

VOYAGES AND VISITS

Waterways Ireland
Uiscebhéaláí Éireann Watterweys Airlann

Enjoying Ireland's Inland
Waterways



Ireland's Waterways

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LEGEND

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Lower Bann Navigation

Activity ahoy! Watersports, nature trails and wildlife abound along this waterway.

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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

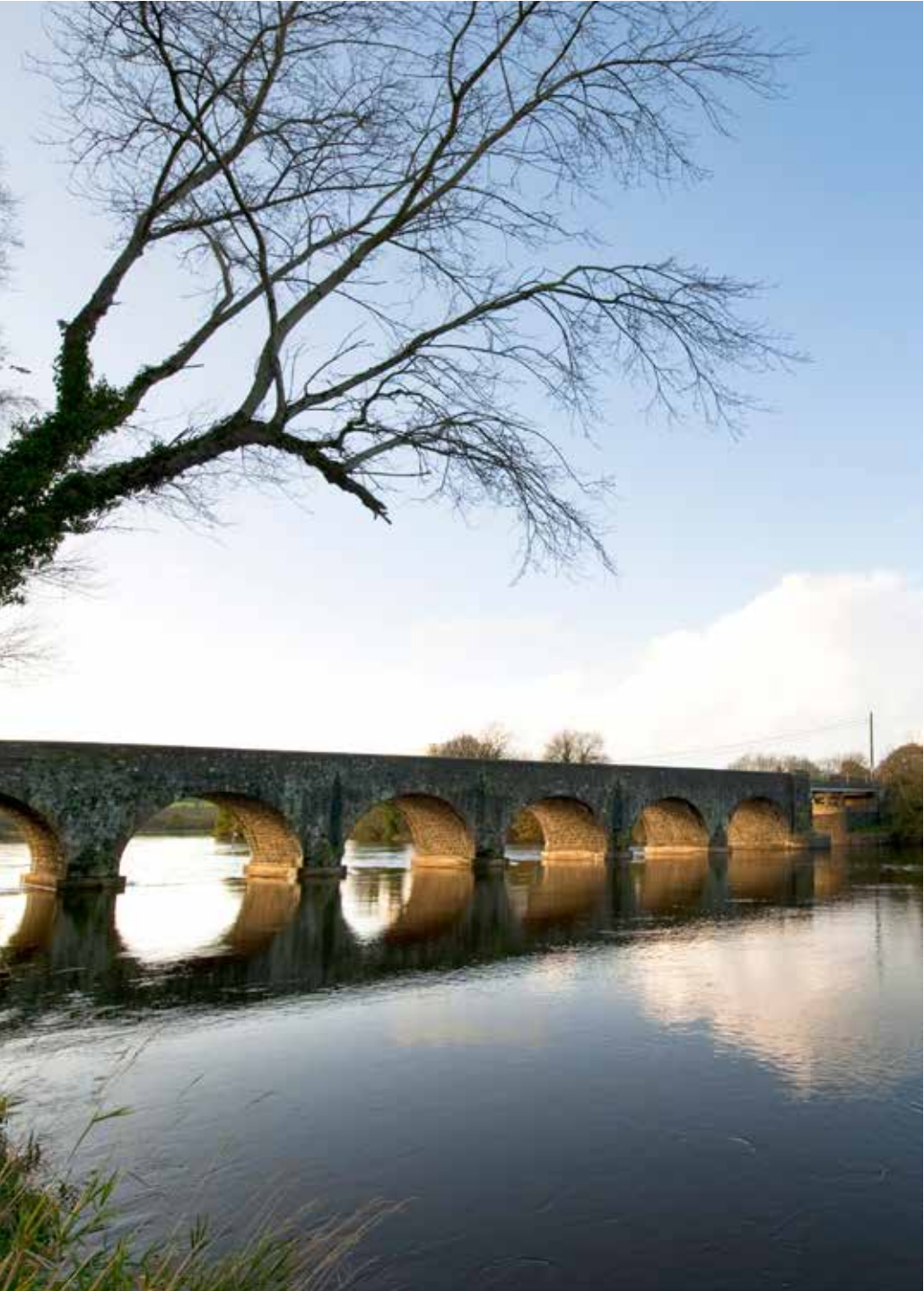
Navigable from Lough Neagh to the sea at the Barmouth, the Lower Bann Navigation is a veritable paradise for recreational activity.

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

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.

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Public Mooring

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

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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; and £3.00 for commercial passage. Contact the lock-keepers on the following numbers before travelling:

Lock	Telephone No.
Toome	+44 (0)77 9953 3891
Portna	+44 (0)28 2954 0214
Movanagher and Carnroe	+44 (0)28 2954 0570
Cutts	+44 (0)28 7034 2999

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.





Photo: Jamie Graham

Services

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

Location	Toilets	Showers	Water	Laundry	Pumpout	Slipway	Canoe Step
Seaton's Marina <i>(Private Ownership)</i>			•			•	
Cranagh Marina <i>(Private Ownership)</i>	•	•	•			•	•
Coleraine Marina <i>(Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council)</i>	•	•	•	•	*•	•	
Christie Park <i>(Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council)</i>	•		•				•
Cutts Lock <i>(Waterways Ireland)</i>	•	•	•				•
Loughan Marina <i>(Private Ownership)</i>	•	•	•			•	
Camus Recreational Area <i>(Waterways Ireland)</i>							•
Drumaheglis Marina <i>(Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council)</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Carnroe Lock <i>(Waterways Ireland)</i>	•						•
Movanagher Lock <i>(Waterways Ireland)</i>	•	•	•			(Canoes only)	
Movagher Campsite <i>(Waterways Ireland)</i>	•	•	•				
Portna Lock <i>(Waterways Ireland)</i>	•	•	•			•	•
Portna Campsite <i>(Waterways Ireland)</i>	•	•	•				
Kilrea Bridge Jetty / Portneal <i>(Waterways Ireland)</i>			•				•

Location	Toilets	Showers	Water	Laundry	Pumpout	Slipway	Canoe Step
Hutchinsons's Quay (Waterways Ireland)						(Canoes only)	
Portglenone Marina (Mid and East Antrim Borough Council)	•	•	•			•	
Newferry East (Mid and East Antrim Borough Council)	•	•	•			•	
Newferry West (Mid Ulster Council)	•		•			•	
Toomebridge Lock (Waterways Ireland)	•		•			•	•

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

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

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council

+44 (0)28 7034 7034

Mid and East Antrim Borough Council

0300 124 5000

Mid Ulster Council

03000 132 132

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





Erne System

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.

