

IRISH HARP CENTRE INFORMATION PACK

In this Information pack you will find:

- TRAVEL INFORMATION
- WHAT TO BRING
- ABOUT CASTLECONNELL VILLAGE
- F.A.Q.s
- MORE THINGS TO DO AND SEE

BY AIR

Flying Into Shannon Airport

Visit the airport website: www.shannonairport.com

Your choices are to take a taxi directly to the Irish Harp Centre, (car Hire available at both Shannon Airport and Limerick City) or travel by bus to Limerick Station and then by bus or train to Castleconnell.

By TAXI directly to Castleconnell & the Harp Centre from the Airport:

We recommend our local man MIKE MURPHY TAXIS and you may call Mike on +353 86 8328347 and book your travel. Leave a ½ hour after your arrival time to allow for baggage collection and he will wait for you in Arrivals (holding a card with "Irish Harp Centre"). To travel with Mike will cost you €40 – but if there are others arriving at the same time as yourself, you may choose to share the ride and split the cost. You may also call a regular taxi from the airport at the cost of €45.

For bus / train options:

first travel to LIMERICK BUS/TRAIN STATION from the Airport on the Airport Bus. Duration: 15 minutes departing roughly every 15 minutes. Cost: One way: €5.50 (Students: €4.80); Return: €8.20 (Students €7.20).

FROM LIMERICK CITY BUS & RAIL STATION to CASTLECONNELL

TAXI from Limerick Station to the Irish Harp Centre in Castleconnell costs €15.

BUSES

from Limerick Station to Castleconnell run at the following times:

- 7.40 am
- 10.25 am
- 2.05 pm
- 3 pm
- 4.30 pm (and 4.45 pm on Saturdays).

The journey takes about 30 minutes and costs €3.40.

At Limerick Bus & Train Station; buy your bus ticket for Castleconnell. You will travel on the CLONLARA BUS (ask for it at the station) and ask to be let off at the IRISH HARP CENTRE in CASTLECONNELL. The bus stops at our gate!

TRAINS

(on the RURAL LINE) to Castleconnell run only twice daily only:

- Depart Limerick Station at 7 am, arrive Castleconnell 7.15 am.
- Depart Limerick Station at 3 pm, arrive Castleconnell 3.15 pm.
- Duration: 15 minutes. Cost: ?6 one way or ?10 return

The train station at Castleconnell is about 8 minutes walk from the Harp Centre.

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Walking directions in Castleconnell from the Station to the Harp Centre:

Time needed: 8 minutes. Turn LEFT as you come off the platform, walk into the village passing the (bright yellow) Kingfisher Pub on your left. Continue down the hill toward the castle and turn LEFT at the road junction. Continue around the castle another minute or so and you will see the Harp Centre immediately facing you. If you are carrying a harp or it's raining, phone us when you arrive and we'll pick you up.

Road directions from Shannon or Limerick

From SHANNON:

Take the road for LIMERICK CITY and follow signs for DUBLIN (The N7).

From LIMERICK:

Follow signs for DUBLIN (The N7) and about 2 kilometres (3 miles) out of the city, you pass by signs for the University and ANNACOTTY village. After Annacotty, there is a signpost to TURN LEFT for CASTLECONNELL (4k). Take this road following signs for the CASTLEOAKS HOTEL – pass by the entrance to the hotel and continue down the hill to the sharp bend in the road at the River Shannon. Before that bend, you will see the IRISH HARP CENTRE on the left.

Flying into Dublin Airport

Visit the airport website: www.dublin-airport.com

From Dublin Airport your options are Coach, Train, Air or road. Flight connections to Shannon (only a 25 minute flight) are run by Aer Lingus. (www.aerlingus.com)

Train:

Take the AIRPORT BUS (from just outside Arrivals) to DUBLIN CITY central bus station (named: 'Busarus' located beside Connolly train station).

There are 2 Train Stations in Dublin City:

Connolly Station serves the north and Houston Station serves the west and south. There is an easy LINK BUS constantly travelling between both stations. The journey should cost about €5 and runs every 10 minutes or so. Duration: 20 minutes – 1 hour depending on traffic.

From Dublin Houston rail station there are 2 possible routes to us:

by the Main Line – the more frequent service taking 2/ 2.5 hours or by the Rural Line taking 3.25 hours.

MAIN LINE TRAIN to Limerick Station from Dublin Huston Station:

Cost: €40 single; €51 monthly return.

Note of advice:

be in good time to get a seat as this train is often very full. Train departure times on Mondays are: 05.30 arr 07.47*; 07.10 arr 09.25*; 08.30 arr 10.55*; 10.00 arr 12.35; 10.55 arr 13.10*; 13.05 arr 15.35; 15.20 arr 17.29*; 17.10 arr 19.15; 17.30 arr 20.05; 19.00 arr 21.25*; 21.00 arr 23.32*. All trains marked with * involve one train change en route (usually at Limerick Junction). Check where when you are buying your ticket. There is a Tea/Coffee cart on the train and a food shop. On arrival into Limerick Station, you will need to take the local Train, Bus or Taxi to Castleconnell.... See below.

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RURAL LINE TRAIN to Castleconnell / Limerick

Cost: One way: €35 (Students: €20), Return: €43 (Students: €28)

The journey by the RURAL LINE is the scenic ride, is much cheaper than the main line and brings you directly to our local station in CASTLCONNELL. (Beware of the train change at Ballybrophy) But, there are only two trains per day. These depart at 8.30 am arriving in Castleconnell at 11.10 am and the evening train departs Dublin at 5.30 pm arriving in Castleconnell at 8.25 pm. Once again, if you are carrying a harp or it's raining, phone us when you arrive and we'll pick you up.

For detailed Irish Rail services visit: www.irishrail.ie

COACH From the Airport take the LINK BUS to Dublin Coach Station:

Duration: 3 hours. Cost: One way: €15; Return: €25.

There are buses from the Dublin Bus Station beside Connolly Station travelling to Limerick Bus and Train Station every hour on the half hour (buses at 7.30; 8.30; 9.30 etc). You will arrive into Limerick Station from which you will need to take the local Train, Bus or Taxi to Castleconnell.

For detailed bus/coach information visit: www.buseireann.ie

FROM LIMERICK CITY BUS & RAIL STATION to CASTLECONNELL:

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DRIVING from Dublin

Take the N7 out of Dublin toward the WEST and follow directions for LIMERICK. After the NENAGH bypass, the motorway ends and you pass through the village of Birdhill. A few miles later, you come to DALY'S CROSS with a Maxol Station on your left side. TURN RIGHT here (Signposted Castleconnell 1k). Take the 2nd turning on the LEFT into Castleconnell Village. The signpost also shows the train station. (Beware of this sign as some of our local children often turn the signs to the wrong direction. No matter what the signs say, turn left here!!!) Continue straight by the village down the hill to the ruined castle and TURN LEFT at the T junction. Drive around to the other side of the castle and the Harp Centre is facing you.

For detailed routes visit:

www.aaroadwatch.ie/routes

BY FERRY (UK & France) Visit the following sites for detailed information:

www.irishferries.com

www.stenaline.co.uk

www.swanseacorkferries.com

www.brittany-ferries.co.uk

For detailed road routes within Ireland visit:

www.aaroadwatch.ie/routes