

# Monaghan

## Muineachán

A place full of little hills or braes

N54  
 Armagh, N12 28km  
 Derry, N2 106km  
 Letterkenny 109km  
 Donegal, N2 118km

Follow the route and **Tick the box**

**Purple Route — 1.5km**  
 Follow 1 -14  
**Green Route — 2.2km**  
 Follow 1 -18

FEELING COMPETITIVE?

Start time

Finish time

### MAP LEGEND

- Purple Route
- Green Route
- Trail number
- Playground
- Picnic Area
- Parking
- County Hospital
- Library

### Monaghan County Crest

The Monaghan county crest is inspired by its early history. The four quadrants of the shield symbolise the four ancient kingdoms that made up the region – Úi Meith, Dartraige, Mugdorn and Fermag.

What do you think the motto "Dúthracht agus Dicheall" means?  
*Diligence and Best Endeavour.*



Rossmore Forest Park, N54 4km  
 Clones, N54 21km  
 Cavan, N54 48km

Ballybay, R126 16km  
 Cootehill, R188 26km

St. Macartan's Cathedral 300m  
 Clontibret, N2 12km  
 Castleblayney, N2 24km  
 Carrickmacross, N2 40km  
 Dublin, N2 128km

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle  
 There is no planet B

# easily explore Monaghan Muineachán

Find the clues and tell the tales...



Take a self-guided tour & explore Monaghan  
Be the local, the historian, the artist, and become the EZexplorer...

## Easy Peezy Leisurely Stroll...

- Keep it simple, find the picture clue locations and enjoy learning about Monaghan.



## Ready Steady Go!

- Feeling competitive?
- Note your start and finish times and see can you beat families and friends in completing a route against the clock.
- Share your time on social media with #ezexploring and challenge like-minded ezplorers to compete!



Monaghan County Council, The Glen, Monaghan, Co. Monaghan  
[www.monaghantourism.com](http://www.monaghantourism.com)



For more EZexploring walking trail games check us out online [www.ezexploring.ie](http://www.ezexploring.ie)

## 15 Former Royal Bank Building

This striking building was formerly the Royal Bank of Ireland before it was converted to a town hall in the 1930s. *What sets this building apart from others found on this street? Why do you think banks such as this one are so important to Ireland's architectural heritage?*

## 16 First Presbyterian Church

The design of this church is quite striking as the present church which was constructed in 1901 incorporates much of the original church dating to 1827. Access to the new church is by a flight of steps which are carried on an arch, somewhat like a drawbridge. The body of the old church now forms a parish hall below and appears like a basement beneath the bridge.

## 17 Old Cross Square

This square was named after the unique monument known as the Old Cross which is believed to be a seventeenth century sundial. It once served both as a post to which proclamations were attached and as a gathering point for the hiring fair. *What do you think the people of Monaghan town might have needed such a sundial for?*



The Ulster Canal was abandoned in 1931, but while in use it would have run near this square. Signs of it can still be seen throughout the town, and part of the route is now in use as the Ulster Canal Greenway, enjoyed by walking and cycling enthusiasts of all ages. If you have some time, look for the hidden overgrown bridge near the former harbour.

As you make your way back up to Church Square, *do you recognise the motif that adorns the Credit Union building?*

The car park located behind this building was previously known as Castlemeadow. As the name suggests, this was the original castle site built to secure Monaghan town in the 1600s by Edward Blayney. Reportedly the last remains of the castle were taken down in the 1850s.

## 18 Mural

Monaghan's Tidy Towns Committee plays a very active role in the community and is committed to promoting biodiversity through different events and projects. The artist Elaine Agnew created this beautiful mural with a biodiversity theme, in collaboration with TY students from St. Macartan's College. *How many species of flowers and insects can you identify?*



## 6 Market House

This Market House was designed by Samuel Hayes in the 1790s and was built using local grey limestone. It now serves as an arts venue. There are many interesting details carved into the facade, such as the Cunningham coat of arms on the south of the building. The first Baron Rossmore was Robert Cunningham, an important politician and an officer in the British Army.

The relief found here depicts a linen and flower motif, this very same motif can be seen elsewhere in town, so make sure to look out for it. The linen trade was an important industry in Monaghan's early history, and helped to establish it as a prominent market town.



## 7 St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church

This is known to locals as the 'wee chapel'. It was designed by Hague, who was also involved in St. Macartan's Cathedral. From here, you can see St. Louis Convent. Previously a boarding school, the building now houses both primary and secondary schools. These grounds are also the site of Convent Lake, where the McMahon crannóg was located. *Why do you think the McMahons decided to build their home on a crannóg?*

## 8 Monaghan County Museum

Monaghan County Museum is currently located in these two semi-detached buildings. When it first opened in 1974, it was housed in the Courthouse. The collection was moved here in 1986 after a fire. Take a look up at the decorated roofline which gives the two former houses a very unique appearance. *Who do you imagine would have lived here when the houses were built in the 1860s?*



## 9 Aviemore House

Aviemore House was built circa 1760, but the façade of the building was only added about 80 years later. It rises above the roofline, making the building appear larger than it is. *Why do you think they might have designed it this way?* It was owned by the landlord Dacre Hamilton and the site was once considered for the town's cathedral.