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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.





● Public Mooring

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

Jetty	Toilets	Showers	Pump-out	Slipway	Shore Power
Belleek	•	•	•	•	
Magho	•				
Muckross	•			•	
Camagh Bay, Blaney				•	
Kesh Village	•	•			
Rossigh, Lisnarick	•			•	
Rosslare, Killadeas				•	
Castle Archdale	(Visitor Centre) •		•	•	
Round 'O', Enniskillen	•		•	•	•
Lakeland Forum	•	•			
Bellanaleck	•	•		•	
Carrybridge	•	•	•	•	•
Knockninny	•	•	•		
Derryadd, Lisnaskea				•	
Corradillar, Lisnaskea				•	
Bun Bridge, Newtownbutler				•	
Galloon Island	•	•	•		

The toilets on Devenish Island are open from 12pm - 4pm on the following days:
 May to August: Bank Holidays and Thursday to Sunday
 September: Saturday and Sunday



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





Shannon-Erne Waterway

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.

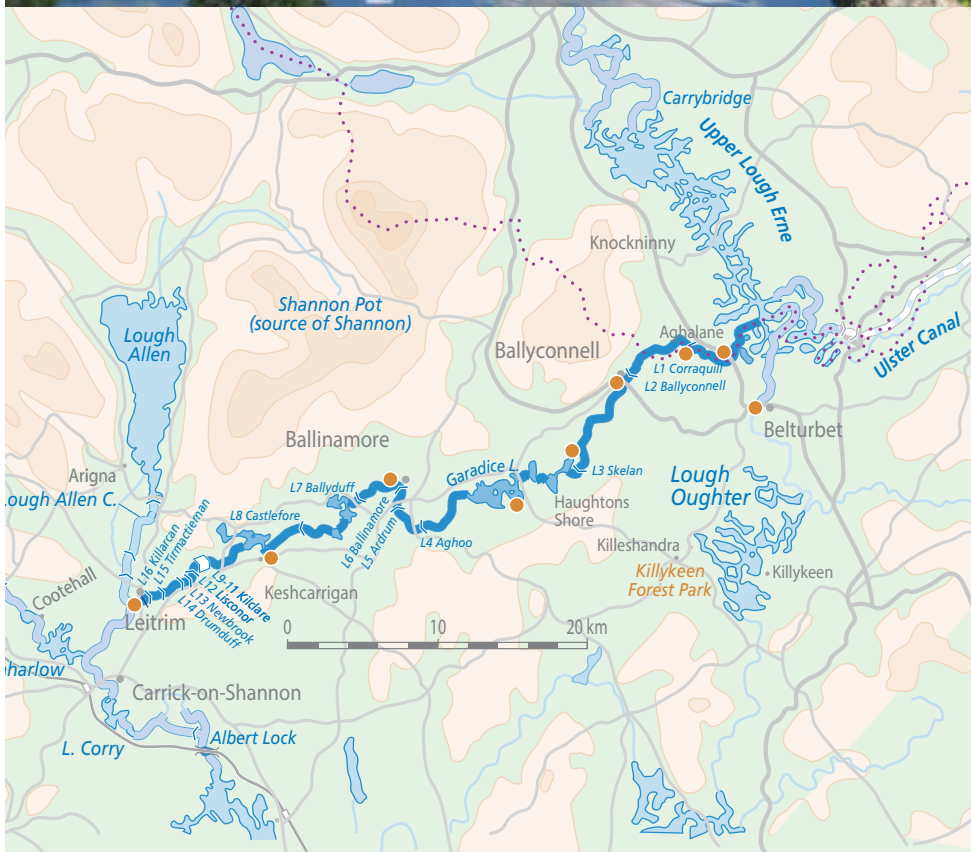
Cruisers and barges can move freely along the Shannon-Erne Waterway, mooring in some of the fully serviced public marinas found along its length. Sixteen locks are managed electro-hydraulically by a smart card that allows ease of passage through the locks. Several boat hire companies offer barges and 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.

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● Public Mooring

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

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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

Location	Toilets	Showers	Laundry	Pump-out	Slipway	Shore Power
Leitrim Village	•	•	•	•	•	
Keshcarrigan	•	•	•	•	•	•
Ballinamore	•	•	•	•	•	•
Houghton's Shore	•	•	•	•	•	•
Ballyconnell	•	•	•	•	•	•
Lock 7					•	
Aghalane	•	•	•	•	•	•



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





Shannon Navigation

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, why not explore the Blueways. The Shannon Blueway has 100km of paddling trails from the foot of Lough Allen to Lanesborough. In addition to the stunning paddling trails, enjoy an incredible walking and cycling trail between Drumshanbo and Battlebridge featuring Acres Lake floating boardwalk. The Lough Derg Blueway offers a series of 21 shoreline paddling trails stretching from the vibrant town of Portumna to the birthplace of Brian Boru in Killaloe.

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.

