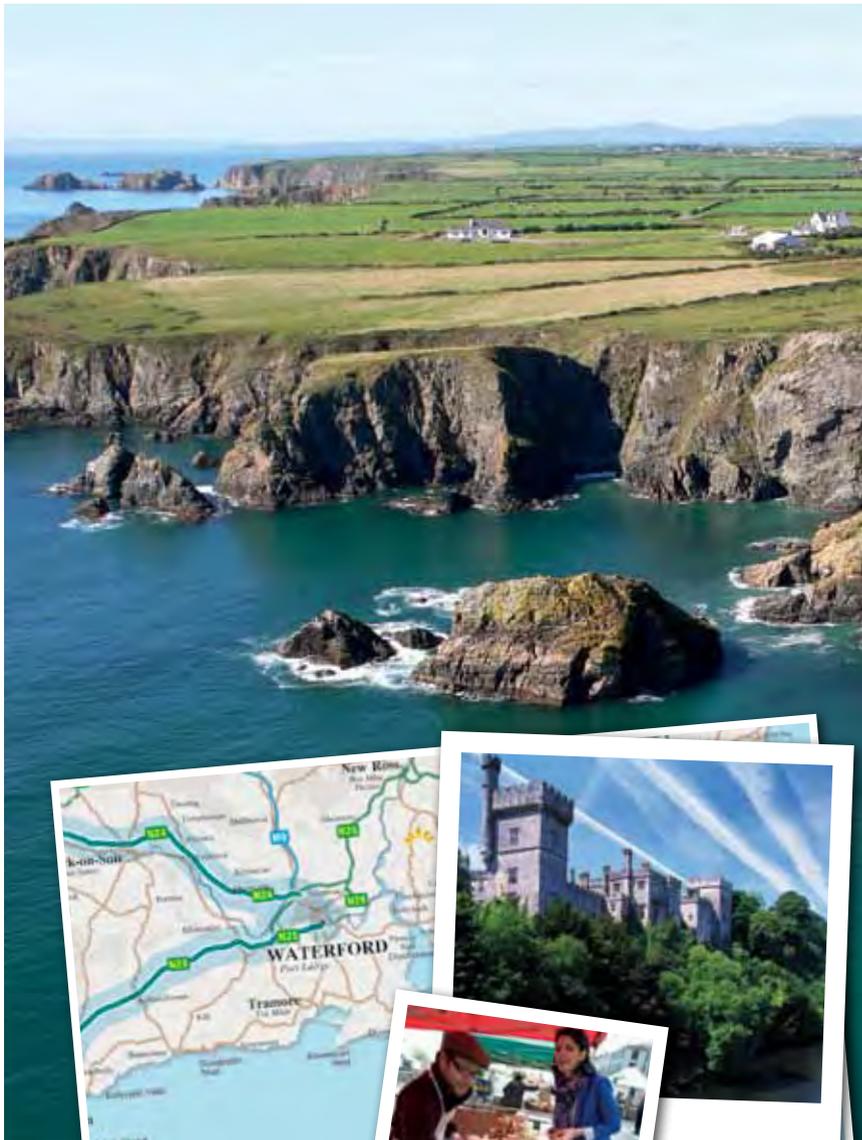


5 Driving Routes from **WATERFORD**

*Detailed route maps,
places to see & driving tips*

Forever Happening
**THE
SOUTH
EAST**



The South East driving brochures were compiled in collaboration with travel writer Pól Ó Conghaile.

Pól has written for National Geographic Traveller, The Irish Independent and Cara Magazine amongst other publications, and has three times been voted Irish Travel Journalist of the Year.

“There’s something about the South East that makes you want to get behind the wheel,” he says. “Be it sandy beaches or craggy coves, wild mountains or winding rivers, ancient heritage gems or the tingle of excitement as you arrive into Kilkenny, Wexford or Waterford. It could be old. It could be new. But there’s always something different around the next bend.”



Pól Ó Conghaile



The Vee!

For full details on visitor attractions featured in this guide and a detailed regional map, pick up your copy of the South East Pocket Guide, or download from www.discoverireland.ie

Every care has been taken in the compilation of this brochure to ensure accuracy at the time of publication. The publishers cannot accept responsibility for printed errors or omissions, or alterations occurring after the brochure has been published.



Driving Routes from WATERFORD



The open road. Rolling mountains and river valleys. Brushing hedgerows, Blue Flag beaches, lingering lunch stops and random detours leading to discoveries you'll talk about for years to come.

There's nothing like driving in Ireland. And there's nowhere like the South East for doing it. Within the space of a leisurely few hours here, you can cruise from cobbled streets to cliff-craggy coastlines, from fishing villages to lush farmland, from heritage highlights like Kilkenny Castle and the Dunbrody Experience to buzzing pubs, delicious food and dynamic arts and crafts.

approx. 180 km approx. 126 km approx. 156 km approx. 114 km approx. 178 km

- Route 1**
THE URBAN TRIANGLE
- Route 2**
BY HOOK OR BY CROOKE
- Route 3**
COAST & MOUNTAINS
- Route 4**
THE RIVER VALLEY
- Route 5**
THE VEE DRIVE

Get a taste of Waterford, Wexford and Kilkenny (and all the countryside in-between) on a tantalising route suited to a day trip or several days.

