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Places to visit on Lower Lough Erne

Belleek Pottery

The town of Belleek is most famous for its fine parian china which is the oldest china in Ireland and has been made here for 150 years. The visitor centre is now one of the top 5 visitor attractions in Ireland and features a showroom, museum, video theatre and tearoom. Tours are available on weekdays.

www.beleekpottery.ie



White Island

This important monastic site is only accessible by boat and features the ruins of a 12th century church with fantastic Romanesque doorway. Set into a wall, there are six intriguing archaic stone figures that have been gathered from different locations in Co. Fermanagh. Not much is known about them, but it is thought that they date from around the 6th century.

Kesh
A cruise along the beautiful tree lined Kesh River will take you to the village of Kesh, with all the amenities of a small town including ATMs, post office, pharmacy, shops, restaurants and a Tourist Information Office. If you are visiting Kesh in August, you can enjoy the Kesh carnival, an annual week-long celebration.



Castle Archdale

Castle Archdale Country Park is an important conservation area with nature trail, butterfly gardens and wildflower meadows. It was originally a plantation castle, but was destroyed in 1689 and all that remains are the fine stable buildings, which now house an Exhibition Centre. For refreshments, there is a pub, a coffee shop serving lunches and sandwiches and a chip shop.

Tully Castle
Here you can see the remains of a 17th century fortified house and gardens with visitor centre and exhibition.
Open from Easter to end of September every day 10am -6pm. Admission is free. Nearby at Tully Bay marina is Enniskillen's newest distillery, **The Boatyard Distillery**.



Devenish Island

One of the most important monastic sites in Ireland dating back to the 6th century. There is a very well preserved round tower from the 12th century, a small oratory known as St. Molaise's House and a number of ancient churches. The accompanying graveyard is very interesting and contains a superb 15th century High Cross. The site is well worth a visit.
The main jetty is at Devenish East, but if it's too crowded, try Devenish West.

For further information on things to do on Lough Erne, see
<https://www.fermanaghlakelands.com/>

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Things to do in Enniskillen

Enniskillen is the county town of Fermanagh and by far, the largest settlement in the area. It is built on a natural island separating Upper and Lower Lough Erne, and there is a selection of mooring locations dotted along the banks. It is home to many attractions, so visit the Tourist Information Centre on Wellington Road where you will find helpful information and brochures.

Enniskillen Castle and Museums

Enniskillen has been the main crossing point of the Erne throughout history and the castle has guarded this strategic location since the 16th century. It now houses 2 museums - the Fermanagh County Museum and the Inniskillings Museum.



Marble Arch Caves

This Global Geopark is a short taxi journey from Enniskillen but is worth it for one of the finest show caves in Europe. Discover a fascinating underworld of rivers, waterfalls, winding passages and lofty chambers.



Shopping

The town centre is built around the long main street, where you will find many high street shops as well as small boutiques and independent traders. As the main retail hub in the area, the town is busy and bustling and has a unique character.

Erneside Shopping Centre. With a jetty right outside the Shopping Centre, it couldn't be more convenient. You will find many high street shops and there are also 2 supermarkets beside the Erneside if you need to top up your provisions for the boat.

Buttermarket Craft and Design Centre. Housed in a restored dairy market, this is the place to go for crafts and local produce.

Castle Coole National Trust

Mooring at either the Ardhowan Theatre or the Killyhevlin Hotel, on the opposite side of the road is Castle Coole, a magnificent National Trust Irish Country House. Set in a beautiful wooded landscape park, it is ideal for family walks.



For further information on things to do in Enniskillen, see
<https://www.fermanaghlakelands.com/>

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Places to visit on Upper Lough Erne

Knockninny

You will find good facilities here and a small beach area, which is lovely in good weather. There is a very nice walk of about 7km to the top of Knockninny Hill where you will be rewarded with panoramic views of Upper Lough Erne.

Knockninny Country House Hotel is located right beside the jetty. It is advisable to book in advance.



Share Discovery Village

The Share Village is an outdoor activity and adventure centre offering lots of activities for all ages, including an inflatable water park. There is also an indoor leisure centre, swimming pool and coffee shop. There is a small fee required to moor at this location, but it entitles you to free use of the facilities. More details are available at www.sharevillage.org



Crom Estate National Trust

This is one of Ireland's most important nature conservation areas, with 2000 acres of woodland to explore. There are a number of woodland walks and nature trails. The old farm buildings have been converted into a visitor centre and tearoom.

