

Mykidstime Family Guide to Carlow



Welcome to the Mykidstime Guide to Carlow. We have put together some suggestions to make your family's visit to Carlow as enjoyable as possible. As parents ourselves, we are delighted to share with you some of the family friendly spots in Carlow town and county! Visit www.mykidstime.ie for lots more suggestions for things to do while you are in Carlow

The Mykidstime Team

Our Top Ten Things to do in Carlow

1. Visit Brownseshill Dolmen, east of Carlow town. A granite portal dolmen, it is said to be the largest dolmen in Europe. (FREE)
2. Spend a few hours exploring the Visual Centre for Contemporary Art. Activity sheets for children, with facts on the artists, interesting questions to think about and a space to sketch ideas are available for 3+, 6+ and 10+ from the reception desk or from our invigilators free of charge. Keep an eye out for their family workshops. (FREE)
3. Enjoy exploring some of the wonderful gardens & parks, such as Oak Park, Altamont Gardens, Duckett's Grove and Delta Sensory Gardens. (FREE)
4. Say hello to the animals and take a short trip on the barrel train around the farm at Rancho Reilly's
5. Pretend you are Willie Wonka by making chocolate at the Chocolate Garden in Tullow. Then pop next door to Rathwood for a train ride, view the falconry flying display or spend some time in the playground.
6. A show at the GB Shaw Theatre is a must. The programme includes a wide variety of live music, film, comedy, theatre, opera and dance – fun for all the family.
7. Take a guided tour of Huntington Castle & Dungeon, the ancient seat of the Esmonde family & today one of Ireland's historical treasures. Free for children under 7.
8. Why not try go-karting at The Grid with older children or bowling at The Dome Family Entertainment Centre.
9. Have a go at rolling skating in Kiddies Kingdom, Bagnelstown, where skates & safety gear are provided
10. Go for a splash outdoors at Bagnelstown Outdoor Heated Swimming Pool, open daily from June-August

Some Indoor Suggestions for Carlow



- Get creative at one of the Visual Centre for Contemporary Arts family workshops.
- Check out each local library for details of activities & events for families during the year.
- Carlow's Military Museum opens every Sunday afternoon from March to the end of November at the Old Church, St Dymphna's, Athy Road, Carlow Town. One of the museums main displays features the uniforms of the Irish Defence Forces. Children under 10 are free.
- Take in a movie at the Carlow Omniplex, Fairgreen Shopping Centre, Carlow. There's a kids' club every weekend.
- Enjoy a game of bowling at the Dome Family Entertainment Centre.
- Try indoor karting with older children at The Grid in Graiguecullen.
- Spend some time at Askea Country Market at the Parish Centre any Friday from 10am -12am.
- Go swimming at Graiguecullen Swimming Pool, a 25m deck-level heated Swimming Pool with a spacious Toddler Pool and viewing area for parents.
- Take part in one of The Chocolate Garden interactive workshops and learn how delicious chocolates & ice cream are made or have a go yourself!



Some Outdoor Suggestions for Carlow

- Try fishing at Southern County Fishing Resort & Wildlife Park while also enjoying the local wildlife.
- During the summer months, Bagnel is a great place to visit
- Go for a horse-ride at one of the Equestrian Centres.
- Several walks and trails listed on our website, including strolls by the Barrow or trails in Oak Park. Or take a guided tour with Ecotrails. Something to suit every family!
- Take a canoe or kayaking trip or book a course in various locations.
- Spend some time at some of the playgrounds dotted around the county - we have some great playgrounds which cater for children up to 12/14 years of age.
- Wander around the ruins of Duckett's Grove



Where to Stay

Hotels

Dolmen Hotel

Kilkenny Road, Carlow

Tel: +353 (0) 59 9142002

Email: info@dolmehotel.ie

Web: www.dolmenhotel.ie

The 3 Star Dolmen Hotel in Carlow makes the perfect location for a relaxing weekend or midweek family break. Fun-filled kids activities every Sunday in the Killeshin Suite.

Killerig Resort Hotel

Killerig, Co. Carlow

Tel: +353 (0)59 916 3050

Fax: +353 (0)59 916 3051

Email: info@killerigresort.com

Web: www.killerigresorthotel.ie

Nestled amid 130 acres of manicured parkland the stylish 4 star Killerig Resort offers unsurpassed hospitality to all that pass through its doors. There's a free Killerig Kids Club every Sunday at the Resort 2pm - 5pm.

Mount Wolseley Hotel

Tullow, Co. Carlow

Tel: +353 (0) 59 915 1674

Email: info@mountwolseley.ie

Web: www.mountwolseley.ie

The Mount Wolseley Hotel Spa and Golf Resort offers 4 Star luxury accommodation both in the hotel and in their holiday lodges. The Leisure Centre boasts a twenty metre indoor pool.

Seven Oaks Hotel

Athy Road, Carlow

Tel: +353 (0) 59 913 1308

Fax: +353 (0) 59 913 2155

Email: info@sevenoakshotel.com

Web: www.sevenoakshotel.com

Located just a few minutes walk from Carlow town centre, the Seven Oaks offers luxury accommodation, friendly staff and good food at affordable prices.

The Talbot Hotel Carlow

Portlaoise Road, Carlow

Tel: +353 (0) 59 915 3000 Fax: +353

(0) 59 915 3001

Email: sales@talbothotelcarlow.ie

Web: www.talbotcarlow.ie

The 4 star Talbot Carlow Hotel boasts 84 luxury bedrooms, including interconnecting rooms. The Leisure Centre comprises a 20m deck level swimming pool, sauna, steam room & spa pool. Complimentary kids club

Bed & Breakfast

Coolanowle House & Organic Farm

Ballickmoyler, Co Carlow

Tel: +353 (0) 59 862 5176

Email: info@coolanowle.com

Web: www.coolanowle.com

Situated on the Carlow/Laois border Coolanowle Country House combines an organic farm, lovely B&B and self catering accommodation too, where pets are allowed), meals based on their own meats, fruit and vegetables.

Self-catering Accommodation

The Old Grain Store Self-Catering Cottages

St. Mullins, Co. Carlow

Tel: +353 (0) 51 424 440

Web: www.oldgrainstorecottages.ie

In the picturesque village of St. Mullins on the river Barrow, 3 luxury self-catering cottages that surround an old stable yard. Travel cot & high chair provided.

Camping and Caravans

Ravens Rest

Ballysallagh Upper, Hacketstown, Co. Carlow

Tel: +353 (0)87 248 6305

Email: orcbreaksltd@yahoo.ie

Located near Hacketstown, where there are beautiful rural views, this caravan and camping site is situated at the foot of Eagle Hill which is ideal for all walking enthusiasts. For kids there is a frog pond, with lizards and frogs a great attraction. There are boats in which the kids can play in the shallow lake.



Where to Eat

Cafés and Diners

- The Rattlebag Cafe, Carlow town
- Eddie Rockets, Shamrock Plaza, Tullow Street, Carlow
- The Mullicháin Café, St Mullins
- Mulberry's restaurant at The Arboretum Lifestyle & Garden Centre, Leighlinbridge

Restaurants

- The Forge, Ballon, Carlow
- Lennon's @ Visual, Carlow Town



Playgrounds

- Carlow Town Park
- Bagnelstown Playground



Shopping

- Tullow Street in Carlow is the main shopping street.
- Fairgreen Shopping Centre
- Carlow Shopping Centre
- Arboretum Lifestyle & Garden Centre, Leighlinbridge
- Rathwood Garden, Tullow