



# 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 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.

### 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/>

### 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.

## 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 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.

### 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.

### 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](http://Ballyfin.com)