Neolithic to Medieval times. While you're here, actively engage with over 6,000 years of history at the fascinating Lough FAST COUNTY LIMERICK AND Gur Heritage Centre.

Tour 2 takes you 13km north-east of the city on the N7 Limerick to Dublin Road, to the lovely village of **Castleconnell**. Visit the **Irish Harp Centre** or perhaps try a spot of **angling.** Take a walk by **Worrell's** End or World's End, referring to the fact that this quay was used during the Great Famine in the 1840's as an embarkation point for emigrants fleeing Ireland for the New World.

From here, continue by car to the village of **Murroe** where you will find the magnificent Glenstal Abbey (Note -Private property, however, visitors are welcome to walk in the grounds and to visit the church). Close by is the **Clare** Glens - a peaceful, wooded, walkers paradise. Enhance your East Limerick experience even further and check out the electric bikes from Go-Eco bikes in

Travel back to the main N7 road toward

This 3 to 4 day driving route weaves its way through a rich tapestry of castles and cathedrals, magnificent Medieval, Georgian and modern architecture, scenic countryside, buzzing urban streetscapes and adventure packed activities and attractions.

These easy to navigate tours will help you explore some of Limerick's inimitable culture, heritage and unique experiences and activities. The route is designed so that you can complete it in its entirety over 4 days or take it in smaller one day chunks.

OVERVIEW START: Limerick city **DURATION:** 3 – 4 days

Two to three nights in Limerick is ample time to explore some of the sights as set out in this guide. Accommodation in Limerick is plentiful, diverse and offers excellent hospitality and high standards.

Limerick is also the **Gateway to the Wild** Atlantic Way, so use it as a base for exploring Ireland's longest touring route. While you're here, make sure to engage with Limerick's locals - there is a reason why we are known as Ireland's friendliest county!



only as a suggestion You can begin your

LIMERICK CITY

Experience Limerick Tours, than deal city to explore on foot o by the city's very own **Limerick** a Viking city dating back to the Island - the Medieval Ouarter of

a walking tour, a horse drawn carriage tour or perhaps a kayaking tour of the city to see Limerick's medieval gems from a completely different perspective. There absorb here, including the 13th Century King John's Castle. Imagine a Norman soldier's life in this ancient fortress and city from its medieval turrets. St. Mary's **Cathedral** – is the oldest building in could talk what a story they would tell! Immerse yourself in Limerick's fascinating history at the nearby Limerick City Museum and at the Hunt Museum

historic sights, don't forget to also catching urban art dotted around the city; check out its eclectic boutiques, its colourful and cosy cafés and the award

winning Milk Market farmer's market

and antiquity including pieces by Renoi and Picasso. Make sure to also take in

some sporting history at Limerick's

recently developed waterfront provides a the banks of the majestic **River Shannon** the People's Park.

comes to dining. Limerick is a haven of excellent casual dining restaurants

serving up

contemporary cuisine to traditional fare

Continue up the main street, O'Connell streets of the **Newtown Pery** area of the one of the finest collections of Irish contemporary art at the Limerick city Gallery of Art and the area in which Pulitzer Prize winning author **Frank** McCourt (Angela's Ashes) grew up can all be found here. A fascinating Museum Hartstonge Street.

No visit to Limerick city would be complete, without a visit to its buzzing bars. Limerick has some great theatres, venues and performance spaces both here in the city and in Co. Limerick with a live music scene that is recognised nationally and new and established acts can regularly be found performing across many of our venues.

Errors and Omissions

Every care has been taken in the compilation of this guide to ensure its accuracy and compliance with the consumer protection laws of Ireland. Limerick Marketing cannot accept responsibility for errors or omissions, but where such are brought to our attention future additions will be amended accordinaly. future editions will be amended accordingly

We hope you enjoy your visit to Limerick and the Experience Limerick Tours.

We would be delighted to hear your feedback and views, suggestions and recommendations. Tell us at views, suggestions and marketing@limerick.ie.

