A guide to 5 of the best walking loops in and around

Carrickmacross

walk cycle run explore learn

Ancient
CARRICKMACROSS

Tobar Inver (St. Finbarr's Well), on the Ardee Road near the Kingscourt junction, was an important place of pilgrimage and celebration in the pagan era. When Christianity arrived it subsumed the pagan rites and customs and a monastery was established near the well in the 6th century. The monastery was destroyed in 685AD (Livingstone & the Archaeological Inventory of Co. Monaghan). However, there is no record of the foundation date. The ruin of St. Finbarr's Church, built in 1550, stands on the site today. The old town, a small settlement of mud huts, was established near the well at the southern end of modern Mullinary Road.

Modern
CARRICKMACROSS

Queen Elizabeth 1 granted the Farney lands, in May 1576, to Devereaux, first Earl of Essex.

Farney passed to the second Earl of Essex later that year. He was beheaded in the Tower of London in 1601 for treason. In 1621 King James 1 confirmed the third Earl of Essex as owner of Farney. The Earl built a castle in 1630 north of the Proules River where the St. Louis Convent is today. He brought in English settlers and he granted them land for the building of houses to the north of the castle, the Main Street of town today. Carrickmacross became a thriving market town. It was on the route from Meath and central Leinster into Ulster at Ballyhoe Bridge (Ford).

Use footpaths where available and if walking on the roadside stay on the right hand side facing oncoming traffic.

Town, Avenue & Lakeside Walk

A 4km walk through the town centre & mature trail

Distance: 4km | **Difficulty:** Easy
Time: 45min walking | 12min cycling

1. The yellow trail starts at the Shirley Arms Hotel/ Courthouse Square (top left on map).
2. Continue up Main Street past St. Finbarr's Church and the St. Louis Convent.
3. Walk down to the junction and turn left into the R179
4. Take the next left (at the end of the shops) into the Convent Avenue.
5. Exit the avenue onto the busy R178 and turn left. Follow the guides (- - -) on the map to return to the hotel.

Points of Interest:

- St Finbarr's Church
- St Louis Convent & Convent Avenue walk
- Lough na Glac
- Lisanisk lake
- Old Railway Station House
- St Joseph's Church

Town & Country Ramble

A 9.6km ramble taking in leafy limestone terrain

Distance: 9.6km | **Difficulty:** Moderate
Time: 2hr walking | 30min cycling

1. The red trail starts at Treacy's Hotel. Turn right onto the R179 and take next right onto L8820.
2. Continue for 2.2km, passing Lough Fea & Lough Fea Castle on the left.
3. Turn left onto Magheraboy Rd and continue for 1.2km towards Carrickmacross Town.
4. Turn left off Main St onto the R178 signposted for 'Shercock' and continue for 200mtrs, keeping left onto Mullinary St and continuing straight up the hill for 2km.
5. Continue straight downhill across a staggered crossroads. After 200mtrs continue straight at the crossroads, seeing Old Carrick Mill Distillery on the left. Continue straight for 1.7km to the crossroads.
6. Turn left and continue for 1.3km to Treacy's Hotel.

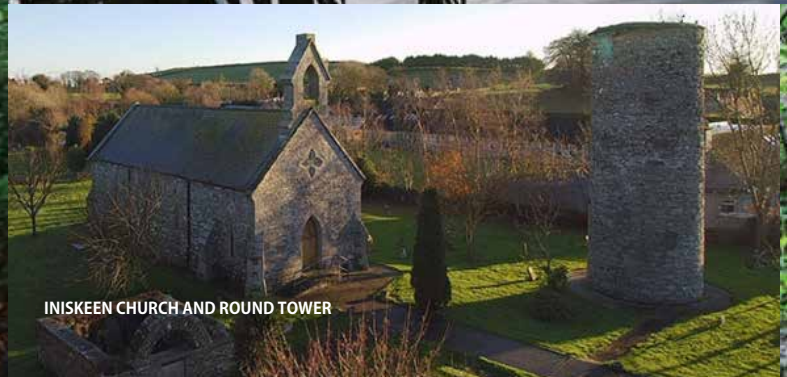
Points of Interest:

