but a few.

“A fine dining experience to be cherished

To sweeten up and round off a great meal, homemade ice-cream, warm chocolate bavarois and passion fruit cheesecake are among the desserts. A sophisticated but reasonably priced wine list complements the menu. The Treasury also offers an early bird set menu, priced at €25.

The staff team, led by proprietor, Barry Kiely, is very attentive and strives to put guests at ease.

The Treasury Restaurant is open from Tuesday to Saturday, 5-10pm. For more information and regular updates, see www.facebook.com/TheTreasuryRestaurant.

Amber Restaurant

4 George's Quay

061-400990

www.amberlimerick.eu

Overlooking the Abbey River at George's Quay, Amber Restaurant brings something fresh and exotic into one of Limerick's most historical neighbourhoods.

An eclectic mix, Amber combines an elegant wine bar with a contemporary Asian eatery and steak house.

“The extensive Asian and grill menu is impressive to say the least

The extensive Asian and grill menu is impressive to say the least and offers extensive lunch, early bird and a la carte menus. Sample dishes include Yaki Soba noodles, Nasi Goreng, grilled seabass noodle, Thai pineapple flame rice, half roast duck, Malay chicken satay, Gangnam Style grill sirloin and much more. The varied wine list and cocktail menu makes Amber a great spot to gather for drinks too.

The chic interior makes for the ideal backdrop to occasions of all shapes and sizes. Amber offers packages for family celebrations, kids' birthday parties alike and business lunches alike for up to 50 guests. A private catering service is also available for intimate home gatherings or corporate events.



Aiming to bring a unique style and taste to the city, Amber Restaurant opens Monday to Sunday, 12-10.30pm. Amber also has a branch in Ennis.

Food Court
Upstairs, Arthurs Quay Shopping Centre
061-304367
www.foodcourtcatering.com

The numerous outlets of the Food Court, which offer a huge choice of cuisine, dominate the first floor of Arthur's Quay Shopping Centre.

The Carvery/Deli is cafeteria-style dining with food of a very high standard, serving soups, salads and an assortment of sandwiches, wraps, ciabattas and rolls. For even better value, there are combination deals.

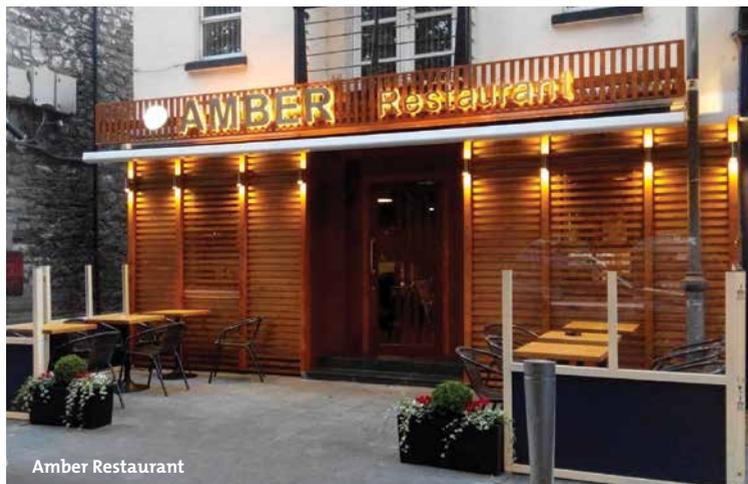
The hot food counter does breakfast from pastries to the traditional full Irish. For lunch, it varies its main courses, which are competitively priced. Examples include chicken & mushroom vol-au-vent, cottage pie, breaded cod or roast pork served with a choice of sides.

“Perfect for chatting over a hot drink

The café (Kaffa) beside it has a cosmopolitan vibe with a darker colour scheme, perfect for chatting over a hot drink. Its wide-ranging menu offers teas, coffees, cold drinks and sweet things like pastries and cakes.

Just beyond the café is Wok—a take on all things Chinese. From satay to chop suey, kung po to curry, there is something for everyone. All dishes are made to order. Wok runs chicken and beef specials, weekday deals and special dishes, all at excellent prices. There is a loyalty card system to reward customers, which people can apply for online at www.foodcourtcatering.com/loyalty or at the Food Court itself.

Customers can also avail of a Lyonesse card at the Food Court. The Lyonesse card offers cash back on items purchased at the Food Court and other participating outlets globally. Food Court also provides catering services for events and more information is available on 061-304367.





Tuscany Bistro

Tuscany Bistro
 Newtown Centre, Annacotty,
 Co. Limerick
 061-333444
 www.tuscany.ie

Tuscany Bistro truly lives up to its name, bringing a warm blast of Italian sunshine into its cuisine and dining experience.

Located in the bustling Newtown Centre a stone's throw from the University of Limerick, this bistro offers freshly prepared, traditional Italian dishes and hospitality, delivered with

unrivalled flair.

With an ethos revolving around 'simple perfection', diners will be wowed by the extensive range of antipasti, salads, pastas and pizzas as well as poultry, meat and seafood options.

With choices like lasagna, penne e polpette (pasta and meatballs), spinach and ricotta ravioli, pollo alla cacciatore (chicken in mouthwatering tomato sauce), prime fillet of beef, Tuscan seafood stew and much more, it will be 'molto difficile' to decide what to eat; not to mind picking from the luscious

homemade dessert selection.

Whether light snack or filling meal, business lunch or romantic dinner, this classically decorated bistro has appeal for every occasion.

The Great Value Menu (daily until 6pm) does exactly what it promises, asking just €23.95 for three courses off a set menu with tea/coffee. The bistro offers a wide range of gluten free pasta and pizza dishes and a kids' menu too.

Tuscany is not open on Mondays but opens from 12.30-9pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday and until 10pm Thursday-Saturday.



Copper and Spice

Copper and Spice
 Above Mill Bar, Annacotty,
 Co. Limerick
 061-338791
 www.copperandspice.com

Copper and Spice really lives up its name with copper prevalent in the tableware and of course, the spice is all in the food.

Located a few minute's drive from the University of Limerick in the quaint village of Annacotty, this Indian restaurant has a great reputation among local people for its authentic cuisine.

The vibrant colours, dark wood and variety of textures in the décor complement the dining experience.

It offers an array of different set menus priced at €18 and €21, a monthly special menu and an a la carte. For €24,

diners can use the restaurant's unique spice stones to cook their own meat at the table (make sure to reserve 24 hours in advance to allow the chicken, beef or pork to marinate).

“Great reputation among local people for its authentic cuisine

Dishes include (but are not limited to) paneer rolls, fish pakora, makhani chicken, monkfish curry, methi malai maas and channa masala. There are 'Asian and Pacific' sections in the menu too so you can mix and match between Indian, Thai and Japanese.

The restaurant has been recommended by the McKenna's Guide and food critic, Georgina Campbell. Copper and Spice also has a sizeable takeaway menu.

Cafés

Limerick has truly embraced café culture with numerous casual eateries to sit and watch the world go by.



The Sage Café

67/68 Catherine Street
061-409458
www.thesagecafe.com

This charming café is most often buzzing inside and in the outdoor seating area, which is a testament to its popularity. It has a broad tea/coffee/ beverage menu and Fair Trade products are used where possible. All the delicious breads, scones, jams, chutneys and

desserts are homemade. Coeliac options are available. The Sage Café serves breakfast and lunch, with locally sourced and Irish produce.

Whether it's a made to order sandwich, a baked orange cheesecake, scrambled egg with oak-smoked salmon or market fish of the day with a ginger and lime batter served with French fries or sweet potato fries - just a small helping of choices - the food won't disappoint. The Sage Café has been recommended by the Bridgestone Guide

and food critics, Georgina Campbell and Lucinda O'Sullivan.

“The Sage Café serves breakfast and lunch, with locally sourced and Irish produce

Luigi's Traditional Fish & Chips Takeaway/ Restaurant

44 Parnell Street
061-410269

Located directly across from Colbert train station and serving the people

of Limerick for 30 years, Luigi's is everything you'd want in a Fish & Chip restaurant/takeaway.

Luigi Orlandi and his staff have perfected their recipes over many years to the point where Limerick people now simply only have to say “going for a Luigi's” to be instantly understood.

Open Monday to Saturday from

10am to 12.30am, and Sundays from 4-11.30pm

“Serving the people of Limerick for 30 years



Luigi's Traditional Fish & Chips

Pubs

Limerick has a variety of both quaint old style public houses as well as stylish, modern pubs to choose from.