Follow in the footsteps of Henry II, JFK's great-grandfather and 18th century fishermen on a driving tour undertaken... by Hook or by Crooke.

From hidden coves to legendary highwaymen, this loop explores Waterford's coastal UNESCO European Geopark before venturing into the mountains to the spectacular Mahon Falls.

Stone-arch bridges, tales told in thread and the patron saint of Paris taxi drivers are just some of the discoveries on this enchanting journey along the Nore and Barrow.

It's one stunning vista after another as this leisurely loop unfolds through Waterford and South Tipperary. You can also detour to Ardmore and Cashel.



An enchanting journey – be it a day trip or a several day tour. You choose!



Waterford is Ireland's oldest city, the place Henry II vowed he would take "by Hook or by Crooke", a port founded by Vikings, bolstered by Normans, and electrified by 21st century festivals like Spraoi and the Tall Ships.

From here, Kilkenny, Wexford, Carlow, Tipperary and mile after mile of tantalising coastline and countryside are just a short drive away. It's a perfect base for your South Eastern safari.

Route 1

THE URBAN TRIANGLE

10 Places to See

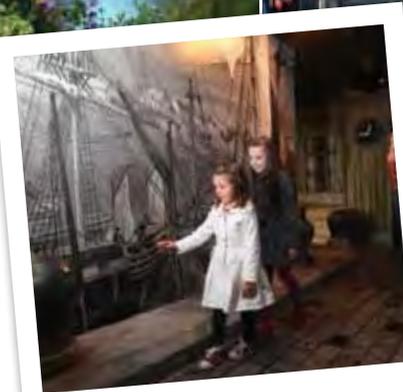
- 1 Duncannon Fort
 - 2 Tintern Abbey
 - 3 Johnstown Castle Gardens & Irish Agriculture Museum
 - 4 Irish National Heritage Park
 - 5 Dunbrody Experience
 - 6 Ros Tapestry
 - 7 Woodstock Gardens
 - 8 Rothe House
 - 9 Kilkenny Castle
 - 10 St. Canice's Cathedral
-  Scenic viewpoint



THE URBAN TRIANGLE

Get a taste of Waterford, Wexford and Kilkenny and all the countryside in-between.

A tantalising route suited to a day trip or several days!



Dunbrody Experience

Follow in the footsteps of Ireland's past!

THE URBAN TRIANGLE

If you're the town and country type, this is the driving route for you. The Urban Triangle not only passes through some of the sweetest countryside in the South East, it takes drivers right into the thick of things in Wexford, Waterford and Kilkenny too.

Heading east (via R683) towards **WEXFORD**, the Passage East ferry is an early highlight of this drive, with *tickets issued from a vintage machine* on the ferryman's belt, and views stretching south to the Hook Lighthouse. It's at once a Suir Estuary shortcut, and a scenic detour to Wexford town following R733.

Wexford itself is full of surprises. The combination of tight-knit streets and airy waterfront, of old town walls and modern eateries, of Selskar Abbey and skyline views from its state-of-the-art Opera House, all create the *unique feeling of a medieval town in the 21st century*.

Travelling west from Wexford (via N25), keep your eyes peeled for rocky outcrops north of Carrigbyrne. These are actually the plugs of extinct volcanoes. In **NEW ROSS**, there's time travel of a different type at the Dunbrody Experience, where costumed actors and a three-masted barque offer an *interactive adventure evoking famine times* (you'll even receive a ticket issued as if it were 1849).

Continuing along the **RIVER NORE VALLEY** (via R700), you'll pass Inistioge, Thomastown and Bennettsbridge – the kinds of places you might pull into for a mosey, and pull out of carrying a piece of *hand-crafted glass, a scrumptious scone, or a photo of an old, stone-arch bridge*. Watch out for anglers too. The Nore is famous for its salmon, and the R700 criss-crosses it at several points.

Finally, there is **KILKENNY**, Ireland's medieval capital. The Marble City is home to historic buildings like Rothe House and St. Canice's Cathedral, but also to spirited festivals and food worth travelling for. *It's a city in which you can travel through several centuries in just a couple of steps*. Return to Waterford via the N10/M9.



Kilkenny City

Ireland's Medieval Capital

DRIVING TIP

Depending on stop-offs, this route can be undertaken as a day trip or ideally spread over several days. It can also be shortened by taking the N25 from New Ross to Waterford. Return and one-way fares are available on the Passage East Ferry, and the wait is rarely longer than 10 minutes.

