

# CLARE IS AMAZING

BRILLIANT THINGS TO ENJOY  
IN COUNTY CLARE



COMHAIRLE CONTAE AN CHLÁIR  
CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL



Ireland's Hidden  
HEARTLANDS

[www.Clare.ie](http://www.Clare.ie)

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# THE WARMTH OF THE WELCOME



One of the most remarked upon features by visitors to Clare is the warmth of the welcome. In Clare, first and foremost, you are holidaying among friends.

**We look forward to welcoming you!**

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# STRESS-FREE BREAKS



County Clare provides you with the opportunity to get away from it all, to chill-out away from crowded places and a more frenetic pace of life. In Clare, if you choose, you can get to hear the sound of nature and wildlife. Or, you can face into an Atlantic breeze and listen to the sea crashing, the rivers flowing, or lake-waters lapping. Holidays in Clare can be as relaxing, or as active, as you decide.

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# CHILDREN LOVE CLARE!



Children are welcomed and well-catered for. Most hotels and serviced accommodations cater for families with younger children. Rented, self-catering cottages and houses are also a great family favourite. Children particularly like the beaches, forests, castles, showcaves, parks, playgrounds, visitor farms, wildlife watching, boat trips and fun activities.

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# GREAT SCENIC BEAUTY



Clare is a small compact area, less than 100 kms from end to end. Yet, within it, there is great scenic diversity. You can enjoy the freshness of Clare's Wild Atlantic Coastline; the magnificent River Shannon; The Shannon Estuary Way; Loop Head Peninsula; Lough Derg – Ireland's Pleasure Lake; The East Clare Lakelands (and other rivers and lakes), and the incredible Burren.

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# CLARE'S DRAMATIC ATLANTIC COASTLINE



Clare boasts some of the most stunning coastal scenery you will find anywhere. The Atlantic has carved out giant natural sculpture formations and spectacular cliffs alternating with sweeping sandy beaches, many marking the origins of fine seaside resorts like Kilkee, Lahinch and Spanish Point.

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# THE FAMOUS CLIFFS OF MOHER



The World-Famous Cliffs of Moher have featured in almost every pictorial guide to Ireland. However, no re-creation can substitute for direct experience of their grandeur and sheer visual force. The Cliffs are Ireland's top scenic visitor attraction. They stretch for 8km as the crow flies and reach 214m in height at their highest point. O'Brien's Tower (built in 1835), located on the highest cliff, and is an exceptional viewing point.

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## THE BURREN AND CLIFFS OF MOHER UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK



The Burren (from “Boíreann” meaning a rocky place) is a remarkable limestone area that is unique in Europe. Its geology, flora, caves, archaeology, history and farming traditions set it apart as a place of great mystery and beauty. Visitors will discover ancient tombs, brooding castles, tranquil lakes, towering cliffs, golden beaches, ice age valleys, rock mountains, fascinating flowers, and wonderful green road walks – and everywhere relics of Clare’s ancient civilization.

