



The Inland Waterways of Ireland

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This replaces all previous supplements

Caution

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this supplement. It contains selected information and thus is not definitive and does not include all known information on the subject in hand; this is particularly relevant to the plans, which should not be used for navigation. The author and Imray Laurie Norie and Wilson Ltd believe that its selection is a useful aid to prudent navigation, but the safety of a vessel depends ultimately on the judgement of the navigator, who should assess all information, published or unpublished, available to him.

This supplement contains amendments and corrections sent in by cruising yachtsmen and women. The updating of cruising guides is an ongoing process and the publisher is always glad to receive information, sketch charts or photographs for incorporation in future supplements or new editions.

Note where lights have been modified in this text do please remember to alter them on the appropriate plan.

Author's Caution

It must be emphasised that none of the charts, plans or sketch plans shown in this guide should be used for navigation, nor should they be in any way considered as substitutes for the official charts and other nautical reference materials which every vessel is obliged by international law to have on board.

Page 13 Authorities and management of the waterways

Addresses:

Waterways Ireland

Headquarters: 2 Sligo Road, Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh, BT74 7JY

☎ +44 (0)28 6632 3004, Fax +44 (0)28 6634 6257

Regional Offices

Northern Region: Carrick-on-Shannon
Somerview House, Old Dublin Road, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim

☎ +353 (0)71 965 0787, Fax +353 (0)71 962 2866

Eastern Region: Dublin

Floor 2, Block C, Ashtowngate, Navan Road, Dublin 15

☎ +353 (0)1 868 0148, Fax +353 (0)1 838 3647

Western Region: Scarriff

Dock Road, Drewsborough, Scarriff, Co Clare

☎ +353 (0)61 922033, Fax +353 (0)61 922147

Page 14 Useful websites

Waterways Ireland www.waterwaysireland.org

Inland Waterways Association of Ireland
www.iwai.ie

Irish Boat Rental Association

www.boatholidaysireland.com

Erne Charter Boat Association

www.boat-holidays.com

Royal Canal Amenity Group www.royalcanal.net

River Bann and Lough Neagh Association

<http://riverbannloughneagh.org>

Tourism Ireland www.discoverireland.com

Northern Ireland

www.discovernorthernireland.com

Afloat magazine www.afloat.ie

National Trust www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Sustrans www.sustrans.org.uk

Restorations and new projects

Royal Canal

On 1st October 2010 the Royal Canal was opened through to Richmond Harbour in Co. Longford and so access to the Shannon was re-established for the first time in over 50 years. This impressive restoration project means it is now possible to cruise a circuit from Dublin to the Shannon and back via the Grand and Royal canals.

In Dublin itself, access from the river to the Royal Canal is possible, but it is still quite difficult. The tidal window is brief, about 2–2½ hours on each tide, when you have both sufficient depth of water over the sill of Lock No.1 and enough clearance under the bridges. The ambitious Spencer Dock re-development plan has transformed this area with offices, apartments, a hotel and Conference Centre.

The Longford Branch has not yet been restored but it is still hoped that this will happen in due course.

Ulster Canal

In late summer 2010 plans for the first phase of the restoration of the Ulster Canal, from Upper Lough Erne to Clones in Co. Monaghan, were published for consultation. Maps of the possible routes were available for the public to study and submit their comments.

It is hoped that once planning permission has been granted the construction work will be completed in two years. The proposed distance is about 15km but it will offer an interesting diversion for people cruising Upper Lough Erne and the Shannon-Erne Waterway. Whether funding will be available in the current economic climate we will have to wait and see.

Lagan Navigation

There is continuing support for the restoration of the Lagan Navigation from voluntary groups and the various councils along the route of the canal and river. Belfast City Council is working on a project to build a new lock and weir at Stanmillis and also to restore lock No.2. The restoration links in with the developments in the Titanic Quarter in Belfast.

Castlereagh Borough Council have been actively involved with the restoration of lock No.3, the lock keepers cottage

and the development of a visitor centre at the Newforge site.

Lisburn City Council was involved with the restoration of lock No.12 and the development of the Island Mill site in the city centre which includes an arts and conference centre.