VISITOR INFORMATION

Where To Stav

Information Office O'Connell Street

Limerick City **t:** +353 (0)61 317522

For details of accommodation in Limerick City and County, as well as attractions and activities or to make a reservation, please call to:

Visitor Information Points:

House VIP
East Square, Askeaton,

t: +353 (0) 87 6305922

Tourist Information Offices: Information Office Adare, Co. Limerick t: +353 (0)61 396255

> Castleconnell VIP Kingfisher Bar, Castleconnell, t: +353 (0) 61 377407

Foynes Flying Boat Museum VIP Foynes, Co. Limerick **t:** +353 (0) 69 65416 Kilfinane VIP Main Street, Kilfinane Co. Limerick t: +353 (0) 63 91748

limerick.ie

Kimallock VIP Deebert House Hotel, Kilmalllock, Co. Limerick t: +353 (0) 63 31200

Lough Gur VIP t: +353 (0) 61 385186

Make sure to log on to: www.limerick.ie

Contact Information

King John's Castle www.shannonheritage.com

Limerick City Museum

St. Mary's Cathedral The Hunt Museum

Frank McCourt Museum

Limerick City Gallery of Art http://gallery.limerick.ie

Limerick Milk Market www.milkmarketlimerick.ie

Thomond Park www.thomondpark.ie

Visit Ballyhoura www.visitballyhoura.com

Glenstal Abbey www.alenstal.ora Lough Gur Visitors Centre

Irish Harp Centre www.irishharpcentre.com Basecamp Action

Tour 2: West Co. Limerick Adventure Park Adare Heritage Centre www.adareheritagecentre.ie www.basecampadventurepark.ie

RetroVentures Ireland www.retroventuresireland.com

Desmond Banqueting Hall www.heritageireland.ie

Great Southern Trail Greenway

Limerick Racecourse

Stonehall Visitor Farm

Curraghchase Forest Park www.coillteoutdoors.ie

Anthony Sheehy [Askeaton www.anthonysheehytours.com

Foynes Flying Boat Museum

Shannon Tarbert Ferry www.shannonferries.com

Limerick Greyhound Stadium Irish Palatine Heritage Centre www.iqb.ie www.irishpalatines.org

cottages, medieval buildings and rich heritage and is truly a gem in Limerick's crown. Antiques shops, boutiques, cozy country pubs and other retailers jostle for space with a half dozen or so restaurants, while the ruins that surround the village add their own counterpoint of timeworr

with a visit to the farmers market which takes place every Saturday, indulge in the finest afternoon tea, go horse riding, take in a day at the races at **Limerick** Racecourse at nearby Patrickswell, or go golfing in the area's world-class and

golf

courses. Why not further explore the open roads of Co. Limerick or the Wild Atlantic Way with a classic car or retro motorcycle hire from RetroVentures Ireland, located just outside Croagh village, just beyond Adare.

Continue along the N21 to Rathkeale, 11km west of Adare. In the 18th century, Sir Thomas Southwell introduced the Palatines to the area, a group of Germanspeaking Protestant refugees who settled here. Today, the Irish Palatine Heritage Centre, highlighting the heritage of this group of people can be found

Continue through the village of **Ardagh**, where the world famous Ardagh Chalice dating from the 8th century was found. Continue through the attractive village of **Athea.** Hidden away in Athea

village, behind the Memorial Hall is a quirky and unique Fairy Trail, home to ten fairies who each have their own fairy door. There is also a worry-tree

called 'Croga' which promises to take away any worries you might have if you place your hand on the plaque attached to it! From here, continue to Newcastle West, the largest town in There's loads to do here including a visit to the almost perfectly preserved **Desmond** Banqueting Hall, take a

Demesne or get some retail therapy in the town's excellent fashion and

Stop at **Abbeyfeale** and explore this appealing market town, or get off the beaten track and explore on foot or by bike, part of the Great Southern Trail **Greenway**, a unique 96km stretch of the former Limerick to Tralee/Fenit

Continue through Mountcollins, Ashford and Broadford villages at the foothills of the Mullaghareik Mountains. Take note of the simple yet poignant memorial to the **Great Irish Famine** in the Church grounds at Broadford and the village library, which is one of the Carnegie libraries built by the American Carnegie Foundation in the early 1900's.

