

BALLYPORTRY CASTLE

15th Century Gaelic Tower

FAVOURITE THINGS TO DO WHILE STAYING AT BALLYPORTRY CASTLE:

1. Drinks before dinner on the second night of a stay in the Great Hall at the top of the tower house with a blazing fire and the shape of the ogive windows outlined on the wall by a setting sun.
2. Scrambling up Mullaghmore with children and friends.
3. A shark fishing expedition with Skipper Willie O'Callaghan on his 42' boat ' True Light' out of Liscannor.
4. A day trip by boat from Liscannor or Doolin to Inishear, the nearest of the Aran Islands.
5. On a stormy day taking a drive to the Atlantic to look at the streams of water being driven UP the Cliffs of Moher.
6. Buy steaks from Michael Hynes the local butcher, and cook them on the high flame of the gas cooker with Kinvara new potatoes and onions from Tom Hogan's shop at the bottom of the hill.
7. Dancing the 'Clare Set' at an evening in Vaughan's set dancing barn in Kilfenora.
8. Pony trekking at the matchmaker Willie Daly's establishment between Ennistymon and Kilfenora.
9. Jumping into freezing cold Atlantic waves from the sandy beach at Fanore or Lahinch.
10. Listening to the best of traditional Irish music beside a good fire at a session in the Roadside Tavern in Lisdoonvarna.
11. A walk with the expert guide Gordon D'Arcy in some of the many hidden parts of the Burren.
12. Watch the sun go down on Galway Bay before turning for home and the now familiar silhouette of the 500 year old Gaelic tower house of Ballyportry.