

# Shared Waterways, Shared Landscapes

## Off the Beaten Track Itinerary



## Welcome to Shared Waterways Shared Landscapes

The Shared Waters and Landscapes of Central Monaghan and South Armagh are packed with places to get out into and go exploring. Over the course of three days you will have the chance to discover a range of heritage trails that reveal the stories embedded in this location, followed by some of Europe's finest fishing and golf.

This carefully planned itinerary is easy to follow and includes everything you will need. With recommended accommodation and a great variety of places to eat and drink, you'll find out about the people, stories, traditions and heritage of these lush landscapes.

more to  
Monaghan



## Day One

- 1 Concra Wood Golf Club, Lough Muckno**  
00 353 (0) 42 974 9485  
www.concrawood.ie

The gently rolling drumlins of County Monaghan combined with the stunning Lough Muckno beauty creates a spectacular setting for one of Ireland's finest championship golf courses. Eleven holes reach down to the water's edge. Perfect for golfers of all abilities, there's a driving and practice range at the course too.

### Lunch

- 2 The View Restaurant, Concra Wood Golf Club**  
00 353 (0) 42 974 9485  
www.concrawood.ie

The View bar is aptly named. Enjoy a well-deserved lunch after your exploits of the morning with sublime views over the water. First class food, a relaxing drink – what more could you want. The locals couldn't be friendlier either.

### Short drive to Castleblayney

- 3 Lough Muckno Leisure Park**  
00 353 (0) 47 811 22 (June to September),  
00 353 (0) 47 305 33 (October to May)

Escape the bustle of modern life and explore 900 acres of rolling green drumlins, wooded glades, lakeside trails and the fascinating heritage of Lough Muckno Leisure Park. Follow nature and walking trails around Black and White Islands, close to Hope Castle. Is this Ireland's best kept secret? Not anymore!

- 4 Angling on Lough Muckno**  
00 353 (0) 87 240 5317  
www.fishinginireland.info/coarse/east/monaghan/  
/castleblaney.htm

Described by a leading angler as 'the jewel in the crown of coarse angling', Lough Muckno offers fine coarse fishing in Europe with abundant stocks of bream, rudd, roach, tench, perch and pike, and great angling spots around the lake. Boats can be hired too! Plentiful fish, great facilities, spectacular location and plenty of angler-friendly local accommodation – What are you waiting for?

### Alternatively join a cookery class



- 5 White Hill Country House**  
00 353 (0) 87 250 4299  
www.whitehillcountryhouse.com

There's no better way to absorb the local culture than to cook the local cuisine with Mary McEvoy who runs the White Hill Country House on the shores of Lough Muckno. Learn delicious dishes like Irish Stew, and how to bake Irish breads and scones. Classes are open to guests but groups can book classes with her at the fabulous Iontas Centre in Castleblayney.

### Drive to Carrickmacross - 25 mins

### Dinner and overnight accommodation

- 6 Nuremore Hotel & Country Club**  
00 353 (0) 42 966 1438  
www.nuremore.com

Check in early to this welcoming hotel so you can relax in their 18 metre swimming pool, steam room, sauna cabin and Jacuzzi and treat yourself to luxurious treatments, including body wraps, facials and hot stone massages in the Vida Spa.

You can also enjoy a meal at the hotel's award-winning restaurant, overlooking lovely Lough Naglack on the Proules River.



- 7 Riverbank Country Pub and Restaurant**  
00 353 (0) 41 685 5883  
www.riverbank.ie

Fancy some more nightlife? Take a short drive from the Nuremore Hotel and Country Club to the delightful Riverbank Country Pub and Restaurant overlooking the River Glyde, for a hearty meal.

## Day Two

Enjoy a round of golf at Nuremore's superb 18-hole Championship course (enquire about special packages when booking) or take a 6-kilometre loop walk from the hotel car park through rural farmland dotted with lakes and drumlins. Ask at the hotel for directions.