- Lough Fea
- Lough Fea Castle
- Site of Ancient Monastery
- Essex Castle Site
- Lough Baite
- Corrybracken Fort

TREE LINED CONVENT AVENUE WALK

LOUGH NA GLAC

LOUGH FEA



INISKEEN CHURCH AND ROUND TOWER

A PIECE OF NATURE'S ART

FLORAL CARRICKMACROSS

FOREST ART

The Lakes Walking Trail

A 7.5km walk through rural farmland dotted with trees, lakes & drumlins

Distance: 7.5km | **Difficulty:** Moderate
Time: 1hr 15min walking | 20min cycling

Starting at the Nuremore Hotel.

1. Trail starts at hotel rear carpark. Exit car park onto T-junction with the L4700 and turn right.
2. Take the first right and walk to junction with the L4922 (Ardee Road) – a busier road. **Walk on the right hand side facing the traffic.**
3. Turn left at the junction, beside the lake, and continue along the L4922. Go around the bend and turn sharp left immediately into a narrow country lane
4. The end of the lane is beside the busy N2; **Entry to the N2 is forbidden.** Turn right, walk to the Blackfort Road and turn left under the bridge.
5. See the lake on your right as you pass under the bridge and continue to junction with L4700.
6. At the junction turn left. Continue straight ahead back to base.

Four Counties Walking Trail

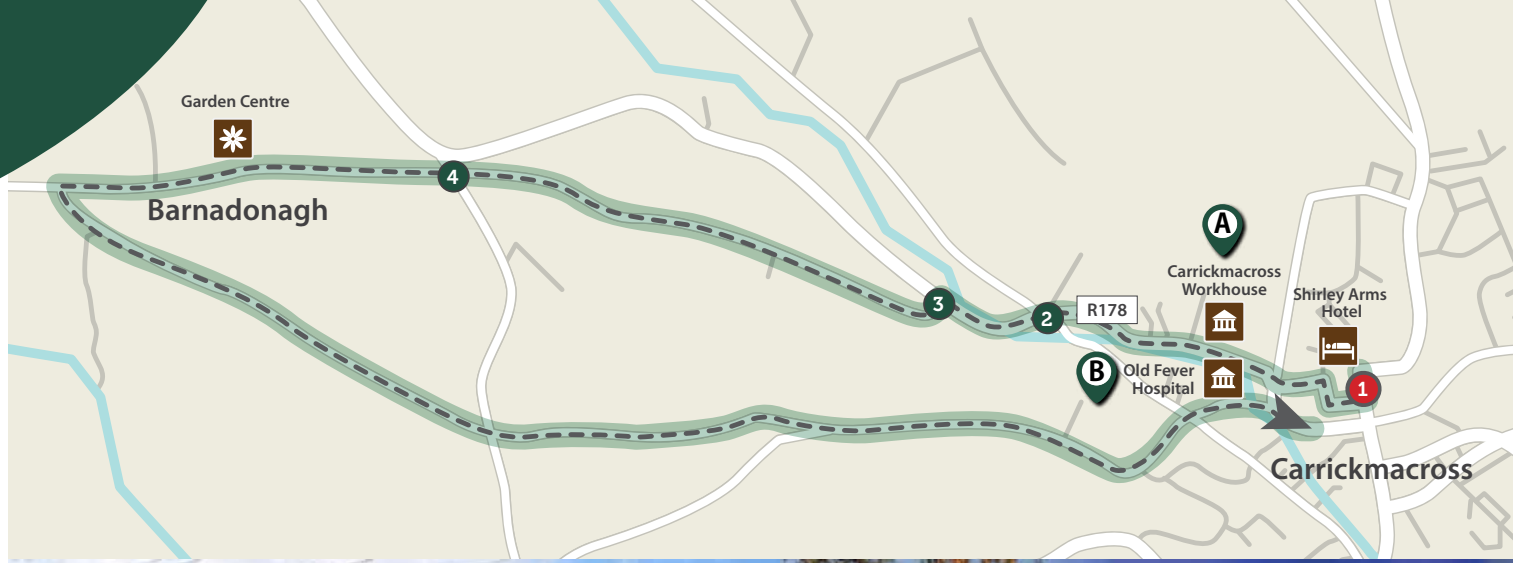
A 8km walk with clear views of Monaghan & neighbouring counties

