

# find fermanagh

tell your own story.



Find yourself  
in Fermanagh



Northern Ireland  
[www.findfermanagh.com](http://www.findfermanagh.com)



# *a warm* welcome

Welcome to Fermanagh, an oasis of calm in our busy world, where the beauty of nature is at your doorstep.

Where you can do as much, or as little, as you like and where 21st Century comforts blend with the values of a bygone age to help you renew your spirit, refresh your mind and revive your senses. Renew your spirit as the calming effect of our lakes and rivers wash over you. Refresh your mind as you travel through history in our historic homes and gardens and mystical underground caves. Revive your senses as you walk, cycle or ride on horseback through some of the finest scenery in Europe.

And with a wide range of theatre, arts centres, leisure centres, cinema and first class shopping, Fermanagh really does offer everything that you need for a truly memorable holiday.

Other recent developments which are enhancing Fermanagh's product portfolio include the Belle Isle School of Cookery and plans for the new Lough Erne Golf Resort at Castle Hume.

In historic Fermanagh, the echoes of history reverberate around you as you travel through Fermanagh where examples of our turbulent and passionate history can be seen everywhere. Ruins of 17th Century castles stand as a testament to the plantation of Scottish and English settlers in this area.

The magnificent island town of Enniskillen has its own castle, ancient seat of the Maguire chieftains and now housing the County Museum including the Museum of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, one of the most famous of the Irish Regiments.





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Beauty of our countryside is matched only by the welcome of our people.



More tranquil examples of our historic past are to be found in the two National Trust properties of Castle Coole and Florence Court.

Castle Coole, the family home of the Earls of Belmore is one of Ireland's finest neo-classical houses, set amongst 700 acres of woods and parkland whilst Florence Court was built by John Cole, one of the Lords of Enniskillen in the mid 18th Century and contains many original items of furniture and memorabilia from that period.

Fermanagh boasts a third National Trust property, the magnificent Crom Estate. Set on the shores of Upper Lough Erne, Crom is one of Ireland's most important nature conservation

areas containing many rare species, and ancient Yew trees in the Old Castle Garden are named among the 50 Greatest British Trees. The estate has nature trails, guided walks, boats for hire, a jetty for overnight boats, coarse angling, a campsite and a wildlife exhibition.

Our heritage is at its most mysterious on Boa Island. Here you will find the Janus figure, 3 feet high, two headed stone carving which is believed to have been an integral part of the local Celtic way of life over 2,000 years ago. Boa Island, at five miles long, is the largest internal island in Ireland.



# *the* lough erne *experience*

**Picture yourself in a calmer, more peaceful place, away from crowds, noise, traffic and stress. Picture yourself adrift from the pace of modern life.**

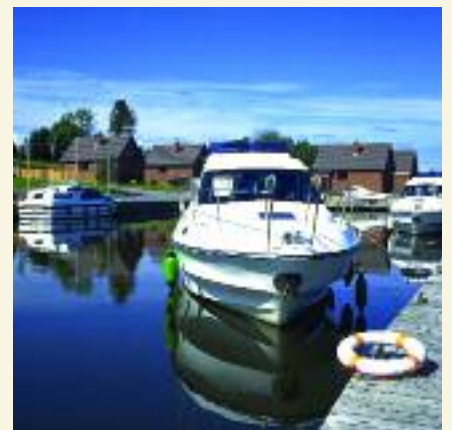
Picture yourself in a place where the days seem longer and the nights more tranquil. Then picture yourself on Lough Erne – one of the most uncongested lakes in Europe and a mecca for lovers of cruising, watersports, canoeing and fishing. You have the choice of renting your own cruiser or taking one of the regular, organised boat trips to experience the beauty of this spectacular lake.

Split into Lower Lough Erne, a 26-mile expanse of water stretching towards the Atlantic and Upper Lough Erne, flowing southeast of Enniskillen and a maze of wooded islands and inlets.



