

The Burren ... The Fertile Rock



"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)



#IrelandsCreativePortal

The lunar-like landscape of the Burren is not only one of ancient tombs and stone 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, craftspeople, entertainers, artists and musicians have sought inspiration from the Fertile Rock, from JRR Tolkien, W.B Yeats and Seamus Heaney to Christy Moore and Luka Bloom.

Browse through the landscape that inspired some of the greatest, enjoy a live music session or visit our art galleries and visitor centres, there is something for everyone in the Burren!

The Burren Ecotourism Network



All businesses listed on this leaflet, are not only the best way to explore, understand and connect with the landscape but they are also members of the Burren Ecotourism Network. A social enterprise that connects tourism businesses in the Burren and enables us to work together to achieve lasting success for our destination, as well as promoting responsible tourism and protecting our natural resources.

What's so different about us? The Geopark Code of Practice for Sustainable Tourism – that's what! The Code defines what we all do on a day-to-day basis that makes sustainable tourism meaningful in our businesses and for our visitors. All of our members have embraced the Code, having undertaken comprehensive training and mentoring to help them elevate their standards every year. We commit to a journey of continuous improvement in sustainable tourism practice. You don't have to take our word for it – the fact that we implement it on a day-to-day basis is independently assessed and verified!

We are also the proud winners of:



Below the Rock ... The Burren Caves

The Burren is a remarkable landscape of hills, valleys, plateaus, cliffs, beaches, caves and 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:

- **Aillwee Cave, Ballyvaughan:**
+353 (0) 65 707 7036 • www.aillweecave.ie
- **Doolin Cave, Doolin:**
+353 (0) 65 707 5761 • www.doolincave.ie



Above the Rock ... Unique Flora

The Burren is a solitary, austere and strangely beautiful place that makes your senses come alive. It is a fertile, fragile, plant-rich and sensitive landscape. Of all the natural history interests that are intermingled and interdependent on this limestone plateau, it is perhaps the plants and flowers which have caught the public imagination the most.



The Burren is home to about 1100 plant species, about three quarters of the total flora of 1400 plant species found in the whole of Ireland. 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.

Discover the Burren Flora with:

- **Burren Nature Sanctuary, Kinvarra:**
+353 (0) 91 637 444 • www.burrennaturesanctuary.ie
- **Walk with Pius, Corofin:**
+353 (0) 87 982 8173 • www.walkwithpius.com
- **Burren Experience Guided Walks, Corofin:**
+353 (0) 86 821 9441 • www.mullaghmore-burren.com
- **Irish Herbal Roots, Lahinch:**
+353 (0) 87 753 1023 • www.irishherbalroots.ie
- **The Farmyard, Dabrien, Corofin:**
+353 (0) 87 741 3618 • www.thefarmyard.ie
- **Wild Kitchen, Lahinch:**
+353 (0) 65 708 1458 • www.wildkitchen.ie
- **Burren Fine Wine & Food, Ballyvaughan:**
+353 (0) 87 763 3241 • www.burrenwine.ie

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, and from land, hop in The Burren Coastal Tour with E-Whizz electric bikes, the best way to enjoy the scenery.

Whatever your choice of activity is, there is something in the Burren coast that will stop you on your tracks, slow down, take your time and enjoy it!



Discover the Coast with:

- **Cliffs of Moher Visitor Centre, Liscannor:**
+353 (0) 65 708 6141 • www.cliffsofmoher.ie
Book online at least one day in advance and save up to 50%
- **Wild Kitchen, Lahinch:**
+353 (0) 65 708 1458 • www.wildkitchen.ie
- **Doolin2Aran Ferries, Doolin:**
+353 (0) 65 707 5949 • www.doolin2aranferries.com
- **Doolin Ferry, Doolin:**
+353 (0) 065 707 5555 • www.doolinferry.com
- **Burren Coastal Bike tour with E-Whizz:**
+353 (0) 65 708 8846 • www.e-whizz.com

Geology & Heritage ... A journey through time



The Burren is not a barren and boring museum of stones, monuments and scientific curiosities. Quite the contrary, it is a living place teeming with nature's bounty: ordinary and exotic rocks, plants, animals, insects and birds. Its geology and diverse habitats are packed with startling features and surprising land-forms. Interwoven into its geology and geography is a rich history beginning 330 million years ago – before human habitation; before dinosaurs, before flowering plants – and unfolding in its many chapters right up until today. All that bounty is here to be discovered. 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.

