

# Places to see near Knockahopple

## WITHIN 10 MILES

### Keeper Hill

Keeper Hill and the Silvermines Mountains offer some of the most beautiful views of the area. The region is known for its scenic driving routes and hiking trails - including the Slieve Felim Way trail. A climb to the top of Keeper ends at the highest point in County Tipperary.

When discussing the weather, locals refer to the halo of fog that often forms near the peak of the hill by saying, "Keeper is wearing his cap today."

Located atop the Silvermines Mountains, the Step Viewing Point offers views of the town of Nenagh with its historic castle and churches, as well as the River Shannon, Lough Derg, and the Arra Mountains.

From Step, visitors can also catch a glimpse of Kilboy Estate, former home of the Barron Dunalley and, later, Tony Ryan, the founder of Ryan Air. The property allows access the ruins of this 15th century parish church that went through minor excavation and a major clean-up, conservation, and partial reconstruction program in 1987.

### Vale of Cuneen

This beautiful valley located between Knockahopple and Templederry provides a fantastic scenic drive by auto or bicycle.

### Castle Ottway

Seldom visited by tourists, Castle Ottway was occupied until the early 20th century and once home to the Ottway Harp (now on display in the National Museum), but the castle is now in ruins. Although it is not set up for visitors, guests have been known to explore the ruins and admire the Georgian Revival addition that was added to the original castle in the 1800's.

### Kilcommon Prayer Garden

Site of St Colom's Well, the Prayer Garden is an effort by the townspeople to promote their fair village. In addition to the formal rose garden, the entire site has been landscaped to create a meditative area that has become a popular pilgrimage site. A local tradesman has carved the Stations of the Cross in teak that are displayed in the garden.

### Shanballyedmond Court Cairn

Located just outside of the village of Rear Cross, this 4,000-year-old megalithic structure is believed to have been a tomb or part of a burial rite.

# Places to see near Knockahopple

## WITHIN 15 MILES

### Nenagh Castle

Boasting the finest cylindrical keep in Ireland, the 13th Century Nenagh Castle opened to the public for the first time in recent history in 2013. A series of narrow spiral staircases take visitors to the jaw-dropping rooftop with 360 degree views of the surrounding area.

The town of Nenagh surrounds the castle and continues to serve as the area's primary market town with an collection of shops and restaurants.

### Jim o' the Mill

Jim Ryan and his wife and daughters serve up a traditional Irish shebeen for their neighbors every Thursday evening. The night includes Irish music, storytelling, and an abundance of craic... and Guinness is among the beverages served. This is truly a unique experience that captures authentic Ireland at its best.

## WITHIN 20 MILES

### Clare Glens & Glenstal Abbey

Located on the border of Limerick and Tipperary Counties, a hike through Clare Glens features a series of waterfalls and rapids that cut through a red sandstone gorge to provide breathtaking scenery.

Only minutes from Clare Glens, Glenstal Abbey offers a quiet retreat. Originally the Barrington family estate, the buildings and grounds have been in the care of Benedictine monks since 1926. Because the Abbey functions as a private school, guests are not permitted in most of the buildings. However, visitors are encouraged to walk the fuchsia-and rhododendron-lined paths.

A visit to the interior of the church offers a visual surprise, and the High Mass on Sunday features the Monks singing Gregorian Chant. Visitors may also inquire about a tour of the monastery's fine collection of Russian icons.

### Lough Derg

In addition to supreme scenery, Ireland's premiere lake hosts a variety of fishing, boating, and leisure activities. A day trip around Lough Derg provides a great experience for hikers, shoppers, and history buffs.

At the southern tip of Lough Derg, the twin villages of Killaloe and Ballina are connected by an ancient arched bridge. Brian Boru, the last high king of Ireland, was born in the area. A drive in the Arra Mountains can include a stop at the Graves of the Leinstermen, an 11th Century burial site of a Leinster King and his army who were killed when Brian Boru's wife sent a surprise attack to intercept their plans to slay her husband.

