A TIMELESS LAND IN AN ENDLESS SEA, WEATHERED MONUMENTS ON AWESOME CLIFFS, GREAT LABYRINTHS OF LIMESTONE, MEANDERING WALLS, PATCHWORK FIELDS, QUIET BEACHES AND A WELCOMING ISLAND PEOPLE, THIS IS ARAN ON THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY IN GALWAY BAY ON THE WEST COAST OF IRELAND.

# On the Edge...

Here, on the very edge of Europe, is an Island rich in the language, culture and heritage of Ireland, unique in its geology and archaeology and in its long tradition of gentle hospitality. Here is a place to sense the spirit of Gaelic Ireland, to touch the past, but with all the comforts and facilities of the present. Aran will take you back to an Ireland of Celts and Early Christians. This is an island of great peace and tranquility, but it is also an island of great fun and activity.

If you want to experience the Wild Atlantic Way there is no better place than this island on the very edge of Europe. Aran is rich in the ancient language, culture and heritage of Ireland, and has a wealth of historic sites stretching back 4,000 years. Here is a place to sense the spirit of Gaelic Ireland, to touch the past, with all the comforts and facilities of the present. A beautiful location with stunning scenery, and excellent accommodation ranging from hotels, guesthouses, B&B's and hostels. There is a great selection of Restaurants and Café 's with enticing menus featuring locally sourced fish, shellfish, vegetables and cheese. Inis Mór offers a unique experience for all types of visitor from the solo traveller to families and groups. Our visitor base is diverse and varied as the facilities offered on the island can accommodate for all types of visitor, from International groups, Hen and Stag parties, to Weddings & Spiritual Retreats, all of whom seek a unique and memorable get away.

Log onto our website **www.exploreinismor.com** to check out our island experiences.

**Come, Stay & Explore Inis Mór and receive free entry to Dún Aonghasa Visitor Centre when staying with one of our Network Members.**

*Where just one day is never enough.*

www.exploreInismor.com

Explore Inis Mór
ARAN ISLANDS

where just one day is never enough

## Aran Islands Business Network
## Gréasán Gnó Oileáin Árann

The Network, formed in 2014, is membership based and represents many of the Island businesses. The objective of the network is to collectively promote the Island of Inis Mór as both a unique holiday destination, and a centre for bespoke island based businesses. Our primary aim is to encourage visitors to visit, explore and stay overnight so they can appreciate all that is wonderful about this jewel of an Island that lies in Galway Bay, on the Wild Atlantic Way.

