



Your guide to

The Burren

Overview:

Welcome to The Burren, Co. Clare! The Burren is a geological phenomenon of remarkable beauty. It comprises of several hundreds of square miles of bare rock known as 'karst' limestone, a sedimentary rock that has split geometrically and then eroded into 'clints' and 'grykes' with many extensive cave systems. This is a spectacular landscape that stands outside the conventions of pictorial landscape. It seems full of its huge emptiness and it extends to include the Aran Islands a few miles from the shore. This place has given inspiration to many artists and writers. A county of startling beauty, Clare has it all. From the Cliffs of Moher, a 214m testament to Mother Nature's creativity, to the Burren, an otherworldly limestone landscape, this is a county where beauty and history meet.



Burren College of Art:

Founded in 1993 by Michael Greene and Mary Hawkes-Greene, to give student artists the opportunity to develop their creative potential in the unique environment of the Burren, the Burren College of Art has grown rapidly to an institution of international standing. As an international college, BCA believes that studying abroad is an incomparable experience. It is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to live the life of another country, learn the customs of another culture and adapt to new surroundings. The success of a student's experience depends to a large extent upon their own efforts to acclimatise to living and studying in a foreign country. Life here for students is unlike that of city college campuses. At BCA students fully integrate with village life, becoming recognised members of the local community and often forging strong bonds and friendships that last beyond graduation. Students coming from large cities may be struck by the stillness and unhurried pace of the area. It can be amazing how much of our lives is taken up in traffic, noise and bustle. At BCA it takes 5 minutes to get from housing to your studio - allowing for an undisturbed creative environment.

Ballyvaughan:

The college is situated a little over a mile from Ballyvaughan, a quiet rural harbour village with a population of 400, which increases considerably during the summer months. This small village boasts some wonderful pubs and restaurants and visitors to Ballyvaughan will be impressed at the continuous calendar of events the village hosts, from music and walking festivals to conferences and guided tours of the Burren.

For local info look up <http://www.discoverballyvaughan.com/> The activities and clubs are listed here, so if you enjoy walking and hiking, cycling, caving, sailing, surfing and golf, or if you would like to try your hand at turf cutting or knitting, contact details and web addresses are available to find out where and how to participate.

Transport:

Ballyvaughan is located on the N67 and can be reached by car or by a bus service from Limerick or Galway. Travellers using public transport from Dublin can travel to either Galway or Limerick and take **Bus Eireann** to Ballyvaughan. Travellers using public transport from Shannon can take the bus from Limerick and change in Ennis for the Lisdoonvarna bus which is 10 miles away from Ballyvaughan. The best option is to continue to Galway from Shannon and there connect with the Doolin bus which passes through Ballyvaughan. The village itself is very small and so no transport is needed. For timetables check www.buseireann.ie

Banking and Postal Service:

The Post Office is located on Church Street, Ballyvaughan. The Postmistress (Siobhan) and her staff are always welcoming and willing to help their customers. The Opening Hours: Mon to Fri 9am-1pm & 2pm-5.30pm. Sat 9am-1pm. They offer the following services: Post Office Savings Bank, Investment Products, Prize Bonds, Billpay, Postal Money Orders, Sterling Drafts, Passport Express, Bureau de Change (Buy & Sell), Stamps, DSFA Payments, SDS, Call Cards, Swiftcall Cards, Go Cards, Easy Key Cards, Mobile Phones, The Gift Voucher Shop, AIB Banking Services: Bank Card Lodgements, Bank Card Withdrawals, Credit Card Payments, Personal Paper Lodgements, Business Deposits. For more information about the Irish Postal service (known as An Post) visit www.anpost.ie

There is an infrequent mobile ATM service, but the closest ATM's are in Ennistymon and Gort, or in-store dispensers with limited hours of access in Kinvara and Lisdoonvarna.

Medical Services:

Local Doctor: Dr Liam Glynn, Clareville House, Ballyvaughan 065 7077035

Local Garda Station: 065 7077002

Hospitals in Limerick and Galway

Grocery:

There is a village store in Ballyvaughan called Linnane Village Store but there is transport weekly to shop. There is also a service station for picking up small items for your convenience. A farmers' market is open on Saturdays and to check out availability look at: www.ballyvaughanfarmersmarket.ie



Sights:

There are many things to do in the area and the Burren College of Art arrange trips so that you may see Ireland easily. Locally the main attractions are:

Ailwee Caves, Bird of Prey Centre and Farm Shop www.aillweecave.ie

The famous Burren Way (26 miles of Green Road) starts in Ballyvaughan, goes to Fanore, Doolin and ends in Liscannor. There are numerous other walks, which are easily negotiable with the aid of a map, or better still, with a local guide. There are several self-guided walks in and around Ballyvaughan, including the Ballyvaughan Wood Loop, Black head Loop, Carron Loop and the Burren Way. Maps can be downloaded from www.shannonregiontrails.ie/FindaTrail/

A bit down the road towards Galway, you will find the little peninsula called Newquay, with its beautiful Flaggy Shore with Mount Vernon, (formerly Lady Gregory's summer residence, now a Country House Hotel), the Russell Gallery, and the Martello Tower built by the English in fear of a potential French invasion at Napoleon times. Lenanes Pub is a great place to grab a bite after walking along the Flaggy Shore.

The Burren Perfumery has been likened to the Jo Malone of Ireland, and is located in the remote north-west corner of County Clare, on Ireland's Atlantic coast. An extraordinary landscape of limestone pavements and unique wild plants has inspired a remarkable business and tourist attraction. www.burrenperfumery.com

The Cliffs of Moher www.cliffsofmoher.ie The Cliffs of Moher are one of Ireland's top Visitor attractions and are a designated UNESCO Geo Park. The Cliffs are 214m high at the highest point and range for 8 kilometres over the Atlantic Ocean on the western seaboard of County Clare. O'Brien's Tower stands proudly on a headland of the majestic Cliffs. From the Cliffs one can see the Aran Islands, Galway Bay, as well as The Twelve Pins, the Maum Turk Mountains in Connemara and Loop Head to the South. To book tickets, view the opening hours and get directions look up the web address above.





Here at IFSA Dublin, we really hope you have a wonderful experience at the Burren, don't hesitate to get in contact if you need any help!

