



WILD ATLANTIC WAY

SLÍ FHIÁIN AN ATLANTAIGH

Trade Manual

For Group Organisers





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THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY STORY

Out at the very edge of Europe, the Wild Atlantic Way stretches for 2,500 km (1,500 miles) along Ireland's western seaboard. From Malin Head in Co. Donegal to Kinsale in Co. Cork, through regions like Connemara, Galway Bay and Kerry, it's the longest defined coastal drive in the world.

Here, the ocean's force has carved a coast of wild, raw beauty. Huge Atlantic rollers crash and churn, shaping jagged ocean crags, archipelagos and inlets, sea loughs, surfing strands, and the sheer granite walls of cliffs that are amongst some of the highest in Europe. Rare sea eagles circle over glacial mountains, dolphins leap the waves, seals bask on the shore, puffins nest on cliff faces and geese gather in great estuaries. And lighthouses safeguard sailors all the way up the coast – from Fastnet to Malin Head.

Right along this spectacular drive you're aware of the elemental power of the Atlantic Ocean, turning from grey to green to azure blue as great weather fronts roll in and through. You'll drive on routes that ring great peninsulas, reaching out into the ocean. Tiny roads hug the shoreline then switch back high above the Atlantic swell. Cloud-shadows race across sea and land, followed by shafts of sunlight. You'll probably see a lifetime's rainbows in just one trip.

You'll want to stop often at the many small settlements and towns along the route. Every few miles there are places to stretch your legs and have a bite to eat. Maybe you'll hunker down and stay a night or two to get to know the places and the people... to climb cliffs, surf waves and ride bikes. You could join in the craic at sessions and festivals, go island-hopping and visit ancient sites or sit by turf fires in traditional pubs, where you'll eat the freshest seafood and hear the Irish language, songs and stories. Out here in the west coast's remote Gaeltacht regions, Irish is the mother tongue for many folk – and they'll tell you “fáilte romhat isteach – you're most welcome here”.

You could drive the whole route in one go – but you don't have to. Instead, you may want to slow down, and dive in deep ... For it's out on these western extremities – drawn in by the constant rhythm of the ocean's roar and the consistent warmth of the people – that you'll find the Ireland you've always imagined.

This Wild Atlantic Way Trade Manual is designed to act as a source of information on the principle Visitor Attractions, Towns, Discovery Points and Heritage Sites along the Wild Atlantic Way. It aims to provide you as a group organiser, or your travel trade partners with all the practical information you will need when planning trips or excursions along the spectacular Wild Atlantic Way.

BREAKDOWN OF ACCOMMODATION BY CLASSIFICATION ALONG THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY

Accommodation	Approved	1*	2*	2* & 3*	3*	3* & 4*	4*	5*	Total
Hotels	13		37		112		73	5	240
Guesthouses		8	17		56		21		102
Registered Group Self Catering Schemes		1		1	30	14	67		113
Listed Self Catering Units	11	9	13		150		303	1	487
B&Bs	78				407		144	9	638
Historic Houses	10								10
Pubs with Accommodation									7
Restaurants with Accommodation									6
Activity Holiday Accommodation									6
Caravan and Camping		1	14		14		13		42
University Accommodation	1				2				3

Some of the units of this Group Scheme are classified at 2* and some at 3*

Some of the units of these Group Schemes are classified at 3* and some at 4*

OVERVIEW OF ATTRACTIONS ALONG THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY

Attractions	Number
Churches, Abbeys and Monasteries	39
Art Galleries	55
Blue Flag Beaches	53
Historic Houses and Castles	50
Gardens	37
Museums and Attractions	100
National & Forest Parks	7
Visitor Farms	9
Total	350

EXPERIENCES TO SAVOUR ON IRELAND'S WILD ATLANTIC WAY

1 Circle Ireland's far north at Malin Head: There's drama out at Malin Head – Cionn Mhálanna. The tip of the Inishowen Peninsula is mainland Ireland's farthest northerly point. The wild Atlantic has carved deep crevices into the rugged headland, like Hell's Hole – a dramatic long, deep and narrow chasm where the swells roar and churn. And birds flock here, blown in on the Atlantic winds: regular visitors from Iceland, Greenland and North America; and rarer exotic creatures from further afield. Mythical queen Banba has given her name to the peninsula's tip – Banba's Crown. It's here that guides from Cycle Inishowen will meet you for a 45-minute ride to stretch your legs in the fresh sea air, and learn about the area's wildlife, geology and history.

2 Heritage on Horseback in the Atlantic: This ride takes about four hours with a lunch stop in the old O'Connor's homestead on Connors Island to the North of Streedagh Beach in North Co. Sligo. Begin at Island View Riding Stables near Grange and walk along the shore to Milkhaven Harbour. You will then cross a magnificent tidal lagoon at low tide, going on to the back of Streedagh dunes. See archaeology along the way, have a nice packed lunch out of your saddle bag and hear all about the Spanish Armada ships that wrecked here after a horrendous gale on September 21st 1588. Continuing then to Dernish Island, enjoy this remote seascape - with ruined cottages standing quiet, lost in time at the back of the island. Heading home then, you can refresh your horses legs in seawater and relax, sit back and take it all in!

3 Get up close to cliffs that are amongst the highest in Europe: Paddy is the skipper of the Nuala Star. He'll pick you up from Teelin Harbour on the north side of Donegal Bay, to sail below the sheer granite walls of Sliabh Liag (Slieve League) – at 600 m (1970ft). They are amongst the highest accessible sea cliffs in Europe and the huge panoramas presented to you from these cliffs can look different from every angle. Bright azure skies appear next to blue grey shafts of rain which bolt sea and sky together. Still further across this ever changing canvas, beams of light, diffused by wisps of thin cloud, gild the wild sea, warming the cool grey water into pools of liquid gold. Sometimes the Nuala Star is joined by dolphins, seals and whales. And in June you may see basking sharks, feeding on the plankton. There's the option to go swimming in the little coves: wetsuits are provided, says Paddy, "if you think the water's cold". Once back on dry land, the climb up the Pilgrim's Path is optional. On a fine day, the views from the top – across seven counties – are glorious.

4 Probe the peat at Céide Fields: An award-winning architect-designed pyramid built into the clifftop, high above the Atlantic, houses the Visitor Centre for Achaidh Chéide (Céide Fields). This is the largest Stone Age monument in the world, set in a vast prehistoric landscape of bog, dramatic cliffs and coastline. Preserved beneath the wild blanket bog are 5000-year-old stone-walled fields, dwellings and megalithic tombs. Take the guided tour and use the archaeologist's probe, sliding down through the peat till you feel it striking stone, placed there 5000 years ago. This is the largest of thousands of archaeological sites along the Wild Atlantic Way – hundreds in this part of North Mayo alone, including standing stones, ring forts, stone circles and court tombs.

5 Forage for wild food along the Killala shoreline: Spend an afternoon with Denis Quinn of Wild Atlantic Cultural Tours – foraging for food out along the shoreline under the huge skies of north Mayo. As the wild Atlantic booms and seabirds swirl and swoop, Denis will guide you expertly across Killala Bay, crossing mudflats, scrambling over rocks, gathering edible seaweeds, rooting around in rockpools and spooning cockles, mussels, clams and winkles from the vast expanse of soft sand uncovered at low tide.

MOVILLE POTTERY, GLENCROW, MOVILLE, CO DONEGAL



THE CÉIDE FIELDS IS THE LARGEST
STONE AGE MONUMENT IN THE
WORLD, SET IN A VAST PREHISTORIC
LANDSCAPE OF BOG, DRAMATIC
CLIFFS AND COASTLINE



HORSE RIDING ON BERTRA BEACH, CO MAYO



DUN AENGUS, INIS MÓR, ARAN ISLANDS



6 Cruise on Ireland's only fjord: With luck, a pod of dolphins will accompany you for some of your cruise on Killary Harbour, said by some to be Ireland's only true fjord. Dotted with mussel rafts, with mountains to the north and south, the fjord reaches due east from the Atlantic for 16km (10 miles), ending at the Aasleagh Falls. Killary Cruises start from a mile or so outside the village of Leenane on the road to Clifden at 'Nancy's Point'. Leenane is known as the 'Gateway to Connemara' – you may recognise some of the locations from the movie version of John B Keane's poignant play 'The Field', filmed here in 1989.

7 Go for cultural immersion in a restored 17th century hill-village: In their unique centre dedicated to traditional Irish culture, Dearbhail Standún and Charlie Troy of Cnoc Suain (meaning 'restful hill') offer an introduction to Gaelic language, music, history, nature and landscape for groups. They've restored the group of cottages, which lay deserted for more than half a century, in a tranquil setting on the southern foothills of the Connemara Mountains, overlooking Galway Bay, the Burren, the Cliffs of Moher and the Aran Islands.

8 Watch the sun set over the Aran Islands: The viewing platform at O'Brien's Tower is said to be the best place to see the sunset from the iconic Cliffs of Moher. The Tower was built at the highest point on the cliff edge in 1835, as an observation point for tourists, by far-sighted landowner Cornelius O'Brien. Before arriving at the Tower, you could try a guided walk along the cliff-edge paths with a Cliffs of Moher Ranger. The walks take just over an hour and, depending on the time of year, you'll see puffins, guillemots, kittiwakes, chough, peregrine falcon, fulmar and shags, among other birds.

9 Enjoy traditional music in West Clare: West Clare is famous for its music – and the Long Dock (or 'Dock' as the locals call it) in the fishing village of Carrigaholt at the mouth of the Shannon is just one of the many pubs in these parts that offers traditional music nights, as well as Carrigaholt oysters, mussels, lobster and of course their own chowder. Come for one of the Dock's special Irish Nights, when you can sing, dance and play pub games with locals.

10 Throw a pot inspired by the wild Atlantic: At the far end of the Dingle Peninsula, on the scenic Sleat Head Drive, is the workshop of one of Ireland's leading potters – the renowned Louis Mulcahy. The low building – with its studio, factory, shop and café – folds into the fields, mountains at its back and the tumultuous waters of the Blasket Sound below. This is the setting that inspires Louis's wonderful work: he talks of the rapid changing colours of the light and the sea – from greys to blues to light greens ... the purple and browns of the heather and shadows on the mountains ... and the roaring red sunsets. Come in the summer months, meet Louis, take the workshop tour, and try your hand at throwing a simple shape, inspired by the wild Atlantic on the doorstep. You can take the simple raw pot away with you, or have it glazed, fired and delivered to your door.

11 Remember Ireland's greatest born storytellers: Out on the very edge of Europe, as far west as you can go in Ireland, lies a deserted village on an archipelago. These are the mystical Blasket Islands – famous in Ireland for their Gaelic storytellers, and deeply symbolic of the Irish story of emigration. Halfway round the Sleat Head Drive – a scenic route circling the edge of the Dingle Peninsula – is the Blasket Centre. Its director, Irish-speaking Mícheál de Mórdha, provides moving insights into the islanders' hard lives, the sorrows of emigration, and the literary heritage of the Blaskets. A long glass-fronted gallery overlooks the Atlantic and Great Blasket itself: a constant reminder of that poignant place.

EXPERIENCES TO SAVOUR ON IRELAND'S WILD ATLANTIC WAY

12 Make chocolate in St Finian's Bay: Europe's most westerly chocolate factory is right on the Atlantic at St Finian's Bay – where the monks embarked en route for Skellig Michael. Ebullient owner, Colm Healy and his team, run workshops where you can learn more about chocolate and get hands-on experience in decorating, making or designing your own chocolate masterpiece. While surf crashes onto the tiny beach outside, you are enveloped in the warm smells of chocolate-making, inside the family-run Skelligs Chocolate factory, at the edge of the world. Heavenly!

13 Learn of a 'dreamworld' on an Atlantic crag: Boat trips to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Skellig Michael are only possible when the weather is fine. And numbers are limited to safeguard this remarkable place. But you can still get a sense of the stunning achievement of the early Christians who built their hermitage on this jagged ocean crag, 1500 years ago – described by George Bernard Shaw as "part of our dreamworld" – from the film they show at the Skellig Experience Visitor Centre on Valentia Island. Then it's a short drive or a walk up to the top of nearby Geokaun Mountain, whose gentle owner Muiris O'Donoghue will show you panoramic views of the Skelligs themselves, and tell you stories from the edge of the world.

14 Discover the history of hard lives lived on the Atlantic's edge: by visiting the Copper Mining Museum and following the waymarked walking trail around the tiny village of Allihies, right on the edge of the Beara Peninsula. It's hard to believe that 1500 people lived in this remote and tranquil spot in the mid 19th century, when copper mining was at its peak. The Museum – housed in a chapel built by Cornish miners in 1845 – has a café with delicious home bakes, and stunning views along the rugged coast.

15 Feel the full force of the wild Atlantic at Ireland's most south-westerly point: the tip of West Cork's Mizen Head Peninsula offers a short, exhilarating walk from the Maritime Museum on the clifftop down 99 steps and across the suspension bridge to the Signal Station, perched on a rocky crag above foaming seas where south and west-coast currents collide with mid-Atlantic swells before they crash against the shore.

16 Take a boat trip round historic Kinsale's natural harbour: This will bring you past the famous headland Old Head, and out to where the transatlantic Lusitania was sunk by a German u-boat in 1915 ... a seismic event that brought the US into WW1. Onboard the Spirit of Kinsale, there's freshly brewed coffee, blankets to keep you warm, and – best of all – stories that will stay with you from skipper and historian Jerome Lordan.

DINGLE PENINSULA, KERRY



CLADDAGH BY NIGHT, GALWAY

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT 1500 PEOPLE LIVED IN THIS REMOTE AND TRANQUIL SPOT IN THE MID 19TH CENTURY, WHEN COPPER MINING WAS AT ITS PEAK.



FAMILY AT MALIN HEAD, CO. DONEGAL



ACTIVITIES ON OFFER ALONG THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY...

ANGLING... cast your line in the Atlantic swell, feel the salty surge beneath your feet, hook your catch, sail for deserted shores, cook your feast.

WATER ACTIVITIES... experience the mighty swell of the Atlantic with a plethora of spine-tingling water activities ranging from surfing to windsurfing and kiteboarding or scuba dive in crystal clear waters to check out the abundant sea life.

CAFÉS... meander into warm cosy cafés dotted like pots of jam along the western seaboard; recharge with organic cheeses, artisan breads and charcuterie, wolfed down with tea or Fairtrade coffee from across the ocean.