Discover more with a guide:

- **The Burren Centre, Kilfenora:**
+353 (0) 65 708 8030 • www.theburrencentre.ie
- **Walk With Pius, Corofin**
+353(0) 87 982 8173 • www.walkwithpius.com
- **Heritage Cycle tour with E-Whizz, Kilfenora:**
+353 (0) 65 708 8846 • www.e-whizz.com
- **Burren Experience Guided Walks, Corofin:**
+353 (0) 86 821 9441 • www.mullaghmore-burren.com
- **Michael Cusack Centre, Carron:**
+353 (0) 65 708 9944 • www.michaelcusack.ie

Designers & Makers ... Memories to take home

When visiting the Burren you will create the greatest memories through discovery of the landscape, it's heritage and food. We firmly believe and encourage you to leave the landscape as you found it, do not collect flowers, plants or rocks. Collect images and memories that will last you a life time, and if you wish to bring something home check out some of our crafty designers in the areas of clothing, skincare, food and crafts. Even if you can not visit them you can always purchase items online!



Our retail recommended outlets are:

- **Ekotree Studio & Knitwear Visitor Centre, Doolin:**
(available to visitors and online sales),
+353 (0) 83 302 1452 • www.ekotreeknitwearstore.com
- **Irish Crafts Online, Doolin:**
(available to visitors and online sales),
+353(0) 65 707 5836 • www.irishcraftsonline.com
- **Anam Coffee, (online sales only):**
+353 (0) 85 131 6665 • www.anamcoffee.ie
- **Bee Loved Skincare, (online sales only):**
+353 (0) 86 391 3484 • www.beelovedskincare.com

Burren Food Trail ... Annual Events

On the face of it, the Burren is perhaps the last place on earth where one would expect to find a Food Trail. It is an area of expansive karst limestone landscape, often referred to as 'lunar-like', which to the newcomer may appear as barren, inhospitable and forsaken. However, it is not without good reason that the Cistercian monks who settled here in the 11th century gave the name Santa Maria de Petra Fertili, to the iconic Corcomroe Abbey, which still stands as magnificent landmark of the Burren Landscape to this very day. The name, St. Mary of the Fertile Rock, reflects the fertile nature of the surrounding Burren lands, which insured that here a Cistercian community could, by cultivation, provide itself with the necessary means of support and ultimately, self-sufficiency.



The Burren Food Trail members organise an annual series of foodie events, taking place at unusual locations around the Burren. They are a celebration of local, wild and seasonal produce of the Burren, as well as a chance to meet the producers, mingle with local people and learn about the Burren way of life.

- **Burren Slow Food Festival, Lisdoonvarna:**
10th to 12th May 2019
- **Burren Food Trail Long Table event, Ennistymon:**
Friday 7th June 2019
- **Burren Food Trail Long Table event, Doolin:**
Friday 6th September 2019
- **Burren Food Trail Long Table event, Ballyvaughan:**
Thursday 21st November 2019
- **Burren Food Fayre, The Pavillion, Lisdoonvarna:**
Sunday 27th of October 2019

Don't just visit the Burren, Taste it!

Farm to Fork Trail



Farming in The Burren has traditionally focussed on animal rearing with cattle, pigs, sheep and goats grazing on the rich herb grasses of the "Fertile Rock". Take the Farm to Fork trail and visit family run farms, see the cheese been made using traditional methods or sample Burren produce at our many restaurant members below.

Meet the Makers of the Farm to Fork trail at:

- **Gleninagh Lamb, Ballyvaughan:**
+353 (0) 86 101 2289
A working sheep farm, visit by appointment only.
- **Burren Free Range Pork Farm, Kilfenora:**
+353 (0) 65 708 8931 • www.burrenfreerangepork.com
A small rare breed pig farm, visit by appointment only.
- **Hylands Burren Hotel, Ballyvaughan:**
+353 (0) 65 707 7037 • www.hylandsburren.com
Family owned hotel specialising on Burren Food produce.
- **Market House, Ennistymon:**
+353 (0) 65 707 2548 • www.markethouseennistymon.com
Family run butchers, delicatessen and café.
- **Fitzpatrick's Bar, Doolin:**
+353 (0) 65 707 4111 • www.hoteldoolin.ie
Traditional Irish pub serving Burren produce.
- **Sheedy's Hotel & Restaurant, Lisdoonvarna:**
+353 (0) 65 707 4026 • www.sheedys.com
AA2 Rosette restaurant.
- **Gregans Castle Hotel, Ballyvaughan:**
+353 (0) 65 707 7005 • www.gregans.ie
Award winning fine dining restaurant.
- **St Tola Goat Farm, Maurice's Mill, Ennistymon:**
+353 (0) 65 683 6633 • www.st-tola.ie
Working goat farm producing award winning artisan cheese.