Some claim that Lough Erne is home to as many as 365 islands. One of its most famous and most historical is Devenish, a 6th Century monastic site that has a calmness all of its own.

With a 12th Century round tower and a 14th Century ruined abbey, Devenish provides its visitors with a unique snapshot of ancient Christian life in Ireland.





There is plenty of good angling in Ireland, but few places have more to offer than Fermanagh. Fifty miles of Lough Erne, Lough Melvin at Garrison, two Lough Macneans, rivers like the Colebrooke, Garvary, Ballinamallard, Termon, Arney, Kesh and Finn, along with many other smaller lakes and streams can provide sport to satisfy the most discerning coarse or game angler.

Fermanagh has everything the angler needs – great angling, great variety of quality accommodation, boat hire and ghillies, bait and tackle shops and plenty of entertainment!



# come explore Marble Arch Caves European Geopark



## A unique, fascinating trip into the spectacular world of caves



At Marble Arch Caves European Geopark, visitors travel on electrically powered boats along an underground river through huge caverns and afterwards on foot past an enchanting variety of stalactites and other marvellous cave decorations.

The caves are well lit with tours lasting for 75 minutes that are suitable for people of any age of average fitness.

Both Marble Arch Caves and the adjoining Cuilcagh Mountain Park were jointly recognised as a UNESCO European Geopark in 2001 and are presently one of only 27 such geoparks spread across Europe. European Geoparks provide a gateway for exploring Europe's beautiful landscapes and remarkable geology.

Cuilcagh Mountain, at 665 metres, is the highest point in County Fermanagh and has a distinct 'table-top' profile shaped by ancient glaciers. The mountain park is rich in geology, archaeology and natural history that can be enjoyed on excellent walking trails with breathtaking views of the counties of Fermanagh, Cavan, Leitrim, Sligo and Donegal.

For online information, log on to [www.marblearchcaves.net](http://www.marblearchcaves.net) and [www.europeangeoparks.org](http://www.europeangeoparks.org)





# arts & crafts

## Belleek Pottery

The sons and daughters of Fermanagh have, since 1857, been creating the world's most distinctive Parian China in the village of Belleek. 2007 sees the 150th anniversary of Belleek Pottery. It will be an exciting time to visit the pottery with plans for commemorative pieces and a host of special events.

The Belleek Pottery, Ireland's oldest pottery, is still housed on its original site and its distinctive products are all meticulously crafted by hand.

The latest addition to the Belleek family is 'Belleek Living', a range of items that sit comfortably with design-led urban living but draw on the skills and materials that have been the pride of Belleek for centuries. This is the first time in its history that Belleek has embraced such modern design and it has been enthusiastically received the world over.

The pottery also has a spacious showroom where you can purchase items at your leisure and an award-winning tearoom where delicious food is served on nothing less than the finest Belleek tableware.  
**For online information, log on to [www.belleek.ie](http://www.belleek.ie)**

## The Buttermarket

In Enniskillen town, the Buttermarket, a 19th Century market centre, has been lovingly restored to house craft workshops and studio galleries. Here you can find local craftspeople producing and selling unique pieces of pottery, jewellery, knitwear and paintings. For a glimpse of the artistic abilities of the Fermanagh people and the chance to purchase something locally unique, the Buttermarket is well worth a visit.  
**For online information log on to [www.fermanaghcraft.com](http://www.fermanaghcraft.com)**

## Sheelin Antique Lace Museum

Just 4 miles outside of Enniskillen, at Bellanaleck, is the Sheelin Antique Irish Lace Museum, housing 400 exhibits of Irish lace dating from 1850 to 1900. The museum not only traces the history of lace-making in Ireland but also highlights its economic importance to Ireland as a whole. The Museum also has a Lace Shop selling both antique lace and linen.  
**For online information log on to [www.irishlacemuseum.com](http://www.irishlacemuseum.com)**



# enjoy outdoor activities

In Fermanagh, we love the landscape that is a part of our lives and that shares with us its peace and tranquillity. Our world is a calmer place and we want our visitors to enjoy it just as much as we do.