W.J. South's

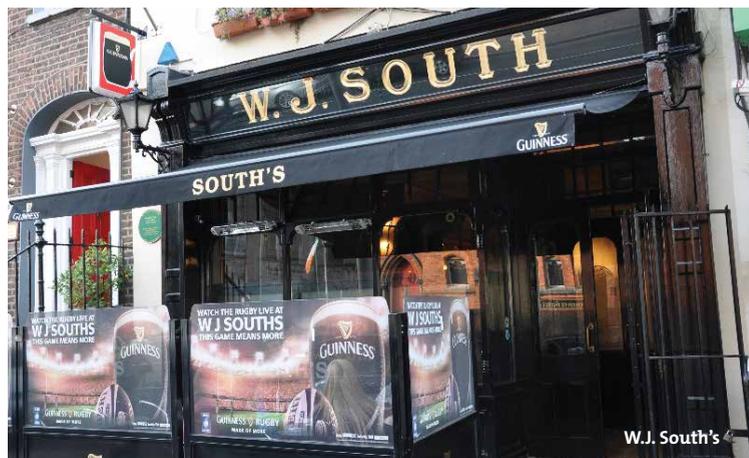
4 Quinlan Street (O'Connell Avenue)
061-318850

South's Pub has the unique honour of being the place where Pulitzer Prize winning writer, Frank McCourt, had his very first pint.

It has several mentions in McCourt's memoir, *Angela's Ashes*, and he visited the pub on trips back to Limerick.

South's has been trading since 1909 and maintains the classic interior and character that is its signature to this day. The imposing bar counter is something to see in itself and its history is outlined in the framed newspaper cuttings and sketches hanging on the walls.

It has been modernised and extended over the years with one of the additions being a carvery counter. South's serves breakfast in the mornings and is often busy for lunch as well as light refreshments throughout the day.



“ Trading since 1909 and maintains the classic interior and character

It has televisions dotted around but plenty of quiet corners to relax in the welcoming atmosphere. Among the clientele are avid sports fans, many with a keen interest in rugby, racing and golf. South's has its own golf society. There is a smoking area with tables and chairs at the front.

Tom Collins'

34 Cecil Street
061- 415749

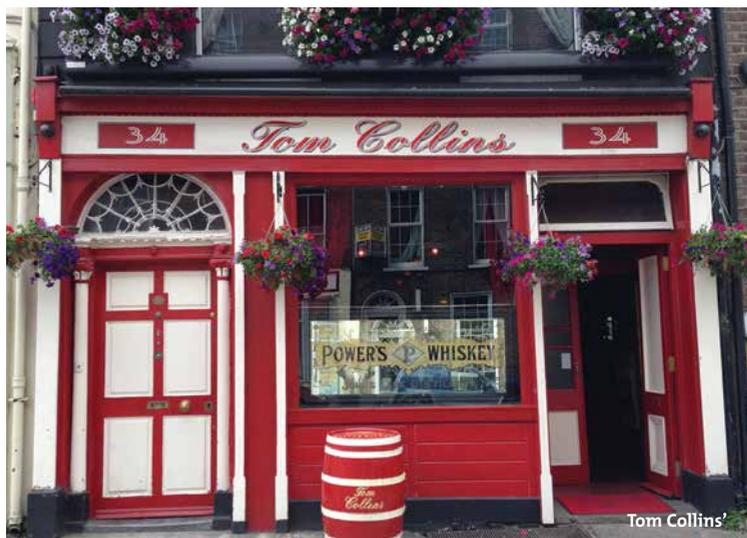
The distinctive red and cream front of Tom Collins' harks back to the classic pub facades of the last century but the

interior is the real step back in time.

Regulars held their breath during the recent revamp but thankfully the bar was freshened up rather than sanitised of its authentic feel.

Local characters can be found in the original artwork on the walls and in the seats nursing a pint. Esteemed Limerick

Labour politician, Jim Kemmy, is featured in one drawing. Old regulars are also among the subjects, many painted by the former owner's son. If you ask the friendly bar staff, they could tell you a bit about the paraphernalia decorating the pub.



“ The BBC series *Three Men in a Boat* even stopped off here

It is well known as a place to get a perfect Guinness or Beamish. Whether you're tucked away in the snug or sitting at the worn marble counter, Collins' is a great spot to while away a few hours.

Later on, the place livens up with music, the occasional traditional session and you might hear a sing-song if you're lucky!

The BBC series *Three Men in a Boat* even stopped off here on their trip down the Shannon for a genuine Irish experience.

Flannery's Bar

19 Shannon Street
061-415027

Step into one of Limerick's best-kept secrets at Flannery's Bar on Shannon Street.

With a traditional pub façade of dark wood and gold lettering, Flannery's is located directly opposite the entrance of the George Boutique Hotel.

Proprietor, Paul Flannery and his staff treat every customer as if they were regulars, inviting them to have a pint in the comfortable and relaxed atmosphere of this cosy pub.

“Staff treat every customer as if they were regulars

Located just off O'Connell Street, it would be easy to overlook this small pub, but the big welcome and family-run ethos is not to be missed. This is a superb bar to bask in all things Limerick and Munster, whether it is the pre-match

warm-up, watching games or having a drink afterwards while discussing the action.

With strong connections to Ahane GAA through Paul's wife, Eilise—the granddaughter of one of Limerick and Ahane's finest hurlers, the great Mick Mackey—it is also a good spot to watch all the GAA action in the summer.

On Sundays, a local trad band entertains with foot stomping traditional

music from 6pm to late. On Thursdays, you can get the foot tapping to a folk group, who will lead you on a mystical journey of song and melody from throughout the ages...

If you are looking for a quality quick lunch on the go, why not drop into Flannery's for one of their toasted specials, soup of the day or one of the finest Irish coffees in Limerick?



Myles Breen's

18 Shannon Street
061-414327
www.facebook.com/MylesBreens

Myles Breen's Select Bar has stood at 18 Shannon Street in Limerick City since 1802.

Since the early 19th century its façade has witnessed disparate archetypes of traffic, not just humans but from horse-drawn wagons to the contemporary motorcar. Nonetheless, one thing which has survived and remained the same is its establishment as a public house and as an institution of Munster Rugby.

“Atmosphere is created by a combination of contrasting factors

This pub is situated on a street which links Limerick's City centre to the majestic River Shannon. Its snug



and amiable atmosphere is created by a combination of contrasting factors: good staff, striped upholstery, polished mahogany and of course, the green relief wallpaper littered with a framed gallery of sporting events.

When sport is not on the television, the only friendly music that can be heard is the art of conversation, sounding from

mouths and lingering on the ears of each of its customers. It caters for clientele of all ages.

With fantastic porter for a fair price, Myles Breen's and its staff continue to facilitate a great service between its pints and its punters.

The Glen Tavern

1-2 Lower Glentworth Street
061-411380
www.glentavern.ie

The Glen Tavern aims to be Limerick's local in the heart of the city and an oasis of nostalgia, with all the memorabilia from days gone by displayed both inside and in the large windows fronting the premises.

The friendly staff, led by owner Ger Callanan, strives to maintain their high standards achieved with the Fáilte Ireland award. Delicious pub grub, a great pint of "the black stuff" and live music are the main attractions for visitors and regulars alike.

Food is served from 9.30am until 10pm and is mostly made up of traditional dishes with a few contemporary touches. All the cuisine is made freshly on the premises by the chef.

Breakfast options include a full Irish, a mini breakfast, scrambled eggs and more. Light lunch options include seafood chowder, homemade soups, sandwiches and 'a light bite of the day'.



The Glen Tavern

Daily deals include tea/coffee with a scone/pastry for €2.75.

“Delicious pub grub, a great pint of “the black stuff”

For a heartier meal in the daytime, there is a large choice including shepherd's pie, fish, chicken Kiev, lasagna, ploughman's lunch and salad plates as well as daily specials e.g.

curry, Irish stew and a vegetarian dish of the day. Evening meals include steak baguette, beef & Guinness pie, and fresh cod. Groups bookings for meals can be assured of a professional service in a cosy atmosphere. All special dietary needs are well catered for with the choice of menu that is available.

The location, just off O'Connell Street, makes it an ideal meeting place. There is live music nightly Thursday to Sunday; you are guaranteed a good night's entertainment. Matches and other major sports events are broadcast live.



Bobby Byrne's

Bobby Byrne's

3 O'Connell Avenue
061-316949
www.bobbybyrnes.ie

Situated on the corner of O'Connell Avenue and Wolfe Tone Street, Bobby Byrne's is Limerick's friendliest foodie corner.

Delicious food is served seven days a week at this award winning gastro-pub and its most recent award is 'Best

Pub Carvery in Munster 2015'. Being served by Limerick's most welcoming staff is not to be missed according to one customer who recently visited and reviewed it on Tripadvisor: "Bobby Byrne's should definitely be on your to-do list if you visit Limerick, you are in for a treat," said Claire from Cork.

