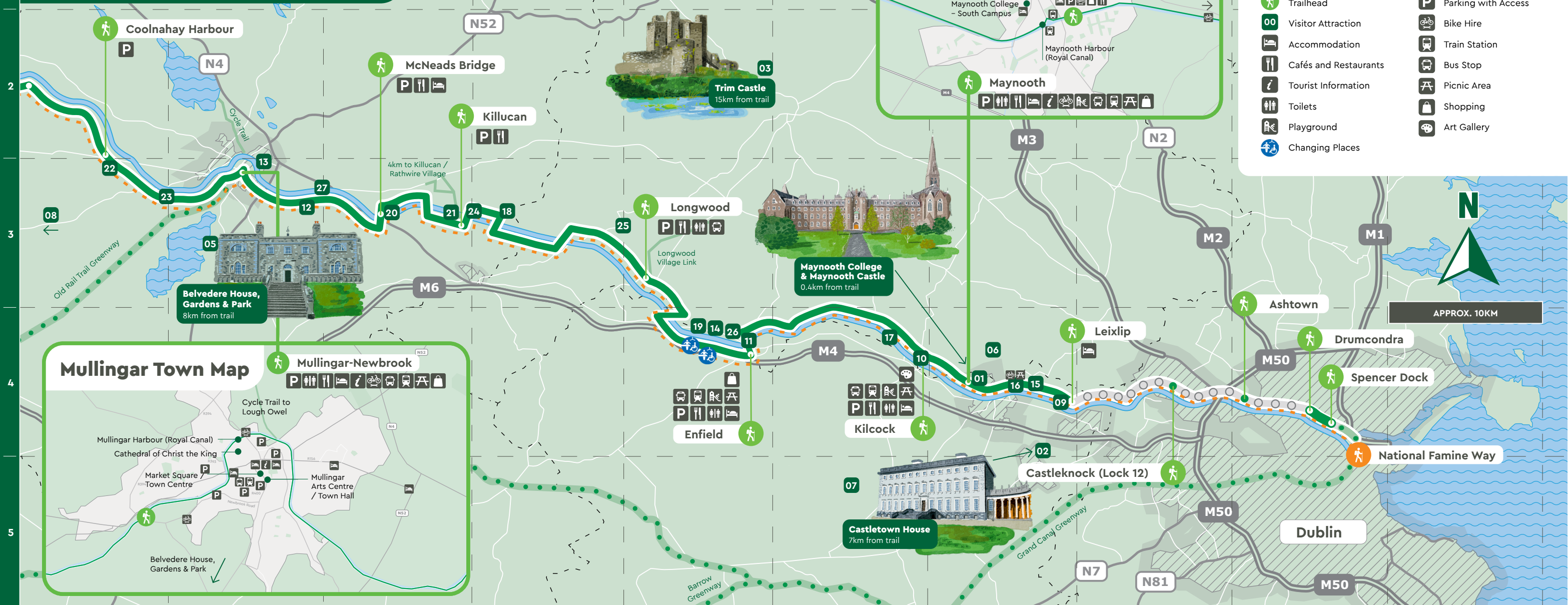


Royal Canal Greenway: Maynooth to Mullingar

Map 1 of 2 60km



Key Visitor Attractions

- 01 National Famine Way**
14 nationalfamineway.ie

A 165km commemorative route from Strokestown Park, Roscommon to EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum, Dublin, retracing famine-era journeys on foot or bike. The route is marked by more than 30 pairs of bronze children's shoes, of remembrance.


