



Wandering off the beaten track is exhilarating. Discovering that quiet, hushed little secret is a rewarding experience; a treasure uncovered from a wonderful adventure. We are all drawn to the authentic: Tipperary embodies it. Time to discover it for yourself.



#### 1 Athassel Abbey, Golden

Built by William Fitz-Aldhelm de Burgho for the Augustinians in the 12th century, the abbey was one of Ireland's biggest monasteries, stretching out over four beautiful acres of land along the banks of the River Suir.

#### 2 Cashel Folk Village, Cashel

Cashel Folk Museum has a magnificent collection of historical memorabilia relating to the 1916 Rising, the Irish War of Independence, and the Irish Civil War. There is also a section documenting The Great Irish Famine of 1845 - 1852, with lifelike exhibits and an audiovisual show.

#### 3 Derrynaflan Trail

Discover the rich ecclesiastical heritage of Tipperary on this driving trail. Leading you to church sites, old monasteries, graveyards, holy wells and other sacred places, the heritage sites contain a wealth of stories and history spanning fifteen centuries, from the earliest years of Christianity in Ireland in the decades after St. Patrick, to modern churches. Derrynaflan Trail is a driving trail with a free audio guide.

#### 4 Farney Castle, Holycross

The first early Norman fortification at Farney Castle is a must-see hidden gem in Ireland's Ancient East. Built around 1185, after Richard de Clare (Strongbow) arrived in Ireland, the castle was synonymous with the Butler family name for centuries.

#### 5 Lorrha Monastic Village, Lorrha

Lorrha has a rich ecclesiastical history, as shown by the ruins throughout the village. Among the notable monastic sites in the village are: The Augustinian Priory & Dominican Friary, St. Ruadhan's Church and the impressive Lackeen Castle and Redwood Castle are close by.

#### 6 Mitchelstown Caves, Near Cahir

Discovered in 1833, when Michael Condon accidentally came upon the vast underground network of caves whilst quarrying for limestone. On the guided tour you will follow ancient passageways and visit massive caverns in which you are surrounded by indescribable dripstone formations. You will also see one of Europe's finest columns, the "Tower of Babel", which stands some 9 meters in height. The largest cavern, known as the Concert Hall, has even hosted music concerts. Be sure to visit these timeless masterpieces.

#### 7 Millennium Cross, Portroe

Follow in the footsteps of Brian Boru, the most famous High King of Ireland, with a hike to the Millennium Cross in Portroe and be amazed by the panoramic views of Lough Derg and beyond. Don't miss the lookout point below for a great photo opportunity!

#### 8 Round Tower & Black Mills, Roscrea

This marvelous 11th century round tower in Roscrea rises to a height of 20 metres. The Black Mills behind the tower have been renovated and turned into a museum and visitor centre.

#### 9 St. Patrick's Well, Clonmel

Situated at the base of a limestone cliff, this beautiful natural well is a great location to relax and enjoy a picnic. At the bottom of a set of winding stone steps, the waters from the well flow into a big shallow pond, with an ancient stone cross on a little island in the middle. The site also has a stone statue of St. Patrick.

#### 10 The Famine Warehouse, Ballingarry

Ballingarry Famine Warehouse was the principal site of the Rebellion by the Young Irishmen in 1848: when rebels besieged 47 police who had barricaded themselves into the McCormack farmhouse. The exhibition on display places the Famine Rebellion in the context of 1848 as Europe's Year of Revolutions. Experience this historic national monument today.

To find the location of our Hidden Gems, look for our camera icon on the map.  
To find out more see [www.tipperary.com](http://www.tipperary.com)



With magnificent mountain ranges, unspoiled valleys, scenic hillsides and serene rivers and lakes, adventure awaits at every turn. Enjoy an evening out with friends at the greyhound races or visit one of Tipperary's many festivals.

#### Biking/Cycling

Diverse landscapes and terrain ensure biking trails range from challenging to leisurely. The North Tipperary Cycle Routes cover the eastern shores of Lough Derg where the character of the lakeside villages such as Dromineer and Terryglass can be explored. Experience the thrill of downhill mountain biking at Bike Park Ireland in Ballingarry.

