

Ireland's Geoparks – “Heritage, Culture, Landscape”

This sample 7 day itinerary provides a great way to experience and explore the heritage, culture and landscape of Ireland's 3 Geopark Sites



Day 1: Marble Arch Caves Geopark

- Arrive in Belfast Airport and head west towards Enniskillen, where you will be spending the next two nights as you explore the Marble Arch Caves Geopark
- Lunch in Enniskillen
- Take a guided trip down the Marble Arch Caves, Northern Ireland's only showcave, one of the finest showcaves in Europe
- After the Caves tour, why not enjoy a jeep safari to explore the amazing landscape of Cuilcagh Mountain Park
- Finish the afternoon by exploring the mystical Shannon Pot – the rising source of the longest river in Ireland and the UK, discover the folklore of this site with its links to the legendary Finn MacCool and the Fianna
- Return to Enniskillen for the evening



Day 2: Marble Arch Caves Geopark

- Following the shores of Lough Erne, explore the many gems located along the 7km Lough Navar Scenic Drive and experience the breathtaking view at the Magho Cliffs Viewpoint & Monea Castle
- Visit and take a hike in the Castle Caldwell Forest located on the shores of Lower Lough Erne, steeped in natural and cultural heritage. Pick a beauty spot and stop to enjoy your packed lunch in the forest
- Finish your afternoon with a boat tour of Lough Erne, explore the fascinating Geopark sites dotted along the Erne System - Devenish Island, Janus figures and Inishmaccsaint
- Return to Enniskillen for the evening



Day 3: Marble Arch Caves Geopark/ Burren & Cliffs of Moher Geopark

- Leave Enniskillen and head further west and south towards the Burren & Cliffs of Moher Geopark
- On the way towards Carrick-on-Shannon, explore the wonders of Cavan Burren Park, take in the interpretative centre and over 7km of walking trails encompassing megalithic monuments and the geological marvels of this prehistoric landscape
- Visit and enjoy a snack at the spectacular Tulldermott Falls on the Claddagh River
- Stop in for an early dinner at Linnane's Seafood Restaurant on the shores of the Atlantic
- End the day with the setting sun at the Poulnabrone, the magnificent megalithic tomb in the heart of the Burren's karst landscape
- Arrive in Doolin for a pint and music



Day 4: Burren & Cliffs of Moher Geopark

- Start the day with the 6km Cliff Walk to the world famous Cliffs of Moher and explore the visitor's centre and get a guided tour of the cliffs
- On to the Roadside Tavern for a taste of their microbrew and lunch, before a visit to the Burren Smokehouse in Lisdoonvarna, where some of the world's best known smoked salmon is smoked
- Head back out into the Burren and discover the landscape and farming traditions in the Burren with a guided Farm Heritage Walk with local farmers
- Finish the day with a sunset paddle in Ballyvaughan Bay and a picnic on the shoreline
- Spend the night in Kilfenora to enjoy set dancing and music



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Day 5: Burren & Cliffs of Moher Geopark

- Take a wander among the high crosses of Kilfenora before visiting the Burren Centre in the village, where plenty of information and history can be found on the region
- Next, head back north and to the spectacularly well preserved Caherconnell Ring Fort, explore the fort and watch for the sheep dog demonstrations as well
- On to the Burren Perfumery to see how natural ingredients found in the hedgerows and fields of the Burren can make beautiful smelling perfumes, lunch can be had here in their cafe patio
- Enjoy a guided walk in the Burren National Park, exploring the magnificent Mullaghmore, the nearly 600ft high limestone hill in the Burren and get information about the botany, geology and farming in the area
- Dinner and stay in the village of Corofin, home to the Burren National Park Visitors Centre



Day 6: Burren & Cliffs of Moher Geopark & Copper Coast Geopark

- Head south east in the morning towards Waterford and the Copper Coast Geopark
- Stop in and visit the Copper Coast Centre - Mining, Geology and Social History Exhibition, have a bite to eat before continuing on
- Take an afternoon stroll along the stunning, old-fashioned beaches of the Copper Coast that offer sand, sea, rocks, pools and cliffs and shells and seaweed
- After the stroll, enjoy a paddle into the Caves and Coves of the Copper Coast by Kayak - see it all from the other side
- Finish the day with a tour of the Megalithic Tombs of the area before dinner and a place to stay in the seaside town of Tramore



Day 7: Copper Coast Geopark

- Start off the day with a guided tour of The Anne Valley Walk, a journey through local and natural history
- Head over for a visit to the Geological Garden for an easy journey through Geological Time - have a picnic - relax
- For the afternoon, why not visit the remains of the mine-workings at Tankardstown – which are well preserved and interpreted before a tour of the Fenor Bog, which brings you with dry feet around a fen-bog bought and preserved by the local community
- Finish the afternoon with either surfing lessons in Bunmahon or learn the art of Road-Bowling in Fenor, follow this up with a pint, dinner and some traditional music



Day 8: Copper Coast Geopark & Home

- Take in the Dunhill Castle - another local community project; find out why it is called “Buttermilk Castle” before heading up to Dublin to fly home

Slán abhaile



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