There are 2 castles - the older castle is close to the visitor centre and the well-preserved 19th century castle is still inhabited and not open to the public.



Belturbet

The largest town on this section of Lough Erne. One of Ireland's best known fishing centres with ample mooring at the large marina. The traditional market town is a short walk away with many shops, restaurants and bars. The town comes alive during the summer months welcoming visitors from across the globe. Visitor Attractions include Turbet Island - motte and bailey and Belturbet Station, a historic old railway station, which was the connecting point of the Cavan and Leitrim narrow gauge railway and the GNR standard gauge railway. It now houses a visitor centre and tea room.



For further information on things to do on Lough Erne, see <https://www.fermanaghlakelands.com/>

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Places to visit on the Shannon/Erne Waterway

The Shannon Erne Waterway is 63 km of canal, linking the beautiful Lough Erne near Belturbet with the mighty River Shannon at Leitrim village. There are 16 locks to navigate, 31 bridges and plenty of peace and tranquility off the beaten track.



Ballyconnell

Located at the Erne end of the Shannon/Erne Waterway, this small town is well worth a visit. There are a number of restaurants and pubs, many with traditional music at weekends. Many legendary names are associated with this little town, including Conan the Victorious, St. Patrick and William of Orange. Just a mile from the town is the Slieve Russell Hotel and County Club, with an 18 hole golf course, several restaurants and lounge bars, a superb leisure centre and a luxury spa. For a lovely walk, the Woodford River Walk takes you from the bridge in Ballyconnell, along the Woodford River through Annagh Woods and back onto the river path.

For further information, see

<https://thisiscavan.ie/towns/ballyconnell/>

Ballinamore

This friendly town located at the foot of the Sliabh An Iarainn, translated as The Iron Mountain, boasts two marinas. Groceries can be purchased at the local supermarket and there is a map board of the town and surrounding areas at the marina. The restored library in the town now houses an interesting heritage and genealogical research centre where you can trace your Irish roots. Like most Irish towns, there is no shortage of pubs in Ballinamore. A short walk up the Main Street will reveal a number of options - many also serve good food. A series of way marked hill walks have been developed in the nearby Sliabh An Iarainn Mountain, varying in length from 30 minutes to 3 hours. They are marked on a map board at Aghacashel Post Office and further details can be obtained in the shop. It

is about a 15-minute taxi drive from Ballinamore. For further information, see

<https://www.ballinamore.ie/>

Keshcarrigan

A timeless little village steeped in the folklore of Sheebeg and Sheemore, the two surrounding mountains regarded as home to the fairies or "little people". The warrior Fionn Mac Cumhal is said to be buried on Sheebeg. The view from the summit of Sheebeg is breathtaking.

Keshcarrigan is well known for the great music pubs.

Leitrim

This little village is the gateway to the Shannon. The village pulled itself from near ruin in the 1600's when Donal O' Sullivan ended his long march from Kerry at Leitrim Castle, the ruins of which you can still see close to the marina. Leitrim is now a thriving little town with many mooring facilities and is a popular stop off as the entrance to the Shannon Erne Waterway.

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Places to visit north of Carrick-on-Shannon

Lough Allen

The beautiful setting of Lough Allen has Sliabh an Iarainn, the Iron Mountain, to the East and the Arigna Mountains to the west. The Lough Allen Canal was constructed in 1820 to enable coal mined in the Arigna area to be brought down the Shannon to the Royal Canal. You can learn more of this history at the **Arigna Mining Experience**. The first stop along the Lough Allen Canal is at **Battlebridge**, a small holiday village with a lovely family restaurant and all the facilities of caravan/camping site. A little bit further is **Acres Lake** and the town of **Drumshanbo**. Acres Lake has family amenities including outdoor swimming pool, tennis court, children's playground and a pool table as well as a Ireland's first floating boardwalk. The pretty village of Drumshanbo is surrounded by scenic woodland and there are a number of pleasant walks around the hills in the area. Take a tour of the **Shed Distillery**, the home of Gunpowder Irish Gin or, for something a bit more adventurous, try the **Lough Allen Adventure Centre**.
Please note that some of our larger boats cannot pass through Battlebridge Lock. Ask if you are unsure.

