VOYAGES AND VISITS

Enjoying Ireland’s Inland Waterways
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Introduction

Leave ripples, take memories

The steel-grey lakes, meandering waters and tranquil canals of Ireland’s inland waterways create a rich tapestry of pastoral landscapes, stately homes, archaeological remains and sleepy towns.

Hours can stand still or fly by as you explore these water trails. You become a master of your own destiny when you take a barge, boat or canoe on these glistening waters. Suddenly you are the skipper with the freedom to decide where to go, when to stop and what to visit.

From the stately splendour of the Shannon, the antiquities of the Erne to the lush valleys of the Barrow, when you embark on a trip along Ireland’s waterways, hundreds of kilometres of fascinating waterscape unfold before your very eyes.

Serving as an aquatic playground for boaters, canoeists, kayakers and anglers alike, all you need is time to enjoy its splendour, in whatever way you choose.

Gathered together in this publication is the navigational and practical information that will help you to plan a voyage, or enjoy a visit to Ireland’s Inland Waterways.
Lower Bann Navigation

Navigable from Lough Neagh to the Irish Sea at the Barmouth, Co. Antrim, the Lower Bann Navigation is a veritable paradise for recreational activity. With only five locks, rustic stretches of open water allow for leisurely cruising along its historic plains.

“The boat rides forward where the line slants back. The oars in their locks go round and round”

Setting, Seamus Heaney
Lower Bann Navigation is a popular area for watersports, angling and cruising. Careful zoning ensures that all activities are conducted with safety and enjoyment in mind. Along the lingering passages of the river, rowing and canoeing are available through a number of active clubs. For adrenaline seekers, waterskiing, power boating and jet skiing are practised in dedicated zones and, in several areas, lessons are offered to novices.

If tranquil beauty and majestic rock formations are more in line with your thinking, take a trip to sea to visit the attractions of the spectacular nearby Causeway Coast, including its picturesque villages and dotted islands. The Giant’s Causeway is Northern Ireland’s only UNESCO World Heritage Site and is located close to the Lower Bann Navigation. Seemingly carved by the hands of giants, the resultant topography is rich and steeped in drama and history. The accessible Mountsandel Fort outside Coleraine is the earliest known human settlement in Ireland at 7,000 years old.

As well as being sited near some impressive geological centrepieces, the Lower Bann Navigation traverses an area of scenic beauty and environmental interest. The river basin is teeming with migrant waterfowl, waders and nesting birds. The river itself provides a conduit for migrating eels and salmon as well as a habitat for coarse fish species. The sand dunes at Portstewart near where the river enters the sea are managed as a National Trust nature reserve.

Peaceful strolls through ancient woods, jaunts along glassy canal banks and forays into forests – the Lower Bann offers some great short walks that whisk you through centuries of history and right to the edge of Lough Neagh.

On the North Coast, a short distance from the Lower Bann Navigation, you can enjoy a number of thrilling spectacles. For example, the North West 200 motorcycle race is recognised as one of the premier road racing events in Europe, or look to the skies for the NI International Airshow.
Lower Bann Navigation

Length and No. of Locks

Toomebridge to Coleraine Centre - 52km
No. of Locks - 5 (1 double)
Coleraine Centre to the Barmouth - 8km
(Managed by Coleraine Harbour Commissioners)

Opening Hours of Locks

1 Apr to 31 May - 10.00 to 18.30
1 Jun to 31 Aug - 09.00 to 20.00
1 Sept to 31 Oct - 10.00 to 18.00
1 Nov to 31 Mar - 10.00 to 16.00
Lunch (locks closed) - 13.00 to 14.00

Navigation Dimensions

Length of locks - 35m
Beam of locks - 5.5m
Draft - *1.2m
Air draft - 1.5m at high water Coleraine
- 4.2m at low water Coleraine

*Draft dimensions are given as a guide only
and cannot be guaranteed.

Masters of deep drafted boats are asked to contact the operations office in Coleraine before travelling +44 (0)28 7034 4342

Locks

The five locks on the Lower Bann Navigation are operated by lock-keepers. A lock passage is £1 per lock, with a reduction to £0.50 if two or more boats go together. Contact the lock-keepers on the following numbers before travelling:

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<tr>
<th>Lock</th>
<th>Telephone No.</th>
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<td>Toome</td>
<td>+44 (0)78 7603 2891</td>
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<td>Portna</td>
<td>+44 (0)28 2954 0214</td>
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<td>Movanagher and</td>
<td>+44 (0)28 2954 0570</td>
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<td>Carnroe</td>
<td>+44 (0)28 7034 2999</td>
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<td>Cutts</td>
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Access to the Lower Bann Navigation

A number of slipways are available for use on the Lower Bann Navigation (see page 8 for details). Boats wishing to access the Lower Bann Navigation must comply with local authority guidelines, where applicable.

Mast Lowering Facility

There is a mast lowering facility at Coleraine Marina.

Entrance from the Sea

The Lower Bann river is navigable from the sea at the Barmouth. Care should be taken at the entrance as in rough conditions there can be breaking waves. Coleraine Harbour Commissioners can be contacted on +44 (0)28 7034 2012. Whilst in this area use VHF Ch12 and Admiralty Chart Number 2499.
## Services

The services listed below are provided by Waterways Ireland, the Local Councils and private owners.

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<th>Location</th>
<th>Toilets</th>
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*A pump-out service is available on Fridays at Coleraine Marina +44 (0)28 7034 4768. There is a fee for this service.

Please note that there may be a charge for launching from some of the Council-owned slipways. Contact the relevant Council for further information.

### Zoning

Specific activities should be undertaken in the appropriate designated zone. For example, a “No Wash Zone” is suitable for activities that do not create a wash such as angling, rowing, canoeing etc. A wash is the flow of water behind every craft powered by an engine, which causes a disturbance in the water. For further information on zoning, please refer to the Lower Bann Navigational Guide on the website www.waterwaysireland.org
Erne System

Once a trade route for the Vikings, untouched by modern commercial navigation, the Erne System remains a truly unspoilt paradise for boating enthusiasts, anglers and watersports fanatics. With so many moorings on islands along the waterway, complete isolation is possible on the Erne System.

“And watch the ship sail up or down, the red flag at her stern — Adieu to these, adieu to all the winding banks of Erne!”

The Winding Banks of Erne, William Allingham
The Erne System has its share of dramatic landscapes, island-dotted expanses and historical treasures including: the monastic round tower at Devenish Island; the ruined remains of Tully Castle; the picture-postcard image of Enniskillen’s 400-year-old medieval castle and the National Trust’s Castle Coole and Crom Estate all vying for your attention.

With a number of hire companies along its length, the Erne System is a boater’s dream. Cruisers are readily available for exploring Upper Lough Erne, or for taking in the magnificent mountain scenery that grips the shoreline of Lower Lough Erne. You’ll find a world of entertainment awaiting you in the many towns and villages that spring up along your route. In Enniskillen, the local theatre even has its own mooring just metres from the door, as does the shopping centre, armed with everything you’ll need for your waterway getaway.

When it comes to watersports, Lough Erne certainly has it covered. The Enniskillen Blueway Water Activity Zone sits just beside the Erneside Footbridge, and brings a whole host of watersports to an urban location. Try some kayaking, canoeing or stand-up paddleboarding. The Erne Water Taxi and Erne Boat Hire can also be found at the zone.

If you’d prefer to discover the secrets of the waterway on your own, you can use the designated Lough Erne Canoe Trail. Both leisure and competitive sailing are plentiful on the Lower Lough, with the Lough Erne Yacht Club based at Killadeas. Rowing is another popular activity with the local Enniskillen Royal Boat Club operating from their base at Portora.

Climb to Magho Viewpoint for an unparalleled vista across Lower Lough Erne then unwind as you explore the many castles, museums and traditional craft shops that Fermanagh has to offer. Ride horses, hit a few golf balls or simply relax, enjoying the scenery and wildlife as time passes you by.
Erne System

**Length and No. of Locks**

84km from Belleek to Belturbet with 1 lock

**Navigation Dimensions**

Length of lock - 36m  
Beam of lock - 6m  
Draft - 1.2m  
Air draft - 4.2m

*Draft dimensions are given as a guide only and cannot be guaranteed.*

**Opening Hours of Locks**

Portora Lock is the only lock on the system and is usually open during the cruising season.

