Welcome to
CARRICK ON SUIR

1. Ormond Castle
2. The Quays
3. The Old Bridge
4. Westgate end of Main Street
5. Heritage Centre
6. Main Street – Carrick on Suir

Audio Guide Tour
For over 650 years, the Butlers were the most powerful and influential family in Carrick-on-Suir. They built the finest Elizabethan manor house in Ireland, brought the woollen industry to the town and left a wonderful 17th-century silver collection. Download the Butler Trail audio guide app to hear fascinating stories of alleged intimacies with an English Queen, tragedy on the river and hidden treasure in an Irish pub. Then continue the Butler Trails through the nearby towns of Cahir and Clonmel.
Situated on the river’s edge in Carrick-on-Suir, Ormond Castle is the finest example of an Elizabethan manor house in Ireland. When open to the public, guided tours lasting around one hour highlight its superb decorative plasterwork and reveals stories about the castle’s creator, ‘Black Tom’, a Butler who is reputed to have had a particularly close relationship with Queen Elizabeth I.

Attributed to Steven van der Meulen, Netherlandish, fl.1543-1568
Portrait of Thomas Butler, 10th Earl of Ormonde (1532-1614)
Oil on panel 93 x 68 cm
Photo © National Gallery of Ireland
NGI.4687
2. THE QUAYS
A short walk along the tidal stretch of The Quays reveals how the Butlers introduced industries that made Carrick-on-Suir “one of the greatest manufacturing towns in Ireland”.

3. THE OLD BRIDGE
Built by a Butler in 1447, the Old Bridge which spans the River Suir at Carrick is one of the most striking stone bridges in Ireland.

The town has a marina, and other activities available include fishing, golf and scenic walks.
4. WESTGATE END OF MAIN STREET

Carrick-on-Suir was an Anglo-Norman settlement. This narrow and solidly-built tower house, with its battered bases, formed an important part of the town’s defences by guarding an access gate into the west end of the town.

5. HERITAGE CENTRE

The Heritage Centre occupies a former Church of Ireland church, which used to be the Butler place of worship. You can still see the Butler Coat of Arms on the building, which stands on a raised site just off Main Street.
In 2013, a team of builders working on a burned-out pub in Main Street, made a remarkable discovery beneath the old floor boards.

They found a hoard of 17th-century gold coins, which turned out to be one of the most significant finds ever uncovered in Ireland.

There were 81 gold coins present, made up of 77 guinea coins and 4 half guineas. The earliest coin in the hoard dates to 1664.
IRELAND’S ANCIENT EAST

This Butler Trail of Carrick-on-Suir is part of Ireland’s Ancient East - a landscape of verdant meadows, bustling towns and rugged stone monuments that pulsates with legendary stories and heroic tales, stretching back over 5,000 years.

Explore more of Ireland’s Ancient East and its stories.

Download the app by scanning the QR code.

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