Mullingar

Eleven premier angling stretches occupy this length of the Royal Canal, all within 15 km of Mullingar town. This section of canal corridor is unconfined by lock gates for nearly 25 kilometres. The towpaths are not driveable generally although some adjacent car parking facilities are provided. The towpaths, like the canal itself, are maintained to the highest standard, while the angling conditions are beyond parallel. A large number of mixed coarse fish have been stocked into the canal over the past ten years - the health and population status of which is regularly assessed.

The Royal Canal at Mullingar holds some of the biggest specimen tench, rudd and carp to be caught in any canal system in Ireland. On this unique fishery a number of stretches have been specifically prepared to cater for the pleasure fisherman and the junior angler. The town sections also provide great catches of bream, tench, roach, rudd, hybrids, carp, perch, pike and gudgeon.
The Royal Canal
The Royal Canal in the Mullingar area is between 10 and 12 m wide and averages 1.5 m deep. Depths to 2 m are available at places. The water is clear and is generally static or very slow flowing. The canal corridor supports a wide diversity of aquatic and marginal plants that harbour myriads of fish-food insects. This may explain the large quantity of specimen sized fish that are uniquely resident in this stretch of canal. The vegetation is carefully managed and does not pose an obstruction for anglers. Boat traffic density along the canal is low.

Fishing Tackle and Bait
Float fishing is the best angling method on this relatively narrow canal. Pole tackle with the aid of powerful elastics can also be used. Most anglers beginning a session should target the middle and the far shelf of the canal, fishing the bait on the bottom at exact depths. It is advisable to introduce a small amount of ground bait at the start of the session, between four and eight small balls, and loose feed thereafter. It may be worth adding some extra ground bait if a number of boats pass. Fish with No. 8 elastic or higher, 2.3 kg main line to a 1.4 kg hook length minimum, (higher main line and hook lengths for big carp and tench may be required) and a medium-to heavy guage hooks to suit bait size and fish quarry. Be aware that large fish patrol this canal and will test your equipment. Best baits include white and red maggot, pinkies, casters, sweetcorn and worm. For carp and big tench it is worth having pellets, paste, boilies and a range of modern ground baits on standby.

For advice contact David O’Malley, Fishing Tackle Specialist and local angler at Tel:+353 (0)44 48300.

Fish Stocks
An incredible stock of mixed coarse fish is resident in the Royal Canal near Mullingar. The fish are healthy, wild and hard-fighting. The principal species present include roach, tench and perch, although rudd, gudgeon, carp and eel also abound. While the canal boasts large stocks of small and medium sized fish, it also harbours very large specimens. These include tench to 2.7 kg and roach and rudd to 1 kg. Carp to 6.8 kg, may be found patrolling at Ballinea and Mary Lynches.
Mullingar is located in the midlands of Ireland just 82 km from Dublin. The town is situated along the banks of the Royal Canal.
The 15km section of the Royal Canal included in this brochure is covered by four small maps highlighting the stretches in relation to Mullingar. The maps are labelled 1-4, and go from East to West. Use Maps 2 and 3 to leave the centre of town to reach the stretches indicated in maps 1 and 4.
Fishing is free of charge on the Royal Canal结合地图信息。
Enjoy yourself: Respect other waterways users

“Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Ireland Permit No. 8457 © Ordnance Survey Ireland and Government of Ireland”
Fishing is free of charge on the Royal Canal.
Directions to Mullingar
Mullingar is located 82km west of Dublin. Leave Dublin on the M50 and then the N4. The N4 bypasses Mullingar to the north, 78km from Dublin. Follow the signposts for Mullingar to reach the town centre.

Coolnahay Stretch
From Green Bridge in Mullingar town centre (see map 2) take R390 for 2.3 km and turn right onto R392. Travel a further 8 km before taking the right turn (signposted Bunbrosna) for Coolnahay (see map 1). Continue for about 1.3 km to a T-junction and after 0.4 km turn right for Coolnahay Bridge. Turn right before the bridge, where there is parking for approximately 6 cars opposite the harbour. The towpath is narrow but there are excellent swims for tench.

Shandonagh Stretch
Take R390 on the Ballymore road from Mullingar (see map 1) for approximately 2.3 km and turn right onto R392. Travel a further 4.6 km to Shandonagh Bridge. There is limited parking at the bridge.

Ballinea Stretch
Travel on the Ballymore road from Mullingar town centre on R390 for about 5 km to Ballinea Bridge (see map 2). Turn left before the bridge into the harbour area. There is parking here for approximately 10 cars. This short section leads to Bellmount Bridge and has some fine carp and tench present, but a reconnaissance trip is sometimes needed here.

Grange Stretch
From Green Bridge in the centre of Mullingar town, travel on the Ballymore road approximately 0.5 km to a wide grass layby (see map 2). Ample roadside parking is available. The stretch produces excellent catches of all varieties of fish. Big rudd are caught every year. This stretch extends past the New Bridge on to Kilpatrick Bridge, which is probably the best for pike in the Mullingar area.
Directions

Piper’s Boreen
From Green Bridge (see map 2) travel on the Kells (N52) road for approximately 0.9 km, and turn right before Moran’s Bridge (see map 2/3). Continue straight for 0.5 km to Piper’s Boreen. Access is along a narrow footpath on the left. Park with care at the entrance. Good tench, rudd and hybrids can be caught on either side of the small harbour area. There is good pike fishing using sink and draw methods near Saunder’s Bridge along a higher towpath.

Baltrasna Stretch
Follow the Kells road N52 to Moran’s Bridge and continue straight through the turnpike crossroads and onto the roundabout turning right for Baltrasna (see map 3). Travel for approximately 2 km to Baltrasna Bridge. Turn left after the bridge for Baltrasna Stretch. Park with care at the bridge as the road is narrow. The towpath is high here but there is good secondary bank fishing for very big tench. Pike fishing is also good. The footbridge east of Baltrasna is also productive, although the bank is 1 metre high.

Downs Stretch
From Moran’s Bridge (see map 3) and continue straight, and past the roundabout to where the road joins the N4. Travel a further 2.5 km on the N4 and take a right for Downs Bridge (see map 4). Turn left after the bridge (behind the Factory) for Downs Stretch. There is parking for 6 cars here. A great area for very large tench and carp, it is advisable for the angler to walk this stretch to look for indications of fish present or feeding before choosing a swim to fish.

McNeads Stretch / Mary Lynches
From Moran’s Bridge (see map 3) continue straight to where the road joins the N4. From here travel approximately 5.8 km to McNeads Bridge (see map 4) and turn left down to McNeads Stretch. Drive along the canal behind Mary Lynches Pub / B&B to find the best tench and fishing pegs along the road parallel to the N4. This is also an excellent venue for fly fishing for pike, among other methods.