



2-Day Stay at the Forum -Mountmellick (History Buffs)

The Forum-Mountmellick, nestled in County Laois, beckons travellers with its promise of exploration and discovery in the enchanting unspoilt Province of Leinster.

The Forum-Mountmellick is conveniently located just a 50-minute from Dublin's bustling Euston Station. Mountmellick serves as a gateway to the region and Dublin's plethora of tourist delights.

Whether you're starting your journey from near or far, the Forum-Mountmellick offers the perfect launchpad for personalised adventures or pre-planned trips.

For those craving autonomy and flexibility, seize the opportunity to plan your own day trips, each tailored to your unique passions and preferences. Explore the rich tapestry of Ireland's heritage with visits to nearby national attractions, each easily accessible on your journey to or from the Forum-Mountmellick. Whether it's tracing the footsteps of ancient ancestors at historic sites or immersing yourself in the natural splendour of verdant landscapes, the possibilities are endless.

Alternatively, for those seeking seamless travel experiences, our pre-planned itineraries offer a stress-free way to immerse yourself in the best that the region has to offer. Indulge in a carefully curated two-day adventure, brimming with captivating excursions and insider insights. From guided tours of historic landmarks to leisurely strolls through picturesque villages, every moment is thoughtfully orchestrated to ensure an unforgettable experience.

Whether you choose to chart your own course or embrace the convenience of pre-planned adventures, the Forum-Mountmellick invites you to embark on a journey of exploration and delight. With endless possibilities awaiting just beyond our doorstep, your next unforgettable adventure begins here.

2-day Stay at the Forum-Mountmellick (History Buff)

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.

Then immerse yourself in Mountmellick's rich history with a visit to the Mountmellick Embroidery Museum which is located on the same campus as the Hares Corner. Learn about the unique "Mountmellick Work" technique, a white-on-white embroidery style pioneered by Johanna Carter in the 1800s. Explore the museum's exhibits showcasing exquisite lacework and the stories of the women who kept this craft alive. <https://mountmellickdevelopment.com/craft-museum.html>.

Take a walking tour (approximately one hour) and embark on a journey through time with Mountmellick's Heritage Walk (map available at the Forum and in the Coach House). Explore the town's rich heritage, from its Quaker roots to its industrial past. Visit landmarks such as the Quaker Meeting House, built in 1714 and one of the oldest of its kind in Ireland and take a 6 km car journey to the Quaker Burial Ground in Rosenallis.

Day 1 - Afternoon

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 walk in Emo Court gardens and parklands followed by a lunch or coffee and pastry in Emo Court tea rooms. Embark on a guided tour to discover the history of the once-powerful family and marvel at the opulent interiors. <https://www.emocourt.ie/>

Grab a light lunch or enjoy a coffee and a pastry in the tea rooms, while admiring the beautiful surroundings. Picnic Benches available for picnics.

Embark on a guided tour to discover the history of the once-powerful family and marvel at the opulent interiors. <https://www.emocourt.ie/>

Day 1 - Evening

If dining before 5pm, The Hares Corner café offer Dine in · Outdoor seating · In-store collection up to 5pm. Requests for after 5pm food delivery to the Forum can be made by phoning Ph: +353 57 869 7493. Alternatively, a 15-minute drive to Portlaoise or a 20-minute drive to Tullamore offer a range of restaurants

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

Portlaoise restaurants: https://www.tripadvisor.ie/Restaurants-g551563-Portlaoise_County_Laois.html
Tullamore restaurants: https://www.tripadvisor.ie/Restaurants-g186632-Tullamore_County_Offaly.html

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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.

Take a trip to the Rock of Dunamase a Norman castle located about a 20-minute drive from Mountmellick. Perched high on a rocky outcrop, (comfortable walking shoes recommended for slight ground incline) 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 vistas. You can climb to the top of the rock for stunning views of the surrounding countryside.

<https://www.discoverireland.ie/laois/rock-of-dunamase>

Alternatively, take a trip into Portlaoise (About 6 km drive from Mountmellick) for lunch in one of the many bars and restaurants. Jerimiah Grants is highly recommended for tasty bar food. After lunch take a stroll and visit the Old Fort Quarter in Portlaoise town centre.

Day 2 - Afternoon

By car take a trip to the village of Timahoe (Approximately 25-Minutes from Mountmellick) to explore the 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.

Day 2 - Evening

Treat yourself to a fine-dining experience at The Osprey Restaurant at Ballyfin Demesne, a luxurious hotel located nearby. Savour exquisite dishes prepared with fresh, local ingredients in an elegant setting. Note: Advanced booking recommended to avoid disappointment Ballyfin.com