### Services

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Shannon-Erne Waterway

Flanked by lush riverside pastures, the Shannon-Erne Waterway is 63km of river, lake and still-water canal. Between Leitrim Village and just north of Belturbet, the Shannon-Erne Waterway links the two great waterways on the island, the historical Erne System and the colourful Shannon Navigation.

“Come away, O human child! To the waters and the wild”

The Stolen Child, WB Yeats
At the heart of the Shannon-Erne Waterway is its tranquillity. Relax and restore along its serene waters, all the while aware that untold activity is only ever a stone’s throw away. In the midst of carefree cruising there are an increasing number of gastropubs so you can sit back, unwind and enjoy the best of Irish cuisine. In addition to boating there is a fringing of mountains for the adventurous. Anglers will also find a paradise of fishing with locals more than willing to impart their wisdom on where the best spots are.

Cruisers and barges can move freely along the Shannon-Erne Waterway, mooring in some of the fully serviced public marinas found along its length. Sixteen locks are managed electro-hydraulically by a smart card that allows ease of passage through the locks. Several boat hire companies offer barges and cruisers for easy weekend trips or laidback week-long journeys. This popular option means anyone can visit the Shannon and the Erne easily.

Re-opened in 1994, this waterway has unlocked a countryside few had ever seen and over the past two decades this serene stretch of water has grown in popularity. An abundance of history and folklore are found at each meander and as you travel these still waters, you will be disturbed only by native swans, otters and kingfishers. Canoeing and rowing are also a common sight with clubs based in Belturbet and Carrick-on-Shannon. Taking full advantage of the waterway, canoeists can use the many slipways to gain access to its peaceful passage. The Shannon-Erne Blueway, a multi-activity trail for paddlers, walkers and cyclists, provides endless scope for families and friends to enjoy.

As you journey along this symbolic link between southern and northern Ireland, it won’t take long for you to be enchanted by the wonderful array of fascinating history, welcoming villages and delicious eateries.
Shannon-Erne Waterway

Length and No. of Locks

63km from Leitrim Village to Upper Lough Erne with 16 locks

Opening Hours of Locks

Apr to Oct - 09.00 to 20.00
Nov to Mar - 09.00 to dusk i.e. during daylight hours

Navigation Dimensions

Length of locks - 24m
Beam of locks - 4.5m
Draft - 1.2m
Air draft - 3.2m over a width of 3m

Draft dimensions are given as a guide only and cannot be guaranteed.

Waterways Patrollers

Waterway patrollers are present along the Shannon-Erne Waterway to assist boat users and can be contacted at the numbers below.

Kilclare area
+353 (0)87 260 3663

Lock 16
+353 (0)87 260 8569

Ballinamore
+353 (0)87 260 2478

Ballyconnell
+353 (0)87 260 3662

Lock 1
+44 (0)28 6774 8976

Locks

The 16 locks on the Shannon-Erne Waterway are operated by a smart card. The lock operating console is located at the side of the lock. Diagrammatic instructions inform the lock user about how to use the lock equipment safely.

Services

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Shannon Navigation

The Shannon Navigation is a treasure waiting to be discovered. As Ireland’s longest river, the Shannon’s banks and lakes were once a major commercial waterway bustling with colour and trade. Today, the Shannon Navigation continues to boast busy harbours, peaceful bays, lively villages and fascinating historical sites.

“I thought I saw Lough Allen’s bank in the valleys’ down below
It was my lovely Leitrim where the Shannon water’s flow”

Lovely Leitrim, Larry Cunningham
You’ll be amazed at the range of activities along the Shannon Navigation, all set against a backdrop of stunning natural scenery. Harbours and marinas in villages welcome all kinds of watersports and boating enthusiasts. With thriving boat-hire companies and activity centres scattered along the water’s edge, everything you need for your water adventure is located around each flowing bend.

If it’s a tranquil escape you’re looking for, enjoy a leisurely wander or take a soothing ride from the seat of a bicycle. Brand new multi-activity trails for paddlers, walkers and cyclists provide a unique and safe experience for visitors. Along this Shannon Blueway, new adventures are to be had by young and old alike. For anglers and golfers there are abundant spots and lush courses throughout the countryside just waiting for you to arrive for a relaxing day of practising your skills.

With many spectacular sights along the Shannon, discover the rich history along this ancient trail. From the sixteen-arch bridge at Shannonbridge, said to have been built against a feared Napoleonic invasion, to the 1,400-year-old settlement of Clonmacnoise with its round towers casting shadows over one of the oldest monastic communities in Europe, the River Shannon’s stories run so deep you can almost feel them emanating from its surface.

If a day spent exploring the many towns and villages along the Shannon takes your fancy, moorings are readily available along the waterway. You’ll be spoilt for choice as Irish music pubs and fine-dining restaurants and cafés are dotted along the banks.

To experience true community spirit and local culture, plan your visit around the many festivals and events held throughout the year that effectively capture the unique character of the area. Visit the Scarriff Harbour Festival and the Iniscealtra Festival of Arts, or one the many music, sports and cultural events happening up and down the length of the Shannon.
Length and No. of Locks

Shannon - 215km with 7 locks including Ardnacrusha
River Suck - 16km with 1 lock
Lough Allen Canal - 7km with 3 locks

Navigation Dimensions

Shannon
Length of locks - 31m
Beam of locks:
Upper Shannon - 9m
Lower Shannon - 12m
Camlin River - 5.75m
Draft - 1.35m
Air draft - Variable*

Lough Allen
Length of locks - 19.5m
Beam of locks - 4m
Draft - 1.2m
Air draft - 3m

Draft dimensions are given as a guide only and cannot be guaranteed.

* To facilitate your decision regarding air draft, gauges are in place on the approaches to some of the bridges. Lowest bridge on the main navigation is at Killaloe; air draft at normal summer level is 3.85m. Owners of a deep-drafted craft, greater than 1.2m should contact the Inspectorate before travelling.

Locks and Bridges

The locks on the Shannon are operated by lock-keepers. A dual payment system is now in operation at all locks and bridges, whereby payment can be made by either Smart Card or cash. The charge for craft going through a lock or a bridge on the Shannon is 2 units/€1.50. Where bridge lifting is required at Tarmonbarry and Rooskey, a combined toll payments for the lock and bridge will be taken at the Lock.

Further information on smart cards is available on page 54.

Opening Hours of Locks and Bridges

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<tr>
<th>Period</th>
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<th>Sundays</th>
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<td>Nov 2 – Mar 13</td>
<td>09.00 – 12.30</td>
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Lunch Break: 13.00 – 14.00

Portumna Bridge

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Lock-keepers

Lock-keepers can be contacted on the following numbers:

**Battlebridge, Drumleague and Drumshanbo, Lough Allen Canal**
+353 (0)86 812 7522/(0)71 964 1552

**Clarendon Lock, Knockvicar**
+353 (0)71 966 7011

**Albert Lock, Jamestown Canal**
+353 (0)71 963 7715

**Rooskey Lock**
+353 (0)71 963 8018

**Tarmonbarry and Cloondara Locks**
+353 (0)87 922 2020/(0)43 332 6117

**Athlone Lock**
+353 (0)90 649 2026

**Pollboy Lock, River Suck**
+353 (0)90 964 4938

**Victoria Lock, Meelick**
+353 (0)90 975 1359

**Portumna Bridge**
+353 (0)90 974 1011

**Sarsfield Lock**
+353 (0)87 797 2998

**Ardnacrusha Lock and Limerick**

Ardnacrusha is a double lock managed by the ESB as part of the hydroelectric scheme on the Shannon. Water levels and currents between Ardnacrusha and Limerick can vary widely. Users are strongly advised not to travel on this stretch of waterway when more than one power station turbine is running. This is very dangerous due to the increased velocity of water. Increased water flows are also to be expected following spells of heavy rainfall.

Always consult the Marine Notices before travelling, which are available on www.waterwaysireland.org

Before travelling to Ardnacrusha please contact the lock-keeper for details of opening times and to book your passage

+353 (0)87 997 0131 or +353 (0)61 344 515

The lock-keeper will advise the staff at Parteen Weir of your estimated time of arrival.

