

24-48 Hours in Mountmellick (Family)

Dav.2

Morning

Fuel up for a day of exploration with a delicious home cooked breakfast at the Coach House or eat out at Noras Cafe, Clock Inn Cafe or The Hare Corners.

The morning begins with a scenic drive through the County Laois countryside, eventually reaching Castleview Open Farm. https://castleviewopenfarm.ie/

Upon arrival, you are greeted by the warm hospitality of the Saunders family who run the farm. Stepping inside, the kids are immediately drawn to the indoor play areas. There is a mud kitchen where they can unleash their creativity, crafting culinary masterpieces out of mud and sticks. An imaginary play area allows them to transform into farmyard characters, while the electric go-karts provide a thrilling race around a designated track.

As lunchtime approaches, the aroma of freshly baked goods wafts from the on-site cafe. Parents can relax and refuel with a cup of tea and a scone, while the kids devour sandwiches or a hearty bowl of soup. Picnics are a must in sunny weather!

Day 2 Afternoon

After lunch, it's time to explore the extensive outdoor area. A network of walkways winds its way past paddocks teeming with life. Spot giant rabbits with fur as soft as velvet, and majestic alpacas with their calming presence. Briana, the resident Eagle Owl, hoots from her perch, her amber eyes glinting curiously.

The afternoon winds down with a visit to the farmyard petting zoo. Here, children can cautiously interact with a pot-bellied pig, stroke the fur of a friendly goat, or chase after fluffy ducks waddling across the yard. No trip to Castleview Open Farm is complete without tackling the challenging maze.

Notes: Families could easily spend a day or most of the day here. If you still have time to do something else, The Dove Sensory Gardens, Abbeyleix are worth a visit. Designed with accessibility in mind, this haven uses plants, textures, and water features to stimulate all five senses. <u>Dove Sensory Gardens</u>

Day 2 Evening

Exhausted but exhilarated, families pile back into the car, their hearts full of happy memories. The drive home is filled with chatter about the day's adventures, and the promise to return to Castleview Open Farm soon.



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Morning

Kick-start your adventure with a home-cooked breakfast at the Coach House. Alternatively, savour a delicious meal at Noras Cafe, Clock Inn Cafe, or The Hare Corners.

Head for Mountmellick Playground & outdoor gym. It has something for everyone in your family! The kids will love the play ship, swings, sandpit and water area, while there's also an outdoor gym for adults to get some exercise and enjoy the fresh air. It's a great place to let loose and have some fun!

If you need a coffee and a snack, then the Hares Corner is straight across the road.

Day 2

Afternoon

Emo Court & Parklands for some more fresh air. Loads of space for kids to run, feed the ducks and have a picnic at the lovely picnic benches provided. The Tea Rooms are on site if you don't feel like a picnic. https://www.emocourt.ie/

A swim at Portlaoise or Portarlington Leisure Centres both are only 18 minutes away and have playgrounds right next door.

https://www.laoisleisure.ie/

Rainy Days: Head for the indoor adventure centres or the cinema

• Roll N Bowl Portlaoise (Roll N Bowl.com)

Odeon Cinema Portlaoise (https://www.odeoncinemaportlaoise)

• Clownaround Portarlington (http://clownaround.ie/)

Dav 2

Evening

Grab a bag of Fish & Chips in the shop next door and enjoy a family meal in the Coach House