The Butler Trail

A Tour of Tipperary's Medieval Towns

The Butler Trail of CLONMEL

AUDIO GUIDE APP

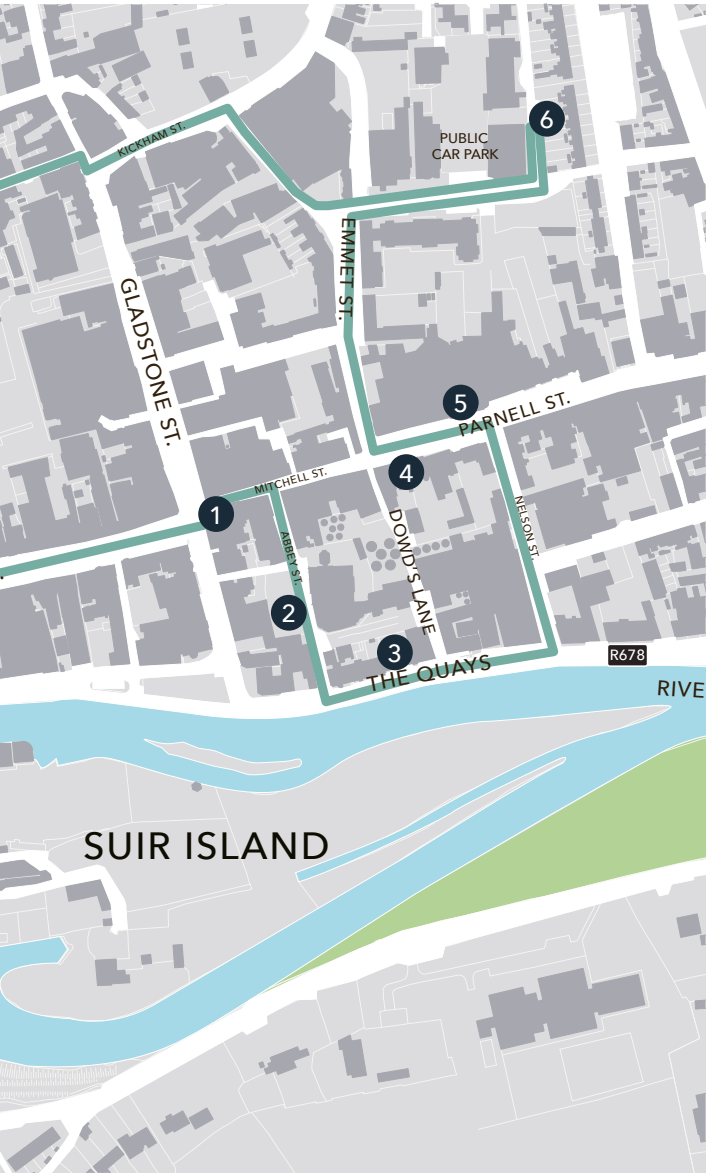
Welcome to

CLONMEL

1. The Main Guard, Clonmel
2. Franciscan Friary, Abbey Street
3. The Quays
4. Town Hall
5. Hearn's Hotel
6. Tipperary County Museum
7. Old St Mary's Church
8. West gate

Audio Guide Tour

For over 650 years, the Butlers were the most powerful and influential family in Clonmel. They built much of its great architecture, brought industry to the town and gave Oliver Cromwell's army a bloody nose! Download the Butler Trail audio guide app to hear fascinating stories of the wars, the walls, the entrepreneurs and the brewers that helped to shape modern Clonmel. Then continue the Butler Trails through the nearby towns of Cahir and Carrick-on-Suir.



1. THE MAIN GUARD

The Main Guard occupies a dominant position on the corner of the two main streets in Clonmel. It was built around 1685 by James Butler, the first Duke of Ormond, to serve as the town's new courthouse.

It is a handsome building – in fact, it may even have been designed by Sir Christopher Wren, the architect behind St Paul's Cathedral in London.

5. HEARN'S HOTEL

Just opposite the Town Hall on Parnell Street, stands Hearn's Hotel. On the front of the building you will see the name 'Hearn', and also 'Bianconi House'.

The name Bianconi links all three parts of the Butler Trail – Clonmel, Cahir and Carrick-on-Suir.

Charles, or Carlo Bianconi was an Italian immigrant to Ireland, who by all accounts was a most remarkable, resourceful and good-hearted man.