Total Distance

approx.
180 km

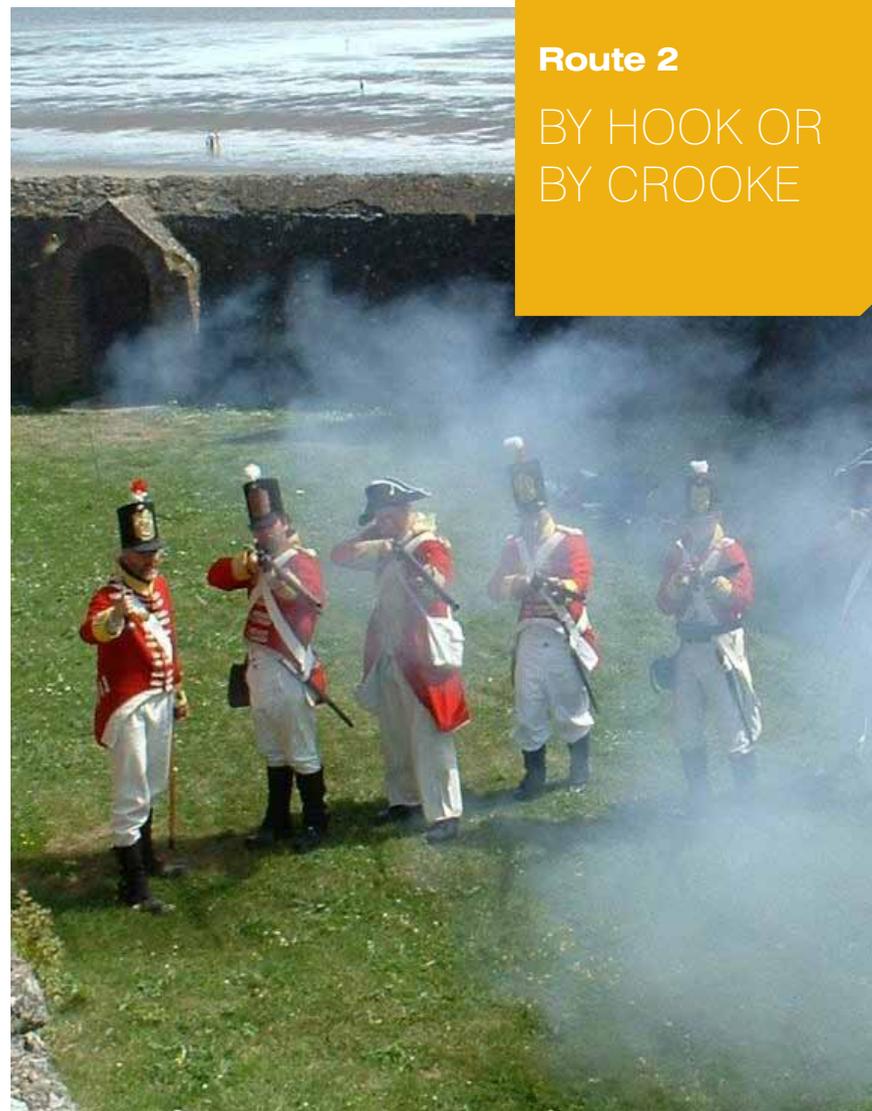
Time

Waterford City – Wexford Town	1h 30 mins
Wexford Town – Kilkenny City	1h 40 mins
Kilkenny City – Waterford City	40 mins

All times are best estimates, and do not allow for stop-offs.

Route 2

BY HOOK OR
BY CROOKE



BY HOOK OR BY CROOKE

Follow in the footsteps of Henry II, JFK's great-grandfather and 18th century fishermen on a driving tour undertaken... by Hook or by Crooke.



10 Places to See

- 1 Dunmore East Harbour
- 2 Ballyhack Castle
- 3 Duncannon Fort
- 4 Hook Lighthouse
- 5 Tintern Abbey
- 6 Kilmokea Gardens
- 7 JFK Arboretum
- 8 Kennedy Homestead
- 9 Dunbrody Experience
- 10 Ros Tapestry

 Scenic viewpoint

BY HOOK OR BY CROOKE

Driving south from Waterford towards **DUNMORE EAST** (via R684), you're not just following a road to the coast. You're following in the footsteps of fishermen and emigrants who sailed to Newfoundland in the 17th and 18th centuries, creating an indelible cultural connection with North America.

Of course, those Newfoundland links are but a recent chapter in the history of the South East. Driving towards **PASSAGE EAST**, you'll pass a pretty little village called Crooke. A ferry across the Suir Estuary takes you to the windswept **HOOK PENINSULA**. It was these very landmarks that Henry II referred to way back in 1170, when he vowed to reach Waterford "by Hook or by Crooke".

Continuing on a loop of the Hook, you'll pass Duncannon Fort and the desolate shell of Loftus Hall, where *the devil is said to have been unmasked during a game of cards*. Look out for **DOLLAR BAY** too, named after pirates reputedly stashed two tonnes of Spanish milled dollars there in the 1700s. It's just one of a dozen or so hidden coves spotted around this bleakly romantic peninsula.

Then there is Hook Lighthouse, the black-and-white-striped beacon that has been *warning ships off treacherous rocks here for some 800 years*. Lonely Planet hailed this "great granddaddy" as the *world's flashiest lighthouse*, and visitors can climb its spiralling steps to views stretching as far as Wexford's Saltee Islands. In wintertime, you may even see passing whales.

After the Hook, head north on the R733 towards **NEW ROSS**. Here, the JFK Arboretum and Kennedy Homestead at Dunganstown, which one *Patrick Kennedy left to emigrate to America* from the quays at New Ross, tell the story of another great American connection. Kennedy's great-grandson, JFK, returned to his homeland in 1963 as the first Catholic President of the United States.



Hook Lighthouse

The World's Flashiest Lighthouse!

DRIVING TIP

Return and one-way fares are available on the Passage East Ferry, and the wait is rarely longer than 10 minutes. The Kennedy homestead is not accessible to coaches. The gardens at Kilmokea are open from March to November, as are its lovely Georgian tea rooms.

