



# Counties Limerick & Tipperary

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## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Restaurant 1826 Adare (p308)
- ➔ Mustard Seed at Echo Lodge (p309)
- ➔ Chocolat (p304)
- ➔ Cafe Hans (p314)
- ➔ Country Choice (p321)

## Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Adare Manor (p308)
- ➔ No 1 Pery Square (p304)
- ➔ Raheen House Hotel (p317)
- ➔ Dunraven Arms (p308)
- ➔ Apple Caravan & Camping Park (p315)

## 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 reach a lonely ruin.

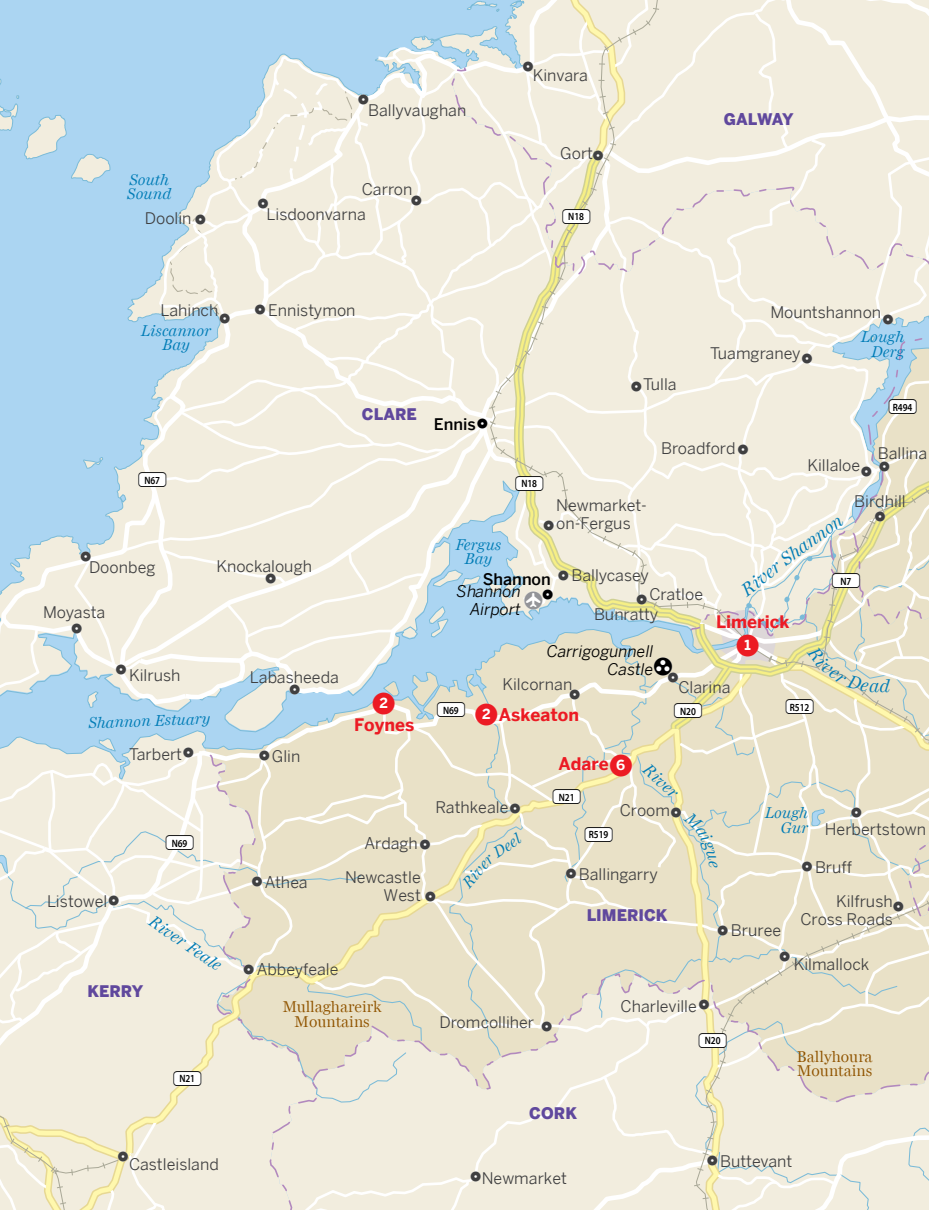
In both counties, ancient Celtic sites, medieval abbeys and other relics endure in solitude, awaiting discovery. And even Limerick and Tipperary's best-known sights retain a rough, inspiring dignity.

## 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.

➔ April to October is also the best time to explore the rural villages, towns and countryside of both counties, when opening hours for attractions are longest (a number close during the rest of the year) and the weather is at its best.

➔ Most of the counties' festivities take place from April to October too, including wonderful walking festivals in the Glen of Aherlow.



## Counties Limerick & Tipperary Highlights

**1** Discover Bronze Age, Iron Age, medieval and modern art treasures at the **Hunt Museum** (p301) in Limerick city.

**2** Take in Shannon Estuary vistas along Limerick's back roads via atmospheric ruins at **Askeaton** and the **Flying Boat Museum** (p306) at Foynes.

**3** Delve into a dazzling underworld of passages and chambers at the **Mitchelstown Caves** (p316).