**Network Members:**

| Business Gnó | e-mail r-post | Tel Teil | Map Uimhir Map No | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aran Islands Hotel | info@aranislandshotel.com | 099-61104 | 1 | Acc / Pub / Food |
| Ard Éinne House | ardeinnehouse@gmail.com | 099-61126 | 2 | Accommodation |
| Seacrest B&B | seacrestaran@gmail.com | 087-1616507 | 3 | Accommodation |
| Ard Mhuiris | cait.flaherty9@gmail.com | 099-61208 | 4 | Accommodation |
| Tigh Fitz Guest House | penny@tighfitz.com | 099-61213 | 5 | Accommodation |
| An Réalóg | realog@eircom.net | 099-61159 | 6 | Accommodation |
| Pier House | pierhousearan@gmail.com | 099-61417 | 7 | Acc / Restaurant |
| Radharc na Céibhe | noirinuighoill@hotmail.com | 099-61297 | 8 | Accommodation |
| Claí Bán B&B | claibanhouse@gmail.com | 099-61111 | 9 | Accommodation |
| Kilronan Hostel | kilronanhostel@gmail.com | 099-61255 | 10 | Accommodation |
| Tigh Nan Phaidí | nanphaidi@eircom.net | 087-7473935 | 11 | Café |
| Bayview Restaurant | byronsonthebay@gmail.com | 086-7929925 | 12 | Restaurant |
| MC Powell | celtisland@gmail.com | | 13 | Supermarket |
| Aran Sweater Market | conor.meehan@glenaran.com | 099-61011 | 14 | Sweater Shop |
| Galanta | donal@galanta.ie | 087-6529710 | 15 | Crafts |
| Man of Aram Crafts & Cafe | gearoid.browne@gmail.com | 085-7105254 | 16 | Crafts |
| The Bar | inismorbar@gmail.com | 099-61130 | 17 | Bar / Food |
| Joe Watty Bar & Restaurant | pjwatty5@gmail.com | 086-0494509 | 18 | Bar / Restaurant |
| Tigh Joe Mac | | 099-61248 | 19 | Bar / Food |
| Irish Culture | elizabeth@irish-culture.ch | 0041-44-2520918 | 20 | Retreat/Tours |
| Cáis Gabhair Árann | biaarann@gmail.com | 087-2226776 | 21 | Tours & Attraction |
| OPW Dún Aonghasa | dunaonghasa@opw.ie | 099-61008 | 22 | Attraction |
| Hernon Aran Tours | hernontours@gmail.com | 099-61131 | 23 | Transport / Tours |
| Aran Pony & Trap Tours | seacrestaran@gmail.com | 085-2859777 | 24 | Transport / Tours |
| Island Ferries | caroline@aranislandferries.com | 091-568903 | 25 | Ferry |
| Aer Arann Islands | fainseniceheidigh@gmail.com | 091-593034 | 26 | Airline |
| Burke Bike Hire | burkepaudy@hotmail.com | 087-2808273 | 27 | Bike Hire |
| Rothar Árann | celtisland@gmail.com | 087-2470900 | 28 | Bike Hire |
| Luxury tours bus tours | mahonnoel1@gmail.com | 087-7782775 | 29 | Transport / Tours |
| Doolin 2 Aran Ferries | info@doolin2aranferries.ie | 065-7075949 | 30 | Ferry |
| Lasta Mara Teo. | info@lastamarateo.com | 091-562900 | 31 | Cargo Boat |
| Fionnuala Hernon | aranislandsphotography@facebook.com | 087-6968022 | 32 | Photography |
| Comharchumann Árann | eolas@cfarann.ie | 099-61354 | 33 | Community Dev. |
| Údarás na Gaeltachta | eolas@udaras.ie | 091-503100 | 34 | Gaeltacht Dev. |
| Fáilte Ireland | aran@failteireland.ie | 099-61263 | 35 | Toutist Info. |

An sean & nua fite fuaite le chéile
- Where old traditions meet new

Rothaiocht
- Summer cycling, bike hire available

Tirdhreach - Landscapes

Láthair na Róin - Seal Colony

Dún Aonghasa

Radharc na Spéire - Inis Mór Sunset

Baile Cill Rónáin - Céad Míle Fáilte

Bia Blasta - Fine dining

Ceol & Craic - Nightly Traditional Music

Páirc Spraoi - Kids Playground

Lámh Dheanta
- Handcrafted Furniture

Bainis - Weddings

## Flora and Fauna

There are many rare and threatened plant species to be found on Aran, such as Pyramidal Bugle (Ajuga pyramidals), Wood Small-reed (Calamagrostis epigejos), Blue Moor-grass (Sesieria albicans) and Burnet Rose (Rosa pimpinellifolia) to name just a few - so be careful where you put those feet! Much of the flora and birdlife of Aran is of international significance, and is protected under European wildlife legislation. Bird species which breed on the Island include Chough, Little Tern, Arctic Tern, Sandwich Tern and Peregrine Falcon.

The fascinating seal colony in Aran is also worth a visit.

## ACCESS ÁRAINN

**Travel to Árainn by ferry boat from Ros A Mhíl (Rossaveal) in Connemara or Doolin in Co. Clare or by air from Indreabhán (Inverin).**

**See Business Network List for contact details on transport to and from the Island.**

## Great Food, Pubs and Great Places to Stay

There is a wide variety of quality accommodation (Bord Fáilte, Irish Tourist Bord approved) on Árainn as well as colourful Pubs full of music and fun. **Further information from Fáilte Ireland (Tel: Galway 091-563081/Árainn: 099-61263).**

Thanks to Fionnuala Hernon & Aongus O'Flaherty for supplying wonderful photographs.