CHRISTIAN AND SPIRITUAL IRELAND... discover the uplifting beauty of this wild, rugged, and sometimes penitential landscape peppered with monastic settlements; pilgrim walks and churches; learn why St Patrick came, converted and stayed.

CYCLING... freewheel along the edge of Europe where few cars go. Meander along country lanes, skirt jagged cliffs, croppy outposts of rocks and sparkling beaches; cool off in forest glades. Stop only to rest awhile amidst the salt filled Atlantic air.

EQUESTRIAN... if John Wayne could do it so can you! Ireland....the Land of the Horse.... caters for leisurely hackers; cross country show jumpers as well as those who simply want to ride high in the hills above the Atlantic waves.

NATURE AND WILDLIFE... experience a myriad of colours all in one day; smell the salty Atlantic landscape after sun and rain; discover flowers amidst the crevices of the limestone plateaux; spot a Golden Eagle along the North Western seaboard; hoops of dolphins off Loop Head or the black hump of a whale in West Cork.

PUBS AND BARS... at the end of the day or even if you're half way through it's nice to stroll in and sample a craft beer or the local brew; have a chat with the locals; perhaps listen to a tin whistle or two.

WALKING TRAILS... so many paths to take; through landscapes of velvet green hills; dappled forests meeting shy fawns; crossing silver streams and pristine beaches pounded white by the swell of the Atlantic.

TRACING YOUR ANCESTRY... reconnect to your past, to discover new places of old.

GOLF... perfect that swing on magnificent parklands and links courses rated amongst the Top 10 courses in the world.

RESTAURANTS... the day is done; hunger succumbs; step into a unique array of contemporary or traditional eateries; sample seafood caught that day or hand-reared beef, smokey bacon and organic vegetables from local farmers or artisan cheese boards from an organic farmers' market and yummy dessert crumbles. And that's just for starters...

CARROWMORE MEGALITHIC CEMETERY, SLIGO



BALLINSKELLIGS WAVES, CO. KERRY



BALLYLIFFIN, INISHOWEN, CO DONEGAL



CONNEMARA PONY, CO GALWAY

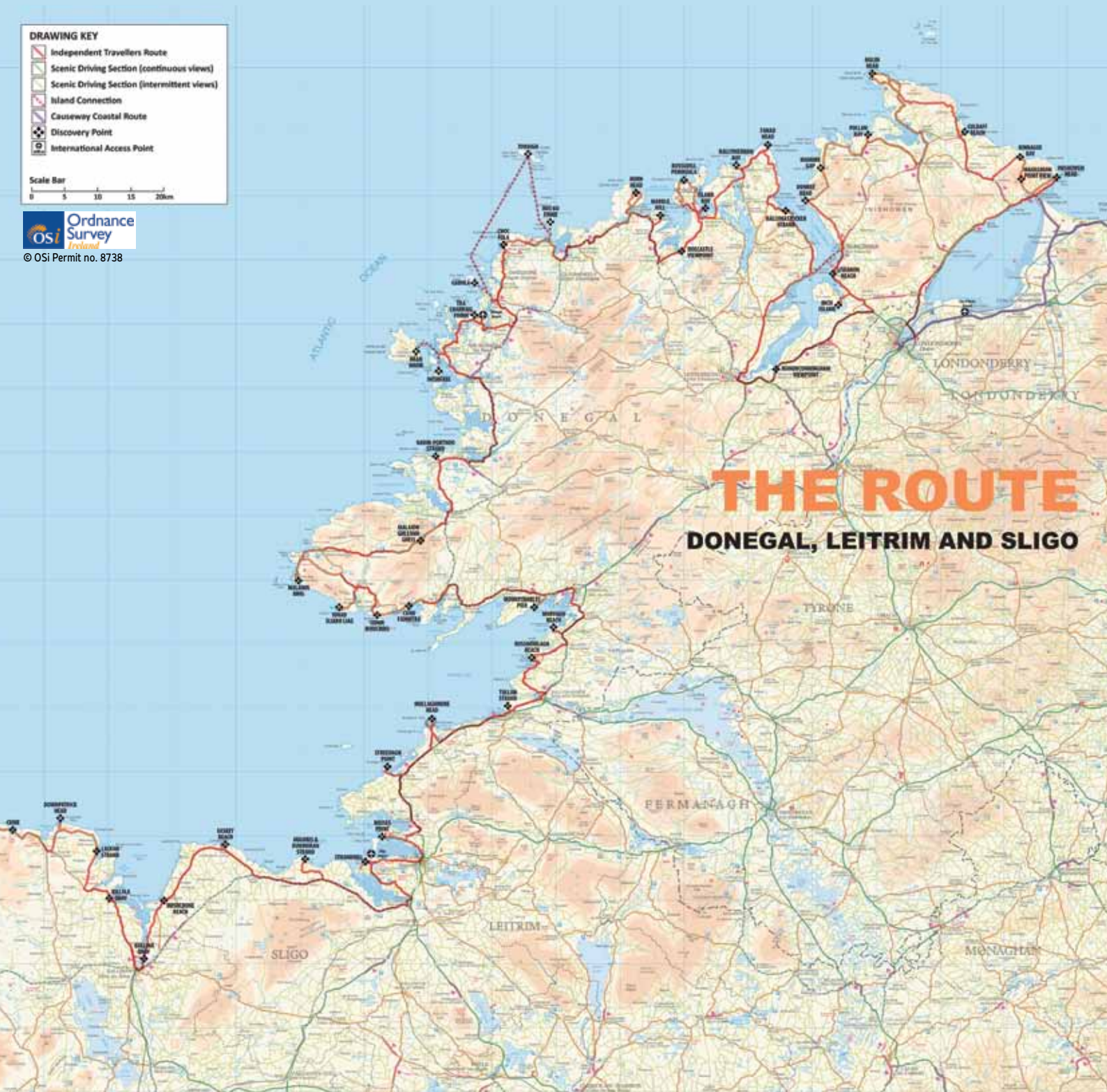
NORTH WEST

DRAWING KEY

- Independent Travellers Route
- Scenic Driving Section (continuous views)
- Scenic Driving Section (intermittent views)
- Island Connection
- Causeway Coastal Route
- Discovery Point
- International Access Point

Scale Bar
0 5 10 15 20km

Ordnance Survey
Ireland
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MAJOR TOWNS ALONG THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY

NORTH WEST

WHEREVER YOU GO ALONG THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY, GROUPS AND INDIVIDUAL VISITORS ARE SURE TO ENCOUNTER CHARMING TOWNS AND VILLAGES WITH MUCH TO OFFER IN TERMS OF CHARACTER AS WELL AS PLENTY OF DELIGHTFUL SHOPS, CAFES, RESTAURANTS AND OTHER ATTRACTIONS. LISTED BELOW IS A SELECTION OF JUST SOME OF THE TOWNS IN THE NORTH WEST.

LETTERKENNY

Letterkenny is a Gateway destination and one of the fastest growing towns in Europe. The town has seen a dramatic growth in new attractions, entertainment venues, shopping centres and accommodation over the past number of years. Letterkenny offers year round entertainment and is the perfect destination to explore the rich social, cultural and historical tapestry of Donegal and the Northwest of Ireland.

Located at the mouth of the deep and lovely Lough Swilly, the town grew in the 17th century from a small fishing village to a prosperous town. Letterkenny's name comes from the Irish Leitir Ceannain meaning Hillside of the O'Canainn clan, the earliest recorded overlords of the Swilly region.

Letterkenny offers you the opportunity to wake up and realise you're in the heart of a vibrant town, ready to take in the shopping, arts, history, sport and leisure that are within minutes of your accommodation.

DONEGAL

Donegal Town whose name in Irish means 'Fort of the Foreigner' is situated at the point where the River Eske flows into Donegal Bay. Today, this bustling small town is still very popular with tourists and is an ideal base from which to explore the south and west of the county.

Donegal Town was the seat of the O'Donnells, until the 17th Century. The remains of their stronghold "Donegal Castle" has been recently restored and is well worth a visit. Situated in the centre of the town, the Castle was built by the O'Donnell chieftain in the 15th Century. It was rebuilt in the Jacobean style in the 16th Century after its former owner Hugh O'Donnell burnt it to the ground, rather than see it fall into enemy hands.

Also to be seen in Donegal Town are the ruins of Donegal Abbey, founded in 1474, by the wife of Red Hugh O'Donnell. It was here that the Franciscans began the compilation of the Annals of the Four Masters, a vast history of Ireland extending back to the time of Noah's Grandmother. Highly recommended is the 'Donegal Bay Waterbus' which takes approximately 90 minutes and offers spectacular coastal views of Donegal Bay and surrounding Islands. Within walking distance and located near the Waterbus offices are the remains of the old Franciscan Monastery. Not only will you enjoy the walk, but the panoramic views and scenic grandeur of Donegal Bay from this vista are simply beautiful.

Donegal Craft Village, located just outside of the town within walking distance, is a charming community of eight workshop where Pottery, Batik, Jewellery, Metalwork, Uilleann Pipes and Porcelain Ceramics are individually handmade. Handweaving is also available.

BUNDORAN

Bundoran has evolved into Ireland's premier seaside resort with a host of modern facilities for visitors and yet still remains true to its roots with its own special brand of hospitality and warmth. Bundoran is a sea side resort with never ending appeal. With a wide variety of attraction, activities, quality accommodation, entertainment and places to eat and drink you will have no difficulty filling your itinerary.

BUNCRANA

Buncrana - Principal town and resort on the lovely Inishowen Peninsula. The town boasts a 5km (3.1 miles) sandy beach. Swan Park and the Buncrana Coastal Walk is a haven for the leisure walker. Buncrana Golf Club, the oldest 9 hole golf links course in Ireland and the nearby North West links offers a warm welcome for visiting golfers.

DUNGLOE

Dungloe is known locally as the capital of the Rosses and plays host to the famous international Mary from Dungloe Festival in August. The town is also home to the Daniel O'Donnell Visitor centre, which takes you through his story in the form of displays, videos and exclusive memorabilia. Dungloe is a very special town in the heart of the Donegal Gaeltacht (Irish speaking).

SLIGO HAS IT ALL –

LAKES, RIVERS, FOREST WALKS

AND THE MIGHTY ATLANTIC

OCEAN WITH A RANGE OF

ACTIVITIES AND FESTIVALS TO

SUIT EVERYONE. IT ALSO HAS

A PARTICULAR AND UNIQUE

SOUND WHEN IT COMES TO IRISH

TRADITIONAL MUSIC...

SLIGO

Sligo is situated on the North West Atlantic coast of Ireland and has ancient burial sites older than the pyramids of Egypt. The town of Sligo nestles between the mountains of Knocknarea, reputedly the final resting place of the legendary Queen Maeve of Connaught and the majestic, flat-topped Benbulbin which has been likened to Table Mountain in South Africa.'

Nobel prizewinning poet, William Butler Yeats and his artist brother, Jack spent summer holidays in Sligo, the home of their mother Susan Pollexfen. With the county of Sligo as their canvas, the literary and artistic achievements of both brothers brought them international acclaim and led to Sligo also being dubbed 'Yeats Country'. W.B. is buried at his own request in Drumcliffe, just 7km (4.5 miles) north of Sligo town. Other literary connections with Sligo town include Spike Milligan and Bram Stoker.

Sligo has it all – lakes, rivers, forest walks and the mighty Atlantic ocean with a range of activities and festivals to suit everyone. It also has a particular and unique sound when it comes to Irish traditional music. Fleadh Cheoil na h-Eireann will be celebrated in Irish music, song, and dance in August 2014. Come along and join the festivities!

COACH PARKING ALONG THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY

NORTH WEST

DONEGAL

County	Location	Attraction	No. of Bays for Coach Parking	Paid / Complimentary
Donegal	Foreshore Car Park Dungloe	Daniel O'Donnell Visitor Centre	2-3	Complimentary
Donegal	Justice Walsh Road Letterkenny	Donegal County Museum	2	Complimentary
Donegal	Justice Walsh Road	Lined for coaches	3 -4	Complimentary
Donegal	Ardara	Triona Design, Eddie Doherty both specialists in Donegal Tweed. Ardara Heritage Centre	3-4	Complimentary
Donegal	Astoria Road Bundoran	Tullan Discovery Point, Waterworld, Rougey Walk	3-4	Complimentary
Donegal	Donegal Town Quay Car Park	Donegal Castle, Waterbus, Magee's Donegal Town	6-7	5 Complimentary Bays additional parking is paid
Donegal	Donegal Town Craft Village	Craft Village	3 -4	Complimentary
Further Informal Parking				
Donegal	Letterkenny – An Grianan Theatre	Donegal County Museum	4-5	Complimentary
	Ballyshannon Car Park	Ballyshannon & District Museum	3-4	Complimentary

* Where coach parking must be paid for, only a nominal fee applies.