Bobby Byrnes is a traditional Irish family run bar, owned and operated by Robert and Fiona, the second generation of the Byrne family to run the bar. 'Bobby's', as it's known locally,

celebrated 50 years in business in 2013 and has won many awards in recent years for its delicious food. It is known to serve a great pint of Guinness along with a large selection of craft beers and wines from around the world.

Fiona, Robert and the team at Bobby's pride themselves on the level of customer service they provide. On stepping into this cosy pub with a real log fire, you will know a warm welcome awaits you. Every Thursday night, there is a lovely trad music session enjoyed by locals and visitors alike.

When rugby season recommences, Bobby's is the only place in town to soak up the match atmosphere and enjoy a few pints. Bobby's is an official Match Venue Bar for the Munster Rugby Supporters Club. The pub walls are fixed with fascinating rugby memorabilia and the ceilings adorned with club and international flags and jerseys.

So if you're a new visitor to Bobby's, come and sit by the fireside and enjoy a creamy pint, accompanied by the best pub grub in town.

Mickey Martin's

Augustinian Lane

Mickey Martin's is a fantastic little family-run pub right in the centre of Limerick's pedestrianised zone.

But don't be misled by the slow, easygoing pace of the lunch time shift which is overseen by the resident chef, Eggz, who you will also see on the odd night spinning the discs as he is also one of Mickey's resident DJs.

Mickey's lunchtime menu is an unassuming thing; if you enjoy healthy homemade food, then this is for you. There are plenty of menu favourites but try the great hearty beetroot and chickpea vegetarian wrap or the pulled pork bap with a tasty homemade soup of the day.

“Mickey Martin's is a fantastic little family-run pub right in the centre of Limerick's pedestrianised zone

The music is really the star of the show in Mickey's. All the staff members have a well-educated ear and are led by their manager Seamus, who is also a DJ. You are likely to hear an eclectic mix of funk, soul, jazz, hip hop, disco and house. Along with the resident DJs,



Mickey's also hosts DJs from all around Ireland and abroad playing outside the pub in the lane—which transforms the whole area into a street festival.

One of the very best events in Mickey's calendar every year is the Mickey Martin's Fancy Dress Party at Halloween. If you only go out once a year, this night is not to be missed!

Last but not least the resident cat, Oddie, who has his very own fan club, is always available for a rub by the fire on the cold winter's night.

Curragower Bar

Clancy Strand

061-321788

www.curragower.com

Situated on the banks of the River Shannon looking onto the majestic King

John's Castle, the Curragower has one of the best views in Limerick as well as superb food and hospitality.

In the heart of the medieval district, it is thought to be one of the city's oldest bars with some historians tracing it back to the 1700s. Named after a natural waterfall on the river, it was originally a traditional sbin for local farmers and fishermen.

“In the heart of the medieval district, it is thought to be one of the city's oldest bars with some historians tracing it back to the 1700s

Inside, it mixes old with new, giving it the feel of a cosy yet modern cottage. The large bar is made more expansive with seating in the outdoor terrace.

Food is served until 8pm Sunday to Thursday and until 9pm Friday and Saturdays.

Awards from the McKenna Guide and Georgina Campbell are among those garnered by The Curragower. It holds a TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence and was voted Limerick's Best Gastropub in 2014.

The Curragower's location close to Thomond Park makes it a common stop-off for fans on the way to or from Munster Rugby matches.





Photo: dan1315

DID YOU KNOW?

Limerick Journalists

Several leading Irish journalists hail from Limerick. Vincent Browne was born here in 1944. He is currently a columnist with *The Irish Times* and presents current affairs discussion show *Tonight with Vincent Browne* on TV3. Another legendary local journalist was Arthur Quinlan (1921-2012). Though not born here, he was based at Shannon Airport - reporting for *The Irish Times* - for a significant period during his 50 year career. He is well known for his interviews with politicians, royalty and film stars. He was the first Irishman to travel in a jet across the Atlantic to New York in 1958.

Literary Legacy

Limerick novelist and playwright, Kate O'Brien (1897-1974) is known for acclaimed works such as *Without My Cloak* (Winner of the James Tait Black Memorial Prize), *The Ante-Room*, *Mary Lavelle*, *The Land of Spices* and *That Lady*. O'Brien is considered a pioneer in Irish fiction. She had very strong links with Spain, having worked there for a time and she also wrote a travelogue entitled *Farewell Spain* and a biography of Saint Teresa of Avila. She has a street named after her in the village of Gotarrendura in the Avila region. Her childhood home remains on Mulgrave Street in the city and a collection of her papers was bequeathed to the University of Limerick in 2002. The Limerick Literary Festival (formerly the Kate O'Brien Weekend) is held in her honour annually in Limerick.



The Blind Pig & Speakeasy & The Underbelly

The Blind Pig & Speakeasy & The Underbelly

31 Thomas Street
083-1512771

The Blind Pig has gone from strength to strength since opening its doors four years ago.

Building on its solid reputation over that time, it has expanded the business to include the basement, or The Underbelly, which offers an array of club nights both midweek and at weekends. The Underbelly—a new, exciting nightclub at the top of Thomas Street—caters for all tastes, from student nights to rock music, acid house to disco edits, techno to R'n'B.

The Blind Pig itself is still a haven for beer lovers, with a huge selection of craft

and regular beers. There are also several perfectly mixed cocktails available, which come highly recommended.

With a fantastic selection of DJs playing every weekend and an Open Mic night every Wednesday night (which has even attracted talent scouts), the Blind Pig is a welcoming Mecca for music and beer lovers alike. The clientele is a sociable blend of new and regular customers.

Upstairs, the Speakeasy is a beautiful and inviting room, which plays host to guitar workshops, private parties, select gigs and launch parties and is open for use by anyone who wishes to use it. The cosy little suntrap out the front of the building is another popular feature.

The Blind Pig has a little something for everyone and fun, laughter and dancing is definitely guaranteed within the walls of this fine establishment.

DID YOU KNOW?

Sir Terry Wogan

Sir Terry Wogan, one of Ireland's and the UK's foremost broadcasters, was born in Limerick in 1938. He began his career at RTÉ and presented shows like *Jackpot* in the 1960s. He began working for BBC radio in 1967 and presented

Photo: Featureflash

many leading television and radio programmes like *Wogan*, *Children in Need*, *Blankety Blank*, the *Eurovision Song Contest* and *Wake Up to Wogan*. As well as being awarded a KBE by the Queen, Wogan was a Freeman of Limerick and had an honorary doctorate from the University of Limerick. The broadcasting legend passed away in January 2016.



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www.cityscapetours.ie

The Locke Bar

3 Georges Quay

061-413733

www.lockebar.com

The Locke Bar is one of Limerick's best-loved traditional Irish bars with award winning seafood in the heart of Limerick City's medieval quarter.

The Locke is synonymous in Limerick as well as further afield for its genuine Irish hospitality, incredible atmosphere, delicious fresh seafood and unforgettable music sessions seven nights a week.

The Locke is a bar for all seasons enjoyed by locals and visitors alike. In winter, customers cosy up to welcoming, open fires and in the summer, they enjoy al fresco dining in the extensive outdoor seating area by the Abbey River—on the original site of one of Limerick's oldest pubs dating all the way back to 1724.

The bar serves food—breakfast, lunch and dinner—daily until 10pm.

If it's traditional Irish music that you're after, then The Locke is just the right place for you! The Irish music sessions kick off every evening from



The Locke Bar

7pm and everyone is welcome. When the musicians strike up a 'sessúin' and get the 'craic' started, it's unique every time. Different musicians and a variety of instruments make sure each visit is one to remember.

You really have to experience it for yourself; no visit to Limerick is complete without a call to The Locke!

For further information, email enquiries@lockebar.com.



The Horse & Hound Bar

The Horse & Hound Bar

1 Mulgrave Street

061-419194

The Horse & Hound Bar has been continuously trading at the corner of Mulgrave Street and Cathedral Place for over 150 years.

Originally established under a 999 year lease to cater for thirsty farmers who enjoyed an early tippale before selling their produce at the market fair, this bar continues to provide food and drink to those who start their day in the early morning.

In its long history it has been the birthplace of an American Senator, a location for the picking of the Limerick

hurling team, and during the War of Independence, guns, ammunition and infamously the gunpowder used to blow up the Annacotty bridge, was stolen from the nearby barracks and passed to the rebels inside the doors of this well-known Limerick bar.

The Horse & Hound opens from 7.30am Monday to Saturday and from 9am on Sunday with its hallmark full Irish breakfast the main attraction. From 12-9pm, it serves a traditional, wholesome and generously portioned menu which changes daily with speedy, table service assured. At any time of the day, this is one of the best places in the city to get a good pint of Guinness, a true sign of a traditional Irish pub.

