

You can enjoy a leisurely audio walking tour that takes 1hr 30mins and has 25 points of interest along the way.

Start by downloading the app Tours Carlow from the Play Store on your smartphone.

<https://bit.ly/3aAwZp5>

You can click on the many tours of Carlow Town and county this app has to offer. Today we are promoting the urban walk for those living in Carlow Town.

This app was developed jointly by Carlow County Council and Carlow Tourism and now is the perfect time to stay local and explore what is on your doorstep.

To view maps of County Carlow visit <https://carlowtourism.com/maps/>

## *An insight to your town*

In Carlow town the walker is presented with a rich tapestry of history dating back to a millennium and beyond, many associated famous names and an architectural heritage telling the story of the town's evolution since the Normans first came here in the twelfth century. With a population of over 20,000, Carlow is the County town and gateway to the South-East standing at the confluence of the Barrow and Burrin rivers.

Tradition has it that the junction of the two rivers once covered such a large area of ground that a lake was formed, or, as some believe four lakes, hence the name Ceatharlach or City of Four Lakes.

As a strategic river crossing, the town was the scene of a number of important battles and the Anglo Normans signalled its importance by building the great Carlow Castle in the 13th century.

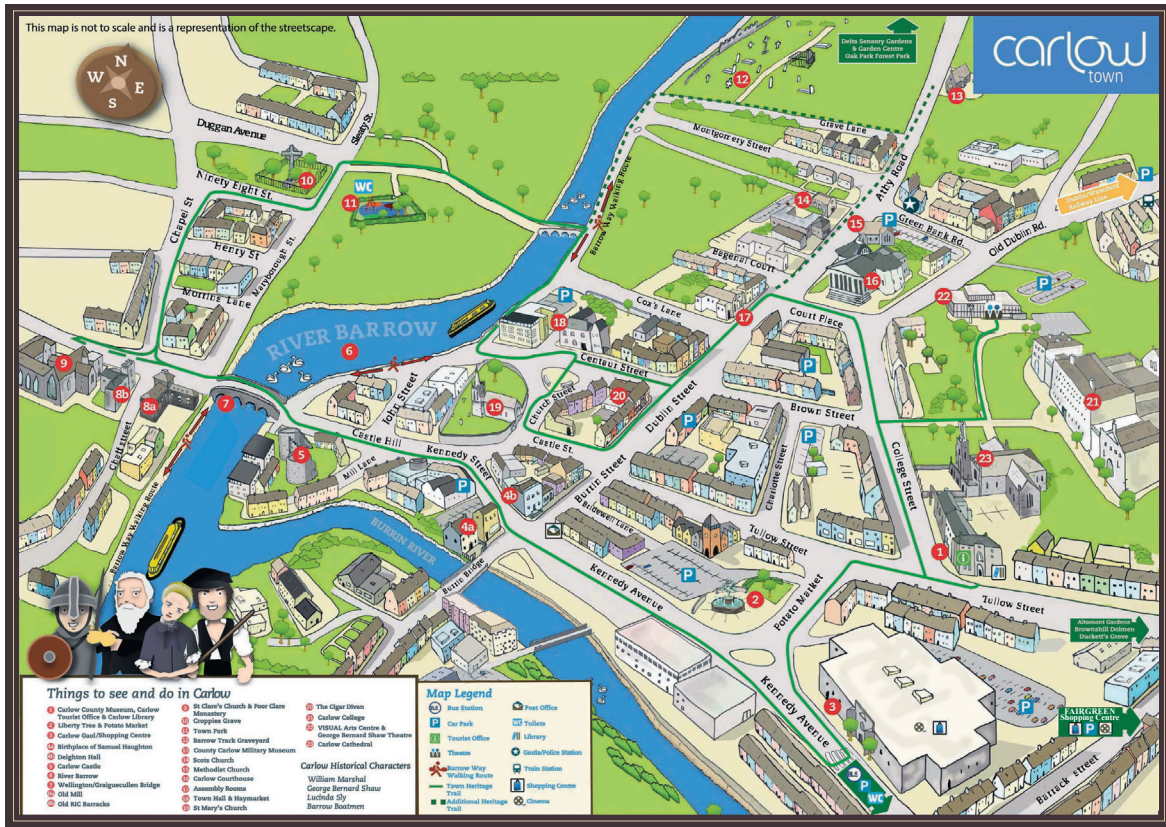
Famous names associated with Carlow include George Bernard Shaw, the dramatist and critic whose mother Lucinda Elizabeth Gurley was born in Carlow.

The famous impressionist artist Frank O'Meara was born at 37 Dublin Street on March 30th, 1853, sharing that birth date with Vincent Van Gogh.



