

The **Butler** Trail  
A Tour of Tipperary's Medieval Towns

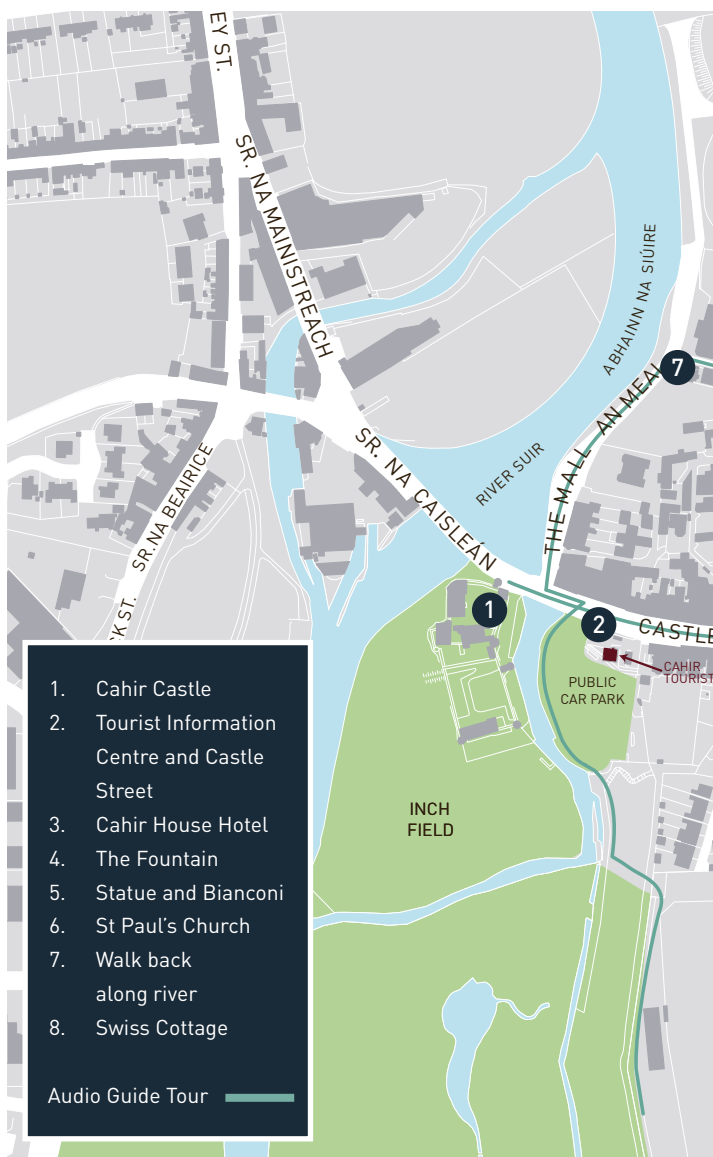
— The Butler Trail of —  
**CAHIR**

AUDIO GUIDE APP



# Welcome to

# CAHIR



For over 650 years, the Butlers were the most powerful and influential family in Cahir. They built much of its architecture and brought water, employment and a glorious church to the town. Download the Butler Trail audio guide app to hear stories of the wars, philanthropy, bankruptcy and industry that helped to shape modern Cahir. Then continue the Butler Trails through the nearby towns of Clonmel and Carrick-on-Suir.



# 1. CAHIR CASTLE



Cahir Castle is one of the largest and best preserved castles in Ireland and it became the stronghold of the powerful Anglo-Norman Butler family in 1375. It remained in their possession until 1961.

In the intervening 600 years, the Butlers defended this region from attack and they brought jobs, industry and great architecture to Cahir, as well as to the nearby Butler towns of Clonmel and Carrick-on-Suir.

# 5. STATUE & BIANCONI

A wonderfully life-like statue in the town square commemorates the blind piper, Edward Keating Hyland, one of Cahir's most famous musical sons. In 1821, Hyland played his best-known composition, 'Fox Chase' for King George IV in Dublin.



The photograph (left) shows Charles Bianconi. In 1815, he revolutionised public transport in Ireland when he introduced the first regular horse-drawn carriage service between Clonmel and Cahir.

## 2. TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE & CASTLE STREET

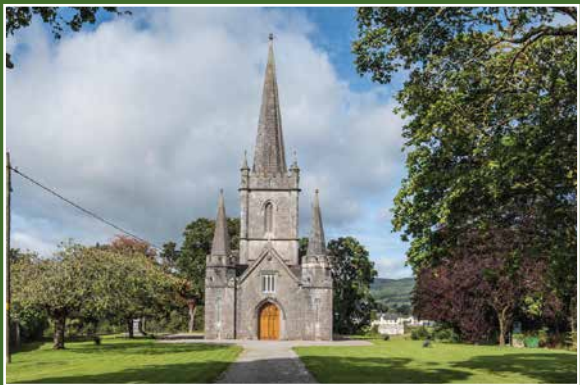
As you walk along Castle Street, you'll pass a well-maintained War Memorial, which is quite an unusual sight in Irish towns. It was erected to the memory of 88 local officers and men who died in the Great War of 1914 to 1918.

The nearby Fáilte Ireland tourist office is open during the summer months. Its helpful staff can advise you on places to go, things to do, where to stay and local events in Ireland's Ancient East.

The elegant terrace houses on either side of Castle Street were built by the Butlers.