Popular with locals and tourists alike, this establishment sees customers returning again and again for its relaxed atmosphere, good food, great drink and friendly banter. With a reputation for impromptu sing songs and traditional music, this Limerick pub is a favourite.

Dolan's Pub & Restaurant

Dock Road
061-314483
www.dolans.ie

Since multi award-winning pub, Dolan's, opened its doors in 1994 it has grown to be one of Limerick's most iconic venues whether drinking, eating or enjoying music, sport and more.

Located on the Dock Road, Dolan's boasts four live music venues, traditional Irish music every night and serves delicious food.

“One of Limerick's most iconic venues whether drinking, eating or enjoying music

It holds many accolades including IMRO National Live Music Venue of the Year 2014, Hot Press Live Music Venue of the Year 2014 and was a finalist in the



Dolan's Pub & Restaurant

Restaurant Association of Ireland Gastro Pub (Limerick) in 2014.

Dolan's is also home to the famous Dolan's Warehouse, which hosts top international, national and local acts.

The décor has great character from the solid wood furniture to the open fire, the corner space reserved for musicians and the Irish/music memorabilia on the walls. With a warm atmosphere, amiable service and an outstanding pint, you can understand its popularity.

Dolan's opens for breakfast on

weekends and Bank Holidays. Lunch is served from 12.30pm, Monday-Friday and dinner is served from 5-10 pm. There is a special student menu too.

The menu specialises in fresh fish (fishmonger Ren e Cusack is located right next door) as well as Irish beef with a strong leaning towards local produce.

There are several large screens for watching sports (the pub is especially lively for Munster games) and two heated smoking areas.

Limerick in Numbers

1983

Year Limerick Civic Trust was formally inaugurated.

2004

Year the annual Riverfest began

350

Length in metres of The Living Bridge in UL, Ireland's longest pedestrian bridge

061

Telephone dialling code for Limerick

24

Distance in kilometres from Limerick to Shannon Airport

2001

Year Limerick rower, Sam Lynch, won his first World Championship gold medal in the Men's Lightweight Single Skulls (he took gold again in 2002)

1889

Year the first edition of *The Limerick Leader* hit the streets on Friday 9 August

2

Number of All Ireland Senior Hurling titles won by Limerick to date

1852

Year the School of Ornamental Art (now Limerick Institute of Technology) was established

95

Sum in millions raised for charity by the JP McManus Invitational Pro-Am golf event since 1990

DID YOU KNOW?

Hollywood Starlet

Born in Limerick in 1928, Constance Smith was a film actress, and contract player of 20th Century Fox. She won a beauty contest in Dublin at 16 and her mother sent the photo to a film studio. She subsequently did a screen test and moved to London to act. In 1950, she was noticed playing an Irish maid in the film, *The Mudlark* and offered a contract by the Hollywood studio. She starred in numerous features throughout the 1950s including *Man in the Attic* and *Treasure of the Golden Condor*. She was a presenter at the Academy Awards ceremony in 1952. Her film career faltered in the late fifties. She had a turbulent romantic and personal life in the following years. Constance Smith passed away in 2003 in London.

Fennessys Pub

1 New Street
061-229038

Fennessys is one of Limerick's oldest pubs and is full of character and steeped in history.

Established in 1904 by Matthew Fennessy the pub is now being run by the fourth generation of the Fennessy family.

Located adjacent to Mary Immaculate College on the South Circular Road, this pub has been a favourite for the staff and students of the college for many years as well as for locals. The college's new addition, The Lime Tree Theatre, is fast becoming the city's leading stage venue and this makes Fennessys a prime location for a pre or post performance tittle.

“Fennessys is a great spot to watch a match, have a function, enjoy a creamy pint or relax with a coffee



Fennessys is a great spot to watch a match, have a function, enjoy a creamy pint or relax with a coffee.

The neat old world frontage of the pub is an indication of what you will find inside. There are two old style Irish pub booths - one even dubbed 'The Senate' - dark wood tables with a variety of seating options and décor including a model plane suspended from the ceiling bring classic charm to the 21st century. The sizeable lounge area often hosts table quizzes.

You can also grab lunch here with the sandwich bar, open Monday to Friday from 12 noon-2.30pm offering fresh sandwiches, toasties, soup and hot drinks. The off-licence attached to the premises sells a range of beers, wines and spirits with weekly special offers.

A fun and friendly pub, Fennessys has three sports associations including a golf society, a pitch and putt club and a deep sea angling club.



Collins' Bar

Dooradoyle Road
061-309191
www.collinsbardooradoyle.ie

It's not surprising that Collins' Bar is Limerick's RAI Gastro Pub of the Year 2015. Highly thought of for its excellent food, fine range of drinks and timeless décor, it is located conveniently off the

motorway at Dooradoyle—an obvious choice for a pitstop when passing through or exploring the Wild Atlantic Way.

From Saturday brunch to carvery lunch, a stylish sandwich and salad menu to a sizeable evening a la carte, food is to the fore at Collins'. As well as offering exceptional cuisine, it's a much-loved, cosy local bar.

Examples of culinary treats on offer are marinated and braised pork belly served with roasted granny smiths, hazelnut and Clonakilly black pudding croquette or maybe a moreish taco bowl with fries. The tasting plates set this place apart. Choose four from a choice of eight for just under €16. Popular choices are the mini goats' cheese tart with onion marmalade and the blue cheese risotto balls with grape chutney. Desserts are all homemade and to die for.

Food is served midday-9pm, seven days a week (reservations accepted).

There are lots of screens for all major sporting events as well as free Wi-Fi. There are party packages available to suit all budgets. The comfortable outside area, with heaters and canopies, makes for great summer BBQs.

Owners, James Collins and his wife Eileen, have a passion for exceptional customer service and that has made Collins' bar what it is today, since opening over 11 years ago. You can find the bar at M20 Junction 2.

The Market Quarter

This area near Limerick's famous Milk Market has an array of vibrant pubs and clubs.

Nancy Blake's

19 Upper Denmark Street
061-416443

On Monday mornings in Limerick, you can be sure that a lot of people discussing the weekend will utter the word "Nancy's" because the pub is a contender for the most popular in the city.

Located in the 'Market Quarter', Nancy Blake's has a split personality. There's something for everyone and that is always apparent from the mixture of ages and styles among its punters. The sawdust strewn front bar has a traditional feel. You can kick back in cosy seating (in front of the fire if you can) and just enjoy the atmosphere. The outdoor area is open air when possible and has tables and chairs during the day. At night, the music is typically classic rock or folk and it often hosts live trad sessions.



Nancy Blake's

Just a short walk to the back and you'll think you're in a different pub. The back bar is darker and louder with an eclectic mix of music. The classic decor gives way to funky artefacts like car numberplates and the large mural of Ray Charles. Or you can venture into the 'Outback', a covered smoking area, which also has a bar if you don't want to

wade through the crowds.

The multitude of TV screens in the back sections make Nancy's a good choice to watch a sports match. They also show music DVDs so you can see Springsteen or Kings of Leon rocking out. On selected weeknights, the Outback has live bands.



Phil Flannery's Bar

Phil Flannery's Bar

2 Denmark Street
061-419761
www.philflannerys.com

"Come in for a chat and stay for the craic" is the motto at this friendly, family-run bar in the very heart of the city.

Located in Limerick's Market Quarter, the service at Phil Flannery's is all about the personal touch and the amiable staff complement the great pint of plain.

When it comes to food, quality and value is always on the menu with breakfast served from 10am and light snacks and full meals through to 3pm, Monday to Friday and to 5pm on Saturday.

Sports fans will be right at home watching the top sports contests of the day—whether it be soccer, rugby, GAA, golf and more, displayed on a choice of eight screens. There are always some barstool experts waiting to talk sports.

Flannery's livens up even more on weekends with live bands as a regular fixture. Musicians who have played here include Irish folk legend, John Spillane.

The stylish marble-clad exterior is one improvement made in extensive renovations in 2007 and another popular addition was the state of the art beer garden/smoking area on the second floor. Inside the spacious bar and lounge is laid out with comfort in mind, including features like an open fire and free Wi-Fi. There is a function room, which is available for any occasion too.

The bar opens until 1am on Friday and Saturday nights. As any one of the regulars will tell you Flannery's aims to be a true local so a warm welcome is always waiting here.

DID YOU KNOW?**Twinning**

Limerick is twinned with several places in three different countries, including its township namesake in Pennsylvania in the USA. The others are: Quimper (France), New Brunswick, New Jersey (USA), Starogard, Gdanski (Poland), Spokane, Washington (USA), Kansas City, Kansas (USA) and Lowell, Massachusetts (USA).