**Stay in your local area.  
Stay Safe and in your family bubble.  
Go explore while adhering to government restrictions.**





**1 Carlow County Museum, Carlow Tourist Office and Carlow Library**  
The museum brings to life the story of Carlow's development through the ages. Items on display include the original gallows trapdoor from Carlow Gaol used to execute Lucinda Sly for murdering her husband in 1835; the smoking pipe of Captain Myles Keogh of the 7th US Cavalry who died at the Battle of Little Big Horn; read about John Tyndall, a 19th century scientist who discovered the greenhouse effect. The building also houses the Tourist Office, the County Library and Archive. [www.carlowmuseum.ie](http://www.carlowmuseum.ie)

**2 The Potato Market and Liberty Tree**  
Carlow was a market town around which areas developed reflecting the goods traded there, like the Potato Market, Coal Market, Butter Market and Haymarket. The Potato Market was the scene of a massacre of over 600 rebels and civilians following an unsuccessful attack on the town by the United Irishmen, known as the Battle of Carlow during the 1798 Rebellion. The Liberty Tree sculpture designed by John Behan, commemorates the 1798 Rebellion and was unveiled in 1998 to commemorate the bi-centenary.

**3 Carlow Gaol**  
This was the town Gaol for much of the 19th century. It was home for most of the 20th century to Thompson's Engineering Works and is now Carlow Shopping Centre. The main gate of the Gaol used local granite to give an impression of great strength and solidity. Immediately inside the main entrance is the substantial Governor's House, a three-bay, three-storey building. The last woman to be publicly hanged in the Gaol was Lucinda Sly who along with her servant had murdered her husband in 1835.

**4a Birthplace of Samuel Haughton**  
Born in Carlow December 1821, Rev. Samuel Haughton, Trinity College, was an Irish scientist who invented 'Haughton's Drop'. In 1866 Samuel developed a more humane method for execution by hanging, whereby the neck was broken at the time of the drop, so that the condemned person did not slowly strangle to death. His birthplace is marked by a plaque. The building is now in private ownership.

**4b Deighton Hall**  
This building was the County Courthouse and seat of the Grand Jury until the early 1830s. In 1809 local businessman Joseph C. Deighton presented this building to St Mary's Parish for use as a Parochial Hall. The prisoner holding cells were located in the basement with direct access to the courtyard and Lucinda Sly was tried here for the murder of her husband. Leading from Deighton Hall is the remaining section of Bredwell Lane which ran to the Carlow Gaol.

**5 Carlow Castle**  
Located at the meeting of the Rivers Barrow and Barrin, the castle had four 25 feet thick towers and stood three storeys high, making it a strategic fortress which protected the river crossing and Carlow Town. It was built in the 13th century by William Marshal Earl of Pembroke and Lord of Leinster, who had succeeded Strongbow, leader of the Norman invasion of Ireland. From 1391 to 1395 the Exchequer and Court of Common Pleas were located in and around the Castle, thus making Carlow the capital of Ireland for this period. It remained relatively unscathed until 1814 when Dr Middleton accidentally blew it up during works to convert it into a modern mental hospital, with only the west wall and two towers surviving.

**6 The River Barrow**  
The River Barrow is Ireland's second longest river flowing for 192km from the Slieve Bloom Mountains to the sea. For centuries the river was used by the large mills along its banks. The Barrow was a significant commercial waterway until the 1960s. Since the demise of river transport, the Barrow 'Loopwalk', which stretches some 114km is popular for cycling, walking and nature spotting.

**7 Wellington/Graiguecullen Bridge**  
Built in 1815, the five arch bridge, Wellington Bridge is the lowest bridge on the River Barrow and is unusual in that it crosses the end of a small island in the river, and one of the arches, through which the canal traffic passes, is slightly separated from the others. Looking upstream the original canal stones are now home to Carlow Rowing Club, one of Ireland's oldest sporting clubs.

**8a The Old Mill**  
Mills, such as this one, were dotted alongside the canal lock and weir on the River

Barrow in Carlow representing the thriving milling and distillery industry of former times.

**8b Old RIC Barracks**  
The Old Royal Irish Constabulary Barracks housed Ireland's major police force prior to Irish Independence. It is decorated with grotesque heads and a plaque of Hercules.

**9 St Clare's Church and Poor Clare Monastery**  
Originally built as St Anne's Church in 1852 and located on the Athy Road, it fell into disuse and was sold by the Church of Ireland in 1927 to the Catholic Parish of Graiguecullen. They moved it stone by stone across the River Barrow and rebuilt it on today's site. Unfortunately funds ran out before completion so the church lacks a spire. The Poor Clare Sisters are an enclosed order of nuns who are devoted to a life of prayer and have lived in the monastery since 1893. [www.poorclarescarlow.ie](http://www.poorclarescarlow.ie)

**10 The Croppies Grave**  
Following the bloody battle in the Potato Market in May 1798, the bodies of the dead were buried here in a mass grave. The croppy was the name given to the United Irishmen after the habit of cropping their hair to mark their allegiance. This site is commemorated with a replica high cross which stands as testimony to those who died to further the cause of Irish freedom from a harsh regime.

**11 Town Park**  
This 12-acre park on the banks of the River Barrow features a safe and secure children's playground and many pieces of public art sculpture.

