

# staycation 2021

## Your Guide to Staying at Home this Summer



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# Enjoy a 'Girly Escape' at the Silverbirch Hotel

ESCAPE with the girls - or guys - and enjoy an overnight stay at the Silverbirch Hotel in Omagh with its special 'Girly Escape' offer with cocktails and an evening meal in Barreta Bar and Grill.

Priced at just £70 per person, the package includes an overnight stay, full Irish breakfast and dinner in the Barreta Bar and Grill.

You will also be treated to a pre - dinner cocktail per person in the stylish surrounding of Barreta Bar and Grill in a reserved VIP booth!

Minimum numbers are six, from £70 per person sharing, and is subject to availability.

Centrally located in the hub of the North West, within walking distance of Omagh town centre, the Silverbirch has been a successful family-run hotel for over 40 years.

It offers guests a home from home where you



The Silverbirch Hotel in Omagh is the perfect venue for a staycation.

can unwind and relax on the footsteps of the region's famed Sperrin Mountains. Whether you're staying on business, escaping for a romantic getaway, enjoying a night away with friends, or exploring the beauty of Northern Ireland with

the whole family, the Silverbirch Hotel guarantees a truly relaxing experience in contemporary comfort. Established in 1978, the hotel has established an enviable reputation for fantastic food and accommodation.

Located in the heart of

County Tyrone, the award-winning hotel boasts a collection of 64 bedrooms, over 10 meeting and event spaces, including the new Drumragh Suite, Foyer, Courtyard Bar, Terrace areas, Bertha's Bar, extension of the dedicated Business

Centre and upgrades to public areas and the addition of Lola's, private event hire space. Signature features includes modern, vibrant interiors created in association with Audrey Gaffney Interiors, one of Ireland's leading interior

architecture and design companies; on-street access via the private entrance adjacent to the front of the hotel's main entrance and two distinctive bars. For more information contact [www.silverbirchhotel.com](http://www.silverbirchhotel.com) email [businesscentre@silverbirchhotel.com](mailto:businesscentre@silverbirchhotel.com) or call +44 (0)28 8224 2520 visit



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**Now taking bookings for The Ultimate Irish Staycation**  
 This hidden gem needs to be experienced to be truly appreciated, no words can describe the aura of 'oldness' you inhale when you visit, even on a short stay. The detailed photos don't do it true justice, this place needs to be seen to be believed, take a step back in time at Rosehill House. We host a variety of events throughout the year for all ages creating memorable experiences for all visitors.

**Taking booking for Families and Groups**  
**As featured on "Irish Pickers" TV Show**




*£70pp*

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## Step into HomePlace

We're open...Come on in!

Seamus Heaney HomePlace is centred in the Nobel Prize winning poet's heartland. Experience our interactive exhibition where you will discover the people that inspired him and explore the places of his childhood.

To book or for more information:  
 45 Main Street, Bellaghy, Co. Derry BT45 8HT  
 Tel: 028 7938 7444 | [www.SeamusHeaneyHome.com](http://www.SeamusHeaneyHome.com)

  
 Seamus Heaney HomePlace  
 Life, Literature & Inspiration



# Strule Arts Centre gears up for summer

WITH summer fast approaching the Visitor Information Centre at Strule Arts Centre in Omagh is set to reopen to the public.

Omagh Visitor Information Centre will reopen on Monday, July 5 and be open Monday to Friday 9.30am to 5pm. Visitors can call in to the Visitor Information Centre during opening hours to find out about things to see and places

to visit within the Omagh and Sperrins region.

Alternatively, people can telephone the Visitor Information Centre on 028 8224 7831 during opening hours to speak to a member of the Visitor Services team or visit [www.exploreomaghsperrins.com](http://www.exploreomaghsperrins.com) to plan days out or a visit to the area.

Welcoming the reopening of Omagh

Visitor Information Centre at Strule Arts Centre, chairman of Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, Councillor Errol Thompson, said: "The reopening of Omagh Visitor Information Centre is another step in the right direction as we emerge from the impacts of Covid-19."

"The Fermanagh and Omagh District Council area has a strong tourism and

hospitality product, complemented by other unique local offerings within the retail sector.

"Our Visitor Services team will be there to provide information to locals and visitors alike on things to see and do within Omagh and the Sperrins and indeed the wider region as people plan their staycation or days out and about.

"Our local tourism sector has worked hard, putting additional measures in place so that people can enjoy their visit safely. I encourage everyone to continue to do their bit so that we may keep moving forward. Always follow public health guidance and keep washing hands,

wear a face covering where required, and keep a safe distance from others outside your bubble."

In addition to the reopening of the Visitor Information Centre, the Strule Arts Centre is offering a jam-packed programme of summer activity for children and young people.

The above Summer Academies, developed in partnership with local artists and musicians, will provide participants with the opportunity to meet local professionals within the industry who will share their expertise and provide guidance and encouragement to participants.



Fermanagh and Omagh District Council chairman, Errol Thompson and Visitor Services Advisor, Jennifer Gourley, welcome the reopening of the Visitor Information Centre in Omagh.

Fermanagh & Omagh District Council  
Comhairle Ceantair Fhear Manach agus na hOmaí

**NEW**

Strule Arts Centre **Summer Academy**  
Age 12 - 17

**Music**  
Mon 26 - Fri 30 July  
9 am - 5 pm

**Art, Photography and Creative Writing**  
Mon 9 Aug - Fri 13 Aug  
9 am - 5 pm

**Book Now**  
[www.struleartscentre.co.uk](http://www.struleartscentre.co.uk)

## Get out and about with Stairlift Solutions

WHETHER you're in town or the country, you can always rely on Stairlift Solutions

mobility scooters to get you where you want to go. "Easy to drive,

inexpensive to run and environmentally friendly – our extensive scooter range covers

everything get-about anywhere scooters, all with the

peace of mind of our local after sales care," said a company spokesperson.

"Whether it's the lightweight and portable Invacare Colibri or the three wheel road-ready Sterling Elite 2, we have the scooter to fit your needs. Plus with free home delivery, a two-year warranty and prices starting from £749, why not come and see our range for yourself?"

"For Stairlift Solutions' full range of products visit the showroom at Unit 21, Innotec Drive (beside the Signal Centre) off the Balloo Road in Bangor. Off the Balloo Road, turn into Innotec Drive at the Signal Centre. Follow the road down and turn left into Unit 21. We are open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm.

