



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, Laois 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

**Mountmellick
Historic Tour**

Embark on a journey through time with a guided tour of Mountmellick's historic sites. 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. Learn about the town's role in the development of the Irish lace industry and its contributions to the social and cultural fabric of County Laois. Follow the local historic tour map provided.

Distance Front door
By Car Not required
Walking 2-Hour circular tour

**Mountmellick Lace
Museum**

Visit the Mountmellick Development Association (MDA) Centre and discover the intricate beauty of Mountmellick Lace at the Mountmellick Lace Museum. Learn about the history and craftsmanship of this unique form of Irish embroidery, which originated in Mountmellick in the 19th century. Admire exquisite lace displays and perhaps even try your hand at creating your own lace masterpiece. The Centre also houses the Hares Corner restaurant.

Distance 0.5km
By Car Not required but free parking if using vehicle
Walking 2-Hours (excluding lunch/coffee
Url: <https://www.facebook.com/mountmellickmuseumandconference>

**Emo Court
and
Gardens**

Located just a short drive from Mountmellick, Emo Court is a magnificent neo-classical mansion surrounded by stunning gardens and parkland. Explore the elegant interiors of the house, stroll through the landscaped gardens, and enjoy a picnic on the picturesque grounds. Don't miss the peaceful woodland walks and the beautiful lake.

Distance 12km By Car 15-Minutes (Free Parking) Walking 2-Hour circular tour Url: <https://www.emocourt.ie/>

**The Rock of
Dunamase**

Perched high on a rocky outcrop, the Rock of Dunamase offers panoramic views of the surrounding countryside. 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.

Distance 14km
By Car 20-Minutes
Walking 2-Hours
Url: <https://www.discoverireland.ie/laois/rock-of-dunamase>



DAY 2

**Slieve Bloom
Mountains**



Nestled between the counties of Laois and Offaly, the Slieve Bloom Mountains offer a sanctuary for those seeking solace amidst the chaos of modern life. Here, time slows to a gentle rhythm, and the cares of the world are swept away by the whispering winds that dance through the emerald valleys.

As you traverse the winding trails that crisscross the mountainside, each step brings you closer to the untamed beauty that awaits. Towering trees sway in the breeze, their leaves rustling like a chorus of whispers, while babbling brooks cascade down moss-covered rocks, their laughter echoing through the quietude. Take a trip on the board walk and side step off to visit the ruins of the last family to live a simple life in the mountains.

For the intrepid explorer, the Slieve Bloom Mountains offer a myriad of adventures. Hike to the summit of Arderin, the highest peak in the range, and drink in the breathtaking views. Or, delve into the hidden depths of ancient woodlands, where ancient oaks stand sentinel amidst a tapestry of ferns and lichens.

Distance Front door
By Car Not required
Walking 2-Hour circular tour
Url: <https://slieverbloom.ie/>

**Tullamore D.E.W.
Visitor Centre
(Offaly)**

Embark on a whiskey-themed excursion to Tullamore in County Offaly to visit the Tullamore D.E.W. Visitor Centre. Learn about the history and craftsmanship behind Ireland's beloved whiskey brand through interactive exhibits and guided tours. Enjoy tastings of Tullamore D.E.W.'s finest blends and discover what makes Irish whiskey truly special.

Distance 14-miles
By Car 20-Minutes
Tour Time 2-Hour
Url: <https://www.tullamoredew.com/en-gb/>

**Charleville
Castle-Tullamore
(Offaly)**

Nestled in the heart of Tullamore, Charleville Castle stands as a magnificent testament to Ireland's rich history and architectural grandeur. Step into a world where tales of ancient nobility and mystical charm converge. With its captivating Gothic architecture, lush surrounding gardens and tales of ghosts whispering through its halls, Charleville Castle promises an unforgettable journey through time. Embrace the allure of adventure and uncover the secrets hidden within its walls.

Distance 26km
By Car 25-Minutes
Tour Time 2-Hour
Url: <https://www.charlevillecastle.ie/>

DAY 2

**Boora Bog in
Tullamore (Offaly)**



Discover the enchanting beauty of Boora Bog in Tullamore, where nature's artistry takes centre stage. Immerse yourself in captivating landscapes, vibrant wildflowers and ancient peatlands which whisper tales of centuries past. Wander along meandering boardwalks, and biodiversity. From rare bird sightings to reflective lakes, Boora Bog offers a sanctuary for both the adventurous spirit and the seeker of serenity.

Distance 40km
By Car 35-Minutes
Walking 2-Hour circular tour
Url: <https://www.loughboora.com/>

**Donaghmore
Workhouse &
Agricultural Museum**

Step back in time with a visit to Donaghmore Workhouse, a restored Victorian-era workhouse that offers insight into Ireland's social history. Explore the exhibits detailing the harsh realities of the unfortunate residents.

Distance 38km
By Car 35-minutes
Walking 2-Hours
Url: <http://donaghmoremuseum.ie/>

**Kilbeggan Distillery
Experience
(Kilbeggan-Offaly)**



Visit to Kilbeggan Distillery in County Westmeath, one of the oldest licensed distilleries in the world. Take a guided tour to learn about the traditional methods of whiskey production and explore the historic distillery buildings. Finish off with a tasting session of Kilbeggan's premium spirits.

Distance 35Km
By Car 30-Minutes
Tour Time 2-Hour
Url: <https://www.kilbegganwhiskey.com/>

**National Stud &
Japanese Gardens
(Kildare)**

Visit the National Stud and Japanese Gardens in Kildare for a day of 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.

Distance 35Km
By Car 30-Minutes
Tour Time 4-Hours
Url: <https://irishnationalstud.ie/>

DAY 2

Guinness Storehouse (Dublin) Head to Dublin to experience the iconic Guinness Storehouse, where you can learn about the history and brewing process of Ireland's most famous beer. Enjoy panoramic views of Dublin from the Gravity Bar as you savour a complimentary pint of Guinness.

Distance 50Km
50-Minutes by Train
By Car 1-Hour
Tour Time 3-4-Hours including pint of Guinness
Url: <https://www.guinness-storehouse.com/>



Kilmainham Gaol (Dublin)

Delve into Ireland's turbulent past with a visit to Kilmainham Gaol in Dublin. Explore this historic prison, which played a significant role in Irish history, housing many political prisoners during the struggle for independence. Guided tours offer insight into the harsh conditions and the stories of the inmates.

Distance 50Miles
50-Minutes by Train
By Car 1-Hour
Tour Time 2-Hours
Url: <https://www.kilmainhamgaolmuseum.ie/>

National Museum of Ireland - Collins Barracks (Dublin)

Explore Ireland's rich archaeological heritage at 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.

Distance 50Miles
50-Minutes by Train
By Car 1-Hour
Tour Time 4-Hour circular tour
Url: <https://www.museum.ie/en-IE/Museums/Decorative-Arts-History>



For those who want a pre-planned day trip, we outline a number of trips that can be mixed to suit your own personal preferences and make your stay with the Forum-Mountmellick as enjoyable as possible. Based on local experience we can suggest a selection of day trips.