The trip can also include a drive to take in the views from the Five Counties Scenic Lookout (which actually offers views of six counties on a clear day) or a picturesque hike to the Millenium Cross.

At the northern end of Lough Derg, the village of Portumna attracts visitors to its 17th Century, semi-fortified castle which is surrounded by beautiful gardens.

# Places to see near Knockahopple

## WITHIN 30 MILES

### Holycross Abbey

One of Europe's most significant early monastic sites, the abbey was fully restored in the 1970s. This fine example of a 15th century church is now a flourishing parish that hosts pilgrims who make their way to side chapel to view the relics of the "True Cross" that are housed here.

### The Rock of Cashel & Athassel Priory

The last seat of the high kings of Munster, the Rock of Cashel is a spectacular group of medieval buildings on an outcrop of limestone. Perched above Ireland's fertile Golden Vale, the site includes a round tower, Romanesque chapel, cathedral, and restored hall of the Vicars Choral. Nearby Bru Boru Heritage Centre celebrates Irish music, dance and storytelling through art exhibits, a shop and live shows.

Once the largest medieval priory in Ireland, Athassel offers a maze of old buildings you can freely explore. A visit here will require climbing stiles built into the wall.

### The Glen of Aherlow

The gorgeous Tipperary valley known as The Glen of Aherlow offers amazing views of the Galtee Mountains and is close to several "hidden" holy wells.

### Limerick City

The Republic of Ireland's third largest city and the setting for Frank McCourt's book "Angela's Ashes," Limerick offers shopping, music, theater, fine dining, and a variety of historic and cultural attractions. King John's Castle on the River Shannon went through a multi-million euro renovation and re-opened to the public in 2013 making it one of the best castle experiences in Ireland, and the city's Milk Market combines farm fresh and artisan foods with crafts and secondhand goods... with the best assortment available on Saturday before 1pm.

## WITHIN 40 MILES

### Cahir Castle & the Swiss Cottage

One of Ireland's largest and best preserved castles, Cahir Castle is situated on a rocky island on the River Suir. Scenes from the movie Braveheart were filmed there, and a walk along the walls makes visitors feel as if they are on a film set.

The Swiss Cottage celebrates the "cottage ornee" period in Europe when the wealthy aristocracy emulated Marie Antoinette and built splendid rural "cottages" to pretend they were living a peasant's life. A twenty-minute riverside trail links the Swiss Cottage and Cahir Castle.

# Places to see near Knockahopple

## Bunratty Castle & Folk Park

The restored 15th century castle is considered one of the most complete in Ireland, and it is surrounded by 25 acres of traditional Irish cottages and buildings. The main street recreates a 19th century village, and it is all watched over by the "big house" on the hill. The castle also features a nightly Medieval Banquet, and the corn barn hosts a Traditional Irish Night.

A sister store to the famous mill at Blarney operates in Bunratty. The shops provide a selection of Irish items from crystal to clothing to chocolate.

### WITHIN 60 MILES

## The Shannon Estuary, & Foynes Flying Boat Museum

In addition to its natural beauty, a drive along the Shannon Estuary presents a series of unique sites and experiences. Among these the Foynes Flying Boat Museum which takes visitors to a golden age when the first commercial planes crossed the Atlantic and the first Irish Coffee served.

Part of the Limerick Garden Route, Knockpatrick Gardens features the efforts of Helen and Tim O'Brien who continue the tradition started by Tim's father. The couple are always happy to share their beautiful garden with visitors who pass through.

Possibly one of Ireland's prettiest villages, Adare and its collection of thatched cottages and ruined churches offers a great look at Irish culture and history.

A sleepy village along the Shannon Estuary, Askeaton boasts a wonderful castle and amazing friary. Visitors are encouraged to take in local historian Anthony Sheehy's tours...which are free, but tips are encouraged.