This is a land where you can almost taste the freshness of the air, where the gentle waters of river and lough soothe, and where the deafening silence of the countryside is broken only by the natural sounds of a land at peace with itself.

Whether you walk, cycle or ride through our stunning scenery, Fermanagh will captivate and enchant you and send you home a new and better person.

## WALKING

Some recommended walks include:

### CASTLE ARCHDALE FOREST WALK

An easy walk mixing forest and shore. The forest houses the 17th Century ruins of Old Castle Archdale, a wide variety of birdlife and, in the summer, a magnificent carpet of wild flowers. The bay was used during World War 2 as an important base for Flying Boats and there is a special Heritage Trail designed by aviation enthusiasts commemorating the history of the Canadian Flying Boat Squadrons who were based here.

### Castle Caldwell Forest Walk

The walk around Castle Caldwell takes in a mixture of man-made and natural wonders. The ruins of the Castle, originally built in 1612, a stone kiln

built in limestone rock and a half-moon limestone bench along the shoreline. Natural beauty is everywhere, with part of the shoreline designated as a National Forest Nature Reserve. There are also fine views across rolling farmland, Lough Erne and the Magho Cliffs. Don't forget to visit The Fiddlers Stone, a memorial to a fiddler who fell drunk from a boat in 1770.

### Cuilcagh Mountain Park

Cuilcagh Mountain and the Marlbank area provide some of the most spectacular scenery in Fermanagh. At 665 metres high, Cuilcagh is the highest point in Fermanagh and is the focus of an area rich in geology, geomorphology, flora and fauna. The park is also within an Area of Special Scientific Interest.





### Lough Navar Forest Walk

Panoramic views from the Aghameelan Viewpoint stretch as far as the eye can see over Lough Erne to County Leitrim. Along the walk there are areas full of birds, insects and interesting plants. A somewhat more challenging walk takes you to the waterfall, but the difficult conditions underfoot are worth the effort to view the waterfall in a hidden glade where the stream dives 15 metres onto rocks below.

The grounds of the National Trust properties of Florence Court, Castle Coole and Crom Estate all have excellent family walks.



### CYCLING

Fermanagh is home to The Kingfisher Trail, the first long-distance cycle trail to be developed in Ireland. It follows a figure-of-eight route through varied countryside around the lakes of Fermanagh and Leitrim. Fully mapped and signposted, the trail brings you through areas specially selected for peaceful rural cycling and can easily be adapted into smaller sections for a morning's ride and family outings.

For online information, log on to [www.cycletoursireland.com](http://www.cycletoursireland.com)

### EQUESTRIAN

Major facilities are available at Necarne Castle near Irvinestown and Ecclesville near Fintona. For those preferring a more leisurely trek, ponytrekking is available at Castle Archdale and Forest Stables near Fivemiletown.

# eating out & entertainment



Whether you're after fine dining, a lively bistro, a pint of Guinness in a traditional setting or a relaxing evening at the theatre on the banks of Lough Erne, Fermanagh has it all.

Enniskillen is one of the most celebrated craft and cultural centres in Ireland. As you meander through its streets its vibrant atmosphere will capture you straight away. When you've just about shopped 'til you drop there are lots of charming cafés and bars serving some of the finest homemade organic produce you are ever likely to come across. Once you have been completely revived by the wonderful food and welcoming Fermanagh hospitality you should still have plenty of time and . . . money for some more shopping as value for money cannot be beaten in our Enniskillen eateries.

If a country atmosphere is what you are after then fear not as Fermanagh is littered with fabulous country hideaways. Relax in front of the open turf fire while admiring the spectacular views over our unspoilt landscape. After a hard day on the golf course unwind with a comforting bowl of Irish Stew prepared by some of Ireland's top chefs, or why not try a few slices of our famous Fermanagh Black Bacon before heading down to the local pub for a few drinks and a Ceili!