"For any queries please contact the office on 028 9188 2249 or go to [www.stairliftsolutionsni.com](http://www.stairliftsolutionsni.com)."

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**BENBURB PRIORY**

**Our Museum will be re-opening to the public on 4th July 2021**

with the Launch of Armagh Art Club "New Beginnings" Exhibition in the Benburb Priory Museum  
The Exhibition will run from Friday 2nd July - 31st August 2021  
Admission Free!

Access will take place in adherence with current Covid-19 Government Guidelines

Why not come along and enjoy a cup of tea / coffee and a scone in our recently opened **STABLES COFFEE SHOP** located within the relaxed atmosphere of the Courtyard and view the beautiful art exhibits on show

**VISIT OUR LIBRARY BY APPOINTMENT**  
Contact the Librarian by email: [mark@benburbpriory.com](mailto:mark@benburbpriory.com)

[Benburbpriory.com](http://Benburbpriory.com)





# Cloughbane launches new website

ALL the team here at Cloughbane are excited about the launch of our new website which we have made even more user friendly.

As a family, we the Robinsons, together with our amazing team, have been humbled by the growth of the business and we so enjoy producing the best of local for you all to enjoy.

The past year has been a difficult time for us all and we really appreciate the support of our loyal customers.

To thank our loyal existing customers, and to welcome new customers, we have many special offers available.

Sadly, during the year, we made the difficult decision due to concerns over social distancing in our Farm Shop to move to click and collect. This has proved very successful and please do phone us any day to place your order and get a pick-up slot that suits you.

So from our famous BBQ specials to our award-winning great taste award sirloins, fillets and rib-eye, we know you will enjoy browsing our website - and our friendly staff are



Just some of the delicious range available from Cloughbane Farm Shop. SC212637

always available to discuss your needs, whether it is for a family meal or a party.

We are also pleased that you can now enjoy our sirloins once again in The Gables Restaurant and The Brewers House. We all know these are two of the best restaurants in the area and, from the number of steaks we are delivering to them, many of you are obviously enjoying

getting out again after such a long time. Let us hope this was our last lockdown.

As well as our butchery range, of course, our award winning cooked foods ranges are available both through our farm shop and in most local stores. Just look out for the red packaging.

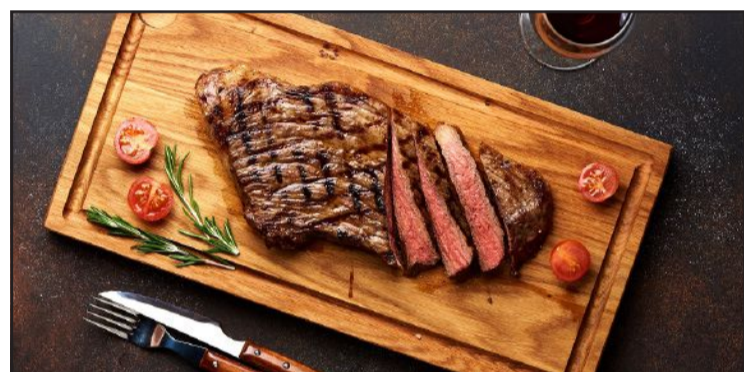
It was with great excitement that we have added our lasagne

to our great taste awards. One of the judges commented: "This lasagne shines bright and leaves others behind". So enjoy a meal that we have cooked, from our family to yours.

From Lorna Sam Robert and Richard, we wish you and all your family and friends a great summer full of BBQs and family meals.



Lorna, Sam, Robert and Richard Robinson enjoy producing the best of local for Cloughbane customers to enjoy. SC212638



Cloughbane Farm Shop's steaks are perfect for the summer BBQ season. SC212639



## NEW WEBSITE LAUNCH!!





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Place your order and collect from our Farm Shop

**HOME DELIVERY**  
Free delivery on orders over £45

**VIEW OUR SPECIAL OFFERS**  
Family, Meat, BBQ Hampers & More

**COMPETITION**  
To thank all our existing customers and to welcome new customers for every order placed by the end of July 2021 they will be entered into a draw

1st prize - Family Deal Hamper  
2nd prize - Variety Hamper  
3rd prize - BBQ Hamper



www.cloughbanefarm.com





## Central Hotel and Abbey Hotel in the centre of historic Donegal Town

THE Central Hotel is one of the longest established hotels in the North West.

Renowned for its unique setting in the centre of the historic Donegal Town, with idyllic views of Donegal Bay in the background, the hotel is perfectly located to enjoy the beautiful County of Donegal.

Within minutes of stunning coastal drives, beaches and signature discovery points of the famous Wild Atlantic Way, the Central Hotel Donegal Town is the perfect location for you to stay.

Specialising in weddings and civil ceremonies, the Central Hotel Donegal Town is the perfect venue for your special day. Our experienced Wedding Co-ordinators are here to ensure you have a day to remember.

We have a range of superbly appointed bedrooms including family rooms, suites, inter-connecting rooms and enabled access rooms, with complimentary access to our leisure facilities.

Also located in the centre of the Historic Town of Donegal is the Abbey Hotel, sited within minutes of stunning coastal drives, beaches and signature discovery points of the famous Wild Atlantic Way.

They highly recommend a visit to Sliagh Liag, the highest seacliffs in Europe along Donegal's

rugged coast line.

The Abbey Hotel, which is home to the Abbey Bar, the Food Hall and Market House Restaurant, is a certified member of the Donegal Food Coast initiative.

The Abbey Hotel Donegal Town is a premier venue for live music entertainment including country and western weekends and comedy shows.



The Abbey Hotel, Donegal Town.



The Central Hotel, Donegal Town.



One of the newly-refurbished guest rooms at the Carrigaline Court Hotel.

## Take a fantastic getaway break to the Costa Del Cork and stay at the Carrigaline Court Hotel

LOOKING for a getaway that is near the Coast and is located nearby all the attractions of Cork, as well as the start of the Wild Atlantic Way and Ireland's Ancient East trails?

The Carrigaline Court hotel is the perfect choice, located at the crossroad between Cork City and Cork County, next to Cork Harbour and near the Motorway.

The four-star property is the perfect choice for that getaway break, be it with your other half for a relaxing romantic trip, or with the family to explore the wonderful outdoor activities that County Cork offers.

