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Northern Ireland
Welcome to the Fermanagh Lakelands

A visitor’s paradise and home to some of Ireland’s natural wonders

A county of endless horizons and opportunities for all those who love the outdoor life, Fermanagh is a stunning jewel in Northern Ireland’s crown. From underground caves to skyscraping mountains, the county’s breathtaking scenery envelops you with every step.

Offering a plethora of attractions and activities, historic Enniskillen should be on your list of must see destinations. As one of the most celebrated craft and cultural centres in Ireland, the vibrant streets of this island town will capture you straight away.

Take time to discover the hidden corners such as The Buttermarket in the heart of the town, which houses seventeen art and craft stores all showcasing Fermanagh’s thriving cultural scene. Alive with a great variety of cafes, bars, restaurants and bistros and home to Blake’s of the Hollow, one of the most famous traditional pubs in Ireland; the town proudly welcomes visitors and locals alike.

What better way to finish off your day in Enniskillen than by enjoying a show at the Ardhowen Theatre, just a bend in the river away from the town centre. The theatre offers a year round programme of drama, music and dance, including the Enniskillen Drama Festival which runs annually.

No visit to Fermanagh would be complete without taking a trip on Lough Erne, a haven for anglers and water sports enthusiasts. But for those of you who prefer a bit of rest and relaxation why not step on board the M.V Kestrel, a 56 seater waterbus taking tours of Lough Erne from Enniskillen’s Brooke Park out to the historic Devenish Island, an ancient monastic island; or take a bit of extra time and step ashore for a couple of hours at the 4* Killyhevlin Hotel for a 3 course dinner cruise.

If you are feeling adventurous, get the ultimate buzz by taking a trip in a seaplane over Lough Erne. Based at Enniskillen Airport, the Lakeland Seaplane Tours is a must for the daredevil in you.

For those of you who just want to spend some time in our glorious county taking in the sites on foot, by bicycle or car, the county is steeped in history and heritage sites which are off the beaten track giving you time to explore the diverse traditions that lie within. From castles to pre-historic monuments and mountain tombs this magical county is just waiting to be discovered.

Scenic routes through lake shore countryside and rugged mountain terrains offer walking and cycling enthusiasts the perfect way to see the natural Irish countryside at its best. Not known for its busy roads or bustling sidewalks, when visiting Fermanagh the easy going way of the local people gives visitors the chance to mingle and get an insight into the Irish way of life. The warm welcome that Irish people are renowned for has not escaped our Lakeland County!

Fermanagh’s adventures are not all above ground, there’s a whole subterranean world to explore! The Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark boasts one of the finest showcaves in the world, allowing visitors to explore a fascinating natural world of rivers, waterfalls, winding passages and lofty chambers.

By the time you get around to seeing all our other visitor attractions including the world famous Belleek Pottery, Castle Archdale with its World War II museum as well as Enniskillen Castle and our three National Trust properties to name but a few, you may just want to stop and reflect on all you’ve seen. What better way to do it than in the outdoor hot tub overlooking Lough Erne at the Blaney Spa & Yoga Centre or take a cookery class at the new Kitchen Academy in Enniskillen.

Whatever you spend your time doing in Fermanagh we are sure that you will leave us as many others have done before you... looking forward to coming back!

fermanaghlakelands.com

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Traditional Cottage
Fermanagh is known as the Lakelands of Northern Ireland

The spacious island-dotted expanses of Upper and Lower Lough Erne delight visitors with a unique blend of unspoilt scenic tranquillity and diverse recreational opportunities. Spanning the entire length of the County it is impossible to come to Fermanagh without in some way experiencing the beauty of Lough Erne. So if you’re looking for a few ideas....

Canoeing

Home to the Lough Erne Canoe Trail Fermanagh is the ideal destination for canoeing enthusiasts providing a trail of up to 50 km. Lower Lough Erne and its rugged shoreline provide a vast expanse of open water where large waves can build during windy periods - an ideal venue for the experienced paddler! In stark contrast the Upper Lough provides good shelter with its maze of bays, narrow channels of slow flowing water and innumerable islands and peninsulas - offering a superb venue for the whole family!

Cruising

The perfect environment for a boating holiday. With our on shore boat hire companies no specialist knowledge is required, just a good sense of adventure! This is the perfect way to explore the waters of Lough Erne and the surrounding Fermanagh countryside.

