

Ireland



Portumna – The Arched Bridge Cruise

A suggested 7 day itinerary for a return to base cruise from Portumna

Take centuries-old monastic settlements and places of historical significance add in lush landscapes and dramatic scenery, mix with delightful small villages and harbours, and you have just some of the ingredients that have made cruising the River Shannon such a popular holiday option in Ireland.

At Portumna, the delights of Lough Derg and further afield await. One of Ireland's finest lakes, its renowned as a place of pilgrimage and surrounded by diverse cultural, social and sporting opportunities. Ideally located at the northern end of the lake, Portumna also gives easy access to Lough Ree and the entire Shannon waterway.



Portumna – Killaloe – Portumna

118km / 0 locks / 22 hours

Day 1

Arrive at our base at **Portumna** early afternoon and spend some time getting to know your boat, how to handle it and basic navigation techniques. Spend the night in **Terryglass** where you can dine in the The Derg Inn restaurant, go next door and enjoy an Irish coffee in Paddy's bar.

12km / 0.5 hours cruising

Day 2

Cruise southwards towards **Garrykennedy**, calling in to see the picturesque harbour of **Dromineer** on the way. In **Garrykennedy** you can view the old tower that still stands beside the jetty. You can't miss Larkin's a pretty white cottage pub with its cheerful red paintwork, and it's a great asset to the charming little harbour at **Garrykennedy**.

Here you will get great traditional food which includes excellent seafood chowder and daytime bar menus.

20km / 2 hours cruising

Day 3

After breakfast cruise to **Killaloe**, a small town of charming narrow streets, flanked by old shops and houses, that climbs up the steep hillside and look down over the 13th century cathedral. There are many fine pubs including Brendan Graces Pub and Mollys which has the added attraction of seating beside the river. There are more than a dozen pubs in all, several of them hosting musical evenings. A few miles out of town the Pipers Inn does regular traditional music evenings throughout the season.

12km / 2 hours cruising

Day 4

Depart **Killaloe** northwards passing by **Holy Island** on the way to **Mountshannon**. **Holy Island** or **Inis Cealtra** is the largest lake on the Shannon. Here you will find a stunning round tower and the ruins of several small churches. Spend the day exploring this amazing town before heading out for your evening meal.

18km / 3 hours cruising

Day 5

Enjoy a tranquil cruise to **Meelick Lock** and try out some fishing along the way. Offaly's unpolluted waters is home to all types of fish- salmon, perch, pike, browntrout, bream and eel. Enjoy a night at the local Brosna Lodge.

26km / 4.5 hours cruising

Day 6

Set off in the direction of **Banagher**. The variety of different pubs means you can enjoy a quiet drink or follow the sound of singing and traditional music which can be heard on the street to a lively pub session. For those into a spot of golf, this area boasts five excellent golf courses within easy reach of Banagher town.

12km / 2 hours cruising

Day 7

Head back to **Portumna** and enjoy an afternoon at Portumna Castle. This great semi-fortified house was built before 1618 by Richard Burke the 4th Earl of Clanricarde. To the north of the house you will find formal and geometrically laid out gardens, surrounded by the towns' local attractions - Lough Derg and the Forest Park. Enjoy dinner at the Ferry Inn just across the bridge in **Portumna** town. Spend your last night on board in the marina ready to hand your boat back the following morning.

26km / 2.5 hours cruising