

Mykidstime Family Guide to Kilkenny



Welcome to the Mykidstime Guide to Kilkenny. We have put together some suggestions to make your family's visit to Kilkenny as enjoyable as possible. As parents ourselves, we are delighted to share with you some of the family friendly spots in our Marble City and Kilkenny County!

The Mykidstime Team

Top Ten Things to do in Kilkenny

1. Enjoy a few hours in Kilkenny Castle and its lovely grounds. Then take a spin on the Kilkenny City Road Train outside the front gates.
2. Feed lambs, goats, ducks and other animals at Nore Valley Park's Open Farm near Bennettsbridge
3. Check out the snakes, lizards, crocodiles and more at the Reptile Village, Gowran.
4. Spend a day at Castlecomer Discovery Park.
5. See the great variety of enormous trees at Woodstock Gardens and Arboretum.
6. Explore the ruins of Kells Priory which date from the 15th century.
7. Take a tour of the fascinating limestone Dunmore Caves.
8. Go bowling at K-Bowl in MacDonagh Junction.
9. Go for a splash in the Watershed which offers something for all the family.
10. Visit Jenkinstown Park, follow one of the marked walking trails and have a picnic.

Indoor Things to Do in Kilkenny



- Visit the libraries. Kilkenny has a great selection. The library in the city, situated on John's Quay, has a well-stocked Children's Section. Regular free workshops and storytimes are run during the year. Normally need to be pre-booked. Check out each local library for details.
- Take in a show at the Watergate, Parliament Street in the city.
- Kilkenny Omniplex Cinema, Fairgreen, hosts a kids club every weekend. Cuidiú hold a special Big Scream film for parents, with young children, every Thursday morning in Billy Byrne's, John Street.
- Enjoy a game of bowling at the K-Bowl, McDonagh Junction.
- Get creative by painting at the Pottery Shed or make your own pottery at the Open Studio, Bennettsbridge. See potters at work in the Nicholas Mosse Viewing area, Irish Country Shop, Bennettsbridge.
- Have a wander around McDonagh Junction Shopping Centre where there is free musical entertainment available at the weekend or visit the Market Cross Shopping Centre which holds themed events occasionally.



Outdoor Things To Do

- Have a family day out at Gowran Park racecourse. Family Fun Days at the course during the year.
- Try fishing in Jerpoint Park or Castlecomer Discovery Park.
- Spend a day at a Pet Farm. We have a special offer available on our website for Nore Valley Farm and Activity Centre.
- Go for a horse-ride at one of the Equestrian Centres.
- Hire bikes or take a bicycle tour with Kilkenny Cycle Tours.
- Several walks and trails listed on our website, including strolls by the Nore, trails in the woods and hiking in the hills and forests. Or take a guided tour with Tynan's Walking tours. Something to suit every family! (FREE)
- Take a canoe or kayaking trip or book a course in various locations.
- Enjoy a hurling match at Nowlan Park. The Kilkenny hurling team training sessions are also open to the public during the week in the Summer months at Nowlan Park. Children are invited onto the pitch afterwards so bring a hurl!
- 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. (FREE)
- Wander around the ruins of the Augustinian Priory in Kells. Kells is also famous as the location of the long running RTÉ series The Riordans. So it might look familiar to you even though the characters are long gone! (FREE)
- Explore the slips – the narrow walkways and lanes that connect High Street, Kilkenny with surrounding streets. See how many you can count! Lots to discover in each. (FREE)
- Check out our What's On guide for free events and festivals in Kilkenny this Summer.



Where to Stay

Please mention Mykidstime when Booking

Hotels

Kilkenny Ormonde Hotel

Ormonde Street, Kilkenny

Tel: +353 (0)56 775 0200

Families welcome. Family rooms. Kids club daily during July & August, and Sundays during the rest of the year. Kiddies pool. Regular special offers for families.

Flynns Newpark Hotel

Castlecomer Road, Kilkenny

Tel: +353 (0)56 776 0500

Large family rooms. Kids Club (3 - 10 years) during July & August. Kids cinema club from 7pm on selected evenings. Children's high tea served daily 6 to 7pm (children must be supervised by an adult).

Hotel Kilkenny

College Road, Kilkenny

Tel: +353 (0)56 776 2000

Family rooms and interconnecting rooms available. Kids club for children 4 - 12 years daily during school breaks and every Saturday during the rest of the year.

Kilkenny River Court Hotel

The Bridge, John Street, Kilkenny

College Road, Kilkenny

Tel: +353 (0)056 7723388

4 star hotel accommodation in the heart of Kilkenny City, directly opposite the Castle. Family Rooms available with 1 double and 2 single beds. The Leisure Centre facilities include a 17m deck-level Swimming Pool.

Lyrath Estate Hotel

Old Dublin Rd, Kilkenny

Tel: +353 (0)56 776 0088

Various family packages on offer. Indoor and outdoor activities at the hotel including a leisure centre, cinema, snooker room, boating on the lake, slides and swings.