Total Distance

approx.
126 km

Time

Waterford City – Dunmore East	25 mins
Dunmore East – Passage East	25 mins
Hook Peninsula Loop	1h 40 mins
Arthurstown – New Ross	30 mins
New Ross – Waterford City	25 mins

All times are best estimates, and do not allow for stop-offs.

Route 3

THE COPPER COAST & COMERAGH MOUNTAINS

10 Places to See

- 1 Tramore Strand
- 2 The Metal Man
- 3 Fenor Bog
- 4 Tankardstown Mine
- 5 The Nire Valley
- 6 Ormond Castle
- 7 Mahon Falls
- 8 Curraghmore House & Gardens
- 9 Waterford & Suir Valley Railway
- 10 Mount Congreve Gardens

 Scenic viewpoint

 Blue Flag Beach



THE COPPER COAST & COMERAGH MOUNTAINS

From hidden coves to legendary highwaymen, this loop explores Waterford's coastal UNESCO European Geopark before venturing into the mountains to the spectacular Mahon Falls.



THE COPPER COAST & COMERAGH MOUNTAINS

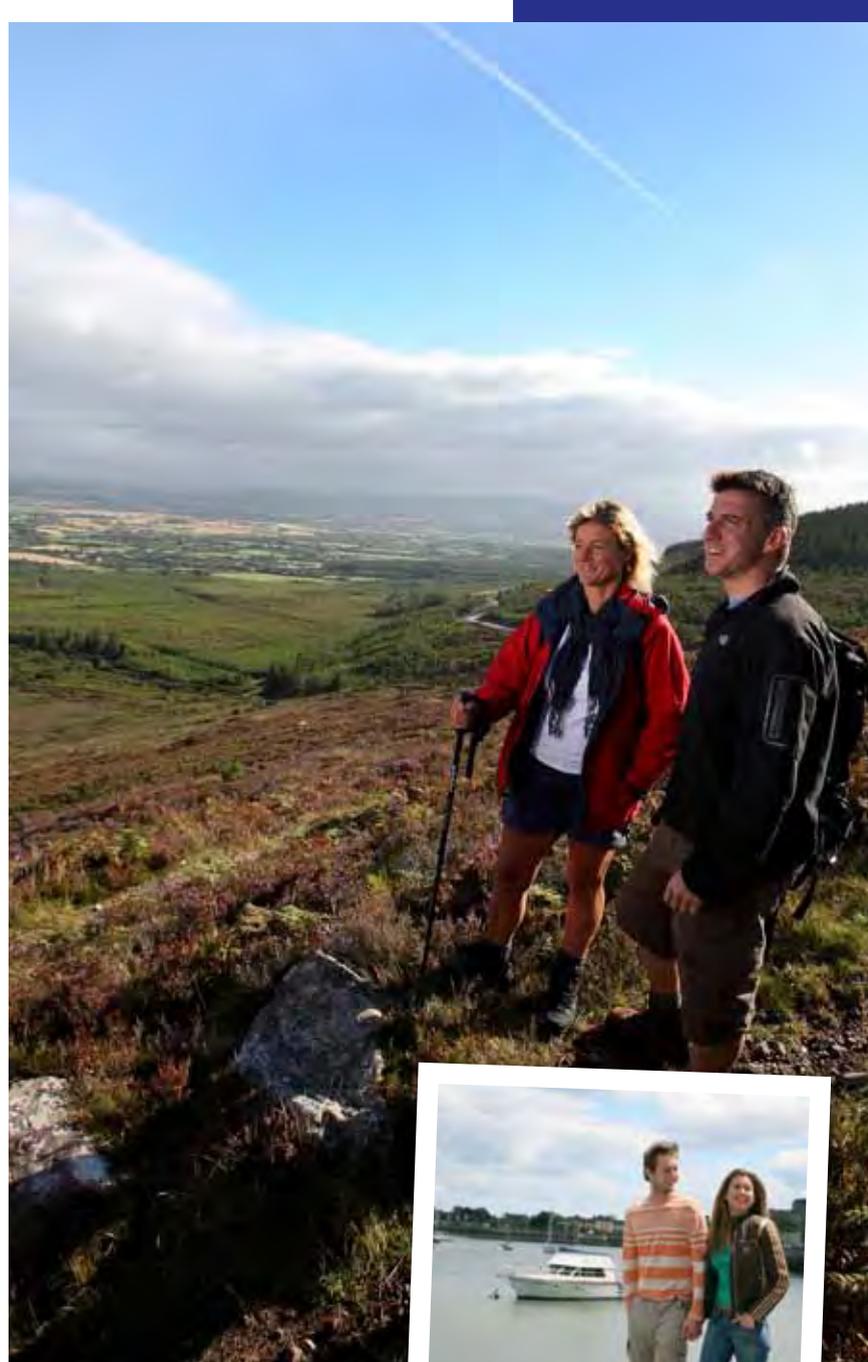
Departing Waterford, the R675 brings you to **TRAMORE**, Ireland's quintessential *Victorian seaside resort*, the first stop along this smorgasbord of coastal and mountain scenery. Driving towards **NEWTOWN HEAD**, look for the Metal Man perched on one of three pillars on the headland. The **15-foot sailor** was erected by Lloyd's of London to stem the flow of ships mistaking Tramore Bay for Waterford Harbour. Tramore is festooned with sandbanks, and its history tells of tides and winds claiming one shipwreck after another.