Photo: Brendan Howard



Photo: Roxana Gonzalez

Che Guevara

Famed revolutionary, Che Guevara, visited Limerick once in 1965 when his flight was forced to land at Shannon Airport. *Irish Times* journalist, Arthur Quinlan, interviewed him - becoming the only western journalist to have done so. The story has it that the journalist even taught Guevara how to make an Irish coffee in what was the former Hanratty's Hotel in Glentworth Street in the city.

Michael Flannery's Pub

17 Upper Denmark Street

061-436677

www.flannerysbar.ie

Michael Flannery's Pub is well known in Limerick and its owner is one of the city's longest serving publicans, working in the family business since 1959.

Located on Denmark Street, just around the corner from the famous Milk Market, its vibrant red frontage is set off against a beautiful stone façade.

Michael's grandfather, William, opened the first Flannery's pub in 1898. Michael is one of the last remaining local publicans who bottled his own Jameson whiskey from the cask until the mid 1960s and there is a beautiful display of the materials he used in the pub. Thus began his love affair with Irish whiskey and the pub has over 120 different types—one of the largest collections in Ireland.

William, opened the first Flannery's pub in 1898

Visitors can discover all the different types by consulting a personally compiled 'Whiskey Bible', which lists them all with tasting notes.

Flannery's is also known for serving an excellent pint of Guinness and offering Limerick's largest selection of

Irish craft and world beers, currently numbering over 50.

The décor is authentic with a stove, grocery-style bar counter and a snug, perfect for two old friends catching up or a larger group attending a Whiskey Tasting Session.

Thus began a love affair with Irish whiskey and the pub has over 120 different types

At the rear, there is a courtyard overlooked by a roof terrace with a spacious contemporary bar behind. Flannery's serves breakfast and lunch, Monday-Saturday until 3pm with specialties including farmhouse bread sandwiches and fish 'n chips.

All major sporting events are shown with a multitude of screens scattered around, but not in Michael's pub, which is a TV free zone to encourage good conversation. There is live music and DJs most nights in the adjoining bar, rocking Denmark Street until the small hours.

Flannery's is one of those 'split personality' bars that has something for everyone, giving the customer the traditional Irish pub with a modern twist.

For more information, see www.facebook.com/flannerysbarlimerick, Twitter, @FlannerysBar or email info@flannerysbar.ie.



Michael Flannerys Pub

Smyth's Bar

Denmark Street

061-310766

www.icomniteclub.com/smyths-bar

Smyth's Bar is synonymous with great nights out in Limerick with its potent mix of live entertainment, tasty food and drink at top prices with efficient service.

Established nearly a decade ago, it is a popular beat in the heart of the 'Market Quarter' and is more often than not buzzing with energy.

Just beyond the entrance is a large smoking area; within, there is plenty of space whether sitting, standing or dancing in the tasteful interior. The vibe is contemporary with leather seats and wrought-iron fixtures.

“A popular beat in the heart of the 'Market Quarter'”

Smyth's has a good range of food on offer during the day, including breakfast, served from 9am Monday to Saturday. Smyth's offers a fine choice of sandwiches/ light bites and hot lunches Monday to Friday from 12-3pm followed by an a la carte menu from 3-6pm. There are daily deals and weekly specials available. On Sundays, hot carvery lunches are available from 12.30-6pm.

By night, the bar aims to have live music seven nights a week and has top Irish bands such as Big Generator and



Smyth's Icon Nightclub

Free Beer on a regular basis, with no cover charge. Smyth's has a full drinks menu including craft beers and cocktails along with drinks promotions. These include the '5 for €16' deal with certain bottled drinks and a handy bucket of ice to keep them cold.

Smyth's is connected to the Icon Nightclub so you can go from pub to club seamlessly. Entry is free from Smyth's from Monday to Wednesday.

Smyth's Icon Nightclub

Denmark Street

www.icomniteclub.com

Its seven nights a week, two levels, two dance floors and five bars all filled with a chic and fun party atmosphere. The Icon is Limerick's largest and "Ireland's best

nightclub" with a party happening seven nights a week.

It was voted as the best club in the country in the Smirnoff 'Battle of the Clubs' contest, fighting off stiff competition from other venues.

It is spread over two levels, with two huge dance-floors, five bars and several smoking areas. The Icon has everything a modern nightclub should have and attracts huge crowds. Visitors can kick back in one of many alcoves and sip one of the signature cocktails or just dance the night away to your favourite tunes.

“Kick back in one of many alcoves and sip one of the signature cocktails or just dance the night away”

Entry is free from Smyth's from Monday to Wednesday.

Thursday is Ladies Night where women have free entry.

On selected nights, the two floors each have their distinct music. The downstairs dance-floor might have R n B and current chart hits playing where upstairs would have tunes from the 70s, 80s and 90s.

There is something for everyone and the club is known for its fantastic atmosphere.



Smyth's Bar



7

If you want to visit attractions in neighbouring counties, there are many options within reasonable driving distance.

Further Afield

Explore more

There is a huge variety of sites and experiences not to be missed in Limerick's neighbouring counties, a reasonable drive away. The following are just some of the many places of interest on Limerick's doorstep...

Image: Killarney Lakes

Bunratty Castle & Folk Park

Bunratty, Co. Clare
061-360788

At Ireland's premier visitor attraction you are invited to explore three wonderful experiences—the spectacular 15th century Bunratty Castle, the 19th century Bunratty Folk Park and the Village Street. Whether for a daytime visit or an evening banquet, Bunratty Castle has lots to enjoy. Knappogue Castle & Walled Garden is also situated in neighbouring Clare.

Craggaunowen

Co. Clare
061-360788

Dubbed “Ireland's original award winning pre-historic park”, Craggaunowen allows visitors to step back over 1,000 years ago to explore the roots of our Celtic ancestors, who shaped how we live today. Immerse yourself in the traditions and dwellings of the Crannóg people, wander through the woods to see real wildlife and see the magnificent, leather hulled 'Brendan Boat', built by Tim Severin, who sailed across the Atlantic Ocean re-enacting the voyage of St Brendan.

The Burren & Cliffs of Moher Geopark

Co. Clare
065-7072295

The 250 square kilometre area in north Clare known as The Burren is one of the largest karst landscapes in Europe—a unique rocky terrain made of limestone. The Cliffs of Moher are over 200 metres high and run for over eight kilometres along the Atlantic Ocean. Over 30,000 pairs of seabirds, including several protected species, nest at the Cliffs of Moher. The Burren has many historical and archaeological sites including ringforts and dolmens as well as many rare Irish species of flora and fauna. It also boasts walking trails and activities like rock-climbing. Ireland's smallest national park, The Burren National Park (065-6827693) also occupies 15 square kilometres of the landscape.

Brian Boru Heritage Centre

Killaloe, Co. Clare
061-370788

The small Clare town of Killaloe was once the capital of Ireland as the 11th century seat of heroic king, Brian Boru. The exhibition at the centre traces the life story of Ireland's greatest monarch

whose army defeated a Viking invasion at the Battle of Clontarf in 1014.

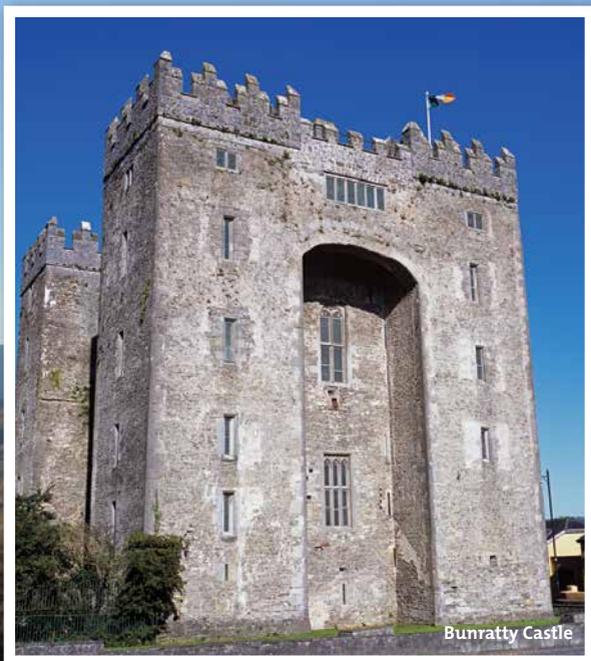
Killaloe itself is made up of charming shops and narrow streets and crossing the bridge, visitors can find themselves in the Tipperary town of Ballina. Set on Lough Derg, the area is a centre of leisure activities like boating and other watersports.

The Rock of Cashel

Cashel, Co. Tipperary
062-61437

Overlooking the town of Cashel, there is a spectacular group of medieval buildings set on an outcrop of limestone. These include a 12th century round tower, high cross and Romanesque chapel, a 13th century Gothic cathedral, a 15th century castle and the restored Hall of the Vicars choral. This exciting stroll through centuries of history on a single site is complemented through an audio-visual show and exhibitions. Guided tours are available but visitors are advised to check times etc.

