COO MidlandsIreland.ie gateway to tourism

Guide













The MidlandsIreland.ie brand promotes awareness of the Midland Region across four pillars of Living, Learning, Tourism and Enterprise. MidlandsIreland.ie Gateway to Tourism has produced this digital guide to the Midland Region, as part of suite of initiatives in line with the adopted Brand Management Strategy 2011-2016. The guide has been produced in collaboration with public and private service providers based in the region. MidlandsIreland.ie would like to acknowledge and thank those that helped with research, experiences

and images. The guide contains 11 sections which cover, Angling, Festivals, Golf, Walking, Creative Community, Our Past – Our Pleasure, Active Midlands, Towns and Villages, Driving Tours, Eating Out and Accommodation.

The guide showcases the wonderful natural assets of the Midlands, celebrates our culture and heritage and invites you to discover our beautiful region. All sections are available for download on the MidlandsIreland.ie

Content:

Images and text have been provided courtesy of Áras an Mhuilinn, Athlone Art & Heritage Limited, Athlone, Institute of Technology, Ballyfin Demense, Belvedere House, Gardens & Park, Bord na Mona, CORE, Failte Ireland, Lakelands & Inland Waterways, Laois Local Authorities, Laois Sports Partnership, Laois Tourism, Longford Local Authorities, Longford Tourism, Mullingar Arts Centre, Offaly Local Authorities, Westmeath Local Authorities, Inland Fisheries Ireland, Distillery, Kilbeggan Kilbeggan Racecourse, Office of Public Works, Swan Creations, The Gardens at Ballintubbert, The Heritage at Killenard, Waterways Ireland and the Wineport Lodge. Individual contributions include the work of James Fraher, Kevin Byrne, Andy Mason, Kevin Monaghan, John McCauley and Tommy Reynolds.

Disclaimer:

While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy in the information supplied no responsibility can be accepted for any error, omission or misinterpretation of this information. Where such are brought to our attention future guides will be amended accordingly.

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Laois

Abbeyleix Golf Club

Rathmoyle, Abbeyleix, County Laois +353 (0)57 8731450 info@abbeyleixgolfclub.ie www.abbeyleixgolfclub.ie

Located just 1 km from the heritage town of Abbeyleix this 18 hole course is a gem just waiting to be discovered and only one hour from Dublin. The par 72 course embodies all that the golfer requires for a satisfying yet challenging round.

Mountrath Golf Club

Knockanaina, Mountrath, County Laois +353 (0)57 8732558 mountrathgc@eircom.net www.mountrathgolfclub.ie

This 18 hole course is one golfers will relish with its fine, long fairways and well manicured greens. Deep, well-shaped bunkers are scattered liberally throughout. The River Nore flows through the course and the Slieve Bloom Mountains nestle in the background.

Portarlington Golf Club

Garryhinch, Portarlington, County Laois +353 (0)57 8623115 info@portarlingtongolf.com www.portarlingtongolf.com

Magnificent 18 hole golf course set in mature parkland. River Barrow makes the closing holes amongst the toughest in the area.

Portlaoise Golf Club

Abbeyleix Rd., Portlaoise, County Laois +353 (0)57 8661557 info@portlaoisegolfclub.com www.portlaoisegolfclub.com

Situated on the site of the original Maryborough Golf Club which dates back to the 1800s, Portlaoise Golf Club was born out of a passion to provide golfers, of all abilities, with a course that combines traditional design with a distinctly Irish blend. Here is a Golf Course where members and visitors can enjoy the true spirit of golf in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere.

Rathdowney Golf Club

Coolnaboul West, Rathdowney, County Laois +353 (0)505 46170 info@rathdowneygolfclub.com www.rathdowneygolfclub.com

An interesting 18 hole layout over undulating terrain, which provides a good test for golfers of every ability.

The Heath Golf Club

The Heath, Portlaoise, County Laois +353 (0)57 8646533 info@theheathgc.ie |www.theheathgc.ie

Heath offers a unique challenge to all levels of golfer.

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The Heritage at Killenard Killenard, County Laois +353 (0)57 8645500 info@theheritage.com www.theheritage.com

The Heritage a 72, par Championship course, designed by Seve Ballesteros and Jeff Howes is set in the beautiful rolling countryside of Co. Laois. It is located just off the Dublin/Cork M7 motorway approximately 64km from Dublin City & Airport.

Longford

County Longford Golf Club Dublin Road, Longford. Tel: +353(0)43 3346310 www.countylongfordgolfclub.com colonggolf@eircom.net

A warm welcome awaits you at County Longford Golf Club, one of the foremost golf courses in the midlands. An 18 hole parkland course overlooking Longford town, it offers panoramic views of the surrounding countryside and ancient trees providing a beautiful back drop to all the holes. Longford has become a favoured spot for visiting societies, due mainly to the friendly welcome offered, the excellent golfing and the general good time to be enjoyed by all. The course is playable 12 months of the year, almost unique for an inland course. The club house is completed with a bar and restaurant serving excellent food and beverages while club, trolley and buggy hire are available on site.