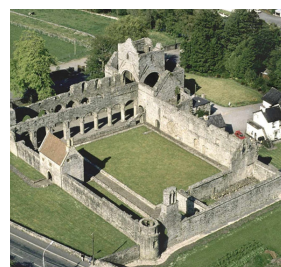
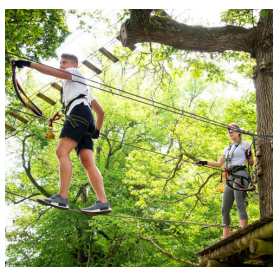


Lough Key

One of the the most popular locations for family activities is **Lough Key Forest Park**. Activities include a children's play area, **Boda Borg Challenge**, a **Looking Tower** with spectacular views across the lough and Ireland's only **Tree Canopy Trail**. One of the latest additions is **Zipit Forest Adventures** with circuits for adults and children.

Many of the islands of Lough Key have the remains of early Christian monasteries or churches and **Castle Island** and **Trinity Island** are worth investigating if you have a dinghy (not accessible by cruiser).

Boyle is a large, modern town with a rich history, much of it centred on the King family, one of the wealthiest families in 17th century Ireland. Visitor attractions include **King House**, once home to the "Kings of Connaught" and **Boyle Abbey**, which contains the best preserved Cistercian Abbey remains in Ireland and dates back to 1161.



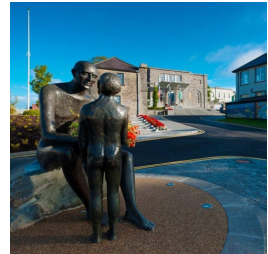
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Places to visit on the Upper Shannon

Carrick-on-Shannon

There is a lot happening in this thriving town, the centre of boating holidays on the Upper Shannon. There are new and old parts to the town with much history dating back to the late 1600's. The narrow streets of Carrick are full of shops selling gifts, groceries and general goods and the **Market Yard** is well worth a visit. Take a visit to the **Costello Chapel**, the smallest chapel in Ireland, or the multi purpose arts centre, **The Dock**, with an extensive performing and visual arts programme.

There is a wide range of dining options from traditional Irish to international cuisine including Indian, Thai and Italian.



Jamestown

A small rural village founded by royal charter of King James I in 1622, this is a lovely place to stop. The 17th century fortifications of the village can still be seen, most notably the remnants of the northern gateway pillars. Follow the signs around the town for the historic town trail which also has information panels. **The Cottage Restaurant**, just outside the village is one of the best in the area.

Drumsna

The village is very small and picturesque and sits on a hill overlooking the old loop of the Shannon, which is now bypassed by the Jamestown Canal. There are a few pubs in the village, the most well-known is **Duignan's**, which also has a grocery shop so you can stock up on provisions. This traditional pub has been in the same hands since 1890 and expertly blends the traditional with the contemporary. Food is served all day and you will often find games and quizzes and live music in the evenings.



Carnadoe Lakes

From Lough Boderg, veering off to the west will see you travel through the Carnadoe waters. This location advertises Irish scenery at its best. Acres of unspoilt land and home to a plethora of wildlife. This area is popular with fishermen. **Grange Lough** is a remote location with outstanding views of the lakes and **The Silver Eel Bar and Restaurant** is in Grange. There is also a jetty at the far end of **Kilglass Lough**, which offers typical Irish scenery at every turn. The closest town is **Strokestown**, about 5km from Kilglass, where you can visit **Strokestown Park House** and famine museum

Dromod

A picturesque little village with a number of shops and very good bars/restaurants. **Cox's Steakhouse** is highly recommended. A map board can be found at the marina. There are also a number of other businesses in the village including a hairdressing salon, a beauty salon and a fitness centre. All in all, the facilities are very good for such a small village. Tennis courts are available beside the harbour. Experience the age of steam transport with the beautifully restored Narrow Gauge Railway at **Cavan and Leitrim Railway**.



For further information on things to do on the Upper Shannon, see <https://leitrimtourism.com/>

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Places to visit on the Upper Shannon

Rooskey

A popular stop off with moorings located at the bridge or alongside the more secluded jetties dotted between the bridge and the lock. It is a small town with a number of shops and pubs. Home of **Shannon River Adventure**, where you will find lots of activities on the water and on land, including archery, climbing wall and mud slide.



Tarmonbarry

You can moor either between the bridge and the lock, or downstream of the lock which is just a short walk to the small village. There is a small supermarket at the petrol station heading west out of the village. **Keenans** and **The Purple Onion** and both very good restaurants. The large town of Longford is about 5 miles east of Tarmonbarry and has all the facilities you would expect of a large town.



Clondra/Richmond Harbour

Clondra is a small town that typifies the Irish way of life - peaceful, easygoing, with no concept of time. That is until it becomes a hive of activity during the many events and festivals during the summer months. These include a heritage week, outdoor country music festival and a canal boat rally.

