



GEOPIK GEOLOGY

- Limestone
- Shale
- Sandstone and Shale

ROAD NETWORK

- National Road
- Regional Road
- Link Road

USE SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

- Bus Service
- Train Station
- Ferry
- Electric Car Charging Point

GET ON YOUR BIKE

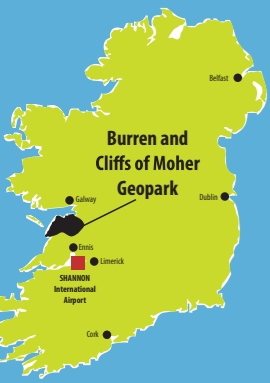
- Cycling Route Trail Head
- Bike Hire/Repair

TAKE A WALK

- Geopark Heritage Trail
- Cliffs of Moher Coastal Walk
- Looped Walk Trail Head
- Burren Way
- Mid Clare Way

CHECK THESE OUT

- Geosite
- Visitor/Education Centre
- Monument
- Viewing Point



FUNDED BY



SUPPORTED BY



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WELCOME to the Burren & Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark, a fascinating landscape of 36,000 hectares located in North County Clare, Ireland.

As well as being the finest example of a glaciated karst landscape in Europe our Geopark is home to:

- a very special collection of flora and fauna,
- an abundance of ancient archaeological sites,
- and a vibrant local community, working together to enhance your understanding of this special place.

We were awarded 'UNESCO Global Geopark' status in recognition of this amazing landscape and our management of this unique heritage.

In 2016 we were awarded the National Geographic World Legacy Award for Destination Management.



MAINTAINING OUR INTERNATIONAL TREASURE

GeoparkLIFE is our Tourism for Conservation project funded by EU LIFE. We are striving to balance the conservation of our unique landscape with supporting local livelihoods through tourism.

We are working in partnership with:

- Local tourism businesses to develop and implement a sustainable code of practice.
- Local, regional and national agencies to develop integrated management practices at a selection of natural heritage sites and monuments.
- Local communities on active conservation projects.

Our aim is to ensure that the Burren & Cliffs of Moher Geopark is a vibrant, sustainable, world-class destination.



PLAY YOUR PART

Assist us to create a truly sustainable destination by following this code:

- Leave the limestone pavement as you find it.
- Preserve natural habitats and leave wildflowers undisturbed.
- Take care not to damage monuments, walls and buildings.
- Respect landowners, their property and their livestock.
- Park and camp in designated areas.
- Leave no trace of your visit, take nothing but memories.
- Use sustainable transport options.

Thank you for helping to **LEAVE NO TRACE**. We hope you have a wonderful visit.



THE ROCK STORY

Limestone dominates the Geopark. Formed over 300 million years ago on the bed of a tropical sea, it has been carved into fantastic shapes over the millennia through exposure to earth movements, rainwater and ice sheets. Hidden beneath this highly visual land and seascape is a complex underworld of caves, including the **longest cave system in Ireland**.

At the southern edge of the Geopark, layer upon layer of shale and sandstone formed in a large river delta around 318 million years ago are spectacularly exposed at the **Cliffs of Moher**.

Throughout the Geopark you will find **geosites** (locations on map overleaf) selected to illustrate the geological features. See www.burrengeopark.ie for more information on these sites.



OUR BIODIVERSITY

In our Geopark you will find:

- Over 70% of Ireland's native species of flora.
- Over 25% of Ireland's orchid-rich dry calcareous grassland, home to 23 of the 27 native Irish orchid species.
- Artic-alpine flowers growing alongside species that originated in a Mediterranean climate.
- 28 of Ireland's 30 butterfly species foraging among this diverse vegetation.

Because of all this special biodiversity, over 80% of the Geopark is designated as **Special Areas of Conservation**.

The **Burren National Park** provides public access to this special natural landscape and offers a free bus service around the park during the summer months. To find out more visit www.burrennationalpark.ie



OUR PAST COMMUNITIES

The Burren has been famously referred to as **'a vast memorial to bygone cultures'**. Around 7,000 years ago people foraged, fished and hunted for their food from camping sites along the Atlantic coast. Around 6,000 years ago woodland was cleared and farming began. Down through the centuries our ancestors buried their dead in tombs like **Poulabrone dolmen**. They built cairns, communal cooking places, hill forts and ritual sites. Later cultures built thousands of miles of stone walls, hundreds of circular stone farmsteads and castles. Christianity brought with it monasteries, holy wells, churches and places of pilgrimage. These are the remnants of our past in stone; for the wonderfully rich stories behind these stones take a guided walk with our many local experts at www.burren.ie and www.burrenbeo.com.



BE ACTIVE - Whatever your interest

gardening, Foraging, Archery, **GEOLOGY**, culture, sculpture, chocolate making, **Surfing**, **Painting**, weaving, **FARM TOURS**, woodcraft, **MUSIC**, Archaeology, **WALKS**, sustainable building techniques, **COOKING**, ceramics, **BOAT TRIPS**, rock climbing, **Cycling**, **YOGA**, **folklife**, **kayaking**, **Birds**, **Butterflies**

Check out the vast range of activities and experience provided by the Burren Ecotourism Network. See www.burren.ie for a complete list or pick up the Geoparks activity leaflet in visitor centres.

Join us at the **Burren Rocks Festival** each May when activities and events around our geology and cultural life get underway. www.burrengeopark.ie



STAY AND TASTE THE GEOPARK

Winner of the European Destination of Excellence (EDEN) Award for Tourism & Local Gastronomy 2015. Winner of the Foodie Towns of Ireland 2015.

Don't just visit the Burren, taste it!

Follow the **Burren Food Trail** and see the path your food takes from field to plate. Celebrate our culture and our local produce with us at one of our **food festivals** in May and October or at a **Food Trail Monday event**.

See www.burren.ie for festival and event details and to download the Food Trail leaflet.

Need somewhere to stay?

From castles to glamping, the Burren Ecotourism Network members provide the very best of places to stay in the Burren to suit all budgets and needs. See www.burren.ie for a complete listing.



INTERESTED IN USING SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT?

Please help us protect our environment by using sustainable transport whenever possible.

Visit www.buseireann.ie for information on public bus services. Pedal and electric **bikes can be hired** in Ballyvaughan, Kilfenora and Lahinch (see map overleaf). Visit our participating attractions and activities by bike and avail of the 'Free Cup of Tea if you Cycle to Me' offer.

Use the **Burren & Cliffs of Moher Geopark travel APP** to find out all about the Geopark and its attractions and avail of green travel incentive vouchers from members of the Burren Ecotourism Network.

Use the **Burren National Park free bus** service to take you around the park. It leaves from the Burren National Park Information Centre in Corrofin hourly during the summer months.

There are **electric car charging points** available in 9 locations (see map overleaf).

