

# Carrick-on-Suir

Carrick-on-Suir is a beautiful and historic town where the Butler Family grew to power. The Butlers first settled here in the 13th century. Thomas 'Black Tom' Butler, 10th Earl of Ormond (1532-1614) was the most colourful and influential family member who lived here.

Black Tom built a fine manor house as part of Ormond Castle in the 1560s in expectation of a visit from his cousin Elizabeth I, daughter of Henry VIII and Ann Boleyn. Unfortunately Elizabeth never visited at all. Find out more about their much-talked-about relationship on a tour of Ormond Castle, Ireland's only surviving unfortified Tudor Manor House which contains beautiful details including decorative plasterwork portraits of Elizabeth I. Admission to the Tudor Manor House and local Heritage Centre is free.

Explore Carrick-on-Suir's other rich cultural and sporting heritage on its historic town trail. Learn more about its famous sons including the former World Champion cyclist Sean Kelly, Irish folk music singers The Clancy Brothers, and the GAA's first President, Maurice Davin. Enjoy a river walk or take time to shop in this market town with its mix of traditional and modern shops. Retailers offer a Golden Years discount every Wednesday.

## Did you know?



### Black Tom (1531-1614)

#### Why was he called Black Tom?

It is said Thomas Butler got his name when he suppressed a rebellion against Queen Mary, led by Sir Thomas Wyatt who was known as White Tom.



### Ormond Castle

**Tel:** 051 640787  
**Web:** [www.heritageireland.ie](http://www.heritageireland.ie)

## Must See

- Ormond Castle
- Old Bridge, built 1447
- Churches (St Molleran's, St Nicholas')

Visitor Information Point, Heritage Centre. **Tel:** 051 640200. **Email:** [info@carrickonsuirtourism.com](mailto:info@carrickonsuirtourism.com)



### Marina

**Tel:** 087 6934447 (Marina Manager)  
**Web:** [www.carrickonsuirtourism.com](http://www.carrickonsuirtourism.com)

## Must Do

- Tow Path Walk
- Enjoy the ambience of the town centre
- Heritage Trail



### Amenities

**Web:** [www.carrickonsuir.ie](http://www.carrickonsuir.ie)

## Points of Interest

- Farmers' Market (Friday)
- Heritage Centre and Friary (Art Gallery)
- Clancy Festival (June)

# Clonmel

Nestled in the valley of the River Suir, Clonmel is a thriving and bustling town. Once the administrative centre of the Butlers, Clonmel today is the county town of South Tipperary. James Butler, the 12th Earl and 1st Duke of Ormond (1610-88), was a grandnephew of Black Tom. James was arguably the Butlers' most important family member, being the most influential Butler in Ireland's history.

James built the Main Guard in Clonmel in 1675 and King James II visited in 1689. Visit the Main Guard to learn more about James' influence on Clonmel, his role in the English Court and his lasting legacy in Ireland.

Clonmel is steeped in a hidden history which is waiting to be explored, including the site of the famous Cromwellian siege, its town walls and the county museum. You can get more information from the Tourist Office in the Main Guard. Enjoy the town's hospitality in its cafes, restaurants and pubs. Renowned for its sporting tradition, Clonmel also offers an assortment of outdoor activities from horse racing to greyhound racing, fishing, golf and beautiful mountain walks.

## Did you know?



### James Butler (1610-1688)

#### What did Black Tom predict?

The story is told that in 1614 Black Tom said that his then four-year-old grandnephew James would be 'the saviour of the Butler Family'!



### Town Walls

**Web:** [www.heritagecouncil.ie/irish\\_walled\\_towns](http://www.heritagecouncil.ie/irish_walled_towns)

## Must See

- Main Guard
- Town Walls
- Old Saint Mary's Church

Clonmel Tourist Information Office. **Tel:** 052 6122960. **Email:** [clonmeltouristoffice@eircom.net](mailto:clonmeltouristoffice@eircom.net). **Web:** [www.clonmeltourism.com](http://www.clonmeltourism.com)



### The Main Guard

**Tel:** 052 6127484  
**Web:** [www.heritageireland.ie](http://www.heritageireland.ie)

## Must Do

- Shop in the Town Centre
- Horse and Greyhound Racing
- Nearby mountain walks and drives



### Horse Racing

**Web:** [www.clonmelraces.ie](http://www.clonmelraces.ie)

## Points of Interest

- Farmers' Market (Saturday)
- Junction Festival (July)
- Festival Cluain Meala (August)

# Cahir

Cahir, a romantic and charming small town, grew up around Cahir Castle which was originally a fort built on a rock in the River Suir. The town became a stronghold of the Butler family. The Manor of Cahir was granted to James Butler, 3rd Earl of Ormond in 1375, and afterwards to his son, James Gallda, ancestor of the Cahir Butlers.

Cahir Castle is one of Ireland's largest and best-preserved castles. It was famously besieged by the Earl of Essex in 1599. A cannonball can still be seen in one of the walls. It remained under the ownership of the Butlers until 1961. A visit is a must. The castle has featured in many films and TV programmes, including Excalibur and The Tudors television series. Under Richard Butler, 1st Earl of Glengall (1775-1819), and his wife, Cahir became a fashionable place for gentry. In the early 1800s he built the delightful Swiss Cottage, a cottage orné designed by John Nash and the finest eco building of its time. Cahir House, now a hotel, was the town house of the Butlers from the 1770s.