Finish up your scenic West Limerick Drive in **Ballingarry**, where the ruins of the

DeLacy Castle, originally built by the **Knights Templar** and Knockfierna (the Hill of Truth) can be seen.

Greyhound Stadium on your left, take the village itself are locations mentioned in Angela's Ashes. From Mungret continue

Continue on to Kilcornan, where you will

find a cluster of fantastic family fun activities to keep you and your little ones the vast Curraghchase Forest Park, check animals at Stonehall Visitor Farm or for of go-karting. From Kilcornan, drive a short distance west (6km), hopping out of your car at **Askeaton** to soak up the a stronghold of the Munster Geraldines the Anglo-Norman Earls of Desmond. Here you will find **Askeaton Castle**, the Hell Fire Club, the ruins of the 14th Century Franciscan Friary and the ruins of the 13th Century **St. Mary's Church**. Don't pass up the opportunity to take a guided tour with local guide, Anthony Sheehy, who has been conducting tours of his home town for the last 30 years.

Take a short detour off the N69 to Shanagolden where adventure awaits in the form of Basecamp Action Adventure Park and get to grips with a whole host of action packed outdoor activities.

Continue on to **Foynes**, where a visit to the **Foynes Flying Boat Museum** on the main road is an absolute must The museum recalls the era 1939 - 1945 when transbetween Europe and on Foynes, with seaplanes using the village and

birthplace of the Irish coffee, concocted for cold and weary seaplane passengers arriving ashore at the air terminus.

abundance of beautiful gardens. Make sure to stop by Knockpatrick and Boyce **Gardens** as you're in the area.

Continue west along the N69 through Loughill as far as Glin. Situated on the banks of the Shannon Estuary, Glin is the former seat of the Knight of Glin and is home to the lovely Glin Heritage Walks.

From Glin continue on to Tarbert. The car between Clare and Kerry and indeed the Wild Atlantic Way. From here one can continue on the N69 through Listowel and on to Tralee.

to Killimer in Co. Clare and discove what this beautiful County has to

THE GOLDEN VALE DRIVE

For lunch consider stopping off in the charming town of **Bruff** or check out what it was like to live in the 1900's at **Old** Irish Ways. Continue on to picturesque Bruree, famous for being the place where former President of Ireland, Eamon de Valera grew up. Make sure to stop off in the bustling Walled Town of Kilmallock. Kilmallock, also known as the crossroads of Munster, is an important Norman town and was at the centre of Ireland's political development from the 13th through to the 17th centuries. Nearby

> Galbally, Emly and Pallasgreen. steeped in history but it is also a playground for outdoor pursuits with a whole host of activities designed to get your adrenalin pumping. Brush away the its kind at the Ballyhoura Mountain Bike

the city and take the R512

heading in the direction of

Kilmallock. The picturesque

the Golden Vale Drive, which

will take you through some of

rolling pasturelands in Ireland

Continuing through Ballyneety

and on to Lough Gur, 20km south

of the city centre, is one of Ireland's

most important archaeological

Kilmallock are the impressive villages

and towns of Kilfinane, Ballylanders,

monuments ranging in date from

driving route you are

the most lush, green and

try gokarting, go hill or mountain walking where the scenery really is a sight to behold or saddle up on paths with **Ballyhoura Horse**

Trails. If you have any budding environmentalists with you, make sure to visit **Griston Bog Outdoor** Classroom

WEST LIMERICK DRIVE

From Limerick take the M/N20 to "Ireland's Prettiest Village". Adare. stopping en route for a breath of fresh



magnificent parkland of the

From the city, with Limerick N69 to the very historic village of Mungret. In the general area of the