“Immerse yourself in the traditions



Bunratty Castle



Fota Wildlife



Surfing in Lahinch



The Burren

Nenagh Heritage Centre/Museum

Nenagh, Co Tipperary
067-33850

From Limerick, Nenagh is less than 40 minutes' drive and this unique museum is located in the 19th century gaol buildings in the town. There is a diverse range of topics covered here from the history of the structure itself to old rural Ireland. The stories are told through a mix of audio-visual elements, models, artefact displays and hands-on exhibits. After visiting the museum, you can also take a tour of the Gatehouse to follow in the footsteps of condemned prisoners and hear the story of some in detail. There are occasional art exhibitions and events.

Fota Wildlife Park

Carrigtwohill, Co Cork
021-4812678

Around 20 minutes from Cork City, Fota Island is home to a 75-acre wildlife park featuring both flora and fauna of Irish and more exotic origins. You can see animals like gibbons, wallabies, prairie dogs, monkeys, tapirs, cheetahs, ostriches, lemurs, giraffes, flamingos, kangaroos, zebras, seals, bison and more. The park is also home to many tree

and plant species. There are tours and activity days that make for a fun family day out.

“Spectacular group of medieval buildings set on an outcrop of limestone

Blarney Castle

Blarney, Co Cork
021-4385252

A few kilometres outside Cork City lies the world famous Blarney Castle and stone. The current keep was built by the MacCarthy clan and dates from the 15th century but earlier fortifications are thought to have been based on the same site. It has a fascinating history, with sieges and tales galore. Large parts of the castle are intact. At its top, the main attraction is the ‘Stone of Eloquence’—better known as ‘The Blarney Stone’. Legend has it that if you kiss it, you will get “the gift of the gab”!

Killarney National Park

Killarney, Co Kerry
064-6631440

Ireland's very first national park now covers almost 25,000 acres. This beautiful expanse includes the Lakes of Killarney, lush forests of oak and yew trees, boglands, mountains and is home to the country's only native herd of Red Deer. Other highlights include historical sites like Ross Castle, Muckross Abbey and the mansion, Muckross House and Gardens, one-time home to the family that donated land to found the national park.

Nearby beaches

Several seaside towns and villages are within reach of Limerick by car, so if the weather is fine, many people head to the beach. In Clare, Lahinch, Kilkee, Spanish Point and Fanore are some of the most popular beaches for both swimming and watersports like surfing. In Kerry, Ballybunion beach and others like Banna Strand near Tralee are favourites with holidaymakers.

Accommodation



CITY HOTELS

Woodfield House Hotel

Ennis Road
t: 061-453022
www.woodfieldhousehotel.com

Radisson Blu Hotel & Spa Limerick

Ennis Road
t: 061-456200
www.radissonblu.ie/hotel-limerick

Kilmurry Lodge Hotel

Dublin Road, Castletroy
t: 061-331133
www.kilmurrylodge.com

Limerick Strand Hotel

Ennis Road
t: 061-421800
www.strandhotellimerick.ie

Castletroy Park Hotel

Dublin Road
t: 061-335566
www.castletroypark.ie

South Court Hotel and Suites

Raheen Roundabout, Adare Road
t: 061-487487
www.southcourthotel.com

The George Boutique Hotel

O'Connell Street
t: 061-460400
www.thegeorgeboutiquehotel.com

Maldron Hotel Limerick

John Carew Link Road, Roxboro
t: 061-436100
www.maldronhotellimerick.com

No 1 Pery Square Hotel & Spa

Pery Square
t: 061-402402
www.oneperysquare.com

Clarion Hotel and Leisure Centre Limerick

Steamboat Quay
t: 061-444100
www.clarionhotellimerick.com

Limerick City Hotel

Lower Mallow Street
t: 061-207000
www.limerickcityhotel.ie

The Savoy Hotel

Henry Street
t: 061-448700
www.savoylimerick.com

Absolute Hotel & Spa

Sir Harry's Mall
t: 061-463600
www.absolutehotel.com

Best Western Pery's Hotel

Glentworth Street
t: 061-413822
www.perys.ie

Greenhills Hotel

Caherdavin, Ennis Road
t: 061-453033
www.greenhillsgroup.com

The Railway Hotel

Parnell Street
t: 061-413653
www.railwayhotel.ie

The Pier Hotel

Sarsfield Bridge
t: 061-317179
www.thepierhotellimerick.com

Travelodge

Coonagh Roundabout, Ennis Road
t: 061-457000
www.travelodge.ie/limerick-hotel-ennis-road

CITY BED & BREAKFASTS

Glen Eagles

Ennis Road
t: 061-455521

Ashgrove House

Caherdavin
t: 087-6695289
www.limerickbandb.com

Armada Lodge

Ennis Road
t: 061-326993
www.armadalodgebandb.com

Avondoyle Country Home

Old Dooradoyle Road, Ballyclough
t: 061-301590
www.avondoyle.com

Sandvilla

Castletroy
t: 061-336484

Moyrhee

Meelick
t: 061-326300
www.moyrhee.com

Avondale

Cratloe Road
t: 061-451697
www.avondalebedandbreakfast.ie

Coonagh Lodge

Coonagh
t: 061-327050
www.coonaghlodge.com

CITY GUESTHOUSES**The Boutique**

Denmark Street
t: 061-315320
www.theboutique.ie

COUNTY HOTELS**Dunraven Arms Hotel**

Adare
t: 061-305900
www.dunravenhotel.com

Adare Manor Hotel & Golf Resort

(Currently closed for renovation)
Adare
t: 061-605200
www.adaremanor.com

Fitzgerald's Woodland's House Hotel

Adare
t: 061-605100
www.woodlands-hotel.ie

The Mustard Seed @ Echo Lodge

Ballingarry
t: 069-68508
www.mustardseed.ie

Castle Oaks House Hotel

Castleconnell
t: 061-377666
www.castleoaks.ie

Devon Inn Hotel

Templeglantine
t: 069-84122
www.devoninnhotel.ie

Deeberth House Hotel

Kilmallock
t: 063-31200
www.deeberthousehotel.com

Rathkeale House Hotel

Rathkeale
t: 069-63333
www.rathkealehousehotel.ie

COUNTY BED & BREAKFASTS**Coatesland House B&B**

Adare
t: 061-396372
www.coateslandhouse.com

Berkeley Lodge

Adare
t: 061-396857
www.adare.org

Carrigane House

Adare
t: 061-396778
www.carriganehouse.com

Park Lodge

Abbeyfeale
t: 068 31312
www.parklodge.ie

Old Castle House

Glin
t: 068-34963
www.oldcastlehouse.com

The Orchard

Newcastle West
t: 069-61029
www.applesforbreakfast.com

Deeberth House B&B

Kilmallock
t: 063-98106
www.deeberthouse.com

The Old Bank B&B

Bruff
t: 061-389969
www.theoldbank.ie

Woodview B&B

Kilfinane
t: 063-91106

Shanagarry B&B

Newcastle West
t: 069-61747
www.shanagarrybnb.com

Cedar Lodge

Patrickswell
t: 061-355137

Millbank House & Angling Centre

Murroe
t: 061- 386115
www.millbankhouse.com

This is just a selection of accommodation. For even more in Limerick City and County, including self-catering options, see www.discoverireland.ie and www.failteireland.ie.





Useful Information

TOURISM:

Limerick Tourist Office
20 O'Connell Street
061-317522

Adare Tourist Office
Adare, Co. Limerick
061-396255

www.limerick.ie

EMERGENCY:

General Emergency Number (fire, ambulance etc): 999

Henry Street Garda Station
Henry Street
061-212400

Roxboro Garda Station
Roxboro Road
061-214340

Bruff Garda Station
Bruff, Co. Limerick
061-382947

Newcastle West Garda Station
Newcastle West, Co. Limerick
069-20650

See www.garda.ie for a full list of Garda Stations in Limerick.

University Hospital Limerick
Dooradoyle
061-301111

Shannon Doc (Out of hours GP service)
1850-212999

Shannon Doc Centres

Dooradoyle Health Centre, Off St.
Nessans Road, Dooradoyle

Hospital Health Centre, Knockainey
Road, Hospital, Co. Limerick

Shannondoc Surgery, Bishop Street,
Newcastle West, Co. Limerick

See www.hse.ie for a full list of registered General Practitioners in Limerick.

