

THREE BRIDGES WALK

Limerick City

- Distance: 3.6 km
- Start/End: Arthur's Quay Park

Get a real sense of the city and enjoy spectacular views of the River Shannon along the Three Bridges walking route, a firm favourite with visitors and locals alike.

The Slí na Sláinte looped walk follows a stunning route along the banks of the river, passing some of Limerick's most iconic landmarks, striking street art and picturesque parks!

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THREE BRIDGES WALK Points of Interest

1 River Shannon

The mighty tidal river is the lifeblood of Limerick, flowing through the city towards the Shannon Estuary before meeting the Wild Atlantic Way. Named after the Celtic goddess Sionna, the River Shannon is the longest river in Ireland at 360km.

2 Hunt Museum, Rutland Street

Immerse yourself in one of Ireland's greatest private collections of art and antiquities including works by Renoir, Picasso and Yeats. The museum's riverside garden features escaped objects from the museum, outdoor games, and areas for quiet reflection.

3 Mathew Bridge, Bridge Street

Built in 1844 to the designs of Limerick based architect William Henshaw Owen, Mathew Bridge replaced New Bridge, constructed in 1762 connecting Englishtown to the north and Newtown Pery to the south of the Abbey River.

4 Potato Market, Merchant's Quay

The historic market site, originally opened in 1843, is a reminder of the old ways of commercial life in Limerick. Now operating as a public car park, the former marketplace is connected to the Hunt Museum's Garden by the Sylvester O'Halloran footbridge, named after the founder of the County Limerick Infirmary.

5 Limerick's Local River Traditions

Since the city's foundation by the Vikings in 922, Limerick has long-standing traditions of fishing, boating and rowing. The Three Bridges route passes Curraghbour Boat Club, St. Michael's Rowing Club, Limerick Boat Club and Shannon Rowing Club, with many Limerick club members experiencing success at national and world championship level through the years.

6 Limerick Street Art Trail

World-renowned artists, working with local artist collective Draw Out, have created an eclectic, edgy and engaging collection of murals throughout the city. Some of the striking street art adorning the Three Bridges route include Sionna celebrating the Goddess of the Shannon; Constance Smith, Hollywood actress and proud Limerick native; Strength in Fragility depicting the strong sense of community spirit in Limerick; and the iconic mural of The Cranberries lead singer Dolores O'Riordan.

7 St. Mary's Cathedral, Bridge Street

Founded in 1168, St. Mary's Cathedral remains the oldest building in Limerick still in use for its original purpose. Behind the elaborately carved Romanesque door lie century old features including the original High Altar, exquisite stained glass windows, Williamite Siege cannon balls along with the only set of misericords still to exist in Ireland.

8 Treaty City Brewery, Nicholas Street

Two previously derelict buildings, linked to Limerick's 18th century brewing industry, have been carefully converted into a unique micro-brewery offering guided tours in the heart of medieval Limerick. Treaty City Brewery craft beers are made using water that comes directly from the River Shannon, making it a truly authentic Limerick experience!

9 King John's Castle, Nicholas Street

Limerick City's beating medieval heart is the place of myths and legends, overshadowed by the magnificent King John's Castle, which is teeming with 800 years of dramatic local history and interactive fun for visitors of all ages!

10 Michael Hogan Statue, Castle Street

A life-sized bronze sculpture by Jim Connolly of the self-styled 'Bard of Thomond', best remembered for his epic poem 'Drunken Thady and the Bishop's Lady'. The verse, which runs to 445 lines, tells the tale of the vengeful wife of the Bishop of Limerick and the night she met the drunk known as Thady.

11 Bishop's Palace, Castle Street

Steeped in folklore and history, the Bishop's Palace is one of the oldest domestic buildings still in use in Limerick. Once home to the city's Protestant bishops, it is now the offices of Limerick Civic Trust. At the gable end of the building is a mid-1800's horse trough carved out of a single piece of granite, which offered fresh drinking water in the days when horses were the engine of road transport.

12 Thomond Bridge

Once the only bridge connecting the old walled City of Limerick with County Clare, the seven-arch limestone road bridge that stands today was completed in 1840. According to local folklore, the bridge is etched with the Bishop's Lady's scratch marks following an unfortunate encounter with the legendary Drunken Thady!

13 Treaty Stone, Clancy Strand

The Treaty Stone is the limestone block upon which it is believed that the Treaty of Limerick was signed in 1691, marking the end of the Williamite-Jacobite war. Now one of Limerick's most significant historic monuments, it once served as a mounting block for horses. Limerick is known as the 'Treaty City'.

14 Curragower Falls

Deriving its name from the Irish translation 'Corach Dhobhair', meaning moving or whirling water, the Curragower Falls offer white water kayaking in the heart of the city centre. Before low tide, a standing wave forms in the water as the River Shannon drops over a rock ledge. While the river flows around it, the wave remains and becomes surfable just like the waves at sea!

15 Castle Court, Clancy Strand

A site of social and historical significance in Limerick. Initially built as a House of Industry in 1774 to house the poor of Limerick, it was subsequently used by the British Army as the Strand Barracks before becoming a store and depot for Limerick Corporation in the mid-1930s.

16 Sarsfield Bridge

The second of Limerick's River Shannon crossings commemorates Patrick Sarsfield, the Earl of Lucan, a leading figure in the Jacobite Army, the 1691 siege and subsequent Treaty of Limerick. Originally designed as a swivel bridge to allow for the passage of ships along the Shannon, it opened in 1835 after eleven years' construction. The bridge consists of five elliptical arches and still has its original lamp standards today.

17 It will rise with the moon, Honan's Quay

An enduring 3D poetry installation as part of the city's bid for the title of European Capital of Culture 2020. The quote, taken from a poem by young literary talent Emer Hayes, is best viewed from O'Callaghan Strand at low tide.

18 Cleaves Milk Factory, O'Callaghan Strand

Originally built as a flax spinning and weaving mill, it was repurposed in 1889 by the Cleeve family as a condensed milk factory, becoming the largest of its kind in Ireland. The imposing red brick chimney stack, one of the city's most distinctive landmarks, was originally 150 feet high but was reduced by 30 feet during the 1960s.

19 Shannon Bridge

The newest of Limerick City's bridges spanning the River Shannon, which opened in 1988. During its early years it was known as the Whistling Bridge due to a persistent whistling noise caused by wind blowing through the gaps under the bridge!

20 Dockers Monument, Bishop's Quay

The riverside sculpture by Limerick-born artist Michael Duhan commemorates the hardworking dockers who laboured for years unloading cargo boats on the River Shannon. The inspiration for the monument came from Duhan's father, a former seaman, whose name is inscribed on one of the docker's belts.

21 Poor Man's Kilkee, Harvey's Quay

Legend says that every summer, as many Limerick locals holidayed along the west Clare coastline, families who couldn't afford the train fare flocked to Harvey's Quay to swim the Shannon waters at low tide, earning its nickname as 'Poor Man's Kilkee'.

22 Limerick Museum, Henry Street

Embracing Limerick's past never gets old and Limerick Museum offers a unique collection of over 60,000 interesting objects that tell the history of Limerick and its people in its full glory! Some of the more unusual items worth seeking out include Ireton's Cat, a mummified cat found on Nicholas Street in the 1890s and a fragment of the largest meteorite ever to fall in the British Isles!

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