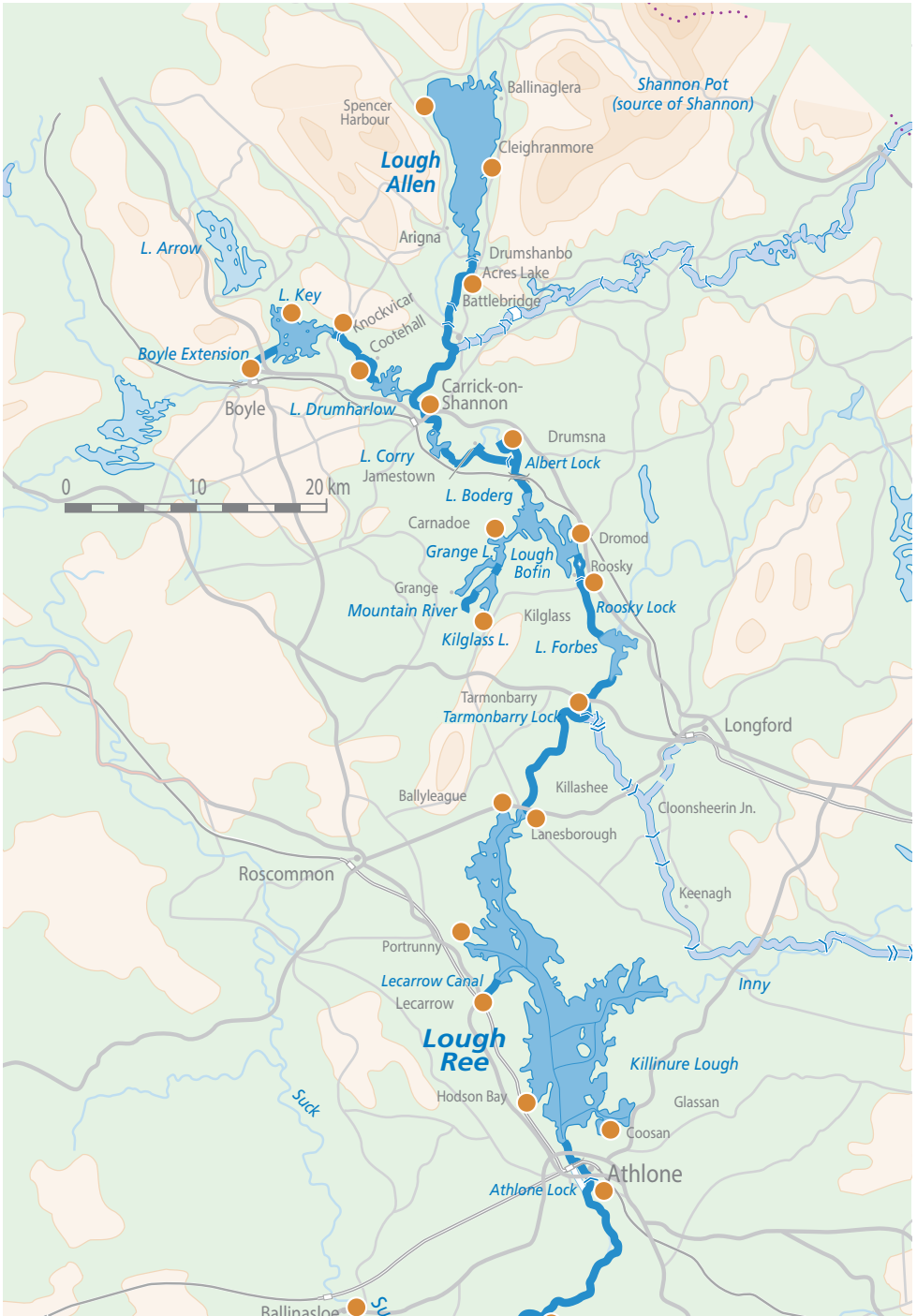
With many spectacular sights along the Shannon, discover the rich history along this ancient trail. From the sixteen-arch bridge at Shannonbridge, said to have been built against a feared Napoleonic invasion, to the 1,400-year-old settlement of Clonmacnoise with its round towers casting shadows over 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 of the many music, sports and cultural events happening up and down the length of the Shannon.

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● Public Mooring



Public Mooring

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

Weekdays	Sundays
Mar 14 – Mar 31 09.30 – 18.30	09.30 – 18.00
Apr 01 – Sep 30 09.30 – 18.30	09.30 – 18.00
Oct 01 – Oct 31 09.30 – 18.30	09.30 – 18.00
Nov 01 – Mar 13 09.00 – 12.00	09.00 – 11.00

Lunch Break: 13.00 – 14.00

Portumna Bridge

Weekdays	Sundays
Mar 14 – Mar 31 10.00 11.00 12.30 14.30 16.30 17.30	10.00 12.30 14.30 16.00 17.00
Apr 01 – Sep 30 10.00 11.00 12.30 14.30 16.00 17.30 18.30	10.00 11.00 12.30 14.30 16.00 17.00
Oct 01 – Oct 31 10.00 11.00 12.30 14.30 16.30 17.30	10.00 12.30 14.30 16.00 17.00
Nov 01 – Mar 13 09.30 10.30 11.30	09.30 10.30

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

Roskey 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

Sarsfield Lock

Sarsfield Lock is operating on a seasonal service, from June to September, based on a tidal timetable with days/times published on our website. Outside of this period the lock is operated on the basis of a booking request. Users are advised to book their passage by phoning the lock-keeper, preferably the day before travelling on +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.

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.

Services

Service blocks are provided by the Local Authorities and by Waterways Ireland. The service blocks operated by Waterways Ireland are marked (*).

Location	Toilets	Showers	Laundry	Pump-out	Slipway	Shore Power
Drumshanbo (*)	•	•	•	•		(Acres Lake)
Lough Key Forest Park (*)	•	•		•		•
Boyle (*)	•	•	•	•		
Carrick-on-Shannon (*)	•	•	•	•	•	•
Dromod (*)	•	•		•		
Roskey	•					
Termonbarry	•					
Lanesborough	•	•				
Ballyleague (*)				•	•	
Portrunny (*)	•	•		•		•
Lecarrow (*)	•	•		•	•	•
Coosan	•	•			•	
Athlone	•	•		•	•	
Hodson Bay, Lough Ree					•	
Ballinasloe, River Suck (*)	•	•	•			•
Shannonbridge	•	•		•	•	•
Banagher	•	•		•	•	
Portumna	•	•		•		•
Terryglass	•	•			•	•
Dromineer	•	•		•	•	•
Droma Harbour	•	•				
Mountshannon	•	•		•	•	•
Scarriff (*)	•	•		•		•
Garrykennedy	•	•	•	•	•	•
Castlelough	•	•				
Ballina	•	•			•	
Killaloe (*)	•	•		•		•

Royal Canal

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.

