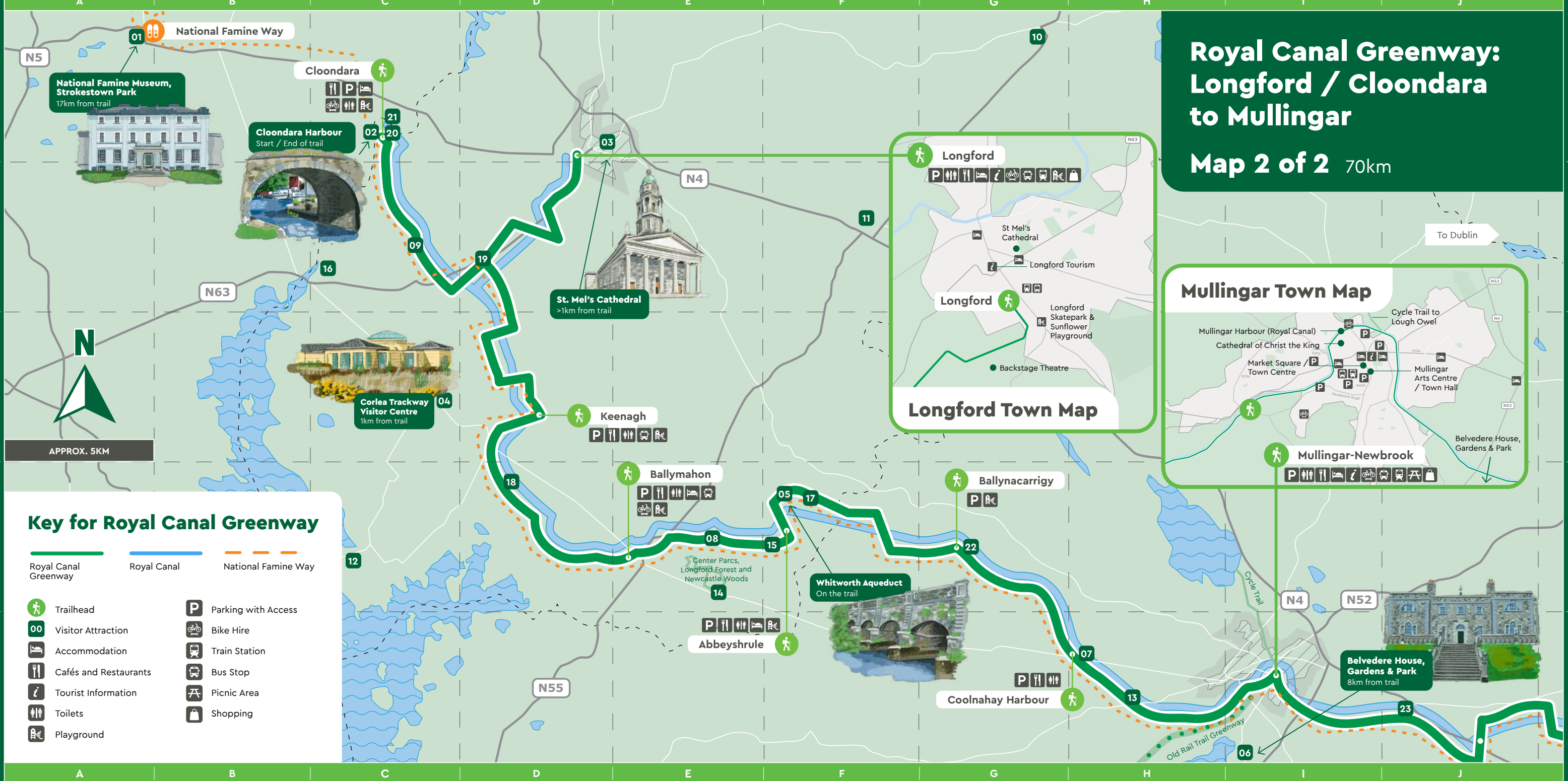


Royal Canal Greenway: Longford / Cloondara to Mullingar

Map 2 of 2 70km



Key for Royal Canal Greenway

- Royal Canal Greenway
- Royal Canal
- National Famine Way
- Trailhead
- Visitor Attraction
- Accommodation
- Cafés and Restaurants
- Tourist Information
- Toilets
- Playground
- Parking with Access
- Bike Hire
- Train Station
- Bus Stop
- Picnic Area
- Shopping

