



Awarded a Tidy Towns Endeavour Award 2004

Askeaton

a heritage town

Eas Geitine

Céad Mile Fáilte

We in Askeaton know the true meaning of that ancient greeting. Being one of the oldest towns in Ireland, we have a strong tradition of visitors. Walk through our town and you will become aware of its medieval heritage. With its winding streets and imposing ruins you will find a rare mix of old and new.

Take the time to immerse yourself in the world of the Desmond Geraldines with a tour of the Castle and Franciscan friary. Wander at your ease with a walk around the beautiful river Deel with its rich tradition of salmon and trout.

For a complete change of scene, go for a swim in our heated pool. Try Go-Karting or a visit to the Celtic Theme Park. Whatever you want from your holiday, be it a trip back in time or a fun filled break, Askeaton has it all.

Call to the Tourist Office in the centre of town, situated beside the medieval bridge. You will find that we do indeed extend a Céad Mile Fáilte to all.

Historical Askeaton

The Gaelic name for Askeaton is 'Eas Geitine' and probably derives from the waterfall, which is just south of the town on the River Deel. The cascade or 'eas' was near the spot where the 'Geiptine' or 'Geiptine' tribe settled in pre-Christian times. The place then became known as 'Eas Geiptine' or 'Geiptine's Cascade'. In later times the name changed by various stages until it arrived at its present form.



Desmond Castle
The focal point of Askeaton is the Desmond Castle, which stands in the centre of town on a rocky island on the river Deel. Founded by William de Burgh in 1199, it became the dwelling place of the Kings of Munster. In the mid-thirteenth centuries, the castle was rebuilt and what you see today dates from that period.

The Constable Tower, which consists of three stories, the Second Tower, was a latrine tower, and the third and most familiar, the Desmond Tower. This building contains the remains of three rooms. The ground floors were vaulted, the first floor contains the remains of a massive fireplace and the second floor a smaller fireplace, both served by the same chimney.

Banqueting Hall - The outer ward contains a building known as the Halla Mór - the great hall. One of the finest examples to be seen in Ireland, it was built by the 7th Earl of Desmond, James, in about 1440 - 1459. Underneath the hall is a chamber which dates from the twelve hundreds and was used as wine cellars and kitchens.

The Hell Fire Club

In the grounds of the Desmond Castle stands the remains of the Hell Fire Club, a red brick structure built in around 1740. There were many such gentlemen's clubs in the mid-seventeen hundreds. The Askeaton's club, which was founded in 1740, stayed in existence up to the end of that century. The popular tipple of members of the Hell Fire Club was "Scaltheen", a mixture of cream and whiskey, a forerunner of our modern Irish Cream.



The Franciscan Friary

The 4th Earl of Desmond, Gerald, founded the Franciscan Friary about 1389. It is one of the most complete ruins of a Medieval Abbey and includes beautiful cloisters, the east window, transepts, a carving of St. Francis and the chapter room which is the final resting-place of the two Irish Martyrs, Bishop Patrick O'Healy and Fr. Conn O'Rourke.

A more recent tomb shelters the remains of the grandparents of the famous Hollywood actor, J. Carrol Naish.

The Franciscan Abbey is the burial place of the Earls of Desmond.

Flour Mill / Creamery

The Mill was built in 1796 by William Studdert and was a flour mill originally worked by a water wheel. In 1927 it became a registered creamery under Askeaton Co-Operative and Dairy Society.

St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church

The present Catholic Church was built in 1851, is constructed of

limestone rock and has beautiful stained glass windows. The window on the right transept shows the resurrection of Christ, while that on the left transept depicts his Ascension into heaven.

St. Mary's Church of Ireland and Knights Templar Tower

The original church was founded by the Knights Templar in 1268. The Belfry from the old church stands today. It is most unusual in that it has a square base and an octagonal top. It is based on Norman architecture.



The present church building was probably built in 1829. The Cemetery holds ancient and more recent graves, including that of Irish poet Aubrey de Vere who died in 1902. Victims of the mid-19th Century famine are also buried here.