Throughout the length of the canal the towpath can be accessed and in parts is a good cycle route. Work has been progressing on the towpath at Aghagallon with support from Craigavon Borough Council. To follow developments on the restoration of the Lagan Navigation the website run by the Lagan Canal Trust is a good starting point, www.lagancanaltrust.org.

Page 16 Hire Companies 2011

The main organisations involved with boating and tourism in Ireland are the Irish Boat Rental Association, Erne Charter Boat Association, Tourism Ireland and Waterways Ireland.

Barrow Navigation and Grand Canal

Canalways Ireland Barge Holidays Spencer Bridge, Rathangan, Co. Kildare. Contact: Karin Klinkenbergh
☎ 00 353 (0)87 243 3879

Email canal holidays@eircom.net

www.canalways.ie

Base at Rathangan.

Barrowline Cruisers Vicarstown, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.
Contact: Philip Crean

☎ 00 353 (0)57 862 6060, 00 353 (0)87 988 7241

Email barrowline@eircom.net

www.barrowline.ie

Base at Vicarstown.

Jennifer's Travels Bell Harbour, Monasterevin, Co. Kildare
Contact: Paul and Niamh Wallace

☎ +353 (0)86 342 5546

Email jenniferstravels@gmail.com

www.jennifers-travels.com

Base at Monasterevin.

Erne Navigation

Aghinver Boat Company Ltd Irvinestown, Co. Fermanagh
BT94 1JY

Contact: Michael McCaldin

☎ 028 6863 1400, *Email* info@abcboats.com

www.abcboats.com

Base at Irvinestown.

Carrick Craft Kinnego Marina, Oxford Island, Lurgan, Co. Armagh BT66 6NJ

☎ 028 3834 4993 or 00 353 (0)1 278 1666

Email sales@carrickcraft.com

www.carrickcraft.com or www.cruise-ireland.com

Bases at Tully Bay, Lower Lough Erne, Banagher and Carrick-on-Shannon on the Shannon.

Carrybridge Boat Company Lisbellaw, Co. Fermanagh
BT94 5HX

Contact: Robert McClean

☎ 028 6638 7034, *Fax* 028 6638 7651

Base at Carrybridge.

Manor House Marine Killadeas, Co. Fermanagh BT94 1NY
Contact: Christopher Noble

☎ 028 6862 8100, *Email* info@manormarine.com

www.manormarine.com

Base at Killadeas, Lower Lough Erne.

Royal Canal

Royal Canal Cruisers 12th Lock, Castleknock, Dublin 15

Contact: David Woodnutt

☎/Fax +353 (0)1 820 5263

Email info@royalcanalcruisers.com

www.royalcanalcruisers.com

Base at Lock 12.

Shannon Navigation

Emerald Star The Marina, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim

☎ 00 353 (0)71 962 7633,

Fax 00 353 (0)71 962 1433

Email info@emeraldstar.ie

www.emeraldstar.ie

Bases at Carrick-on-Shannon, Portumna and Belturbet.

Shannon Castle Line Ltd Williamstown Harbour, Whitegate, Co. Clare

Contact: Angus Levie

☎ 00 353 (0)61 927042

Email sales@shannoncruisers.com

www.shannoncruisers.com

Base at Williamstown Harbour, Lough Derg.

Silver Line Cruisers Ltd The Marina, Banagher, Co. Offaly

Contact: Barbara Smyth

☎ 00 353 (0)57 915 1112

Email info@silverlinecruisers.com

www.silverlinecruisers.com

Base at Banagher.

Waveline Cruisers Ltd Quigley's Marina, Killinure Point, Glasson, Athlone, Co. Westmeath

Contact: Sven and Anita Neubert

☎ 00 353 (0)90 648 5711, *Email* info@waveline.ie

www.waveline.ie

Base at Killinure Point, Lough Ree.

Shannon-Erne Waterway

Corraquill Cruising Holidays Aghalane, Derrylin, Co. Fermanagh

Contact: Sean and Mary Drumm

☎ 028 677 48712, *Email* corraquill@ntlworld.com

www.corraquill.co.uk

Base at Lock No.1.