Market Garden Trail

The Burren valleys are home to many market gardens and farms. Come and discover the secrets of the gardeners, take a cookery masterclass, discover the edible seaweeds of the Atlantic or visit a Farmer's Market where you can chat with the growers and enjoy the best of locally produced seasonal food.



Meet the Makers of the Market Garden Trail:

- **Kinvara Farmer's Market, Kinvara:**
+353 (0) 65 707 8206 • www.kinvarafarmersmarket.com
Visit Friday's from 10am to 2pm.
- **Ballyvaughan Farmer's Market, Saturdays 10am - 2pm:**
www.facebook.com/pg/BallyvaughanFarmersMarket
Visit May to October on Saturday's from 10am to 2pm.
- **Falls Hotel & Spa, Ennistymon:**
+353 (0) 65 707 1004 • www.fallshotel.ie
3* Hotel offering several dining options in the bar & restaurant
- **Burren Fine Wine & Food, Ballyvaughan:**
+353 (0) 87 763 3241 • www.burrenwine.ie
Summer Lunches, Afternoon Tea, Guided eco walks and cycles.
- **Seaview House B&B, Doolin:**
+353 (0) 87 683 4563 • www.seaview-doolin.ie
Award winning B&B emphasis on home grown produce.
- **Ballinsheen House & Gardens, Lisdoonvarna:**
+353 (0) 65 707 4806 • www.ballinsheen.com
4* Guest House combined with lush natural gardens.
- **Hazelwood Lodge, Ballyvaughan:**
+353 (0) 65 707 7092 • www.hazelwoodlodge.ie
Guest House with a great emphasis on locally produced food.

Nature's Child Trail

Satisfy your families hunger for nature on this fun-filled family trail. Meet animals, ride the zip wire, eat ice-cream in the flaggy shore, uncover the secrets of a cave, connect with the landscape or stay and dine at one of our many family friendly hotels and restaurants. Whatever your families' appetite, there is something for everyone in The Burren that will stop you in your tracks!

Meet the Makers of the Nature's Child Trail at:

- **Burren Nature Sanctuary & Café, Kinvarra:**
+353 (0) 91 637 444 • www.burrennaturesanctuary.ie
Fairy Woodland, Adventure Play, Meet & Feed farm pets.
- **Linnalla Ice Cream, New Quay:**
+353 (0) 87 785 7569 • www.linnallaicecream.ie
Artisan Ice Cream Farm, Open April to end of October.
- **Burren Gold Cheese at Aillwee Cave, Ballyvaughan:**
+353 (0) 65 707 7036 • www.aillweecave.ie
Farmhouse with traditional cheese making methods.
- **Doolin Cave, Doolin:**
+353 (0) 65 707 5761 • www.doolincave.ie
Underground cave with nature trail, animals and café.
- **Stonecutters Kitchen, Cliff of Moher Road, Doolin:**
+353 (0) 65 707 5962 • www.stonecutterskitchen.com
Award winning Family restaurant - children's playground.
- **Merriman Hotel, Kinvarra:**
+353 (0) 91 638 222 • www.merrimanhotel.com
Traditional Irish Hotel with an emphasis on local produce.



Taste the Ocean Trail

The Burren sits on Ireland's Wild Atlantic Way. The stunning coastline of dramatic cliffs, sea cave and inlets produces wild & fresh seafood in abundance. Discover the taste of the Ocean with seaweed foraging walks, workshops, tastings and a little indulgence from our award winning restaurants.



Meet the Makers of the Taste the Ocean Trail at:

- **Burren Smokehouse, Lisdoonvarna:**
+353 (0) 85 707 4432 • www.burrensmokehouse.ie
Irish organic smoked salmon with visitor centre.
- **Wild Kitchen, Callura South, Lahinch:**
+353 (0) 87 687 7890 • www.wildkitchen.ie
Foraging walks, seaweed workshops and cooking demos.
- **Shuck Off Flaggy Shore Oysters, New Quay Pier:**
+353 (0) 86 3718684 • www.redbankfoodco.com
Oyster bar and holding premises, open by appointment.
- **Linnane's Lobster Bar, New Quay:**
+353 (0) 65 707 8120 • www.linnanesbar.com
Speciality seafood restaurant.
- **Roadside Tavern, Lisdoonvarna:**
+353 (0) 87 830 0069 • www.roadsideatavern.ie
Award winning gastro pub, serving Burren Smoked Salmon.
- **Wild Atlantic Lodge, Ballyvaughan:**
+353 (0) 65 707 7003 • www.thewildatlanticlodge.com
Restaurant offering the freshest Burren produce.
- **Monks Restaurant, Ballyvaughan**
+353 (0) 65 707 7059 • www.monks.ie
Signature seafood restaurant open all year around.