SLIGO

County	Location	Attraction	No. of Bays for Coach Parking	Paid / Complimentary
Sligo	Drumcliffe	Yeats Grave, Drumcliffe Church & Round Tower	2 to 3	Complimentary
Sligo	Carrowmore	Carrowmore Megalithic Cemetery	2 to 3	Complimentary
Sligo	Markievicz road	Sligo Town	3 to 4	Complimentary
Sligo	Brennan's Yard Drumcliffe	Benbulbin Pottery, Coffee Shop	1	Complimentary
Sligo	Strandhill	Voya Seaweed Baths	1	Complimentary
Sligo	Sligo Town	The Abbey	1	Paid
Sligo	Connaughton Rd Sligo Town	The Model , Sligo	1 to 2	Paid
Sligo	Rosses Point	Coney Island and Sligo Bay	1	Complimentary
Sligo/Leitrim	Kilmore, Five Mile Bourne Co. Sligo	Rose of Innisfree Boat Trip on Lough Gill and Parke's Castle	1	Complimentary

NORTHWEST

LARGE CAPACITY ATTRACTIONS ALONG THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY



DONEGAL	
Attraction	Description
Inishowen Maritime Museum Greencastle, Co Donegal. Tel: +353 74 9381363 Email: greencastlemaritime@eircom.net Web: www.inishowenmaritime.com	Located in the old Coast Guard Station, only 100 yards (90m) from the Lough Foyle Ferry landing at Greencastle Harbour, County Donegal. Attractions include extensive nautical exhibits, memorabilia, photographs, models, modern and ancient maritime equipment and Irish boats from 1.8 to 15m (6 to 50ft) in size.
Grianan Aileach Inishowen Peninsula, Co. Donegal Tel: +353 74 9362600 Email: info@visitinishowen.com Web: www.visitinishowen.com	Grianan Aileach is the best known monument in Donegal. Situated near Burt in Donegal, this very fine stone-built hilltop fort or cashel is situated 244m (800ft) above sea level on Greenan Mountain and commands superb views of the Foyle, Lough Swilly and the surrounding countryside.
Doagh Famine Village Clonmany, Co Donegal Contact: Pat Doherty Tel: +353 74 97378078 Email: info@doaghfaminevillage.com www.doaghfaminevillage.com	The Famine Village tells the story of a family and community living on the edge and surviving, from the Famine of the 1840s to the present time. Remoteness, isolation and reliance on small plots of land made this a harsh place to live. Yet the same families have lived here for generations. Learn how these people adapted and survived. In brief, the Famine Village is an outdoor museum that tells the story of life in the area from the Famine back in the 1840s, through the 1900s to the present day. Different to any other tourist attraction in Ireland the Famine Village depicts life in Ireland as it was, uncommercialised, interdenominational interspersed with humorous anecdotes of Irish life.
Glenveagh National Park Churchill, Letterkenny, Co Donegal Contact: Tres Connaghan Tel: +353 76 1002537 Email: tres.connaghan@ahg.gov.ie www.glenveaghnationalpark.ie.	Some 16,540 hectares (40,873 acres) of mountains, lakes, glens and woods, with a herd of red deer. A Scottish style castle is surrounded by one of the finest gardens in Ireland, which contrast with the rugged surroundings. The Visitor Centre houses exhibitions and an audio-visual show. Built in the years 1870 - 1873, the castle consists of a four storey rectangular keep. Access to the interior is by tour only. Morning and afternoon teas are served in the castle tearooms all season.
Ards Forest Park Sheephaven Bay, Creeslough, Co Donegal. Contact: Neil P. Browne Email: Neil.Browne@Coillte.ie Web: www.coillteoutdoors.ie	Ards Forest Park is probably the most beautiful and varied of Ireland's forest parks. It covers 480 hectares and contains a large diversity of plant and wildlife forms. Sandy beaches, rivers, viewing points, nature walks, picnic and play areas are all available. It also has many features of historical and archaeological interest. The remains of four ring forts are to be seen in the park as well as a number of megalithic tombs. A walk in Ards Forest Park will allow you to truly experience the wilds of Donegal.
Triona Design Ardara, Co Donegal Contact: Denis Mulhern Tel +353 74 9541422 Email: info@trionadesign.com Web: www.trionadesign.com	Housed in a building formerly known as 'the mart' Triona Design is a family run business. Triona Design has a tremendous history behind it. For 25 years Triona Design has kept alive the tradition of handwoven Donegal Tweed and Irish Produce. Having 5 generations of weavers in the family, keeping alive such an art is not an easy task and their amazing skill has earned Triona Design numerous Fáilte Ireland and Donegal Enterprise Awards.

NORTHWEST

LARGE CAPACITY ATTRACTIONS

ALONG THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY

DONEGAL *(continued)*

Attraction	Description
Glencolmcille Folk Village Glencolmcille, Co Donegal. Contact: Margaret Cunningham Tel: +353 74 9730017 Email: Folkvillage@eircom.net Web: www.glenfolkvillage.com	<i>This thatched-roof replica of a rural village in Ireland's most north westerly county offers a glimpse into daily life as it was during past centuries. The Folk Village Museum is a cluster of several small cottages, called a 'clachan', perched on a hillside overlooking the sandy curve of Glen Bay Beach in the Gaeltacht (Irish-speaking area) of South West Donegal. Designed, built and maintained by the local people, the Folk Village is one of Ireland's best living-history museums.</i>
Slieve League Cultural Centre Teelin, Co Donegal Contact: Paddy Clarke Tel: +353 87 7706334 Email: paddy@sliebleague.com Web: www.slieveleaguecliffs.ie	<i>The award winning Slieve League Cultural Centre is a family affair, run by husband and wife team Paddy and Siobhan Clarke. Paddy was a deep sea fisherman for twenty years but now has a masters in archaeology. He is a Fáilte Ireland tour guide and heritage & hiking guide, and fits this in in between looking after coach tours and hiking groups. With her eye for colours, Siobhan looks after the craft shop, choosing Irish made knitwear, and crafts. You will find a difference here at Ti Linn craft shop. As members of Good Food Ireland, Paddy and Siobhan keep high standards, serving top quality locally sourced food at reasonable prices in café Ti Linn Everything from homemade scones, cakes, cookies and desserts are on offer, as well as delectable soups and seafood salads. In the summer there are traditional music evenings with some well known national players. Winner of CIE Tours International "Gold Award" of Excellence and Best Visit in all Ireland 2010 & 2011, The Slieve League Cultural Centre is all about local culture, food and crafts served with a warm Donegal welcome and sense of humour. Whether you are seeking a hiking experience with a difference, a heritage tour, archaeological day, boat trip under the cliffs, kayaking round the coast or a coffee "to go" drop in or contact us.</i>
Fisherman Out of Ireland Kilcar Co. Donegal. Contact: Des Daly Tel: +353 74 973 8233 E-mail: info@fishermanoutofireland.com Web: www.fishermanoutofireland.com	<i>Fisherman Out of Ireland is based in Kilcar. It has been shipping the Fisherman Out of Ireland range to the four corners of the globe for over ten years. Its extensive range of knitwear for gents and ladies is sold throughout Ireland, Europe, the United States and Asia. The company manufactures knitwear in simple, contemporary designs with clever details. They use 100% natural yarns to create all their authentic knits.</i>
Donegal Craft Village Lurganboy (Ballyshannon Rd), Donegal Town, Co Donegal. Tel: +353 74 97 22225 Email: Info@donegalcraftvillage.com Web: www.donegalcraftvillage.com	<i>Come and visit us outside the historic town of Donegal in the north west of Ireland. Meet the artists in their workshops and treat yourself to the many items on offer for yourself or as a memorable gift. Donegal Craft Village is a showcase for contemporary arts and crafts in Ireland. Stop off and indulge in the award winning restaurant renowned for its freshly ground coffee, delicious home made cakes and gourmet lunches. The beautifully landscaped grounds include a picnic area, a charming courtyard, and spacious, free, car & coach parking.</i>
Donegal Castle Donegal Town, Co Donegal. Contact: Sean McLoone Tel: +353 74 972 2405 Email: donegalcastle@opw.ie Web: www.heritageireland.ie	<i>Built by the O'Donnell chieftain in the 15th century, beside the River Eske, the Castle features extensive 17th century additions by Sir Basil Brooke. The Castle is furnished throughout and includes Persian rugs and French tapestries. Information panels chronicle the history of the Castle owners from the O'Donnell chieftains to the Brooke family. Limited access for people with disabilities to the ground floor.</i>

SLIABH LIAG WALKERS, DONEGAL

SLIGO

Attraction	Description
Yeats Grave & Drumcliffe Churchyard Drumcliffe, Sligo Contact: Sligo Tourist Information Office Tel: +353 71 9161201 Email: northwestinfo@failteireland.ie Web: www.discoverireland.ie	Nobel prizewinning Irish poet William Butler Yeats chose in one of his final poems, his own last resting place - Drumcliffe 'under bare Benbulbin's head'. He was finally laid to rest as he desired, beside the church where his great grandfather had come as a rector one hundred and thirty seven years previously. An epitaph is a short and often clever last message to the living found on gravestones. W.B Yeats's epitaph reads 'Cast a cold Eye On life, on death Horseman, pass by!'. Drumcliffe churchyard also includes the remains of a High Tower and a High Cross constructed in the 11th century when there was a Christian monastery on the site. Drumcliffe Tea House and Craft Shop serve scrumptious homemade food and goodies and have a wide selection of high quality crafts on sale.
Knocknarea Mountain Knocknarea, Sligo Contact: Sligo Tourist Information Office Tel: +353 71 9161201 Email: northwestinfo@failteireland.ie Web: www.discoverireland.ie	The 327 m (1072.83ft) high mountain known as Knocknarea (Irish: Cnoc na Rí) totally dominates the Cuil Irra peninsula. Sitting proudly on top is Queen Maeve's Cairn (Miosgán Meadhbha), a neolithic passage tomb. The cairn is 55m (180.45ft) wide by 10m (32.8ft) high and has never been excavated. It is directly in line with Carrowmore and other associated ancient sites in Sligo and beyond. There is a walking trail (really a dirt track) to the top and the walk is suitable for most fitness levels. The vista from the top is well worth the effort to get there! It is said that Queen Maeve a legendary chieftain queen of Connaught is buried beneath the cairn in full battle regalia, standing upright and facing her enemies in Ulster. Tradition suggests to bring a rock from the base to leave on the Cairn to receive good luck.
Carrowmore, Sligo Contact: Pdraig Meehan Tel: +353 87 799 5726 Email: carrowmoretomb@opw.ie Web: www.heritageireland.ie	Carrowmore, County Sligo is one of the four major passage tomb cemeteries in Ireland. It is the most extensive in Europe and older than the pyramids. It is located at the centre of a prehistoric ritual landscape on the Cuil Irra peninsula. This is the largest cemetery of megalithic tombs in Ireland and is also among the country's oldest, with monuments ranging from five and a half thousand to six and a half thousand years old. Archaeologists have recorded over 60 tombs of which 30 are visible. A restored cottage houses an exhibition relating to the site.
Eagles Flying The Irish Raptor Research Centre Ballymote, Sligo Contact: Lothar Muschketat Tel: +353 71 9189310 Email: eaglesflying@utvinternet.com Web: www.eaglesflying.com	THE ATTRACTION FOR ALL THE FAMILY - excitement, fun, photo opportunities and much more at affordable prices. Situated amid the beautiful landscape of North-West Ireland is Eagles Flying, the largest Centre for Birds of Prey and Owls in the country. Come join us for the fantastic and memorable experience of majestic raptors soaring over one of the most lovely locations to be found. Watch our shows! GET UP CLOSE TO THE MASTERS OF THE SKY!!! Experience some of the biggest birds of prey in the world flying right over your head or landing next to you. Watch different species of eagles hunting on prey-dummies in their natural environment. Be astonished about the arrow like flight of the falcons and the amazing intelligence of the vultures. During the Flying Demonstrations scientists will share with you the biology of the raptors and their important role in nature and questions will gladly be answered. Educating you about these birds also means safeguarding these endangered species for future generations as you will learn how to do your share in protecting our nature.



DRAMATIC CLIFFS, BALLYCASTLE, NORTH MAYO

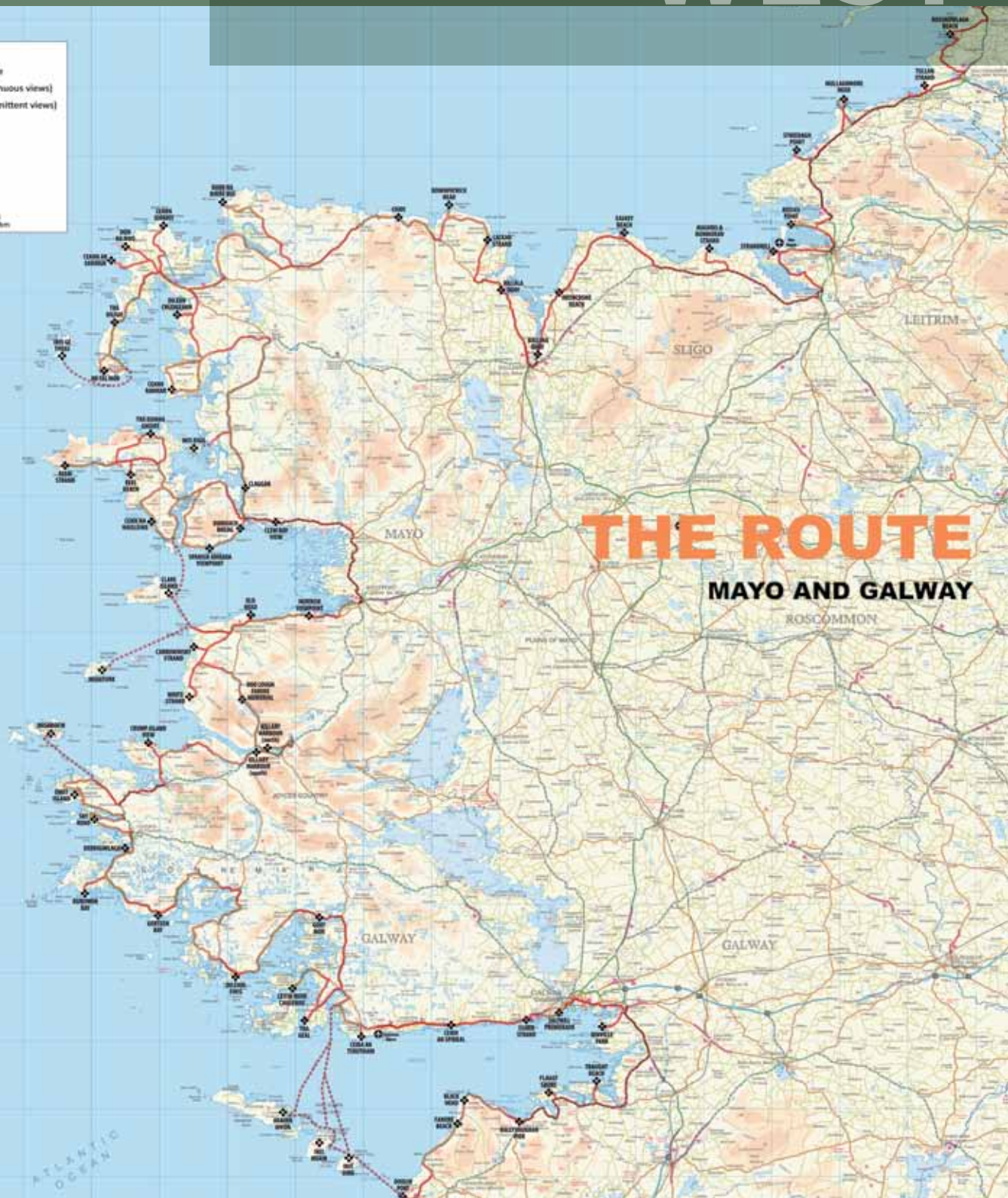
WEST

DRAWING KEY

- Independent Travellers Route
- Scenic Driving Section (continuous views)
- Scenic Driving Section (intermittent views)
- Island Connection
- Causeway Coastal Route
- Discovery Point
- International Access Point

Scale Bar
0 5 10 15 20km

Ordnance Survey
Ireland
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MAJOR TOWNS ALONG THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY

WEST

WHEREVER YOU GO ALONG THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY, GROUPS AND INDIVIDUAL VISITORS ARE SURE TO ENCOUNTER CHARMING TOWNS AND VILLAGES WITH MUCH TO OFFER IN TERMS OF CHARACTER AS WELL AS PLENTY OF DELIGHTFUL SHOPS, CAFES, RESTAURANTS AND OTHER ATTRACTIONS. LISTED BELOW IS A SELECTION OF JUST SOME OF THE TOWNS IN THE WEST.

