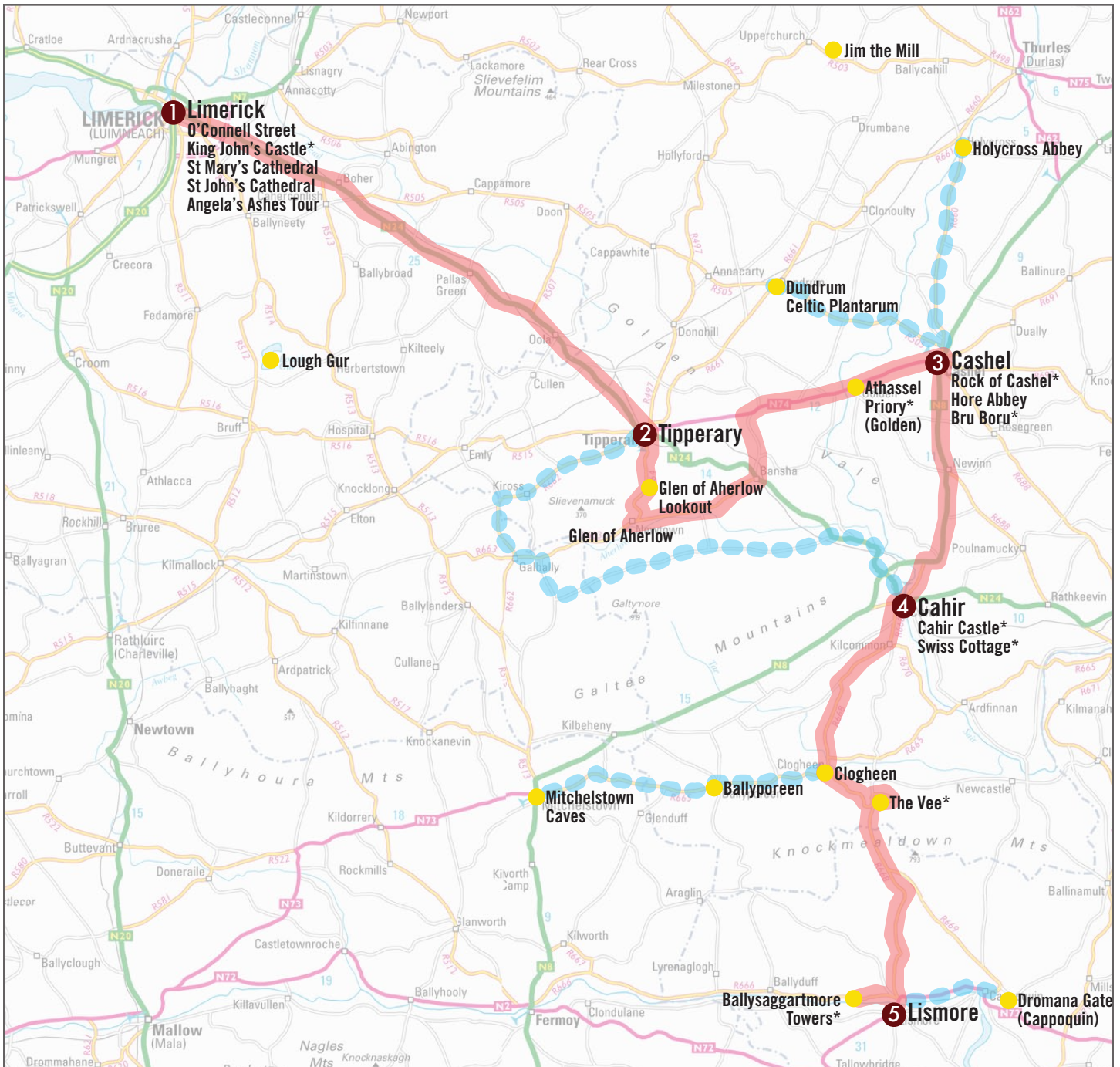


IRELAND

Days 2 & 3: COUNTY TIPPERARY
Wed & Thurs MAY 9 & 10



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2 TIPPERARY

It's a long way to Tipperary, or so the song goes. Tipperary County is Ireland's largest inland county and offers some of Ireland's best farmland. Meanwhile, the busy market town with the name Tipperary has shops that include butchers, bakers as well as cell phone and skateboard shops. It's a working person's town, so expect stores and restaurants to cater to locals instead of tourists.



GLEN OF AHERLOW

A fifteen minute drive from Tipperary, the Glen of Arhelow offers amazing views of the Galtee Mountains. From the viewing area, there are several wooded paths that include the ruins of a famine cottage and a remnant of Ireland's earliest highway/mail system. 1hr



ATHASSEL PRIORY*

Off the Tourist Trail

Once the largest medieval priory in Ireland, Athassel in the village of Golden was founded in the 12th century and expanded until the 15th century. The ruins offer a maze of buildings you can freely explore. Steps are built into the gate to make access easier. Be sure to enter the church through the beautifully carved doorway and look for the carved face protruding from the southwest corner of the chapel tower, about 30ft/90m above ground level. 30min-1hr

FREE | Open during daylight hours

3 CASHEL

For 900 years Cashel served as the seat of the High Kings of Ireland and later as an important ecclesiastical site.

ROCK OF CASHEL*

Considered one of the most important historical sites in Ireland "The Rock" has been modestly called Ireland's Acropolis. Built on a commanding spot 200ft/60m above the surrounding countryside, The Rock of Cashel cannot be missed. A 20-minute audio-visual presentation is available and guided tours are included in the tour, but you are welcome to tour on your own or join a tour already in progress. 1-1.5hrs

9:30a-4:30p mid Oct to mid Mar, open as late at 7:30 in summer | €5.30



It's a Long Way...

No WWI movie would be complete without some British private singing:

It's a long way to Tipperary.

It's a long way to go.

It's a long way to Tipperary,

To the sweetest girl I know...

It was written in 1912 by Englishman Jack Judge, who had never set foot in Ireland. A fish seller by day and musician by night, Judge took on a friendly bet that he would write a song in 24 hours and perform it on stage at the local music hall the next evening. On his way home Judge heard someone giving directions and caught the phrase 'It's a long way to...' The next morning he hit on the name Tipperary for its melodic sound and metre. Judge wrote the song that day and performed it that same evening, winning both his bet and later a fortune in royalties."

— Excerpt from *The Readers Digest Illustrated Guide to Ireland*