TRANSPORT:

Colbert Station (Bus & Train)
Parnell Street
061-315555

www.irishrail.ie
www.buseireann.ie

Dublin Coach (M7 Express Service)
Dublin to Ennis/Killarney/Tralee (via Limerick)
01-4659972
www.dublincoach.ie

OTHER

General Post Office
Lower Cecil Street

See www.anpost.ie for a full list of post offices and services in Limerick.

Cornmarket Dental

Floor 2, Cornmarket Tower, Robert Street

061-417566

Specialising in dental pain and emergency treatment, the practice at Cornmarket Dental provides excellent care no matter what your ailment.

Located in the city centre, near Limerick's famous Milk Market, the large team here provides routine dental treatment like exams, fillings and extractions as well as root canals, dental crowns, bridges, dentures, Orthodontics and much more.

“ Family-friendly practice opens Monday to Friday and also provides appointments on Saturdays

Cosmetic treatments include anti-wrinkle injections and lip enhancement.

The family-friendly practice opens Monday to Friday and also provides appointments on Saturdays, 9am-4pm.

For highly professional service with a perfect smile, Cornmarket Dental is the place to go.



Cornmarket Dental



DID YOU KNOW?

Cranberries

Limerick band, The Cranberries, are one of the most successful alternative rock bands from Ireland. This internationally acclaimed group was formed in Limerick in 1989. The core group consists of bothers, Mike and Noel Hogan, Fergal Lawler and Dolores O'Riordan. The band gained an international profile with their debut album, *Everybody Else Is Doing It, So Why Can't We?* in 1993. Their second album, *No Need to Argue*, went triple platinum within a year with the number one hit single, 'Zombie'. To date, the band has had hit the Top 20 on the Billboard 200 with four of their albums and has had eight top 20 singles on the US Modern Rock Tracks chart, as well as significant success worldwide. In 2003, The Cranberries went on hiatus but reunited in 2011 to record a sixth album, *Roses*, which was released in 2012.

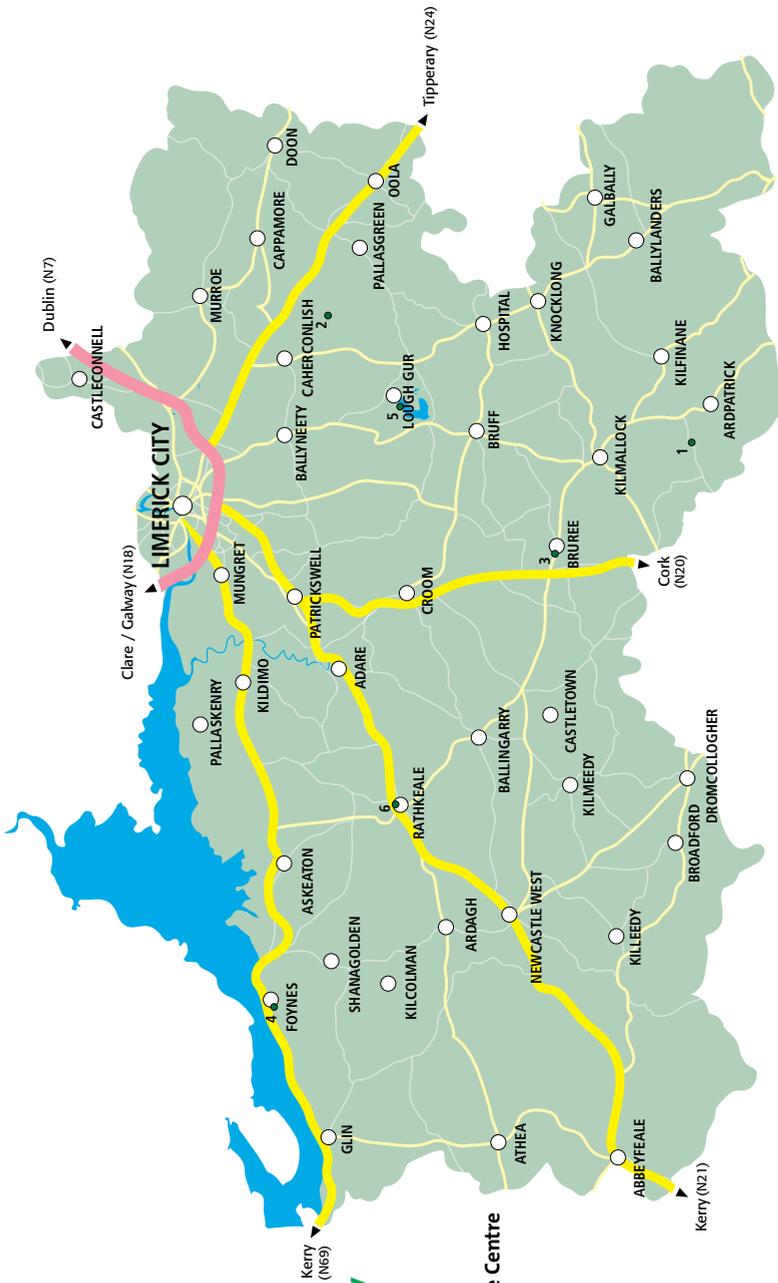
LIMERICK - Gateway to the Wild Atlantic Way



WILD ATLANTIC WAY

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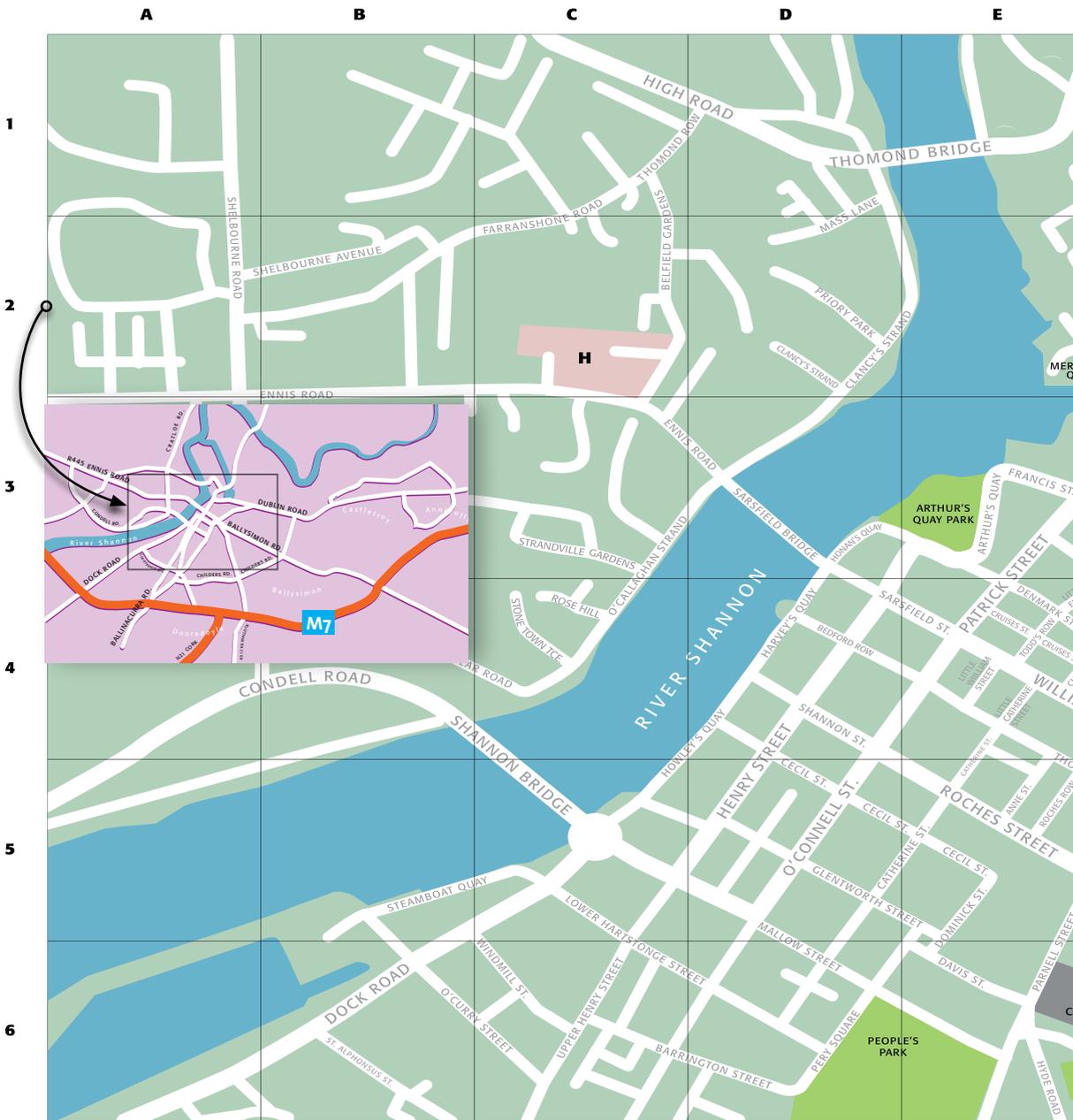




Limerick County Map Key

1. Ballyhoura Trailriders
2. Boskill Equestrian Centre
3. De Valera Museum & Bruree Heritage Centre
4. Foynes Flying Boat Museum
5. Lough Gur Visitor Centre
6. The Irish Palatine Heritage Centre

Please note: This map indicates approximate locations only and does not illustrate all minor roads.