Continue down Mill Street and keep an eye out for the plaque marking the first residence of the Sisters of St. Louis in Ireland.

## 10 Provincial Bank of Ireland Building

This fine stone and brick house from the 1830s is adjoined to a bank hall that was added 70 years later. One of its most interesting features is the roof lantern detail that lights the inner areas. Next door is the Orange Hall, which is a unique building due to the corner tower.

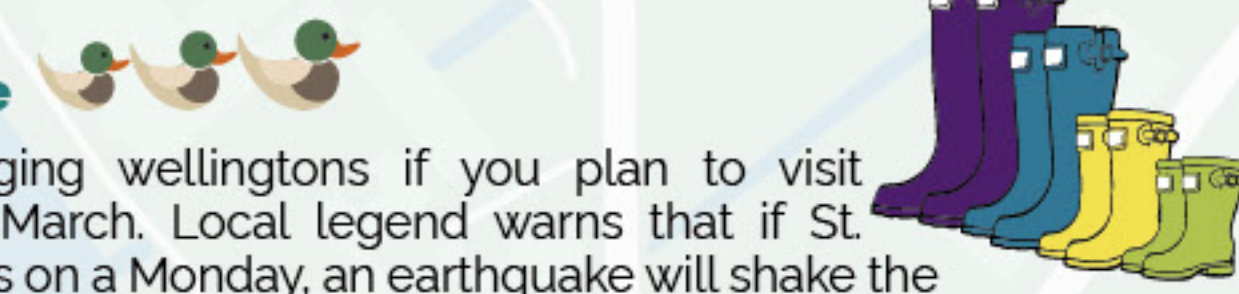
If time allows, continue on this road and see The Model School and former Great Northern Railway Station building. The Model School was built in the 1860s. These types of schools were funded by the government to introduce primary education for all, regardless of religion. There were two separate doors, one for boys and the other for girls. The words 'Boy's School' and 'Girl's School' can still be seen engraved above the doorways.



The Great Northern Railway was significant in establishing Monaghan Town as an important centre of industry in the 19th and 20th centuries. This was an extensive network that closed in the 1950s, but the former station still stands and has recently been restored.

## 11 Peter's Lake

Consider bringing wellingtons if you plan to visit Monaghan in March. Local legend warns that if St. Patrick's Day falls on a Monday, an earthquake will shake the town and the waters of both Peter's Lake and Convent Lake will join as one.



If you have some time, why not take a stroll around the lake and appreciate the rich flora and fauna found here.

## 12 Rossmore Memorial

This memorial stands at the centre of the Diamond where the Old Cross stood before its removal to Old Cross Square. It commemorates the 4th Baron Rossmore who died in a hunting accident. *Can you read the word that the eight letters spell out on the fountain?*

## 13 Westenra Hotel

This historic hotel was built in the late 1800s on the site of an older hotel purchased by Lord Rossmore. The adjoining building was Lord Rossmore's private townhouse before functioning as a town hall and cinema. It was carefully renovated and restored in 2003 and is now in private ownership.



## 14 Victorian Post Box

Old post boxes such as this one often date back to when Ireland was under British rule. Its date can be determined by the letters indicating who was king or queen at the time. This post box, for example, dates from the reign of Edward VII. Keep an eye out for other post boxes that you might come across in Monaghan Town.



# The Story of Monaghan Town

County Monaghan takes its name from the word 'Muineachán', meaning 'little hills'. Monaghan's Coat of Arms is based on the county's early history, with the shield symbolising the four ancient kingdoms that made up the region - Úi Meith, Dartraige, Mugdorn and Fermag.

Archaeological remains such as a court tomb dating from 3000 - 1800 BCE that can be found in Rossmore Forest Park suggest that this area has been inhabited since prehistoric times.

The earliest references to a settlement here date from the 14th century when the McMahon family settled on a crannóg on a lake now found on the grounds of St. Louis Convent. However, the modern town dates back to a castle set up by Edward Blayney in the early 1600s, which once stood in Old Cross Square.

The Blayney family were of huge importance in Monaghan's early history, giving their name to nearby Castleblayney. A market town began to emerge and Monaghan became a centre of commerce and trade. It was advanced in particular by the Rossmore family, the town's most prominent landlords.

County Monaghan was severely hit by the Great Famine but the thriving linen industry and the arrival of the Great Northern Railway allowed the town to flourish into the early 1900s. This progress was affected by the establishment of the border between Northern Ireland and the Irish Free State, and by the onset of the Troubles in the later half of the century.