There is a very good children's playground at the harbour. This is the **historic harbour** where the Royal Canal meets the River Shannon. This imposing harbour was once home to a flax mill and the flax was transported along the Royal Canal to Dublin. It was also an embarkation point during the famine times for passengers to begin their long journey to the New World. Beside the present church in **Clondra**, is the site of a 12th century abbey, which was probably an early monastic settlement.

You can also see 2 gravestones dating from the 5th century. The **Richmond Inn** is a welcoming bar and restaurant overlooking the harbour. The building was a flax mill in the 1800's.



Lanesborough/Ballyleague

The last mooring before heading into Lough Ree, Lanesborough is a small town on the east side of the River and Ballyleague is to the west, with the river separating the two. Lanesborough is famous for having the first turf-fired electricity generator in Ireland. You will find all amenities here including shops, many pubs, 2 golf courses nearby and even a tennis court. There is a very good children's play area, just behind the parish hall. Lanesborough is very popular for fishing and is famous for its "**hot water stretch**", which exists due to the power station in the area. The warm waters attract bream, tench and roach in large numbers.



The Commons North Woodland Walk is a very attractive and accessible 4.5km circular route, starting just behind the Parish Hall in Lanesborough and heading south towards Lough Ree. It is signposted with white markers, then you have the option of following the inner loop (yellow arrows) or the outer loop (brown arrows). There are also information panels along the way. Lanesborough is also home to **Lough Ree Distillery**, gin and whiskey makers and the Distillery yard coffee shop.

For further information on things to do on the Upper Shannon, see <https://leitrimtourism.com/>

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Places to visit on Lough Ree

Portrunny

A quiet location in the North West corner of Lough Ree with very good service block and children's play area. There are no shops or restaurants near the marina. A pleasant walk from here takes you along the south shore of Cruit Bay to Cruit Point.



LeCarrow



The Lecarrow canal was constructed in the 1840s to transport stone from the local quarry to the navigation works at Athlone. A short journey up the canal will take you to the peaceful little village of Lecarrow where you will find **Coffey's Bar**, a traditional country pub and grocery store. Fishing in the canal will reward you with plenty of trout. There are 2 looped walks about 3 km from the village of Lecarrow. The **Rinn Duin Loop** is a 3 km walking trail marked by a green arrow and takes you around Rinn Duin Castle. The **Warren Point Loop** is 4.5 km and marked by a blue arrow. It also goes around **St. John's Wood**, one of the oldest oak tree woods in Europe. From the harbour, take the road away from the village and walk for 3km to find the start of the walks.

Hodson Bay

Within walking distance of the marina, you will find **Hodson Bay Hotel**, which has a number of dining options as well as a swimming pool and fitness centre. Just yards from the mooring at Hodson Bay is **Athlone Golf Club**, a mature parkland course of exceptional quality and beauty, which has played host to numerous Golfing Championships. **Bay Sports** is also just a short distance from the jetty. This is an inflatable floating adventure park with slides, rafts, climbing frame and hamster wheels. One of a kind in Ireland.



Glasson



The three interconnecting lakes of Killinure, Ballykeeran and Coosan are known as the **Inner Lakes** and are a fisherman's paradise. The marshes and reedbeds in this area provide a habitat for a number of interesting plants and flowers, in particular many species of orchid. The village of **Glasson**, known as the "Village of the Roses" is in Goldsmith Country, the area where the famous Irish writer Oliver Goldsmith lived. You can moor either at **Glasson Lakehouse** or at the **Wineport Lodge** and the village is about a 30 minute walk. There are a number of very high quality restaurants in the village and also a shop for stocking up on groceries and a pharmacy. It is also home to **Glasson Craft Gallery**, which houses a mix of genuine Irish homemade craft and original art.