BALLINA

Ballina in Irish is Béal an Átha, meaning “mouth of the ford”. Ballina town, in north County Mayo, lies at the mouth of the River Moy near Killala Bay with the Ox Mountains to the east and the Nephin Beg mountains to the west. A busy industrial and commercial town, Ballina is best known for its world-class angling with anglers the world over dreaming of landing a salmon at the Ridgpool. The town also has some notable architecture including St Muredach's Cathedral and the 15th century Moyne Abbey on the outskirts and has many listed buildings including Georgian houses on the banks of the River Moy.

The Jackie Clarke Collection, one of the most important private collections of Irish historical material in public hands, comprising over 100,000 items spanning 400 years, is on display in a restored bank building on Pearse Street.

BELMULLET

Belmullet (Béal an Mhuirthead) is a coastal town located on the Mullet peninsula in the North West of Co Mayo. The town has two bays, Blacksod Bay and Broadhaven Bay which are joined by Carters Canal (named for a nineteenth century local landlord William Henry Carter) which runs through the town. Belmullet is a busy, bustling town and is an ideal base for touring the Erris region. Belmullet is popular area for fishing, with fresh-water and sea-angling off Broadhaven Bay and is home to many family events and festivals throughout the year. The legend of The Children of Lir originates from nearby Erris Head. It tells the tale of children who were turned into swans and condemned to wander the countryside for 900 years.

WESTPORT

Westport in Irish is Cathair na Mart, meaning “stone fort of the beeves”. Located at the south-east corner of Clew Bay in County Mayo, Westport is one of Ireland's most popular towns. It is a Heritage Town, a planned town and once of Ireland's tidiest towns. In 1780 Lord Sligo, of the stately home, Westport House, commissioned James Wyatt to build the town as a place for his workers and tenants to live. The town was constructed in the Georgian architectural style, with a delightful layout following the Norman principles of urban design from the 13th century and featuring an attractive tree-lined mall with several stone bridges over the Carrowbeg River, Georgian streetscapes and now boasts an overall friendly, colourful and cosmopolitan atmosphere.



BALLYCONNEELY, CONNEMARA, CO GALWAY

CLIFDEN

Westport House itself was originally built by Richard Cassels, the German architect, in the 1730s, on the site of the original Ó'Máille Castle – home of the pirate queen Grace O'Malley (Gráinne Uaile). The house and its parklands are open to the public and are a magnet for families. The Westport area offers a wide range of sporting adventure and outdoor activities from golf to sailing, to angling, to surfing, with something for everyone. The most recent addition to Westport's outdoor activity facilities is the Great Western Greenway, Ireland's first off-road walking and cycling trail which is 42 km (26 miles) long and runs from Westport to Achill Island.

Clifden in Irish is An Clochán, meaning "stepping stones". The County Galway town is often referred to as "the Capital of Connemara" and is the ideal base for touring the Connemara region. The town is located on the Owenglen River as it flows into Clifden Bay and was founded at the start of the 19th century by John D'Arcy (1785–1839) who lived in Clifden Castle (built around 1818 and now a ruin west of Clifden). The town gained prominence in 1905 when Guglielmo Marconi built his first high power transatlantic long wave wireless telegraphy station 7 km (4.5 miles) south of the town from where the first commercial transatlantic message was transmitted to Nova Scotia on October 17th, 1907.

On June 19th, 1919 the first transatlantic flight by Alcock and Brown crash landed in Derrygimlagh bog, close to Marconi's transatlantic wireless station.

GALWAY

The city takes its name from the river Gaillimh (River Corrib) that formed the western boundary of the earliest settlement, called Dún Bhun na Gaillimhe ("Fort at the mouth of the Gaillimh"). The word Gaillimh means "stony" as in "stony river". The city also bears the nickname "City of the Tribes" (Cathair na dTreabh in Irish) because fourteen tribes of merchant families led the city in its Hiberno-Norman period.

Known the world over for its friendly people, charming streets, shopping and nightlife, a visit to Galway will refresh the spirits like nowhere else. Wander the city's cobble-stoned streets packed with culture, traditional Irish music and activities for everyone. Every summer, Galway hosts a myriad of festivals and events from the Galway Arts Festival to the renowned Galway Races and has a vibrant and varied music scene. As in most Irish cities traditional music is popular and is kept alive in pubs and by street performers. Other annual events include the Galway Sessions, Galway Film Fleadh and the Galway International Oyster Festival.



COACH PARKING ALONG THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY

WEST

MAYO

County	Location	No. of Bays for Coach Parking	Paid / Complimentary
Mayo	High Street Car Park (access off Mill St) Westport	1	Complimentary
Mayo	The Quay, Westport	3	Complimentary
Mayo	Westport Leisure Park, James St, Westport	3	Complimentary
Attractions with Coach Parking			
Mayo	Carne Golf Links, Carne, Belmullet, Co. Mayo	3	Complimentary
Mayo	Downpatrick Head, Co. Mayo	3	Complimentary
Mayo	Jackie Clarke Collection, Pearse Street, Ballina, Co. Mayo	1	Complimentary
Mayo	Céide Fields, Ballycastle, Co. Mayo	2	Complimentary
Mayo	Ballycroy National Park, Lagduff More, Ballycroy, Westport, Co. Mayo	5	Complimentary

GALWAY

County	Location	No. of Bays for Coach Parking	Paid / Complimentary
Galway	Galway Road, Clifden	10	Complimentary
Galway	Cathedral, Galway	8-10	Complimentary
Galway	Dyke Road, Galway	7	Complimentary
Galway	Merchants Road, Galway	2	Complimentary
Galway	Prospect Hill, Galway	1	Complimentary
Galway	Victoria Place, Galway	1	Complimentary
Galway	Salthill (Outside Aquarium), Galway	2	Complimentary
Attractions with Coach Parking			
Galway	Connemara Golf Links, Ballyconneely, Co. Galway	4	Complimentary
Galway	Killary Adventure Centre, Leenane, Co. Galway	2	Complimentary
Galway	Galway Cathedral, Across the road from The Cathedral	3	Complimentary
Galway	Ceardlann Craft Village, Spiddal, Co. Galway	4	Complimentary

* Where coach parking must be paid for, only a nominal fee applies.

LARGE CAPACITY ATTRACTIONS ALONG THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY

MAYO	
Attraction	Description
Jackie Clarke Collection Pearse Street, Ballina, Co. Mayo Contact: Sinead McCool Tel: +353 96 73508 Email: clarkecollection@mayococo.ie Web: www.clarkecollection.ie	A restored bank building in Ballina houses the most important private collection of Irish historical memorabilia and features an exhibition centre, the repository and an adjoining walled heritage garden. The material covers 400 years of Irish history and was compiled over a lifetime by Jackie Clarke, a Ballina fishmonger. There are over 100,000 items in the collection and it includes newspapers, rare maps and books, the original 1916 Proclamation of Independence, personal items from the leaders of the 1916 Rising, and material from the Hunger Strike period
Céide Fields Ballycastle, Co. Mayo Contact: Greta Byrne Tel: +353 96 43325 Email: ceidefields@opw.ie Web: www.museumsofmayo.com/ceide	A unique Neolithic landscape and the oldest known field systems in the world at over five millennia old. Displays, walking tour and AV show tell a story of the everyday lives of farming people and their spiritual beliefs.
Downpatrick Head Co. Mayo	Take the time to view Downpatrick Head with its cliff walks and blow holes. You can also see Dún Bríste, an impressive sea stack of approx. 50m (164ft) in height, lying 80m off Downpatrick Head, east of Ballycastle
Carne Golf Links Carne, Belmullet, Co. Mayo Contact: Rena Garrett Tel: +353 97 82292 Email: info@carnegolfinks.com Web: www.carnegolfinks.com	Situated at the edge of the Belmullet Peninsula, Carne Golf Links was the last links course to be designed by Eddie Hackett and is believed by many who played it to be his greatest challenge. Set in 280 acres, the course has breathtaking views over the Atlantic and the legendary Islands of Inis Glóire and Inis Gé. An additional 9 holes have recently been added to the original 18 holes. The Kilmore Nine will form an additional loop through the most spectacular dunes and further enhance what is considered to be one of the greatest courses in Ireland.
Ballycroy National Park Lagduff More, Ballycroy, Westport, Co. Mayo Contact: Brid Colhoun Tel: +353 98 49996 Email: brid.colhoun@ahg.gov.ie Web: www.ballycroynationalpark.ie	Covering 11,000 hectares of Atlantic blanket bog, this unspoilt wilderness is dominated by the Nephin Beg mountain range. The park is part of the Owenduff/Nephin Complex Special Area of Conservation and protects a variety of important habitats and species including alpine heath, red grouse and otters. The Ballycroy National Park Visitor Centre is located in the nearby village of Ballycroy.
Artisan Adventure Co. Mayo Tel: +353 98 24818 Email: info@clewbayoutdoors.ie	Take a cycle tour of the Great Western Greenway and sample artisan food on a unique al fresco cooking adventure. Collect your hired bike, choose from 4 menu options, collect food from local producers and cook your own meal using a Kelly Kettle.
Westport House & Pirate Adventure Park Westport, Co. Mayo Email: info@westporthouse.ie Web: www.westporthouse.ie	Take a voyage of discovery of a true character epitomizing the Wild Atlantic. Westport House on at Westport Quay was the site of one of the Pirate Queen, Grace O'Malley's castles and the current house is owned by her 14th great grand-daughters. It tells Grace's swash-buckling tale: how she ruled the seas from Scotland to Spain and crossed swords with Queen Elizabeth. Visit the Pirate Adventure Park for a day of family fun, see the Pirate Queen's exhibition and visit the 'dungeons' which are the remaining foundations of her 16th century castle upon which the house is built.

WEST

LARGE CAPACITY ATTRACTIONS ALONG THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY

GALWAY

Attraction	Description
Killary Adventure Centre Leenane, Co. Galway. Contact: Jamie & Mary Young Tel: +353 95 43411 Email: adventure@killary.com Web: www.killaryadventure.com	Overlooking the breathtaking Killary Harbour, Killary Adventure Centre specialises in adventure activities on both land and sea. The activities on offer include kayaking, abseiling, wakeboarding, ringo rides and water skiing. Killary is home to Ireland's only fixed Bungee so you can take the 60 foot plunge from the sky frame if you are brave or even try the giant swing. Whether you are an outdoor enthusiast or after the extreme adrenaline rush, there is something for you in this wonderful setting on Ireland's only fjord.
Connemara Championship Golf Links Ballyconneely, Co. Galway Contact: Kathleen Burke Tel: +353 96 23602 Email: info@connemaragolfinks.net Web: www.connemaragolfinks.com	Situated on Slyne Head between the splendour of the Twelve Bens mountain range and the rugged Atlantic Ocean, Connemara offers 27 holes of authentic links. The course's difficulty largely depends on the unpredictable Atlantic winds and is an enduring monument to its designer, Eddie Hackett.
Ceardlann Craft Village Spiddal, Co. Galway Contact: Andrea Rossi Tel: +353 87 0670897 Email: andreagiovana@hotmail.com Web: www.ceardlann.com	Craft and design studios housing 10 craft workers specialising in a range of crafts from basket making to Celtic Coin jewellery making and rock ceramics. There is also an award-winning café, Builín Blasta, serving home-made lunch and snacks on site.
Galway Cathedral Across from The Cathedral, Galway City Contact: Galway City Council Web: www.galwaycity.ie	Galway Cathedral is a Roman Catholic Cathedral which dominates the skyline of Galway city. Construction of the cathedral began in 1958 on the site of the old city jail. The architecture draws on many influences including Renaissance and Christian art and its Rose windows and mosaics are among its most prominent features.
Dunguaire Castle Kinvara, Co. Galway Tel +353 61 711200 Email: reservations@shannonheritage.com Web: www.shannonheritage.com	Dunguaire Castle and its history lie at the heart of the Ireland's literary revival in the early 20th century. It was built in 1520 by the O'Hynes clan on the picturesque shores of Galway Bay. This restored 16th century tower house sits on a rocky outcrop on the shores of Galway Bay and gives an insight into the lifestyle of the people who lived from 1520 to modern times. From April to October you can enjoy fabulous entertainment and locally sourced food at the renowned castle banquet.
Connemara Wild Escapes - Connemara Marine Life Safari, Co. Galway Tel: +353 95 49052 Email: info@connemarawildescapes.ie Web: www.connemarawildescapes.ie	Board the charter boat, the 'Brazen Hussey' at Derryniver Harbour at the mouth of the Renvyle Peninsula. This Wilderness Safari is great for those who like to get outdoors and explore. You will set off in search of the magnificent mammal species of the western seas: Whales, Dolphins and Porpoises. You'll see several seal colonies and the occasional family of sea otters as well as a treasure trove of sea bird colonies. Enjoy a packed lunch (provided) on one of Connemara's many islands. For groups of 8-12 people.