Guests will get to relax in the

hotel's luxurious, newly refurbished guest rooms, and dining options include Collins Bar or the Bistro Restaurant. Then there's the on-site leisure centre complete with 20m pool, and the hotel is the perfect location for a base to visit Fota Wildlife Park, Spike Island, and Zipit (Farran Woods zipline centre), as well as enjoying outdoor activities such as the Carrigaline to Crosshaven old railway cycle path and surfing beaches such as nearby Garretstown.

The hotel is certified with the Failte Ireland Covid Safety Charter and has developed its own 'Stay Safe' approach with

measures including signage, one-way systems, hand sanitiser stations, employee education programmes and enhanced cleaning procedures across all areas of the hotel including bedrooms and public areas.

Prices start from €115 per room, and 2-5-night Short Break Dinner packages are also available, along with packages including discounts to local attractions.

Visit [www.carrigalcourt.com](http://www.carrigalcourt.com) for bookings, package details and T&C's, or phone +353 21 4852100 for reservations.

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\*See [www.carrigalcourt.com/tcs](http://www.carrigalcourt.com/tcs) for details.

WHERE CORK CITY... MEETS THE COUNTY



# Picture perfect picnic places

WITH beautiful gardens, ancient woodlands and enchanting places that are off the beaten track, Northern Ireland serves up some perfect backdrops for memorable picnics.

It was recently National Picnic Week and what a gorgeous way to enjoy some of Northern Ireland's world class food and drink offerings, in some of the most picturesque settings. You have plenty of beautiful choices of parks, forests and gardens to whet your appetite, that's for sure!

With the brighter nights and longer days, it's the perfect time for some al fresco dining, so grab your baskets and blankets and relax in Northern Ireland's great outdoors.

Discover Northern Ireland has compiled a list of some well-known, as well as quieter spaces for the perfect picnic.

If you are on a short-break away, speak to your accommodation provider as they will also have great local tips and might even help prepare your delicious hamper.

## Belfast

### Minnowburn

Visit Minnowburn and you will find a paradox, a property set in beautiful countryside and yet just a couple of miles from the city centre. Nestled in the heart of the Lagan Valley Regional Park, there's lots to see here. The Terrace Hill Rose Garden is one of the finest viewpoints in South Belfast, with superb views across the valley to the Belfast hills. Nearby, the Giant's Ring is an enormous earthwork henge. It is thought to be at least 4,000 years old. As you wander around the area, don't miss Shaw's Bridge, an ancient crossing that dates back to the Neolithic period. Finally, the charming paths along the River Lagan are very popular and are great for a relaxing stroll.

## County Armagh



Slieve Gullion.

### Slieve Gullion

Slieve Gullion is Armagh's highest peak and a place steeped in myths and legends. Rising some 576m above the surrounding countryside, the broad slopes of Slieve Gullion dominate the landscape of south Armagh. The mountain itself lies at the centre of a pronounced ring of hills – the Ring of Gullion. The Forest Park offers walking trails, a scenic drive, an adventure playpark, Giant's Lair children's story trail and some stunning settings to enjoy a picnic.

## County Tyrone

### Gortin Glen Forest Park

Located just six miles from Omagh, at the western gateway to the Sperrin Mountains, Gortin Glen Forest Park is made up of a network of 5 waymarked trails of varying lengths. All colour coded and returning you back to the car park, each of the trails give you the opportunity to enjoy the woodland, nestled nicely in the beautiful peaks. With a dedicated BBQ and picnic area, it is the dream destination for a good walk and a pit stop. Better yet, the views are superb, even on a rainy day.

## County Fermanagh

### Castle Caldwell Forest; Castle Scenic Walk

The Castle Scenic walk is part of the Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark but takes you off the beaten track and provides some great places to enjoy a picnic emersed in nature. The walk takes in man-made and natural wonders, including a lime-kiln which hints at the association of the Caldwell Estate with the nearby Belleek Pottery, a half-moon limestone bench along the shoreline and the eerie ruins of Castle Caldwell.

## County Down

### Kilbroney Park

Fancy a picnic topped with a dash of history? This lesser known forest features wonderful riverside walks and an arboretum. With a two-mile forest drive to panoramic views over Carlingford Lough, the forest drive leads to a car park from where walkers have the opportunity to climb to Cloughmore or 'the big stone', a 30ton erratic, which sits at approx. 1000ft above Rostrevor. Geologists explain its presence here as having been deposited during the ice age. Local folklore claims it was thrown here by Finn Mac Cool during a fight with a Scottish Giant.

## County Antrim

### Antrim Castle Gardens and Clotworthy House

Antrim Castle Gardens are an absolute historical gem. These 400 year old gardens are perfect for a stroll as you walk into the past around this magnificent setting, visiting beautiful features such as the Large Parterre, Her Ladyship's Pleasure Garden and Yew Tree Pond. Within the heart of the Gardens is a unique visitor experience, the refurbished Clotworthy House. Visit the Garden Heritage Exhibition where you can read about the

history of the Gardens and the story of the Massereene family.

## County Londonderry

### Springhill

Springhill has a fascinating spirit that captures the heart of every visitor. Described as 'one of the prettiest houses in Ulster', its welcoming charm reveals a family home with portraits, furniture and decorative arts that bring to life the many generations of Lenox-Conynghams who lived here from 1680. Beautiful walled gardens and way marked paths through the parkland provide the destination for a dander after filling up on some grub.

*Remember to care for your environment and your surroundings by bringing your litter home with you or placing in the bins provided.*

# Explore the County Down coastline from the comfort of the Marine Court Hotel

## ADVERTORIAL

THE Marine Court is wonderfully situated on the seafront of Bangor, County Down overlooking Bangor Marina, Ireland's largest, in the foreground with stunning views across Belfast Lough.

Only 15 minutes from Belfast City Airport and IKEA, directly linked by rail to both Londonderry and Dublin, the Marine Court provides a perfect base for visitors to explore the beautiful Coast of Down.

The hotel boasts 51 newly refurbished spacious bedrooms with private bathrooms, and we are excited to announce we have brand new executive family rooms available.

Stay in one of our new executive family rooms and enjoy the breath-taking views from the comfort of your bedroom.

Our bar and bistro Nelson's serves lunch and dinner daily presenting tasty home cooked food making the best use of locally sourced ingredients.

All guests benefit from breakfast being served in our Loughview Lounge on the 1st floor where they can revel in spectacular views of beautiful Bangor by the Sea.

Phone the hotel directly on 028 9145 1100 for best available rates, mid-week discounts apply.