Key Visitor Attractions

- 01 National Famine Way**
nationalfamineway.ie
A 165km commemorative route from Strokestown Park, Roscommon to EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum, Dublin, retracing famine-era journeys on foot or bike. The route is marked by more than 30 pairs of bronze children's shoes, of remembrance.
- 02 National Famine Museum, Strokestown Park**
strokestownpark.ie
A major heritage attraction featuring extensive famine archives, a restored Georgian house and a remarkable walled garden. A strong cultural extension to the western end of the Greenway.
- 03 St. Mel's Cathedral**
One of Ireland's finest cathedrals, meticulously restored after the 2009 fire. Features classical columns, modern liturgical art, and an organ.
- 04 Corlea Trackway Visitor Centre**
heritageireland.ie
A unique Iron Age timber road built in 148 BC across Longford's bogs. The visitor centre displays an 18-metre preserved section. Accessible by off-road bike path.
- 05 Abbeyshrule Village & Whitworth Aqueduct**
An award-winning canal village, offers a marina, Whitworth Aqueduct, and links to activities and aviation heritage.
- 06 Belvedere House, Gardens & Park**
belvedere-house.ie
Historic estate with formal gardens, lakeside paths, woodland and "Jealous Wall" folly—peaceful nature, heritage architecture and family-friendly wandering escape retreat roughly 8km from Mullingar. Accessible via Local Link bus 819 or car.
- 07 Coolnahay Harbour & Lock Flight (Locks 26–30)**
This restored sequence of locks marks one of the most characterful engineering stretches of the Royal Canal. The harbour is peaceful and scenic, with cut-stone chambers and quiet moorings.
- 08 Ballymahon Canal Stretch**
A long rural section with wooded edges, quiet banks, wildlife and direct detours to Newcastle Wood home of Center Parcs, Longford Forest.
- 09 Killashee Access Point**
A key village-side access point to the western canal corridor, providing refreshments, heritage links and options to join shorter loops or continue straight through towards Cloondara.
- 10 Knights & Conquests Heritage Centre**
knightsandconquests.ie
Immersive storytelling, Norman re-enactment, heritage interpretation and panoramic views from Granard Motte. A strong family-friendly stop within reach by car or bus.
- 11 Maria Edgeworth Centre**
mariaedgeworthcenter.com
Celebrating Longford's literary legacy, the centre occupies one of Ireland's oldest school buildings and includes exhibitions on writing, education and rural society.
- 12 Casey's Bogwood Sculptures**
bogwood.net
A fascinating workshop where bog oak, preserved for 5,000 years in Irish wetlands, is transformed into artworks. Accessible from the canal via car.
- 13 Kilpatrick Bridge**
A classic cut-stone canal bridge in a quiet rural setting. Ideal for photography and pacing early kilometres west of Mullingar.
- 15 Webb Bridge**
A scenic arch bridge framed by hedgerows and flat open farmland.
- 16 Lough Ree Access for all**
loughreeboattrips.com
Fully accessible sight-seeing boat tours of the monastic heritage islands of Lough Ree, offering inclusive access to wildlife-rich waters and the Shannon system.
- 17 Abbeyshrule Airfield Viewpoint**
A unique feature near the trail, allowing intermittent views of small aircraft and gliders taking off.
- 18 Foigha Bridge**
An elegant stone bridge surrounded by quiet farmland. Excellent for birdwatching and landscape photos.
- 19 Longford Branch Junction**
A distinctive fork where the canal splits, offering the option to continue west to Cloondara or follow the quieter spur into Longford Town.
- 20 Cloondara Lock & Canal Stores Building**
Historic final lock of the canal, framed by beautiful restored buildings and charming stonework.
- 21 Shannon–Royal Canal Confluence**
The meeting point of Ireland's major river and one of its great historical canals.
- 22 Murtagh's Organic Farm**
murtaghsorganicfarm.com
A family-run farm. Visitors can meet friendly rescue animals, enjoy farm walks, and local produce.
- 23 Mullingar Pewter**
mullingarpewter.com
Just 8km from Mullingar town, visitors can tour the production workshop, browse the showroom, or sample the café offerings.

Where Greenways Link

The Royal Canal Greenway meets the **Old Rail Trail** at Ballinea and Newbrook. This scenic 43km route is a converted stretch of the Midlands Great Western Railway carved through rich fertile farmland, leading visitors through the very heart of Ireland.

Old Rail Trail:

Athlone Castle
Dún na Sí Amenity & Heritage Park
Hill of Uisneach
Jack's Stop Café



Mullingar

Join the Old Rail Trail Greenway here
Newbrook Trailhead

Join the Old Rail Trail Greenway here
Ballinea Trailhead

Join the Old Rail Trail Greenway



Battles and Battlements on the Shannon Banks

athlonecastle.ie

Before you hop on your bike at Athlone Castle, 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.