# Explore Inis Mór
ARAN ISLANDS

As you arrive by ferry to Cill Rónáin, you will be met by a bustling, vibrant harbour with tour buses, pony-and-trap and bicycle hire vendors in the harbour area. Many visitors don't expect to be met by such an array of activity, but take this as a sign of a vibrant, living community. Beyond the harbour are areas of seclusion and peace. If pedalling is your pleasure, hire a bike in Kilronan village and explore at will around this lovely island or take a pony and trap, or a guided tour with a modern minibus, from the pier. Alternatively, see Aran by foot, and walk along the pathways of history on this unique island. Swim in unpolluted seas, study rare flowers and wildlife, write, paint, take pictures, fish or just relax, unwind and learn spoken Irish in this bilingual community. And when the Celtic twilight comes, drop in for a quiet pint, or enjoy a wealth of Irish music.

**Aran cannot be appreciated or seen fully in just a day trip, so Come, Stay & Explore our wonderful Island.**

*Ag deireadh an lae lig do scíth agus bain taitneamh as na radharcanna álainn atá in Árann. Ciúnas gan uaigneas.*

### FAOISEAMH A GHEOBHADSA

*Faoiseamh a gheobhadsa*
*Seal beag gairid*
*i measc mo dhaoine*
*Ar oileán mara*
*Ag siúl cois cladigh*
*Maidin is tráthnóna*
*Ó Luan to Satharn*
*Thiar ag baile.*

*Faoiseamh a gheobhadsa*
*Seal beag gairid*
*i measc mo dhaoine*
*Ó chrás croí.*
*Ó bhuairt aigne*
*Ó uaigneas duairc,*
*Ó chaint ghontach*
*Thiar ag baile.*

*Máirtín Ó Direáin*

## A BAILE CILL RÓNÁIN
*Kilronan Village*

As you arrive into Cill Rónáin harbour, you will see the main village on the island of Inis Mór nestled against the limestone backdrop. This village is made up of a mixture of Georgian type buildings dating back to English colonialism, to traditional and modern homes. The village provides many facilities from accommodation (hotel, hostel, guesthouses and B&Bs), Fáilte Ireland tourist information office, restaurants, cafes, coffee shops, craft shops, pubs (which also serve food) and the Spar supermarket, where one can avail of the ATM machine if required.

The majority of transport providers begin their tours from the harbour area or equally you can spend some time enjoying the village and then pick up a tour (bus, pony-and-trap or bicycle) to visit the rest of the island.

An excellent park and playground is located in Cill Rónáin village and is a must for all families.

See village map for all the services/facilities available.

## B CILL MHUIRBHIGH
*Kilmurvey Village*

Cill Mhuirbhigh is located at the base of the famous Dún Aonghasa fort. Cill Mhuirbhigh village is a pretty yet bustling little village. It has a beautiful blue flag beach, one of Ireland's finest. The village has Craft & Coffee shops, including the traditional Nan Phaidí Caife (see over for picture and details) famous for its home baking and cooking.

## C TEAGHLACH ÉINNE
*The Church of Saint Enda*

Located in the graveyard in Cill Éinne. This is the church of Saint Enda, who is credited with being the founder of monasticism in Ireland in to 5th century AD. The church shows development over a very long period. The east and north walls, as far as the doorway, belong to an early church while the rest is of late, or post medieval. Some cross slabs, part of a late 11th century high cross and some inscribed stones are on the site.

## D TEAMPALL BHEANÁIN
*The Church of Saint Bheanáin*

Prominently located in Cill Éinne, on the skyline, Teampall Bheanáin is a tiny church notable for its orientation - North/South instead of the usual East/West. This is an early mortared stone church, dating from the 10th century.

## E DÚN DÚCHATHAIR
*Black Fort*

Dún Dúchathair (Black Fort) on the cliffs south of Cill Rónáin is a large stone promontory fort with "cheveaux de frise" - bands of stone, standing on edge and ruined clocháns.



## F POLL NA BPÉIST
*Serpent's Lair*



This is located near the village of Gort na gCapall, down below the cliffs near the edge of the water. It is a rectangular shaped pool, connected to the ocean by an underwater channel. It is an unusual site and well worth a visit. This site has gained fame due to "Red Bull Cliff Diving" holding two competitions here.