Cahir is now a picturesque and vibrant town, with pleasant streetscapes and beautiful riverside walks. You can sit in the square and enjoy a coffee or browse a wonderful selection of regional crafts at the Craft Granary. Cahir is a centre of excellence for brown trout fishing and the nearby mountains provide endless opportunities for relaxing scenic drives, horse riding or walking.

## Did you know?



### Richard Butler 1st Earl of Glengall (1775-1819)

#### A house growing from the ground?

Swiss Cottage, with its cedar shingles and tree trunk supports, gives the impression of a house grown from the soil.



### Cahir Castle

**Tel:** 052 7441011  
**Email:** [cahircastle@opw.ie](mailto:cahircastle@opw.ie)  
**Web:** [www.heritageireland.ie](http://www.heritageireland.ie)

## Must See

- Cahir Castle
- Swiss Cottage
- Craft Granary

Cahir Tourist Information Office. **Tel:** 052 7441453. **Email:** [cahir@failteireland.ie](mailto:cahir@failteireland.ie)



### Fishing on the Suir

**Cahir & District Anglers' Association**  
**Tel:** 087 6409271 (PRO)  
**Email:** [kevinrowe01@gmail.com](mailto:kevinrowe01@gmail.com)

## Must Do

- Swiss Cottage River Walk
- Fishing on the Suir
- Heritage Trail



### Town Centre

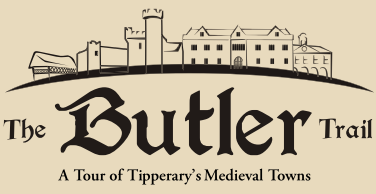
**Web:** [www.visitcahir.ie](http://www.visitcahir.ie)

## Points of Interest

- Farmers' Market (Saturday morning)
- Exhibitions/Workshops at the Craft Granary
- Town Centre

# Travel Guide and Map

- Carrick-on-Suir • Clonmel • Cahir



[www.discoverireland.ie/thebutlertrail](http://www.discoverireland.ie/thebutlertrail)



Note: All roads featured are main routes concerning the Butler Trail only. Photographs courtesy of Fáilte Ireland and The Photographic Section, The Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.



## Distances

Kilkenny to Carrick-on-Suir	43km
Waterford to Carrick-on-Suir	27km
Carrick-on-Suir to Clonmel	21km
Clonmel to Cahir	18km
Cahir to Cashel	18km
Cashel to Fecharad	17km
Cahir to Tipperary	21km
Clonmel to Fecharad	14km
Cork to Cahir	76km
Dublin to Kilkenny	124km

## Roads, Routes & Trails

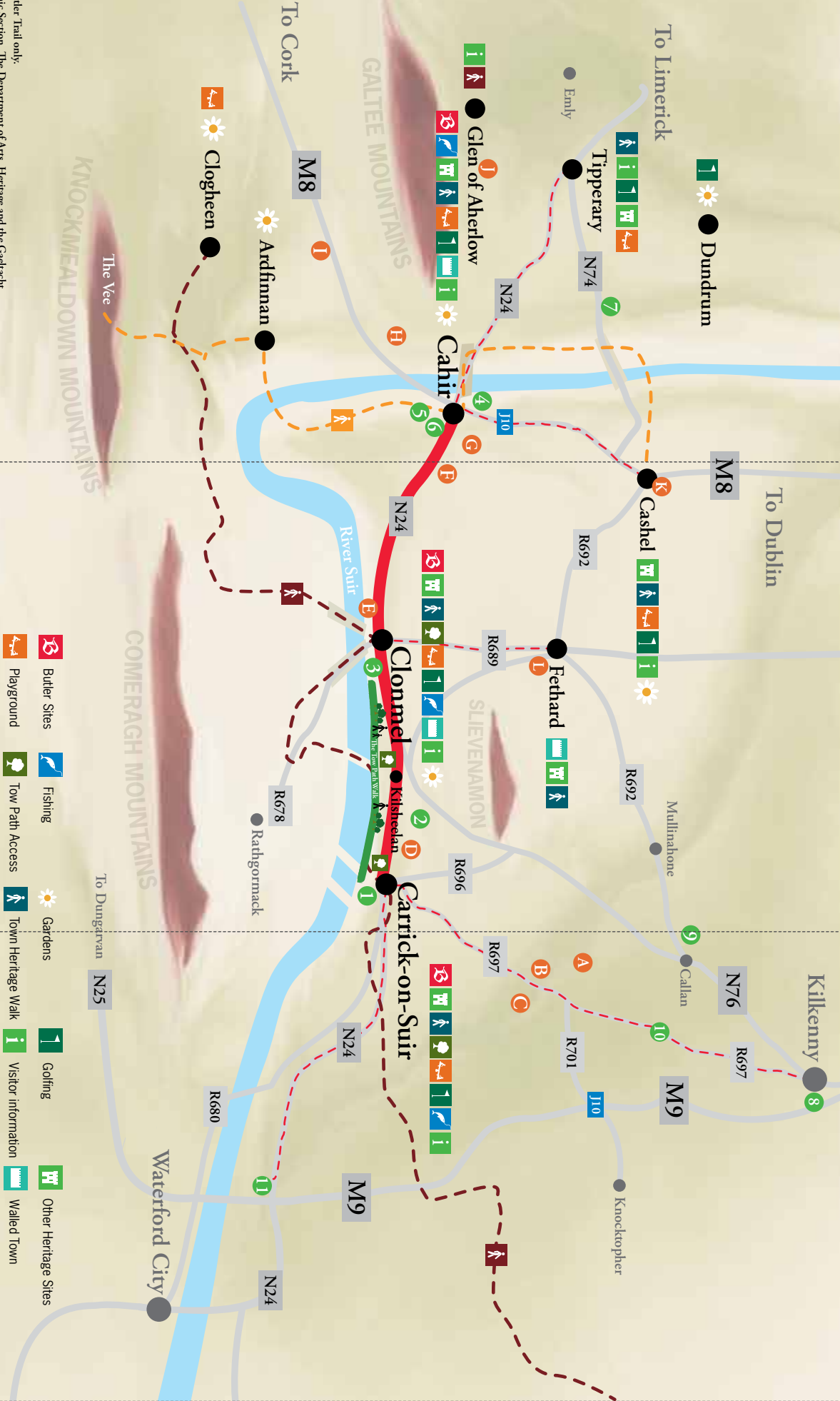
	Butler Trail
	Links to Butler Trail
	Roads
	East Munster Way
	Tipperary Heritage Way
	Tow Path

