

# Cycle the Greenway

This journey begins in the bustling town of Athlone and ends in the elegant old market town of Mullingar, County Westmeath.

Between these two cultural hotspots, lose yourself along the spectacular 43km cycle path.

A converted stretch of the Midlands Great Western Railway carved through rich fertile farmland, the Old Rail Trail Greenway leads visitors through the very heart of Ireland.

# www.visitwestmeath.ie

www.athlone.ie

www.mullingar.ie







Before you hop on your bike at Athlone Castle on the River Shannon Banks, 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. www.athlonecastle.ie

Find rare flora and fauna at Crosswood Bog, located between Athlone town and the Tully access. This extensive area of raised bog habitat is internationally renowned for its biodiversity and ecological value. Notice the different trail surface here, a legacy of the extra care that was taken in constructing the greenway to protect the bog.

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 locallyrun 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. www.dunnasi.ie



Feel dwarfed by the majesty of the numerous stone-arched bridges and soak up the railway heritage as you cycle along. Pedal through the spooky tunnel near Ballinea and marvel at the sheer scale of the iconic three-arched bridge near Streamstown.

The historic station buildings at Streamstown have been lovingly restored. From here, the famous racehorse All Sorts set off by train to win the 1916 Irish Grand National at Fairyhouse. Despite his newfound glory however, the poor hero was forced to walk all the way home, since the Easter Rising had broken out that very day, suspending all train services. 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.

As Ireland's mythological and sacred centre, the Hill of Uisneach captivates visitors with its huge significance that pre-dates recorded history. 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. www.uisneach.ie

The Old Rail Trail meets the Royal Canal Greenway at Ballinea and Newbrook. This scenic 130km walking and cycling amenity stretches alongside the historic 225-yearold canal. Not only Ireland's longest greenway, it's also known for its scenic beauty, rich heritage and abundance of wildlife. www.royalcanalgreenway.org



# Athlone Mullingar

Athlone is a picturesque town on the River Shannon and a vibrant hub of culture, art and heritage. It's a renowned shopping destination with an excellent range of accommodation options and outstanding restaurants. Enjoy breath-taking panoramic views from atop Athlone Castle and indulge your inner artist at the Luan Gallery. Explore the scenic waters of Lough Ree with a captivating tour on the Viking Boat. Take a short detour to Glasson and explore woodland walking trails at Portlick Millennium Forest or tee off on Glasson Golf Course, designed by Ryder Cup hero Christy O'Connor Jnr. Divert southwards to Celtic Roots Studio in Ballinahown to experience the beauty of Ireland's raised bogs and learn to sculpt an ancient piece of bog oak. www.athlone.ie

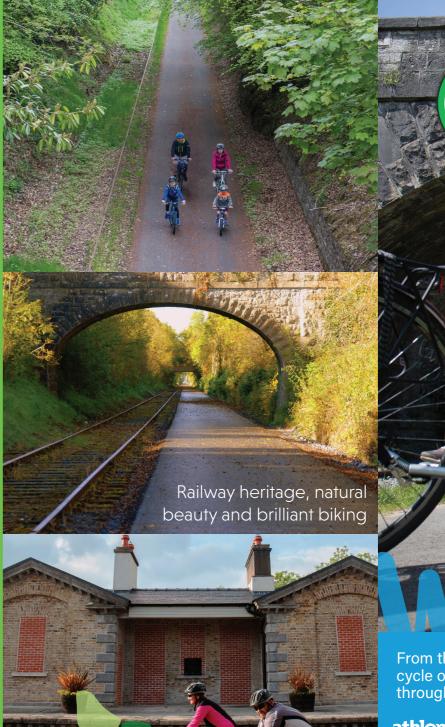
# athlone at the heart of it

# Ancient Legends and Musical Heritage

Mullingar is famous for its musical heritage and vibrant culture. It's also an ideal destination for outdoor adventure where the Old Rail Trail meets the Royal Canal Greenway and scenic lakes nearby. The town bustles with a fantastic range of coffee shops, restaurants, boutiques and high-quality accommodation options. The Renaissance-style Cathedral of Christ the King is a must-see with its exquisite mosaics. Enjoy heritage and family fun at Belvedere House, Gardens & Park. Take a short diversion to Kilbeggan for a tour of the world's oldest whiskey distillery or a thrilling day out at the Kilbeggan Races. Or take a spin to North Westmeath to breathe in the beauty of the gardens at Tullynally Castle or discover the 7 Wonders at Fore Abbey. www.mullingar.ie







Athlone to Mullingar: a 43km Greenway From the River Shannon to the Royal Canal,

cycle or stroll on a dedicated, off-road path through scenic and tranguil landscapes

athlone







# Suggested Routes to Cycle or Walk

# Athlone to Moate

15.5 km - Mostly flat surface. Suitable for family groups of all ages and all types of bikes.

Beginning at Athlone Castle, the greenway crosses the River Shannon and passes through the heart of this buzzing town. Eastwards, pedal over Crosswood Bog, protected for its valuable habitats and natural heritage, before reaching the restored railway station buildings in Moate. Why not take a break along the route at Dún na Sí Amenity & Heritage Park, where history and nature collide? Unwind in Moate; this hidden gem of a town provides refreshments, accommodation and the Tuar Ard Arts Centre.

# Moate to Castletow

16.3 km - Mostly flat surface with gentle slopes. Suitable for family groups of all ages and all types of bikes.

Journey through stunning countryside on the way to the preserved historic Castletown Station building. Opened in 1851, it was in use for more than 100 years. Take a rest at Jack's Stop Café at Streamstown's restored railway station, with outdoor seating and a playground, before you pass under the iconic three-arched stone bridge. A short diversion from Castletown will allow you to savour the majesty of Uisneach, once the seat of the High Kings of Ireland and the burial site of the Earth Goddess Ériu and the Sun God Lugh.

# Castletown to Mullingar

11.4 km - Mostly flat with gentle slopes. Suitable for family groups of all ages and all types of bikes.

From Castletown, the Greenway follows the old railway through sheltered countryside, surrounded by trees and birdsong. After passing under a tunnel, it meets the Royal Canal and follows its path before linking with the Royal Canal Greenway at Newbrook. From here, it's just a stroll into Mullingar, or you can continue on this Greenway all the way to the River Shannon in Longford or eastwards to Maynooth.

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