## 6. ST PAUL'S CHURCH



A very beautiful building, in an equally stunning setting, St Paul's Church, the Anglican parish church of Cahir, sits above the banks of the river Suir.

The church owes its existence to Richard Butler, Earl of Glengall, which explains why the only tomb in the church yard is that of the Butler family.

### 3. CAHIR HOUSE HOTEL



Just as Cahir Castle was once a stronghold of the Butler dynasty, from the 1770s onwards, Cahir House was the ancestral home of the Butlers of Cahir. It held this role until

1853 when Richard Butler, the second Earl of Glengall was head of the Cahir Butlers

Richard was something of an architectural visionary. Between 1840 and 1846 he undertook an extensive building programme in the town. Unfortunately, he was not a gifted businessman and eventually went bankrupt.



### 7. WALK BACK ALONG RIVER

Walking back towards the Square, just beside the pavement, you will see a fine dressed-stone building, called The Granary.

It is another legacy from the Butler era, but one whose existence is credited to a female Butler, Emily, the Dowager Lady Glengall.

Built in 1809 as a linen factory, it now is home to a regional craft centre, one of four in Ireland. Call in for a browse around.



## 4. THE FOUNTAIN

Fresh water supply wasn't always so readily available and certainly, in the 19th century, most homes in rural Ireland didn't have running water.



So it must have been a delight to the townsfolk of Cahir when in 1876, Lady Margaret Butler-Charteris erected this limestone fountain in the centre of the square. It meant they could enjoy fresh, clean water, piped all the way from the Galtee Mountains.



## 8. SWISS COTTAGE

A stroll along the River Suir is the perfect end to the Butler Trail in Cahir. It will bring you to Swiss Cottage, possibly the high point of the entire trail. Built by Richard Butler, the 12th Lord Cahir, Swiss Cottage is Ireland's most elegant cottage, and, arguably, one of the most romantic to be found anywhere in the world. Climb the stone steps and spend an hour visiting this delightful elevated site.





- Butler Sites
- Playground
- Fishing
- Gardens
- Town Heritage Walk
- Golfing
- Visitor information
- Other Heritage Sites
- Walled Town

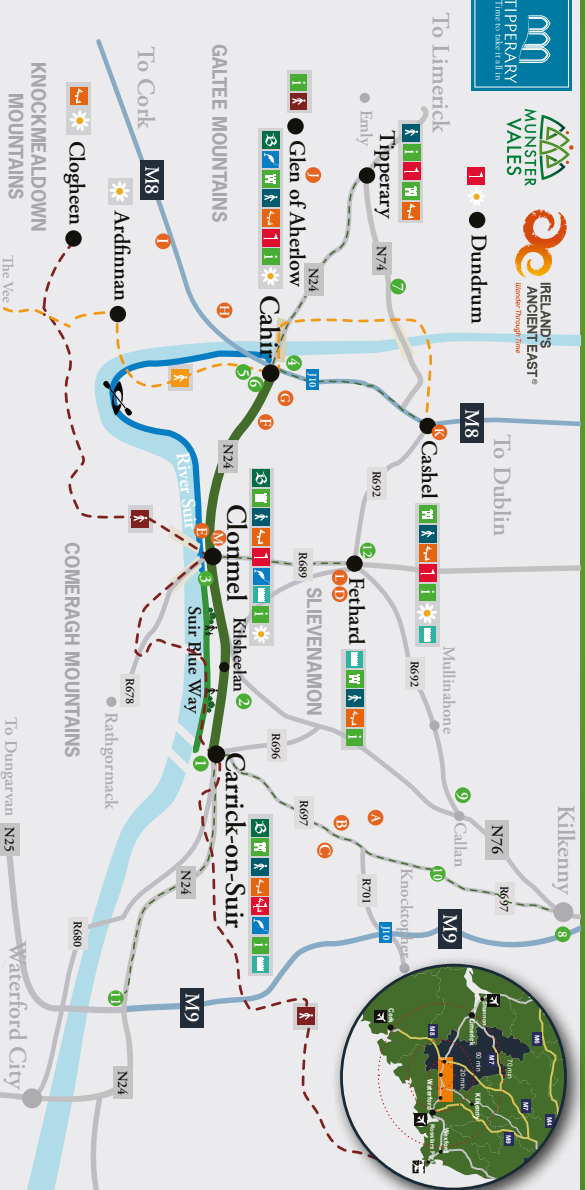
## ROADS, ROUTES & TRAILS

- Butler Trail
- Links to Butler Trail
- Roads
- East Munster Way
- Tipperary Heritage Way
- Suir Blueway - Walking
- Suir Blueway - Kayaking

- BUTLER SITES**
- Ormond Castle
- Kilcast Castle
- The Main Guard
- Cahir Castle
- Swiss Cottage
- Cahir House
- Athassel Abbey
- Kilkenny Castle
- Callan Friary
- Kells Priory



- Dundrum



- PLACES OF INTEREST**
- Knockroe Tomb
- Ahenny High Crosses
- Kilkieran High Crosses
- Fethard Horse Country Experience
- Marfield Village Trail
- The Apple Farm
- Sensory & Mobility Garden
- Glengarra Woods
- Mitchelstown Caves
- Glen of Aherlow
- Rock of Cashel
- Fethard Medieval Walls
- Tipperary Co. Museum