

BALLYPORTRY CASTLE

The 15th Century Gaelic Tower House

THE ATLANTIC COAST

The Atlantic coast is 45 minutes away in several directions. The coast road provides spectacular views of the Aran Islands and Galway Bay. The famous Cliffs of Moher are bounded by the beach at Lahinch and Fanore where surfing and swimming and a lifeguard service are available during the summer.

Another beautiful sandy beach is out on Inisheer, the Aran island that is closest to the Clare coast and beside the pier where the boats come in.

Beyond the Burren is Loop Head to the South and the seaside town of Kilkee at the mouth of the Shannon Estuary. Dolphins and whales can be seen in the Gulf Stream against the backdrop of the distant Kerry mountains. To the North is Galway Bay and the pretty village of Kinvara with a castle in the middle of the harbour.

The small villages along the Atlantic offer a variety of tearooms and pubs for a bite of lunch. At Kinvara there is Dungaire Castle in the middle of the harbour to visit and the Burren Beo café for Burren information; in New Quay there is the small peninsula at the Flaggy Shore. Inland from Bell Harbour there is the medieval Abbey of Corcomroe.

At Ballyvaughan there is the Burren School of Art and a tower house down on the shore. The Cliffs of Moher can be viewed from the harbour at Doolin and at Liscannor there is St. Brigid's Holy Well and Patrick Egan's bookshop and wine bar where the best of coffee is served on a large Liscannor rock table out of doors.