Carrickmacross

Carraig Mhachaire Rois

Rock on the Wooded Plain

Castleblayney & Lough Muckno **18km**

Monaghan, N2 **40km**

Shercock Rd.

Shercock, R178 **13.4km**

Carrickmacross Workhouse

Ross Rd.

Old Fever Hospital

The Well

Penny Bridge

Bridewell Lane

Parnell St.

Monaghan St.

Main St.

Chapel Lane.

START & FINISH

Shirley House Lane

Phoenix Sports Centre

O'Neill St.

Skatepark

Crossmaglen, R179 **17km**

Donaghmoyne Rd.

Horse Hill

New St.

Emmet Rd.

Farney St.

Dundalk Rd.

Lisanisk Lake & Crannog **300m**

The Patrick Kavanagh Centre, Inniskeen R178 **12km**

Dundalk, R178 **23km**

Mullinary Rd.

Cabra Castle **10.5km**

Dún a Ri Forest Park **11.5km**

Kingscourt Rd.

Lough Fea Estate **2.6km**

Kingscourt **12.6km**

Magheraboy Rd.

Old Magheross Church

Ardee Rd.

Ardee, N2 **21km**

Monaghan County Crest

The Monaghan county crest is inspired by its early history. The four quadrants of the shield symbolise the four ancient kingdoms that made up the region – Úi Meith, Dartraige, Mugdorn and Fermag.

What do you think the motto "Dúthracht agus Dicheall" means?

Diligence and Best Endeavour.

Follow the route and Tick the box

Purple Trail — 2km

Follow 1 - 18

FEELING COMPETITIVE?

Start time

Finish time

MAP LEGEND

- Purple Trail
- 1 Trail number
- Playground
- Picnic Area
- P Parking
- Doctor on call
- Library

N W E S

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
There is no planet B

Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin
Monaghan County Council

EZxploring

The Story of Carrickmacross

Carrickmacross means 'rock on the wooded plain', though it is not known with full certainty what 'rock' this name refers to. It is the principal town in Farney, the southern part of Monaghan. Prior to the 17th century, Farney was under the control of the McMahons. They were based in Magheross until the late 16th century when they moved to a crannog on Lisanisk Lake.

The present town of Carrickmacross originates with the third Earl of Essex in the 17th century. He built a stronghold in order to establish his rule over Farney, and the town of Carrickmacross slowly grew up around the stronghold. However, conflicts such as the 1641 Rebellion and the Williamite Wars halted the town's original growth.

When the Earl died, his property was divided along the main street between his two sisters, Lady Dorothy and Lady Francis. Through marriage the town came under the authority of the Shirley family on the west side, and the Thynnes, later the Marquesses of Bath, on the east side. Both of these families had a significant impact on the history of Carrickmacross. The Bath family were absentee landlords while the Shirleys were semi-absentee, living here from the late 1750's. The Marquesses of Bath sold all of their land in Farney but the Shirley family retained some of their remaining land, and still do to this day.'

As you walk through Carrickmacross, you will start with the Bath side and return to where you began through the Shirley side.

Today, Carrickmacross remains a busy market town and an important industrial centre that is recognized for its strong cultural heritage.

Don't forget to Tick the box

1 The Market House

Carrickmacross established itself as a busy market town early in its history. Different markets took place in different locations around the town, such as the fowl market on Bridewell Lane, the cattle market on Monaghan Street, and the pig market in front of St. Finbarr's Church. This Market House was built in the 1860s and now houses the Carrickmacross Lace Gallery, a local crafts hub named Collective at Market Square, and an artists studio.

Look at the wind vane on the roof – what way is the wind blowing today?

2 O'Neills Hotel

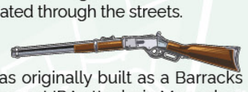
The former O'Neill's Hotel on Main Street can be identified by a plaque that states it was the site where the first GAA meeting in Monaghan took place. Can you find the year this meeting happened? On the wall of this hotel is a gas light which was used to light up the streets in the past.

Across the street is the local Bank of Ireland which was designed by William Caldbeck, whose work you will see again. Built in 1856 and the oldest surviving bank building in Carrickmacross. Originally the National Bank until the 1960s when incorporated into Bank of Ireland.

3 Jostle Stone

What do you think the purpose of this feature is? Jostle stones or guard stones prevented damage to buildings when horse-drawn carriages navigated through the streets.

4 Garda Station



This unusual looking Garda station was originally built as a Barracks for the RIC in 1867. In 1921, one of the largest IRA attacks in Monaghan took place at this site. A bomb placed in the building next door failed to go off and a gun battle ensued. Can you see other bullet marks on the walls?