The Ardhoven Theatre is situated in a panoramic Lakeview setting just a bend in the river away from the



historic Island of Enniskillen. The Theatre offers a year-round programme of drama, music & dance including the Enniskillen Drama Festival which runs annually. And if you fancy popping in for a bite of lunch the Theatre restaurant is open daily.

Boasting some of the finest restaurants in Ireland, Fermanagh has much to offer both locals and visitors – the only difficulty will be deciding where to go! Contemporary bistros offering fine food and a lively atmosphere are a perfect way to spend that weekend away with friends or a loved one. Depending on your preference you may wish to head up town to Blakes of the Hollow, one of the great classic pubs of Ireland, or spend another while enjoying Irish Coffees on the shimmering banks of Lough Erne before heading for a romantic stroll along the moonlit boulevard.



# *enjoy* golf in fermanagh

If it's a testing Championship Course that you're looking for, we have it, or perhaps just a gentle round with friends, we can cater for that as well.

Our golf courses complement our scenery, blending naturally into the landscape, so it's often difficult to keep your mind on that all-important shot! With two top class 18-hole courses and a dozen or more courses dotted through the surrounding counties,

wherever you choose to play, you can be assured of top class facilities and a warm Fermanagh welcome.

One of the most exciting developments in Irish Golf will be the new Nick Faldo Championship Golf Course currently under construction on the banks of Lough Erne and Castlehume Lough. This spectacular lakeland course offers golfers one of the most stunning views

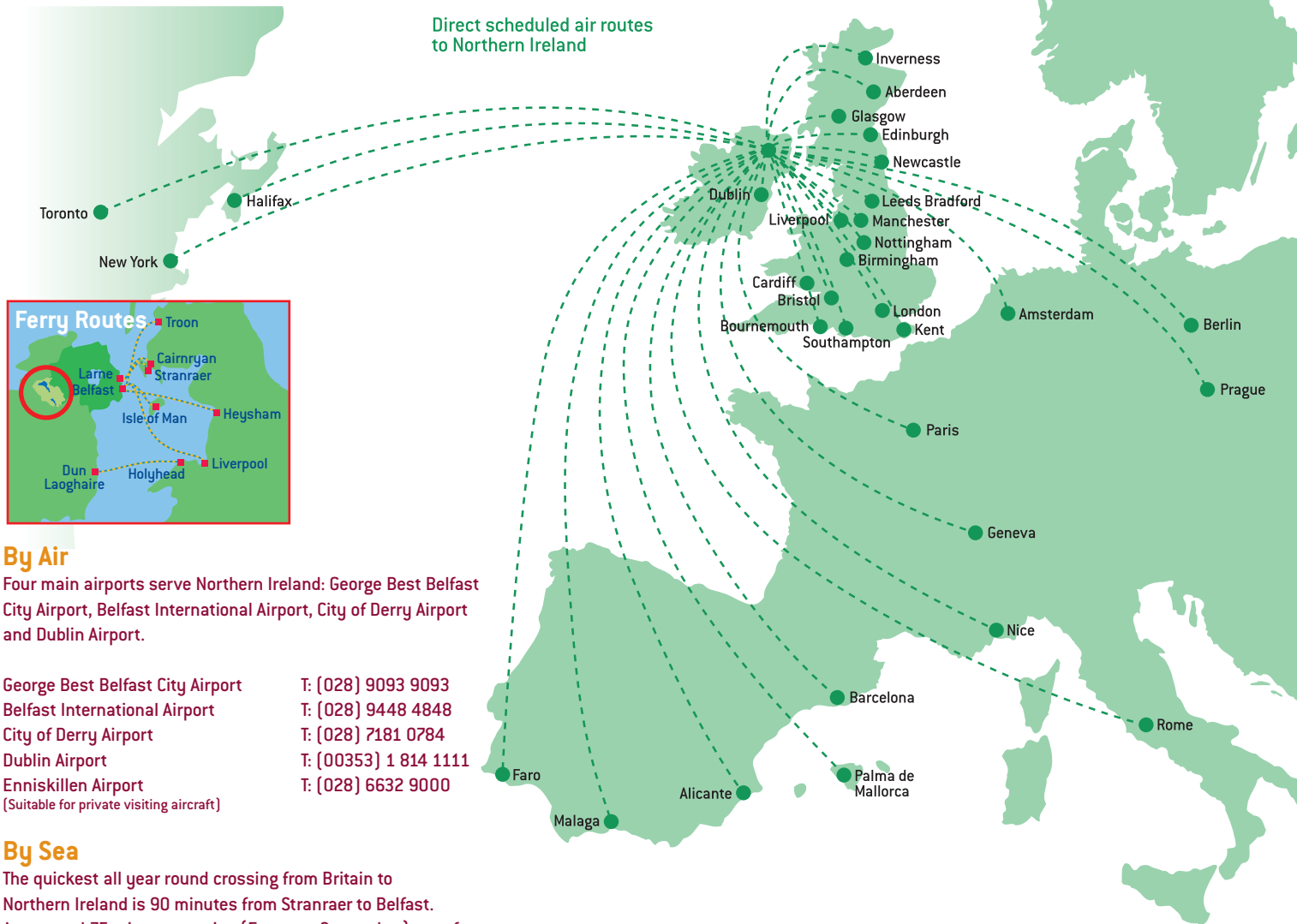
available in world golf. The course and its surrounds can be viewed on [www.loughernegolfresort.com](http://www.loughernegolfresort.com).