From here, continue west (via R675) along the **COPPER COAST**, a UNESCO European Geopark named for its **19th century mining heritage**. Take a left pretty much anywhere off this route, and you'll find *hidden coves strewn with sea stacks* that could have been airlifted from the Algarve. Curving around the horseshoe-shaped **KILMURRIN BAY**, it comes as no surprise to learn the place was once a smuggler's paradise.

It's a hypnotic route, spotted with *Blue Flag beaches, stunning views* (in wintertime, possibly even including passing whales) and *pretty villages* like **ANNESTOWN** and **STRADBALLY**. After this stretch, break in **DUNGARVAN** for a bite and a browse, before swapping the coast for the Comeragh Mountains.

From Dungarvan, the R672 links with Ballymacarbry, where a right turn takes you through *the walker's wonderland* that is the **NIRE VALLEY**. Continuing east to the R678 and R676 crossroads, there are two options – turning north to **CARRICK-ON-SUIR** before taking the N24 back to Waterford, or turning south (via R676) towards **MAHON FALLS**, a **240-foot waterfall** tumbling spectacularly off the glaciated range.

Heading back towards Waterford via **LEMYBRIEN** (via N25), spare a thought for William Crotty, a notorious highwayman hanged in the city in 1742. Crotty robbed coaches travelling along what is today's N25, and his treasure is still said to be stashed amongst the corrie lakes in the Comeragh Mountains.



Nire Valley

A place for all seasons!

DRIVING TIP

If you plan on hitting the Copper Coast in the morning, drive West to avoid having the sun in your eyes. Keep in mind that there are no petrol stations between Tramore and Dungarvan. The Bunmahon to Stradbally road is not suitable for coaches. Maps of the area can be consulted at the Geopark Information Point in Bunmahon.

Total Distance

approx.
156 km

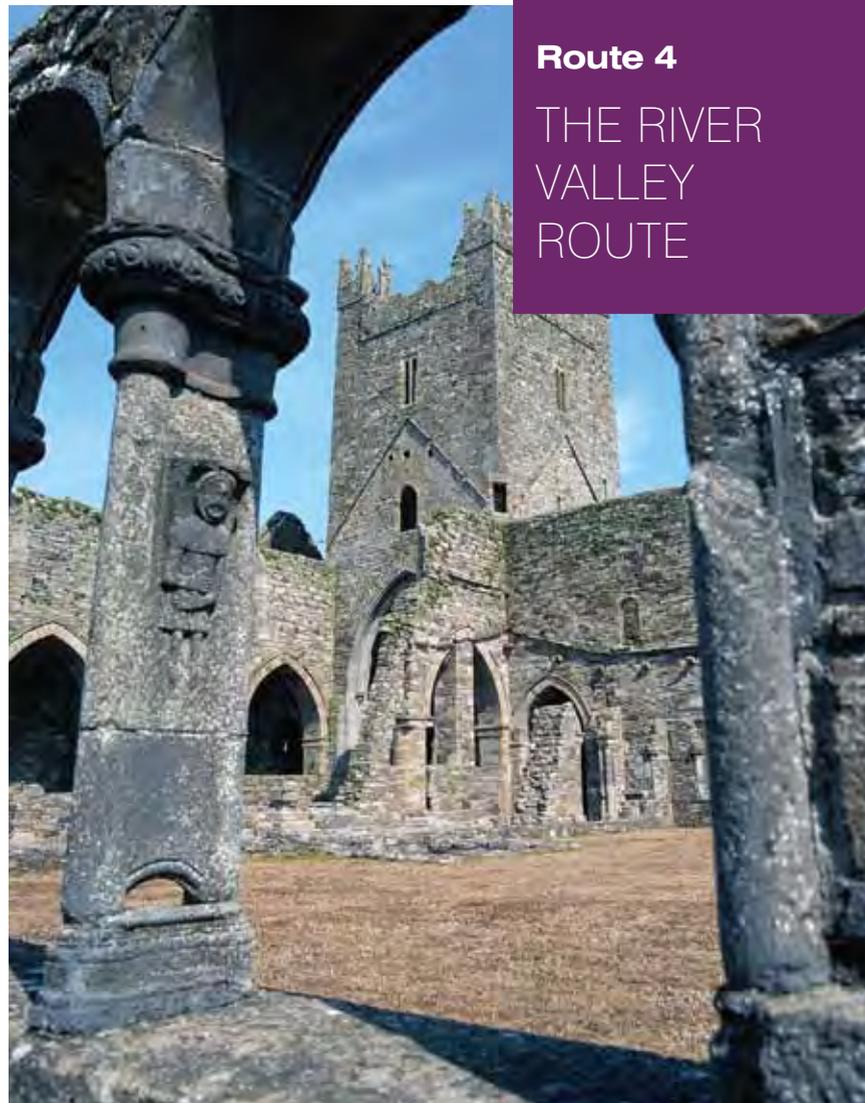
Time

Waterford City – Tramore	20 mins
Tramore – Dungarvan	1h 15 mins
Comeragh Mountains Loop	2 hrs
Lemybrien – Waterford City	30 mins

All times are best estimates, and do not allow for stop-offs.

Route 4

THE RIVER VALLEY ROUTE



THE RIVER VALLEY ROUTE

Stone-arch bridges, tales told in thread and the patron saint of Paris taxi drivers are just some of the discoveries on this enchanting journey along the Nore and Barrow.