History & Heritage

- King John's Castle- E1**
- Lough Gur Heritage Centre- H6** (Follow Mulgrave St. to Kilmallock Roundabout and R512, Lough Gur)
- St John's Cathedral- G4**
- St Mary's Cathedral- F2**
- The Bishop's Palace- F1**
- The Treaty Stone- D1**

Arts & Culture & Education

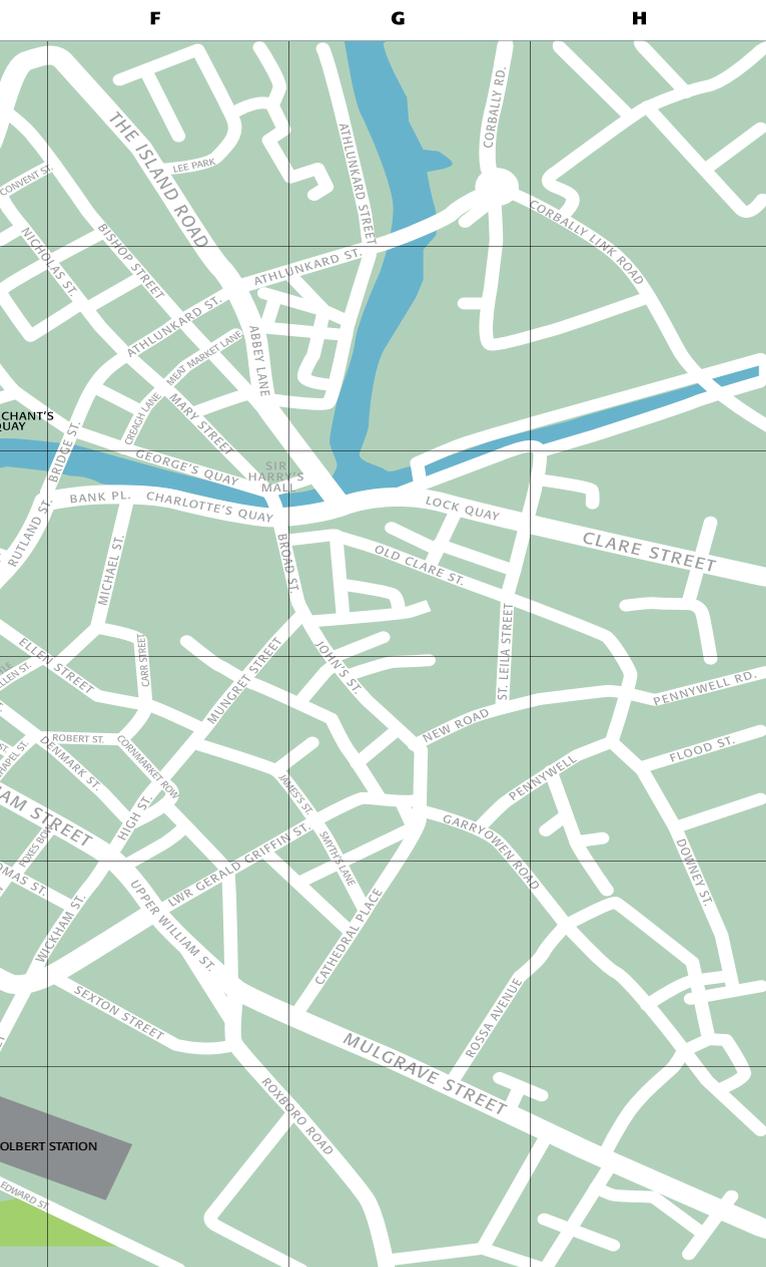
- Ballymorris Pottery- A3** (Follow Ennis Rd. to Ballymorris/Cratloe)
- Limerick City Gallery of Art- D6**

Limerick Craft Hub- D5

- Limerick Museum- E2**
- Mary Immaculate College- A6 or C6** (Follow Dock Rd. to Courtbrack Ave. or follow O'Connell St./Ave. to New St. to South Circular Rd.)
- The Hunt Museum- E3**
- The Lime Tree Theatre- A6** (Follow Dock Rd. to Courtbrack Ave. to Mary Immaculate College)
- University Concert Hall- H2** (Follow Dublin Rd. to Castletroy, University of Limerick)
- University of Limerick- H2** (Follow Dublin Rd. to Castletroy, University of Limerick)

Activities

- Ballyhoura Trailriders - H6** (Follow Mulgrave St. to Ballysimon Rd., R513, Caherconlish)
- Boskill Equestrian Centre- H6** (Follow Mulgrave St. to Kilmallock Roundabout and R512)
- Clonlara Equestrian Centre- G1** (Follow Athlunkard Street to Corbally Rd. to R464, Clonlara)
- Delta Karting- H6** (Follow Mulgrave St. to Ballysimon Rd.)
- Delta Lazer & Adventure Centre- H6** (Follow Mulgrave St. to Ballysimon Rd.)



Delta Sports Dome- H6 (Follow Mulgrave St. to Ballysimon Rd.)
Get West- D3
Limerick Carriage Tours- Ring 085-1578356 for details
Limerick Golf Club- F6 (Follow Hyde Rd. to Rosbrien Rd. to Ballyclough)
Limerick Greyhound Stadium- A6 (Follow Dock Rd. to Greenpark)
Paddywagon Tours (Arthur's Quay SC)- E3
Red Viking Tours- E3
Shannon Ferries- Ring 065-9053124 for details

Thomond Park Experience- C1 (Follow High Rd. to Cratloe Rd.)
Tons of Fun Children's Activity Centre- H6 (Follow Mulgrave St. to Ballysimon Rd.)

Restaurants & Cafés

Absolute Bar & Grill- F3
Amber Restaurant- F3
Bella Italia- E4
Chocolat- D5
DaVincenzo Food & Wine Hall- D4
Food Court (Arthur's Quay SC)- E3
Hong Kong- F4
Hook & Ladder- D4

Kaya Thai- D4
Jasmine Palace- D5
Luigi's- E6
Marco Polo- D5
Sage Café- E4
Texas Steakout- E4
The Copper Room- D5
The Cornstore- E5
The French Table- B5
The Treasury Restaurant- C6
Tuscany Bistro- H2 (Follow Dublin Rd. to Newtown Centre, Annacotty)

Pubs

Bobby Byrnes- C6 (Follow O'Connell St. towards O'Connell Ave)
Collins' Bar- C6 (Follow O'Connell St./Ave. to Ballinacurra Rd. to Dooradoyle Rd.)
Curragower Bar- D2
Dolan's Pub- B6
Fennessy's- A6 or C6 (Follow Dock Rd. to Courtbrack Ave. or follow O'Connell St./Ave. to New St.)
Flannery's Bar (Shannon Street)- D4
Michael Flannery's Pub- F4
Mickey Martin's- E4
Myles Breen's- D4
Nancy Blakes- F4
Phil Flannery's- E4
Smyth's Bar/Icon Nightclub- F4
The Blind Pig, The Speakeasy & The Underbelly- E4
The Glen Tavern- D5
The Horse & Hound- G5
Locke Bar & Oyster House Restaurant- F3
Tom Collins'- D5
WJ South's- C6

Shopping

Arthur's Quay Shopping Centre- E3
Brown Thomas- E4
Connolly Man- E3 (and other branches in D4 and C6, follow O'Connell St./Ave. towards Ballinacurra Rd, Dooradoyle)
Crescent Shopping Centre- C6 (Follow O'Connell St./Ave. towards Ballinacurra Rd., Dooradoyle)
Lucky Lane- E5
M. Cahill & Son- F5
Silverwood- E4
Tailor of Blue- D4
The Milk Market- F4
The Wine Buff- D6

Useful Services

Commmarket Dental- F4

LIMERICK CHAMBER



Celebrating the Past. Shaping The Future.

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Limerick Chamber is the region's premier business member's organisation supporting business growth and driving regional economic vitality.

Limerick Chamber will help your business grow through a range of services and expertise - from a calendar of key business events throughout the year, to providing subsidised

staff training, through to export documentation and representing your business' voice on key issues.

When you have a 200-year legacy of representing business, it's easy to predict how Limerick Chamber will work with you in the future. **Join us today.**

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