



## The Burren... Ireland's Creative Portal



*"The footprints of an elder race are here,  
And memories of an old heroic time;  
And shadows of an old mysterious faith  
So that the place seems haunted  
And strange sounds float in the wind"*

(Anon From the book of the Burren Ed JW O Connell and A Korff)



The lunar like landscape of The Burren is not only one of ancient tombs and karst walls, it is in fact one of the most vibrant and diverse cultural landscapes in Europe, home to many artists over the past centuries and indeed still in our current times. Writers, crafters, entertainers, artist and musicians have seek inspiration from the Fertile Rock, from JRR Tolkien, Yates and Seamus Heaney to Christy Moore and Luka Bloom. Browse through the landscape that inspired some of the greatest, enjoy a life music session or visit our art galleries and visitor centres, there is something for everyone in The Burren!



"Connect with the Source" of the Burren inspirational landscape with the businesses listed on this leaflet, they are not only the best way to explore, understand and connect with the landscape of The Burren but they are also all part of The Burren Ecotourism Network and look after the conservation of The Burren as well as promoting Responsible Tourism.

## Geology & Heritage



The Burren is one of the richest archaeological landscapes in Western Europe with over 500 ring forts sitting alongside Neolithic tombs and sacred sites taking you on a journey through the ages. Take a walk through time and be introduced to the ancient mysteries of the Fertile Rock, slow down, disconnect and recharge with the powerful energy of the limestone under your feet or stroll through the hedgerows of native Irish trees. Weather by foot, bike or car you can discover more with a guide.



Connect with the source at:

- **The Burren Centre, Kilfenora:**  
+353 (0) 65 7088030 [www.theburrencentre.ie](http://www.theburrencentre.ie)
- **Walk With Pius, Corofin:**  
+353 (0) 65 6837866 [www.walkwithpius.com](http://www.walkwithpius.com)
- **Heritage Cycle Tour with E-Whizz, Kilfenora:**  
+353 (0) 65 7088846 [www.e-whizz.com](http://www.e-whizz.com)
- **Burren Experience Guided Walks:**  
+353 (0) 86 8219441 [www.mullaghmore-burren.com](http://www.mullaghmore-burren.com)
- **Moher Tours, Liscannor:**  
+353 (0) 872668002 [www.mohertours.ie](http://www.mohertours.ie)
- **Lisdoonvarna Failte:**  
+353 (0) 65 7075644



## Design & Craft



Historically the more specialized crafts, with high value products, tended to concentrate in urban centres and formed guilds. The skill required by their professions and the need to be permanently involved in the exchange of goods often demanded a generally higher level of education, and craftsmen were usually in a more privileged position than the peasantry in societal hierarchy. In modern days craftsmanship has been forgotten about in the cities and urban areas and artists prefer the inspirational landscapes of rural areas to continue developing their skills.

## Art



Providing time, space and inspiration for artists in the Burren landscape was the founding principle of the Burren College of Art. Since it's establishment in 1994, hundreds of students and residents have visited the College for the opportunity to focus intensively on their practice, to develop their minds and creative skills, to engage with The Burren community in discourse on art in society; and to find their own artistic voice.

Connect with the source at:

- **Burren College of Art, Ballyvaughan:**  
+353 (0) 65 7077200 [www.burrencollege.ie](http://www.burrencollege.ie)
- **Irish Crafts Online, Doolin:**  
+353 (0) 65 7075836 [www.irishcraftsonline.com](http://www.irishcraftsonline.com)
- **Ekotree, Doolin:**  
+353 (0) 83 3021452 [www.ekotree.ie](http://www.ekotree.ie)
- **Bee Loved, Kinvarra:**  
+353 (0) 86 3913484 [www.beelovedskincare.com](http://www.beelovedskincare.com)
- **Airmid Natural Irish Skincare, Kilfenora:**  
+353 (0) 89 2066292 [www.airmidsoap.com](http://www.airmidsoap.com)
- **Craftworks, Ennis:**  
+353 (0) 87 283 6296 @CraftWorksShop (facebook)

## Geosites and Discovery Points



*There's nowhere in the world quite like the Burren. And there are so many unique places nestled within the area.*

There are 12 Geosites you can visit – areas of particular geological significance – in the Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark, each site features its own on-site visitor and interpretation information.