10 Places to See

- 1 Dunbrody Experience
 - 2 Ros Tapestry
 - 3 St. Mullin's Heritage Centre
 - 4 Duiske Abbey
 - 5 St. Fiachra's Well
 - 6 Borris House
 - 7 Kells Priory
 - 8 Jerpoint Abbey
 - 9 Kilfane Church
 - 10 Woodstock Gardens
-  Scenic viewpoint

THE RIVER VALLEY ROUTE

The necklace of towns and villages threaded along the Nore and Barrow forms one of the South East's most beguiling hidden gems. Road and river intertwine as you pass from one to the next, *coming within kissing distance before shying away again. It's truly a timeless drive!*

A short spin from Waterford (via N25) takes you to **NEW ROSS**, home of the Dunbrody Experience and the Ros Tapestry. Baginbun, some miles south, was the site of the first *Norman landings on Irish shores in 1169*, and the tapestry panels - stitched, knotted and couched by volunteers - are a brilliantly creative depiction of the foundation of the town. It's a *unique tale, literally told in thread.*

From New Ross, follow the River Barrow north (via R729) to **ST. MULLIN'S**, where St. Moling established a *monastic site in the 7th century.* A quick scramble up the Norman motte here gives a smashing panorama over the gorge and gravestones below, not to mention the old mill and towpaths. Another religious figure associated with the area is St. Fiachra, the patron saint of gardeners, and bizarrely, of Parisian taxi drivers... sailors have held that water from his holy well at Ullard staves off shipwrecks, too.

Further along, **GRAIGUENAMANAGH** is home to Duiske Abbey, where you'll find a *striking effigy of a crusader knight*, and Thomastown (via R703) sees the route link up with the Nore.

There is no end of potential stop-offs along this final stretch - *canoeing, kayaking, river views, heritage husks like Jerpoint Abbey, or the bustling crafts and cafes* of **THOMASTOWN** and **INISTIOGE**. If you have time at the latter, don't miss Woodstock Gardens, home to the *longest monkey-puzzle avenue* in Europe, or the handsome *10-arched bridge*. Unusually too, Catholic and Protestant churches stand side by side in this village.

After Inistioge, follow the R700 back to New Ross, and onwards to Waterford.



Inistioge

Visit the 18th century stone arch bridge!



DRIVING TIP

You can read more about the Made in Kilkenny Craft Trail at madeinkilkenny.ie. If you wish to extend this route, follow the River Barrow north to Borris, travel from there through Gowran to Kilkenny, and link up with the R700 at Bennettsbridge.

Total Distance

approx.
114 km

Time

Waterford City – New Ross	25 mins
River Valley Loop	1h 45 mins
New Ross – Waterford City	25 mins

All times are best estimates, and do not allow for stop-offs.

Route 5

THE VEE DRIVE

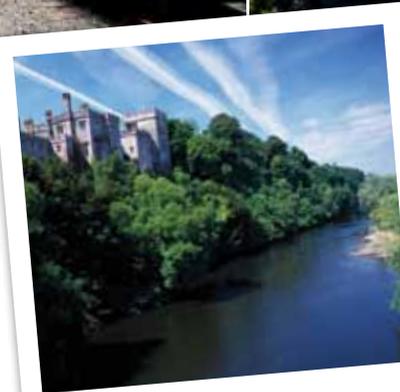
10 Places to See

- 1 Waterford & Suir Valley Railway
 - 2 Round Tower, Ardmore
 - 3 Lismore Castle & Gardens
 - 4 Lismore Heritage Centre
 - 5 The Vee
 - 6 Cahir Castle
 - 7 Swiss Cottage
 - 8 Rock of Cashel
 - 9 Brú Ború Cultural Centre
 - 10 Ormond Castle
-  Scenic viewpoint



THE VEE DRIVE

It's one stunning vista after another as this leisurely loop unfolds through Waterford and South Tipperary. You can also detour to Ardmore and Cashel.



Lismore

One of Ireland's most historic towns!

THE VEE DRIVE

Are scenery and heritage your thing? Then get ready for a tour to remember. Setting off on the N25 from Waterford, this driving loop ducks between the Comeragh Mountains and Copper Coast, following the N72 to its first stop, the dazzling heritage town of **LISMORE**.

Lismore's showpiece is its castle, founded in 1185 and today belonging to the Duke of Devonshire. The Gothic pile occupies a jaw-dropping *perch above the River Blackwater*, and its gardens and art gallery are open from March to September. There's a lot more to Lismore, however. Did you know that there is a stained-glass window by Edward Burne-Jones in St. Carthage's Cathedral? Or that its Immrama Travel Writing Festival has hosted Michael Palin and Pico Iyer as guests?

Leaving Lismore, follow the R668 as it twists and turns through the **KNOCKMEALDOWN MOUNTAINS**, culminating in breathtaking fashion at the Vee, a *hairpin bend overlooking the Golden Vale*. Pull into the lay-by here for a birds' eye view over Baylough, a corrie lake which legend says the witch Petticoat Loose was condemned to empty with a thimble. It's a stunning vista.

The journey from **CAHIR** back to Waterford via the N24 is spotted with *relics of the Butler dynasty*. Cahir Castle is exquisitely preserved next to a gushing weir. **CARRICK-ON-SUIR'S** Ormond Castle was Black Tom Butler's architectural ode to Queen Elizabeth – despite its *long gallery studded with decorative plasterwork* devoted to the Virgin Queen, however, she never visited.