GALWAY (continued)

Attraction	Description
Connemara Wild Escapes - Explore the Islands Safari, Co. Galway Tel: +353 95 49052 Email: info@connemarawildescapes.ie Web: www.connemarawildescapes.ie	<p>Explore some of Connemara's many islands which are flung out into the Atlantic and shaped by the force of the sea. From Inishturk Island, High Island and Inishark, each has its own story to tell. Your chartered boat will leave from Derryniver Harbour for the day. Packed lunch and maps are provided. Min. no. 8 people.</p>
Cruinniù na mBád Festival Kinvara, Co. Galway Contact: Michael Brogan Tel: +353 86 2510922 Email: macduach@gmail.com Web: www.kinvara.com/cruinniu	<p>Taking place in the lovely town of Kinvara situated on the edge of the Burren landscape, this is a unique event celebrating Ireland's maritime history. The festival celebrates the history of the 'Galway Hooker' red sailed boats which are up to 150 years old and have been in families for generations. Gaelic is the language of the crews on board. The festival takes place over a weekend in the middle of August. It includes a series of races, a Farmers' market, Mass and Blessing of Boats and Music and 'Craic' in the local pubs.</p>
Cashel House Seaweed Cookery Experience Co. Galway Email: res@cashel-house-hotel.com Web: www.cashel-house-hotel.com	<p>Take a shore walk in Cashel Bay and learn about the different types of Atlantic seaweed. This is followed by a cookery demonstration and a tasting lunch/dinner. Menu items will include Seafood Chowder with sea veg, Duileasc loaf, Carrageen Coconut & Chili Mussels and Carrageen Panacotta. Suitable for groups of 6 people upwards.</p>
Experience Inis Meáin Co. Galway Contact: Tonaí Ó Roduibh Email: O_roduibh@hotmail.com	<p>Inis Meáin is regarded by many as the most traditional of the Aran Islands. This day trip starts in Galway city where a bus will bring you to the ferry port of Ros A 'Mhíl (Rossaveal) for your trip to the island. On the island you will meet four native islanders and learn about the ancient fishing and farming techniques used on the island while facing the challenges of their exposed environment. You will have a lunch of the finest local produce across from an Iron Age stone fort and you can try your hand at Cead, a sport which is unique to the island and played just once a year on St. Patrick's Day. Suitable for groups of 10 people upwards.</p>
Connemara Coastal Walk with Walking West Email: info@walkingwest.ie www.walkingwest.ie	<p>Walk with one of our fully qualified guides who specialise in coastal walks in Connemara. Meet in the village of Carna and learn about its boat-building and sail-making tradition. Then walk across spectacular beaches to the deserted island of Fínis where you'll learn about the history of local saints, and its ancient wells and churches. Return to Carna and forage for winkles at low tide on the shores of Muighinis (Mweenish) on the way.</p>



DOLPHIN WATCHING, SHANNON ESTUARY, CO. CLARE

MID WEST



MAJOR TOWNS ALONG THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY

MID WEST

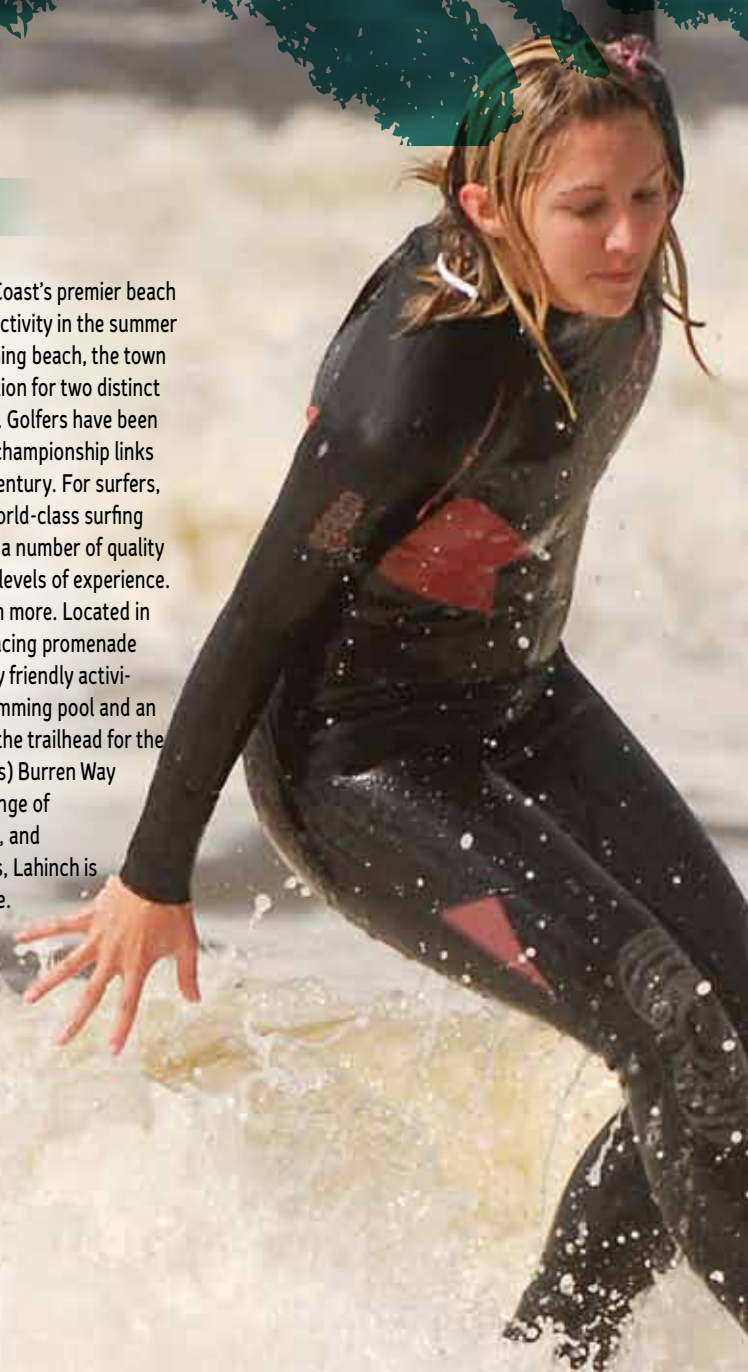
WHEREVER YOU GO ALONG THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY, GROUPS AND INDIVIDUAL VISITORS ARE SURE TO ENCOUNTER CHARMING TOWNS AND VILLAGES WITH MUCH TO OFFER IN TERMS OF CHARACTER AS WELL AS PLENTY OF DELIGHTFUL SHOPS, CAFES, RESTAURANTS AND OTHER ATTRACTIONS. LISTED BELOW IS A SELECTION JUST SOME OF THE TOWNS IN THE MID WEST.

DOOLIN

Doolin has the distinction of sharing its Gaelic name with Ireland's capital city Dublin, both names are translated from 'Dubhlinn', meaning the 'Black Pool'. Often referred to as the spiritual home of Irish traditional music, there are lively sessions nightly in the cosy village pubs. Stores in the village are filled with all kinds of traditional Irish crafts and clothing, where you can pick up a gift or memento of your visit. Visitors can catch a ferry to the Aran Islands or take a cruise to the base of the 200m (700ft) Cliffs of Moher and marvel at this iconic attraction from a completely different perspective. Set against the rugged Atlantic Ocean and surrounded by the spectacular bare limestone landscape of the Burren, Doolin is truly a place of breath-taking beauty.

LAHINCH

Lahinch is one of the West Coast's premier beach resort towns and a hive of activity in the summer months. As well as its stunning beach, the town has an international reputation for two distinct activities – golf and surfing. Golfers have been coming to play the famous championship links course since the late 19th century. For surfers, Lahinch is renowned as a world-class surfing location, and there are also a number of quality surf schools to cater for all levels of experience. But the town offers so much more. Located in the middle of the Atlantic-facing promenade is Seaworld, featuring family friendly activities including an indoor swimming pool and an aquarium. The town is also the trailhead for the spectacular 123km (76 miles) Burren Way walking trail. With a wide range of accommodation, lively pubs, and restaurants to suit all tastes, Lahinch is the heartbeat of North Clare.



KILKEE

Kilkee's career as a seaside resort took off in early Victorian times when the affluent families of Limerick built themselves summer villas near the town's beautiful crescent beach. As Kilkee became famous for its bathing spots and natural beauty, many prominent people in society travelled to Kilkee including Sir Aubrey de Vere, Charlotte Brontë (who spent her honeymoon here) and Lord Alfred Tennyson. The town has retained its Victorian charm but now offers a wide range of activities to the visitor. At the south end of the beach, the Diamond Rocks and Pollock Holes form natural swimming pools and are well worth a visit. In 2006, a statue of Richard Harris was unveiled in Kilkee by actor Russell Crowe who spoke very highly of the town saying it had some of the best public walks in the world. These dramatic cliff walks are located at both ends of the town. Kilkee is the ideal base to explore all that Loop Head has to offer.

KILRUSH

Kilrush is located at the mouth of the Shannon Estuary, where the great river finally meets the wild Atlantic Ocean. It is the largest town on the Clare coast and developed in the 1800s as a seaport, market and post town. A well-signed heritage trail enables visitors to explore the sights and attractions of the town. From the modern marina, you can catch a boat to Scatterry Island or arrange a trip to see the famous Shannon dolphins. Scatterry Island is a national monument site, where St. Senan founded a monastery in the 6th century and which went on to suffer significantly from Viking raids in subsequent centuries. The remains on the island include several churches, a holy well and a unique 10th century round tower.

Back in Kilrush, the Vandeleur Walled Garden is a beautifully restored Victorian garden with a horizontal maze, unusual water-features and a free-standing Victorian-style working glass-house. Surrounded by the original old stone-walls, the peaceful courtyard setting offers visitor facilities including a café and gift shop. The gardens are set in 420 acres of accessible native woodland which was planted mostly in the 18th century and features mature trees of great beauty.

FOR SURFERS, LAHINCH IS
RENOWNED AS A WORLD-CLASS
SURFING LOCATION, AND THERE
ARE ALSO A NUMBER OF QUALITY
SURF SCHOOLS TO CATER FOR ALL
LEVELS OF EXPERIENCE. BUT THE
TOWN OFFERS SO MUCH MORE.

COACH PARKING ALONG THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY

MID WEST

CLARE				
County	Location	Attractions	No. of Bays for Coach Parking	Paid / Complimentary
Clare	Lahinch Promenade	Lahinch Prom & Beach	5-6	Complimentary
Clare	Kilkee (a) Grattan St (b) Lower Strandline near the Bandstand	Beach & town facilities	2 at each location Both areas suitable & used by coaches regularly.	Complimentary
Clare	Kilrush (a) Francis St. (b) Place de Plouzane, Burton St.	Kilrush Town. Walk to Marina for boats to Scatterry Island & Shannon Dolphins	2 on Francis St, 1 at Place de Plouzane	Complimentary
Clare/Kerry	Coach Parking available at Ferry Terminals at Tarbert and Killimer	Terminals for Shannon Ferries		

County	Location	Attractions	No. of Bays for Coach Parking	Paid / Complimentary
Limerick	Foynes Main St. Car Park	Foynes Flying Boat Museum	4	Complimentary

* Where coach parking must be paid for, only a nominal fee applies.

MID WEST

LARGE CAPACITY ATTRACTIONS ALONG THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY



CLARE

Attraction	Description
Aillwee Cave & Birds of Prey Centre Ballyvaughan, Co. Clare Tel: + 353 657077036 Email: info@aillweecave.ie Web: www.aillweecave.ie	<p><i>Aillwee Cave welcomes you to the dramatic underworld of this area. Expert guides will accompany and inform you during your leisurely stroll through the beautiful caverns – over bridged chasms, under weird formations and alongside the thunderous waterfall which sometimes gently sprays the unsuspecting visitor! Marvel at the frozen waterfall and explore the now extinct brown bear bones (ursos arctos). The guides will bring you back to the outside world where you will experience one of the most spectacular views of Galway Bay.</i></p> <p><i>The Burren Birds of Prey Centre educates and entertains visitors with dynamic flying displays set against the dramatic Burren Landscape. You can experience dynamic flying displays where you can interact and get up close and personal with the birds. The Centre also offers 'Hawk Walks' which are a once in a life time opportunity to interact with some of nature's top predators.</i></p>
Burren Smokehouse Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare Tel: +353 65 7074432 Email: info@burrensmokehouse.ie Web: www.burrensmokehouse.ie	<p><i>Burren Smokehouse Visitor Centre welcomes you to a tasting of their smoked salmon and to watch a DVD presentation about the smoking process (free of charge) - available in English, German, French, Italian & Dutch. Within the building the owners have retained the first kiln used when the business was established. Browse through the Gourmet Shop where you can purchase not only the Burren Smokehouse products, but also local and Irish foods and crafts. Offering a worldwide mail order service in their visitor centre and on their website – pick from their wide range of products and have them shipped to yourself or your friends and family as a souvenir from Ireland.</i></p>
Doolin Cave Doolin, Co. Clare Tel: +353 65 7075761 Email: tours@doolincave.ie Web: www.doolincave.ie	<p><i>The Great Stalactite is a world-class natural wonder at Doolin Cave, and is becoming one of the most important eco-tourist attractions in Ireland. Measuring 7.3m (23ft) in length, it is recognised as being the longest stalactite in the Northern hemisphere. From the moment you descend over 80ft into the first tunnel, with your guide, you will enter a world carved by water. When you enter the stunning, cathedral-like dome that houses the huge stalactite, you will be briefly plunged into a world of primitive darkness. Then, in a flash, you will be awestruck as the subtly-lit stalactite appears before you. The newly opened Farmland Nature Trail which is free for visitors is an opportunity to take a relaxing stroll through the peaceful surroundings of Doolin Cave among indigenous woodland plants, trees and wildflower meadows.</i></p>
Cliffs of Moher Visitor Centre Liscannor, Co. Clare Contact: Geraldine Enright Tel: +353 65 708 6141 Email info@cliffsofmoher.ie Web: www.cliffsofmoher.ie	<p><i>The Cliffs of Moher are Ireland's most visited natural attraction. They stretch for 8km (5miles), as the crow flies, along the Atlantic coast of County Clare in the west of Ireland and reach 214m (702 feet) at their highest point at Knockardakin just north of O'Brien's Tower. At the southern end of the Cliffs of Moher stands Hags Head a natural rocky promontory that resembles a seated woman when viewed from the north. The Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience is located almost midway along these spectacular cliffs and the site is home to an environmentally friendly visitor centre set into the hillside, O'Brien's Tower – a 19th century viewing tower, and 800 metres of protected cliff side pathways, viewing areas and steps.</i></p>

MID WEST

LARGE CAPACITY ATTRACTIONS

ALONG THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY

CLARE (continued)

