



# 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



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

The morning could begin with a scenic drive through the County Laois countryside, eventually reaching Castleview Open Farm, Barrack quarter, Cullihill, County Laois R32 E932 3-minutes' drive from Mountmellick. <https://castleviewopenfarm.ie/>

Upon arrival at the farm, you are greeted by the warm hospitality of the Saunders family who operate the farm. Stepping inside the farm, children can avail of the indoor play areas. There is a mud kitchen where children can unleash their creativity, crafting culinary masterpieces from 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 café, which offers which offers Coffee, tea, ice cream, Milkshakes , Sweet treats, and a range of hot food including Burgers, Vegetarian Burgers, Chicken selects, Cocktail Sausages and Chips. This outing is ideal for bringing a picnic basket.

### Afternoon



After lunch, it's time to explore the extensive outdoor area. A network of walkways winds its way past paddocks teeming with domesticated wildlife. 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 could wind 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 15-minute drive from Castleview Open Farm to The Dove Sensory Gardens, Abbeyleix is worthy of a visit. The Dove sensory garden uses plants, textures, and water features to stimulate all five senses. [Dove Sensory Gardens](#)

### Evening

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

## 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 known for its delicious award-winning food renowned for their friendly atmosphere. These are both short walking distances from the Forum.

Visit Mountmellick Playground & outdoor gym. It has something to offer everyone in the family! The children can play ship, swings, sandpit and enjoy the water area, while there's also an outdoor gym.

If you need a coffee and snacks, cross the road to the Hares Corner Restaurant.

### Activities for rainy days:

**Roll N Bowl Portlaoise**<http://www.RollNBowl.com>

**Odean Cinema Portlaoise**<https://www.odeoncinemaportlaoise>

**Clownaround Portarlington**<https://clownaround.ie/>

### Afternoon



Pack a picnic with food to feed the ducks and take a 15-minute drive from Mountmellick to Emo Court, a stunning neo-classical mansion designed by the renowned architect James Gandon (1743-1823), famous for his great public building, including The Customs house Dublin, and the Four Courts in Dublin, Ireland. Enjoy a family walk in Emo Court gardens and parklands and join the children feeding the ducks. Picnic benches are provided or enjoy a lunch or coffee with a pastry in Emo Court tea rooms. Guided tours are available during the summer to discover the history of the once-powerful family and marvel at the opulent interiors.

<https://www.emocourt.ie/>

Alternative plans might include an 18-minute trip from Mountmellick to Portarlington Leisure Centre which offers a 25m pool plus a learner pool for children, a gymnasium, a café, and a nearby playground for children.

<https://www.laoisleisure.ie/>

### Evening

For a lazy evening free of cooking and/or dining out, try the local fish and chip shops. These are located close-by to the Forum and serves a wide range of fast-food classics for the family including chips pizzas and kebabs. Next door to the Forum is the Golden Grill or further down the main street towards the Church you will find Robertos.

Golden Grill      <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063812372968>  
Robertos          <https://robertos-mountmellick.com/>