



MONAGHAN FOOD TRAIL

FROM ARTISAN CHOCOLATEERS TO AWARD-WINNING DUCK PRODUCERS, EXPERIENCE THE HIGHLIGHTS OF COUNTY MONAGHAN WHILE SAMPLING A SELECTION OF THE COUNTY'S FINEST FOOD, BEVERAGES AND GOURMET TREATS.

DAY ONE

Your journey through County Monaghan and its culinary delights begins in Monaghan Town. Explore the town's rich architectural heritage, meet the friendly locals and stop off for some quality coffee and home made pastries in one of the town's cosy cafes.

After your morning break, enjoy a free, **guided heritage walk** of the town or discover some of the county's treasures at the award-winning, **Monaghan County Museum** which showcases over 5,000 years of the incredible history of this beautiful region. The museum is a treasure trove of local history which houses many fascinating artefacts, including the magnificent 14th century Cross of Clogher, made of bronze-encased oak and richly adorned with beautiful Christian iconography.

A scenic, ten-minute drive north brings you **Silverhill Farm, Shop and Garden Centre** just outside the village of Emyvale. Learn about the award-winning hybrid duck that has been bred on the farm and is now exported to outlets all over the world. The shop stocks a range of local artisan products and gourmet foods such as Pollock's Pickles, Glaslough Chocolates, Donegal Oil, Suki Tea and more. A wide selection of ornamental and native plants and trees can also be purchased in the garden centre.

Just a few minutes journey south, you will find Glaslough Chocolate Company nestled in the heart of the beautiful village of Glaslough. You can indulge in artisan, Trish Murphy-Thom's delicious selection of hand-made delights, produced using a blend of best-quality Belgian chocolate and the finest local cream, or bring some home as elegant gifts for friends and family. The village itself is one of Ireland's hidden gems, full of characters and stories of its own, the **Glaslough Heritage Trail App** will guide you through its intriguing history for free.

The village grew up around the magnificent **Castle Leslie**, world famous as the venue for Beatle, Paul McCartney's wedding to Heather Mills. The Leslie dynasty began over a thousand years ago, when a young Hungarian nobleman named Bartholomew Leslie married the Queen of Scotland's sister. The colourful Leslie clan continued to produce several famous diplomats, writers and soldiers over many generations.

Today, the castle is still a family home but is also a luxurious hotel and spa. You can wander the beautiful grounds, visit the charming Saint Salvator's Church, the delightful hunting lodge, the walled garden and enjoy some old-world hospitality with **afternoon tea** served in the castle's drawing room. Complete the first day of your Monaghan food adventure in one of the many **award-winning restaurants** in Monaghan Town.



DAY TWO

Your second day begins with a short journey east to **Clontibret Wildlife and Heritage Centre**, home to Ireland's largest private collection of Irish flora and fauna. The centre conserves wildlife through both education and by providing rehabilitation for injured animals and releasing them back into their natural habitats. Meaning, 'well of the meadow' in Irish, Clontibret is a charming area made up of winding roads, streams, bogland, woodland and of course, the magical drumlins that County Monaghan is famous for. Both walkers and nature lovers alike will delight in the charms of this special landscape.

This place also played its part in Ireland's turbulent history and in the famous Nine Years War, being the location for Battle of Clontibret in 1595. The battle was fought between the forces of Queen Elizabeth I and the Irish army of Hugh O'Neill, 2nd Earl of Tyrone. It ended in victory for Tyrone, and was the first severe setback suffered by the English during the war.

A short journey east brings you to the wonderful **Rossmore Forest Park**, the former estate of the Rossmore family who were granted the lands in the 17th century. Although only the crumbling ruins of the once imposing castle now remain, the castle gardens and their walls remain intact along with the fish hatchery, the family crypt, the family's pet cemetery and a beautiful avenue of yew trees which runs for nearly 500 meters. This lovely expanse of wood and glade has a great choice of tracks and trails through thick forests of oak, ash,

spruce, beech, larch and giant redwood which were planted by Lord Rossmore over 150 years ago. You can also take a guided tour with Enda Galligan and hear the fascinating stories of Rossmore in times past.

To discover what life was like in Ireland during the 19th century travel south, to **Sam Moore Open Farm** in the village of Threemilehouse. With its working forge, vintage displays, nature walk, fairy fort and collection of unusual farm animals, this visit should provide a real treat for all the family. Or, if you fancy something a little more adventurous - why not head to **Rally School Ireland**, as Ireland's premiere tarmac rally school, it has a fleet of over 20 cars including Pirelli, Subaru and BMW and a purpose-built track that's designed to really put the driver to the test!

You're bound to be hungry after your second day's adventure and whether you're looking for Italian, Spanish, Indian, Thai or some delicious traditional Irish food, Monaghan's many eateries will be able to cater for your needs. You'll find plenty of 'craic agus ceoil' in the town's many lively bars such as **Shifty Mulhaires**, or for the more discerning customer, head to **Andy's Bar and Restaurant** to sample from their extensive gin menu. You can also check out the **Garage Theatre** for some excellent music, drama or comedy to round off the evening's entertainment. Free wi-fi access in Monaghan town makes it even easier to log on to www.monaghanhasit.ie to check out all there is to see and do in Monaghan!



This is just a taste of what Monaghan has to offer, visit www.monaghantourism.com for more itineraries, trips and tours around this wonderful county!