THE VEE DRIVE also features two spurs, which you can use as detours if time permits. The first zips down to Ardmore, where St. Declan founded a monastery in the fifth century, and where a *round tower, cathedral and hermitage captivate visitors to this day*. Believe it or not, it's possible to walk from here to **CASHEL**, to which the second spur detours, via St. Declan's Way. Ireland's answer to the Camino is an *ancient pilgrim path* some 94km in length!



Cahir

A bustling market town!



DRIVING TIP

Extend this route at two points by detouring from:

1 Dungarvan to Ardmore, approx. 60km / 1h 30mins

2 Cahir to Cashel, approx. 56km / 1h

If you take the Ardmore spur, pay close attention to the signage through Clashmore and Aglish.

Total Distance

approx.
178 km

Time

Waterford City – Dungarvan	45 mins
Dungarvan – Lismore	25 mins
Lismore – Cahir	1 h
Cahir – Carrick-on-Suir	40 mins
Carrick-on-Suir – Waterford City	30 mins

All times are best estimates, and do not allow for stop-offs.

DRIVING TIPS FOR YOUR TRIP

Drive on the left



Yes, it's obvious. Yes, everyone is doing it. But if you're used to driving on the right, it's easy to fall into old habits first thing in the morning, after a lunch stop, or pulling back onto a quiet country road after taking that latest awesome photo...

Park smart



You'll rarely have to pay to park in the Irish countryside, but pay-and-display charges are commonplace in towns and cities. Keep some coins handy for the meters, and remember to check the signs indicating times during which on-street parking is charged.

Heed the speed limits



The speed limit on regional (R) roads is 80kph/50mph, on national (N) roads 100kph/62mph, and on motorways (M) 120kph/75mph. In towns, the limit is 50kph/30mph.

Car rental tips



Most rental cars in Ireland are manual transmission, so if you prefer to drive automatic, stipulate this when booking. Rental companies provide numbers to call if you need breakdown assistance, and fuel tanks should be returned as full as you receive them.

Get a good map



Irish motorways are straightforward. Country roads... not so much. That's why it's a good idea to have a reliable map (such as those available for purchase in Tourist Information Offices) or GPS in the glove box before you set off on your South Eastern safari.

Don't forget



When driving in Ireland, you need to carry a valid licence as well as insurance and vehicle registration documentation. It's also illegal to hold a mobile phone when driving, so keep those calls, tweets, texts and Facebook updates for when you're safely pulled in!

Safety first



Whilst Ireland's roads are improving all the time, N and R routes can still be thin and bumpy, prone to ice in winter, and may not have hard shoulders. For many drivers, of course, that's all part of the charm. But it's wise to adapt your speed to the circumstances.

Fill up



There are very few online services on Irish motorways, and petrol stations can be irregular between towns. Keep your tank topped up!

The tractor factor



No matter how meticulous your plans, the chance of chugging along at 20mph behind a tractor, or being held to a standstill by a herd of sheep or cattle, is always there. It's nothing to worry about (it may even make your trip), just be aware that it may occur!