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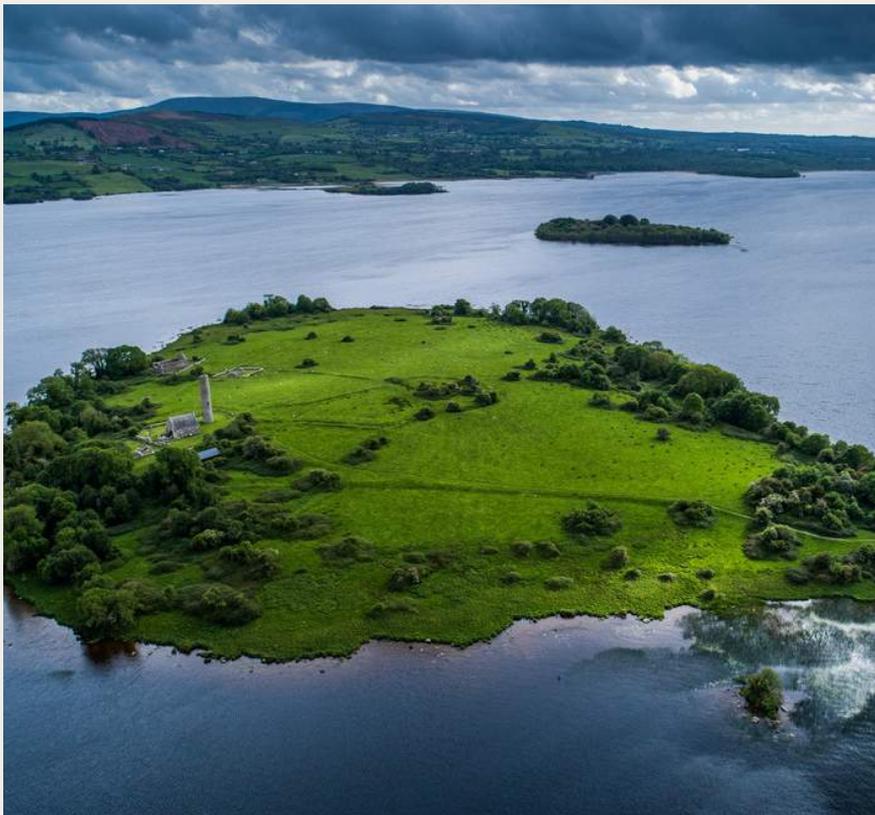
# LOOP HEAD PENINSULA



Loop Head is a slender finger of land pointing out to sea from the most westerly point of County Clare, on the Wild Atlantic Way. Sitting between the ocean on one side and the Shannon Estuary on the other, it epitomises what the Wild Atlantic Way is about: panoramic cliff views, local seafood, great aquatic activities, and quiet beauty spots where you can pause and reflect on the wonder of this special area.

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# LOUGH DERG AND EAST CLARE



East Clare preserves the best of everything in a fresh environment. Dotted with almost 40 lakes, Lough Derg and the Lough Derg Blueway provide water activities of all kinds, including kayaking, paddle boarding, wind surfing, cruising, boat trips, and game and coarse angling. Walking and cycling, horse riding and golf are some of the other activity options. Inis Cealtra (Holy Island) and Saint Cronan's Church are among its historical treasures.

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# THE SHANNON ESTUARY WAY



This area of remarkable natural beauty is where Ireland's longest river – the mighty Shannon flows into the Atlantic Ocean. Around the Estuary, expect to find delightful towns, pretty villages and piers, and wonderful shore-fishing sites. Clare's towns and villages along the route include Killimer, Labasheeda, Killadysert, Ballynacally, Ennis, Clarecastle, Shannon, and Bunratty. The Shannon Car Ferry, can take you from Tarbert in Co. Kerry to Killimer in Co. Clare in 20 minutes.

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# TOP VISITOR ATTRACTIONS



Clare has a diverse range of top visitor attractions including castles, folk parks, showcaves, museums, gardens, heritage centres, pet-farms, boat-trips, chocolate makers, and much more. They make for wonderful days out.

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DISCOVER OUR PAST.  
GO HISTORY HUNTING!



Clare is steeped in history. Dramatic and millennia-old monuments dot the landscape and signal an historic past that is palpable. Throughout Clare there are hundreds of castles, megalithic tombs, round towers, cathedrals and abbeys - all prized gifts of an epic past. These are easy to discover and visit. Many of Clare's visitor attractions eagerly present and interpret our colourful and turbulent history.

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## COSY TOWNS AND VILLAGES OF CHARACTER



Clare's towns and villages have an inviting cosiness and are full of character. Most can trace their origins back centuries. Some have their roots in Celtic monasteries, while others grew up close to the waters edge - near lakes, rivers, or along Clare's Atlantic coastline. Ennis, the counties capital, was developed around the Franciscan Abbey, which was founded in 1240.