**Sarsfield Lock**

At present Sarsfield Lock is operating on a restricted service. Users are advised to book their passage by phoning the lock-keeper, preferably the day before travelling on +353 (0)87 797 2998

**Entrance from the Sea**

Entrance to the Shannon from the Atlantic is via the Shannon Estuary. The tidal waters downstream from the Shannon Bridge in Limerick comes under the authority of the Shannon Foynes Port Company
+353 (0)69 73103 www.sfpc.ie

Whilst in the estuary you are advised to use Port VHF Channel 11. Please give way to commercial vessels.
Service blocks are provided by the Local Authorities and by Waterways Ireland. The service blocks operated by Waterways Ireland are marked (*).

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<th>Location</th>
<th>Toilets</th>
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The Royal Canal winds its 146km journey from Dublin to the Shannon. Rising through a series of locks, it reaches the summit level near Mullingar and descends to its destination in the magnificent cut-stone Richmond Harbour. The route provides a linear corridor of unspoilt countryside speckled with examples of the late-eighteenth century industrial archaeology that herald its heyday.

“And the auld triangle went jingle jangle, All along the banks of the Royal Canal”

_The Auld Triangle_, Dominic Behan
Royal Canal

The Royal Canal’s diverse route navigates from the heart of the capital city to the heart of Ireland. Whether by boat or simply on foot, you’ll have ample opportunity to revel in it all.

Work on constructing the canal was completed in 1817. Initially an important hub for trade, by the 1950s the canal had fallen into disrepair and was officially closed in 1961.

Following extensive restoration work, the Royal Canal was re-opened for navigation in 2010 reigniting enthusiasm for the historic trail. As a result of the Royal Canal’s colourful history and passage through Ireland’s Ancient East, this waterway truly is a snapshot of the past. Several bridges date back more than 200 years and there are buildings in Abbeyshrule that can be traced back to 1200 AD.

Legend and myth abound along each leafy corridor including stories such as the haunted Bridge at the 13th Lock. According to legend, in years gone by, boatmen would never moor there overnight.

Today, cruising the Royal Canal is a wonderfully serene experience. Draped in beauty, peace and tranquillity, a trip down the Royal Canal - be it by paddle or engine - is a trip into another world.

waterwaysireland.org
The Royal Canal Greenway provides a 130km walking and cycling trail from Maynooth to Cloondara where the Royal meets the Shannon. Nested within is the Royal Canal Blueway, where you can explore a 23km paddling trail, centred on Mullingar.

The Royal Canal is heaving with wildlife, and eagle-eyed nature watchers could be fortunate enough to spot herons, swans, otters, badgers and foxes amidst the restful waters and colourful hedgerows.

Of course, that’s just on the surface, beneath the water a biosphere of life exists with roach proving to be one of the most popular fish, along with pike, tench and bream.

This makes angling a very popular activity along the canal with all levels of experience finding excellent conditions.

Wherever the Royal Canal takes you, lose yourself in the lingering, leafy surrounds of this industrial grande dame’s still waters.
Royal Canal

**Length and No. of Locks**

Main Line - 146km with 46 locks
Longford Branch - 8km with no locks

**Opening Hours of Locks**

Daylight Hours

**Navigation Dimensions**

Length of locks - 21m
Beam of locks - 3.9m
Draft - 1m
Airdraft - 2.7m
(2.1m at Sherriff St, Spencer Dock)

*Draft dimensions are given as a guide only and cannot be guaranteed.*

**Entrance from the Sea**

Entrance to the Royal Canal is through the Sea Lock, Spencer Dock and via the River Liffey

**Locks**

Limited assistance may be available with lock passage by contacting the numbers below:

**Eastern Regional Office**
+353 (0)1 868 0148

**Sea Lock, Spencer Dock**
+353 (0)87 258 4713

**Locks 1 – 17**
+353 (0)87 985 7019/(0)86 821 2398

**Locks 17 – 40**
+353 (0)87 618 2104

**Locks 41 – 46**
+353 (0)87 915 1400

**Locks 1-12, Newcomen Lift Bridge and Sea Lock, Spencer Dock**

Newcomen Lift Bridge, which is owned and operated by Irish Rail, is only lifted for boat passage on limited pre-arranged dates during the navigation season. If intending to travel in or out of Dublin, a minimum of two weeks’ notice prior to a published lift date must be given to the Eastern Regional office, who will then confirm and arrange passage.

**Services**

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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Toilets</th>
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waterwaysireland.org
Grand Canal

Built in the 19th century, the Grand Canal developed from an important trade route to a relaxing haven. Connecting the capital city westwards with the River Shannon, this genteel, old engineering marvel winds through the centre of Dublin, on towards fertile farmlands, charming villages and past the tumble-down remnants of the midlands’ historic past.

“Fantastic light looks through the eyes of bridges – And look! a barge comes bringing from Athy”

*Lines Written on a Seat on the Grand Canal, Dublin, Patrick Kavanagh*
The Grand Canal was completed at the turn of the 19th century to connect Dublin to the Shannon. Though initially a strategic commercial trail, advances in transportation meant the last cargo barge passed through its bloom-filled corridors in 1960. Today, as a result of restoration work this waterway is well-frequented by users of the canal’s bountiful amenities.

The canal enters the heart of Dublin through Inchicore, where flocks of mute swans breeze silently along the still waters each autumn. The city canal stretches provide close access to all the culture and buzz Dublin has on offer and travelling by boat allows you to change from hectic to rustic at the drop of a hat. Rent a barge, canoe or kayak from one of the providers located along the route. Or for an alternative activity, you could try the thrill of cable-wakeboarding in the cosmopolitan Dublin Docklands. Regardless of what craft you choose, drifting through scenic villages and by abundant fishing spots will relax your mind and restore your spirit.

Of course, the pleasant towpaths of the 117km Grand Canal Way allow walkers to enjoy this mighty waterway. Punctuated by the locks that characterise the technology of its golden years, the canal is a portrait of a time when the waterway affected all life surrounding its banks.
The Barrow Line links the main line of the Grand Canal with the River Barrow at Athy. The line cuts through waterlogged bogs and grassy farmland in Kildare and Laois before turning towards Athy to join the Barrow’s peaty tide.

The Grand Canal’s backdrop of shallow marshes and rolling landscapes, sings with birds and other wildlife. Whether on-board a boat or alongside the canal, kingfishers, herons and even otters can be spotted dipping in and out of its tranquil waters. The Grand Canal is also a major angling destination and home to numerous competitions annually.

Regardless of how you traverse its waters, the contrasting urban intensity and rural expanses of the Grand Canal ensure your eyes will never tire of the splendour that engulfs it.

Plus, if it’s a leisurely pace or a secluded spot you’re looking for along its banks, calm and relaxation is a guaranteed find.
Grand Canal

**Length and No. of Locks**

Main Line - 131km from Dublin to the Shannon with 43 locks
Barrow Line - 45km from Lowtown to Athy with nine locks
Naas Branch - 4km from Main Line to Naas with five locks

**Opening Hours of Locks**

Daylight Hours

**Navigation Dimensions**

Length of locks - 18.5m
Beam of locks - 3.9m
Draft - 1.2m (1m in Dublin)
Air draft - 2.7m
(2.45m Ringsend Railway Bridge)

*Draft dimensions are given as a guide only and cannot be guaranteed.*

---

**Locks**

For assistance with locks, contact the Waterway Patrollers on the numbers below:

- **Ringsend Basin Dock Superintendent**
  +353 (0)87 258 4713

- **Circular Line: Locks C1 - C7**
  +353 (0)86 380 5657

- **Main Line: Locks 1 - 8**
  +353 (0)87 268 3723

- **Main Line: Locks 9 - 13**
  +353 (0)86 827 8025

- **Main Line Locks: 14 - 18 and Naas Branch: Locks N1 - N5**
  +353 (0)87 289 5611

- **Main Line: Locks 19 - 20**
  +353 (0)87 245 6531

- **Main Line: Locks 21 - 25**
  +353 (0)87 245 6525

- **Main Line: Locks 26 - 28**
  +353 (0)87 245 6541

- **Main Line: Locks 29 - 31**
  +353 (0)87 245 6482

- **Main Line: Locks 32 - 34**
  +353 (0)87 245 6609

- **Main Line: Locks 35 - 36**
  +353 (0)87 245 6587

- **Barrow Line: Locks 19 - 23**
  +353 (0)86 380 7534

- **Barrow Line: Locks 24 - 26**
  +353 (0)87 247 3093

- **Barrow Line: Locks 26 - 28**
  +353 (0)87 951 0777
**Slipways**

Slipways are provided at the following locations to facilitate access to the Grand Canal and the Barrow Line:

- Grand Canal Dock/Ringsend
- Clondalkin
- Robertstown
- George’s Bridge, Edenderry
- Waterways Ireland Depot, Tullamore
- Rathangan
- Monasterevin

To facilitate access to Grand Canal Dock/Ringsend and Clondalkin you should contact the Dock Superintendent or the Waterway Patroller.

