

# Special Feature



# Waterford Greenway

The old railway line from Waterford City to Dungarvan has been turned into a spectacular 46km off-road cycling and walking trail. It travels through time and nature across eleven bridges, three tall viaducts and a long atmospheric tunnel, all the way from the River Suir in Waterford City to the sea in Dungarvan.

[www.visitwaterfordgreenway.com](http://www.visitwaterfordgreenway.com)



Images & text courtesy of [www.visitwaterfordgreenway.com](http://www.visitwaterfordgreenway.com)

## Traveling Through TIME

Along this Greenway route in **Ireland's Ancient East** is a Viking settlement, Norman Castles, Medieval ruins, a famine workhouse, old railway stations and a heritage railway train that still runs along part of the track.

Attractions include:

- **Old Red Iron Bridge**—an abandoned bridge that was originally built in 1906 to link Cork and Kerry to Rosslare, via Waterford.
- **Woodstown Viking Site**—Waterford Museum of Treasures & Reginald's Tower in Waterford City displays Viking artefacts from the 8th century.
- **Kilmeadan Castle**—a le Poer Castle that was captured and destroyed by Oliver Cromwell in around 1650.
- **Waterford Suir Valley Heritage Railway**—a train ride along 8.5 km of the disused Waterford to Dungarvan railway, which runs parallel to the Greenway.
- **Kilmacthomas Workhouse**—built in 1850 for the Poor Law Union and includes a chapel, fever hospital and mortuary.
- **Cloughlowrish Stone**—a legendary Ice Age stone, which is a good example of a rock transported by a glacier)
- **Durrow Viaduct**—built around 1878 over the River Tay, it is a reminder of Waterford's railway heritage.
- **Ballyvoyle Tunnel**—built in 1878, this railway tunnel is 400 metres long and fully brick lined.
- **Dungarvan Castle & WWI Memorial**—this OPW heritage attraction was constructed in the early 13th century and is also known as King John's Castle.

See the website for more attractions.



## Traveling Through NATURE

As well as enjoying the natural beauty all along the Greenway, there are a number of specific locations to look out for:

- **River Suir Special Area of Conservation**—the River Suir is an important wildlife area for a number of protected species.
- **Mount Congreve Gardens**—these gardens hold a world renowned collection of azaleas, camellias and rhododendron.
- **Copper Coast**—on the Durrow to Clonea Road section (6km) you will pass through the CopperCoast, an area of geological importance.
- **Dungarvan Bay SPA**—an important wildlife area, particularly for wintering birds.
- **Walton Park**—a beautiful park in the centre of Dungarvan, named after physicist Ernest Walton.

## Picking a Route

There are a twelve access points along the route, with parking. For the most adventurous, the whole route can be cycled or walked but for those who want a shorter journey or an easier section, there are options.

The map of the Greenway is divided into six sections, with a short description, length, elevation and suitability of each (see details on the website). For example, the Kiltoran to Kilmeadan (3km) is mostly flat surface and easy going and is very suitable for those with small children or those with reduced mobility. There are also toilet facilities at various points along the Greenway. The longer Kilmacthomas to Durrow (13km) stretch is mostly flat surface, with occasional moderate inclines and declines. If you want to cycle, you can bring your own bicycles or a number of companies offer bike hire services in Waterford.

Respect the Greenway and all its users. This is a shared use Greenway.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fan ar chlé agus scoith ar dheis</li> <li>• Tóg bruscar abhaille</li> <li>• Éist i gcomhair chloigíní rothar</li> <li>• Stad agus géill síl don trácht ag na trasnuithe bóithre</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep left and pass on right</li> <li>• Bring litter home</li> <li>• Listen for bicycle bells</li> <li>• Stop and give way to traffic at road crossings</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buail do chloigín</li> <li>• Gluais ag luas sácháilte</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ring your bell</li> <li>• Cycle at a safe speed</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coimeád madraí ar iall ghairid</li> <li>• Glan suas i ndiaidh do mhada</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep dogs on a short lead</li> <li>• Clean up after your dog</li> </ul>