Discover the Burren & Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark

The Burren & Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark

Welcome to the Burren & Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark.

"Global Geopark" is a UNESCO designation, awarded to regions with outstanding geology and unique cultural heritage, managed in a sustainable way. In the Geopark you will find an internationally acclaimed landscape, forged by nature and humans, where cultural traditions co-exist with contemporary life.



The Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark is proud to be part of a transnational group of enthralling Geotourism experiences. Linking 12 stunning landscapes along the western edge of Europe, the European Atlantic Geotourism Route embraces the European Atlantic frontier from Ireland and the UK, to France, Portugal and Spain.

Visit www.geotourismroute.eu for more information on each of our Geotourism partners.

The wild landscape of the Cliffs of Moher and the Burren has an ethereal, magical quality that captures the imagination and has inspired a wealth of intriguing folklore and fantastical tales.

USE SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

- Bus Service
- Train Station
- Ferry
- Electric Car Charging Point

GET ON YOUR BIKE

- Cycling Route Trail Head
- Bike Hire/Repair

TAKE A WALK

- Geopark Heritage Trail
- Cliffs of Moher Coastal Walk
- Looped Walk Trail Head
- Burren Way
- Mid Clare Way

CHECK THESE OUT

- Geosite
- Visitor/Education Centre
- Monument
- Viewing Point

Stay Another Night!

GEOPARK GEOLOGY

- Limestone
- Shale
- Sandstone and Shale

ROAD NETWORK

- National Road
- Regional Road
- Link Road

HOTELS

- 22 Hotel Doolin
- 23 Sheedy's Hotel
- 24 Gregans Castle Hotel
- 27 The Falls Hotel & Spa
- 35 Merriman Hotel
- 36 Hylands Burren Hotel

GUESTHOUSES, B&B

- 29 Seaview House
- 30 Ballinsheen House & Gardens
- 41 Hazelwood Lodge
- 41 Wild Atlantic Lodge

HOSTELS

- 43 The Boghill Centre
- 44 Kilfenora Hostel

ABOVE THE ROCK

- 1 Burren Nature Sanctuary
- 2 Walk with Pius
- 3 Burren Experience Guided Walks
- 4 Irish Herbal Roots
- 5 The Farmyard
- 6 Wild Kitchen

BELOW THE ROCK

- 7 Aillwee Cave
- 8 Doolin Cave

THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY

- 6 Wild Kitchen
- 9 Doolin to Aran Ferries
- 10 Doolin Ferry Co.
- 11 Cliffs of Moher Visitor Centre
- 12 E-whizz

GEOLOGY & HERITAGE

- 2 Walk with Pius
- 3 Burren Experience Guided Walks
- 12 E-whizz
- 13 The Burren Centre
- 14 Michael Cusack Centre

DESIGNERS & MAKERS

- 15 Ekotree Knitwear Visitor Centre
- 16 Irish Crafts Online
- 17 Anam Coffee
- 18 Bee Loved Skincare

NATURE TRAIL

- 1 Burren Nature Sanctuary
- 8 Doolin Cave
- 32 Linalla Ice Cream
- 33 Stonecutters Kitchen
- 34 St. Tola Goat Farm
- 35 Merriman Hotel
- 36 Hylands Burren Hotel

FARM TO FORK TRAIL

- 19 Gleninagh Lamb
- 20 Burren Free Range Pork
- 7 Burren Gold Cheese @Aillwee
- 21 Linnane's Lobster Bar
- 22 Fitzpatrick's Bar @ Hotel Doolin
- 23 Sheedy's Hotel
- 24 Gregans Castle Hotel

MARKET GARDEN TRAIL

- 25 Kinvara Farmers Market
- 26 Ballyvaughan Farmers Market
- 27 The Falls Hotel & Spa
- 28 Burren Fine Wine & Food
- 29 Seaview House
- 30 Ballinsheen House & Gardens
- 31 Hazelwood Lodge

