


72HRS CARRICK-ON-SHANNON (NORTH)

Day 1: Carrick-on-Shannon to Lough Key


Time	Activities & Attractions	Details
PM	<p>Leaving the marina at Carrick-on-Shannon, navigate the gentle bends of the Upper Shannon northwards until you meet the first, pristine lake on your journey, Lough Drumharlow. Here, travel west along the River Boyle and cruise towards one of the most scenic stretches along Ireland's waterways, Lough Key.</p> <p>🕒 Duration: 2hrs</p>	
Dinner	<p>Arriving at the shores of Lough Key come evening, moor at the forest park's marina. Depending on your arrival time, you've the option to either prepare your first meal aboard your vessel, enjoy a picnic or barbecue along the lakeshore, or let someone else do the cooking and dine at the park's Lakeside Café. They offer a range tasty of meal options which are also available for take-away.</p>	<p>Lough Key Forest & Activity Park, Boyle, Co. Roscommon, F52 PY66 e: info@loughkey.ie w: loughkey.ie . t: 353 (0) 71 967 3122</p>

Day 2: Lough Key to Cootehall

Time	Activities & Attractions	Details
AM	<p>Lough Key Forest Park is a stunning woodland wonderland offering endless hours of exploration and adventure! The park features attractions for all age groups and adventure levels; from a children's playground and a dizzying tree-top walk to Ireland's only <i>Boda Borg</i>, the all-weather Swedish puzzle challenge, where you quest your way through 47 riddle-filled rooms.</p> <p>Back outdoors, you can lace your boots for activities from walking to zip-lining. But to really experience Lough Key, why not row to Castle Island, the jewel of the lake which features an 800 year old fort and lies within easy paddling distance from the shore.</p>	<p>Lough Key Boats, Boyle, Co. Roscommon, e: captain@loughkeyboats.com w: loughkeyboats.com t: 353 (0) 86 084 6849</p>

<i>Time</i>	<i>Activities & Attractions</i>	<i>Details</i>
Lunch	Once back on dry land, you won't have too far to travel for lunch. Lough Key's Lakeside Café, located in the visitor centre, offers great views of Castle Island and is an ideal spot to fuel up after your adventure. Think a tasty menu of salads, wraps and signature pizzas.	
PM & Dinner	After enjoying more adventure of your choice at Lough Key, come afternoon, make your journey back down the River Boyle before making your base at lovely Cootehall Marina for the night. For dinner, enjoy a meal at The Waterfront Restaurant which offers a delicious array of surf and turf options, overlooking the water.	The Waterfront Restaurant, Cootehall Marina, Cootehall, Boyle, Co. Roscommon, F52 YH50 e: info@thewaterfrontrestaurant.ie w: thewaterfrontrestaurant.ie . t: 353 (0) 71 966 7689
	 Duration: 2hrs	

Day 3: Cootehall to Leitrim

<i>Time</i>	<i>Activities & Attractions</i>	<i>Details</i>
AM	The next morning, leave Cootehall and return to the main Shannon waterway, where you'll navigate your way north towards the beautiful riverside village of Leitrim.	
	 Duration: 2hrs	
	Electric Bike Trails, which operates a rental base from the heart of Leitrim village, offers a great way to explore the region. As well as regular bikes, they provide a new fleet of electric bikes for hire or how about hiring a tandem bikes if you fancy sharing the peddling?	Electric Bike Trails, 4 Canal Side, Main St, Leitrim Village, Co. Leitrim, N41 T6V6 e: books@thereadingroom.ie w: electricbiketrails.ie t: 353 (0) 71 962 3609
	Cyclists have a choice of routes to explore the region, but the marked Shannon Blueway trail is perhaps the most relaxing of all. Take the 20km round trip along banks of the mighty river towards the charming small town of Drumshanbo, set on the shores of Lough Allen.	

Time

Activities & Attractions

Details

Lunch

Upon arrival in Drumshanbo, reward yourself with lunch at one of its inviting dining options. Jinny's Bakery & Tea Rooms is a gorgeous spot to park up and enjoy a freshly prepared lunch. They offer a tasty Blueway Brunch from 10am to 2pm and if you fancy eating outdoors, you can pre-order delicious picnics too. Think options like poached free-range eggs with wilted spinach on toasted Jinny's sourdough ciabatta.

Jinny's Bakery & Tea Room,
Carrick Road, Drumshanbo,
Co. Leitrim, N41 V3O6
e: eat@jinnys.ie
w: jinnys.ie
t: 353 (0) 71 964 1033

PM

Drumshanbo is an idyllic destination for all age groups. You can dismount and walk on Ireland's only water boardwalk, a 600m trail which takes you right over the tranquil wetlands. Younger visitors can enjoy the great playground at the Acres Lake Amenity Area while in July and August you can take a dip at the town's outdoor heated swimming pool.

 Duration: 1hr 30

Whether you love gin or history (or a blend of both!), a trip to what's described as the "inner sanctum of Connacht distilling" should offer your afternoon the perfect chaser! The Shed Distillery of PJ Rigney is an eclectic operation where you can enjoy fun guided tours, marvel at the craftsmanship behind national favourites like Drumshanbo Gunpowder Gin, visit the botanics glasshouse and enjoy a little tippie, too.

The Shed Distillery,
Carrick-on-Shannon Rd, Drumshanbo,
Co. Leitrim, N41 R6D7
e: info@thesheddistillery.com
w: thesheddistillery.com .
t: 353 (0) 71 931 7000

 Duration: 1hr

Dinner

Coming evening, return to Leitrim to enjoy a meal at one of the village's great dining spot. Waves Restaurant, located in the Leitrim Marina Hotel offers great food and panoramic views which really bring the outdoors indoors. Enjoy a nightcap before strolling along the marina and retiring to your boat for final night!

Waves Restaurant & Bar,
Leitrim Marina Hotel, Leitrim Village,
Co. Leitrim, N41 AE86
e: reservations@leitrimmarinahotel.com
w: leitrimmarinahotel.com .
t: 353 (0) 71 962 3644

Day 4: Leitrim to Carrick-on-Shannon

Time Activities & Attractions Details

AM In the morning, enjoy a breakfast on board before continuing your journey downriver to your base of Carrick-on-Shannon. Before you leave, be sure to explore the highlights of this lively Leitrim town and River Shannon hub.

Instagram moment...

Perhaps one of Ireland's most popular drone images, McDermott's Castle on Lough Key's Castle Island also makes a fantastic image at ground level. You can capture the sight from the shoreline, but if possible, take a kayaking trip on the lake to really frame its splendour.

Three more to explore...

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

1

A must-visit when in Carrick, this tiny, 3m wide chapel is said to be smallest church in Europe.

The Costello Chapel,
Main St,
Carrick-on-Shannon,
Co. Leitrim

w: carrickonshannonparish.com

t: 353 (0) 71 962 0118

2

The perfect spot to enjoy a coffee or freshly baked treat before exploring Carrick-on-Shannon.

Olive Tree Café,
Market Yard Centre,
Carrick-On-Shannon,
Co. Leitrim, N41 Vko7

e: cliodaq@gmail.com

w: theolivetreecafe.ie

t: 353 (0) 71 965 0525

3

A wonderful hub for visual arts, just a few steps from the marina, The Dock also features a great artisanal gift store.

The Dock,
St Georges Terrace, Townparks,
Carrick-On-Shannon,
Co. Leitrim, N41 T2X2

e: info@thedock.ie

w: thedock.ie

t: 353 (0) 71 965 0828