## G DÚN AONGHASA

Dún Aonghasa is a dramatic stone fort standing defiantly on a cliff-top almost 300 feet above sea level. The oldest of the islands stone forts, it consists of 4 sets of dry stone walls and a defensive feature known as a "cheveaux de frise" – bands of stone, standing on edge. Access to the fort is via the OPW Visitor Centre at the base of the fort. Adults €4, Seniors €3, Child €2, Family €10. Free on the first Wednesday of the month.

## H DÚN EOGHANACHTA



This fort is located south of the main road at Sruthán. This is an inland stone fort with a circular terraced wall, almost circular 90ft feet North - South, 90ft East - West.

## I NA SEACHT d'TEAMPAILLT
*The Seven Churches*

The Seven Churches are located at Eoghanacht, just north off the main road. This monastic site is really the remains of two churches and some domestic buildings. Here also are remains of the late 11th Century High Crosses, inscribed stones and "Leapacha" or penitential beds.



## J CLOCHÁN NA CARRAIGE
*beehive hut*

A clochán is a stone-roofed house. This is a fine example. It is roofed in corbelled fashion. Although on the outside it looks round, internally it is almost rectangular. It has two opposing doorways.

Some of the monuments or sites you might like to visit may be on private property. In such instances the permission of the owner/occupier to enter the area should be sought.

## K LEABA DHIARMUDA AGUS GHRÁINNE

This is a megalithic wedge tomb dating from about 2,000 B.C. It is the burial place of early farmers. Wedge tombs are the earliest known monuments on Aran.



## L TEAMPALL AN CHEATHRAIR ÁLAINN

This is a simple but beautiful 15th Century church dedicated to the "four beautiful saints", Fursey, Brendan, Conal, Berchan, who are said to be buried nearby. To the south of the church a holy well is located which inspired Synge's play "The Well of the Saints".

## M DÚN EOCHLA

Situated about 400m south of the main road at Eochaill, near the highest point on the Island, this is an inland stone fort with massive circular walls and terraces.

Courtesy of National Monuments Service

## N RADHARCANNA IONTACH DO GRIANGHRAFADÓIREACHT
*Viewpoint for amazing photography*

This area is well worth a visit. A steep incline leads you up to Eochaill Tower which is now closed to the public. Take a break and enjoy the views from the top of the road which are spectacular. Please take care not to cycle down only walk with your bicycle!

*"Coinneod féin an t'oileán seal eile i mo dhán, toisc a ionraice atá cloch, carraig is trá"* **Máirtín Ó Díreáin**

## OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST

**Teampall Chiaráin**
Dedicated to St. Ciarán, who founded Clonmacnoise and who spent some of his early life in Árainn, it is built on the site of an earlier church and has architectural features from different periods.

**Portdeha**
This area is on the Eastern side of the island, just where the road ends. A lovely green quiet area very suitable for families with young children, open green fields where hundreds of rabbits roam free.

**Arkin Fort/Caisleán Aircín**
Aircín Fort is located in Cill Éinne, just before Cill Éinne Pier. Last rebuilt in 1652 it is the remains of a star-shaped military fort.

## THE ÁRAINN VISITOR CODE

- Keep Aran litter free, please dispose of your rubbish in litter and recycling bins
- Please do not climb or remove any part of ancient or sacred sites on Aran
- Cycle safely in single file and keep to the left at all times
- Avoid picking flowers, some are very rare and protected by law
- Be sensitive to the host community and observe people's privacy
- Please do not build replica dolmens or standing stone on the island
- Please stay on roads and trails and avoid knocking dry stone walls
- Campers, please use campsites
- Please do not light fires on farmland
- Beware of the danger & power of the sea - Never turn your back on the sea while exploring the Island!

Aran Islands Business Network
Gréasán Gnó Oileáin Árann

**Web:** www.exploreinismor.com
**Email:** info@exploreinismor.com
**Fáilte Ireland, Cill Rónáin:** 099-61263

**Togra do Comharchumann Forbartha Árann**

Wild Atlantic Way · Údarás na Gaeltachta · Fáilte Ireland National Tourism Development Authority · OPW