

## 48HRS IN ATHLONE (FAMILIES)

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### Day 1: Athlone adventure & Lough Ree escapes

#### Time

#### Activities & Attractions

#### Details

#### AM

As the urban heartbeat of the region, Athlone makes an exciting destination for the whole family to discover – on both land and water!

Start at Athlone Castle and Visitor Centre, situated around the town's historic 13th century fortress, originally built as a Shannon defence point. Here, you can chart the town's fascinating history from the neolithic to modern era, all thanks to its labyrinth of awesome artefacts and interactive exhibitions.

Afterwards, take a thrilling boat journey with Viking Tours where, upon boarding a replica viking ship, passengers take a guided journey 1200 years back in time. Ideal for history buffs and wildlife fans, the upstream cruise to the wilds of Lough Ree is loaded with viking legends and natural treasures.

For both of these popular attractions, do book online to ensure your spot and avoid disappointment!

 Duration: 2hrs - 3hrs

#### Lunch

Athlone is stacked with excellent family-friendly restaurants guaranteed to satisfy all tastes, moods and budgets. Thinking pizza? Il Colloseo is an authentic Italian restaurant that's popular with locals while the Left Bank Bistro offers excellent contemporary Irish cuisine and have a great kids menu too (think tasty hake goujons). For a quicker bite, Loaves and Fishes café is a great casual spot to feast on fajitas and sandwiches.

Athlone Castle Visitor Centre,  
Castle Street, Athlone,  
Co. Westmeath, N37 EA32

**e:** [info@athlonecastle.ie](mailto:info@athlonecastle.ie)

**w:** [athlonecastle.ie](http://athlonecastle.ie)

**t:** 353 (0) 90 6442130

Viking Tours,  
Athlone Castle, The Quay,  
Co. Westmeath, N37 V593

**e:** [vikingmike@vikingtoursireland.ie](mailto:vikingmike@vikingtoursireland.ie)

**w:** [vikingtoursireland.ie](http://vikingtoursireland.ie)

**t:** 353 (0) 86 262 1136

Il Colloseo,  
6 Northgate St, Athlone,  
Co. Westmeath, N37 EY47

**e:** [ilcolosseo26@gmail.com](mailto:ilcolosseo26@gmail.com)

**w:** [ilcolosseo-athlone.com](http://ilcolosseo-athlone.com)


**t:** 353 (0) 90 647 5094

Left Bank Bistro,  
Fry Place, Athlone,  
Co. Westmeath, N37 AX0


**e:** [info@leftbankbistro.com](mailto:info@leftbankbistro.com)

**w:** [leftbankbistro.com](http://leftbankbistro.com)

**t:** 353 (0) 90 649 4446

| Time          | Activities & Attractions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Details                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| PM            | <p>Come afternoon, make the short 10 minute drive to the shores of Lough Ree for a fun-filled adventure at Baysports. Home to Ireland's largest inflatable waterpark, the centre is an open-air playground of giant slides and rockers, with many neatly themed on Athlone's medieval roots. Fun fact: the waterpark even boasts the <i>Guinness World Record</i> for having the tallest inflatable floating waterslide in the world!</p> <p>Kids (and grown-ups) can also explore the lake via a host of water sports, from paddle-boating to rafting.</p> <p> Duration: 2 - 3hrs</p> | <p>Baysports,<br/>Hodson Bay, Athlone,<br/>Co. Roscommon, N37 KH72<br/><b>e:</b> <a href="mailto:info@baysports.ie">info@baysports.ie</a><br/><b>w:</b> <a href="http://baysports.ie">baysports.ie</a><br/><b>t:</b> 353 (0) 90 6494 801</p>                                   |
| Dinner & Stay | <p>The Hodson Bay Hotel (located just alongside Baysports), is Ireland's largest lakeside resort, making it a perfect base to eat, stay and play during your break. The hotel offers a range of family room options, from two-bedroom suites to interconnecting rooms, and also features excellent amenities including a panoramic swimming pool and kids adventure club.</p> <p>For dinner, head to the hotel's Waterfront Carvery Bar and unwind with a great family meal. Fresh local ingredients take pride here, as does the bar's own kids menu, with options from freshly-baked lasagne to gooey chocolate brownies.</p>                                         | <p>Hodson Bay Hotel<br/>Roscommon Road, Athlone,<br/>Co. Roscommon, N37 XR82<br/><b>e:</b> <a href="mailto:info@hodsonbayhotel.com">info@hodsonbayhotel.com</a><br/><b>w:</b> <a href="http://hodsonbayhotel.com">hodsonbayhotel.com</a><br/><b>t:</b> 353 (0) 90 6442 004</p> |