Library

Built in 1907 it was designed by architect W.F.C Hartigan who was the district engineer and responsible for the design of a number of other libraries in neighbouring towns. In the past the building has also been used as a school and a dance hall.



Beagh Castle

Dating from Viking times, this edifice on the banks of the river Shannon has had a chequered history. Among its lords have been a Viking prince, a Norman Bishop of Limerick, the Knight of Glin and a Cromwellian General.

This project has been funded by the Irish Government and part funded by the European Union under the National Development and Rural Planning Framework 2000 - 2006

Produced by Askeaton Civic Trust.
ASKEATON TOURIST POINT
 The Square, Askeaton, Co. Limerick
 Telephone: 061 392149
 Askeaton Tourist Point is a project of Askeaton Civic Trust

Bibliography:
 Eas Geitine, Patrick J. Cronin
 The Auld Town, Patrick J. Cronin
 Aubrey de Vere - The Bard of Cunnagh Chase, Patrick J. Cronin
 St. Mary's Catholic Church, Askeaton, Patrick J. Cronin



Aughinish Alimnua
 Cois Siomna Credit Union
 Askeaton Community Council
 Limerick County Library
 Limerick County Council
 This brochure has been funded by Local Tourists Interests of Askeaton / Ballysteven with special thanks to the following for their assistance.



Gun Club
 Shooting: Duck Season 1st Sept - 1st Feb, Pheasant Season 1st Nov - 1st Feb.
 John Maune Tel.: 061 398138
 Fishing (Deel Anglers)
 Aidan Hanley (Fishing Tackle) 061 392229

Point-to-Point Racing
 25 day hunting between Mid October and end of February, two Point to Points in January and April. Visitors welcome by appointment with master.
 Master: Michael O'Shaughnessy, Tel.: 061 392218



ADDITIONAL CONTACTS



20. Celtic Park and Gardens
 Celtic theme Park and Gardens located on an original Celtic settlement. On display are a stone circle, mass rock dolmen, lake dwelling, oggiam stone cooking site, stone church, holy well and historic ring fort. Tea/coffee & shop. Open daily March - November from 9 am - 7 pm. Tel.: 061 394243

19. Stonehall Visitor Farm
 Forty five acre farm & animal sanctuary with interpretative nature walks. Includes "Feed the pets", Bouncing Castle and play area. Picnic area. Tea/coffee & shop. Open 6 days April - Sept. 10 am - 6 pm. Sun. 12 - 6 pm all year round. Other times by appointment. Tel.: 061 393940 Email: stonehallvisitorfarm@eircom.net



1. Tourist Information Point

Talk to our friendly staff for information and guided tours. Open daily May - September from 10 am - 5 pm. Tel.: 061 392149

2. Desmond Castle & Hell Fire Club

Step back in time and visit the magnificent ruins of the Desmond legacy. Also on the grounds of the Castle is the ruin of the Askeaton Hell Fire club. (see historical notes) Tours arranged from Tourist Point.



3. River Walk

Take a leisurely scenic stroll along the river Deel passing historical points of interest which includes the Franciscan Friary. (outlined on the map - - - - -)

4. Saint Mary's Roman Catholic Church

Mass Times: Saturday 7 pm. Sunday 11.30 am. (see historical notes)



5. Grotto

Built in the Marian year 1988 and completed for the Feast of the Assumption on the 15th of August.

6. Askeaton Swimming Pool

Twenty five metre heated pool with disabled facilities and a separate toddler area. Askeaton Swimming Club was established in 1959. Open mid May - mid September Tel.: 061 392295 www.askeaton-swim.ie



7. Franciscan Friary

The most beautiful and complete mined Medieval Abbey in Ireland. (see historical notes) Tours arranged from Tourist Point

8. St. Mary's Church of Ireland & Knights Templar Tower

Church Service Times: 1st Sun. of month Holy Communion 9.45 am. 3rd Sun. of month Morning Prayer 9.45 am. (see historical notes)

9. Askeaton GAA (Cumann Lúthchleas Gael)

Local club of the Gaelic Athletic Association for Hurling and Football. Michael Ryan Tel: 061 398198