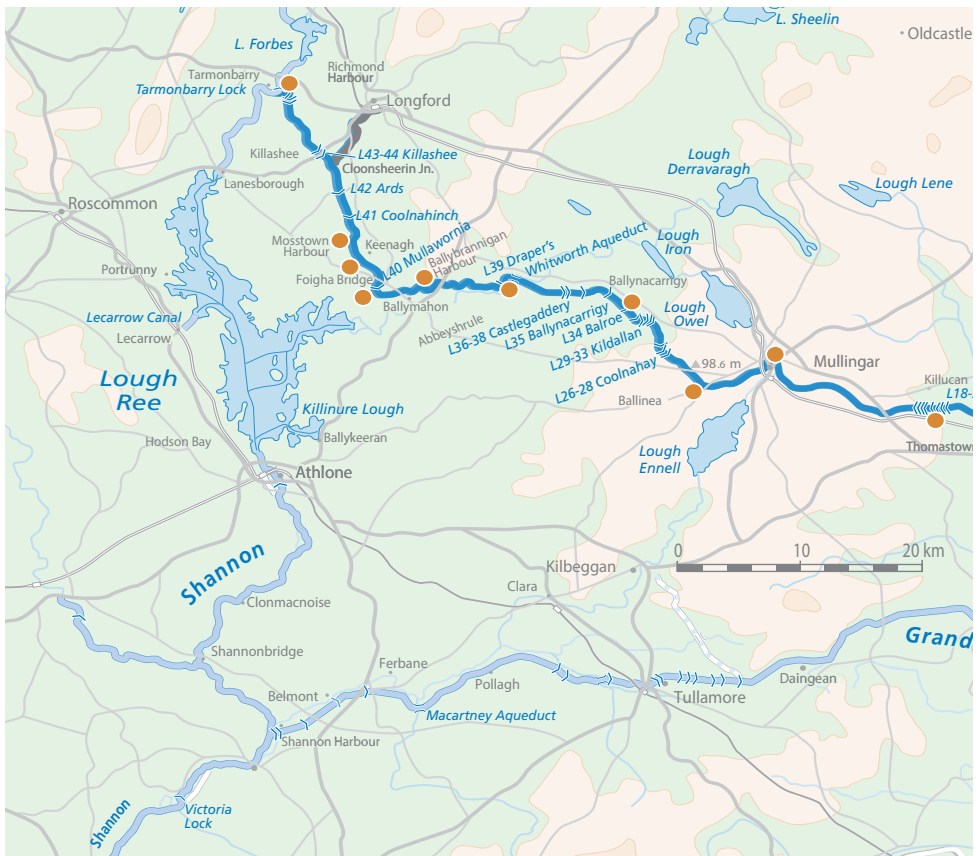
*“And the auld triangle went jingle jangle,
All along the banks of the Royal Canal”*

The Auld Triangle, Dominic Behan





Royal Canal



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.

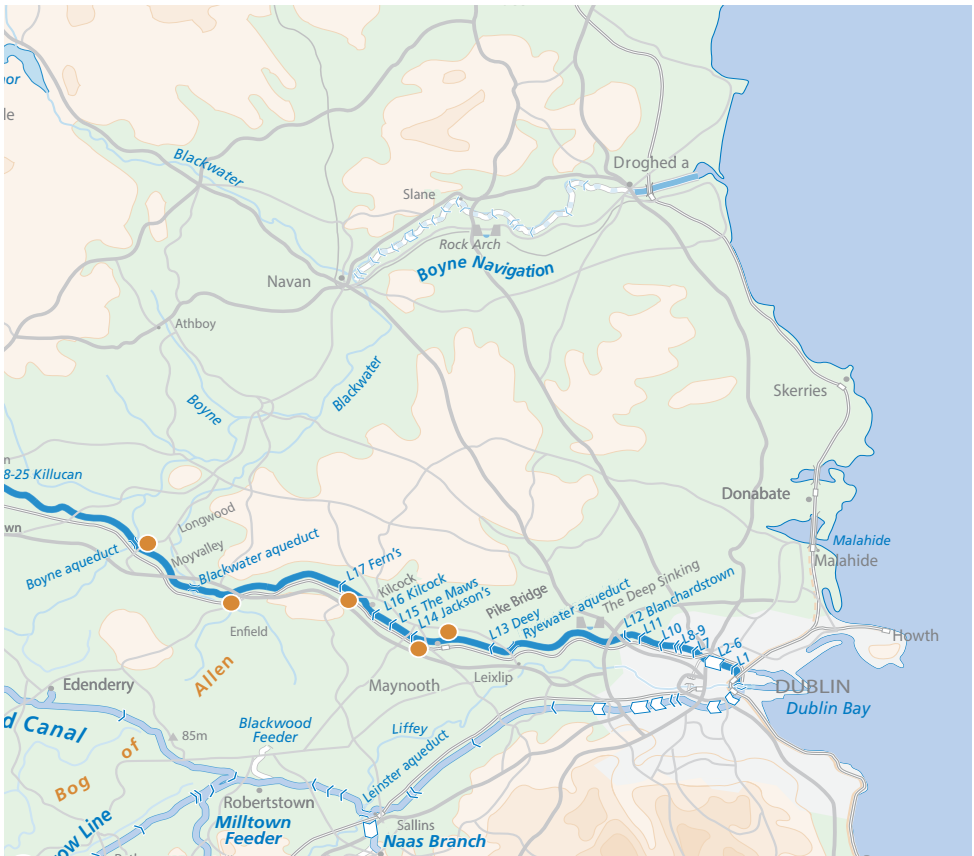
Work on constructing the canal was completed in 1817. Initially an important hub for trade, by the 1950s the canal had fallen into disrepair and was officially closed in 1961.

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.



● Public Mooring

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The Royal Canal Greenway provides a 130km walking and cycling trail from Maynooth to Cloondara where the Royal meets the Shannon.

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 Sheriff St, Spencer Dock)

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

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Entrance from the Sea

Entrance to the Royal Canal is through the Sea Lock, Spencer Dock from the River Liffey and is subject to tidal restrictions.

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)86 821 2398/(0)87 985 7019

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, east of Lock 12, 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

Location	Toilets	Showers	Laundry	Pump-out	Slipway
M50 Aqueduct					•
Amenity Area, Confey					•
Maynooth Harbour					•
Enfield	•	•			•
Thomastown Harbour					•
Mullingar	•	•		•	•
Ballinea Bridge					•
Ballynacargy	•	•			•
Webbs Bridge					•
Cloondara	•	•	•	•	