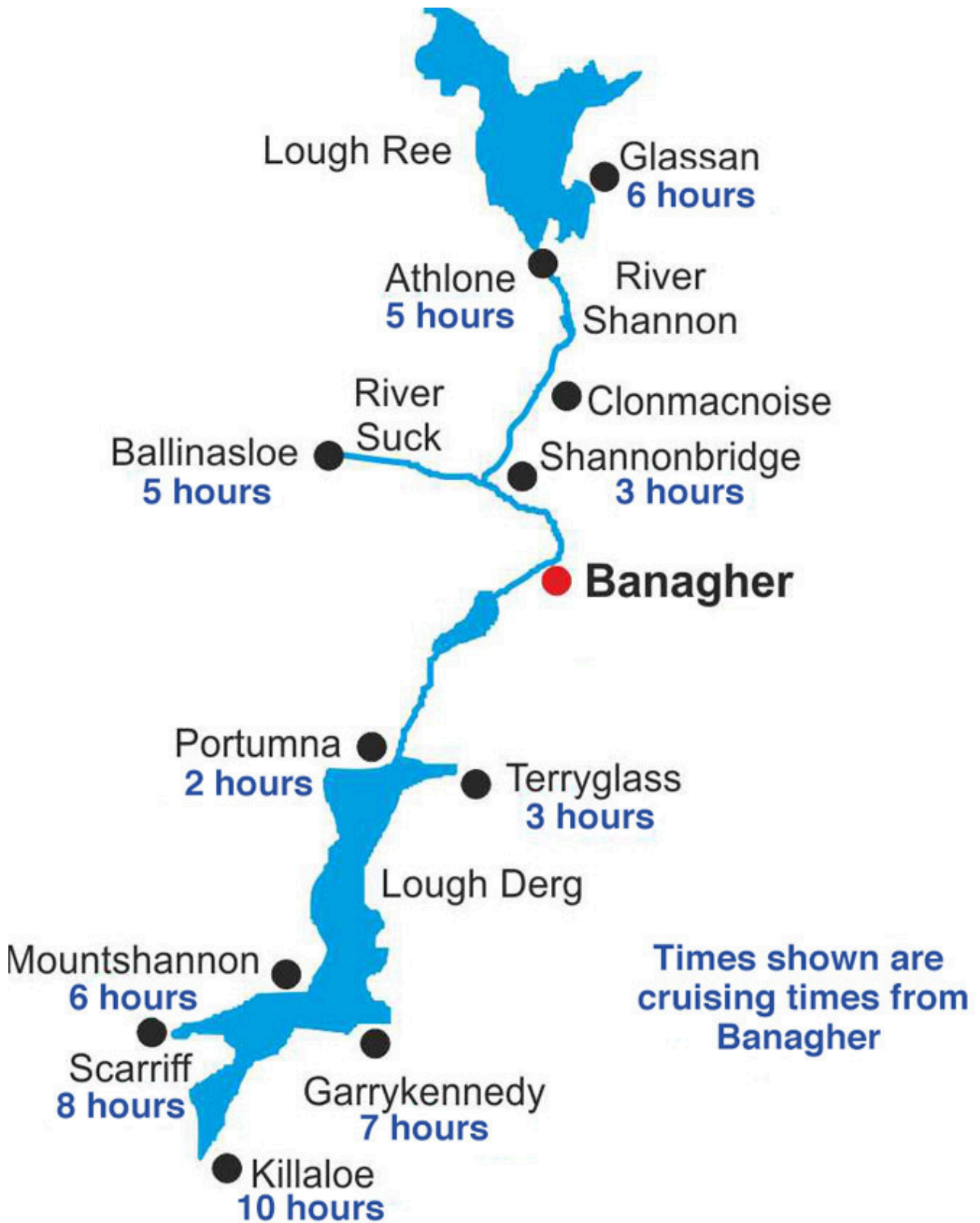
Coosan Point

This is a lovely quiet spot to spend a few hours. There is a very good children's playground and a small beach and bathing area. The **Lough Ree Inn** is close by where food is served all day.



For further information on things to do on Lough Ree, see <https://www.discoverireland.ie/>

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Places to visit on the Lower Shannon

Athlone

The largest town on the Shannon with all modern facilities and known as the "Middle of Ireland". It has always been considered an important crossing point on the Shannon. Visit Athlone Castle or the Luan Gallery, or take a pint in Ireland's Oldest Pub, Sean's Bar. The Shannon Banks Nature Trail is a 5km walk following the old Athlone Canal. For further information, see <https://athlone.ie/>



Clonmacnois



Founded by St. Ciaran in 545 AD, Clonmacnois was one of the great monastic cities of early Europe. There are now a number of churches (10th to 13th century), 2 round towers, 3 high celtic crosses and stone temples. The long and varied history is recounted in an audio-visual presentation shown in the visitor centre. Guided tours of the site are available. The visitor centre also has a coffee shop, a gift shop and a tourist office.

Ballinasloe

Just north of Banagher, a deviation on the Shannon leads to the River Suck, which is navigable as far as Ballinasloe. It is a large town with all modern facilities. With many hotels, pubs and numerous restaurants and coffee shops, you won't have any problem finding an eating house here. The River Suck runs deep and slow, providing excellent coarse fishing, particularly for bream and rudd.