Access for large boats at Georges’s Bridge, Edenderry may be facilitated by contacting Waterways Ireland Office at Tullamore.

Access at Waterways Ireland Depot, Tullamore is only facilitated during office hours.

**Services**

Toilets, showers and laundry facilities are available in the Service Block at Shannon Harbour. There are also toilet and shower facilities at Lowtown. Smart Cards are used to operate the services, refer to page 57 for cost and unit usage.

**Boats travelling through Locks 1-12**

If intending to travel through Main Line Locks 1 – 12, a minimum of two days prior notice must be given to the Eastern Regional Office, who will arrange passage and lock assistance at a suitable time.

**Entrance from the Sea**

Entrance to the Grand Canal from the Irish Sea is via the River Liffey and the Sea Lock at Ringsend. To reserve a passage through the Sea Lock and for further information contact the Dock Superintendent +353 (0)87 258 4713

**Dublin Port**

Information and guidance is available from Dublin Port Company
+353 (0)1 887 6000
info@dublinport.ie
www.dublinport.ie

**Dry Docks**

Facilities available at Shannon Harbour can be reserved by contacting +353 (0)57 935 2300
Barrow Navigation

Woodland valleys, ancient hinterlands and strings of quaint villages form the backdrop to the Barrow Navigation. Since earliest times, this waterway was seen as a strategic military and commercial highway. Navigable for 65km between the historic Athy, Co. Kildare, and sleepy St Mullins, Co. Carlow, it is now a pleasure playground.

“The third, the goodly Barow, which doth hoorde. Great heaps of Salmons in his deepe bosome: All which long sundred, doe at last accord”

The Faerie Queene, Edmund Spencer
Barrow Navigation

One of the best ways to experience the Barrow’s enchanting journey is by boat. The river’s waters and backwaters are a relatively undiscovered gem among the great inland pleasure cruising waterways of Ireland. Rising in the Slieve Bloom Mountains, the river flows north easterly linking the Grand Canal with the tidal waters of the Barrow estuary. As Ireland’s second longest river, you’ll encounter a variety of landscapes and wherever you go you will never be short of a place to moor.

Take a voyage of discovery as you uncover thousands of years of Irish history in mere days. The dolmen at Brownshill is Europe’s largest portal tomb, dating between 4000 and 3000 BC. Next to lush farmlands, the empty facades of old country houses evoke a time where life moved to the pace of the waterway. Graiguenamanagh’s majestic 13th century Abbey of Duiske is located in the river’s valley, while in Leighlinbridge you’ll glide under the graceful 14th century arches of what is reputed to be the oldest functioning bridge in Europe.

For paddlers the Barrow offers ample opportunities for laid-back touring along the river or white water activity in the curved weirs around Clashganna. Junior and senior rowing is popular on the route and is provided by several rowing clubs. The Barrow Way consisting of towpaths, tracks and quiet roads from Robertstown to St Mullins, offers a chance to explore the beauty of the region by foot. This 100km walking trail provides a feast of cascading banks, chirping waterfowl and electric-coloured butterflies.

During midsummer the river truly takes on a life of its own with a host of annual music and arts festivals, regattas and carnivals. Noteworthy annual events include the Carlow Regatta in June, the Athy Bluegrass Music Festival in July and the Bagenalstown and Graiguenamangh River Festivals in August. Once you have exhausted all the possibilities, why not just enjoy what the Barrow has to offer. With its attractive setting, mountain views and wooded banks, there is no better place to let the weight of the world fall from your shoulders.
Barrow Navigation

Length and No. of Locks

65km from Athy to St Mullins with 23 locks

Opening Hours

Daylight Hours

Navigation Dimensions

Length of locks - 18.5m
Beam of locks - 3.9m
Draft - In summer can be as low as 0.76m
Air draft - 2.58m over a width of 2.4m
Lowest Bridge - Carlow Bridge

Draft dimensions are given as a guide only and cannot be guaranteed.

Slipways

Slipways are provided at the following locations to facilitate access to the Barrow Navigation:
Graiguecullen Park, Carlow Town
(access will be facilitated by contacting +353 (0)87 951 1444)
Clogrennan
Bagenalstown
Goresbridge
Graiguenamanagh

Locks

For assistance with locks, contact the Waterway Patrollers on the numbers below:

Athy, Ardreigh, Levitstown, Maganey,
+353 (0)87 951 0777
Bestfield, Carlow, Clogrennan, Milford
Rathvindon, Bagenalstown
+353 (0)87 951 1444
Fenniscourt, Slyguff, Upper Ballyellen,
Lower Ballyellen, Ballytiglea, Borris
+353 (0)87 951 6333
Ballingrane, Clashganna, Ballykennan,
Upper Tinnahinch, Lower Tinnahinch,
Carriglead, St Mullins
+353 (0)87 951 6600

Entrance from the Sea

All boats entering the Barrow Navigation from the sea must travel via the estuary, which is under the authority of the Port of Waterford. It is a major commercial port and you are advised to contact the harbour master on +353 (0)51 874907 for information on navigating this channel.

The tidal navigation upstream from the railway bridge at New Ross to St Mullins comes under the authority of the Port of New Ross. It is also a busy port and you are advised to contact the harbour master on +353 (0)51 421303 for information on moorings, shipping traffic and tide tables.
Navigation Information

Waterways Ireland is the navigation authority for 1,000km of inland navigable waterways including the Lower Bann Navigation, Erne System, Shannon-Erne Waterway, Shannon Navigation, Royal Canal, Grand Canal and Barrow Navigation.

Each of these waterways has been made navigable under different authorities, at different times and as a result there will be variances between the waterway systems, such as the registration process, lock dimensions, the rules (bye-laws), the methods of operation and the services and facilities provided.

This section of the guide sets out what you need to be aware of before embarking on a voyage on Ireland’s Inland Waterways.
Navigation Information

**Beginning your Voyage**

You need to get permission from Waterways Ireland before bringing your boat onto the inland navigable waterways. Two craft management systems are in operation;

1) **A Permit System** operates on the Grand Canal, Royal Canal and Barrow Navigation.

2) **A Registration System** operates on the Shannon Navigation, Shannon-Erne Waterway and Erne System.

Waterways Ireland does not have a registration scheme on the Lower Bann.

1) **Permits on Barrow Navigation, Grand Canal and Royal Canal**

Boats on the Barrow Navigation, Grand Canal and Royal Canal must display a valid permit. There are three types of permits available, depending on your boating requirements.

**Combined Mooring and Passage Permit**

Holders are permitted to pass through locks and to moor at the same Public Mooring for up to five days in any calendar month. Permits are issued on the basis of a completed application form, are subject to certain conditions and cost €126. Permits take the form of a window sticker which must be shown on the permitted craft at all times.

**Extended Mooring Permit**

This grants a boat owner the right to leave their boat in one location for longer than five days. This permit enables the holder to moor on navigation property in a specific position allocated by Waterways Ireland for a period of up to one year. Only holders of a valid Combined Mooring and Passage Permit will be able to apply for the Extended Mooring Permit. The Extended Mooring Licence costs €152 per annum.

**Visitor Permit**

Boats entering the Canal System and staying under 31 days can apply on entry for a free permit. This permit can only be used once every calendar year. Boats intending to stay more than the 31 days must apply in advance for the Combined Mooring and Passage Permit and if intending to stay one location longer than five days will also need an Extended Mooring Permit as above.

Further information on permits and application forms are available online at www.waterwaysireland.org or locally from the lock-keepers and from the following Waterways Ireland locations:

**Assistant Inspector of Navigation**

shane.anderson@waterwaysireland.org
+353 (0)57 935 2300

**Eastern Regional Office**

Floor 2 Block C
Ashtowngate, Navan Road
Dublin 15
+353 (0)1 868 0148

2) **Boat Registration on Erne System, Shannon-Erne Waterway and Shannon Navigation**

All craft with an engine capacity in excess of 10bhp on the Erne System and 15bhp on the Shannon Navigation and the Shannon-Erne Waterway must be registered with the Waterways Ireland Inspectorate.