- 8 Carrickmacross Heritage trail**  
00 353 (0) 42 966 1148  
www.monaghantourism.com/images/pdfs/flyerforwebpdf.pdf

Take a tour of this unspoilt market town, starting at the Shirley Arms Hotel. Unearth the significance of the Shirley Family, the history of the markets, dark famine times, the Fever Hospital, Carrickmacross Lace and the town's unique relationship with famed poet Patrick Kavanagh. Tours each Saturday May – Sept at 11am.

- 9 Carrickmacross Lace Gallery**  
00 353 (0) 42 966 4176  
www.carrickmacrosslace.ie

Worn at the weddings of princesses Diana and Catherine, the beautiful Carrickmacross Lace story began with a local rector's wife bringing back exquisite lace from Italy to teach lacemaking to local women in the 1820s. Today, this unique lace continues to be made by local women. Book ahead, watch a demonstration, see their work and bring home a gorgeous gift, such as a handmade veil.

### Lunch

- 10 Shirley Arms Hotel**  
00 353 (0) 42 967 3100  
www.shirleyarmshotel.ie

Enjoy superb locally sourced food in the bar or acclaimed restaurant of this atmospheric hotel which dates back to the early 1800s. Right in the heart of town.

### Drive to Lough Eglish - 20 mins

- 11 Lough Eglish**  
00 353 (0) 87 240 5317  
www.fishinginireland.info

This beautiful lough isn't yet as popular as the 'jewel in the crown of coarse angling', Lough Muckno, but word is spreading. It's long been valued for excellent pike fishing but outstanding catches of roach, weighing up to 2lbs, have also helped grow its reputation. Road access from the R181 where boats may be launched near the village.

### Drive to Loughmourne - 10 mins

- 12 Mourne Clay Shooting**  
00 353 (0) 42 974 5953  
www.clayshooting.ie

Pre-book a range of fantastic activities at Mourne Clay Shooting. Available for all levels from beginner to expert with instructors on hand. It's all weather and has lots of different targets to choose from. You can also try archery or rifle and pistol shooting.

### Drive to Crossmaglen - 15 mins

- 13 Crossmaglen Walk and Drives**  
(028) 3086 1949  
www.ringofgullion.org

Base yourself in the historic Crossmaglen and explore the largest town square in Ireland. Choose from a range of fascinating drives and walks within easy reach. Destinations include one of the best-preserved Neolithic tombs in Ireland, an earthwork from the ancient route to Armagh and a centre dedicated to a much loved local Primate of All Ireland.

- 14 Cardinal O'Fiaich Centre**  
(028) 3086 1817

Book a visit to the Cardinal O'Fiaich Centre in nearby Cullyhanna. It's exploration of local folklore and culture reflects the interests of this much-loved Primate of All Ireland, a true man of the people. Just over a mile from Cullyhanna, off the main road from Newtownhamilton to Dundalk, you can see a stretch of the Dorsey, an Iron Age earthwork that runs through South Armagh, linked to the ancient route to Emain Macha, the capital of the kingdom of Ulster (near Navan Fort in Armagh).

### 15 Annaghmare Court Cairn

Two miles from Crossmaglen, on a rocky outcrop, stands one of the best preserved Neolithic tombs in Ireland – a horseshoe forecourt surrounded by large stones with three central and two side chambers. It takes its name from the Gaelic Áth na Marbh ('the ford of the dead') and has many ghostly tales attached to it. When excavated, human bones, pottery and bear teeth were found!

- 16 Cross Square Hotel in Crossmaglen**  
(028) 3086 0505  
www.crosssquarehotel.com

Enjoy dinner and a chat in the front bar with the Carragher Family, owners of the Cross Square Hotel situated in Crossmaglen square.

You could choose to stay at the friendly Cross Square too but if you're a nature lover we've got a taste of paradise lined up for you just over a half mile from Mullughane village.

### Drive from Mullaghbane - 15 mins

- 17 Slieve Gullion Pods**  
(028) 30 889 9104  
https://en-gb.facebook.com/padraig.carragher.5

Traditional woodturner Padraig Carragher planted over 20,000 native trees in this idyllic spot with views of Slieve Gullion. From spring 2017 you'll be able to stay in pods or a converted stone cottage here.

