

BALLYPORTRY CASTLE

The 15th Century Gaelic Tower House

A DAY IN THE BURREN

It might start with a good breakfast and the front door open to the bawn so that you can take a look at the weather, knowing full well how quickly it can change when you are close to the Atlantic. For those who wish to stretch their legs the choice could be to climb nearby Mullaghmore and view the limestone rock terrain at close hand.

An afternoon's excursion to the spectacular cliff fort or cashel of Caher Commaun, one of the many ancient forts that survive in the Burren could be followed by a leisurely drive along Liscannor Bay to view the surfers in wet suits who are out in all weathers on the rolling Atlantic waves of Lahinch. A full day's outing to the Gaelic speaking Aran Islands makes for an impressive way to view the Cliffs of Moher from below and their colonies of diving birds. Boats go from Liscannor and Doolin throughout the summer months.

You may have booked our guide to prepare dinner for you in the evening using locally sourced food of the best quality. In this case you might stop at Patrick Egan's pub and shop in Liscannor for a bottle of interesting wine and an antiquarian book to savour in front of the fire after dinner. Or you could stop at one of the many pubs in the Burren for a bite to eat and a listen to traditional Irish music.

As you return let your imagination dwell on all those other travellers through the centuries who have found peace and tranquillity, storytelling and good company within the walls of Ballyportry, as dinner is savoured and the moon slowly rises from behind the hills of Clare.