Registration is free and you can register by visiting www.waterwaysireland.org or by contacting the Inspectorate to request an application form.

Upon registering, you will be provided with a registration number that must be displayed in a prominent position on your boat. You need to inform Inspectorate immediately of any change in ownership.
A system of mutual recognition is in place, so boats registered on the Erne System, the Shannon Navigation or the Shannon-Erne Waterway do not need to re-register when moving between these waterways.

Public Mooring Time Limit
The time limit for mooring at or in the vicinity of a Public Mooring on the Erne System is 48 hours with craft able to return after an absence of four hours. If you wish to stay in a location longer than the limit please contact the Lough Erne Warden or seek a private mooring.

On the Shannon Navigation and the Shannon-Erne Waterway the mooring limit is five consecutive days or a total of seven days in any one month during the period 1 April to 31 October.

Rules of the Waterways

Bye-laws
Bye-laws are the rules guiding how the waterways should be used. Waterways Ireland, through its Inspectorate, has responsibility for enforcing these navigational bye-laws. Six of the navigations have bye-laws while the Lower Bann has a voluntary code. Further information can be found on www.waterwaysireland.org

Inspectorate
The Inspectorate of Navigation is responsible for enforcing the navigational bye-laws, maintaining a register of vessels and carrying out inspections of Waterways Ireland harbours and jetties to ensure that they are used and kept in a safe and responsible manner.

The Inspectorate is authorised to board craft, ask for and receive accurate information, impose fines, manage harbour moorings and order the removal of vessels from the navigations.

The Inspectorate frequently patrol the waterways by road and water, monitoring general boating practices. Any irresponsible behaviour or poor boatmanship is immediately brought to the attention of the owner of the craft. Craft speeding within speed restriction areas are similarly dealt with.

For further information on navigating and boat queries, contact the Inspectorate on the following numbers:

Inspector of Navigation
patrick.harkin@waterwaysireland.org
+353 (0)90 649 4232

Assistant Inspector of Navigation
shane.anderson@waterwaysireland.org
+353 (0)57 935 2300

Lough Erne Warden
david.wilson@waterwaysireland.org
+44 (0)28 6632 2836

Wash and the Speed Limits
You are asked to consider the wash of your boat and its effect on others. All engine-powered boats create a wave of water, known as a wash, which flows outwards from the boat as it moves forward. Look behind you frequently to check the effect that your wash is having on other users. You are advised to reduce your speed in narrow channels to prevent bank erosion, damage to reed beds and destruction of birds’ nests among bank habitats. Slow down where boats are moored, when approaching quays, jetties or locks or where water activities are taking place.
Navigation Information

On the waterways speed limits are:
• 5 knots on specific sections of the Erne
• 6 km/h on the canals and lateral canals
• 11 km/h on the river sections of the Barrow
• 5 km/h in channel stretches on the Shannon-Erne Waterway

Speed limits/no wash areas are also in place on other sections of the waterways and are monitored by the Inspectorate.

Marine Notices
Marine Notices are issued by the Inspectorate to draw the attention of boat users to navigational issues such as high water levels, navigation works and closures, and to highlight potential areas of danger. They also remind boat users of their obligations and responsibilities under the Navigation Bye-laws. Marine Notices are published on our website www.waterwaysireland.org. If you would like to receive Marine Notices by email, please send a request to info@waterwaysireland.org.

Maintenance Works
Maintenance works on the waterways are, where possible, carried out during the winter months i.e. 1 November to 17 March. Before travelling you are advised to contact the Inspectorate or visit www.waterwaysireland.org.

Operating Locks and Accessing Services

Canal Locks
All the locks on the Royal Canal, Grand Canal and Barrow Navigation are operated manually. Please ensure that you have a lock key to operate the lock, adequate crew to manage your boat, and good stop ropes and mooring ropes. Lock keys at a cost of €25 can be purchased from the following:

Eastern Regional Office
+353 (0)1 868 0148

Grand Canal
Dock Superintendent at Ringsend
+353 (0)87 258 4713

Grand Canal Depot, Tullamore
+353 (0)57 935 2300

Lock-keeper at Lowtown
+353 (0)87 245 6531

Lock-keeper at Shannon Harbour
+353 (0)87 245 6587

Lock-keeper at Monasterevin
+353 (0)87 247 3093

Barrow Navigation
Lock-keeper at Fenniscourt
+353 (0)87 951 6333

Royal Canal
Locks 17 – 40
+353 (0)87 618 2104
Locks 41 – 46
+353 (0)87 915 1400

Smart Cards
Smart cards are used to operate the locks on the Shannon-Erne Waterway and the Shannon Navigation. They are also used to gain access to the service blocks and to use the facilities and pump-outs. Cards are available in either 10 units or 20 units. There is a card reader in each service block to enable users to check the number of units remaining on the smart cards.
Services use the following number of units:
- Locks: 1 unit (Shannon-Erne Waterway)
- Locks: 2 units (Shannon Navigation)
- Bridges: 2 units (Shannon Navigation)
- Pump-outs: 2 units
- Showers: 2 units
- Chemical Toilets: 2 units
- Washing Machines: 5 units
- Tumble Dryers: 5 units
- 2kwh Electricity: 1 unit

Smart cards can be purchased from the sellers listed on page 76 and cost 10 units - €6.35, 20 units - €12.70

Pump-outs
Pump-outs are provided to enable the safe and clean pumping out of boat effluent and thereby removing the pollution risk to our waterways. Pump-outs are operated by smart card.

Dry Docks
Waterways Ireland has a number of dry docks facilities which can be hired by members of the public for maintenance, repairs or inspection to private boats. To avail of this service, you can apply online at www.waterwaysireland.org

Winter Moorings
Winter Moorings are available at all Waterways Ireland’s public jetties / harbours on the Shannon Navigation and Shannon-Erne Waterway only. The “Winter Mooring Period” commences on 1 November and ends on 31 March, both days inclusive. Charges as laid out in the Shannon Navigation Bye-laws, 1992 (S.I. No 80 of 1992) apply. If you wish to avail of this facility, you can apply online at www.waterwaysireland.org

Safety and Assistance

Lifejackets
The bye-laws state that boats should have suitable lifejackets for every adult and child on board. Waterways Ireland promotes the wearing of lifejackets by all users. See the Maritime Safety Act, 2005 for further information.

Age Restrictions
In the Republic of Ireland you must be at least 16 years of age to operate a personal water craft (PWC) and 12 years or over to operate a boat with more than a 5bhp engine.

Boat/Barge Transporters
There are many boat transporters based in the UK and Ireland who are experienced in shipping your boat safely to its destination. Details of boat transporters are available under the Navigation Section of our website www.waterwaysireland.org

Navigation Guides and Books
To assist you on your voyage, Waterways Ireland produces a range of Navigation Guides. To view a full range of publications, visit www.shopwaterwaysireland.org

Mechanics
A full listing is available on the Inland Waterways Association website www.iwai.ie

Fuel Points
Fuel is available from petrol stations in towns/ villages along the waterways.

Emergency Services
Dial 999 (and/or 112 in the Republic of Ireland) for all emergency services. If you require assistance on the water ask for the Coastguard.
The tables below will provide you with an estimated cruising time (in hours) between locations on the waterways. They are intended as guidelines only. It usually takes 10 - 15 minutes to negotiate each lock although an experienced and energetic crew can manage the process in a fraction of this time. A number of variables will affect the time allowances; size of boat engine, average speed of 5mph or 8km/h and experience of crew.
## Erne System, Shannon-Erne Waterway and Shannon Navigation

### Cruising Times

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<th>Rooskey</th>
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<th>Athlone</th>
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*waterwaysireland.org*
## Cruising Times

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## Cruising Times

### Barrow Line of the Grand Canal and Barrow Navigation

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## Cruising Times

### Royal Canal

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<th>Enfield Harbour</th>
<th>Thomastown Harbour</th>
<th>Mullingar Harbour</th>
<th>Ballinea Harbour</th>
<th>Lock 34</th>
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## Lower Bann Navigation

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<th>Drumaheglis Marina</th>
<th>Carnroe Lock No. 2</th>
<th>Movanagher Lock No. 3</th>
<th>Kilrea Bridge</th>
<th>Portna Lock No. 4</th>
<th>Portglenone Marina</th>
<th>Newferry</th>
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Activities

The varied settings of the inland waterway network offer a playground of activity for water enthusiasts and landlubbers alike. For sheer exhilaration, watersports offer an unparalleled experience. Follow the canoe trails on the Erne and the Lower Bann or try kayaking on the tranquil stretches or white waters of the Barrow. If sailing takes your fancy, the Shannon and the Erne are excellent places to learn, while waterskiing and wakeboarding on the Erne, Lower Bann and Shannon will soon get your adrenaline pumping.