## Day Three

### Drive to Camlough - 15 mins

- 18 Camlough Heritage Trail**  
(028) 3031 3170  
www.ringofgullion.org

With its adjacent lake and ancient mountain, the historic village of Camlough perfectly captures the multi-faceted attractions of South Armagh. Stroll around the village, explore links to key figures and moments in modern Irish history, take a swim or fish from the crooked lake (where the village takes its name) and hike up the mountain for breathtaking views.

Lunch - Take a picnic to the top of Camlough Mountain or meet the locals at the atmospheric Yellow Heifer in Camlough.

- 19 The Yellow Heifer**  
(028) 3083 0505  
www.theyellowheifer.co.uk

This award-winning gastro pub in Camlough is a favourite with locals and visitors alike for delicious and great value food. Atmospheric and welcoming, it's a great place for lunch (Thursday to Sundays) and dinner.

### Drive to Tí Chulainn, Mullaghbane - 15 mins

- 20 Tí Chulainn, Mullaghbane**  
(028) 388 9391  
www.tichulainn.com

Ask at Tí Chulainn and they can arrange for the Ring of Gullion Cycles to deliver bikes to you, or you can walk along this eight-mile circular route. Leaving Tí Chulainn, follow country lanes past the birthplace of poet Art Bennett, the last working flax mill in the area, the ancient Ballykeel Dolmen and the old thatched Mullach Bán Folk Museum before returning to Tí Chulainn.

Drive through South Armagh - groups with their own coaches or mini buses can avail of guided tours which explore the historical, archaeological and natural world of South Armagh. Some guides accommodate couples and families but it is more costly. But there are two wonderful driving tour guides you can download to take yourself around this extraordinary area. You could spend a day on each or tailor a busy afternoon picking your own route to follow from the selection.

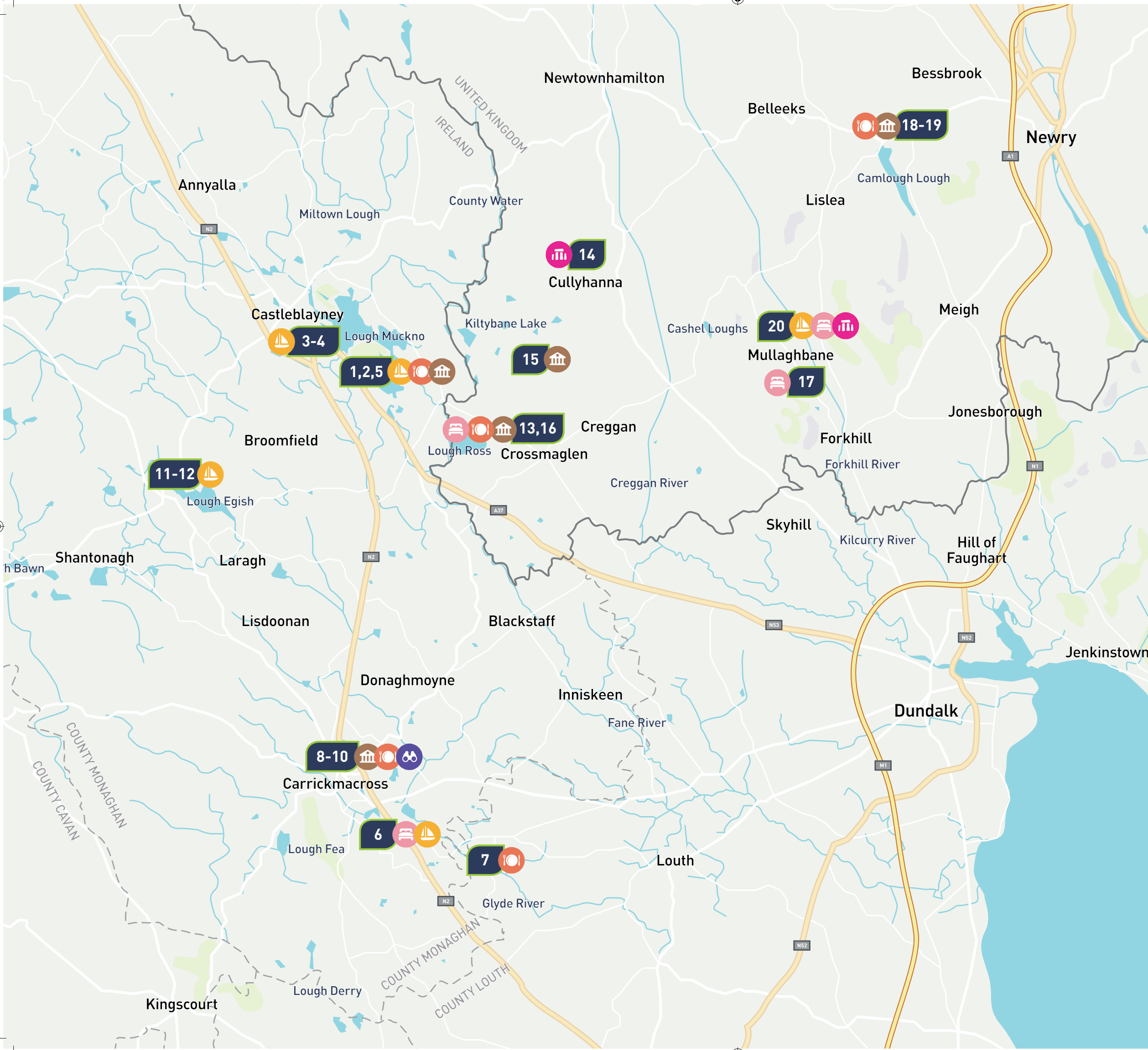
- 21 Two audio driving tours Cú Chulainn Drive and Fionn mac Cumhaill Adventure**  
1. Download the Cú Chulainn Journey from  
www.ringofgullion.org/things-to-do/driving-audio-guides/  
/cu-chulainn-journey  
2. Drive to Bessbrook – approximately 20 minutes away