County Longford is the ideal location for golf enthusiasts due to its accessibility to the rest of the country. Being centrally located it has a great choice of golf courses all less than an hours drive away. With Longford as a base the visitor to the area can play a different championship golf course every day of the week with very little travelling involved.

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Offaly Beechlawn Golf Club Rahan, County Offaly +353 (0)57 9355481 beechlawngolf@eircom.net

9-hole parkland course.

Birr Golf Club The Glens, Birr, County Offaly +353 (0)57 9120082 info@birrgolfclub.com | www.birrgolfclub.com

The post glacial terrain of Birrs' 18 hole course, with its glens presents a challenge to the most discerning golfer. Situated in the centre of Ireland, within a short drive to all major sea and air terminals.

Castle Barna Golf Club Castlebarnagh, Daingean, County Offaly +353(0)57 9353384 info@castlebarna.ie www.castlebarna.ie

The course plays 5,798 meters, par 72 Standard Scratch 69 from the back trees and the course enjoys great popularity with tourists, visitors and societies.

Edenderry Golf Club

Kishawanny, Edenderry, County Offaly +353 (0)46 9731072 enquiries@edenderrygolfclub.com www.edenderrygolfclub.com

Excellent 18 hole parkland course, less than one hour from Dublin.

Esker Hills Golf Club Ballykilmurray, Tullamore, County Offaly +353(0)57 9355999 info@eskerhillsgolf.com www.eskerhillsgolf.com

Designed by Christy O'Connor Jnr one can experience 18 holes of challenging championship golf where no 2 holes are remotely alike. Just over an hour from Dublin, Galway and Limerick.

Tullamore Golf Club

Brookfield, Tullamore, County Offaly +353 (0)57 9321439 tullamoregolfclub@eircom.net www.tullamoregolfclub.ie

Tullamore Golf Club is recognised as one of the best championship parkland 18 hole courses in the country. Its location, a short drive south of Tullamore, in mature parkland of oak, beech and chestnut, provides a beautiful setting for the game of golf.

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Westmeath

Athlone Golf Club

Hodson Bay, Athlone +353 (0)90 6494080 athlonegolf@eircom.net

Athlone Golf Club was founded in 1892. It is a parkland course, with spectacular views of Hodson Bay - the feature holes being the 2nd, 12th and 16th. 18 Hole - Par 71 Men, Par 75 Ladies. Visitors are assured of a warm welcome. Club Hire, Trolleys and Buggies for hire and Caddie service by arrangement.

Ballinlough Castle Golf Course

Clonmellon, County Westmeath +353 (0)44 9664544 golf@ballinloughcastle.com www.ballinloughcastle.com

Situated in North County Westmeath, Ballinlough Castle 18 hole golf course is probably the most natural course you will play, with a mixture of sand and traditional greens meandering through one hundred and eighty acres of mature parkland, with just a hint of water that will prove to be a test for golfers of all levels

Delvin Castle Golf Club

Delvin Castle Golf Club, Delvin, County Westmeath +353 (0)44 9664315 info@delvincastlegolf.com www.delvincastlegolf.com

Delvin Castle is an 18 hole golf course in the mature parkland of Clonyn Castle, with many mature trees and a number of holes over water. Situated 20 km north east of Mullingar, on the N52.

Glasson Golf Hotel and Country Club Glasson, Athlone, County Westmeath +353 (0)90 6485120 info@glassongolf.ie | www.glassongolf.ie

Glasson Golf Course Athlone was designed by legendary Irish golfer and Ryder Cup Player Christy O'Connor, Jnr., Glasson Country House Hotel & Golf Club is a mature 18 hole golf course that will test a professional golfer but also be enjoyable for the "average" or "occasional" golfer.

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Moate Golf Club

Aghanargit, Moate, County Westmeath Tel: +353 (0)90 6481271 | moategolfclub@ eircom.net.ie | www.moategolfclub.ie

Situated in the midlands half way between Dublin and Galway, just off the M6, take Exit 6 heading West or Exit 7 heading East. Moate Golf Club offers an 18-hole challenge to golfers of all abilities and ages. Noted for its hospitality and friendliness, membership is currently available and Green Fees, Societies and Classics can be accommodated.

Mount Temple Golf Club

Mount Temple Village, Moate, County Westmeath Tel: +353 (0)90 6481841 | mttemple@iol.ie www.mounttemplegolfclub.com

Mount Temple is a traditional Irish Championship golf course and is renowned for its large links type greens and undulating fairways. The club is located just a short distance from Athlone. Sitting on an esker based site gives the course the advantage of being playable all year round.