## Kilkenny Medieval Town

Ireland's Medieval capital, Kilkenny continues its market town tradition with a variety of shops, restaurants, and historic sites. Its web of ancient streets and alleyways wind their way from the impressive castle that has been fully restored. The stables of Kilkenny Castle have been converted into the Irish National Design Center with shops selling a variety of Irish-made crafts.

## Kells Priory and Jerpoint Abbey

The extensive ruins of Kells priory reveal its former size and importance in Ireland. Meanwhile, one of Ireland's finest ruined abbeys can be found in Jerpoint where the unique cloister pillar carvings represent the dress and styles of 14th and 15th century life.

# Places to see near Knockahopple

## Kilbeggan Distillery

Home to Ireland's oldest licensed distillery still in operation, Kilbeggan combines Ireland's old and new traditions in whiskey making. While self-guided tours are available, the premier Gold Tour gives you access to special areas such as the old storehouse and the modern distillery, as well as a chance to speak with one of the distillers... including Ireland's first female distiller.

## The Rock of Dunamase

This hilltop ruin of an ancient fortress overlooks the County Laois countryside. The expansive views reveal why the site was originally selected for a defensive position.

### WITHIN 75 MILES

## Lismore and The Vee

Lismore Castle, once occupied by Fred Astaire's sister, is not open to the public, but the stunning gardens are only one of many attractions in this charming village. Nearby Ballysaggatmore Towers were built as extravagant gatehouses to a home that was never built.

A drive through The Vee (aka "The Gap") has been listed as one of the "1,000 Things to Do Before you Die" during rhododendron season (mid-May to early-June) when the flowers paint the hillside pink and purple. Even when the flowers aren't in bloom, The Vee is considered one of Ireland's most beautiful inland drives. The pass gets its name from the shape cut out of the Knockmealdown mountainside... which was supposedly cut by St Patrick's Cow.

## Waterford & Annestown Beach

First produced in 1783, Waterford Crystal is known around the world for its beauty and quality. The tradition continues at House of Waterford, a new crystal factory and visitor centre that offers intimate tours of the craftsman at work and a stunning gift shop.

Outside Waterford City, the road along Ireland's Copper Coast presents a collection of scenic sea views, including dramatic Annestown Beach.

## The Cliffs of Moher & County Clare

The spectacular coastal views of the Cliffs of Moher are among Ireland's most famous, and they can be enjoyed from either the new visitor centre atop the Cliffs or from the sea below. Nearby, the village of Doolin has become a popular home of traditional Irish music; meanwhile, sites such as St Brigid's Well, Doolin Cave, and the Poulnabrone Dolmen beckon visitors.

# Places to see near Knockahopple

## The Burren and Burren Perfumery

The barren limestone landscape of The Burren showcases one of Ireland's natural wonders. The UNESCO-supported Global Geopark features a unique limestone karst landscape with exposed stone that provides a home for alpine and tropical plants that manage to grow side-by-side.

The Burren is also home to Ireland's only handcrafted perfumery. The Burren Perfumery is not accessible to buses; so the shop, gardens, and tea room serve as an oasis for visitors traveling by car, foot, or bicycle.

## Irish National Stud and Gardens

Horse breeding is serious business in Ireland, and the Irish National Stud gives visitors a peek at the business and the animals that have made Ireland famous. The grounds also include the beautiful Japanese Garden and Saint Fiachara's Garden.

### WITHIN 90 MILES

## The Dingle Peninsula

Overshadowed by the Ring of Kerry to the south, the Dingle Peninsula holds its own with amazing scenery and charming towns. With Dingle town and the famed Sleat Head Drive, the peninsula combines spectacular vistas with historical sites such as beehive huts, ancient churches, and stone forts.

## Blarney Castle

Ireland's most famous attraction. Home of the Blarney Stone, Blarney Woolen Mills and great shopping.

### FARTHER AFIELD

A number of Ireland's most notable sites are only a short distance away. Many guests have included the following sites on a long day trip or as an overnight experience... such as Dublin City, Cork City, The Ring of Kerry, Connemara, Galway City, Blarney Castle, The Beara Peninsula, and Newgrange.