



# Counties Limerick & Tipperary

POPULATION: 350,000 / AREA: 6989 SQ KM

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## Best Places to Eat

- » Wild Geese (p332)
- » The Mustard Seed at Echo Lodge (p333)
- » Market Square Brasserie (p325)
- » Cafe Hans (p337)
- » Country Choice (p344)

## Best Places to Stay

- » Adare Manor (p332)
- » The Boutique Hotel (p325)
- » Aherlow House Hotel (p334)
- » Dunraven Arms (p332)
- » Apple Caravan & Camping Park (p339)

## Why Go?

From marching ditties to rhyming puns, the names Tipperary and Limerick are part of the lexicon, but both are relatively unexplored by visitors.

County Limerick is closely tied to its namesake city, which has a history as dramatic as Ireland's. In a nation of hard knocks, it seems to have had more than its fair share. The city's streets have tangible links to the past and a gritty, honest vibrancy, and treasures abound in its lush, green country side.

In contrast, Tipperary town is minor. But amid the county's rolling hills, rich farmland and deep valleys bordered by soaring mountains, it's a peaceful place that's perfect for following a river to its source or climbing a stile to see a lonely ruin.

In both counties, ancient Celtic sites, medieval abbeys and other relics endure in solitude, awaiting discovery. And even Limerick and Tipperary's best-known sights retain a rough, inspiring dignity.

## When to Go

As the third-largest city in Ireland, with a sizeable student population, Limerick city bustles year-round, but is at its liveliest during the warmer months, from around April to October. These are also the best months to explore the rural villages, towns and countryside of both counties, when opening hours for attractions are longest and the weather is at its best. It's also when you'll encounter most of the counties' festivities, including wonderful walking festivals in the Glen of Aherlow.



## Counties Limerick & Tipperary Highlights

**1** Discover another side to hardscrabble **Limerick city** (p322) in its sophisticated cafe culture, art galleries and waterfront bars

**2** Take in the Shannon water vistas while wandering Limerick's back roads via the centuries-old ruins at **Askeaton** (p330) and the flying boat museum at **Foynes** (p330)

**3** Tramp in the wilds of Tipperary, from the **Glen of Aherlow** (p334) to the **River Suir Valley** (p340)