Activity Centres

The Lakes are home to numerous Activity Centres, where specialist training and supervision can be offered so that on the water activities can be enjoyed in a safe and controlled environment. Try your hand at banana skiing, kayaking, sailing, water skiing, wakeboarding and canoeing.

Boa Island is the biggest island inside Ireland. The Janus Figure on Boa Island is one of the most famous pre-Christian features in Ireland and dates back to 2,500 BC. See a picture of Boa Island on page 2.
Angling

Fermanagh is renowned for its world famous fishing, with over 300 square miles of water, the Lakelands are an anglers paradise.

Lough Erne

Lough Erne is made up of the Upper Lough East of Enniskillen & Lower Lough which runs West to Belleek. The Lough is a mixed coarse and game fishery. The game angling in the main, takes place on the Lower Lough although trout are found throughout the system. The Lower Lough is a large expanse of water, over 25 miles long with numerous islands and bays. These provide vast areas of shallow water and rocky shores making for ideal fishing grounds. Although a limited number of salmon run the Lough, wild brown trout are the quarry and the Lough holds an excellent stock of fish.

Lough Melvin

Sitting on the western end of County Fermanagh this is one of Ireland’s most famous Loughs. It is home to 3 distinct species of trout – the sonaghan, the gillaroo and the ferox – as well as enjoying a run of spring salmon and grilse. Fishing starts in February with the arrival of the first salmon and continues throughout the months with grilse from May to July and wonderful trout fishing throughout the season. Trolling is the most used method for the springers but fly fishing for the sonaghan and gillaroo, as well as the grilse is excellent.

For a more in depth guide to fishing in the Fermanagh Lakelands request a copy of our new Angling Guide: www.fermanaghlakelands.com

Boat Trips

Taking a boat tour on Lough Erne is a great way for both groups and individuals to get a chance to experience life on the water without getting wet! Explore the historical Devenish Island once inhabited by Christian Scholars then raided by the Vikings. See how our ancestors used the waterways as the primary means of transport and pass by the home of the Gaelic Maguire Chieftains, Enniskillen Castle Museums.

left: Enniskillen Castle Museums
www.enniskillencastle.com

There’s an island for every day of the year on Lough Erne.
Fermanagh is now home to one of the most exciting developments in Irish Golf – The Lough Erne Resort. Awarded ‘Golf Resort of the Year’ by the Irish Golf Tour Operators Association, 2010, it is home to two Championship Golf Courses - The Faldo Course designed by six time major winner Nick Faldo, his first course design in Ireland, and the Castle Hume Course. Nestled on a private 600 acre peninsula between Lower Lough Erne & Castle Hume Lough. A course where you will remember, every hole, every shot with stunning views from every vantage point and the Waters of the Lough in Play on 11 holes. Superb all year round playing conditions with links like Fairways on a truly exceptional Inland Course.

The Faldo Course is 7,167 yards Par 72.

The Resort is proud to have Rory McIlroy, the new World No. 1, as its touring professional who has described it as – ‘A Great Place to Play, A Great Place to Stay’

Incorporating the Faldo Academy which allows golfers to replicate the shots that they will experience on the golf course, making game-improvement relevant, engaging and most of all fun.

For that all round luxury experience the 5* Lakeside Hotel located on site, including numerous award winning dining experiences and the luxurious Thai Spa and leisure facilities, is the perfect accompaniment for the golfing enthusiast.

With many other golf courses dotted around the county and further afield Fermanagh is the perfect destination for a golfing holiday.

www.loughermeresort.com
Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark

At 665m, Culcagh is the highest point in Fermanagh, and the only true mountain.

Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark

The Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark is located in the rugged mountainous uplands and the gentle rolling lowlands of counties Fermanagh and Cavan. Taking in the world-famous Marble Arch Caves, the Geopark boasts some of the finest natural landscapes in Ireland and offers a window into the area’s 650 million year past.

The Geopark takes in numerous sites throughout Cavan and Fermanagh many of which are open to the public. All of the sites provide for a variety of interests including not only geology but also archaeology, history, folklore, wildlife and activities such as cycling and walking.

Walking

The Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark provides a wealth of opportunities for exploring the great outdoors. With a huge number of walks ranging from short nature trails suitable for the whole family, to long-distance waymarked ways for seasoned hillwalkers. There is no better way to get outside and enjoy the wonderful heritage of the Geopark.