Take note of the metal-plated door. Why do you think it was designed like this?

5 St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church

St. Joseph's Church is a beautiful French Gothic building designed by one of Ireland's leading architects, JJ McCarthy.

The steeple of the church was not added until after construction because of a shortage of funds. When it was being built the workers lived in temporary huts close to the present carpark. If you look closely, you can even find a stonemason's initials carved into a corner block on the walls of the grounds of St Joseph's, to the right of the toilet block.

The church features stunning stained-glass windows from the studio of Harry Clarke. The St. Ceara window was designed and created by Clarke himself. St. Ceara is of particular importance to Carrickmacross, as she was responsible for founding a convent at Lisdoonan several miles away.

The Stations of the Cross are by Richard King, some say that the figure behind Christ in Station Number 10 is the artist's representation of the Soviet Leader Stalin.

6 Catholic Hall

This early-20th century Catholic Hall is an unusually decorative structure. The façade of the building is an example of Neo-Baroque architecture and is one of the few examples of this style in Ireland.

If you have time, visit Bully's Acre further down this road. This was the final resting place of those without the means to pay for a church-cemetery burial. One of the marked graves here belongs to Patrick Byrne, whose tombstone was paid for by the Shirley family.

Byrne was a blind harpist who performed throughout Ireland and Great Britain. Byrne was a private harper to Prince Albert, husband of Queen Victoria. His photograph was the first ever taken of any harpist worldwide, and the first of a traditional Irish musician.

7 St. Joseph's Terrace

These stone cottages were originally known as Weymouth Cottages. They were built in 1870 to house the workers of the Bath Estate. They are surprisingly extravagant and were constructed in a style described as a restrained form of Romantic Gothic. Look closely at the crests on the plaque above the doorway. What do you think the 'B' refers to?

In the past, horses were sold in this area. Can you find Horse Hill where a horse's stamina was tested before a sale was made by running the animal down this hill?

8 St. Finbarr's Church of Ireland Church

St. Finbarr's Church on Main Street is a Church of Ireland building from the late 18th century.

One of the stained-glass windows depicting the miracle of the feeding of the 5,000 is signed by Harry Clarke Studios.

9 St Louis Convent, Site of Essex Castle

The third Earl of Essex built his stronghold at this site, but it was burnt by rebels. Why do you think he chose to build his stronghold here? The present building was constructed to house an agent of the Bath Estate, but in 1888 a school run by the Sisters of St. Louis opened and continues to this day.

Across from the Convent of St. Louis is Magheross School. The style of this building suggests it was probably designed for the Shirley landlords. The well known short story writer Michael McLaverty was born in Carrickmacross and is believed to have referred to Magheross School in his work.

Do any of this building's features suggest to you that it might have been built for someone important?

10 Historical Graffitti

Look at the lower wall, where you will see historical graffiti dating from the 1940s. This was inscribed by a man called Jim 'Cleas' McKenna and was preserved and restored by locals.

11 Victorian Post Box

There are several old post boxes throughout Carrickmacross that are still in use today. How many can you find? Many of these date back to when Ireland was under British rule. Look at the letters on either side of the crown symbol. Do you know what the letters might stand for?

12 Tree of Life Sculpture

The Tree of Life was designed by Francie and Brid Cassidy for the Carrickmacross Tidy Town Committee. It was made by Liam Murray of Murray Designs. The sculpture is a well-recognised symbol of life in general and is meant to be an inspiration for people to live life to the full.

13 Ulster Bank Building

This impressive three-storey Ulster Bank building was constructed in the 1875. It is very striking, with a squared limestone façade. Notice how the building is slightly recessed from the street with supporting buttresses on either side highlighting its grandiosity. If you look closely you can see a carved hand above the doorway - you can even see its cut-off veins and arteries! What do you think this hand might refer to?

14 Allied Irish Bank Building

This AIB is the third bank you have seen in Carrickmacross. Originally the upper storey of this building was also the Manager's house. The facade of this building is very finely decorated, particularly as two of the windows have unusual balconies with decorative railings. If you look closely, you can also see floral motifs on the rainwater pipes. Why do you think banks such as this one are so important to Ireland's architectural heritage?

Not far from here was the site of a Hiring Fair. Young men and women sought work in farm labour or in domestic service under a six-month contract. It is believed that children as young as ten years old took part! Patrick Kavanagh's book, 'The Green Fool', offers a detailed image of what these fairs were like..

Take a self-guided tour & explore Carrickmacross

Be the local, the historian, the artist, and become the EZxplorer...

Easy Peezy Leisurely Stroll...