Distance: 8km | **Difficulty:** Moderate
Time: 1hr 30mins walking | 25min cycling

1. The Four Counties Trail begins at the Shirley Arms Hotel and weaves its way out of town along the Shercock Road, past the Fever Hospital and the Workhouse.
2. The trail takes the country lane through to Reilly's Cross, straight on past the garden centre
3. ...and next left to the high ground in Barnadonagh. Take a moment here to savour the 4-Counties vista, Cavan, Meath, Louth and Monaghan, anticlockwise from the west.
4. The trail drops down to the crossroad and then climbs straight ahead by the laneway (the ancient Shercock Road) to the Dunogue Fort. Enjoy the views on the way back to town.

Points of Interest:

- Shirley Arms Hotel
- Fever Hospital
- Carrickmacross Workhouse
- Four County View



Pilgrims' Way
Tin Church Trail

Distance: 8km/24km/32km **Difficulty:** Difficult

Walk Time: 2hrs / 5hrs / 7hrs
Cycle Time: 30min / 1hr 10min / 1hr 35min

The road from Tobar Inver (St. Finbarr's Well) to Shantonagh is a unique feature in the region. It goes, as the crow flies, for 13km straight to Shantonagh. Tobar Inver (Inver=anglicized version of Finbarr) was an important place of pilgrimage since pagan times. The fact that a monastery was established near the well in the 6th century adds credence to this theory. St. Finbarr's Old Church in Magheross now occupies the ancient monastic site. The blue trail is 24km; blue + green is 32km

Points of Interest:

- Aphuca Cave
- Creevy Caves & Lake
- Mile River
- Lisdoonan Village
- The Tin Church

Visitor Centres:

Carrickmacross Lace Gallery.....Ph: 042 966 4176
Patrick Kavanagh Centre.....Ph: 042 937 8560
Carrickmacross Workhouse.....Ph: 042 966 4540
St Joseph's Church, Carrickmacross
Harry Clarke Stained Glass Windows
Brehon Brewhouse Craft Beer.....Ph: 042 937 8406

Golf:

Manann Castle Golf Club.....Ph: 042 966 3308
Nuremore Golf Club.....Ph: 042 966 1438
Concra Wood Golf Club.....Ph: 042 974 9485
Cabra Castle Golf Club.....Ph: 042 966 7030

Activities:

Horse Riding (Indoor Arena for beginners)..Ph: 087 7487445
Supervised Quad Biking Course.....Ph: 087 2460742
Water Sports.....Ph: 087 8175520
Children's Indoor Soft Play Areas.....Ph: 042 9667875 / 042 9749955
Children's Outdoor Play Area
Rockdaniel Road, Carrickmacross
Joels Crazy Crafts for Kids
Lisanisk House.....Ph: 087 747 5772
Coarse and Game Angling..... Choice of 30 lakes
Carrickmacross Cycling Club.....Ph: 087 258 2806

IRELAND'S ANCIENT EAST

more to Monaghan

Oighacht agus dícheall

This booklet has been published in good faith on the basis of information submitted to The Municipal District of Carrickmacross – Castleblayney, Monaghan County Council. All walk distances and times are approximate.

Thanks to Carrickmacross Camera Club for the supply of photographs.