#### Walking/Hiking

Whether you are looking for a leisurely stroll or a challenging hiking experience, there are so many trails to choose from in Tipperary. Walk and hike through the majestic Munster Vales taking in the Knockmealdowns, Comeraghs and Galtee Mountains. Take in the breathtaking sights of the Golden Vale and enjoy our historical attractions along the way. The magnificent River Suir, home to otters and herons, adds greatly to the tranquility of the trails along its course. Visit [www.tipperary.com](http://www.tipperary.com) for a full list of maps.



*Tell me a story from before I can remember...  
...Your story starts here*



With such ease of access, so many wonderful accommodation choices available and a laid-back atmosphere, there is something for the whole family: whether you are looking to visit an authentic Irish farm and interact with the animals, go on a horse trek or simply want to revel in Tipperary's natural beauty by taking a relaxing river cruise.

#### River Cruises

Looking to sit back and relax, whilst taking in the splendour of Lough Derg? A leisurely cruise is the ideal way for the family to enjoy the beauty of Lough Derg.

#### Templemore Park Fairy Trail

This picturesque woodland trail is a wonderful place to unwind and stroll about. Or you can take the Fairy Trail challenge and see if you can find all of the little fairy doors concealed in the trees.

#### Heritage Centres & Museums

Loose yourself in stories from the past and turn the key to the rich heritage of Tipperary with a visit to Nenagh, Carrick on Suir, Cloughjordan and Cashel heritage centres. Listen to the local stories and history of the people and the places. Don't miss out on excellent exhibitions in Lár na Páirce GAA Museum in Thurles and the Tipperary County Museum in Clonmel.

#### The Butler Trail

For over 5 centuries of turbulence, the Butlers were the most powerful aristocratic family in Tipperary and they have left an indelible

#### Kayaking

Seeking the thrills and excitement of an outdoor activity? Kayaking on Lough Derg and the River Suir offers you an unforgettable experience. Expert guides are available to provide you assistance upon prior booking.

#### Festivals & Events

There are so many wonderful festivals and events that take place in Tipperary throughout the year, from the Clonmel Junction Festival and Terryglass Arts Festival to the Tipperarian Book Fair.

Visit [www.tipperary.com](http://www.tipperary.com) for more information.



A haven of heritage and natural beauty, Tipperary boasts some of Ireland's most spectacular sights. The rich pastures of the Golden Vale offer up a range of local produce, from artisan cheeses and black pudding to juices and jams; something to savour after a day of fishing or horse riding.

#### Fishing/Angling

Whether you are a beginner or an expert, there are so many options for anglers and fishermen. With gently flowing rivers, quiet streams, as well as lakes, there is a broad spectrum of fishing experiences on offer. The River Suir, which rises on the slopes of the Devil's Bit Mountains, has plentiful reserves of brown trout. There are over 12 miles of brown trout fishing on the River Suir and River Aherlow, while the River Shannon and Lough Derg present a great opportunity to spend a day fishing on a lake for trout, bream, pike or perch.

#### The Apple Farm

The whole family can savour the delightful flavours at the award-winning Apple Farm in Cahir with its delicious juices, lemonades and jams. Come and pick your own fruit for your own unique jam and juice experience.



Tipperary boasts a huge variety of hikes and walks spread throughout the county, with a range of beautiful linear and looped trails.

#### Dun Ui Faolain

A beautiful 5km woodland trail along the bank of the River Suir near Clonmel.

#### Glen of Aherlow

The Glen of Aherlow has 8 different looped walking trails on Slievenamuck and linear walks in the Galtee Mountains.

#### Coronation Walk

Cahir Castle - Swiss Cottage

This leisurely 2km walk along the banks of the River Suir passes between Cahir Castle and Swiss Cottage. This trail is ideally suited for families.

#### Tipperary Heritage Way

Golden to Cashel

Enjoy 10 kilometres of this linear walking route that follows the course of the River Suir northwards from the Knockmealdown Mountains towards the historic town of Cashel.

#### East Munster Way

Carrick-On-Suir to Kilsheelan

Cover 10 kilometres of this stunning linear route on foot or bike with a diverse array of terrain and sights: from riverside pathways and woodland to open mountain moorland and quiet country roads.