- 02 Maynooth College & Maynooth Castle**
G4 maynoothcollege.ie/hospitality heritageireland.ie

Maynooth presents a striking mix of heritage and academic life. Visitors can experience a tour of the College Chapel at St Patrick's College, and the National Science Museum. The 13th-century castle, historic campus grounds, and the canal's stone bridges making Maynooth an ideal starting point.
- 03 Castletown House**
G4 castletown.ie

Ireland's first and finest Palladian mansion. Its sweeping parklands, riverside walks and open meadows create an impressive cultural heritage experience.
- 04 Fore Abbey**
C1 discoverireland.ie

An atmospheric monastic landscape of abbey ruins, holy wells and rolling hills a short drive from the Royal Canal Greenway.
- 05 Belvedere House, Gardens & Park**
B3 belvedere-house.ie

Beautiful lakeside paths, woodland, historic gardens and the dramatic "Jealous Wall" folly make Belvedere a major nearby peaceful, family-friendly attraction. Accessible via Local Link bus 819 or car.
- 06 Carton House Estate**
G4 cartonhouse.com

A historic Palladian estate unfolding across sweeping parkland with lakes, woodlands and grand architecture. Nearby Pike Bridge (16), offers a picnic area and bike repair station.
- 07 Donadea Forest Park**
F5 coillte.ie

Lake walks, woodland trails, historic ruins, and family-friendly picnic areas—perfect for a relaxing day outdoors.
- 08 Hill of Uisneach**
A3 uisneach.ie

A mythical hill once regarded as ritual centre and seat of High Kings—ancient mythic heritage meets panoramic views over multiple counties.
- 09 Leixlip Aqueduct & Louisa Bridge**
G4 discoverireland.ie

The canal crosses high above the Rye Water on this impressive 18th-century aqueduct. Louisa Bridge provides easy access and striking views.
- 10 Kilcock Harbour & Royal Canal Amenities**
F4 waterwaysireland.org/our-waterways/royal-canal/kilcock

A revitalised harbour area with moored barges, picnic spots and cafés.
- 11 Enfield Harbour & Royal Canal Amenities**
E4 discoverboynevalley.ie

A canal stop with visitor facilities, calm waters and railway heritage. Industrial heritage is showcased in the fine old Midland Great Western Railway buildings—the railway station, warehouses, signal boxes and towers, still in use.
- 12 1810 Bridge Sauna**
B3 1810bridgesauna.com

Reset the body, calm the mind, and reconnect with yourself in this space.
- 13 Mullingar Harbour**
B3 visitwestmeath.ie

Mullingar town's trailhead featuring warehouses, moorings and canal paths.
- 14 Furey's Pub & Harbour**
E4

An iconic waterside stopping point to rest
- 15 Deely Bridge**
G4

A stone arch bridge at the edge of Leixlip (Lock 13), reflecting the canal's 18th-century heritage.
- 16 Pike Bridge**
G4

A bridge offering a picnic area and a bike repair station. Cross the road to enter Carton House Estate.
- 17 Lock 15**
F4

With metal footbridges and clear views of the canal's gradient.
- 18 Derrymore Springs Trail**
D3

A beautiful walking trail in nature beside the River Deel and woodland area.
- 19 Moyvalley Bridges & Canal Cuttings**
E4

A peaceful stretch of bridges and towpaths, with countryside views.
- 20 Mary Lynch's Pub**
C3

On the McNeeds Bridge trailhead, this renovated pub is an ideal rest stop.
- 21 Killucan / Rathwire Access Point**
C3

An access point linking the canal to Killucan and Rathwire, ideal for a rest.
- 22 Coolnahay Harbour & Lock 26**
A3

A beautiful, tranquil harbour west of Mullingar.
- 23 Ballinea Access**
A3

A quiet, easy canal-side entry with broad towpaths and gentle gradients.
- 24 Cunninghams Pub & Shop**
D3

A hidden gem rest stop at Heathers Bridge (Lock 22).
- 25 Hill of Down**
D3

A picturesque village, access near Trim and Clonard, with National Famine Way memorial.
- 26 Enfield Fairy Trail**
E4

A woodland walk featuring fairy doors and sculptures.
- 27 Mullingar Pewter**
B3 mullingarpewter.com

Just 8km from Mullingar town, visitors can tour the production workshop, browse the showroom, or sample the café offerings.

In the Wider Area

Local Points of Interest along the Route

Where Greenways Link

The Royal Canal Greenway meets the **Old Rail Trail** at Ballinea and Newbrook. This scenic 43km route is a converted stretch of the Midlands Great Western Railway carved through rich fertile farmland, leading visitors through the very heart of Ireland.