In addition to the golf course a luxury hotel and golf lodges will also be available to book in 2006 to simply enjoy the best of what Fermanagh has to offer.



# How to get to Fermanagh Lakelands

Direct scheduled air routes to Northern Ireland



## By Air

Four main airports serve Northern Ireland: George Best Belfast City Airport, Belfast International Airport, City of Derry Airport and Dublin Airport.

George Best Belfast City Airport  
 Belfast International Airport  
 City of Derry Airport  
 Dublin Airport  
 Enniskillen Airport  
 (Suitable for private visiting aircraft)

T: (028) 9093 9093  
 T: (028) 9448 4848  
 T: (028) 7181 0784  
 T: (00353) 1 814 1111  
 T: (028) 6632 9000

## By Sea

The quickest all year round crossing from Britain to Northern Ireland is 90 minutes from Stranraer to Belfast. A seasonal 75 minute crossing (Easter to September) runs from Troon to Lame. Other frequent ferry services run from Cairnryan to Larne. An overnight ferry connects Liverpool and Belfast all year round.

Stranraer-Belfast (Stena HSS) T: (08705) 707070  
 Cairnryan-Larne (P&O Irish Ferries) T: (0870) 2424777  
 Troon-Larne (P&O Irish Ferries) T: (0870) 2424777  
 Liverpool-Belfast (Norse Irish Ferries) T: (0870) 6004321

## By Rail

High speed trains run regularly between Dublin & Belfast stopping in Drogheda, Dundalk, Newry and Portadown.

Translink T: (028) 9066 6630  
 Iarnród Éireann T: (00353) 18 366 222

## By Road

From Belfast take the M1 West. From Dublin take the M50 South and then the N3. For further routes visit [www.aaireland.ie](http://www.aaireland.ie)



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The information in this guide is given in good faith on the basis of information submitted to Fermanagh Lakeland Tourism. Fermanagh Lakeland Tourism and its agents cannot guarantee the accuracy of the information in this guide and accept no responsibility for any error or misrepresentation. All liability for loss, disappointment, negligence or other damage caused by the reliance on the information contained in this guide, or in the event of the bankruptcy or liquidation of any company, individual or firm mentioned, or in the event of any company, individual or firm mentioned, or in the event of any company, individual or firm ceasing to trade, is hereby excluded.



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