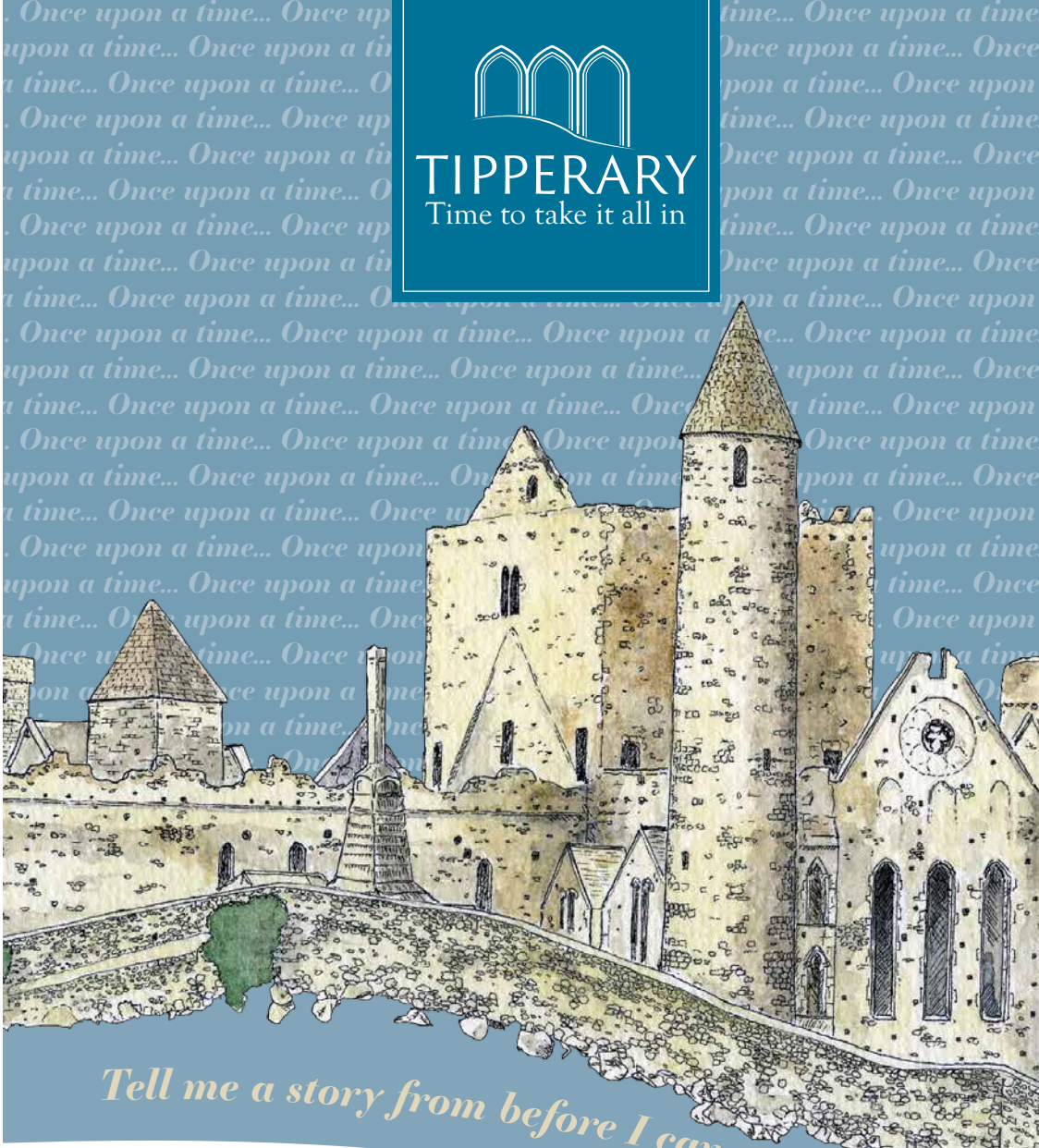
Maps and more walks are available on [www.tipperary.com](http://www.tipperary.com)



#### Horse Riding

Is there anything more beautiful than a gathering of horses in a country meadow on a lovely still evening? If you love to watch horse racing or you enjoy horse riding, and would like to learn, you have come to the right place. Tipperary is famous for producing world champion racehorses and is a base for many of Ireland's most experienced jockeys and trainers. Coolmore Stud, in Fethard, is headquarters of the world's largest breeding operation of thoroughbred racehorses.