A Geopark is an area recognised by UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) to have exceptional geological heritage.

www.marblearchcavesgeopark.com

Explore the fascinating natural underground world of rivers, waterfalls, winding passages and lofty chambers both by boat and on foot.
Other Things to See & Do in Fermanagh...

The National Trust in Fermanagh

The National Trust is a conservation charity, protecting historic places and green spaces, and opening them up forever, for everyone. We are proud to have three properties here in Fermanagh.

Florence Court

Built in the mid 18th Century by John Cole, this historic mansion features exquisite Rococo Plasterwork and original items of furniture. Visitors can explore the pleasure grounds and walled garden. Tearoom and gift shop on site. On site holiday cottages are also available for rent.

Castle Coole

Home of the Earls of Belmore, Castle Coole is one of the finest neo-classical houses in Ireland. Designed in 1789 by James Wyatt, it houses fine interiors and exquisite furnishings. Wonderful walks throughout the estate. Gift shop and tea room on site.

Crom Estate

One of Ireland’s most important nature reserves with many rare species, Crom is a romantic and tranquil place. With its islands, woods and ruins, this award winning venue is a sanctuary for wildlife and people alike.

www.ntni.org.uk

Belleek Pottery

Established in 1857 Belleek Pottery holds a very special place in the cultural and commercial heritage of County Fermanagh. Nestling on the banks of the River Erne the famous Belleek Fine Parian china is one of Ireland’s top five visitor attractions.

Take the tour of Belleek Pottery to unravel the impressive manufacturing process of the world famous products. Here you will see the craftspeople at work and the intricate process involved in producing these amazing pieces.

See one of the oldest and most prestigious pieces of Belleek ever made - the Belleek International Centre Piece which was displayed at the Paris Exhibition in the year 1900 where it was awarded its fourth gold medal. The International Centre Piece is believed to have been designed by Frederick Slater who came to Belleek in 1893. It is reported to have taken him seven weeks to create the masterpiece.

Once you have taken the tour and visited the museum, take a wander through the stunning show room where you will have the opportunity to purchase a piece of Belleek to take home. Finish off your visit by having a relaxing cream tea in our tea room before heading on to explore the enchanting village of Belleek right on the door step of the Pottery!

www.belleek.ie

While in Belleek take a visit to Castle Caldwell Forest, nearby you can see a five-foot high, fiddle-shaped monument to Denis McCabe, an 18th century fiddler who set out on the Lough on a barge to entertain people with his music. Unfortunately he had a little too much to drink, fell overboard and was drowned. The inscription on the monument reads ‘On firm land only exercise your skill, there you may play and drink your fill’.

Florence Court

The award winning Sheelin Antique Irish Lace Museum houses over 700 exhibits dating from 1890-1920. The adjoining Sheelin Lace Shop offers many beautiful antique Irish lace items for sale as well as bags, belts and chokers, handmade using vintage pieces.

www.irishlacemuseum.com
Arts & Crafts

With its stunning landscape and interesting people Fermanagh has long been an inspiration to artists, musicians and writers.

Come and appreciate the artists at work in the Buttermarket Craft & Design Centre where you can meander round this intriguing courtyard in the heart of Enniskillen. Comprising of 17 art and craft studios, a coffee shop and a gift shop, all housed in the restored early 19th Century dairy market. Here you will see Fermanagh captured on canvas, in the handmade pottery and jewellery design.

If you are the type that would rather participate than watch feel free to do it at your leisure as there are numerous vantage points for painting and taking photographs.

Learn the traditional strawcraftwork with the experienced strawcraftsmen at the Aughakillymaude Mummers Centre. Make distinctive straw masks, harvest love knots or a Saint Brigids Cross. The Centre boasts a detailed mumming exhibition which gives a great in–depth explanation to this ancient Irish tradition.

A Flavour of Fermanagh - its Food & its People

To experience the way people live is an important part of any vacation. Fermanagh is a unique county with a relaxed way of life, which a lot of people say is due to the tranquil waters of Lough Erne!

A truly rural County, the country people of Fermanagh is one of our greatest natural assets. From the host in your accommodation, the waiter in the restaurant and the people you just meet out and about we are sure you will take these friendly and fun loving people to your heart!