Offering an unrivalled taste of genuine Ireland, signposted long-distance walkways such as the Royal Canal Way, Barrow Way or Grand Canal Way allow walkers to discover a patchwork of diverse hinterlands. Pass through fertile farmlands, charming villages and the crumbling remnants of forts and castles along plentiful grassy embankments.

If two wheels are preferable to two legs, you can always cycle across the scenic and winding country roads or rustic forest paths surrounding many of the routes. Depending on the time of the year, the lengthy towpaths of the canals are also suitable for bicycle touring as a core activity or to take leisurely rides from boat to village. The new Royal Canal Greenway from Maynooth to Cloondara offers great new cycling opportunities.

Or for total relaxation, why not try casting a line into the still waters of the Royal and Grand Canal. Alternatively, faster river and lake networks such as the Lower Bann, the Barrow, the Shannon and the Shannon-Erne offer diverse and well-stocked waters. These bountiful inland passages attract droves of game and coarse anglers yearly, particularly as there is no closed season for coarse or pike fishing. Brown trout, perch, tench, and bream are just a few of the species to be found, with the Lower Bann arguably home to some of the best sites for salmon and trout angling in Ireland.

If you are feeling competitive there are several annual angling festivals to choose from. Try your hand at the Fermanagh Classic Fishing Festival, Erne World Pike Fishing Classic, Edenderry Coarse Angling Gala, Royal Enfield Two-Day International Angling Festival and the Irish Wheelchair Association Lucan Fishing Competition. Specially designed fishing stands offering access to anglers with wheelchairs are available in a number of locations along the Grand and the Barrow.

With opportunities for all ages and abilities, get on the Blueways. Blueways are a series of safe and easy-to-use water and land based trails. Do the Blueway your way and choose to paddle, pedal or walk. The Blueways allow guided and unguided paddling along canals, lakes and rivers. With Blueway trails on the Shannon, Shannon-Erne, Royal Canal and Lough Derg, you’ll always find a new Blueway to experience.

Of course, after all that activity who could resist an opportunity to sample some of the delicious cafés and eateries available? Taste the food that goes from farm to fork as Ireland’s natural larder is visible at every meander.

The information contained in the following pages will help you choose high octane fun or total relaxation. After all, wherever you go or whatever you choose to do, the options are endless.
## Cruiser, Barge and Day Boat Hire

### Erne System

- **Aghinver Boat Company**  
  Lisnarick  
  +44 (0)28 6863 1400  
  www.abcboats.com

- **Carrick Craft**  
  Bellanaleck  
  +44 (0)28 3834 4993  
  www.cruise-ireland.com

- **Carrybridge Boat Company**  
  Carrybridge  
  +44 (0)28 6638 7034  
  www.cbcboats.com

- **Castle Archdale Marina**  
  Castle Archdale  
  +44 (0)28 6862 1892  
  www.castlearchdaleboathire.com

- **Erne Boat Hire Ltd**  
  +44 (0)75 234 23232

- **Knockninny Country House & Marina**  
  Derrylin  
  +44 (0)28 6774 8590  
  www.knockninnyhouse.com

- **Manor House Marine**  
  Killadeas  
  +44 (0)28 6862 8100  
  www.manormarine.com

### Shannon-Erne Waterway

- **Belturbet Boat Company**  
  Belturbet  
  +353 (0)86 821 9838  
  www.bbcboats.com

- **Corraquill Cruising Holidays**  
  Corraquill  
  +44 (0)28 6774 8712  
  www.corraquill-cruising.com

- **Shannon Navigation**

  - **Allen Centre**  
    Drumshanbo  
    +353 (0)71 964 0588  
    www.allen.ie

  - **Anna Carriga Estate**  
    Killaloe  
    +353 (0)61 376777  
    www.annacarriga.com

  - **Carrick Craft**  
    1. Carrick-on-Shannon  
    2. Banagher  
    +44 (0)28 3834 4993  
    www.cruise-ireland.com

  - **Emerald Star Ltd**  
    1. Carrick-on-Shannon  
    2. Portumna  
    +353 (0)71 962 0234  
    www.emeraldstar.ie

  - **Locaboat Holidays**  
    Carrick-on-Shannon  
    +33 386917272  
    www.locaboat.com

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waterwaysireland.org
Cruiser, Barge and Day Boat Hire

Lough Key Boat Tours
Boyle
+353 (0)86 084 6849
www.loughkeyboats.com

Lough Ree Cruisers
Glasson
+353 (0)1 492 3150
www.loughreecrusers.com

Pleasure Cruisers
Rooskey
+353 (0)86 328 4800
www.pleasurecruisers.ie

Rent Our Boat
Knockvicar
+353 (0)85 203 7136
www.rentourboat.ie

Shannon River
Rooskey
+353 (0)71 965 8964
www.shannon-river.com

Shannon River Adventure
Rooskey
+353 (0)71 963 8300
www.shannonriveradventure.com

Silver Line Cruisers Ltd
Banagher
+353 (0)57 915 1112
www.silverlinecruisers.com

Grand Canal

Barrowline Cruisers
Vicarstown
+353 (0)57 862 6060
www.barrowline.ie

Barrow Navigation

Barrowline Cruisers
Vicarstown
+353 (0)57 862 6060
www.barrowline.ie

Jennifer’s Travels
Monasterevin
+353 (0)86 342 5546
www.jenniferztravels.com

Charterboats with Crew

Lovely Leitrim
Ballinamore
+353 (0)87 358 3716
www.bargeholidayhotel.com

Shannon Princess
Glasson
+353 (0)87 251 4809
www.shannonprincess.com
A network of stunning trails running on or alongside Ireland’s most idyllic lakes, canals and rivers. Taking you into the heart of her most unspoilt landscapes – by canoe, bike or on foot. Meander through inspiring, picturesque vistas and soak in the idyllic rural atmosphere, where life simply runs at a different pace.

Step back in time to castles, battles, heroes and kings; explore the vibrant, thriving modern arts and craft culture and get a taste of the new with innovative dining experiences that are sure to delight.

The Blueways offer a truly unique path into the lands surrounding some of Ireland’s stunning waterways, allowing you experience a beautiful fusion of her past and present with a hint of the future to come.

BLUEWAY TRAILS

Create your own path and explore the Blueways, your way – along four key scenic trails, that will gently guide you on a unique journey through Ireland’s hidden heartlands

> Shannon Blueway
> Lough Derg Blueway
> Royal Canal Blueway
> Shannon-Erne Blueway
Paddling: Glide along by canoe, kayak or Stand-up-Paddleboard and experience our hidden heartlands from a truly unique perspective. Our Blueways have hundreds of kilometres of individual trails for avid paddlers to explore. And for those new to the blue, various guided paddles with experienced instructors can be booked.

Walking: Some of the trails can be experienced from the land too. From short and pleasant strolls to longer, more challenging hikes; take a digital detox and wrap yourself in nature on a waterside trail set against a backdrop of some of the most peaceful scenery on the island.

Cycling: Bring your own bike, hire one – or even hire an electric one – and pedal along some stretches of the beautiful Blueway trails and loops. It offers a unique opportunity to see some of Ireland’s most idyllic lakes, canals and rivers on two wheels.

Get On
Whether its meandering down rivers on guided Canadian Canoes or enjoying the company of likeminded enthusiasts on guided walking tours – you won’t be short of ways to get on the Blueways.

Get Off
From Restorative Yoga to Horseriding trails, Heritage Tours to Cruises, and adrenaline raising High Wires and Hovercrafting – out of the water, there’s a whole host of new experiences, adventures and excursions waiting to be explored.