Mullingar Golf Club

Belvedere, Mullingar, County Westmeath +353 (0)44 9348366 mullingargolfclub@hotmail.com www.mullingargolfclub.com

A championship challenge set in old wooded and delightful undulating parklands. Generous rolling fairways wind their paths through mature timbers.

Newforest Golf Club

Tyrrellspass, County Westmeath +353 (0)44 9221910 info@newforest.ie www.newforest.ie Newforest Golf Club is situated some eighty eight kms west of Dublin, just off the M6 Dublin - Galway Road. The course is both a joy to the eye and a pleasure to experience.

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PITCH & PUTT

Longford

The Acres Pitch and Putt Club Ballinalee, County Longford Tel: + 353 (0) 86 2477171

Granard Pitch & Putt Club Higginstown Sports Ground Granard, County Longford +353 (0)43 668 6826

Offaly

Banagher Pitch & Putt Club Banagher, County Offaly + 353 (00 57 9151421

Ferbane Pitch & Putt Delvin Park, Ferbane, County Offaly + 353 (0)90 6454720

Tullamore Pitch & Putt Arden Lane, Arden Rd., Tullamore, County Offaly + 353 (0)57 9321023

Westmeath

Ballymore Pitch & Putt St Owens, Ballymore, County Westmeath cunninghampandp@eircom.net +353 (0)44 9356270 Ballymore Pitch & Putt is an exciting 18 hole championship course open all year round. It is an ideal venue for either a family day out or your society outing. Situated 1 km from Ballymore, on the Moate road, 25km from Mullingar and 24km from Athlone.

Collinstown Pitch and Putt Club Collinstown, County Westmeath Tel: +353 (0) 87 2929624

Collinstown Pitch and Putt club is highly regarded on the National Pitch & Putt circuit. It is a mature championship course that has hosted many top class championships and competitions over the years. It is situated on the Castlepollard road out of Collinstown beside the Lough Lene Gaels GAA pitch.

Custume Pitch & Putt Club

Garnafeiligh, Athlone, County Westmeath Tel: + 353 (0) 90 647 2954

Custume Pitch & Putt Club, in the Coosan area of Athlone has been a huge success story in Pitch & Putt. From its beginning a short few years ago up until now the progression has been phenomenal.

The course is a true test of one's Pitch and Putt ability and is well worth a visit. It has a strong membership and is certainly a very important part of Westmeath Pitch and Putt by providing the sport in the west of the county.

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Kilbeggan Pitch & Putt

Mullingar Rd., Kilbeggan, County Westmeath Tel: + 353 (0)57 9332461

Kilbeggan has a big reputation for introducing new members into the game. It proudly boasts a brand new clubhouse which is second to none in the country. Kilbeggan has been host to many championships over the years and is a fundamental part of the Westmeath Pitch and Putt setup.

Lilliput Par 3 Pitch 'n' Putt

Lough Ennell, Mullingar, County Westmeath + 353 (0) 44 9226789 liliputadventurecentre@eircom.net

Situated on the shores of Lough Ennell, this adventure centre specialises in outdoor activities day or residential. Children can enjoy new activates in a comfortable and friendly atmosphere.

Lough Owel Pitch & Putt

Tullaghan, Mullingar, County Westmeath Tel: + 353 (0)44 9343377

Lough Owel Pitch and Putt club is situated on the banks of Lough Owel just outside of Mullingar.While Lough Owel is a relatively young course, it is undoubtedly a challenge that all Pitch and Putt players should take on. It offers a wide variety of shots and difficult breaking greens. It is certainly worth a try for all age groups.

Rochfortbridge Pitch & Putt Derrygreenagh Park, Rochfortbridge, County Westmeath Tel: + 353 (0)44 9322491

The "Bridge" as it is affectionately known is one of the long term institutes of Westmeath Pitch and Putt.

Situated in Derrygreennagh Park, it has hosted numerous Westmeath championships over the years and no doubt will host many more in the future. It is a challenging course that frequently causes the county's top players problems. The course has had a bit of a makeover recently. It is well worth a visit.

Woodview Country Club & 18 hole Mini Golf Bealnamulla, Athlone, County Westmeath Tel: +353 (0)90 6492196

The Course is situated on the Tuam Road R362 just 5 minute drive from centre of Athlone town. With regular bus service direct to the course. 10 minutes from Athlone Springs Hotel.

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MidlandsIreland.ie Bridge Centre, Bridge Street Tullamore, County Offaly T: + 353 (0) 57 93 52996/7 E: info@midlandsireland.ie www.midlandsireland.ie