Grand Canal

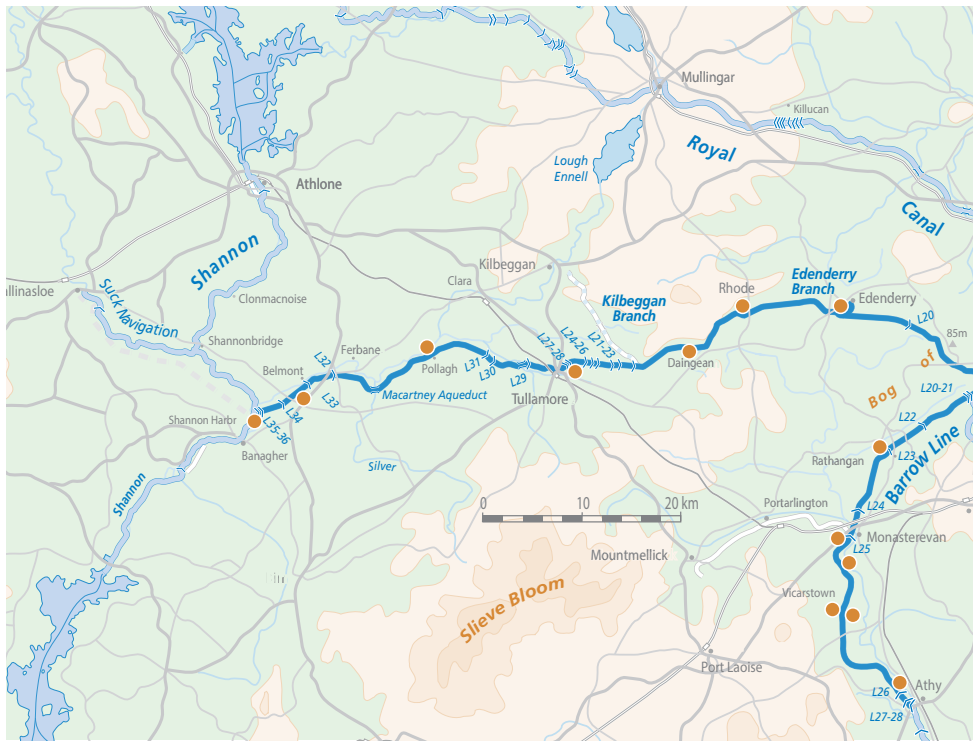
Built in the 19th century, the Grand Canal developed from an important trade route to a relaxing haven. Connecting the capital city westwards with the River Shannon, this genteel, old engineering marvel winds through the centre of Dublin, on towards fertile farmlands, charming villages and past the tumble-down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







Grand Canal

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.



● Public Mooring

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.

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)

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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 and

Main Line Locks: 1 - 2

+353 (0)86 380 5657

Main Line: Locks 3 - 12

+353 (0)87 268 3723

Main Line Locks: 13 - 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

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.

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.

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



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





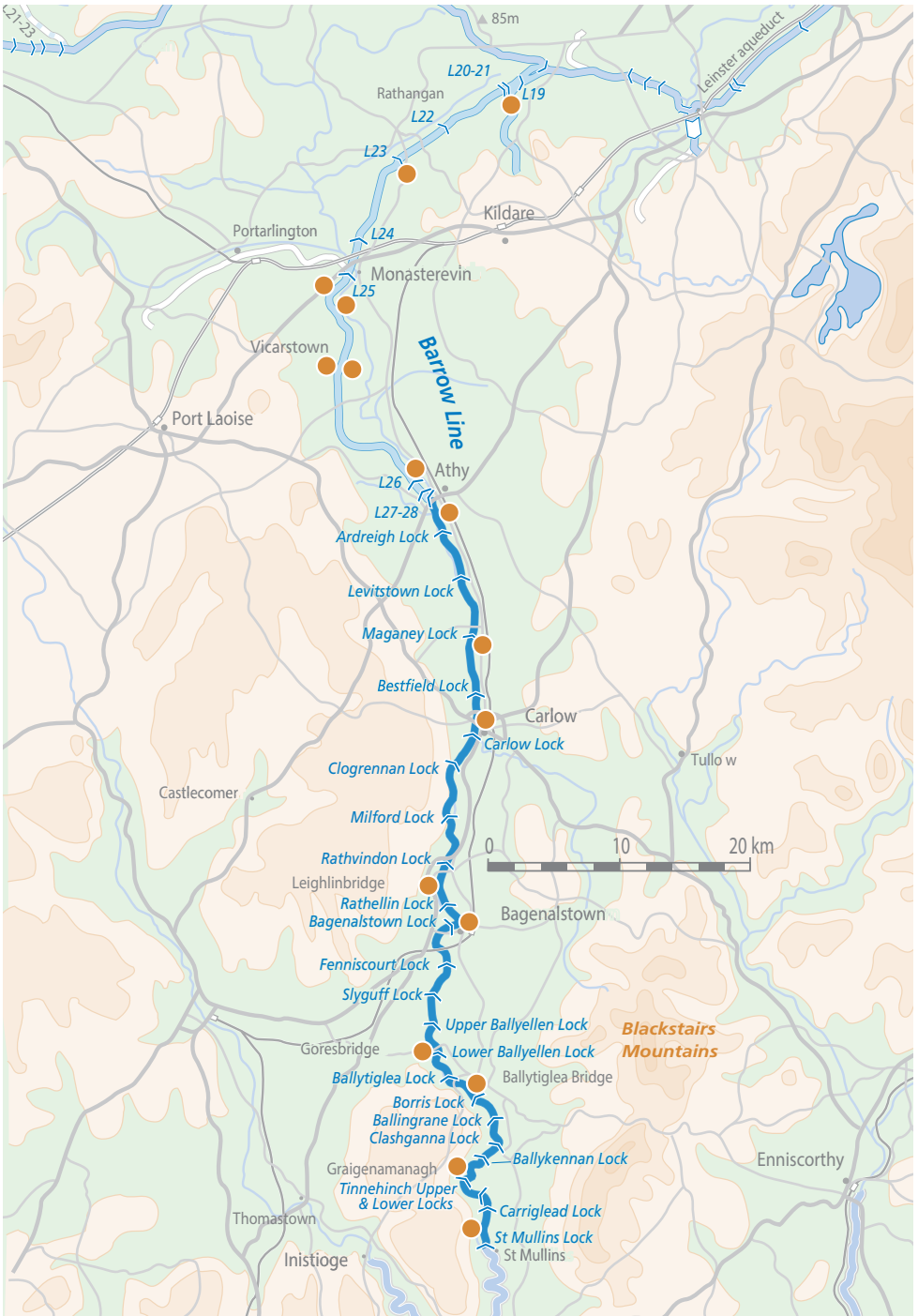
One of the best ways to experience the Barrow's enchanting journey is by boat. The river's waters and backwaters are a relatively undiscovered gem among the great inland pleasure cruising waterways of Ireland. Rising in the Slieve Bloom Mountains, the river flows north easterly linking the Grand Canal 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 Brownhill 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.





Public Mooring

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.

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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, Ballytiglia, Borris

+353 (0)87 951 6333

Ballinragh, 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.

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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.





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

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Boats on the Barrow Navigation, Grand Canal and Royal Canal must display a valid permit.

Permits are issued on the basis of a completed application form and subject to certain conditions. In order to apply for a permit you will be required to provide evidence of insurance (3rd party minimum). All permits are annual and are valid from 1st November to 31st October. and must be must be displayed clearly on your vessel.

There are four types of permits available, depending on your boating requirements.

Combined Mooring and Passage Permit (CMP) permits the holder to pass through locks and to moor at the same Public Mooring for up to five days in any calendar month. A CMP costs €126.