The exhilarating Cú Chulainn Journey, which starts at Tí Chulainn takes you on a dramatic ride through South Armagh's history. From Neolithic portal tombs to Iron Age earthworks, poet's graveyards to Norman castles, as well as the oldest inscribed Christian monument in Ireland, the Kilnasaggart Stone. Download the audio podcast and tailor the route to suit yourself.

**Fionn mac Cumhaill Adventure:** Explore the delightful model village of Bessbrook, unchanged in over a century, and visit what was once the world's biggest linen mill. There's the unique National Trust house where the Act of Union was drafted, ancient court tombs, spectacular views, historic churches, the highest passage tomb in Ireland and the lake that turned legendary warrior Fionn Mac Cumhaill's hair white.

\*All travel times are approximates.

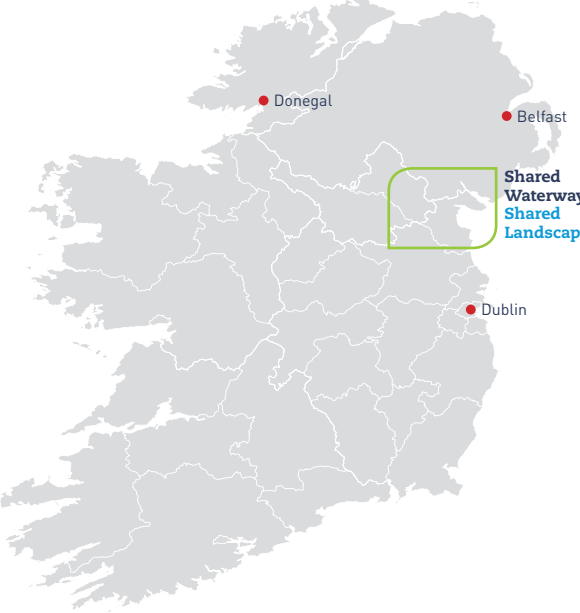




Map Key

- ! Location Indicator
- Accommodation
- Activities
- Attractions
- Food & Drink
- Heritage
- Cultural

Location



Great location, easy access  
Great Escapers Itinerary  
Distance from Belfast to Lough Muckno - 1 Hour 15 minutes  
Distance from Belfast to Crossmaglen - 1 Hour 5 mins  
Distance from Dublin to Lough Muckno - 1 Hour 20 minutes  
Distance from Belfast to Crossmaglen - 50 mins

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