Old Rail Trail:

Athlone Castle
Dún na Sí Amenity & Heritage Park
Hill of Uisneach
Jack's Stop Café



Mullingar

Join the Old Rail Trail Greenway here
Newbrook Trailhead

Join the Old Rail Trail Greenway here
Ballinea Trailhead

Join the Old Rail Trail Greenway



Battles and Battlements on the Shannon Banks
athlonecastle.ie

Before you hop on your bike at Athlone Castle, enjoy a tour of the Castle's Visitor Centre. Climb the steps to the castle keep and enjoy panoramic views across the majestic river. Or climb higher still to the castle battlements and look across the rooftops of the entire town. Take a step back in history and discover the ancient stories through swords, cannon balls, stunning sculptures and interactive displays at the Visitor Centre.



Ancient Majesty
uisneach.ie

As Ireland's mythological and sacred centre, the Hill of Uisneach captivates visitors with its huge significance that pre-dates recorded history. Long regarded as the spiritual heart of the island, it is steeped in legend, ritual, and ancient storytelling. It's a must-visit, and a short 6km diversion from Castletown Station will take you there. Guided tours are available by passionate locals who will send you away dreaming of these enigmatic and sacred lands.



Art, Heritage and Play
dunnasi.ie

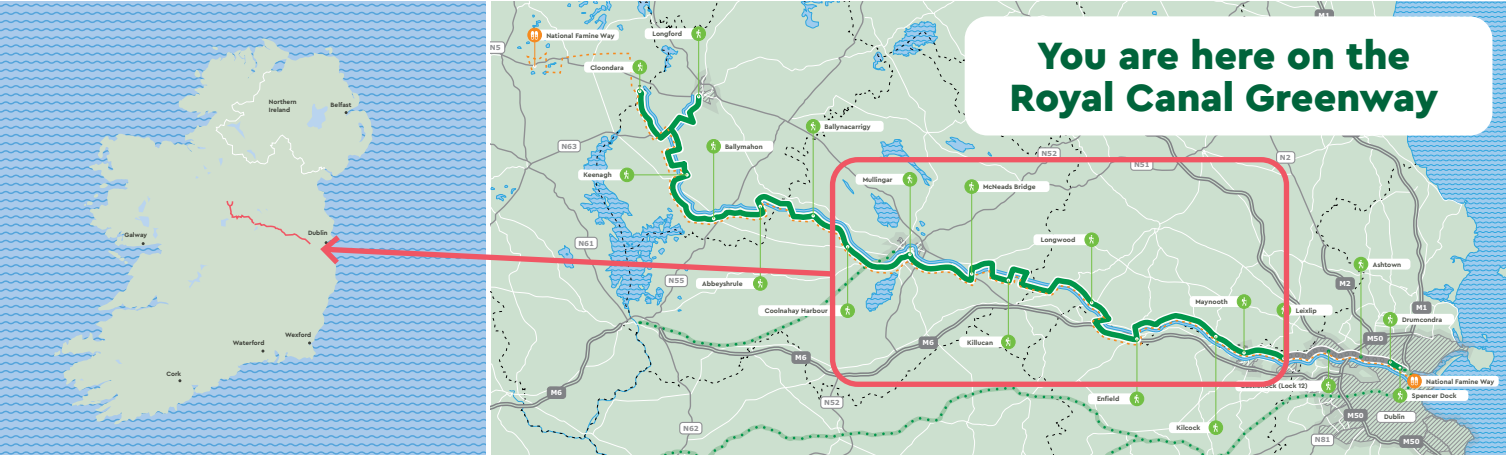
Directly accessible from the Old Rail Trail at Moate, Dún na Sí Amenity & Heritage Park should not be missed. Features include a fantastic playground, outdoor art displays, guided heritage tours and genealogy, as well as a great café with outdoor seating overlooking the park and play areas. Enjoy the walking and cycling trails through a wetland nature reserve and planted parkland or unwind with traditional Irish music and dance.



