



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 Portarlington, 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

Arrive Dublin Airport Thursday Morning or any morning of your choice , pick up your hire car or take a taxi (5 minutes) or bus routes 13 and 123) to the iconic Guinness Storehouse, where you can learn about the history and brewing process of Ireland's most famous beer. Enjoy the Guinness storehouse's panoramic views of Dublin City from the Gravity Bar while you savour a complimentary pint of Guinness. <https://www.guinness-storehouse.com/>

Alternatively, head to the National Museum of Ireland in Dublin. Delve into the museum's extensive collections, which include artifacts ranging from prehistoric times to the medieval period. Highlights include the Ardagh Chalice, the Tara Brooch, and the famous bog bodies. Gain insights into Ireland's ancient past and cultural traditions through fascinating exhibits and interactive displays. <https://www.museum.ie/en-IE/Museums/Decorative-Arts-History>

Alternatively, extend your walk to take in the Jameson Whiskey Distillery in Bow Street. <https://www.jamesonwhiskey.com/en-gb/visit-our-distilleries/jameson-bow-street-distillery-tour/>

Head to Mountmellick by car and perhaps stop off at Tracys Thatched Pub for a hearty meal before arriving at the Forum-Mountmellick. <https://www.treacys.ie/> Car: Approximately one hour from Dublin Airport

Afternoon

Alternatively, for those using public transport, head to Mountmellick by bus, or train.

Bus: Dublin to Mountmellick bus services, operated by PJ Martley, Ph: 057 8620888 departs from Merchant's Quay station. Buses run five times a week between Dublin and Mountmellick. The service departs Dublin at 17:30 in the afternoon, which arrives in Mountmellick at 19:02. All services run direct with no transfers required, and take on average 1h 32m.

Train: Access Heuston Train Station via taxi (5 minutes city centre), Luas tram 15 minutes, Bus 15 minutes (depending on traffic flow).

Evening

At your leisure, complete the last leg of the Journey to the Forum-Mountmellick where a warm welcome awaits you. Enjoy the warm and friendly atmosphere in the local Mountmellick pubs, which have a variety of music playing at the weekends.

If dining after 6pm, The Hares Corner are happy to plate up a dinner for you to have in the Coach House later.

Alternatively, a 15-minute drive to Portlaoise or 20-monutes to Tullamore opens a wider range of restaurants to choose from.



DAY 2

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.

A trip to the Rock of Dunamase a Norman castle located about a 20-minute drive from Mountmellick. Perched high on a rocky outcrop, The Rock of Dunamase was built in the 12th century and is one of the most impressive Norman castles in Ireland. Discover the ruins of this ancient fortress and learn about its rich history, which dates back over a thousand years. The site is perfect for a leisurely walk and a picnic while soaking in the scenic views. You can climb to the top of the Rock of Dunamase for stunning views of the surrounding countryside. Discover Ireland/rock-of-dunamase.ie.

Take a trip into Portlaoise to dine in one of the many bars and restaurants. Jeremiah Grants comes highly recommended for tasty bar food. After lunch take a stroll through town and visit the Old Fort Quarter.

Afternoon



By car take a trip cross country to the village of Timahoe to explore the famous Round Tower. It is one of the finest examples of its kind in Ireland, featuring an intricately carved doorway in the Romanesque style.

Dating from the 12th century, the tower stands nearly 30 meters tall and is the sole surviving structure of an early monastic settlement.

Evening



Treat yourself to a fine-dining experience at The Osprey Restaurant at Ballyfin Demesne, a luxurious hotel located approximately 14-minutes drive from the Forum. Savour exquisite dishes prepared with fresh, local ingredients in an elegant setting. Ballyfin.com

DAY 3

Morning



Start your day with another 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.

For the outdoor - intrepid explorer, the Slieve Bloom Mountains (Approximately 40-minutes drive) offer a myriad of walks and hike to the summit of Arderin, the highest peak in the Slieve Blocks, which offers breathtaking views. Or, delve into the hidden depths of ancient woodlands, where ancient oaks stand sentinel amidst a tapestry of ferns and lichens. The boardwalk traverse's the top of the mountains and is designed to provide comfortable walking to suit all ages.

Afternoon



Embark on a whiskey-themed excursion to Tullamore in County Offaly (20-minutes' drive from Mountmellick or via detour from the mountain. Visit the Tullamore D.E.W. Visitor Centre. Learn about the history and craftsmanship behind Ireland's renowned whiskey brand through interactive exhibits and guided tours. Enjoy tastings of Tullamore D.E.W.'s finest blends and discover the whiskey taste that makes Irish Whiskey famous.

Visit one of the many pubs / hotels in the vibrant town of Tullamore to avail of a hearty lunch.

Evening



Enjoy the warm and friendly atmosphere in the local pubs, which have a variety of music playing at the weekends.

If dining after 6pm, The Hares Corner are happy to plate up a dinner for you to have in the Coach House later.

Alternatively, a 15-minute drive to Portlaoise or 20-minutes to Tullamore opens a wider range of restaurants to choose from.

DAY 4

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.

Pack your bags and bid farewell. Commence the return journey to Dublin Airport taking in the National Stud and Japanese Gardens in Kildare to enjoy the gardens tranquillity and beauty.

Explore the world-renowned stud farm, home to some of Ireland's finest thoroughbred horses, and stroll through the serene Japanese Gardens, designed to promote harmony and relaxation.

Afternoon



Complete the journey to Dublin Airport and commence your homeward journey and hopefully with great memories of your stay.