Shannonbridge



Shannonbridge is the first stop north of Banagher, just where the River Suck meets the Shannon. The strategic location made it very important during the Napoleonic era and the fortifications can still be seen today. The famous 16 arch bridge is one of the oldest across the Shannon and was completed in 1757. Known as the Shannon Callows, this is an important nature conservation area and is surrounded by boglands. Lukers Bar, a traditional heritage pub and Fallons Bar, home of Seven Churches Irish Whiskey, are both well worth a visit.

Banagher

Banagher is an easy-going, modern town with a long history, dating back to the 17th century. It is now a very important location for visitors to the River Shannon. Nature lovers will enjoy the variety of bird and plant life and the sound of the corncrake around the meadows and peatlands on both sides of the river in this area, known as the Shannon Callows. The town of Banagher is centred on the main street, which could easily be walked in 10 minutes. All amenities including grocery shops, banks, post office and pharmacy are located in the town centre. Most of the town's supermarkets will deliver your groceries to your boat. Banagher also has its very own brewery and the famous Bo Bristle beer is available in many of the pubs in town.



For further information on things to do on the Lower Shannon, see <https://www.discoverireland.ie/>

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Places to visit on Lough Derg North

Portumna Castle

Located near Castle Harbour. The original castle was constructed around 1616, but completely destroyed by fire and rebuilt in 1864. The Forest Park contains 1500 acres of parkland with an abundance of flora and fauna including a herd of rare Irish red deer. There are many lovely walks and nature trails and it is a great site for a picnic. The ruins of the Dominican Priory are also within the boundaries of the Forest Park, close to Castle Harbour. There is an excellent play park behind the castle.



Terryglass

A charming little village on the eastern shores of Lough Derg. The marina alone is worth a visit with its picnic area, children's play area and breathtaking views of Lough Derg. The village is around 10 minutes walk from the moorings and is on the site of 6th century monastery, of which little remains. The village is quite small with 2 pubs, both renowned for good food, drink and craic.



Mountshannon

Built as a model village on a green field site around 1740, Mountshannon sits on a hill with fantastic views of Lough Derg and the surrounding area. There is a small beach area beside the marina and there are shops, pubs and restaurants. Take a trip on your dinghy to **Holy Island**, once a monastic settlement and associated with many early Irish Saints and don't forget to look out for the **Mountshannon Eagles**.



Dromineer

Home to Lough Derg Yacht Club, one of oldest yacht clubs in the world and the RNLI Lifeboat station. There are many water-based businesses here including **Aquasplash**, inflatable Water Park. There is a very good children's play area beside the harbour and a little beach area. **The Whiskey Still** is an excellent pub and restaurant where you will find great entertainment and great food.



For further information on things to do on Lough Derg, see
<https://discoverloughderg.ie/>

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Places to visit on Lough Derg South

Scarriff

The limit of navigation on the Scariff River will take you to the most western point on Lough Derg and the small town of Scariff - a market town built on a hill, about a 10 minute walk from the harbour. The riverside park at Scariff is a lovely place to pass an hour or so and has a modern children's play area. What looks like a tower house in the grounds of the Spanish owned timber factory is in fact a water tower erected in the 19th century for an infamous workhouse that was built nearby.



Garrykennedy

The views of Lough Derg are spectacular from this location. You can moor in the old harbour which was constructed in the early 19th century from the ruins of the medieval castle. There is also a newly constructed marina with floating jetties. It is worth a stop for the picturesque marina alone, with its beautiful park and picnic areas, children's playground and barbeque facilities. It is a very popular stop for fans of traditional Irish music as both pubs in the village have regular music sessions.



Killaloe/Ballina

The most southern navigable point on Lough Derg takes you to the twin towns of Killaloe, on the western side of the lough and Ballina to the east, separated by the 13 arch stone bridge. Killaloe is famous as the home of Brian Boru, the legendary High King of Ireland. Killaloe is characterised by its narrow, winding streets which lead uphill to the RC church while Ballina is mostly concentrated on the road that runs parallel to the river. Although Killaloe is a modern town, it is steeped in history and all around, there is evidence of its past as the capital of 11th Century Ireland. Visit the 12th century **St. Flannan's Oratory** or the gothic style **St. Flannan's Cathedral**, unique for its interesting stone carvings. There is a 4km heritage walking trail, which will take you around all the important heritage sites in the area.



For further information on things to do on Lough Derg, see <https://discoverloughderg.ie/>