**12 Barrow Track Graveyard**  
The Old Graveyard dates from 1607 and was the main burial ground for the town until St Mary's Cemetery, Old Dublin Road, opened in 1893. There are a variety of headstones, slabs, metal crosses, memorials and some War Commission headstones.

**13 County Carlow Military Museum**  
The Old Church in the grounds of St Dymphna's Hospital, houses the Military Museum. The museum displays artefacts from the late 18th century and details the history of the Irish Army, Local Reserve Defence Forces, UN Peacekeeping, Carlow Militia, War of Independence and much more.

**14 Scots Church**  
Scots Churches are rare, with only four known to be in existence in Ireland. Designed by architect Thomas A. Cobden, it is a curiously proportioned building with a tall pediment and no windows on the facade.

**15 Methodist Church**  
In 1892, this site was secured as the home of the Methodist chapel. The new site had been used as a quarry so it had to be filled before building could begin. The site was filled by using rubble from buildings being demolished in the town, for each load dumped at the site the carters were paid one penny, so it cost £5 to fill the site. In 1897, building work began and the church opened Friday, April 15th 1898.

**16 Carlow Courthouse**  
Designed in the 1820s by architect William Verroux Morrison, this building is one of Ireland's finest examples of ancient Greek revivalist architecture. The ancient Roman world is symbolised by the iron railings, which are in the form of the Roman axe, the fasces symbolising judicial power. The Courthouse has two large court rooms contained within the impressive granite decagonal shaped building. The cannon is a Russian gun, captured during the Crimean War and commemorates all the Carlow people who fought in the conflict. The Courthouse is operated by the Court Services under the Department of Justice.

**17 The Assembly Rooms**  
The Assembly Rooms were built in 1794 and it is thought they were used by nobility and gentry of the county to host dinners, balls and musical performances. In 1899 the famous playwright George Bernard Shaw inherited the Assembly Rooms from his uncle, Walter Gurly. He later donated the building to Dr Foley, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin, to use as a school and in 1923 it opened as Carlow's Technical School. Nowadays the Assembly Rooms house offices for Carlow County Council.

**18 Town Hall and Haymarket**  
Carlow Town Hall is situated on the north side of the Haymarket which was a main trading centre in Carlow. The Town Hall was designed by the church architect William Hague in 1884 and opened March 1886. Over the front door is the iron work of the old gas lamp which in 1891 was converted for electrical use. Carlow, after Dublin and London, was the third town of the British Empire to have electricity.

**19 St Mary's Church**  
St Mary's Church is located in an area of long standing religious settlement, during all the way back to the 6th century. The main body of the church dates to 1277, but the tower and spire reaching 195 feet was designed by Thomas A. Cobden, and added in 1874. The interior retains its original galleries and contains several interesting monuments, including ones of neo-classical architect Sir Richard Morrison.

**20 The Cigar Dwan**  
The Cigar Dwan is the older of only two cigar dawns in Ireland, with a Victorian shop-front featuring elaborate iron panels below the windows.

**21 Carlow College, St Patrick's**  
Ireland's oldest third level catholic educational institution, first opened in 1793, once the penal laws which restricted catholic education were relaxed. The college educated males for the professions and for priesthood, and during 1793 - 2001 over 3,300 ordinands took place. The chapel of the Sacred Heart was erected to mark the centenary of the college but now functions as the College Library. Famous alumni include James Finlan Lator, the agrarian agitator and social activist, the Fenian John O'Leary and Frank O'Meara, the impressionist painter. The 1990s saw the College return to its original role of educating the lay population. Carlow College, St Patrick's is home to the Carlow Art Collection, a permanent public collection of art. [www.carlowcollege.ie](http://www.carlowcollege.ie)

**22 VISUAL**  
Situated in the grounds of Carlow College, St Patrick's, VISUAL presents the in the visual and performing arts. It is a dynamic, multi-disciplinary arts facility featuring four principal exhibition spaces with the main gallery recognised as Ireland's largest and most contemporary art space. The theatre is named after the famed playwright George Bernard Shaw who had strong connections with the area, his mother being a Gurly from the town. [www.visualcarlow.ie](http://www.visualcarlow.ie)

**23 Carlow Cathedral**  
This is the cathedral for the Catholic Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin. The architect was Thomas A. Cobden and it is regarded as his most outstanding church building. It was among the first Catholic cathedrals consecrated following the act granting Catholic Emancipation in 1829 and its construction cost £9,000 at the time. [www.visualcarlow.ie](http://www.visualcarlow.ie)

**COVID-19: It is important to stay up to date as social distancing guidelines may change over time. The most up to date advice, information and resources can be found on: [www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie) and [www.health.gov.ie](http://www.health.gov.ie)**

Nature on Your Doorstep activity sheets brought to you by Carlow Sports Partnership in collaboration with the Carlow County Council Keep Well Campaign, Carlow Mental Health Association, Healthy Carlow & Carlow Tourism.