There is a choice of equestrian centers available that offer tuition and trekking through picturesque, unspoiled mountain pastures. This is a wonderful opportunity to see some of Ireland's finest horses. Experience spectacular off-road mountain treks, riding lessons for children and adults, pony camps, and residential riding holidays.



*Tell me a story from before I can remember...*

*...Your story starts here*

**Revitalise** yourself in the fertile vales of Tipperary: an undiscovered wonder of Ireland's Ancient East with landscapes to take your breath away. There are so many spectacular sights to see in the farming heartland of Ireland: the majestic Galtee and Knockmealdown Mountains; historic landmarks such as the Rock of Cashel, Cahir Castle and Holycross Abbey; and so many delightful towns and villages.

**Discover** Tipperary for yourself. Here, pilgrim paths and heritage towns are the backdrop to rolling mountains, which are brought to life by beautiful tracks and trails and engaging local folklore. Explore stunning valleys and unspoilt hillsides, wander off the beaten track and lose yourself in nature.

**Immerse** yourself in 5,000 years of history and culture. Mingle with the locals, whose ancestry can be traced back to these lands for generations. Partake and enjoy our hospitality. Tipperary has something to offer for the whole family: whether you are looking to stay at a cosy hotel or country house, looking to experience an authentic Irish pub or café, or you just want to revel in the natural surroundings by taking a relaxing river cruise on Lough Derg.

**Relax** and enjoy our hospitality while savouring the flavours of the Golden Vale and beyond, sampling the artisan produce of this rich and fertile land in our outstanding selection of restaurants. You are sure to leave feeling refreshed and fulfilled. Make our home your home.

There is so much to see and do.

[www.tipperary.com](http://www.tipperary.com)





Tell me a story from before I can remember...

# TIME FOR Castles & Conquests

**A** Nenagh Castle, Nenagh

Nenagh Castle boasts the finest cylindrical keep in Ireland and was initially built as a military castle between 1200 and 1220 by Theobald Fitzwalter (1st Baron Butler). This impressive medieval building is steeped in a turbulent history: Earls, Barons, rebels, tyrants and arsonists have all made an indelible mark on this castle's architectural structure. The castle's Keep, which formed part of the perimeter of the fortress, rises to a height of one hundred feet, with a stone spiral stairs of 101 steps. This medieval landmark is hugely significant to Ireland's historical past, a treasure of Ireland's Ancient East not to be missed. A visit to Nenagh Castle will allow you to imagine medieval Ireland, as it was when Earls, Barons and rebels fought for supremacy.

**B** Roscrea Castle & Damer House, Roscrea

Roscrea Castle is an amazing 13<sup>th</sup> century state-of-the-art royal castle located in the heart of Roscrea. The castle grounds consist of a gate tower, curtain walls and two corner towers. Originally erected by King John 1 of England, the castle dates to 1280.

Damer House can be found in the courtyard of Roscrea Castle. Built by Joseph Damer in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, this sophisticated three-storey Queen Anne style house is an example of pre-Palladian architecture. Come and see the splendour of these two amazing pieces of architectural design. The close proximity of Roscrea Castle and Damer House make them an essential stop on the trail of Ireland's Ancient East.

**C** Fethard Medieval Town, Fethard

A near perfect example of an Anglo Norman walled town dating from c. 1200 AD. In Fethard, the encircling Town Wall, Holy Trinity Church (c. 1200), and the Augustinian Abbey (1305) were all built by the Anglo Normans and are still in use today. This is unique - and mostly unknown - even in Ireland. The Wall Walk and the South Battlements looks out across the wooded countryside to Slievenamon - the sacred mountain of legend and folklore - just to the south east of the town. Visit the wonderfully restored Tholsel (built as an Alms House in the very early 1600s) where you will discover Tipperary's unique equine heritage in the Fethard Horse Country exhibition centre.

