Early Life
Brian Boru, son of Cennéidhe and Bé Bhoinn, was born in 941 at Killaloe. His family belonged to the Uí Doloingsáith — a Dal Caisc tribe who had settled here hundreds of years earlier at Granáin Lachtna on the slopes of Crag Hill. Brian’s father and his grandfather Locman were the first of his family to rise to prominence leading their tribe against the Vikings.

The Vikings
Brian’s father Cennéidhe died in battle in 951 and Mahon took over leadership of the Dal Caisc. Brian convinced a reluctant Mahon to defend their territories against the Vikings and together they drove them from Cashel and Limerick paving the way for Mahon to become King of Munster in 970. Following Mahon’s murder by rival Munster chiefs, Brian led his tribe and avenged his brother’s death. He attacked Scattery island, routing Vikings and killing their leader feu. He then turned his attention to Deorain and Molloy who were responsible for Mahon’s death and they too were killed. Brian now consolidated his position in Munster with the marriage of his daughter to Molloy’s son. His inauguration as King of Munster took place at Cashel in 973.

High King of Ireland
Although Brian continued to prevent invading Vikings he allowed these Vikings who had settled and established commercial activities to continue to operate. Some Vikings sided with Brian in his battles against plundering Vikings.

Brian and the High King Malachy at times cooperated in their battles against the Vikings, but their political rivalry continued. At one stage they were forced to flee to the Isle of Man and Scotland to escape the advancing Vikings and later to return to Ireland. After 980 they were forced to escape to Scotland and the Isle of Man. Brian’s High Kingship ended after his death in battle in 1014. Mahon, son of Brian’s brother Molloy was proclaimed as High King of Ireland.

Clash of Cashel
As Ireland’s oldest city, Cashel has a distinct historical and cultural legacy. Known as the Ancient Cathedral City, it is here where Saint Patrick founded his first church in Ireland in 445AD. Saint Patrick’s Cathedral of Ireland is also the burial place of the great Irish High King Brian Ború, who was buried in the cathedral in 1014. To secure his position as High King of Ireland, Brian Ború needed to have influence on all the monasteries and important monastic centres, and it is documented in the Book of Armagh that in 964 Brian left twenty-two sons of gold on St. Patrick’s altar and declared that Armagh was the religious capital of Ireland. This was a clever move on Brian’s part, as the monastery at Armagh was the most powerful in Ulster. The Book of Armagh also tells of Brian taking immediately last as Brian remained High King. Therefore, it was in the interests of Armagh — with its wealth and power — to support Brian.

Farming the High King in the Battle
Of Cashel, Ború’s body was taken from Clash of Cashel to Armagh, where the body of Armagh held a wake that lasted twelve days. Brian’s body was then buried at the north side of the high altar in Cashel’s Victorian town centre is a thriving centre of retail, hospitality, entertainment and leisure.

Carolos the Prominent
Walk back in time along a 3km Battle of Clontarf Heritage Trail on the beautiful seaside promenade of Clontarf, Dublin. Nestled between the magnificent Saint Anne’s Bay and Farmhouse Park, Clontarf has lots to offer the visitor. Once an arterial fishing village it is now a modern coastal suburb with a large number of shops, business premises, restaurants and cafés to suit all tastes and just three miles from Dublin City Centre.

Clontarf is renowned as the location of the last battle of Cashel’s Victorian town centre is a thriving centre of retail, hospitality, entertainment and leisure.

St. Luas’s Cratory
There are various options as to the actual location of the battle and how money, but this is the final day of the battle. The battle took place on the promenade of Clontarf. As the Vikings retreated to their headquarters they were surrounded by Brian’s army or defeated by the incoming tide. Brian’s army won the battle, but the aged High King was killed by a Viking warrior named in the Book of Leinster as the son of Brian Ború and his grandson Turlough. His body was taken to Clonmacnoise where he was buried in the monastery in Armagh. He was an example of how to be a Viking King and has been the inspiration of many tales. He was said to have been around the 10th or 11th century.

KILLALOLO BALLINA
The two towers of Killaloe Ballina are one of the banks of beautiful Lough Derg and there are many fine restaurants, shops and cafes with a wealth of events. Most major attractions include St. Lorcán’s Cathedral, Brian Ború Heritage Centre, Tamenteagh, Beal Ború and Clugg Liath. Killaloe Ballina boasts Heritage Town Designation and is the perfect place to escape the hustle and bustle and connect Clonfard, Creg Liath and the Aghalough Road. Much of the town and its buildings are a reflection of its heritage.

Tourneyna
Tourney is the highest peak of the Aran Mountain range. On the heather slopes, beside the road and on the terrace of the tourney a prehistoric chamber tomb, known as the Tourney Stones. As part of the Aran Stone Festival, which is held on 15th July.

Lough Derg & Beal Ború
Lough Derg is one of the most beautiful lakes in the Shannon region and one of our many adventures on this trail is a gentle stroll along the footpaths and estates of the best-known sites of Killaloe Ballina.

Beal Ború
Overlooking the point where the River Shannon meets Lough Derg, Beal Ború is a beautiful example of a ring fort. Believed to have been occupied by the Danes (Brian Ború’s family, it is), who controlled access across the Shannon between the west of Ireland and the east from 1000AD. The Shannon is a great place to see the Shannon at its wideest part and to have a picnic or cycle along the Shannon Way.

St. Flannan’s Cathedral
Built in the 13th century, St. Flannan’s Cathedral stands on the west bank of the River Shannon. The Cathedral is home to a number of stone features including a Romanesque doorway, an Ogham Stone thought to be dated to 400AD, a 12th century high cross, an ornately carved font and a magnificent East Window. The Cathedral is adjacent to the Cathedral Street and is in the care of the National Monastic Foundation and is open to the public.

St. Lorcán’s Cathedral
Tobermurrough
Tobermurrough, situated near the Pier Head in Killaloe it is a fine view according to tradition, Brian Ború was baptized. The well is now enclosed and covered by a red brick building built at the end of the 19th century.

Killaloe Ballina
Clonmacnoise, the cradle of Irish culture, is located on the Shannon Estuary. It is here that, according to tradition, Brian Ború was baptized. The well is now enclosed and covered by a red brick building built at the end of the 19th century.

St. Patrick’s Church of Ireland Cathedral is the first church in Ireland in 445AD. Saint Patrick founded his church here where Saint Patrick founded his first church in Ireland. Armagh as being one of these important religious centres.

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There is no story more intriguing than that of Ireland's greatest High King, Brian Ború. His journey commenced in Killaloe, County Clare where he was born in 941, he became King of Munster in 977 and deservedly secured the greatest honour of all in 1002, that of High King of Ireland. This journey took him from tranquil Killaloe on the shores of Lough Derg to the seat of Kings in Cashel and on to do battle in Clontarf and finally to his resting place in the ecclesiastical city of Armagh.

Killaloe, Cashel, Clontarf and Armagh are places of abundant beauty. They offer the visitor the opportunity to discover the many wonderful sites associated with Brian Ború and in this modern era also offer many fantastic tourist experiences.

You are invited to discover these beautiful places. This map shows a selection of the important sites and buildings associated with Brian Ború.

ENJOY THE JOURNEY!

TRACE THE FOOTSTEPS OF BRIAN BORÚ IN IRELAND