He is credited with having revolutionised public transport in Ireland by linking towns across the country with his horse and carriage service.

And it all started here, outside Hearns Hotel, on 6 July 1815.

2. FRANCISCAN FRIARY, ABBEY STREET

The Franciscan Friary in Abbey Street,is the last resting place for some members of the Butler family.
Seven of the Butler Lords of Cahir lie buried inside, in a recess underneath the Tower. Their bodies are arranged around the effigies of a Knight Templar and his wife, of the House of Ormond.

If the Friary is open, take a few moments to go inside and discover the Butler tombs.

6. TIPPERARY COUNTY MUSEUM

What do a rowing boat...an Olympic medal and a saxophone all have in common?

You will find these items, and the stories behind them, inside this friendly and intriguing museum. Located in the heart of Clonmel's civic centre, the museum's vision is to enable visitors to experience the cultural richness and pride of County Tipperary.

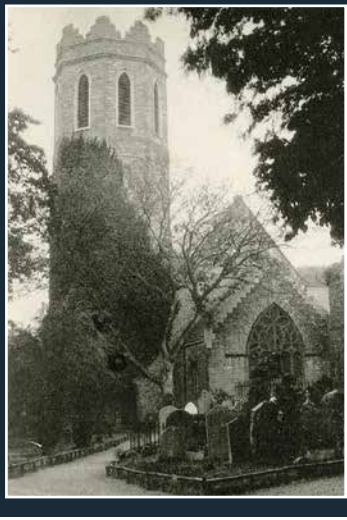
3. THE QUAYS

The River Suir surges past Clonmel and Carrick-on-Suir before entering the Sea at Waterford. It is Ireland's third longest river and as well as being famous for its wild brown trout, it is also home to Atlantic salmon, who return here each year to spawn.

Eels used to be exported from Clonmel to Europe - in fact, trade of every sort has long been central to Clonmel's existence.

7. OLD ST MARY'S CHURCH

Old St Mary's is a fascinating 13th-century church. But what really interests us here, is the section of old town walls, and an incredible story of courage, tenacity and ingenuity that links the Butlers and the people of Clonmel.



The year is 1650. Oliver Cromwell is leading his New Model Army on a devastating campaign to conquer Ireland.

Listen to the Butler Trail audio guide app to hear the story of how the Earl of Ormond takes personal charge of the defence of Clonmel.

4. TOWN HALL

For centuries, Clonmel was the administrative headquarters of the Butler family. It is still an important regional centre and is the largest inland town in Ireland. It is appropriate therefore that Clonmel should have a town hall which befits its size and status.

This town hall, on Parnell Street, dates from 1881, but the original town hall was built in the seventeenth century on the site of a private mansion called Hamerton Hall, owned by a man called Richard Hamerton, a timber merchant.

8. WEST GATE

Standing on the site of a medieval town gate, it makes a very imposing landmark on O'Connell Street.

And the perfect location to finish the Butler Trail in the heart of Clonmel, with a choice of colourful shops, bars and restaurants to relax in before exploring the other Butler Trails and Ireland's Ancient East.

- 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

TIPPERARY Time to take it all in

MUNSTER VALES

IRELAND'S ANCIENT EAST® Wonder Through Time

To Limerick

To Dublin

To Cork

To Dungarvan N25

Kilkenny

Dundrum

Cashel

Tipperary

Emly

Glen of Aherlow

Cahir

Fethard

SLIEVENAMON

Clonmel

Kilsheelan

Carrick-on-Suir

Suir Blue Way

River Suir

Ardfinnan

Clogheen

Callan

Mullinahone

Knocktopher

Rathgormack

Waterford City

The Vee

GALTEE MOUNTAINS

KNOCKMEALDOWN MOUNTAINS

COMERAGH MOUNTAINS

M8 M9 N76 N74 N24 N25 R692 R689 R696 R697 R701 R678 R680 J10

BUTLER SITES

1. Ormond Castle
2. Kilcash 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
12. Fethard

PLACES OF INTEREST

- A Knockroe Tomb
- B Ahenny High Crosses
- C Kilkieran High Crosses
- D Fethard Horse Country Experience
- E Marlfield Village Trail
- F The Apple Farm
- G Sensory & Mobility Garden
- H Glengarra Woods
- I Mitchelstown Caves
- J Glen of Aherlow
- K Rock of Cashel
- L Fethard Medieval Walls
- M Tipperary Co. Museum