The restaurant at the Marine Court Hotel.



Bangor's famous marina.



The Marine Court are excited to announce our new refurbished bedrooms, with the added addition of our sea view executive family rooms. Our friendly and professional team take pride in offering all our guests a warm welcome.

We have tailored exclusive family room packages, with reduced mid-week rates available.

Call and book direct for best available rates on:

# 028 9145 1100



The Marine Court Hotel

18-20 Quay Street, Bangor BT20 5ED

Web: [www.marinecourthotel.net](http://www.marinecourthotel.net) | Email: [info@marinecourthotel.net](mailto:info@marinecourthotel.net)



# The ultimate staycation by the coast at the Bracken Court Hotel

A STAYCATION at the Bracken Court hotel pays homage to the beautiful coastal village in which it's located.

Enjoy coastal family adventures by the beach and their exceptionally priced packages including family access to Tayto Park, Dublin Zoo, Funtasia and so much more.

Dine in the fabulous Steak & Seafood Restaurant; the Bracken Grill and enjoy all it has to offer, including stone baked pizzas, the finest wines, cocktails, and the best catch of the day, capturing missed moments and occasions lost over the past year.

Dining in the Bracken Grill Steak & Seafood Restaurant or taking a booth in Jack Doyle's bar to enjoy some of the beautiful food on offer, with something to suit everyone including their renowned fish & chips, bringing the taste and flavours of the coast to your plate.

The recent introduction of their takeaway afternoon teas, picnic caddies and charcuterie graze boxes means you can enjoy the sights and wonders of Dublin and Ireland's Ancient East with a little piece of heaven from the



One of the suites at the Bracken Court Hotel.

Bracken Court Hotel in tow.

Perfectly situated on the coast of Ireland, the location of the Bracken Court Hotel means you have so much to see and do on your doorstep, making it the perfect location for an exciting staycation. Enjoy the Boyne Valley and all it has to offer including Newgrange, Carlingford Adventure Centre to name but a few of the amazing attractions nearby.

Sign up for a local falconry experience, horse trekking or visit one of many local petting farms, the Guinness Storehouse, Teeling Whiskey Distillery, all a stone's throw from the Hotel.

The most exciting staycation

the Bracken Court has introduced this year is one in which the hotel partnered up with their sister hotel to offer a unique 'Cross Country Retreat'; two nights in the Bracken Court Hotel with loads of exciting activities thrown in, directly followed with two nights in their sister hotel the Court Yard Hotel in Leixlip Co. Kildare, all packed full of activities and adventures. Two hotels in one, making this the ultimate in adventure staycations in Ireland for 2021.

To book a staycation, visit [www.brackencourt.ie](http://www.brackencourt.ie) or for more information, call +353 (0) 1 841 3333.



The Bracken Court Hotel - a coastal retreat by the sea.



Relax and enjoy some fine dining at the Bracken Grill Steak & Seafood Restaurant or Jack Doyle's bar.



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# A borough in bloom!

**THOSE who enjoy a fine display of wildflowers should make a 'bee-line' for Coleraine.**

For colourful plots featuring a mix of blooms like cornflowers, poppies and daisies are proving popular with residents and visitors, as well as our pollinators and insects who thrive in the pollen rich natural habitat.

This week, the Mayor Councillor Richard Holmes met with Winston Brogan and Rodney Boyd from Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council's Estates team at Anderson Park in Coleraine to see one of the impressive wildflower beds for himself.

Commenting afterwards he said: "The public's reaction to our wildflowers has been fantastic and we've received many positive comments from people about their visual appeal."

"There's also a

growing appreciation of the role they play in supporting our biodiversity and Council is delighted to know that our approach is making a positive impact on our local environment.

"This beautiful display in Anderson

Park is a welcome addition to Coleraine and the insects and bees evident during my visit was just incredible. As a Council, we should be proud of how we manage our open spaces and with the addition of our innovative Don't

Mow Let It Grow scheme we are leading the way and demonstrating how our working practices can have benefits for all."

Several sites throughout the borough have been designated

wildflower areas and their flowers will provide colourful displays throughout the summer months.

Alongside this, Parks staff will harvest seeds for planting next year which offers further benefits for Council and the local area.

As well as the displays in towns, wildflower meadows supported by Don't Mow Let It Grow offer another haven for our bees, birds, hares and ladybirds. Combining native fine grasses with wildflowers, these natural habitats provide much-needed food and shelter all year round.

Work is also continuing with DfI Roads to identify and promote more road-side sites which can be transformed into wildflower meadows

Earlier this year, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council's work to create healthy habitats for pollinators featured in a new all-Ireland celebration of

biodiversity projects.

'Working Together for Biodiversity - Tales from the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020' includes inspirational conservation stories carried out by communities, schools, businesses and local authorities.

In another coup for the area, Causeway Hospital became the first healthcare site to officially sign up as a supporter of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan earlier this month.

A meadow area in the grounds has been developed into a thriving wildflower area and is now home to an abundance of pollinators, insects and wildlife.

You can find out more about Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council's Don't Mow Let It Grow initiative by going to [www.dontmowletitgrow.com](http://www.dontmowletitgrow.com) or follow Don't Mow, Let It Grow on Facebook.



The Mayor of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Councillor Richard Holmes pictured at the beautiful wildflower bed in bloom at Anderson Park in Coleraine.



A bee enjoys the wildflower bed in Coleraine.



Winston Brogan and Rodney Boyd from Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council's Estates team speak to the Mayor about their involvement in creating and maintaining the wildflower bed at Anderson Park in Coleraine.

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- Back To The Future: The Musical
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- Everybody's Talking About Jamie
- Get Up Stand Up! The Bob Marley Musical

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**Single room supplement £75** Deposit £50 per person

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- Visit and free time in Glasgow
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# Giant destination



**NEVER worry about red or amber lights for foreign travel - it has to be green for go for the Causeway Coast and Glens!**

There is no place like home when it comes to a Staycation this year, albeit one that has been forced on most of us this year.

But there really is no need to worry as there is so much to do and see right across Northern Ireland.

The rugged, raw elemental beauty of the Causeway Coastal Route truly captures the thrill of an adventure in the Province.

Maybe it's the sheer breadth and beauty of its landscape. Perhaps it's the mythical stories, shaped and inspired by the dramatic coastline. It's certainly in the warm and hospitable people you will meet along the way.