Locaboat Ireland The Marina, Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim

☎ 00 353 (0)71 964 5300, *Email* info@locaboat.com

www.locaboat.com

Base at Ballinamore.

Riversdale Barge Holidays Riversdale, Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim

Contact: Graham Thomas

☎ 00 353 (0)71 964 4122

Email info@riversdalebargeholidays.com

www.riversdalebargeholidays.com

Base at Ballinamore.

Hotel barge

Shannon Princess II, Brittas, Glasson, Athlone, Co. Westmeath

Contact: Ruairi Gibbons

☎ 00 353 (0)87 251 4809, *Email* through the website

www.shannonprincess.com

One week cruises Athlone to Killaloe or reverse. The barge accommodates just 10 guests.

Page 21 Lower Bann Navigation

Guides and pilots River Bann and Lough Neagh Pilot by Michael Savage published by the River Bann and Lough Neagh Association, up-dated 2009.

Page 62 Lough Neagh

Berthing Sandy Bay Marina, Ram’s Island
Guides and pilots River Bann and Lough Neagh Pilot by Michael Savage published by the River Bann and Lough Neagh Association, up-dated 2009.

Islands of Lough Neagh by Michael Savage published by the River Bann and Lough Neagh Association, 2009.

Page 72 Royal Canal Plan – see below

The Royal Canal has now been restored through to Richmond Harbour and its junction with the Shannon. The route of the canal on the map should now be a solid blue line. The Longford Branch has yet to be restored and should remain as an open line.

Page 77 Ballynacargy to the Shannon

The high street of Ballynacargy is a short walk from the harbour and it can offer the essentials of life, shops, post office, pubs and garage. There is a sanitary block at the harbour as well as water and a slipway so trailable boats can be launched. Continuing to Abbeyshrule there are three locks, several bridges and you go over the River Inny on an aqueduct.

Abbeyshrule is quite a little gathering place of boats and there is a jolly atmosphere of boating badinage on sunny evenings and at weekends. Close to the harbour are a couple of pubs which offer food and for a more cultural activity you can visit the ruins of a Cistercian abbey a short walk away. Just before Draper’s Bridge you pass through Lock No.39 and then you are into the 11km pound which jinks back and fore under bridges, roughly following the course of the River Inny as it heads towards the Shannon.

At Ballybranigan harbour there are a couple of goalposts suspended over the canal for watersports events and the remains of the old ticket office are on the canal bank. The countryside is more open now with wider views as some

reaches of the canal actually run along embankments. The route of the canal turns more towards the north as it curves round Mulliwarnia Hill, the site of much quarrying over the years, losing touch with the River Inny. From here there are wonderful views down to Lough Ree and one early plan for the canal was that it should join the Shannon in Lough Ree, but this was opposed by the Grand Canal Company.

The canal soon starts to cross Cloonbreany Bog which can feel a wild and windswept reach and from Mosstown Harbour you can walk to the Corlea Trackway Visitor Centre. Raised bogs are such an integral part of the Irish landscape that they can be taken for granted but here you can see how they develop and, in a special case, is a section of oak bog road which dates back to the Iron Age. More of the submerged track is preserved within the bog close-by.

Just after Crossover Bridge the Longford Branch Canal joins the main line. This 8.5km canal is not currently navigable but there are plans to restore it. For the energetic it is possible to walk along the towpath up to Longford town. After the next two locks the canal again crosses a bog, Begnagh Bog. It is about 3km to one of the new structures of the restoration, an electronically activated lift bridge which carries the road from Cloondara to Killashee. The old stone bridge has been left in place just after the new one and it is much nicer to lean on and watch boats passing through.

The canal now passes down through Lock No.45 and enters Richmond Harbour. There is a very good new facilities block here plus a children’s playground, picnic tables and a park between the basin and the River Camlin. At the far end of the harbour is a dry dock and the final lock of the canal which takes boats down into the Camlin River before joining the Shannon.

Page 79 Distance table

Scally’s Bridge delete: ‘present limit of navigation’

Between Lock No.44 and Lock No.45 insert:
Begnagh Lift Bridge 142.9