**D** Ormond Castle, Carrick-On-Suir

Ormond Castle was acquired by The Butler Family in 1315 and is the finest example of an Elizabethan manor house in Ireland. The 3rd Earl of Ormond, commonly referred to as 'Black Tom', spent some years at the court of his cousin Queen Elizabeth 1 and while there he became so inspired by the Elizabethan-style of architecture that he decided to add a Tudor manor house to the front of the original castle. Come and see the remarkable features of the Tudor house for yourself: its marvellously decorative plasterwork exemplifies some of the best examples of the craft in the country.



Rock of Cashel, Cashel

The Rock of Cashel is one of the most spectacular landmarks in Ireland. Perched on an elevated limestone plain, overlooking the Golden Vale, it is an incredible sight to behold. The history of the rock implicates the Devil himself. The story goes that the Rock was originally part of a mountain that stands 30km north of Cashel (the Devil's Bit). During

**E** The Main Guard, Clonmel

Built by James Butler (Duke of Ormond) in 1675 to serve as the courthouse of the Ormond Palatinate, this truly historic building has had many functions over the centuries, ranging from a market house, barracks, public house and now a museum. After almost ten years of meticulous restoration, which included incorporating stone from nearby Cistercian ruins, the Main Guard has been restored to its original form. The Main Guard still retains the rich atmosphere of its various past incarnations to this day. The echoes of the past still resonate within its ancient walls. Don't miss out on visiting this remarkable monument.

**F** Swiss Cottage, Cahir

Ireland's most exquisitely beautiful cottage and arguably one of the most romantic cottages to be found anywhere in the world. The Swiss Cottage was situated in the centre of Lord and Lady Cahir's private domain (estate) and was used for fishing and hunting parties and for entertaining guests. Surrounded outside by fragrant roses, lavender and wisteria, its delightful interior contains elegantly decorated rooms. The wallpaper in the Salon was manufactured by the Dufour factory and is one of the first commercially produced Parisian wallpapers. This historic house is a wonderful piece of architectural design. The 30-minute guided tours are a thoroughly enjoyable experience.

**G** Cahir Castle, Cahir

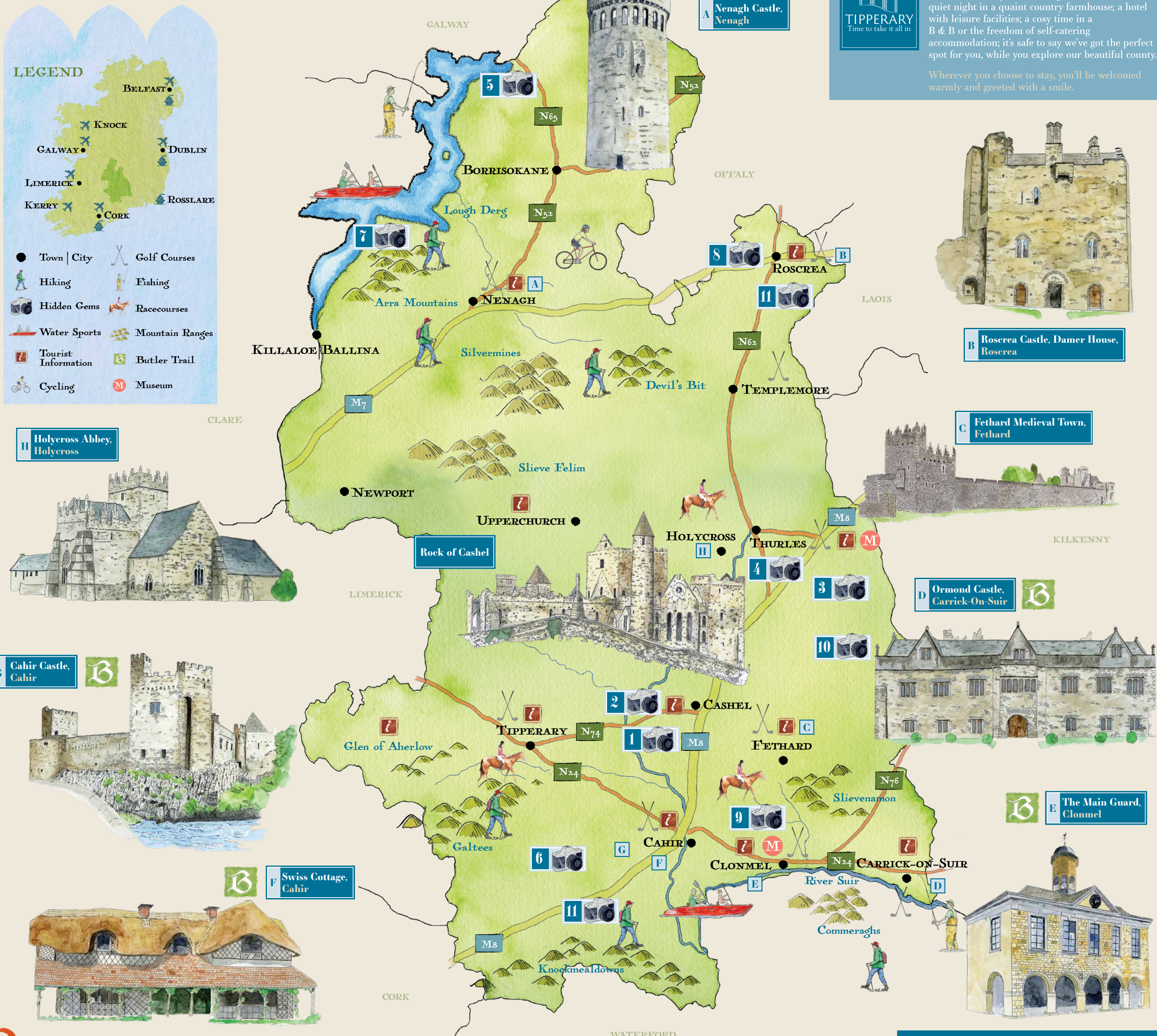
One of Ireland's largest and best-preserved castles. It is located on a rocky island in the middle of the River Suir, which served as a great defensive site for centuries and ensured that it was difficult for attackers to conquer the fortress. Today, you can still see two of the cannon balls lodged in the wall of the towers. Although wandering around the castle grounds of your own accord is a wonderful experience in itself, a guided tour adds greatly to an understanding of the historic background of the various buildings and gives a thorough insight into the daily life of the castle at the height of its use. Visit Cahir Castle for an authentic experience of medieval Ireland.

