



The Forum Mountmellick

DAY-TRIPS FROM THE FORUM-MOUNTMELICK

Each of The Forum-Mountmellick's accommodations are situated in the centre of the small but thriving town of Mountmellick County Laois, Ireland.

Originally Queens County, Laoise is located in the "Hidden Heartlands" of Ireland's "Ancient East".

This region, unspoilt by mass tourism boasts countryside, rivers, forests and mountains. Mountmellick, previously the "Manchester of Ireland", original home of the Quakers in Ireland who introduced globally recognised Mountmellick embroidery (White thread on white fabric) is in itself of significant historical interest. It offers a gateway to the Slieve Bloom mountains and many other areas of interest. There are activities and places to visit to suit all tastes.

Its central location makes Mountmellick a perfect stop-over destination for visitors arriving in Ireland by air or sea. It is also a perfect launchpad for personalised or pre-planned trips to many other geographical regions of interest. It is within 2-hours access by car to Cork City or Galway City and one hour by car to Dublin City. Major cities can also be reached by rail links from nearby Portlaoise or Portarlinton, just 13 mins by car or taxi.

We are a small family run business and pride ourselves on personal service and attention to detail.

With endless locations of interest on our doorstep and beyond, your next unforgettable adventure begins at The Forum-Mountmellick, County Laois.

We will be happy to advise you and help you make the most of your visit before you arrive and whilst you are here. We welcome feedback on our trip recommendations especially if we have missed one of the many points of interest

DAY 1

Morning



Start your day with a self-catering home cooked breakfast at the Forum or enjoy a full Irish Breakfast at Noras Café (The Square) or at The Hare Corners Restaurant known for its delicious award-winning food renowned for their friendly atmosphere. These are both short walking distances from the Forum.

Take a short drive to the Slieve Bloom Mountains and enjoy breathtaking views of the surrounding countryside. Pack your picnic basket and find a secluded spot to enjoy your lunch amidst the tranquil beauty of nature or take the looped walk (Glenbarrow Waterfall) and feast at The Falls Glenbarrow for lunch.

For a scenic hike or leisurely walk. Choose from many different trails that suit all fitness levels

<https://slievebloom.ie/walking>

If you prefer biking. Plan you trip here with many different bike trails to choose from as well as information on where to hire bikes. <https://slievebloom.ie/biking>

Afternoon



Steeped in history and nestled amidst the rolling hills of Ireland's Slieve Bloom Mountains, Kinnitty Castle beckons both history lovers and nature enthusiasts. Built on a site that dates to 1209, the castle boasts a rich past, whispering tales of Norman invaders and Gaelic clans. Explore the grand rooms, some adorned with original features, and lose yourself in the captivating atmosphere.

Step outside the castle and breathe in the fresh country air, with 650 acres of parkland and forests just waiting to be explored. Whether you fancy a leisurely stroll or a more adventurous hike, Kinnitty Castle offers the perfect blend of historical intrigue and outdoor beauty.

Be sure to visit The Kinnitty Pyramid. It isn't an ancient Egyptian wonder, but a surprising sight in the village of Kinnitty. This 30-foot-tall structure is the spire of St. Finian's Church, built in the 19th century as a small scale replica of the Great Pyramid of Giza.

Evening



Relax back in the Forum to self-catering home cooked meal or avail of the many local takeaway outlets offering a wide range of food to suit all tastes from Fish & chips, Chinese and or Indian. Alternatively, purchase a pre-cooked meal from Hares Corner who will be pleased to wrap one up.

DAY 2

Morning



Start another day with a self-catering home cooked breakfast at the Forum or enjoy a full Irish Breakfast at Noras Café (The Square) or at The Hare Corners Restaurant.

Take a 30-minute car journey to Heywood Gardens and Estate, Ballinakill, County Laois (R32KaV6), which offers a glimpse into formal garden design, showcasing a centrepiece Lutyens Garden dating back to 1912.

Here, sculpted hedges and vibrant blooms like summer peonies and irises create a tapestry of colour and form.

The walking loop is a 3.9-mile for all fitness levels and takes about 1 hour and 44 minutes to complete. The trail goes through beautiful woodland, along country roads, and of course, takes you to the beautiful Heywood Gardens. Care must be taken to watch out for traffic on the road sections.

Before embarking on another adventure take the 7-minute car journey from Ballinakill to Abbeyleix and stop for some lunch in one the beautiful food venues Abbeyleix has to offer.

Afternoon



Next stop, for those seeking a more immersive nature experience. The Dove Sensory Gardens at Dove House, Main Street Abbeyleix, Co. Laois has plants, textures, and water features to stimulate all five senses. Dove House can be accessed by appointment only.

Please reach out to the team on 057 873 1325 if you would like a tour. Breathe in the scent of roses, feel the smoothness of pebbles underfoot, and listen to the trickle of the fountain - a truly multi-sensory encounter amidst nature's beauty.

Dove sensory gardens <https://laoisgardens.ie/dove-house-sensory-garden/>

Evening



If it's a weekend vacation, wrap up your stay in Mountmellick with a traditional Irish music session in one of the local pubs. Immerse yourself in the lively atmosphere as local musicians perform live music. Savour a pint of Guinness and soak up the authentic Irish charm before bidding farewell to Mountmellick, County Laois.