Look out for the Geosite icon on the map overleaf.

1. **Flaggy Shore:** *Strewn with rocks from far away places, this shoreline provides several clues to the movement of ancient ice sheets across the Burren landscape.*
2. **Fanore Beach:** *Golden sand dunes, storm beaches of boulders stacked together by powerful waves, rocks rich in ancient marine fossils and smooth lime encrusted stones in the river bed of the Caher river.*
3. **Doolin Pier:** *Experience the full force of the power of the Atlantic Ocean, as it crashes into the land, and see the massive limestone blocks that have been thrown up onto the shoreline.*
4. **Doolin Cave:** *Located beneath a limestone valley. The valley is now blanketed by glacial rocks and clays. Doolin Cave contains one of the longest stalactites in the world that is accessible to public visitors.*
5. **Aillwee Cave:** *Formed by water flowing through cracks in the limestone hill, it is one of the oldest caves in the Burren. It was first discovered in 1940 by local farmer Jack McGann who followed his dog into the cave.*
6. **Cliffs of Moher:** *Imagine the time taken to create the mighty and formidable Cliffs of Moher. The sand, silt and mud layers of the cliff face tell us about the local environment that existed over 300 million years ago.*
7. **Lisdoonvarna Spa Wells:** *Where the upper shale meets the underlying limestone a number of mineral springs rich in sulphur, iron, magnesium and calcium emerge, providing Lisdoonvarna with the health-giving water that has attracted visitors to the town for over 150 years.*
8. **Burren National Park:** *Follow the Nature Trail and Walking Routes- Your journey of discovery will lead you towards the folded limestone layers of Mullaghmore – a mountain buckled and warped by ancient movements of the Earth's crust.*
9. **Slieve Carran:** *Slieve Carran Nature Reserve is managed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service, it is part of the East Burren Complex Special Area of Conservation.*
10. **Carron Turlough:** *This large hollow can be filled, very quickly, with a seasonal lake (Carron Turlough) when rainfall is high and groundwater wells up through underground springs.*
11. **Poulnabrone:** *Pause for a while at Ireland's most ancient and iconic archaeological monument. For almost 6,000 years, a portal tomb, built by the local Burren community of that time, has stood proud within this rocky landscape.*
12. **Caherconnell:** *Caherconnell is an exceptionally well-preserved medieval stone ringfort. This impressive structure was built over 1,500 years ago, it measures 45 metres in diameter and is protected by a 3 metres high wall.*

## The Wild Atlantic Way – Discover the Coast

The rugged Atlantic Coast of The Geopark offers caves and inlets, sea stacks and dramatic cliffs along with stunning views of the Aran Islands and Galway Bay. Take a cruise under The Cliffs and get a real bird eye view on this magnificent geological master piece of nature. Head over to the Aran Islands and visit the spectacular Dún Aengus fort on Inis Mor, get away from it all! For the active seekers discover the Burren coast from the sea with a kayak, paddle board or ride the waves to their crest. Hungry? Learn a new sustainable skill in the fresh air of The Burren, seaweed foraging, offering the best local, seasonal, nutritious and fresh Wild food directly from the Atlantic Ocean.