Today Monaghan is a thriving town with much to appreciate in terms of architectural heritage.

Don't forget to Tick the box

## 1 St. Patrick's Church of Ireland Church

St Patrick's Church of Ireland was designed by William Farrell in the 1830s. Said to be Gothic Revival in style, Gothic cathedral builders believed the taller the building, the closer to God.

Some historians say that one of the memorial sculptures inside the church called 'The Parting Glance' may have been the inspiration for Bram Stoker's novel Dracula. The character Lucy Westenra shares her unusual surname with a local landowner who dedicated a sculpture to his wife, Mary Ann Westenra.

If you look closely at the railings of St. Patrick's church, you will find pock marks caused by ricocheting bullets. A notorious raid took place in Monaghan town during the Civil War on the 18th of August 1922, at a time when the courthouse was a barracks for the Free State forces. The story goes that while the courthouse was under attack, the town's banks were also raided. Reports say that the attacks took place in less than forty minutes and the raiders made away with over £2000.

## 2 The Courthouse

The Courthouse was built in the early 1800s and was likely designed by Joseph Welland. The scars also evident on this building relate to the above mentioned attack.



Can you find the pediment displaying the coat of arms of Hanover? What mythical creature can you see on this coat of arms? It's also the national animal of Scotland!

The House of Hanover, named after the city of Hanover in Germany, were the rulers of Great Britain and Ireland from King George I to Queen Victoria. *Why do you think this coat of arms is displayed here?*

An Ordnance Survey 'crows feet' marker can be found on the base of a column. *Can you find it?* These markers were first installed in the 1830s as part of a nationwide mapping programme.

## 3 The Monaghan Memorial

Designed by Ciaran O'Ceanaigh, the memorial acknowledges the 7 people killed in the town during the Dublin-Monaghan bombings in May 1974. 34 lives were lost in total as a result of the bombings, making this event the single worst atrocity in the Republic of Ireland during the Troubles.

Also located near here, the 'Hive of Knowledge' sculpture was inspired by the shape of ancient beehive huts seen throughout Ireland. It was created by Mark Keeling and was designed to hold art panels by 15 other blacksmiths who attended the 2011 International Blacksmiths Forge-in festival.



## 4 Bank of Ireland Building

The Bank of Ireland Building, formerly Hibernian Bank, was built in 1875. This building is Romanesque in design, a church like style believed to have been used to encourage Catholics to trust their savings to the bank.

## 5 Dawson Memorial

The Dawson Memorial by W.J. Barre of Newry commemorates Colonel Dawson, who was killed at Inkerman in 1854. Until the 1930s there was a railing around the obelisk monument, within which stood two cannons captured during the Crimean War.

If you take a look around, you'll notice here that many of the street corners in Monaghan Town are rounded.

Why so many round corners? They are said to create flow and connection between one space and another. Some even say it's so your enemy can never sneak up on you. *What do you think?*

## Monaghan County Museum

Monaghan County Museum first opened in 1974 and is currently situated in two restored buildings from the 1860s. The museum displays Monaghan's long and rich history, covering the county's ancient archaeology, folklore, plantation towns, and its role and status in modern Ireland. *(Image courtesy of Monaghan Tourism)*



Some of its most interesting exhibits include the Cross of Clogher, a bronze-encased oak cross showing Christian figures and religious images, and those displaying items that were found in local crannógs such as ancient leather shoes, combs made of bone, and needles made from antlers.

For general information and to hear about the museum's exciting move to their new home at the Peace Campus, Monaghan in early 2023, follow the museum on Facebook @MonaghanCountyMuseum

## St Macartan's Cathedral

This stunning cathedral was named after St. Macartan, appointed by St. Patrick as the first Bishop of Clogher. It took over thirty years to complete and was designed by one of Ireland's most renowned architects, JJ McCarthy. McCarthy's other works include St. Joseph's Church in Carrickmacross and St. Patrick's College Chapel in Maynooth. It was completed by William Hague following McCarthy's death. Statues of the bishops responsible for the construction of the cathedral stand alongside different saints in the gable above the south porch, while an impressive statue of St. Macartan stands at the entrance. Do you know the stories of any of the saints displayed here? Some of the most noteworthy features found inside the cathedral are the Pieta by Nell Murphy, the wall tapestries by Frances Biggs and Terry Dunne, and the plaque to the victims of the Great Famine by Thomas Glendon.



## Rossmore Forest Park

The lands which now comprise the beautiful grounds of Rossmore Forest Park were formerly part of Rossmore Estate. The Rossmore family had a large impact on the development of the town. The second Lord Rossmore built a castle on these grounds in the 1820s which was demolished in 1974. There are many features of note within this park, including a playground, the ruins of the old castle, and the amazing Drumlin Giant sculptures. Take the time to explore some of the walking trails and keep an eye out for the giants throughout the park.