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# NINE BLUE FLAG BEACHES



Clare has nine blue-flag beaches. Each has a unique charm and offers varied activities and experiences at different times of the year. The coastal beaches are at Cappa Pier, Kilrush: Fanore; Kilkee; Lahinch; Spanish Point; White Strand, Doonbeg; and White Strand, Miltown Malbay. Clare also has two inland blue-flag beaches on the shores of Lough Derg at Mountshannon and at Ballycuggeran, near Killaloe. Take them all in!

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# TAKE TO THE WATER!



Experience stimulating water activities, centred on the Atlantic Ocean, The River Shannon and Lough Derg. Enjoy surfing, kayaking, paddle boarding, angling, or diving. Chill-out with the family on any of Clare's nine Blue Flag beaches. Or, enjoy a cruise, dolphin-watching, or a boat trip to our islands. Take it all in!

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# HEAD TO THE ISLANDS!



On your visit to Clare, why not take a trip to an island? **Scattery Island**, where St Senan founded a monastic settlement in the 6th century, is just a 20-minute boat trip from Kilrush's blue-flag marina. **Holy Island (Inis Cealtra)** is on Shannon's Lough Derg. Its history as a monastic settlement dates to the 7th century. The Aran Islands, with its stunningly beautiful cliffs, rugged landscapes and ancient forts can be reached on ferries from Doolin and Liscannor.

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# WALK OUR WAYS ... AND OUR LOOPS



Walking is the best way to fully absorb the beauty of Clare. A network of quiet country roads, forest paths, mountain and coastal trails traverse the county. For the serious walker there are many well-organised routes, including national trails that are well sign-posted. There are also wonderful loop walks suited to walkers of different levels of fitness. Our cliff-top, mountain-top and hill-top walks are spectacular.



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# LINKS, COASTAL AND PARKLAND GOLF



Photo by Jamie Gibson



Thanks to nature, Clare has eleven top-quality golf courses from world-rated championship links to mature parkland courses. Each course offers a great challenge and experience. The courses are at Lahinch (two 18-hole links); Doonbeg (18-hole links); Spanish Point (9-hole links); Kilkee (18-hole coastal); Kilrush (18-hole parkland); Shannon (18-hole parkland); Dromoland (18-hole parkland); Woodstock, Ennis (18-hole parkland); Ennis (18-hole parkland); and East Clare (18-hole parkland).

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# CLARE FOR THE ADRENALINE RUSH!



Clare can be as leisurely or as active as you choose. You can enjoy a quiet picnic in a forest, or you take it to your limits. Our mountains, seas, rivers, and lakes provide the 'playground' to take on adrenaline-rushing activities from sail boarding and surfing to horse-riding and cliff-top and mountain walks and cycles. Take a deep breath - you're in Clare!

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FOR GREAT SHOPPING.  
HEAD TO CLARE!



Towns and villages throughout Clare have stores featuring the best of Irish products, including stylish, contemporary fashions. Ennis, merits special mention, and is often referred to as the 'boutique capital of Ireland'. Throughout the county you can also discover crafted products made on-site - from cheese and chocolates to pottery, tweeds, and perfumes. Forget online shopping... head to Clare!

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## GREAT EATS AND TREATS



The Atlantic Ocean, our rivers, lakes and green pasturelands provide Clare with a rich harvest of fine food ingredients. These ingredients are creatively used, and great food is available in casual and formal dining establishments from hotels, restaurants, cafés and pubs.

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# CLARE IS MAGICAL AND ALWAYS SURPRISES



Add a subheading



This visual tour of Clare is not the complete story. Clare is full of surprises. Come and visit us for a short break or a longer stay to discover more. You'll love it. Clare is a breath of fresh air, in every sense!

Check out

[www.Clare.ie](http://www.Clare.ie)