Connect with the source at:

- **Doolin2Aran Ferries, Doolin:**  
+353 (0) 65 7075949 [www.doolin2aranferries.com](http://www.doolin2aranferries.com)
- **Doolin Ferry, Doolin:**  
+353 (0) 065 7075555 [www.doolinferry.com](http://www.doolinferry.com)
- **Cliffs of Moher, Liscannor:**  
+353 (0) 65 7086141 [www.cliffsofmoher.ie](http://www.cliffsofmoher.ie)
- **North Clare Sea Kayaking:**  
+353 (0) 85 119 5489 [www.northclareseakayaking.com](http://www.northclareseakayaking.com)
- **Burren Yoga Retreats, Kinvarra:**  
+353 (0) 91 637680 [www.burrenyoga.com](http://www.burrenyoga.com)



## Tunes From The Burren

*"If it's music you want – go to Clare"*  
Christy Moore



Music, singing, dancing and storytelling have always formed the fabric of the community in The Burren. Doolin is internationally renowned for its music with many famous names and faces playing over the years. This is thanks to the earlier generations of these perhaps is the Russell brothers Micho, Gussie and Pakie. Musicians and visitors alike have made Doolin and The Burren what it is today - a great place to have a few tunes!



Experience the best voices from the burren at:

- **Fitzpatrick's Bar, Fitz's Cross, Doolin:**  
+353 (0)65 707 4111 [www.hoteldoolin.ie](http://www.hoteldoolin.ie)
- **McHugh's Pub, Liscannor:**  
+353 (0)65 7081106 [www.josephmchughspub.ie](http://www.josephmchughspub.ie)
- **The Roadside Tavern, Lisdoonvarna:**  
+353 (0)65 7074084 [www.roadside tavern.ie](http://www.roadside tavern.ie)
- **The Boghill Centre, 5Km from Lisdoonvarna:**  
+353 (0) 65 7074644 [www.boghill.com](http://www.boghill.com)
- **Doolin Music House, Doolin:**  
+353 (0) 86 8241085 [www.doolinmusichouse.com](http://www.doolinmusichouse.com)
- **Vaughan's Barn, Kilfenora:**  
+353 (0) 65 7088004 [www.vaughanspub.ie](http://www.vaughanspub.ie)

## Above the Rock – Unique Flora

Connect with the source of the Burren Flora with one of our experienced guides that can help you identify the unique Alpine, Arctic and Mediterranean Flora. Forage for wild herbs, roots, flowers and seaweed and discover their medicinal value. Breath in the scent of the meadows of wild flowers near ancient sites and on the edges of the Burren villages.

Connect with the source at:

- **Burren Nature Sanctuary, Kinvarra:** +353 (0) 91 637444 [www.bns.ie](http://www.bns.ie)
- **Walk with Pius, Corofin:** +353(0) 65 6837866 [www.walkwithpius.com](http://www.walkwithpius.com)
- **Burren Experience Guided Walks, Corofin:** +353 (0) 86 8219441 [www.mullaghmore-burren.com](http://www.mullaghmore-burren.com)
- **Irish Herbal Roots, Lahinch:** +353 (0) 87 7531023 [www.irishherbalroots.ie](http://www.irishherbalroots.ie)
- **The Farmyard, Dabrien, Corofin:** +353 (0) 65 6798030 [www.thefarmyard.ie](http://www.thefarmyard.ie)
- **Wild Kitchen, Lahinch:** +353 (0) 65 7081458 [www.wildkitchen.ie](http://www.wildkitchen.ie)



## Below the Rock - The Burren Caves

The Burren is a remarkable landscape of hills, valleys, plateaus and cliffs, beaches and caves of limestone pavement. The limestone was formed 300 million years ago on a bed of tropical sea, it has been carved into fantastic shapes through exposure to earth movements, rainwater and ice sheets. Hidden beneath this highly visual land and seascape is a complex underworld of caves, including the longest cave system in Ireland. When visiting the caves ensure to allow yourself extra time to explore the surrounding wild flower meadows and nature trails.

Connect with the source at:

- **Doolin Cave, Doolin:** +353 (0) 65 7075761 [www.doolincave.ie](http://www.doolincave.ie)
- **Aillwee Cave, Ballyvaughan:** +353 (0) 65 7077036 [www.aillweecave.ie](http://www.aillweecave.ie)