For a full list of providers visit: www.bluewaysireland.org
Activity Providers

Lower Bann Navigation

Causeway Cycle Adventures
+44 (0)79 0990 0916
www.causewaycycleadventures.co.uk
Electric bike guided tours

Eye Feel Good
+44 (0)78 7785 7220
www.eyefeelgood.org
Stand up paddle boarding, canoeing, kayaking, coasteering and mobile climbing wall

Robin Ruddock
+44 (0)78 5840 4801
Water based skills courses, white water and surf kayaking sessions. Guided tours by sea kayak, open canoe and traditional boating

Ski Supreme Watersports
Coleraine
+44 (0)78 5840 4801
Waterskiing, banana boating, speedboat rides, canadian paddleboats and karting

The Edge Watersports
Coleraine
+44 (0)77 1001 5067
www.thecrannagh.co.uk
Wakeboarding, waterskiing, stand up paddle boarding, inflatable waterpark, kayaking, etc

Xplore Outdoors
+44 (0)78 1542 7965
www.xploremarina.co.uk
Canoeing, kayaking, coasteering, body boarding, abseiling, rock climbing, etc

Erne System

Lough Erne Canoe Trail
+44 (0)28 9030 3930
www.canoeni.com 50km trail spanning both Upper and Lower Lough Erne

Castle Archdale Marina & Watersports
+44 (0)28 6862 1892
www.castlearchdaleboathire.com
Boat hire, kayak hire, water trampolining, cycle hire and White Island ferry

Lakeside Centre
Ballyshannon
+353 (0)71 985 2822
www.lakesidecaravanandcamping.com
Kayaking, pedaloes, sailing, etc

Lusty Beg Island Activity Centre
Boa Island
+44 (0)28 6863 3300
www.lustybegisland.com
Canoeing, kayaking, rib boat, off road driving, cycling, etc

Share Holiday Village
Lisnaskea
+44 (0)28 6772 2122
www.sharevillage.org
Wind surfing, sailing, banana boats, kayaking, canoeing, etc

Tudor Farm
Kesh
+44 (0)28 6863 1943
www.tudorfarm.com
Wakeboarding, waterskiing, windsurfing, kayaking, canoeing, donut rides, etc
Shannon-Erne Waterway

Activity Providers

Shannon-Erne Waterway

Adventure Gently Canoe Tours  
Co. Leitrim (mobile)  
+353 (0)85 182 1547  
www.adventuregentlyireland.com  
Guided canoeing tours

Cavan Canoeing  
Butlersbridge  
+353 (0)87 290 5752  
www.cavancanoeing.com  
Kayak hire and guided tours

Electric Bike Trails  
Leitrim Village  
+353 (0)71 962 3609  
www.electricbiketrails.com  
Electric bike hire and tours

Kingfisher Cycle Trail  
www.kingfishercycletrail.com  
300 miles of signposted cycle trail

Leitrim Surf Company  
Leitrim Village  
+353 (0)86 349 4013  
www.leitrimsurf.ie  
Stand up paddle boarding, surfing and guided tours

On Yer Bike  
Belturbet  
+353 (0)49 952 2219  
Bike hire

Out-doors & Dirty (ODD)  
Ballyconnell  
+353 (0)49 952 3877  
www.odd.ie  
Hovercraft racing and outdoor pursuit activities

Way to Go Adventures  
Fenagh  
+353 (0)71 959 0160  
www.waytogoadventures.com  
Guided canoe tours and bike hire

Wildflower Cycling  
Ballyconnell  
+353 (0)49 952 3923

Shannon Navigation

Allen Centre  
Drumshanbo  
+353 (0)71 964 0588  
www.allen.ie  
Kayak hire, sailing, angling, hill walking, etc

Aqua Splash  
Dromineer  
www.aquasplash.ie  
Inflatable waterpark, pedal boats, kayaks, stand up paddle boarding, banana boating, etc

Baysports  
Hodson Bay  
+353 (0)90 649 4801  
www.baysports.ie  
Canoeing, kayaking, sailing, inflatable waterpark, pedaloes, bike tours, etc

Birr Outdoor Education Centre  
Birr  
+353 (0)50 920 029  
www.oec.ie  
Canoeing, kayaking, abseiling, archery, hillwalking, etc

Buckley Cycles  
Athlone  
+353 (0)90 647 8989  
www.buckleycycles.ie  
Bike hire

Carrick Camping  
Carrick-on-Shannon  
+353 (0)86 243 7370  
www.carrickcamping.net  
Stand up paddle, dragon boating, kayaks, camping and fishing boat hire
Activity Providers

Coca-Cola Zero Bikes
Limerick City
www.bikeshare.ie
Bike hire

DB Cycles
Athlone
+353 (0)90 649 2280
www.dbcycles.ie
Bike hire

Electric Bikes Trails
1. Carrick-on-Shannon
2. Lough Key Forest Park
+353 (0)71 962 3609
www.electricbiketrails.com
Electric bike hire and tours

Shannon Boat Hire
Killaloe
+353 (0)86 785 6633
www.shannon-boat-hire.com
Fishing lessons for kids and fishing boat hire

Ferdinand Heyerman
Ballina
+353 (0)87 232 1430
www.pike-ireland.net
Fishing boat hire

Get West
Limerick
+353 (0)87 272 1245
www.getwest.ie
Stand up paddle boarding and guided kayak tours

J & E Kayakers & Vertical Kayakers
Lanesborough (mobile)
+353 (0)87 667 5275
Kayaking, stand up paddle boarding, canadian canoeing, team building, etc

Lakeside Watersports Centre
Mountshannon
+353 (0)61 927225
www.lakesideireland.com
Camping, rowing, kayaking, swimming, etc

Lough Allen Adventure
Ballinaglera
+353 (0)71 964 3292
www.loughallenadventure.com
Kayaking, windsurfing, hill walking and instructor training

Lough Key Forest Park
+353 (0)86 084 6849
www.loughkeyboats.com
Kayaking, canoeing, windsurfing, waterskiing, swimming and angling

Lough Ree Boat and Bike Hire
Lecarrow
+353 (0)87 716 8844
www.loughreeboathire.ie
Fishing boat hire, bike hire and guided boat tours

Morans Cycles
Drumshanbo
+353 (0)71 964 1974
Bike hire

Mid Ireland Adventure
Banagher
+353(0) 85 173 5204
www.midirelandadventure.ie
Guided stand up paddle boarding and walk tours

My Next Adventure
Killaloe
+353 8739 52777
www.mynextadventure.ie
Guided kayak and canoe tours

Nevsail Watersports
Limerick
+353 (0)86 330 8236
www.nevsailwatersports.com
Surfing, sailing, kayaking, canoeing, stand up paddle, windsurfing, etc
Activity Providers

Pedalway Pedalos
Drumshanbo
+353 (0)87 610 6140
Pedalo boat hire

River Mania Adventures Company
Carrick-on-Shannon
+353 (0)86 308 8900
Canoeing, kayaking, surfing, etc

Rocksriverkayaks
Killaloe
+353 (0)74 4388 1733
www.rocksriverkayaks.ie
Kayaking

Shannon Blueway Waterpark
Drumshanbo
info@bluewaywaterpark.ie
www.bluewaywaterpark.ie
Inflatable waterpark

Shannon River Adventure
Rooskey
+353 (0)71 963 8300
www.shannonriveradventure.com
Kayaking, canoeing, archery and mobile climbing wall

University of Limerick Activity Centre
Limerick
+353 (0)61 376622
www.ulac.ie
Wind surfing, sailing, canoeing, stand up paddle, kayaking, etc

Royal Canal

Get West Events & Adventures
Ballymahon
+353 (0)87 272 1245
www.getwest.ie

Longford Cycle Hub
Longford Town
+353 (0)86 804 2005
Bike hire

Mullingar Bike Hire
Mullingar
+353 (0)87 992 3409
Bike hire

Royal Canal Cycle Tours
Maynooth
+353 (0)85 239 0426
Bike hire and cycling holidays
Activity Providers

Grand Canal

Barrow Way Bike Hire, Vicarstown
+353 (0)57 862 6060
www.barrowwaybikes.ie
Bike hire

Buckley Cycles
Tullamore
+353 (0)57 935 2240
www.buckleycycles.ie
Bike hire

Canal Boat Restaurant
Dublin
+353 (0)1 473 1000
www.canalboatrestaurant.ie
Dinner cruise on a barge

Canalways Ireland Barge Holidays
Rathangan
+353 (0)87 243 3879
www.canalways.ie
Bike hire