Wherever you find that legendary spirit of Northern Ireland, embrace it. And awaken your own. There's quite a lot to see along the Causeway Coastal Route - voted the Number 1 Region in the World to visit by Lonely Planet in 2018 - so let's take it in stages, step by step:

**Belfast to Carnfunnock**

Your adventure begins (or maybe ends) in Belfast - you decide. From Belfast, head north, making your first stop at Carrickfergus Castle, one of the best persevered medieval structures in Ireland.

Your next stop-off is at the breathtaking cliff-face pathway, The Gobbins. Your spirit will soar - and your senses heighten - on exhilarating suspension bridges, caves, steps and tunnels. Your final stop is at Carnfunnock Country Park, an excellent spot with loads to do, including a chance to solve the mysterious hedge maze.

**Cushendun via The Glens of Antrim**

Once you've left Carnfunnock, a pit-stop in picturesque Ballygally is a

must. It will come as no surprise that, in a land steeped in legend, the local hotel is haunted - but by a friendly ghost.

From here, journey inland to the storied Slemish mountain. This extinct volcano is where, according to legend, Saint Patrick tended sheep after being captured and taken to Ireland.

Heading towards the coast again, you'll find Glenarm Castle. Wander in its historic Walled Gardens or simply marvel at the sumptuous house interior. It is also worth your time exploring the mythical nine Glens of Antrim.

The spectacular coast road to Cushendall, capital of the Glens, offers must-see views on route to your last stop - the pretty-as-a-picture Cushendun. Look out for the caves behind the village as seen in Game of Thrones®.

**Rathlin Island via the Dark Hedges**

For Thrones, this leg features another iconic location. First, take a detour to Torr Head, the closest point to Scotland with stunning views of Fair Head and Rathlin Island. Stop off next at the picturesque Bonamargy Friary ruins containing the remains of legendary chieftain Sorley Boy McDonnell.

From there, it's on to the legendary Dark Hedges. Game of Thrones® fans know it as the epic Kingsroad highway in Westeros. This is selfie heaven as well as a piece of natural paradise planted by the Stuart family in the 18th century to impress visitors. You will be seriously impressed.

For sheer beauty, Rathlin Island is the experience for you. Just embrace the spirit-enhancing and rugged tranquillity of our only inhabited island.

In Ballintoy Harbour follow the winding road from the village past the white-washed parish church. Spoiler alert: the harbour doubled as exterior Iron Islands shots in Game of Thrones®.

You simply can't miss the Giant's Causeway! Legend says it's the remains of

a causeway built by an Irish giant to meet a challenge to a fight by a Scottish giant. Or maybe the intriguing stones are volcanic. Either way the place is epic.

End at one of the route's jewels - Dunluce Castle. Perched dramatically on cliffs, it has already inspired C.S. Lewis's Narnia and will inspire you too.

**Downhill Demesne to Derry-Londonderry**

As stunning experiences go, don't miss the romantically wild Downhill Demesne. Beyond its ruined mansion perched on a cliff, you'll find the iconic Mussenden Temple.

Here, the line of dramatic basalt cliffs at Binevenagh dominates your surroundings with panoramas across Lough Foyle to Donegal. If you're feeling adventurous, follow one of the hiking trails to the summit.

Your next beauty spot is the stunningly remote Magilligan Point, guarding the entrance to Lough Foyle. If you've arrived (or maybe started) in Derry-Londonderry, discover Ireland's only remaining walled city and its rich history. It's also a fun city, so if you have energy left or need a boost to get going, go there.

The Causeway Coastal Route has so much to see and do, chances are you may not do it all in one trip.

So, there's your excuse to come back and embrace another piece of the giant spirit of Northern Ireland.

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure information is correct, Tourism NI strongly advise checking in advance before you travel to your intended destination to ensure its open and book tickets if applicable.

Always follow current Covid-19 travel advice and guidelines before planning and while visiting. Visit [nidirect.gov.uk](http://nidirect.gov.uk). Check ahead with providers before visiting and book in advance where applicable.

## Strawberry TEA ROOM & BAKERY Fayre

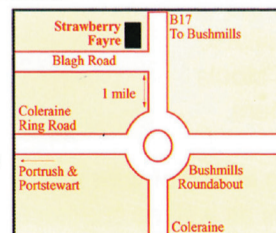
We are situated off Coleraine Ring Road at Bushmills Road Roundabout. Take the B17 towards Bushmills, just 1 mile from roundabout. Old School on left.

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**Opening Hours: Monday to Saturday 9.30am-5.00pm Last Orders 4.30pm. Closed on Sundays.**



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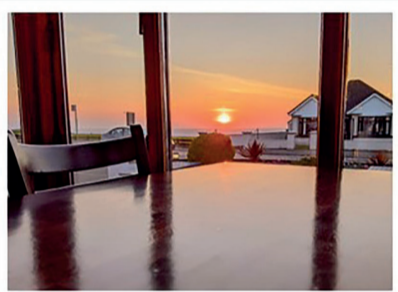
The spectacular White Rocks Beach in Portrush.



A stunning aerial view of Potrush showing the two beaches, harbour and Ramore Head.

Inn Coast

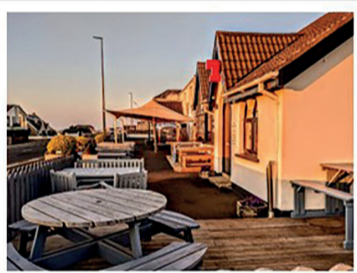
We are proud to announce our new summer menu with a range of our past much



loved dishes and some new things to try. There is sure to be something for everyone to enjoy.

Our restaurant is booking up fast for the summer, to secure your table visit us on ResDiary.

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If you prefer a lighter bite to eat the Outside Inn is open everyday from 10am.

Serving drinks and a lighter menu outside so you can relax and enjoy the summer sun and maybe even catch one of our stunning sunsets.

Phone: 02870823509

Email: info@innonthecoastportrush.com

# Portrush is the number one destination for Northern Ireland holidaymakers

**PORTRUSH is one of Northern Ireland's favourite holiday destinations.**

The resort has a spectacular location, situated on a mile long peninsula extending into the Atlantic Ocean on Ireland's stunning North coast.

This incredible vantage point affords panoramic views over the ocean, of the Causeway Coast towards Scotland and the Donegal hills.