- **Keep it simple,** find the picture clue locations and enjoy learning about Carrickmacross.

Ready Steady Go!

- **Feeling competitive?**
- Note your start and finish times and see can you beat families and friends in completing a route against the clock.
- Share your time on social media with #ezxploring and challenge like-minded ezxplorers to compete!

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15 Milestone

This feature is an old milestone, which tells us the distance to different locations in 'Irish miles'. One Irish mile is approximately 1 and 1/3 statute miles.

Can you see how many miles away Castleblayney is? The circular hole in the milestone once held an iron ring to which horses could be tied.

16 Bridewell Lane

Bridewell Lane was the site of the former fowl market. The Bridewell was a short-term county prison built here in the 1830s. There are many 'Bridewells' throughout Great Britain, Ireland, and Canada. The name originated with Bridewell Palace, later Bridewell Prison, in London. This Bridewell housed both male and female prisoners and closed in the late 1800s.

Have you seen Crows Feet Markings before? These were part of a system that allowed ordnance surveyors to map the terrain and determine height above sea level, and they can be found in buildings, bridges, and other structures all across Ireland. Keep an eye out for more of them as you continue through Carrickmacross!

Close to this site you can find both the Carrickmacross Workhouse and Fever Hospital that were built in the early 1840s. Although the Workhouse was built to house 500 people, by 1851 there were an estimated 2000 people crammed inside.

17 Toll House

The Toll House stands across from the market buildings, and it was here that tolls were paid on whatever goods were sold. Each gable is decorated by a fleur-de-lys, referencing the fact that the Shirley landlords could trace their descent from the Plantagenets, the former Kings of England.

Look at the platform feature outside. What do you think this might have been used for?

18 Shirley Arms Hotel

The Shirley Arms Hotel was built by the Shirley family to serve coaches travelling on the old mail road. The coaches pulled into the stable yard at the back of the building where the horses could rest, there was also a forge located here. The hotel opened in 1832, replacing an earlier hotel with the same name situated close to St. Finbarr's Church of Ireland.

The nearby Courthouse is another significant building in the history of Carrickmacross. The designer's identity remains uncertain, but it is usually attributed to William Caldbeck, who built Carrickmacross' Bank of Ireland as well as Brown Thomas on Grafton Street, Dublin. The hill behind the courthouse is known to locals as Gallows Hill. What do you imagine took place there?

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Carrickmacross

Carraig Mhachaire Rois

Find the clues and tell the tales...

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Carrickmacross Workhouse

Carrickmacross Workhouse was one of the 130 Workhouses built in Ireland in the early 1840s, just before the start of the Great Famine. Although it was built to house around 500 people, by 1851 there were an estimated 2000 people crammed inside. Conditions in the Workhouse were extremely harsh. The nearby Fever Hospital, identified by a plaque above the door, was built in 1842 and many of its patients came from the Workhouse, suffering from typhus and relapsing fever, as well as starvation.

The Workhouse was later converted into a jam factory, and is now a Visitor and Community Centre providing tours of the former Workhouse as well as a Genealogy Service.

www.carrickmacrossworkhouse.com *for more information.*

Carrickmacross Lace

Carrickmacross Lace is a world famous craft product. The tradition dates back to Donaghmoyne in 1816 when Mrs Grey Porter returned from Italy with a piece of applique lace. Porter and her maid Ann Steadman were inspired by the style and adapted it to suit local materials. Classes were held to teach local women the craft in the 1820s and 30s. It was revived by the Bath agent Trystam Kennedy following the Famine when a Belgian technique called guipure was introduced to the area. The Bath and Shirley Lace School was set up and in the 1880s the Sisters of St. Louis further fostered lacemaking, maintaining a Lace Centre at their convent. In 1984, the Carrickmacross Lace Co-op carried on the tradition. It has been commissioned by important international designers and even featured on Princess Diana's wedding dress.

www.carrickmacrosslace.ie *for more information.*

Patrick Kavanagh

Patrick Kavanagh is one of Ireland's most celebrated poets. He was born in nearby Inniskeen in 1904, where he lived and worked until 1939. In his autobiography The Green Fool Kavanagh recounted his childhood growing up in Monaghan. This book, with his novel Tarry Flynn and his numerous poems, provide an insight into early 20th century life in rural Ireland. Among his most famous poems are The Great Hunger, Inniskeen Road: July Evening, and On Raglan Road. The Kavanagh Heritage Trail runs through Carrickmacross, stopping at many of the sites featured in his work. If time allows, a visit to the Patrick Kavanagh Centre in nearby Inniskeen is highly recommended.

www.patrickkavanaghcentre.com *for more information.*