## Butler Sites

	1 Ormond Castle
	2 Kilsash Castle
	3 The Main Guard
	4 Cahir Castle
	5 Swiss Cottage
	6 Cahir House Hotel
	7 Athassel Abbey
	8 Kilkenny Castle
	9 Callan Friary
	10 Kells Priory
	11 Granagh Castle

## Places of Interest

	A Knockroe Tomb
	B Ahenny High Crosses
	C Kilkerian High Crosses
	D Dove Hill Irish Design Centre
	E Marfield Village Lake and Bird Sanctuary
	F The Apple Farm
	G Sensory and Mobility Garden
	H Glengarra Woods
	I Mitchelstown Caves
	J Glen of Aherlow
	K Rock of Cashel
	L Fecharad Medieval Walls



- Butler Sites
- Fishing
- Tow Path Access
- Gardens
- Golfing
- Visitor information
- Other Heritage Sites
- Walled Town

## The Butler Family History

Thebold Fitzwater arrived in Ireland with Prince John in 1185 and was granted over 400,000 acres of land in Tipperary. As Chief Butler to Prince John he was entitled to 10% of all wine cargoes and it is from this important role that his family took the name Butler from the early 1200s. For much of the 1300s the Butlers' main residence was in Carrick-on-Suir. It moved to Kilkenny Castle in 1391. From the 13th until the 18th century the Butlers were one of the most powerful families in Ireland and held many important offices.

Anne Boleyn, mother of Queen Elizabeth I, for whom Black Tom Butler built the beautiful Manor House, was great granddaughter of the 7th Earl of Ormond. Queen Elizabeth I, the Virgin Queen, referred to Black Tom as her black husband – reputedly referring to his dark eyes. Experience this compelling slice of history on the Butler Trail.

## The Butler Trail in 1 day

Come and enjoy a guided tour of Ormond Castle where the Butler history comes alive. Follow the Carrick-on-Suir Heritage Trail and experience the character of the town. Then head west to visit the bustling town of Clonmel and take a tour of the recently reinstated Main Guard, originally built by the most influential member of the Butler family, James. Start your day in Cahir Town and enjoy the river walk to Swiss Cottage. On returning to Cahir, enjoy a morning coffee and take a tour of Cahir Castle. Explore this charming town with three heritage trails to follow or head to the mountains for a leisurely stroll or scenic drive. A short drive will take you to other heritage sites such as Athassel Abbey, the world-renowned Rock of Cashel or to Fecharad with its spectacular medieval walls.

## The Butler Trail in 2 days

**Day 1**  
Start your trail in Carrick-on-Suir and hear the story of the Butlers at Ormond Castle. Explore the town on foot by following the heritage trail. Travel to Clonmel and enjoy some lunch at one of its cafes. Visit the Main Guard and from there discover some of Clonmel's hidden treasures or enjoy some shopping.

**Day 2**  
Start your day in Cahir Town and enjoy the river walk to Swiss Cottage. On returning to Cahir, enjoy a morning coffee and take a tour of Cahir Castle. Finish off your day in the picturesque town of Cahir, renowned for its scenic river walk to the quaint Swiss Cottage.

**Email:** [southtipptourism@ireland.com](mailto:southtipptourism@ireland.com). Please visit the website to view Butler Trail packages offered by participating hotels. **Web:** [www.discoverireland.ie/thebutlertrail](http://www.discoverireland.ie/thebutlertrail)