

Sea View House

www.seaview-doolin.ie,

A day in the Burren & Cliffs of Moher Geopark



***The Burren** is one of the largest and most accessible Karst regions in the world. It is the only place that Arctic, Mediterranean and Alpine plants grow side-by-side.*

***The Cliffs of Moher** are over 200 metres high and run for over eight kilometres along the Atlantic Ocean. Over 30,000 pairs of seabirds including a number of protected species nest at the Cliffs of Moher.*

*A **Geopark** is an area with geological heritage of international importance. The Burren and Cliffs of Moher region is a **UNESCO-supported Global Geopark** in recognition of the region's significant geological, ecological and cultural value, as well as its sustainable tourism practices.*

*Starting from Sea View House, turn left at the entrance. Follow the road passing **Doonagore Castle** until you join the R478. Turn right and 5 minutes you will reach the **Cliffs of Moher Visitor Centre**.*

*Leaving the carpark of the **Cliffs of Moher Visitor Centre** turn right back on to the R478. Continue until you reach the N67. Turn left towards Lisdoonvarna where you will find the,*

***Burren Smoke House Experience:** Pick up some salmon for a picnic or watch the smokehouse film.*

***Burren Brewery at The Roadside Tavern:** Sample some Smoke House salmon with a glass of Burren Gold Ale.*

Turn right after the Roadside Tavern, drive through the town passing the Lisdoonvarna Victorian Spa wells at the bottom of the hill. Turn left onto the R476 heading for Kifenora.

***Kilfenora:** - R476:*

The Burren Centre is a good place to learn about the Burren before exploring it.

The 12th century Cathedral houses some fine examples of the Celtic High Crosses.

*Follow the R476 towards Corrofin and take a left on to the R480 at **Lemenagh Castle**: a 15th century residential tower and a 17th century fortified house. Along the R480 between Lemenagh Castle and Ballyvaughan you will find*

***Caherconnell Stone Fort**: This large and perfect fort 140-145 feet in external diameter dates back to 400 to 1200 ad,*

***Poulnabrone Dolmen**: This 6000 year old Dolmen was excavated in 1986, among the discoveries were the remains of 16-22 adults and 6 children.,*

***Ailwee caves**: These caves form part of a cave system created by the action of melt waters from a prehistoric ice age on the limestone below the Burren. There is also cheese making, a farm shop and a birds of prey centre.*

***Burren Perfumery**: off the L1014 at Carran: After Lemenagh Castle follow the signs for Carran. Entering Carran, pass Cassidy's pub turn right following the signs for the Burren Perfumery. A little off the beaten track, this perfumery founded 35 years ago at the centre of a quiet valley in the heart of the Burren and is a lovely place for a light lunch (Easter to September).*

Retrace your steps back to Carran and head back to the R480.

*Continue on the R480 to join the N67. If feeling hungry turn left and after a mile or so you will see signs for **Burren Fine Wine & Food**.(May to September 11:00am to 4:30pm) where you can enjoy a wonderful lunch. Otherwise turn right heading for Ballyvaughan.*

***Ballyvaughan**: a small village at the mouth of a protected bay which has a lovely farmers market every Saturday (May to September 10am to 2pm.)*

Continue on the N67 towards Galway to visit Corcomroe Abbey or head back to Doolin on the R477.

***Corcomroe Abbey**: - Off the N67 at Bell Harbour. Turn right into Bell Harbour and then turn left at the sign for Corcomroe Abbey. Corcomroe is an early 13th-century Cistercian monastery ruin sitting in the center of a lush valley where a monastic community was able to thrive in the twelfth century. The abbey was most likely founded and financed by Donal Mór O'Brien, and it went strong for over 400 years - all the way up until the dissolution of the monasteries*

Return to Doolin along the coast road R477. This route has dramatic views of the Aran Islands and Galway Bay. On the way you will pass

***Gleninagh Castle**: A well-preserved sixteenth-century tower house standing guard over the northern shoreline of the Burren.*

***Black Head lighthouse**: A popular rock fishing area.*

***Fanore Beach**: A beautiful stretch of sand dunes and surf.*

At Ballinlacken Castle Hotel turn right onto the R479 towards Doolin Cave.

***Doolin Cave**: Visit the largest Stalactite in the northern hemisphere. (March to November 10am to 5pm.*

*Return to **Sea View House** on the R479.*