Portrush offers exceptional beaches, superb eateries, night clubs, quality hotels and family entertainment venues providing the perfect base for your family vacation or to explore the surrounding region.

World renowned attractions such as the Giant's Causeway, Royal Portrush Golf Club, Old Bushmills Distillery & Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge are located nearby.

Portrush, from Irish 'Port Rois,' means 'promontory port.' The town is well known for its three sandy beaches - the West Strand, East Strand and White Rocks. Lifeboats have operated out of Portrush Harbour since 1860.

A number of flint

tools found during the late nineteenth century show that the site of Portrush was occupied during the 'Larnian' (late Irish Mesolithic) period; recent estimates date this to around 4000 BC.

### History

The site of Portrush, with its excellent natural defences, probably became a permanent settlement around the 12th or 13th century.

A church is known to have existed on Ramore Head at this time, but no part of it now survives. From the records of the papal taxation of 1306, the Portrush church - and by extension the village - appears to have been reasonably wealthy.

The promontory also held two castles, at varying periods. The first of these, Caisleán an Teenie, is believed to have been at the tip of Ramore Head and probably destroyed in the late 16th century; the other, Portrush Castle, may have been built around the time of the Plantation of Ulster in the early 17th century. Nothing survives of either castle.

Following the Wars of the Three Kingdoms in the mid-17th century, Portrush became a small

fishing town.

It grew rapidly in the 19th century as a tourist destination, following the opening of the Ballymena, Ballymoney, Coleraine and Portrush Junction Railway in 1855, and by the turn of the twentieth century had become one of the major resort towns of Ireland, with a number of large hotels and boarding houses.

As well as the town's beaches and the Royal Portrush Golf Club

(opened 1888), the nearby Giant's Causeway was a popular tourist destination, with the Giant's Causeway Tramway - at the time, one of the world's longest electrified railways - built in 1893 to cater to travellers coming from Portrush.

The town's fortunes peaked in the late 19th and early 20th century, and declined after the Second World War with the growth of foreign travel.

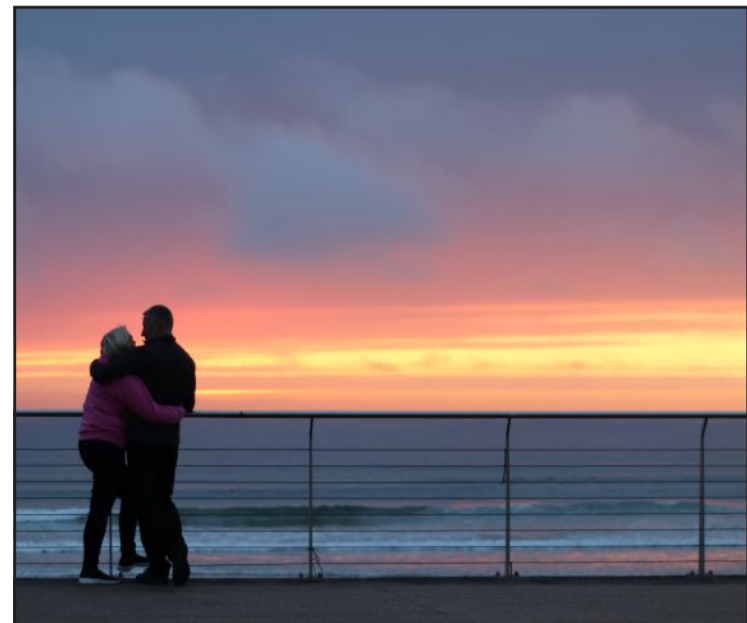
However with the pandemic affecting foreign travel, local traders and residents are expecting a 'Stacycation' upsurge in visitors this year.

And the local visitors are likely to enjoy the improvements and spruce up around the town thanks in part to the £17m funding which was put in place in the run-up to the 148th Open taking place at Royal Portrush Golf Club in 2019.

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Enjoying a spectacular sunset at West Strand, Portrush.



Portstewart Promenade has been included in a top ten list of the UK's piers and promenades, published in The Guardian.



A beautiful Portstewart sunset, pictured from the Promenade, which has been included in a top ten list of the UK's piers and promenades, published in The Guardian.

'The beauty of a Portstewart sunset is unrivalled no matter where you go in the world' - Mayor of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council

# A promenade to be proud of!

Portstewart named among the top ten in the UK

**PORTSTEWART Prom is among the best in the whole of the UK - and that's official!**

Portstewart's inclusion in a top ten list of the UK's best piers and promenades has been welcomed by the Mayor of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.

The resort was named in a recently published article in *The Guardian*, informed by its readers' travel tips.

Councillor Richard Holmes said its place on the list was wholly deserved.

"The *Guardian* piece perfectly sums up

Portstewart Promenade in a few short paragraphs," he said.

"It is indeed a happy place for so many and offers everything that visitors enjoy in a traditional seaside setting.

"The beauty of a Portstewart sunset is unrivalled no matter where you go in the world and we're fortunate to have places of such inspiring beauty on our doorstep.

"As the only location in Northern Ireland included on the list, I'm very proud that Portstewart has been recognised in this article for its unique visitor offering which has reinforced its unwavering popularity

with the public since Victorian times."

You can read the full article from *The Guardian* here

[https://www.theguardian.com/travel/2021/jun/17/10-of-the-best-piers-and-promenades](https://www.theguardian.com/travel/2021/jun/17/10-of-the-best-piers-and-promenades-in-the-uk-readers-travel-tips)

To find out more about Portstewart and the wider Causeway Coast and Glens area go to [www.visitcausewaycoastandglens.com](http://www.visitcausewaycoastandglens.com)

Garvagh Museum Reopening 2021/22



142 Main Street Garvagh BT51 5AE

Afternoon Openings

June - Saturday - 2pm to 5pm.

July & August - Every Thursday, Friday & Saturday - 2pm to 5pm.

September - Saturday 2pm/5pm.

Groups/Family Groups

By prior arrangement to visit any daytime or evening.

Ring Mobile 07507 787077

or Landline 02829 557924 to talk to one of our volunteers.

## Popular Portstewart

**PORTSTEWART is probably best known for its award-winning two miles of golden strand.**

A favourite haunt for surfers, the resort was a popular holiday destination for Victorian middle-class families.

Its long, crescent-shaped seafront promenade is sheltered by rocky headlands.

As recently as the mid-18th century, Portstewart was little more than a fishing village, although it has been inhabited since the Neolithic era.