Attraction	Description
Liscannor Rock Shop Liscannor, Co. Clare Tel: +353 65 7081930 E-mail: info@therockshop.ie Web: www.therockshop.ie	<i>The Rock Shop boasts a fascinating display of fossils and collectable rocks, with a viewing area where a DVD telling the history of quarrying in the area and the properties of the various flagstones extracted from quarries in the Liscannor Moher Region, can be viewed. With displays of precious and semi-precious stones from all over Ireland and the world, it has been described as a virtual Aladdin's Cave. On display is a collection of mineral specimens for collectors young and old and recently acquired is a new collection of Irish Minerals. The Centre incorporates a miniature waterfall, restaurant and tea room where you can sit and relax.</i>
Lahinch Seaworld The Promenade, Lahinch, Co., Clare Tel: +353 65 7081900 Email: seaworldlahinch@gmail.com Web: www.lahinchseaworld.com	<i>Spend a fun-filled day at the Seaworld indoor complex. Visit one of Ireland's largest indoor aquariums and come eye-to-eye with some rare and spine chilling fish species, including native sharks, rays, conger eels, flatfish and lobster. You can also relax in the 25m (82ft) heated swimming pool which also offers a kiddies' pool, sauna, Jacuzzi and steam room. Other facilities onsite include a café-on-the-prom and a beach shop.</i>
Loop Head Lighthouse Loop Head, Co. Clare Contact: Siobhán Garvey Tel: + 353 65 9051047 Email: sgarvey@clarecoco.ie Web: www.loophead.ie	<i>Loop Head Lighthouse is located at the tip of the Loop Head Peninsula which is the furthest point west on the Clare coastline. The wild and rugged Atlantic coastline, contrasting sharply with the sheltered Shannon Estuary truly sets a breath-taking backdrop to this lighthouse. This tower style lighthouse was constructed in 1854 and was operated and maintained by a keeper who lived within the lighthouse compound. In January 1991, the lighthouse was converted to automatic operation and today is in the care of an attendant and is also monitored by the Commissioners of Irish Lights from their base in Dun Laoghaire. Visitors have the opportunity to be guided to the top of the lighthouse and take in the magnificent views from the balcony. An informative, interactive exhibition also provides a history of the Lighthouse and allows the visitor to learn how the operation of this Lighthouse has progressed through the years.</i>
West Clare Railway Moyasta, Kilrush, Co. Clare Tel: + 353 65 9051284 Email: info@westclarerailway.ie Web: www.westclarerailway.ie	<i>The West Clare Railway Visitor Experience features the beautifully restored steam locomotive No 5, the Slieve Callan, which dates originally from 1890. Visitors can experience a 30 minute trip on the old narrow gauge line, made famous by the singer Percy French. Other elements of the visitor experience include displays of assorted diesel engines, bog trains and railway equipment. The original station house presents information about the famous Railway and features the old ticket office and waiting room. A vintage dining carriage offers snacks and souvenirs, and a collection of memorabilia.</i>
Vandeleur Walled Garden Vandeleur Demesne, Killimer Road Kilrush, Co. Clare Tel: +353 65 9051760 Email: info@vandeleurwalledgarden.ie Web: www.vandeleurwalledgarden.ie	<i>Beautiful old stonewalls enclose this sheltered Walled Garden (2.158 acres) which is set among 420 acres of accessible native woodland. Formerly part of the Vandeleur Family Demesne, this garden has been restored around the old path system with a horizontal maze, unusual water features and a free-standing Victorian-style working glasshouse which is accessible to visitors. The garden specialises in many unusual and tender plants that thrive in the area's uniquely western latitude micro climate. Chess enthusiasts can test their skills by playing the giant outdoor chess game. The centre also hosts an historical exhibition, a coffee and gift shop, plant sales and a children's play area.</i>

LIMERICK

Attraction	Description
Foynes Flying Boat Museum Foynes, Co. Limerick Tel: +353 69 65416 Email: info@flyingboatmuseum.com Web: www.flyingboatmuseum.com	<p>A visit to Foynes Flying Boat Museum with its full size replica of a B314 flying boat is an absolute must! The Museum recalls the era 1939 –1945 when transatlantic air traffic between Europe and North America centred on Foynes, with flying boats using the sheltered strait between the village and Foynes Island. This unique story is told through a comprehensive range of exhibits and graphic illustrations featured throughout the original Terminal Building including an authentic 1940's cinema and the Radio and Weather Rooms—complete with transmitters, receivers and Morse code equipment. Some unique gifts and souvenirs, including many items for the aviation enthusiast, can be purchased at the Gift Shop. The Museum also features the Brendan O'Regan Restaurant which is open daily to visitors.</p>



DINGLE PENINSULA, CO. KERRY

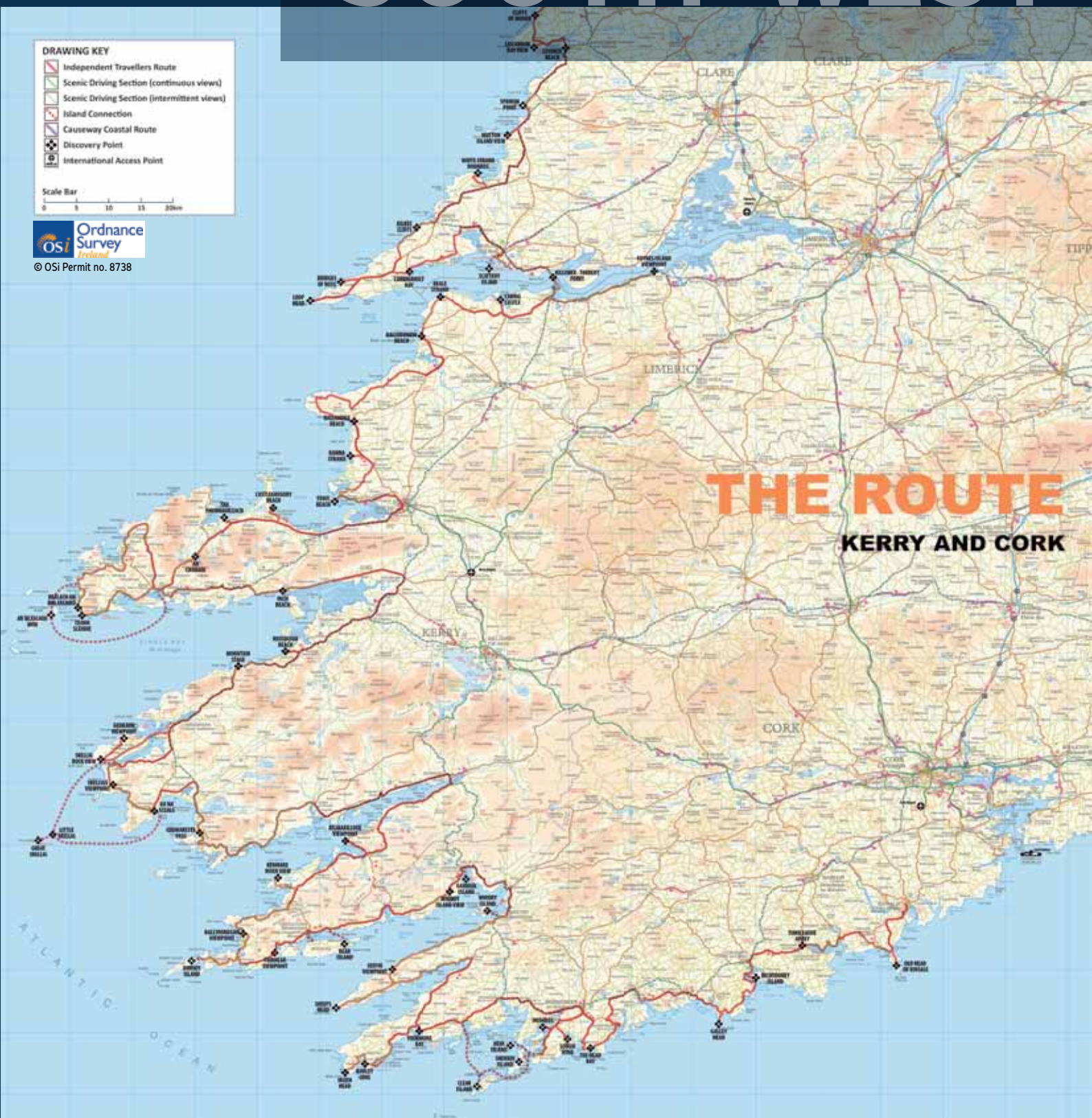
SOUTH WEST

DRAWING KEY

- Independent Travellers Route
- Scenic Driving Section (continuous views)
- Scenic Driving Section (intermittent views)
- Island Connection
- Causeway Coastal Route
- Discovery Point
- International Access Point

Scale Bar
0 5 10 15 20km

Ordnance Survey
Ireland
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MAJOR TOWNS ALONG THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY

SOUTH WEST

WHEREVER YOU GO ALONG THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY, GROUPS AND INDIVIDUAL VISITORS ARE SURE TO ENCOUNTER CHARMING TOWNS AND VILLAGES WITH MUCH TO OFFER IN TERMS OF CHARACTER AS WELL AS PLENTY OF DELIGHTFUL SHOPS, CAFES, RESTAURANTS AND OTHER ATTRACTIONS. LISTED BELOW IS A SELECTION OF JUST SOME OF THE TOWNS IN THE SOUTH WEST.

BALLYBUNION

The seaside resort of Ballybunion is a jewel in the North Kerry crown and is situated idyllically in an environment of natural beauty overlooking the Atlantic. The town boasts two golden blue flag beaches, picturesque sea caves and offers the visitor an abundance of accommodation, festivals and activities all year round.

Ballybunion is home to the world renowned Ballybunion Golf Club, which has had many famous visitors including Tom Watson and Bill Clinton, former US President who played at Ballybunion in both 1998 and 2001. From the fun and games at the International Bachelor festival to walking, golfing, surfing, dolphin watching pints, seaweed baths and excellent evening performances at the state of the art theatre, one might be tempted to ask, is this the seaside town that never sleeps?

KENMARE

Kenmare is an elegant 17th century market town called "Neidin" or "the nest" in Gaelic. This welcoming, lively place buzzes with 5 star hotels and chic spas, B&Bs, smart restaurants, arty shops, cosy cafés and dozens of friendly pubs with live traditional music sessions and festivals all year round. Yet – even in the centre of this heritage town along this southerly stretch of the Ring of Kerry – you're still surrounded by nature, and are only ever moments away from peace and tranquillity. This is great walking country, with lakes, rivers and open sea, and mountains all around – heather and gorse covered slopes to the north, and dreamy views across the Bay to the blue peaks of the Beara Peninsula. And it's crowded with early history – stone circles, stone forts, standing stones, bullaun stones and ring forts. Visitors take to the water too – on sea Safaris out into the Atlantic, or staying in the shelter of the Bay to kayak, fish, swim and sail.

TRALEE

Tralee, the capital town of County Kerry, sits in the ideal location, in the shelter of the Slieve Mish Mountains and Tralee Bay. The town is a busy epicentre serving both visitors and locals alike with its broad range of all-weather visitor attractions, shopping and historic buildings. Visitors to Tralee can step back in time and learn more about Kerry's history in the Kerry County Museum. Much care has been taken to preserve the remains of Tralee's 18th century architecture, which is evident in Georgian streets and old lanes, the neat houses and restored courthouses and churches. Tralee town has never forgotten its historic past and link with myth, folklore and legends and celebrates this in its broad range of festivals and events held throughout the year such as The Rose Of Tralee International Festival held annually in August. For the outdoor enthusiasts Tralee is home to the Kerry Camino: A walk modelled on the Camino de Santiago walk of Northern Spain that follows a route from Tralee to Dingle and invites participants to walk in the footsteps of Saint Brendan the Navigator. Visitors are spoiled for choice for entertainment in Tralee and the town is home to the Siamsa Tíre, Ireland's National Folk Theatre where visitors from all over the world come to enjoy the best of Irish culture and entertainment in music, song and dance in this beautiful theatre.

DINGLE

At the very edge of Europe, as far west as you can go in Ireland, is the breath-taking Dingle Peninsula, once described by National Geographic as "the most beautiful place on earth". It's a place of spectacular seascapes and landscapes shaped by the elements, with a wild and rugged coastline of steep cliffs and wide sandy beaches. The Dingle Peninsula is a place the Irish love to visit, but it's still largely undiscovered by people from elsewhere. Apart, that is, from the artists, musicians and writers who come from across the world to live, eat and breathe authentic culture: real food, real talk, real stories, and real "ceol agus craic" (music and fun) at music sessions and festivals across Dingle's tiny settlements. This is a land rich with ancient history, with pre-historic sites and early Christian heritage - Celtic crosses, monastic 'beehive' huts and Ireland's oldest stone-roofed church. It's a long way to come. But it's here that you'll find the real Ireland: in the Peninsula's thriving & unbroken traditions of language and music, folklore and storytelling, arts, crafts and artisan food. And off Sleat Head - the most westerly tip of the Peninsula – lies a deserted village with a poignant past, on an archipelago that gave birth to Ireland's greatest born-storytellers: the mystical Blasket Islands.

The Dingle Peninsula has one of the largest Gaeltacht (Gaelic-speaking) communities in Ireland. Whatever it is, the Dingle Peninsula inspires, it connects, it "catches the heart off-guard", and it stays with you.

SNEEM

Along the Ring of Kerry, half way up the Bay, tiny Sneem – whose Gaelic name means the Knot – is a village of colourful houses and two little squares, where travellers stop for sustenance before heading across the mountains to Killarney or continuing eastwards beside the water to Kenmare. At a turbulent time in his life, Charles de Gaulles escaped to Sneem, where, he said, “I was at peace with myself”. Brightly coloured shops and houses surround the manicured lawns and gardens of this popular holiday destination. The village is also home to a sculpture park featuring international works by a variety of artists, a Geo-Park exploring local geology, a sensory garden, riverside wildlife trail and a rare coral beach, one of only two in the country.

WATERVILLE

Waterville is a picturesque coastal village much loved by Charlie Chaplin. It is famous throughout the world for its superb golf courses, its sea trout and salmon angling and its long sandy beaches.

Its angling is so good that the area has been designated as a “centre of excellence” for angling.

BANTRY

Bantry is Beanntraí in Irish, meaning “place of Beann’s people”, it is in the heart of West Cork, a region of lush vegetation, palm trees and semi-tropical flowers. Bantry, is a hive of activity with its brightly decorated houses and streets. The town Square has been changed to a large promenade with seating, trees, flowers, an anchor and a centre piece fountain. Hemmed in by high mountain ridges, an azure blue sea and cascading mountain streams, it is a place of unparalleled beauty where the landscape changes with every mood of wind and sky. In this breath-taking splendour of mountain scenery, hilly pastures, meandering streams, lakes and woods, where megalithic monuments and ruins of monastic settlements dot the country-side, visitors can find peace and tranquillity. The climate is very mild with moist Atlantic breezes giving a medium to heavy rain fall.