**H** Holycross Abbey, Holycross

As a popular pilgrim destination spanning 10 centuries, it has a rich and colourful past. Pilgrims travelled there to venerate the abbey's sacred relic of the true cross, which gave its name to the Abbey and village. Today this working Parish church is a peaceful landmark and a place for quiet contemplation and historical discovery. The Padre Pio meditation garden on the west bank of the River Suir is the perfect place to unwind and take some time out.

an epic battle between St. Patrick and the Devil, the Devil bit a chunk of rock out of the mountains. Afterwards in a rage, the Devil spat out the rock, which landed in Cashel. Once the traditional seat of the kings of Munster, it is one of the foremost pieces of Celtic art and medieval architecture in Europe. Most of its buildings date back to the 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. A truly remarkable piece of history, it is an integral monument in Ireland's Ancient East. A must see.

Tell me a story from before I can remember...



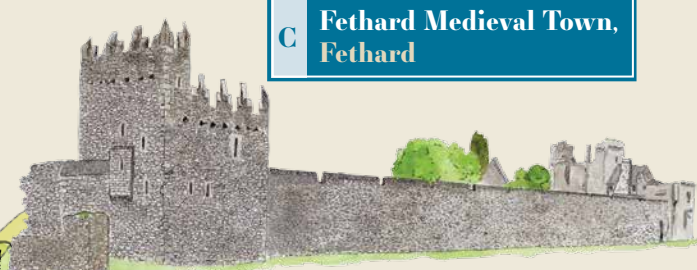
OUR HOME IS YOUR HOME

No matter what you're looking for, whether it's a quiet night in a quaint country farmhouse; a hotel with leisure facilities; a cosy time in a B & B or the freedom of self-catering accommodation; it's safe to say we've got the perfect spot for you, while you explore our beautiful county.

Wherever you choose to stay, you'll be welcomed warmly and greeted with a smile.



**B** Roscrea Castle, Damer House, Roscrea



**C** Fethard Medieval Town, Fethard



**D** Ormond Castle, Carrick-On-Suir



**E** The Main Guard, Clonmel



...Your story starts here