Portstewart developed into a modest size seaside resort in the mid-19th century under the influence of a local landlord John Cromie.

Its development and character was influenced greatly by the Sabbatarian sensitivities of the Cromies and the consequent resistance to a railway connection in the mid 19th century.

The scale of development for the next century was more modest than that of

neighbouring Portrush which rapidly expanded (particularly in the late Victorian era) with the mass tourism market.

Despite a tram connection being provided from Portstewart to Cromore to link with the railway, the town developed with a more genteel character.

With the ascent of the car as the predominant means of travel through the 20th century, Portstewart developed a wider role as a popular holiday and recreational destination, along with a significant dormitory function due to its proximity to Coleraine as well as being a local service centre.

From the 1950s until into the 1980s the town's main development thrust was as a residential area, with the steady construction of new dwellings in the suburbs mainly for owner occupation.

Unlike Portrush, where there was a rapid expansion of static caravan parks, Portstewart continued to avoid the effects of mass tourism.

### Character

Over recent years however, there has been a widespread perception that the character of the town has changed through the rapid growth of the student population and the accelerating expansion of second home ownership.

Portstewart's Dominican College sits on the edge of a cliff which dominates the western end of the Promenade.

The site, formally known as 'O'Hara's Castle' was built in 1834 and purchased by members of the Dominican order in 1917 for the purpose of being a centre of education in the north west of Ireland.

Beneath the impressive landmark is a cliff path which stretches along the coast from the Promenade to Portstewart Strand.

From here it is a popular walk to the Barmouth, where the Bann flows out into the Atlantic Ocean. The cliff path has panoramic views across the Strand and Downhill with Donegal in the

background.

The Barmouth is a sanctuary for waders, wildfowl and nesting birds. Beyond the Barmouth lies Castlerock, Mussenden Temple, Benone Strand and the Magilligan Strand.

In one of the caves beneath the cliff path there was reputed to be a secret passage leading to O'Hara's Castle, now the Dominican Convent. No evidence of the existence of this passage has been recorded.

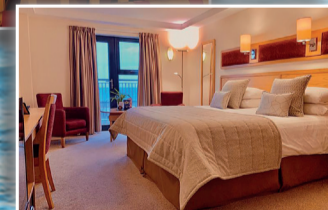
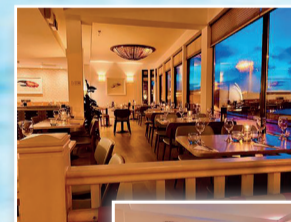
To the east of Portstewart is a popular walking/cycling path along the coast to Portrush, leading to the Giants Causeway, Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge and the Old Bushmills Distillery, the oldest licensed distillery in the world.

The North Antrim Coast Path, which forms part of the Ulster Way, starts at Portstewart Strand and continues for 40 miles along the coast to Murlough Bay.

The eastern end of the Promenade has a small harbour which has recently undergone refurbishment.

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Leading family-owned business Dodds Coach Holidays are back on the road again this summer, with a number of stunning holiday staycation locations for all to enjoy.

With uncertainty still looming over foreign travel, staycations are the perfect alternative for those holiday goers that do not want to miss out.

The UK & Ireland boasts some of the most breath-taking locations.

We all love holidays abroad, but they are not always the most rejuvenating experiences.

The main purpose of going on holiday is to relax and revitalise the mind. Let Dodds Coach Holidays take care of your holiday, just sit back, relax, and enjoy the ride.

Operating since 1910, Dodds Coach Holidays have a high reputation for delivering excellence.

This summer they are going above and beyond with safety precautions to ensure that each passenger feels safe & secure.

In a few weeks' time you could be soaking up the beauty of the Lakes and Dales, departing 25th July, which has inspired many famous artists with its picturesque villages and sparkling lakes, or visiting the famous Victorian spa town



Historic York

of Harrogate, departing 2nd of Aug, visiting the historic York, and enjoy a scenic drive through the breath-taking Yorkshire Dales.

The first trip to Llandudno in June was a huge success; 'The trip to Llandudno was as good as ever, as was the hotel.

Of course the warm weather really helped. All safety measures were in place all the time and everyone adhered to the regulations in place- Congratulations everyone!' Doreen Gibson, Passenger.

Start your holiday with convenient pick up points in Ballymena.

Dodds has got everything covered. Say goodbye to airport security checks and say hello to quality time with friends and family in the comfort of a Dodds luxury coach.

For extra peace of mind Dodds are offering a Money Back Guarantee, with full refunds of any money paid up to 28 days prior to travel.

A full refund will also be issued if travel restrictions do not allow a holiday to operate as scheduled.

To book a luxury staycation, take a look at Dodds Coach Holidays stunning destinations and see which one inspires you to staycation this summer: [www.doddssoftroon.com](http://www.doddssoftroon.com) or call 01461 337799.

Stay up to date via their social channels- What are you waiting for? Do it with Dodds.

\*COVID-19 MONEY BACK GUARANTEE - We understand that you may not feel comfortable about booking holidays at the moment. But to give you some peace of mind, if you choose to cancel, we guarantee a full refund of any money paid up to 28 days prior to travel. A full refund will also be issued if travel restrictions do not allow a holiday to operate as scheduled.



# Discover the stunning Wild Atlantic Way - it will take your breath away



Stunning - Malin Head



Awesome - Sliabh Liag Cliffs

**The Wild Atlantic Way on Ireland's west coast leads you through one of the world's most dramatic coastal landscapes. It's a landscape on the edge of Europe that has shaped the development of its people, communities and settlements.**

A landscape that has inspired its own particular language, literature, art, song and dance.

It's a place of many natural features - seascapes, sea-life, cliffs, mountains, glens, loughs, trails and pathways.

It's a place to experience nature at its wildest, a place to explore the history of the Gaels and their religion; a place to experience great events, great food and drink, great music and the craic.

Experience Irish Culture at its best and take time to share a

story or two with the locals while you are at it.

Donegal's Wild Atlantic Way is a 500km driving route that takes you through some of Ireland's most beautiful and unspoilt landscapes.

#### WAW Signature Point 1

##### Malin Head

Malin Head, Ireland's most northerly point, with the sea swelling on three sides and cliffs and rock formations carved over the millennia offers the visitor that true sense of isolation while being not too far for the world of today.