Extreme Time Off
Dublin
+353 (0)86 777 8170
www.time-off.ie
Kayak hire and trips

Grand Canal Adventures
Daingean
+353 (0)89 403 9240
www.grandcanalsports.ie
Kayaking, aqua zorbing, stand up paddle, rowing, cycling, etc

La Peniche
Dublin
+353 (0)87 790 0077
www.lapeniche.ie
Dinner cruise on a barge

Surfdock, Dublin
+353 (0)1 668 3945
www.surfdock.ie
Kayaking, windsurfing, stand up paddle

Wakedock, Dublin
+353 (0)1 664 3883
www.wakedock.ie
Cable wakeboarding

Barrow Navigation

Barrow Way Bike Hire, Vicarstown
+353 (0)57 862 6060
www.barrowwaybikes.ie
Bike hire

Canalways Ireland Barge Holidays
Rathangan
+353 (0)87 243 3879
www.canalways.ie
Bike hire

Go with the Flow River Adventures
Monasterevin
+353 (0)87 252 9700
www.gowiththeflow.ie
Canoe hire and guided trips

Jennifer’s Travels, Monasterevin
+353 (0)86 342 5546
www.jenniferztravels.com
Bike hire

Naas Adventure Sports, Naas
+353 (0)87 261 8488
Kayak, raft racing, rock climbing

Paddle Your Own Canoe, Graiguenamanagh
+353 (0)87 414 0461
www.paddleyourowncanoe.ie
Canoe hire

Pure Adventure, Graiguenamanagh
+353 (0)87 226 5550
www.pureadventure.ie
Guided kayaking, canoeing and stand up paddle trips

Waterside Bike and Hire, Graiguenamanagh
+353 (0)59 972 4246
www.watersideguesthouse.com
Hill walking, bike hire and guided bike tours

waterwaysireland.org
Boat Trips

Lower Bann Navigation

Abhainn Cruises
Ballyronan Marina
+44 (0)7864 684 857
wwwabhainntrips.com

Erne System

Erne Water Taxi
Enniskillen
+44 (0)77 1977 0588
www.ernewaterthi.com

Lady of the Lake Tours
Killadeas
+44 (0)28 6862 2200
www.manor-house-hotel.com

MV Kestrel
Enniskillen
+44 (0)28 6632 2882
www.ernetours Ltd.com

Inishcruiser
Lisnaskea
+44 (0)28 6772 2122
www.sharevillage.org

White Island Ferry
Castle Archdale
+44 (0)28 6862 1892
www.castlearchdaleboathire.com

Shannon Navigation

Barracuda Boat Trips
Athlone
+353 (0)87 230 1981
www.barracudabootrips.com

Bo Island Motor Yacht Cruises
Terryglass
+353 (0)87 637 0228
www.shannoncruising.ie

Cruise on the Ku-ee-tu
Dromineer
+353 (0)67 24295
www.ku-ee-tu.com

Derg Boat Trips
Scarriff
+353 (0)87 252 3503
www.dergboattrips.ie

Lough Key Boat Tours
Boyle
+353 (0)86 084 6849
www.loughkeyboats.com

Lough Ree Boat and Bike Hire
Lecarrow
+353 (0)87 716 8844
www.loughreeboathire.ie

Moon River / RiverRun Pleasure Cruiser
Carrick-on-Shannon
+353 (0)87 266 3866
www.moonriver.ie
www.theriverrun.ie

River Queen
Banagher
+353 (0)57 915 1112
www.silverlinenow.com
Romaris
Athlone
+353 (0)85 832 6403
www.romaris.ie

Secret Ireland Escapes
Killaloe
+353 (0)87 675 4814
www.secretislandescapes.com

Spirit of Killaloe/Lough Derg
Killaloe
+353 (0)86 814 0559
www.killaloerivercruises.com

Viking Tours
Athlone
+353 (0)86 262 1136

Royal Canal

Royal Canal Boat Trips
Dublin
+353 (0)87 937 7588

Grand Canal

Bargetrip.ie
Sallins
+353 (0)87 646 5465
www.bargetrip.ie

Viking Splash Tours
Dublin
+353 (0)1 707 6000
www.vikingsplash.ie

Barrow Navigation

Athy Boat Tours
Athy
+353 (0)87 433 5350
www.athyboattours.ie

boattrips.ie
Carlow
+353 (0)87 206 1999
www.boattrips.ie
Smart Card Sellers

Erne System

Aghinver, Aghinver Boat Company
Bellanaleck, Carrick Craft
Belturbet, Belturbet Boat Company
Belturbet, Gala
Crom, National Trust Crom Estate
Enniskillen, Waterways Ireland
Enniskillen, Tourist Information Centre
Killadeas, Manor House Marine & Cottages

Shannon-Erne Waterway

Ballinamore, Ballinamore Marina
Ballinamore, Riversdale Barge Holidays
Ballinamore, SuperValu
Ballinamore, Waterway Patroller
Ballyconnell, Kennedy’s Spar
Ballyconnell, Maguire’s Daybreak
Ballyconnell, SuperValu
Ballyconnell, Waterway Patroller
Kilclare, Waterway Patroller
Kilclare, Sheemore Lounge
Leitrim Village, Electric Bike Trails Ltd
Leitrim Village, Lock 16
Teemore, Lock 1

Shannon Navigation

Athlone, Athlone Lock
Ballina, TJ’s Angling Centre
Ballinasloe, Eurospar
Ballinasloe, The Oat Gallery
Ballinasloe, Pillar House Bar & Restaurant
Ballinasloe, Pollboy Lock
Ballyleague, Daybreak
Banagher, Carrick Craft
Banagher, Silverline Cruisers
Boyle, Kelly’s Londis
Boyle, Lough Key Forest and Activity Park
Boyle, Una Bhan Tourism
Carrick-on-Shannon, Emerald Star
Carrick-on-Shannon, Tourist Office
Carrick-on-Shannon, Waterways Ireland
Carrick-on-Shannon, Carrick Craft
Carrick-on-Shannon, Mulveys House of Gifts
Coosan, Lough Ree Inn
Dromineer, Whiskey Still
Dromod, Cox’s Steakhouse
Dromod, Hunt’s Supermarket
Drumshanbo, Drumshanbo Lock
Drumsna, Albert Lock
Garrykennedy, Larkins Pub
Glasson, Lough Ree Marine Services
Knockvicar, Clarendon Lock
Knockvicar, Rent Our Boat
Lanesborough, Keane’s SuperValu
Lecarrow, Coffey’s Shop
Mountshannon, Galvin’s Service Station
Mountshannon, Keane’s Pub
Portumna, Boat House Shop
Portumna, Des Salmon Newsagents & PO
Portumna, Emerald Star
Portumna, O’Meara’s SuperValu
Portumna, Palmerston Stores
Portumna, Portumna Bridge
Rooskey, Rooskey Craft & Tackle Shop
Rooskey, Rooskey Lock
Scarriff, Tourist Office
Scarriff, Waterways Ireland
Shannonbridge, Killeen’s Village Tavern
Shannonbridge, Lukers Bar & Restaurant
Terryglass, Paddy’s Bar
Terryglass, The Derg Inn

Royal Canal

Dublin, Waterways Ireland
Thomastown, Lock-Keeper

Grand Canal

Dublin, Art of Coffee
Lowtown, Lock-Keeper
Naas, Marron’s Service Station
Robertstown, Mullaney’s Shop
Sallins, Lock-Keeper
Shannon Harbour, D and S McIntyre
Shannon Harbour, Lock-Keeper
Tullamore, Waterways Ireland

Barrow Navigation

Fenniscourt, Lock-Keeper
Waterway Ireland Offices

**Headquarters**
2 Sligo Road  
Enniskillen  
Co. Fermanagh  
BT74 7JY  
+44 (0)28 6632 3004

**Northern Regional Office**
Somerview House  
Old Dublin Road  
Carrick-on-Shannon  
Co. Leitrim  
N41 K5X7  
+353 (0)71 965 0787

**Inspectorate**
The Docks  
Athlone  
Co. Westmeath  
N37 RW26  
+353 (0)90 649 3516

**Eastern Regional Office**
Floor 2 Block C  
Ashtowngate  
Navan Road  
Dublin 15  
D15 Y3EK  
+353 (0)1 868 0148

**Western Regional Office**
Scarriff Harbour  
Dock road  
Drewsborough  
Scarriff  
Co. Clare  
V94 H7N1  
+353 (0)61 922 033
If requested this brochure can be made available in accessible formats.