**VISITORS TAKE TO THE WATER
TOO – ON SEA SAFARIS OUT INTO
THE ATLANTIC, OR STAYING IN
THE SHELTER OF THE BAY TO
KAYAK, FISH, SWIM AND SAIL.**

The Gulf Stream influence of warm sea water has a pronounced effect on the climate allowing the growth of semi-topical vegetation and foliage which can be savoured in the many gardens both private and public. **The Bantry region** is divided into three main areas corresponding with the peninsulas i.e. The Beara Peninsula, The Sheep’s Head or in Irish (Muintir Bhaire) Peninsula and The Mizen Peninsula

SKIBBEREEN

Skibbereen is a town in County Cork and in Irish is known as ‘An Sciobairín’ which means ‘little boat harbour’. Ireland’s most southerly town is a lively, cosmopolitan town and is regarded as the hub of the tourism area that spreads out in many directions from it. It is a vibrant, colourful and friendly town where you can sample the very best of West Cork’s artisan food and craft. It is noted for its shops, pubs and restaurants as well as being home of the West Cork Arts Center, where the many artists who inhabit the area show their work and where top touring exhibitions are featured. From Skibbereen there are many options for touring, as the town is the gateway to the Mizen Peninsula. Skibbereen town and its environs, were severely devastated by the Great Famine of the 1840s. Today, there is a Great Famine Commemoration Exhibition at the Skibbereen Heritage Centre for an insight into Famine times and how it affected the area.

KINSALE

Kinsale in Irish is Cionn tSáile. This historic town has an important role in Irish tourism and is known as the 'Gourmet Capital' of Ireland. It is also one of the most successful and popular visitor destinations in Ireland. Kinsale has many popular attractions, which include heritage, gourmet restaurants, sailing, deep-sea angling and golf and has been designated an Irish Heritage Town. Early settlers in Ireland came to live in the area, which we now know as Kinsale. The Old Head of Kinsale has been attributed as the site for some of the earliest settlers in Ireland.

Every visitor to Kinsale is captivated by its beautiful setting, with the long waterfront, narrow winding streets and Compass Hill rising sharply behind the town. The old fortifications of Charles Fort and James Fort guard the narrow entrance to Kinsale from the sea. The town has poignant memories of the sinking of the liner 'Lusitania' in 1915.

CLONAKILTY

Clonakilty is an extraordinary multiple award-winning town positioned on the coast within the heartland of West Cork. The town, with its blue flag beach Inchydoney, has an enviable reputation for itself as a choice tourist destination. In 2003, Clonakilty became Ireland's first ever official Fair Trade Town. In 2007 it was awarded the status of European Destination of Excellence by the European Commission and is Ireland's first recipient of this prestigious title. Clonakilty has a thriving musical and artistic community.

Several of its pubs are noted for great impromptu music sessions with many big name acts taking part. Michael Collins, who was leader of the IRA, which campaigned for independence from Britain in the 1920-1921 periods and later the Free State movement, lived in Clonakilty and attended the local boys' national school. He is widely regarded as one of Ireland's leading historical figures. Clonakilty is also known for its black pudding. The famous Clonakilty black pudding originated in Twomey's butcher shop on Pearse Street. The secret spice recipe has been handed down through the generations since the 1880s.

COACH PARKING ALONG THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY

SOUTH WEST

KERRY				
County	Location	Attractions	No. of Bays for Coach Parking	Paid / Complimentary
Kerry	Ballybunion	Tintean Theatre	8	Complimentary
Kerry	Tralee, Brandon Car Park	Siamsa Tire	10, additional bays available at night time.	Complimentary at night, Paid during the day
Kerry	Clogher	Louis Mulcahy Pottery	3	Complimentary
Kerry	Dingle, Inch	Inch Beach	4	Complimentary
Kerry	Dingle	Town Car Park near Tourist Information Office, Marina and Dolphin tours and Catch and Cook	up to 15	Paid
Kerry	Sneem	Sneem Sculpture Park	4	Complimentary
Kerry	Kenmare Pier	Seafari	3	Complimentary
Kerry	Kenmare Town	Kenmare Heritage Centre	4	Complimentary
Kerry	Dauros, Kenmare	Star Outdoors	6	Complimentary
Kerry	Caherdaniel	Derrynane House	3	Complimentary
Kerry	Coomakista Pass	Viewing Point	10	Complimentary
Kerry	Ballinskelligs	Skelligs Chocolate Factory - Visitor Centre	3	Complimentary
Kerry	Waterville	Charlie Chaplin Statue	10	Complimentary
Kerry	Portmagee	Skellig Boat Trips	6	Complimentary
Kerry	Valentia Island	Skellig Experience	4	Complimentary
Kerry	Valentia Island	Geokaun Mountain	4 to 5	Paid
Kerry	Mountain Stage	Mountain Stage Viewing	5	Complimentary
Kerry	Glenbeigh	Kerry Bog Village	8	Complimentary
Kerry	Dunquin	Blasket Centre	5	Complimentary

CORK				
County	Location	Attractions	No. of Bays for Coach Parking	Paid / Complimentary
Cork	Dursey Sound	Dursey island Cable Car/Dursey Island	2	Complimentary
Cork	Castletownbere	Ferry to Bere Island	2	Complimentary
Cork	Glengarriff	Ferry to Garnish Island/Quills Woollen Mills	6	Complimentary
Cork	Bantry	Bantry House	10	Complimentary
Cork	Mizen Head	Mizen Head Visitor Centre/Mizen Bridge	15	Complimentary
Cork	Skibbereen	Skibbereen Heritage Centre	1	Complimentary
Cork	Baltimore	Gateway to the Islands of West Cork. Dún na Sead Castle and The Beacon	6	Complimentary
Cork	Clonakilty	West Cork Model Railway	10	Complimentary
Cork	Inchydoney	Inchydoney beach/ New amphitheatre / Viewing point	1	Complimentary
Cork	Timoleague	Timoleague Abbey	1	Complimentary

* Where coach parking must be paid for, only a nominal fee applies.

DURSEY ISLAND, CO CORK



SOUTH WEST

LARGE CAPACITY ATTRACTIONS ALONG THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY



KERRY	
Attraction	Description
Louis Mulcahy Pottery. Clogher, Co. Kerry. Tel: +353 66 915 6229 Email: cafe@louismulcahy.com Web: www.louismulcahy.com	<i>There are numerous reasons to visit Louis Mulcahy's Pottery Shop and Caifé Caolóige, among them, the beautiful Clogher beach nearby and the wild Atlantic waves beating against the coastline. The building itself contains the famous pottery by Louis Mulcahy, including his workshop where visitors can throw a bowl and learn the basics of pottery making and ceramic techniques. Pots can then be glazed and your very own creation, inspired by this beautiful journey and location, can then be sent back to your home. New for 2013 is a self-guided tour also of the factory. Groups must be booked in advance.</i>
Dingle Cookery School, Dingle, Co. Kerry. Contact: Martin Bealin & Muireann Nic Giolla Ruaidh Tel: +353 87 9177700; +353 86 8723521 Email: martinbealin@hotmail.com muireanngr@gmail.com	<i>Dingle Cookery School offers exciting lessons in the Art of Irish Cooking which include amongst others, "Eat like an Irishman", a lesson in the making and tasting of Traditional Pork Sausages and Colecannon. Tastings and recipe ideas provided. You could also "Warm your senses", and bake your own homemade traditional brown soda bread, smell it baking and taste it with a slab of local butter. You will learn a few Gaelic phrases and a local rhyme along the way! Or you could learn how to make the perfect scone and homemade jam to go with it. There's nothing like a tender, steaming scone smothered in homemade jam. This lesson is the key to making your own scones just right and the added bonus is that you get to take home your own pot of jam!</i>
Dingle Brewery Dingle, Co. Kerry. Contact: Colette Leahy Tel: +353 66 9150743 Email: hello@dinglebrewingcompany.com www.dinglebrewingcompany.com	<i>Dingle Brewing Company named their lager after the great Tom Crean. The local man who as a member of the British Navy, went on to take part in 3 of the 4 Antarctic Expeditions. It was during the Terra Nova Expedition that he undertook a superhuman 18hr 35 mile solo trek to save the life of his 2 companions. Tom was a modest man and when he retired from the navy he came home to Annascaul and ran the 'South Pole Inn'. Nestled at the base of the majestic Connor Pass in the old Creamery building, the Dingle Brewing Company sits on Spa Rd, just on the outskirts of the picturesque village of Dingle, Co. Kerry, Ireland. The rugged landscape has inspired this wonderful beer! Enjoy a well informed tour of this Dingle brewery and there is a taste included of it at the end!</i>
Geokaun Mountain Valentia Island, Co. Kerry Bernie or Muiris: Tel: +353 87-6493728 Web: www.geokaun.com	<i>Walk or drive to the top of Geokaun Mountain, one of the Ring of Kerry's highest points. Located on Valentia Island, one of the most westerly parts of Ireland and indeed Europe. See the fantastic cliffs and enjoy the fantastic vistas of the Wild Atlantic Ocean. Familiarise yourself with the social and cultural history of the area while enjoying the spectacular views. At the peak there are three viewing areas - The Miner's view, The Shepherd's View and Carraig na Circe. There are 34 information plaques giving information on the Skelligs Rocks, Blasket Islands, The Lighthouse, Bray Tower, Tetrapod Trackway, Church Island, Beginish, Portmagee, Valentia, Whale Watching, Cable Station, Flora and Fauna, Wildlife - Cough, Puffin etc.</i>
Skellig Boat Trips / The Skellig Experience Visitor Centre Portmagee, Co. Kerry John O' Sullivan Phone: +353 66 9476306 Web: www.skelligexperience.com	<p>The Skellig Boat Trip takes you out to land on the magnificent Skellig Michael. The stunning Skellig Islands lie 12km (8 miles) off the coast of Portmagee in South West Kerry. Rising majestically from the sea, Skellig Michael towers 218m (714ft) above sea level. On the summit of this awe-inspiring rock you will find a remarkably well-preserved sixth century monastic settlement. Climb the 618 steps from sea level to the Monastery which is 180m (600ft) above sea level. See firsthand the Gannets, Storm Petrels, Puffins and Shearwaters. It's the experience of a lifetime!</p> <p>The Skellig Experience Visitor Centre located on Valentia Island tells the story of the Skellig Islands. It uses interpretative and audio visual facilities to give visitors an insight into the life and times of the Skelligs, the monks, the bird / sealife and the lighthouse. Groups are welcome and it has dining facilities and a craft shop.</p>

SOUTH WEST

LARGE CAPACITY ATTRACTIONS ALONG THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY

KERRY (continued)

Attraction	Description
Skelligs Chocolate Factory Visitor Centre Ballinskelligs, Co. Kerry Tel: +353 66 9479119 Email: info@skelligschocolate.com Web: www.skelligschocolate.com	<i>Love chocolate? Why not join in one of our chocolate workshops? From an introductory class on the history of chocolate through to tasting chocolates and making your own tasty treats to bring home, right up to specialist classes where you will make one of our iconic chocolate high heeled shoes - you can't afford to miss it!</i>

CORK

Attraction	Description
Dursey Island Cable Car/Dursey Island Dursey Sound, Co. Cork Beara Tourism & Development Association Tel: +353 27 70054 Web: www.westcorkislands.com www.bearatourism.com/bwdursey.html www.discoverireland.ie/islands	<i>Fancy beating the rat race for a little while? Dursey Island is the place to do it. Lying across a narrow sound off the tip of the Beara Peninsula, this is the dictionary definition of escape – no business, no traffic, no hassle. Just rugged nature and the awe-inspiring Atlantic Ocean. There is one sign of civilisation, of course – Dursey's unique and charismatic cable car. Hitched to the mainland above dolphin-strewn Dursey sound, this is Ireland's only cable car, running 250m (820ft) above the sea. With a capacity to carry just six people at a time, the cable car is a lifeline for the few inhabitants, living in three small villages on the island. Stepping onto the island, visitors can continue on foot along a stretch of the Beara Way. Highlights on Dursey include the ruins of O'Sullivan Beara's castle, a 200-year-old signal tower with views stretching to the Skelligs and Mizen Head, and several standing stones. The indented coastline, open bog and wild winds leave you in no doubt that you're far from the madding crowd.</i>
The Ewe Sculpture Garden Glengarriff, Co. Cork Tel: +353 27 63840 Web: www.theewe.com	<i>One thousand steps; One hundred sculptures; One unique experience. Ireland's only interactive sculpture garden is a must see for anyone interested in art, nature or a totally unique experience – the perfect destination for a memorable day out.</i>
West Cork Model Railway Clonakilty, Co. Cork Tel: +353 23-8833224 Web: www.modelvillage.ie	<i>Step back in time to life as it was in the 1940's. See how the now defunct railway line is portrayed in delightful miniature, serving the handmade model towns of West Cork which depict busy market days.</i>

OPW SITES

ALONG THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY



OPW SITES ARE SITES OF HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE, MANY DATING BACK THOUSANDS OF YEARS, WHICH ARE MANAGED BY THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC WORKS AND WHICH PRESERVE IRELAND'S HERITAGE FOR VISITORS FROM IRELAND AND FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.



GLEBE HOUSE AND GALLERY

Regency House, 1828, set in woodland gardens, decorated with William Morris textiles, Islamic and Japanese art etc. The collection includes 300 works by leading 20th century artists; Picasso, Kokoshka as well as Irish and Italian artists. Exhibitions are shown in the adjoining gallery. Access to ground floor of the Gallery for people with disabilities.

Glebe House and Gallery,
Churchill, Letterkenny, Donegal
Tel: +353 74 9137071
Fax: +353 74 9137816
Email: glebegallery@opw.ie
Web: www.heritageireland.ie



DONEGAL CASTLE

Built by the O'Donnell chieftain in the 15th century, beside the River Eske, the Castle has extensive 17th century additions by Sir Basil Brooke. The Castle is furnished throughout and includes Persian rugs and French tapestries. Information panels chronicle the history of the Castle owners from the O'Donnell chieftains to the Brooke family. Limited access for people with disabilities to the ground floor.