Non Residential Extended Mooring Permit (NR-EMP) permits the holder to moor in an allocated location for up to one year. A NR-EMP is non-residential and therefore cannot be used as a primary residence, however the holder is permitted to stay overnight for up to 90 days in any one year. A NR-EMP costs €278 which includes the cost of a CMP.

Residential Extended Mooring Permit (R-EMP) allows the holder to moor in one location for up to one year. Holders of a R-EMP have no limitation on the number of nights they may stay on board and are permitted to use their vessel as their primary residence. Waterways Ireland has 20 houseboat serviced mooring locations in Grand Canal Dock and 8 houseboat services mooring locations in Shannon Harbour, Co. Offaly which are all fully occupied. If you are interested in acquiring a R-EMP, please email inspectorate.athlone@waterwaysireland.org providing your name, address and contact number and your details will be added to a waiting list.

Visitor Permit is free and allows boats to enter the canal system and stay for up to 31 days. The permit can only be used once every calendar year. If you wish to apply for a visitor permit please complete the CMP application and include a note indicating the date of entry to the canal. The visitor permit will be valid for one month from this date.

For further information on permits please contact the Assistant Inspector of Navigation by email inspectorate.athlone@waterwaysireland.org or telephone +353(0)57 937 3406

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 completing the online application form 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

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 any further information on navigating and boat queries, contact the Inspectorate by email inspectorate.athlone@waterwaysireland.org or telephone +353 (0)90 649 4232

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

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.

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 inspectorate.athlone@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 read the Marine Notices.

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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.

Cruising Times

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.



Location	Belleek	Enniskillen	Belturbet	Ballyconnell	Ballinamore	Leitrim	Carrick-on-Shannon	Dromod	Roskey	Tarmonbarry	Lanesborough	Athlone	Shannonbridge	Banagher	Portumna	Dromineer	Scarriff
Enniskillen	4																
Belturbet	9	5															
Ballyconnell	13	9	4														
Ballinamore	16	12	7	3													
Leitrim	24	20	15	11	8												
Carrick-on-Shannon	25	21	16	12	9	1											
Dromod	28	24	19	15	12	4	3										
Roskey	29	25	20	16	13	5	4	1									
Tarmonbarry	31	27	22	18	15	7	6	3	2								
Lanesborough	33	29	24	20	17	9	8	5	4	2							
Athlone	36	32	27	23	20	12	11	8	7	5	3						
Shannonbridge	38	34	29	25	22	14	13	10	9	7	5	2					
Banagher	41	37	32	28	25	17	16	13	12	10	8	5	3				
Portumna	44	40	35	31	28	20	19	16	15	13	11	8	6	3			
Dromineer	47	43	38	34	31	23	22	19	18	16	14	11	9	6	3		
Scarriff	49	45	40	36	33	25	24	21	20	18	16	13	11	8	5	2	
Killaloe	51	47	42	38	35	27	26	23	22	20	18	15	13	10	7	4	2

Grand Canal Main Line

Location	Ringsend	Inchicore	Lucan Road	Sallins	Robertstown	Ticknevin	Edenderry	Daingean	Ballycommon	Tullamore	Rahan	Pollagh	Gallen
Inchicore	4												
Lucan Road	8	4											
Sallins	12	8	4										
Robertstown	15	11	7	3									
Ticknevin	18	14	10	6	3								
Edenderry	20	16	12	8	5	2							
Daingean	23	19	15	11	8	5	3						
Ballycommon	24	20	16	12	9	6	4	1					
Tullamore	27	23	19	15	12	10	7	4	3				
Rahan	30	26	22	18	15	12	10	7	6	3			
Pollagh	32	28	24	20	17	14	12	9	8	5	2		
Gallen	34	30	26	22	19	16	14	11	10	7	4	2	
Shannon Harbour	37	33	29	25	22	19	17	14	13	10	7	5	3

Barrow Line of the Grand Canal and Barrow Navigation

Location	Lowtown	Rathangan Bridge	Umeras Bridgen	Monasterevin	Vicarstown Bridge	28th Lock	Levitstown Lock	Carlow Lock	Leighlinbridge	Fenniscourt Lock	Lower Ballyellen Lock	Clashganna Lock	Graiguenamanagh Lock
Rathangan Bridge	3												
Umeras Bridge	5	2											
Monasterevin	6	3	1										
Vicarstown Bridge	9	6	4	3									
28th Lock	12	9	7	6	3								
Levitstown Lock	14	11	9	8	5	2							
Carlow Lock	17	14	12	11	8	5	3						
Leighlinbridge	20	17	15	14	11	8	6	3					
Fenniscourt Lock	22	19	17	16	13	10	8	5	2				
Lower Ballyellen Lock	24	21	19	18	15	12	10	7	4	2			
Clashganna Lock	27	24	22	21	18	15	13	10	7	5	3		
Graiguenamanagh Lock	28	25	23	22	19	16	14	11	8	6	4	1	
St Mullins Lock	30	27	25	24	21	18	16	13	10	8	6	3	2

Royal Canal

Location	Dublin North Wall	Granard Bridge	Maynooth Harbour	Kilcock	Enfield Harbour	Thomastown Harbour	Mullingar Harbour	Ballinea Harbour	Lock 34	Abbeyshrule Harbour	Ballybrannigan Harbour
Granard Bridge	6										
Maynooth Harbour	9	3									
Kilcock	11	5	2								
Enfield Harbour	14	8	5	3							
Thomastown Harbour	19	13	10	8	5						
Mullingar Harbour	25	19	16	14	11	6					
Ballinea Harbour	27	21	18	16	13	8	2				
Lock 34	31	25	22	20	17	12	6	4			
Abbeyshrule Harbour	34	28	25	23	20	15	9	7	3		
Ballybrannigan Harbour	36	30	27	25	22	17	11	9	5	2	
Richmond Harbour	44	38	35	33	30	25	19	17	13	10	8

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Lower Bann Navigation

Location	Coleraine Marina	Coleraine Town Bridge	Cutts Lock No. 1	Drumaheglis Marina	Carnroe Lock No. 2	Movanagher Lock No. 3	Kilrea Bridge	Portna lock No. 4	Portglenone Marina	Newferry
Coleraine Town Bridge	0.5									
Cutts Lock No. 1	1	0.5								
Drumaheglis Marina	2	1.5	1							
Carnroe Lock No. 2	3.5	2.5	2	1						
Movanagher Lock No. 3	3.5	3	2.5	1.5	0.5					
Kilrea Bridge	4	3.5	3	2	1	0.5				
Portna Lock No. 4	4.5	4	3.5	2.5	1.5	1	0.5			
Portglenone Marina	6	5.5	5	4	3	2.5	2	1.5		
Newferry	7	6.5	6	5	4	3.5	3	2.5	1	
Toome Lock No. 5	8	7.5	6.5	6	5	4.5	4	3.5	2	1

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.