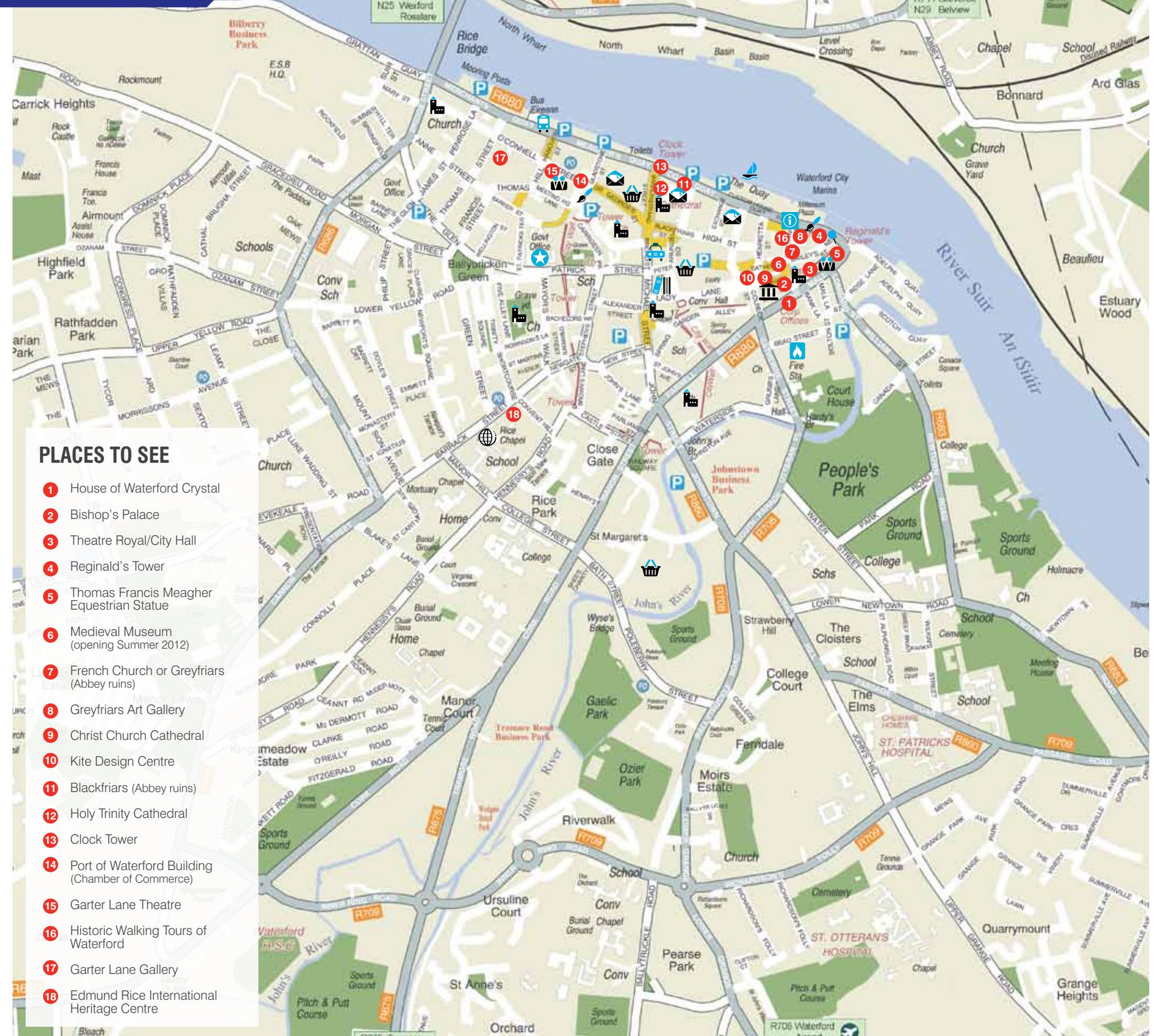
Need to know

In case of accident or emergency, call 999 or 112.

999
112

WATERFORD CITY MAP

MAP KEY

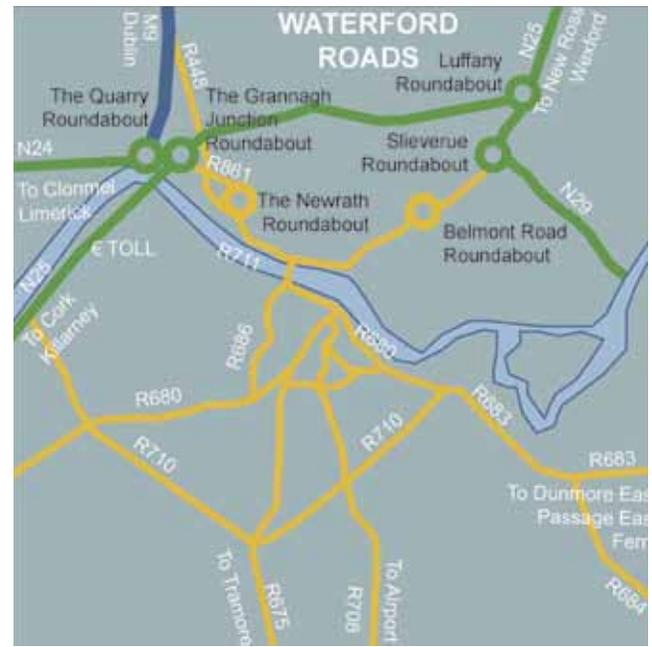


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|--|---------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|------------------|
| | Tourist Information | | Police Station | | Theatre |
| | Railway Station | | Fire Station | | Post Office |
| | Car Parking | | Bus Stop - National | | Library |
| | Hospital | | Abbey / Monastery / Round Tower | | Cinema |
| | Walking Trails | | Shopping Centre | | Small Airfield |
| | Castle | | Art / Craft Centre | | Public Toilet |
| | Church / Cathedral | | Place of Interest | | City / Town Hall |
| | Yacht Club/Marina | | Taxi Rank | | Heritage Centre |

- | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| | M1 Motorway | | Main Roads/Streets |
| | N9 National Primary Road | | Other Roads/Streets |
| | N81 National Secondary Road | | Narrow Streets / Private Roads |
| | R600 Regional Road | | Road Under Construction |

PLACES TO SEE

- 1 House of Waterford Crystal
- 2 Bishop's Palace
- 3 Theatre Royal/City Hall
- 4 Reginald's Tower
- 5 Thomas Francis Meagher Equestrian Statue
- 6 Medieval Museum (opening Summer 2012)
- 7 French Church or Greyfriars (Abbey ruins)
- 8 Greyfriars Art Gallery
- 9 Christ Church Cathedral
- 10 Kite Design Centre
- 11 Blackfriars (Abbey ruins)
- 12 Holy Trinity Cathedral
- 13 Clock Tower
- 14 Port of Waterford Building (Chamber of Commerce)
- 15 Garter Lane Theatre
- 16 Historic Walking Tours of Waterford
- 17 Garter Lane Gallery
- 18 Edmund Rice International Heritage Centre



DISCOVER IRELAND VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRES

For further information on suggested driving routes, visit one of the region's **Discover Ireland Centres** and speak to a travel advisor.

- Local & National Information
- Itinerary Planning
- Guide Books, Brochures & Maps
- Accommodation Booking

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*Centre opens from April to the end of October

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unique



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National Tourism Development Authority