

Waterways Ireland

The Shannon Navigation

The longest river in Ireland, the Shannon and its lakes offer cruising waters ranging from bustling harbours to peaceful bays, providing a delightful combination of natural heritage and historic sites.

Fact File: The Shannon Navigation

- The River Shannon is the longest river in Ireland running for 215km from Lough Allen to the sea at Limerick.
- The source of the river is traditionally known as "The Shannon Pot". It can be found on the slopes of the Cuilcagh Mountain in Co. Cavan.
- New sections of navigable waterway have opened in recent years such as the River Suck to Ballinasloe in Co. Galway and from Lough Key to Boyle in Co. Roscommon.
- There are 7 locks on the River Shannon, one of which is a double chamber at Ardnacrusha Hydroelectric Power Station.
- There are 3 moveable bridges on the river. They are located at Rooskey, Tarmonbarry and Portumna.
- The River Suck is 16km long with 1 lock to navigate.
- The Lough Allen Canal is 7km long with 3 locks to navigate through.
- All locks and moveable bridges on the Shannon Navigation are operated by a Lock-Keeper.
- The Lock-Keepers can be contacted by telephone if assistance is required.
- The charge to go through a lock or movable bridge on the Shannon is €1.50.
- Smart cards are used to access the Service Blocks i.e. showers, toilets, laundry etc.
- The Shannon was once a major commercial waterway with busy harbours, nowadays it is still a busy waterway but for recreational purposes.

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