62 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

Lower Bann Navigation

Bann River Cruises
Drumaheglis
+44 (0)79 6816 6960

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

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

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

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

Shannon-Erne Waterway

Belturbet Boat Company
Belturbet
+353 (0)86 821 9838

Shannon Navigation

Active Life Boat Hire
Killaloe
+353 (0)61 294 468
www.activelife.ie

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

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

Cruiser Boats Ireland
Portumna
+44 (0)85 109 3900
www.cruiserboatsireland.com

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

**Lakeside Day Boat Hire
Athlone**

+353 (0)87 350 5250
www.lakesidedayboathire.ie

**Locaboat Holidays
Carrick-on-Shannon**

+33 386917272
www.locaboat.com

**Lough Ree Cruisers
Glasson**

+353 (0)1 492 3150
www.loughreecruisers.com

**Pleasure Cruisers
Rooskey**

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

**Rent Our Boat
Knockvicar**

+353 (0)86 828 1336
www.rentourboat.ie

**Shannon River
Rooskey**

+353 (0)71 965 8964
www.shannon-river.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.bargeholidayboatel.ie

**Shannon Princess
Glasson**

+353 (0)87 251 4809
www.shannonprincess.com

BLUEWAY

DO IT YOUR WAY

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.

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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
- > 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

Foiling NI Coleraine

+44(0) 79 6931 6716

www.foilingnorthernireland.com

SUP foil, Wing foil, Surf foil, Pump foil, E foil and Tow foil

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

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The Edge Watersports Coleraine

+44 (0)28 7051 1481

www.thecrannaghcomplex.co.uk

Wakeboarding, waterskiing, stand up paddle boarding, inflatable waterpark, kayaking, etc

Xplore Outdoors

+44 (0)77 3436 5321

www.xploreoutdoors.co.uk

Canoeing, kayaking, coastering, body boarding, abseiling, rock climbing, etc

Erne System

Blue Green Yonder Enniskillen

+44 (0)28 6606 2090

www.bluegreenyonder.com

Canoeing, kayaking and stand up paddleboarding hire and guided tours.

Castle Archdale Marina & Watersports

+44 (0)28 6862 1892

www.castlearchdaleboathire.com

Boat hire, kayak hire, water trampolining, cycle hire and White Island ferry

Erne Adventures Enniskillen

+44 (0)28 6862 1156

www.erneadventures.com

Hydrobikes

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, inflatable water park, etc

Shannon-Erne Waterway

Adventure Gently Canoe Tours Co. Leitrim (mobile)

+353 (0)85 182 1547

www.adventuregentlyireland.com

Guided canoeing tours

Carafin Lodge Butlersbridge

+353 (0)86 881 0014

Hydrobikes

Cavan Adventure Centre Butlersbridge

+353 (0)49 489 3630

www.cavanadventure.com

Inflatable water park, kayak hire
and guided tours

Electric Bike Trails Leitrim Village

+353 (0)71 962 3609

www.electricbiketrails.com

Electric bike hire and tours

Leitrim Surf Company

+353 (0)86 349 4013

www.leitrimsurf.ie

Stand up paddle boarding, surfing and
guided tours

On Yer Bike

Belturbet

+353 (0)86 820 4923

Bike hire

Way to Go Adventures

Fenagh

+353 (0)86 246 8085

www.waytogoadventures.com

Guided canoe tours and bike hire

Shannon Navigation

Allen Centre Drumshanbo

+353 (0)71 964 0588

www.allen.ie

Kayak hire, sailing, angling, hill walking, etc

Aqua Splash Dromineer

+353 (0)89 226 768

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.birroec.ie

Canoeing, kayaking, abseiling, archery,
hillwalking, etc

Buckley Cycles

Athlone

+353 (0)90 647 8989

www.buckleycycles.ie

Bike hire

Coca-Cola Zero Bikes

Limerick City

www.bikeshare.ie

Bike hire

Dick's Bike Hire

Portumna

+353 (0)90 975 9499

www.dicksbikehire.ie

**Derg Isle Adventure Centre
Scarriff**

+353(0)87 125 4365
www.dergisle.com
Kayaking, canoeing, paddleboarding and
lake boat hire

Electric Bikes Trails

1. Carrick-on-Shannon

2. Lough Key Forest Park

+353(0)71 962 3609
www.electricbikestrails.com
Electric bike hire and tours

Inventure Water Sports

Lough Ree

+353 (0)86 833 8450
www.inventure.ie
Kayaking, stand up paddle and guided
paddles

Lough Allen Adventure

Ballinaglera

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

Lough Derg Watersports

+353 (0)86 411 4822
www.wavestowilderness.ie
Guided canoe and kayak trips

Lough Key Forest Park

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

Lough Key SUP

+353 (0)85 130 4763
www.loughkeysup.ie
Guided stand up paddleboarding,

Lough Rynn Watersports

+353 (0)87 389 1055
Canoeing, kayaking, surfing, etc

**Mid Ireland Adventure
Banagher**

+353(0) 85 173 5204
www.midirelandadventure.ie
Guided stand up paddle boarding and
walking tours

Nevsail Watersports

Limerick

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

Podumna

Portumna

+353 (0)90 975 9499
Kayaking and tandem water bikes

Pike Fishing in Ireland

Killaloe

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

P Macs Kayaks

Lough Key

+353 (0)86 354 7242
Kayak hire and guided paddles

Shannon River Adventure

Roskey

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

**The Paddle Shack
Carrick-on-Shannon**

+353 (0)85 264 1080
Guided stand up paddleboarding and
kayak tours

**University of Limerick Activity Centre
Limerick**

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

**Vertical Kayakers
Lanesborough (mobile)**

+353 (0)87 667 5275
Kayaking, stand up paddle boarding,
canadian canoeing, team building, etc

**West Lake Aqua Park
Killaloe**

+353 (0)87 954 3000
www.westcoastaquapark.ie
Inflatable water park

Royal Canal

**Ballymahon Greenway Cycles
Ballymahon**

+353 (0)90 64 38233
www.ballymahongreenwaycycles.ie
Bike hire and repairs

**Inventure Water Sports
Cloondara, Ballymahon & Mullingar**

+353 (0)86 833 8450
www.inventure.ie
Kayaking, stand up paddle and guided
paddles