10. Askeaton Association Football Club Francis Sheahan Tel: 061 398294

11. Boyce's Garden's

These one acre award winning Gardens have been developed over a period of 18 years by the Boyce family. Open daily May-October. from 10am. - 6 pm. Tel. 069 65502 Email: dboyce.ias@eircom.net



12. Aughinish Nature Trails

A self guided nature trail through a meadowland of grasses, herbs and wild flowers. The trail includes Birdhides, Butterfly and Dragonfly sanctuaries. Open year round. Tel.: 061 6040000

13. Deel Boat Club Marina

Cyril Ryan Tel: 061 392198



14. Ballymacourty Gardens, Ballysteen

This 25 year old garden of 1.6ha lies close to the river Shannon and is designed as a series of small gardens all inter-linked. By Appointment. Tel.: 061 396409 Email: stacpool@iol.ie

15. Beagh Castle and Picnic Area. (see historical notes)

16. St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, Ballysteen.

Built in 1861 of blue limestone. The site for the Church was donated by the 5th Earl of Dunraven who was the owner of the townland. Mass Time: Sunday 9.30 am.

17. Kilcoman Karting

Professional floodlight outdoor karting arena that has staged the All-Ireland Finals on numerous occasions. Open all year round. Bookings and details. Tel.: 061 395735



18. Curraghchase Forest Park This amenity within the ambience of a Coillte forest park, incorporates woodland walks, nature trails, lake gardens and the ruins of Curraghchase House, the 18th century home of the poet Aubrey de Vere. Facilities include picnic and children's playground areas.



Open all year round. Tel.: 061 357322 Web: www.coillte.ie Email: okeeffee@coillte.ie Also Curraghchase Caravan & Camping Park open May 1st - Mid Sept. each year.

Services

1. Bank of Ireland / ATM / Bureau de Change (061) 392105
2. Aidan Hanley Fishing Tackle (061) 392229
3. Shanahan's Newsagents (061) 392141
4. Mary's Gift Shop (061) 392711
5. Deel Pharmacy (061) 398888
6. Library (061) 392256
7. Pharmacy, Kevin Davison MPSI (061) 392345
8. Komer Newsagents (061) 392152
9. Present Time Gift Shop (061) 392355
10. Garda Station (061) 392102
11. Amber Filling Station (061) 392811
12. Medical Centre. (061) 392267
13. Cois Sionna Credit Union / Bureau de Change (061) 392257
14. Post Office. (061) 392122
15. Lyons Garage. (061) 398322

Eating Out? Have a drink!

1. Cagney's Lounge Bar, East Square (061) 392141 ☑
2. Ranahan's Bar, East Square ☑
3. O'Mahony's Bar (061) 392881 ☑
4. Kennedy's Lounge Bar (061) 392227 ☑
5. Noleen's of Casey's Bar (061) 392254 ☑
6. Jack's Lounge Bar & Restaurant (061) 398910 ☑☑☑
7. Dragon Court Chinese Restaurant & Take-Away (061) 398985 ☑☑☑
8. The Belfry Coffee Shop, Church Street ☑☑
9. Arena Supermarket Delicatessen (061) 392122 ☑☑
10. Downes Bar, Church St (061) 392659 ☑
11. Kilcoman House Lounge Bar (061) 393171 ☑
12. The Anglers Rest, Loughill (069) 82125 ☑☑☑

Accommodation

1. Mary Rattle B&B, Sunhill, Askeaton (061) 392286
2. Coolrahee Guest House, N69 Askeaton (061) 398883
3. Ballindeel House B&B and Self Catering, Askeaton (061) 392784
4. Fitz's Self Catering Cottage, Askeaton (061) 392654
5. Sporting Lodge Self Catering, Clashgamiff, Shanagolden (061) 398181
6. Whitethorn B&B, Clounreask, Askeaton (061) 392556
7. Killeen House B&B, N69 Kilcoman (061) 393025
8. Curragheen Self Catering Farm House, Askeaton (061) 398108