Rest like a Racehorse
visitwestmeath.ie

The historic station buildings at Streamstown have been lovingly restored, preserving their character while giving them new life. From here, the famous racehorse All Sorts set off by train to win the 1916 Irish Grand National at Fairyhouse. Streamstown Station is now home to Jack's Stop Café, with outdoor seating, a fabulous playground and information about the intriguing history of this location, making it a welcoming stop for families and visitors.

You are here on the
Royal Canal Greenway



Discover the Royal Canal Greenway



Welcome to the **Royal Canal Greenway**, a long-distance, off-road walking and cycling trail connecting Maynooth with Longford Town. Stretching over 130 km, the Greenway winds through the lush landscapes of Ireland's Ancient East and Ireland's Hidden Heartlands before reaching the majestic River Shannon.

Work on the Royal Canal began in 1790, and for more than 30 years it served as a vital transport route for passengers and goods across the Irish midlands. In 1845, the canal was purchased by the Midlands Great Western Railway Company and gradually fell out of use, officially closing to navigation in 1961.

In 1974, a body of enthusiasts formed the Royal Canal Amenity Group to protect, restore, and reimagine the canal as a public amenity. Today, Waterways Ireland manages the canal, and in partnership with the Royal Canal Amenity Group, officially

reopened the route from Dublin to the Shannon in 2010. This milestone led to extensive towpath upgrades and the development of the Royal Canal Greenway, supported by local authorities, public bodies, and dedicated local communities.

Along the Greenway, visitors can encounter a rich built and natural heritage, including 90 historic stone arch bridges, 33 locks, and beautifully preserved lock-keepers' cottages that line the tranquil waterway. Nearby, the Old Rail Trail Greenway complements the canal route, with several restored railway station houses highlighting the region's transport history.

The Royal Canal Greenway also intersects with the National Famine Way, a digitally and physically waymarked 167 km walking trail linking Strokestown Park, County Roscommon, with Custom House Quay, Dublin, commemorating the notorious journey of the 1,490 emigrants taken during the Great Irish Famine.

For more information, visit nationalfamineway.ie

Suggested Routes to Cycle or Walk



Maynooth to Enfield
20 km

Flat towpath surface with gentle slopes. Suitable for family groups of all ages and all types of bikes.

A gentle and accessible section linking Enfield with the lively university town of Maynooth. This scenic route is ideal for family outings or relaxed day trips, ending in Enfield, a charming canal-side town with cafés, accommodation, and easy rail access.



Enfield to Mullingar
42 km

Mostly flat towpath surface. Suitable for family groups of all ages and all types of bikes.

Starting in Enfield, this popular section follows the canal westwards through peaceful countryside and farmland. The flat terrain makes it ideal for relaxed cycling and walking. Finish in Mullingar where restaurants, cafés, shops, accommodation and transport are all closeby.



Mullingar to Longford
47 km

Mostly flat towpath surface with gentle gradients. Suitable for confident cyclists, walkers and all bikes.

A longer journey through peaceful rural landscapes, passing historic locks and bridges. Ideal for confident cyclists and walkers seeking a full-day adventure, finishing in Longford where restaurants, cafés, shops, accommodation and transport are all closeby.



Longford to Cloondara
15 km

Mostly flat towpath surface. Suitable for family groups of all ages and all types of bikes.

This short route travels west from Longford to the harbour village of Cloondara. Calm waters and barges make it perfect for families and outings. The connection with the Shannon Blueway adds extra appeal, with accommodation, cafés and retail in Longford.

Visitor Attractions Map 1/2

Royal Canal Greenway
Map 1 of 2

Maynooth – Mullingar

Emergency
Contacts

In case of emergency
dial 999 or Mullingar
Garda Station
044 938 4000

Bike Hire
& Tours

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Local Tourism

Into Kildare,
intokildare.ie

Visit Westmeath,
visitwestmeath.ie

Discover Boyne Valley
discoverboynevalley.ie



See more info on
DiscoverIreland.ie



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