TASTE THE OCEAN TRAIL

- 6 Wild Kitchen
- 37 Burren Smokehouse
- 38 Shuck Off Flaggy Shore Oysters
- 39 Linnane's Lobster Bar
- 40 Roadside Tavern
- 41 Wild Atlantic Lodge
- 42 Monks Restaurant

TUNES FROM THE BURREN

- 22 Fitzpatrick's Bar @ Hotel Doolin
- 40 Roadside Tavern
- 43 The Boghill Centre

www.burren.ie

BURREN HOTELS

Hylands Burren Hotel

The Square, Ballyvaughan

t: +353 (0) 65 7077037
e: info@hylandsburren.com
w: www.hylandsburren.com
GPS: Lat: 52.39825 Long: -9.15623

Gregans Castle

Corkscrew Hill, Ballyvaughan

t: +353 (0) 65 707 7005
e: stay@gregans.ie
w: www.gregans.ie
GPS: Lat: 53.077108 Long: -9.184190

The Falls Hotel & Spa

Ennistymon

t: +353 (0) 65 707 1004
e: reservations@fallshotel.ie
w: www.hoteldoolin.ie
GPS: Lat: 52.94128 Long: -9.29872

Merriman Hotel

Main Street, Kinvarra

t: +353 (0) 91 638 222
e: info@merrimanhotel.com
w: www.merrimanhotel.com
GPS: Lat: 53.139457 Long: -8.939438

Hotel Doolin

Fitz's Cross, Doolin

t: +353 (0) 65 707 4111
e: info@hoteldoolin.ie
w: www.hoteldoolin.ie
GPS: Lat: 53.01597 Long: -9.37703

Sheedy's Hotel

Main Street, Lisdoonvarna

t: +353 (0) 65 707 4026
e: info@sheedys.com
w: www.sheedys.com
GPS: Lat: 53.02774 Long: -9.289637

Kilfenora Hostel

Main Street, Kilfenora

t: +353 (0) 65 708 8908
e: enquiries@kilfenorahostel.com
w: www.kilfenorahostel.com
GPS: Lat: 52.9904 Long: -9.2167

Boghill Centre Hostel - B&B

4 km from Lisdoonvarna

t: +353 (0) 65 707 4644
e: boghill@eircom.net
w: www.boghill.com
GPS: Lat: 53.0168 Long: -9.2536

Tunes From The Burren

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

If music, singing, dancing and storytelling have always formed the fabric of the community in the Burren. Clare is internationally renowned for its music with many famous names and faces playing over the years. This is thanks to the earlier generations of musicians from the Burren area. Most famous of these perhaps are the Russell brothers Micho, Gussie and Pakie. Musicians and visitors alike have made Clare 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
 - The Roadside Tavern, Lisdoonvarna:**
+353 (0) 65 707 4084 • www.roadsideatavern.ie
 - The Boghill Centre, 5Km from Lisdoonvarna:**
+353 (0) 65 707 4644 • www.boghill.com
 - Kilfenora Ceili Band Parlour, The Burren Centre:**
+353 (0) 65 7088030 • www.theburrencentre.ie



The Doolin Folk Festival takes place annually in June

A FREE CUP OF TEA . . . if you cycle to me

A great way to see the Burren is on a bike, not only do you get to take part in the stunning scenery, you will be rewarded with Ireland's favourite drink. See www.burren.ie for details.

We work with LEAVE NO TRACE IRELAND to promote and inspire responsible behaviour in the outdoors.

GUESTHOUSES & B&B

Ballinsheen House

Galway Road, Lisdoonvarna

t: +353 (0) 65 707 4806
e: ballinsheenhouse@hotmail.com
w: www.ballinsheen.com
GPS: Lat: 53.034271 Long: -9.287985

Seaview House

Fisherstreet, Doolin

t: +353 (0) 87 267 9617
e: reservations@seaview-doolin.ie
w: www.seaview-doolin.ie
GPS: Lat: 53.012218 Long: -9.384854

Wild Atlantic Lodge

Main Street, Ballyvaughan

t: +353 (0) 65 707 7003
e: info@thewildatlanticlodge.com
w: www.thewildatlanticlodge.com
GPS: Lat: 53.115992 Long: -9.148134

Hazelwood Lodge

Ballyvaughan

t: +353 (0) 65 707 7092
e: info@hazelwoodlodge.ie
w: www.hazelwoodlodge.ie
GPS: Lat: 53.106085 Long: -9.15571