No visit to Fermanagh would be complete without tasting our wonderful locally grown and sourced produce. You will find a varied range of restaurants here, from the traditional Irish Stew and Cabbage & Bacon to more fine dining establishments for that something extra special.

Don’t leave without trying some of our award winning Fermanagh Black Bacon. Pat O’Doherty keeps his own pigs living freely on Inishcorkish Island on Upper Lough Erne. Visits to the Island can be arranged. The bacon can be purchased from his family run shop in Enniskillen.

If you would like to learn to cook some proper Irish food, then a visit to the Belle Isle School of Cookery is a must. Set on a 470 acre Estate, which is also home to Belle Isle Castle and a range of other accommodation the Cookery School has various courses on offer.

Andrew Barton Patterson from Letter, near Kesh, wrote the famous song ‘Waltzing Matilda’.

A Flavour of Fermanagh - its Food & its People
Fermanagh boasts a fantastic range of accommodation for our visitors to enjoy. From country B&B’s run on working farms where a real taste of Fermanagh country life can be enjoyed, to our stunning 4* and 5* hotels where a world of luxury awaits. For those of you who like to be a bit more independent we have a great range of self-catering accommodation and caravan and camp sites.

5* Self-Catering at Crom Castle West Wing

4* Manor House Country Hotel

Rushin House Caravan Park, Belcoo

Knockninny Country House & Marina, Derrylin

When planning your visit to Fermanagh get a copy of our comprehensive Visitor Guide which has a full accommodation listing and information on attractions and activities.

AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD: fermanagh.lakelands.com

OTHER BROCHURES CURRENTLY AVAILABLE

Family Friendly Guide

Angling Guide

Visitor Map

ALL AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD:
fermanagh.lakelands.com
**Itineraries**

**DAY 1**

10.30am  
Boat Trip on Lough Erne

12.30pm  
Lunch in one of the cafes in Enniskillen

1.30pm  
Visit to Enniskillen Castle Museums

3.00pm  
Souvenir Shopping in Enniskillen including the Buttermarket Craft & Design Centre

8.00pm  
Enjoy a traditional music session in one of our pubs

**DAY 2**

10.30am  
Visit and tour of Belleek Pottery

12.30pm  
Lunch in the Thatch Coffee Shop, Belleek

2.00pm  
Go walking in Lough Navar and marvel at one of the most spectacular views in Ireland

4.00pm  
Treat yourself to a massage at the Thai Spa in the Lough Erne Resort

**DAY 3**

10.30am  
Visit the Sheelin Irish Lace Museum

12.30pm  
Head on to the Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark for a tour of the underground caves, followed by an afternoon exploring Cuilcagh Mountain and the surrounding countryside

4.00pm  
Take a tour of Florence Court National Trust

8.00pm  
If you have the energy enjoy an evening at the Ardhowen Theatre

**DAY 4**

10.30am  
Visit Castle Coole National Trust

1.30pm  
Spend the afternoon at the Share Holiday Village where you can have a go at a great range of activities: canoeing, climbing, kayaking

4.00pm  
Relax and enjoy the grounds of the Crom Estate National Trust. Bring a picnic along and watch the world and the boats go by!
by Air

Ireland is served by flights into Belfast International Airport, Dublin Airport, Belfast City Airport, Shannon Airport and City of Derry Airport as well as Cork, Galway and Knock Airports. Fly direct from a wide range of airports in the UK, Europe, USA and Canada.

Belfast International Airport and Belfast City Airport are both approximately 2 hours drive from Fermanagh. Dublin Airport is around 2 hours drive and the City of Derry Airport is approximately 1 hour 45 mins.

Belfast International Airport
+44 (0) 28 9448 4848
www.belfastairport.com

George Best Belfast City Airport
+44 (0) 28 9093 9093
www.belfastcityairport.com

City of Derry Airport
+44 (0) 28 7181 0784
www.cityofderryairport.com

Dublin Airport
+353 (0) 1 814 1111
www.dublinairport.com

Ireland West Airport Knock
+353 (0) 94 936 8100
www.irelandwestairport.com

by Ferry

Regular, scheduled ferry services operate between Northern Ireland and Great Britain. Other sailings operate from Fishguard to Rosslare, Holyhead to Dun Laoghaire or Dublin Port and Liverpool to Dublin.

For details on routes and schedules please use the details to the right.

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