Situated on the Inishowen Peninsula, Malin Head is crowned on its tip by Banba's Crown, named after a mythical queen. Rich in wildlife and seabirds from far off lands this is the perfect place to get your first taste of your WOW experience.

#### WAW Signature Point 2

##### Fanad Head

Fanad Head is the second of Donegal's Discovery Points on the Wild Atlantic Way.

Here man's presence and his ability to exist in even the wildest of locations is seen in the form of Fanad Head Lighthouse.

Now automated, the 39 meter lighthouse, first shone its light on St. Patrick's Day 1817 and has been the subject of many stunning photographs and paintings over the years.

Stop a while and imagine what life was like in hurricane force winds on cold November nights nearly two centuries ago. As you gaze on the unforgiving waters of the Northern Atlantic you can capture a view of Tory Island 14.5km (9 Miles) out to sea.

#### WAW Signature Point 3

##### Sliabh Liag

Sliabh Liag Cliffs (pronounced Slieve League) are truly an awe inspiring sight to behold.

Relatively undeveloped they maintain the wildness, ruggedness and isolation that other Irish high cliffs sites have somewhat lost.

Rising majestically from the Atlantic they reach a height of 1,972ft (601m) (that's over 500ft higher than The Empire State Building in New York).

From this Wild Atlantic Way Discovery Point you must simply marvel at nature and its ability to create structures which dwarf the works of man. Should you wish to walk the 'One Man's Path', at the cliffs summit, do so with care and a good head for heights.

Following the Wild Atlantic Way signs will lead you to Sliabh Liag but should you lose your way just ask anyone for directions to 'The Cliffs'. They'll know where you mean and soon you will too.



Beautiful - Fanad Head Lighthouse



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Woodland trails at Portglenone



Wonderful views from Slemish

# It's time to rediscover our local treasures this summer

**You don't have to go far this summer to experience great days out and staycations - Mid and East Antrim has it all!**

This year, thousands of people from across Northern Ireland and further afield will relax on a

staycation in the stunning surroundings of the Borough, in full confidence that the highest standards of safety are in place throughout their stay.

This reassuring safety message also underpins another key element of Mid and East Antrim Council's campaign, targeted at encouraging

citizens to support town centre businesses by shopping and dining local.

Led by MEABC's Town Centre Recovery Group, the campaign showcases the unique selling points of the Borough's three main towns - Ballymena, Larne and Carrickfergus - underpinned by a bespoke narrative and compelling imagery for each location.

MEABC's Chief Executive, Anne Donaghy, explained: "As we make up for lost time, with peace of mind that all appropriate measures are in place, there has never been a better time to #RediscoverMEA and all our Borough has to offer in terms of shopping and dining out.

"Through this campaign we want to equip local residents and visitors to Mid and East Antrim with the confidence that they can shop local and shop safe.

"We want shoppers to enjoy the outstanding selection of high street brands and stylish boutiques in a safe environment across our Borough, embraced by the warm and heartening welcome from local business owners who are the life and soul of our town centres.

"Diners, meanwhile, can enjoy an unrivalled dining experience with the same buzz and

atmosphere knowing that our hospitality providers have worked exceptionally hard to ensure that their only concern in what to choose for dessert."

According to Mayor, William McCaughey, this is just one example of MEABC's commitment to doing all in its power to drive the recovery of tourism and town centres in Mid and East Antrim.

"The COVID-19 lockdown period served to remind us just how greatly our local businesses are valued and how much every venue and attraction, eating and drinking establishment and accommodation provider in Mid and East Antrim - no matter how large or small - contributes to the wider local economy, lifestyle and culture in Northern Ireland," he said.

"I have witnessed first-hand the endless hours of hard work that these businesses have invested - an indeed will continue to invest - in ensuring that their premises are safe and fully comply with government guidelines to operate.

"This dedication means that our local citizens and visitors travelling to Mid and East Antrim this summer can continue to enjoy the amazing hospitality and warm welcome for which our Borough is so renowned."

## STAY-CATION LOANS

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IMAGINE MORE

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Credit Union



Great shopping in Ballymena



# Marvellous Mid & East Antrim



Glens - sunset over Glenarm



Coast Road adventure - stop at Garron Point



Spectacular - The Gobbins



Magical - Blackhead Lighthouse



# Explore Omagh and the Sperrins this Summer

AFTER many months of staying indoors and close to home, we are all so excited to make up for lost time on our next Giant Adventure!

With fresh air and stunning views of famous landscapes, it's easy to see why walking in nature is proven to make you feel good!

From the instagammable Gortin Glen Lake walk that gives walkers superb views of the Sperrin landscape, to the newly upgraded Gortin Glen Forest Park which is a mass of wondrous woodland with stunning walks, Omagh and the Sperrins is a perfect escape for keen walkers and family adventurers alike!

Get your sweat on at the new Gortin Glens Mountain Bike Trails with over 14km of smooth flowy sections ideal for those looking to shred at speed or just get an epic introduction to the world of mountain biking.

Take a step back in time at one of Northern Ireland's top visitor attractions, The Ulster American Folk which chronicles the story of the thousands of emigrants who left Ireland for the New World in the 18th and 19th centuries by taking you on a trail through their fascinating outdoor museum.

Uncover the landscape's rich heritage in detail at An Creagán Visitor Centre, designed to reflect the archaeological sites of the area.



Explore the stunning scenery of the Sperrins region.

Dive into the past by visiting the Abingdon Collection with its range of classic cars, motorcycles, memorabilia, military antiques and

collectables. Experience the newly opened Glen Park Estate and meander through the rich landscape steeped in history, or



Why not step back in time with a visit to one of Northern Ireland's top visitor attractions, the Ulster American Folk Park, just outside Omagh.

head to Omagh town centre for an essential shopping spree through the cornucopia of independent shops, fine dining in the many restaurants

including the newly opened Copper Tap Bar and Restaurant. For more information visit: [exploreomaghsperrins.com](http://exploreomaghsperrins.com)



Gortin Glen Forest Park, Omagh

## EXPLORE Omagh & The Sperrins Region

Stunning scenery, fascinating history and heritage, fine food, unique shopping and first class accommodation, the list is endless! Get away from it all and book your well-deserved Summer staycation in Omagh & the Sperrins – you won't be disappointed!

[exploreomaghsperrins.com](http://exploreomaghsperrins.com)  
#ExploreOmaghSperrins



Fermanagh & Omagh District Council  
Comhairle Ceantair Fhear Manach agus na hÓmaí