Mount Juliet

Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny

Tel: +353 (0)56 777 3000

5 star luxury accommodation. Family packages and family activity holidays with B&B accommodation available in the Rose Garden Lodges. Activities for children include horseriding, junior golf, fishing



Springhill Court Hotel

Waterford Road, Kilkenny
Tel: +353 (0) 56 772 1122

Family rooms for families of all sizes. Child-friendly leisure club with a family changing room. Children's pool. Kids club daily. Kid's disco on selected evenings. Regular special offers for families.

Bed & Breakfasts

Kilbawn House

Dungarvan, Co, Kilkenny
Tel: +353 (0) 56 779 3883

Large family rooms available and welcomes children. They offer a baby-sitting service for family guests. All rooms are ensuite with a TV, and guests can relax in the private guest lounge in the evenings. Wheelchair accessible rooms also available.

Self-catering Accommodation

Croan Cottages

Dunamaggan, Co. Kilkenny
Tel : +353 (0) 56 776 6868

Five self-catering cottages suitable for families. Infant cots and cot linen, high-chairs and stair gate can all be provided by prior arrangement. Some of the cottages are also pet friendly.

Wallslough Village

Wallslough, Co. Kilkenny
Tel : +353 (0) 56 772 3838

Self-catering accommodation with eight holiday cottages in a beautiful quiet setting next to a natural lake. Great location for family holidays. Cots, highchairs and stair gates available upon request. Two of the cottages are wheelchair accessible.

Camping and Caravans

Nore Valley Park

Annamult, Bennettsbridge,
Co. Kilkenny
Tel : +353 (0) 56 772 7229

Family-friendly camping and caravan park on an open farm with plenty of activities for the whole family. Free showers and hot water available.



Where to Eat

Cafés and Diners

Kilkenny City

- Café Sol, William St, Kilkenny
- Mugshot Café, James's Street, Kilkenny
- The Blueberry Café, Winston's, Parliament St, Kilkenny
- Cafés in Workhouse Square, McDonagh Junction, Kilkenny City
- Kilkenny Café, Market Cross, Kilkenny
- Kilkenny Design Centre, The Parade, Kilkenny
- Kilkenny Art Café, Kieran Street, Kilkenny
- Mario's Diner and Takeaway, Loughboy
- Café Mocha, High Street, Kilkenny
- Meubles Café, Kilkenny Retail Park, Springhill, Kilkenny

Other towns in the county

- The Watergarden, Thomastown
- Sol Bistro, Thomastown
- Jarrow Café at the Castlecomer Discovery Park, Catlecomer
- Café l'Arche, Callan
- Nicholas Mosse Café, Bennettsbridge
- Circle of Friends Café, Inistioge
- Old Schoolhouse Café, Inistioge

Restaurants

- Royal Spice, Patrick Street, Kilkenny
- Yindees, John's Street, Kilkenny
- Italian Connection, Parliament Street, Kilkenny
- La Rivista, Parliament Street, Kilkenny
- Ripleys Steakhouse, The Butterslip, Kilkenny
- Waterside Restaurant, Thomastown
- Langton's, John Street, Kilkenny
- Key Largo, Canal Square, Kilkenny



Playgrounds

City

- Castle Park
- Newpark Close
- Garringreen
- Talbot's Court

East Kilkenny

- Fair Green, Graiguenamanagh
- Marshes Street, Thomastown
- Station Rd, Ballyhale

West Kilkenny

- Fair Green, Callan

South Kilkenny

- Main Street, Mullinavat
- Blackthorn Hills, Ferrybank



Shopping

- High Street, Kieran Street, Rose Inn Street, John's Street, Ormonde Street and Parliament Street, Kilkenny.
- Market Cross, High Street
- McDonagh Junction, Kilkenny
- Kilkenny Retail Park, Springhill, Kilkenny
- The Craft and Pottery trail will lead you the most popular places to find arts and crafts.



Other Useful Information

Where can we park?

- Public Car Park at the Library, John's Quay
- St Canice's RC Church car park
- The Black Abbey car park (first hour free)
- Ormonde Street multi-storey
- Market Cross Multi-story
- McDonagh Junction Multi-storey

Meter parking on most city streets. Some have first hour free parking.

Where can we change baby?

You can change baby in these places in the city:

- The Library, John's Quay
- The Parade Public Toilets
- Market Cross Shopping Centre
- Kilkenny Design Centre
- Dunnes Stores, Kieran Street
- McDonagh Junction
- Woodies, Kilkenny Retail Park
- Meubles, Kilkenny Retail Park

Thomastown:

- The Watergarden

Where are public toilets located?

You'll find public toilets on the Parade, in Market Cross shopping centre and in McDonagh Junction in the city.

Where is the Tourist Office located?

Tourist Information Office is located on Rose Inn Street, Kilkenny. There are also information boards located at various locations in the city and county.