Donegal Castle, Donegal Town, Co. Donegal
Tel: +353 74 972 2405
Fax: +353 74 9722436
Email: donegalcastle@opw.ie
Web: www.heritageireland.ie

OPW SITES

ALONG THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY



PARKES CASTLE

A restored plantation castle of the early 17th century, picturesquely situated on the shores of Lough Gill, once the home of Robert Parke and his family. The Courtyard grounds contain evidence of an earlier 16th century Tower House structure once owned by Sir Brian O'Rourke who subsequently was executed at Tyburn, London in 1591. The Castle has been restored using Irish oak and traditional craftsmanship. Access for visitors with disabilities to ground floor.

Parkes Castle

Fivemile Bourne, Co. Leitrim

Tel: +353-71-9164149

Fax: +353-71-9164546

Email: parkescastle@opw.ie

Web: www.heritageireland.ie



CARROWMORE MEGALITHIC CEMETERY

This is the largest cemetery of megalithic tombs in Ireland and is also among the country's oldest, with monuments ranging from five and a half thousand to six and a half thousand years old. Archaeologists have recorded over 60 tombs of which 30 are visible. A restored cottage houses an exhibition relating to the site.

Carrowmore Megalithic Cemetery

Carrowmore, Sligo

Tel: +353 71 9161534

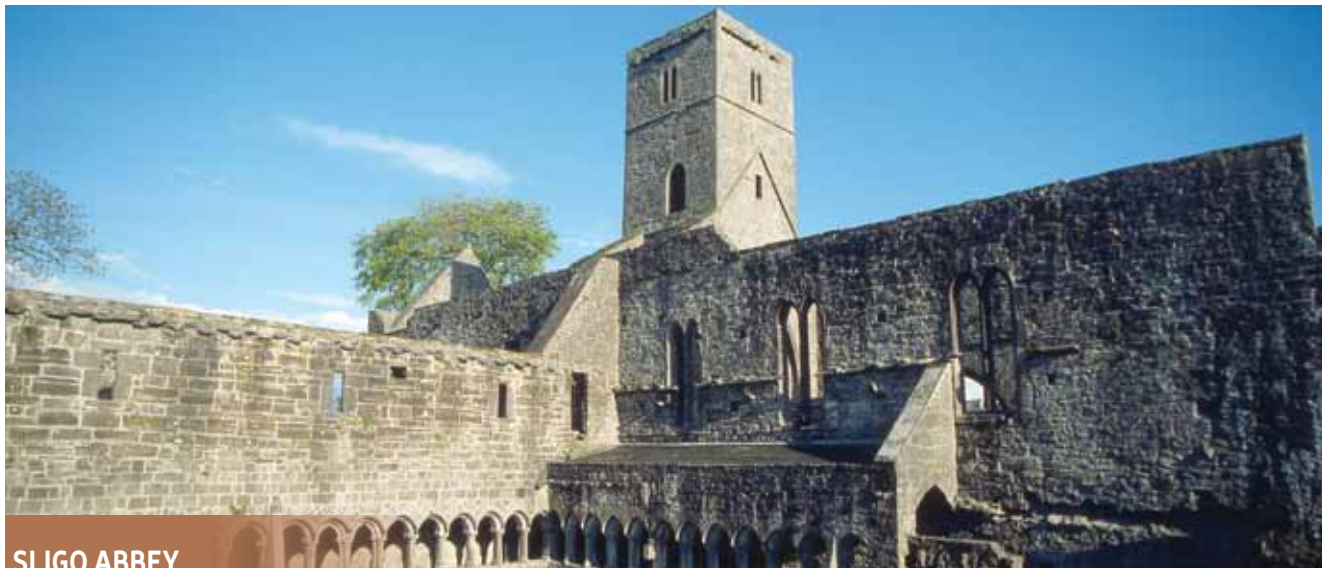
Fax: +353 71 9154743

Email: carrowmoretomb@opw.ie

Web: www.heritageireland.ie

OPW SITES

ALONG THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY



SLIGO ABBEY

Known locally as the Abbey, this Dominican Friary was founded in the mid - 13th century by Maurice Fitzgerald. The site contains a great wealth of carvings including Gothic and Renaissance tomb sculptures, a well preserved cloister and the only sculptured 15th century high altar to survive in any Irish monastic church. This enigmatic friary will inspire and enlighten its visitors. Access to the site is by stone stairway.

Sligo Abbey

Abbey Street, Sligo Town, Co. Sligo

Tel: +353 71 9146406

Fax: +353 71 9149909

Email: sligoabbey@opw.ie

Web: www.heritageireland.ie



CÉIDE FIELDS VISITOR CENTRE & SITE

Beneath the wild boglands of North Mayo lies the most extensive Stone Age monument in the world, consisting of field systems, dwelling areas and megalithic tombs. The stone walled fields, extending over thousands of acres are over 5,000 years old, the oldest known in the world. They are covered by a natural blanket bog with its own unique vegetation and wildlife. The Visitor Centre has won several awards, including the Gold Medal for architecture. It is located beside some of the most spectacular cliffs and rock formations in Ireland and a viewing platform is positioned on the edge of the 110m (360ft) high cliff.

Céide Fields Visitor Centre & Site

Glenurla, Ballycastle, Mayo

Tel: +353 96 43325

Fax: +353 96 43261

Email: ceidefields@opw.ie

Web: www.heritageireland.ie

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DÚN AONGHASA

Perched spectacularly on a cliff overlooking the Atlantic ocean, this is the largest of the prehistoric stone forts of the Aran Islands. It is enclosed by three massive dry-stone walls and a “chevaux-de-frise” consisting of tall blocks of limestone set vertically into the ground to deter attackers. The fort is about 900m (2,950ft) from the Visitor Centre and is approached over rising ground. There is access for visitors with disabilities to the Visitor Centre. As much of the tour is outdoors, visitors are advised to wear weather protective clothing and shoes suitable for walking over uneven terrain. Please note that Dún Aonghasa is a vulnerable site. Visitors are therefore asked to co-operate with our effort to protect this monument by not interfering with this site in any way.

Dún Aonghasa

Inishmore, Aran Islands, Galway

Tel: +353 99 61008

Fax: +353 99 61009

Email: dunaonghasa@opw.ie

Web: www.heritageireland.ie



PEARSE'S COTTAGE (TEACH AN PHIARSAIGH)

A small restored cottage overlooking the breathtaking lakes and mountains of Connemara, used by Patrick Pearse (1879-1916) leader of the 1916 Rising, as a summer residence and summer school for his pupils from St Enda's in Dublin. The interior, although burned during the War of Independence, has been reconstructed and contains an exhibition.

Teach an Phiarsaigh (Pearse's Cottage)

Inbhear Rosmuck (Ros Muc), Galway

Tel: +353 91 574292

Fax: +353 91 574871

Email: tanphiarsaigh@opw.ie

Web: www.heritageireland.ie

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SCATTERY ISLAND CENTRE

Located approximately one mile (1.6km) off Kilrush, Scattery Island is home to a monastic settlement founded in the early 6th century by St. Senan who was born locally. There are the ruins of six churches on the island, and one of the highest Round Towers in Ireland, 120ft high, with its unusual feature of its door at ground level. Scattery has had many invasions down through the centuries; the Vikings invaded during the early 9th century but Brian Boru later recaptured the island. It is believed that Scattery is a derivation of the Norse word for treasure, which is Scatty.

Scattery Island Centre

Kilrush, Clare

Tel: +353 65 6829100

Email: scatteryisland@opw.ie

Web: www.heritageireland.ie

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THE SKELLIG EXPERIENCE

The magnificent Skellig Islands lie 12km (8 miles) off the coast of Portmagee in South West Kerry. Rising majestically from the sea, Skellig Michael towers 218m (714ft) above sea level. On the summit of this awe inspiring rock you will find a remarkably well-preserved sixth century monastic settlement. The earliest reference in history to the Skellig Islands dates back to 1400BC. During the time of the Penal Laws, Skellig Michael and Little Skellig became a haven for many Catholics whose beliefs and rights were being suppressed. The largest of the Skelligs is Skellig Michael (Sceilg Mhichil) and was home to one of the earliest monastic settlements in Ireland. These monks of St. Fionan's monastery led simple lives and lived in stone, beehive shaped huts. They would descend the 670 steps early every morning and fish for the morning's breakfast. They would spend most of the day praying in the church, tending to their gardens and studying. These huts, which were round on the outside and rectangular on the inside, were carefully built so that no drop of rain ever entered between the stones. The monks left the island in the thirteenth century and it became a place of pilgrimage.

The Skellig Experience Visitor Centre

Valentia Island, Kerry

Tel: +353 66 9476306

Email: skelligexperience@live.com

Web: www.skelligexperience.com

The Skellig Experience Centre is privately run and provides information about the Skellig Islands



THE BLASKET CENTRE/IONAD AN BHLASCAOID

The Blasket Centre on the mainland in Dún Chaoin on the tip of the Dingle Peninsula is a fascinating heritage centre/museum honouring the unique community who lived on the remote Blasket Islands until their evacuation in 1953. The Blasket Centre tells the story of island life, subsistence fishing and farming, traditional life including modes of work and transport, home life, housing and entertainment. The Centre details the community's struggle for existence, their language and culture, and the extraordinary literary legacy they left behind. These include classics such as 'The Islandman', 'Twenty Years A-Growing' and 'Peig'. Their story is told using a variety of means - exhibits, interactive displays, artefacts, audio visual presentations and artworks.

The Blasket Centre/Ionad an Bhlascaoid

Dunquin, Dingle Peninsula,

Tralee, Kerry

Tel: +353 66 9156444

Fax: +353 66 9156446

Email: blascaod@opw.ie

Web: www.heritageireland.ie

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ARDFERT CATHEDRAL

A monastery was founded here by St. Brendan 'The Navigator' in the 6th century. There are three medieval churches, an ogham stone and a number of early Christian and medieval grave slabs on the site today. The earliest building is the cathedral which dates from the 12th to 17th centuries. It has a fine Romanesque west doorway, a magnificent 13th century east window and a spectacular row of nine lancets in the south wall. Two effigies of ecclesiastical figures of late 13th to early 14th century date are mounted on either side of the east window. The battlements were added in the 15th century. The pre-12th century block of masonry is clearly visible in the north wall. One of the two smaller churches is a fine example of late Romanesque architecture and the other is a plain 15th century structure with an interesting carving of a wyvern on one of the windows. Access for people with disabilities to exhibition area and viewing point.

Ardfert Cathedral

Ardfert, Kerry

Tel: +353 66 7134711

Email: ardfertcathedral@opw.ie

Web: www.heritageireland.ie



DERRYNANE HOUSE, NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK

Derrynane House is the ancestral home of Daniel O'Connell, lawyer, politician and statesman. Situated on 120 hectares of parklands on the scenic Kerry coast, the House displays many relics of O'Connell's life and career. Access for visitors with disabilities to ground floor.

Derrynane House

National Historic Park, Caherdaniel, Kerry

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Fax: +353 66 9475432

Email: derrynanehouse@opw.ie

Web: www.heritageireland.ie

OPW SITES

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GALLARUS CASTLE & ORATORY

One of the most famous landmarks on the Dingle Peninsula and situated close to Gallarus Castle. The Oratory is completely made of stone and in some way it resembles an upturned boat. Various dates have been suggested for its construction but an exact date for same is not available. It is extremely well preserved and several archeological artifacts are to be found on the grounds of the Oratory. The Oratory and grounds are carefully maintained by the OPW. In close proximity is Gallarus Castle which was built by the FitzGerald and is probably 15th century in date. It is one of the few surviving castles on the Dingle peninsula. It is a four-storey tower with a vaulted ceiling on the fourth floor; none of its battlements remain.

Gallarus Castle and Oratory

Gallarus, Ballydavid, Kerry

Tel: +353 66 9156444

Email: micheal.demordha@opw.ie

Web: www.heritageireland.ie



CHARLES FORT

Charles Fort is a classic example of a late 17th century star-shaped fort. William Robinson, architect of the Royal Hospital in Kilmainham, Dublin, and Superintendent of Fortifications, is credited with designing the fort. As one of the largest military installations in the country, Charles Fort has been associated with some of the most momentous events in Irish history. The most significant of these are the Williamite War 1689-91 and the Civil War 1922-23. Charles Fort was declared a National Monument in 1973. Across the estuary is James Fort designed by Paul Ive in 1602.

Charles Fort

Summercove, Kinsale, Cork

Tel: +353 21 4772263

Fax: +353 21 4774347

Email: charlesfort@opw.ie

Web: www.heritageireland.ie

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ILNACULLIN (GARINISH ISLAND) CORK

Located in the sheltered harbour of Glengarriff in Bantry Bay, Inlacullin is a small island of 15 hectares (37 acres) known to horticulturists and lovers of trees and shrubs all around the world as an island garden of rare beauty. The gardens of Inlacullin owe their existence to the creative partnership, some eighty years ago, of Annan Bryce, then owner of the island and Harold Peto, architect and garden designer. Access to the Island is by small ferry boats and licensed 60 seater water buses. Please note that the boat operators impose a separate charge in respect of the boat journey to and from the island.

Visitor Information

Location: Glengarriff, Bantry, Co. Cork

1.5km boat trip from Glengarriff

Limited access for visitors with disabilities.

Contact Details

Tel: +353 27 63040

Web: www.heritageireland.ie



DESMOND CASTLE, KINSALE

Desmond Castle was built by the Earl of Desmond c. 1500. A fine example of an urban tower house, the castle consists of a three storey keep with storehouses to the rear. Originally built as a Customs house, the castle also served as a prison in the 18th century (it is known locally as the French Prison) an ordnance store during the Battle of Kinsale (1601) and as a workhouse during the Great Famine. By the early decades of the 20th Century Desmond castle had fallen into decay. It was declared a National Monument in 1938. Today Desmond Castle hosts the International Museum of Wine Exhibition, an intriguing story that documents the unique history of Ireland's wine links with Europe and the wider world.

Desmond Castle

Location: In Kinsale town, 300 metres from

Garda (Police) barracks along Cork Street.

Close to Carmelite Friary.

Tel: +353 21 477 4855

Email: desmondcastle@opw.ie

Web: www.heritageireland.ie



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NORTH WEST	Sligo	Old Bank Building, O'Connell Street, Sligo Town, Sligo	+353 71-9161201	northwestinfo@failteireland.ie
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SOUTH WEST	Dingle	The Quay, Dingle, Co Kerry	+353 66-9151188	dingletio@failteireland.ie
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Fáilte Ireland
National Tourism Development Authority



Tourism Ireland
Marketing the island of Ireland Overseas

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