Ancient Majesty uisneach.ie

As Ireland's mythological and sacred centre, the Hill of Uisneach captivates visitors with its huge significance that pre-dates recorded history. Long regarded as the spiritual heart of the island, it is steeped in legend, ritual, and ancient storytelling. 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.



Art, Heritage and Play dunnasi.ie

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 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.



Rest like a Racehorse visitwestmeath.ie

The historic station buildings at Streamstown have been lovingly restored, preserving their character while giving them new life. From here, the famous racehorse All Sorts set off by train to win the 1916 Irish Grand National at Fairyhouse. 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, making it a welcoming stop for families and visitors.

Discover the Royal Canal Greenway



Welcome to the Royal Canal Greenway, a long-distance, off-road walking and cycling trail connecting Maynooth with Longford Town. Stretching over 130 km, the Greenway winds through the lush landscapes of Ireland's Ancient East and Ireland's Hidden Heartlands before reaching the majestic River Shannon.

Work on the Royal Canal began in 1790, and for more than 30 years it served as a vital transport route for passengers and goods across the Irish midlands. In 1845, the canal was purchased by the Midlands Great Western Railway Company and gradually fell out of use, officially closing to navigation in 1961.

In 1974, a body of enthusiasts formed the Royal Canal Amenity Group to protect, restore, and reimagine the canal as a public amenity. Today, Waterways Ireland manages the canal, and in partnership with the Royal Canal Amenity Group, officially

reopened the route from Dublin to the Shannon in 2010. This milestone led to extensive towpath upgrades and the development of the Royal Canal Greenway, supported by local authorities, public bodies, and dedicated local communities.

Along the Greenway, visitors can encounter a rich built and natural heritage, including 90 historic stone arch bridges, 33 locks, and beautifully preserved lock-keepers' cottages that line the tranquil waterway. Nearby, the Old Rail Trail Greenway complements the canal route, with several restored railway station houses highlighting the region's transport history.

The Royal Canal Greenway also intersects with the National Famine Way, a digitally and physically waymarked 167 km walking trail linking Strokestown Park, County Roscommon, with Custom House Quay, Dublin, commemorating the notorious journey of the 1,490 emigrants taken during the Great Irish Famine.

For more information, visit nationalfamineway.ie

Suggested Routes to Cycle or Walk



Longford to Cloondara

15 km
Mostly flat towpath surface. Suitable for family groups of all ages and all types of bikes.

This short route travels west from Longford to the harbour village of Cloondara. Calm waters and barges make it perfect for families and outings. The connection with the Shannon Blueway adds extra appeal, with accommodation, cafés and retail in Longford.



Longford to Mullingar

47 km
Mostly flat towpath surface with gentle gradients. Suitable for confident cyclists, walkers and all bikes.

A longer journey through peaceful rural landscapes, passing historic locks and bridges. Ideal for confident cyclists and walkers seeking a full-day adventure, finishing in Mullingar where restaurants, cafés, shops, accommodation and transport are all closeby.



Mullingar to Enfield

42 km
Mostly flat towpath surface. Suitable for family groups of all ages and all types of bikes.

Starting in Mullingar, this popular section follows the canal eastwards through peaceful countryside and farmland. The flat terrain makes it ideal for relaxed cycling and walking. Finish in Enfield, a charming canal-side town with cafés, accommodation, and rail access



Enfield to Maynooth

20 km
Flat towpath surface with gentle slopes. Suitable for family groups of all ages and all types of bikes.

A gentle and accessible section linking Enfield with the lively university town of Maynooth. This scenic route is ideal for family outings or relaxed day trips, ending in Maynooth where a vibrant town centre awaits, with hotels, boutique shopping, cafés and restaurants.

Visitor Attractions Map 2/2

Royal Canal Greenway Map 2 of 2

Longford / Cloondara – Mullingar



Emergency Contacts

In case of emergency dial 999 or Mullingar Garda Station
044 938 4000

Bike Hire & Tours

Mullingar Bike Hire
mullingarbikehire.com
+353 87 992 3409

Ethical Tours
ethicaltours.ie
+353 87 250 2484

Midlands Cycle Hub
midlandscyclehub.ie
+353 85 112 5411

OE Bikes Mullingar
oebikes.ie/bike-hire
044 933 5351

Ballymahon Greenway Cycles
ballymahongreenwaycycles.ie
+353 90 643 8608

Local Tourism

Visit Westmeath,
visitwestmeath.ie

Visit Longford,
visitlongford.ie



See more info on DiscoverIreland.ie



DiscoverIreland