## Day 2: Discovering legends of the Shannon

| Time | Activities & Attractions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Details                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
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| AM   | <p>Following breakfast at your hotel, explore the colourful history of rural Ireland with a road-trip to the Derryglad Folk Museum. A particularly fun attraction for multi-generational families, here you'll learn all about life in Ireland <i>fadó fadó</i> thanks to authentic exhibits from a yesteryear grocery store to, literally, an old-school school. Fun, photo opps guaranteed!</p> <p> Duration: 1hrs</p> | <p>Derryglad Folk Museum,<br/>Curraghboy, Athlone,<br/>Co. Roscommon, N37 X6X8<br/><b>e:</b> <a href="mailto:info@derrygladfolkmuseum.com">info@derrygladfolkmuseum.com</a><br/><b>w:</b> <a href="http://derrygladfolkmuseum.com">derrygladfolkmuseum.com</a><br/><b>t:</b> 353 (0) 90 648 8192</p> |

## Time

## Activities & Attractions

## Details

### Lunch

Afterwards take the short drive south to the charming village of Shannonbridge. Fallon's Bar features a great organic kitchen where you can grab delicious burgers, veggie burgers or fish and chips. Before you leave, take a stroll along the village's scenic marina to watch some of the Shannon's bird life – and cruisers – glide by.

Fallon's Bar,  
Raghra, Shannonbridge,  
Co. Offaly, N37 P6Y8  
**e:** [info@fallonsbar.ie](mailto:info@fallonsbar.ie)  
**w:** [fallonsbar.ie](http://fallonsbar.ie)  
**t:** 353 (0) 87 850 6630

### PM

You've read about it in school, now see it up close! Clonmacnoise is one of Ireland's true historic wonders and a visit here makes a fascinating experience for all the family. The attraction, set on the banks of the Shannon, is one of the best preserved monastic sites in Europe with the ruins of nine churches and two round towers to wander and explore. The visitor centre here also includes a museum and audio visual displays, all adding to the experience of the trip to Ireland's very own lost city.

Clonmacnoise,  
Shannonbridge,  
Co. Offaly, N37 V292  
**e:** [clonmacnoise@opw.ie](mailto:clonmacnoise@opw.ie)  
**w:** [heritageireland.ie](http://heritageireland.ie)  
**t:** 353 (0) 90 967 4195

### Dinner & Stay

Come evening, loop back to the shores of Lough Ree to relax at the beautiful setting of Glasson Lakehouse. Their panoramic glass-fronted restaurant – which offers a great kids menu – is an idyllic spot to wrap up your day. The family-friendly hotel provides a range of complimentary activities from biking to kayaking, and they'll even organise packed picnics if you fancy doing some exploring the next morning.

Glasson Lakehouse  
Killinure, Glasson,  
Co. Westmeath, N37 HX45  
**e:** [info@glassongolfhotel.ie](mailto:info@glassongolfhotel.ie)  
**w:** [glassonlakehouse.ie](http://glassonlakehouse.ie)  
**t:** 353 (0) 90 648 5120

## Instagram moment...

*The golden hour! One of the most iconic scenes in Ireland's Hidden Heartlands is a summer sunset over the Shannon or Lough Ree. For the most epic shots, aim to be on the eastern shores of the waterways before sunset.*

## Three more to explore...

*Looking for more inspiration? Consider adding these options into your Ireland's Hidden Heartlands itinerary.*

**1**

**2**

**3**

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Get down on the farm with the animals at Glendeer. The open farm features over 50 species of animals & birds as well as a coffee shop, nature walk & picnic area.

Glendeer Pet Farm,  
Curryroe, Athlone,  
Co. Roscommon, N37 HY39  
**e:** [info@glendeeperpetfarm.ie](mailto:info@glendeeperpetfarm.ie)  
**w:** [glendeeperpetfarm.ie](http://glendeeperpetfarm.ie)  
**t:** 353 (0) 90 643 7147

A 1000m outdoor track where you can go head to head in a family race or test-drive the world's top racing cars at the indoor racing simulator

Midland Karting,  
Rinvanny, Edgeworthstown,  
Co. Longford, N39 CF40  
**e:** [info@actionsports.ie](mailto:info@actionsports.ie)  
**w:** [actionsports.ie](http://actionsports.ie)  
**t:** 353 (0) 43 667 1308

A quirky heritage centre offering a throwback to medieval life in Ireland. Dress up in Norman attire or go digging for ancient artefacts.

Knights & Conquests,  
Dublin St, Rathcronan, Granard,  
Co. Longford, N39 DE06  
**e:** [info@knightsandconquests.ie](mailto:info@knightsandconquests.ie)  
**w:** [knightsandconquests.ie](http://knightsandconquests.ie)  
**t:** 353 (0) 86 700 6715