**Midlands Cycle Hub
Cloondara**

+353 (0)85 112 5411
www.midlandscyclehub.ie
Bike hire

**Mullingar Bike Hire
Mullingar**

+353 (0)87 992 3409
www.mullingarbikehire.com
Bike hire

**OE Bike Shop
Mullingar**

+353 (0)44 933 5351
www.oebikes.ie
Bike hire and sales

**Royal Canal Bike Hire
Maynooth**

+353 (0)85 239 0426
www.royalcanalbikehire.ie
Bike hire and cycling holidays

**Yippee Kayaking
Ballymahon, Abbeyshrule & Mullingar**

+353 (0)86 089 1126
Guided kayaking trips

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 hire5

Dick's Bike Hire Ballycommon House

+353 (0)86 313 0149

Mid Ireland Adventure Banagher

+353(0) 85 173 5204
www.midirelandadventure.ie
Guided stand up paddle boarding and walking tours

Portabello Adventure Dublin

+353 (0)85 831 3400
www.portabelloadventure.ie
Kayak hire and trips

Shannon SUP

+353 (0)85 166 2644
www.shannonsup.ie
Stand up paddleboard tours

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

Athy Blueway Leisure Boats Athy

+353 (0)59 863 0433
www.theauldshebeen.ie
Pedal boats and zorbing

Barrow Way Bike Hire Vicarstown

+353 (0)57 862 6060
www.barrowwaybikes.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

Paddle Your Own Canoe Graigueamanagh

+353 (0)87 414 0461
www.paddleyourowncanoe.ie
Canoe hire

Pure Adventure Graigueamanagh

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

Graigueamanagh Bike Hire Graigueamanagh

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



Boat Trips

Lower Bann Navigation

Abhainn Cruises

Ballyronan Marina

+44 (0)7864 684 857

www.abhainncruises.com

Lower Bann Heritage Tours

+44 (0)77 1880 5633

www.glenaraelitetravel.com

River Bann Tours

Portglenone Marina

+44 (0)845 564 4764

www.riverbantours.co.uk

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White Rivers Charters

+44 (0)73 0581 2825

www.whiterivercharters.com

Erne System

Erne Water Taxi, Enniskillen

+44 (0)77 1977 0588

www.ernewatertaxi.com

Inishcruiser

Lisnaskea

+44 (0)28 6772 2122

www.sharevillage.org

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.ernetoursltd.com

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.barracudaboattrips.com

Cruise on the Kueetu

Dromineer

+353 (0)87 241 2363

www.aquasplash.ie

Holy Island Boat Trips

Mountshannon

+353 (0)86 874 9710

www.holyisland.ie

Lough Derg Boat Tours

Dromineer

+353 (0)87 773 0023

www.loughdergboattours.com

Lough Ree Access for All

Lanesborough

+353 (0)43 332 1734

www.loughreeboattrips.com

Moon River and River Run

+353 (0)87 266 3866

www.moonriver.ie

www.theriverun.ie

River Queen

Banagher

+353 (0)57 915 1112

www.silverlinecruisers.com

Spirit of Killaloe/Lough Derg

+353 (0)86 814 0559

www.killaloeirverruises.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

Canal Boat Restaurant Dublin

+353 (0)1 473 1000

www.canalboatrestaurant.ie

Dinner cruise on a barge

La Peniche

Dublin

+353 (0)87 790 0077

www.lapeniche.ie

Dinner cruise on a barge

Barrow Navigation

Athy Boat Tours Athy

+353 (0)87 433 5350

www.athyboattours.ie

Boat Trips Ireland Carlow

+353 (0)87 206 1999

www.boattrips.ie

Riverboat Adventures Graigenamanagh

+353 (0)85 272 6795

www.riverboatadventures.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, Tourist Information Centre
Killadeas, Manor House Marine & Cottages

Shannon Navigation

Ballinamore, Ballinamore Marina
Ballinamore, SuperValu
Ballyconnell, Kennedy's Spar
Ballyconnell, SuperValu
Kilclare, Sheemore Lounge
Leitrim Village, Electric Bike Trails Ltd

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Shannon Navigation

Athlone, The Shop at The Castle
Ballina, TJ's Angling Centre
Ballinasloe, Gerry Stronge Photography
Ballinasloe, Pillar House Bar & Restaurant
Banagher, Carrick Craft
Banagher, Mid Ireland Adventure
Banagher, Silverline Cruisers
Boyle, Kelly's Londis
Boyle, Lough Key Forest and Activity Park
Boyle, Una Bhan Tourism
Carrick-on-Shannon, Carrick Craft
Carrick-on-Shannon, Emerald Star
Carrick-on-Shannon, Gala Supermarket
Carrick-on-Shannon, Mulvey's
House of Gifts
Carrick-on-Shannon, Tourist Office
Coosan, Lough Ree Inn
Dromineer, Whiskey Still

Dromod, Cox's Steakhouse
Dromod, Hunt's Supermarket
Garrykenny, Larkin's Pub
Glasson, Lough Ree Marine Services
Knockvicar, Rent Our Boat
Lanesborough, Keane's SuperValu
Lanesborough, O'Brien's Corner House
Lecarrow, Coffey's Shop
Mountshannon, Crowe's Grocery & Bakery
Mountshannon, Keane's Pub
Portumna, Boat House Shop
Portumna, Des Salmon Newsagents & PO
Portumna, D Lynch & Sons
Portumna, Emerald Star
Portumna, O'Meara's SuperValu
Portumna, Palmerston Stores
Rooskey, Rooskey Craft & Tackle Shop
Scarriff, Rodger's Filling Station
Scarriff, Tourist Office
Shannonbridge, Moran's Gala
Shannonbridge, Luker's Bar & Restaurant
Terryglass, The Derg Inn

Royal Canal

Cloondara, Midlands Cycle Hub

Grand Canal

Dublin, Art of Coffee
Naas, Marron's Service Station
Robertstown, Mullaney's Shop
Sallins, 3 Grand Canal Stores
Shannon Harbour, D and S McIntyre

Barrow Navigation

Clashganny Service Block, Little Black Box

Waterway Ireland Offices

Headquarters

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

Eastern Regional Office

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

Northern Regional Office

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

Western Regional Office

Scarriff Harbour
Dock road
Drewsborough
Scarriff
Co. Clare
V94 H7N1
+353 (0)61 922 033

Inspectorate

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



**Waterways
Ireland**

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

www.waterwaysireland.org
info@waterwaysireland.org

If requested this brochure can be
made available in accessible formats.