

# IRELAND

ÉIRE OR POBLACHT NA HÉIREANN



- About five-sixths of the island of Ireland
- Northern Ireland to the north & east, Atlantic to the north & west, Celtic Sea to the south, Saint George's Channel to the south-east & Irish Sea to the east
- 70,280 km<sup>2</sup>, 4.6 million people
- Dublin
- 7.5 million foreign tourists

# NATURE

- Emerald Island – rural greenery & natural beauty
- West – hills, mountains & rugged cliffs (islands, peninsulas, headlands & bays)
- Centre – lowlands covered with areas of bogland & lakes





# TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

- Wealth of structures from Neolithic period
- Thatched-roof cottages (roof built with dry vegetation – straw, heather)

Castlestrange stone (granite boulder decorated with flowing spirals, 500BC)



Poulnabrone dolmen (portal tomb)



Turoe stone (granite, decorated Celtic style)



Dromberg stone circle





# TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

- Christianity – monastic houses
- Franciscans – numerous abbeys
- Gothic cathedrals – Saint Patrick's in Dublin

Clonmacnoise (6 c)



Monasterboice (5 c)



Saint Patric





# TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

- Surviving walled trading towns (Normans) – Drogheda & Youghal
- Castles built by Normans – Dublin & Kilkenny
- Tower houses – Bunratty castle (Gaelic & Norman aristocracy)

Youghal



Drogheda



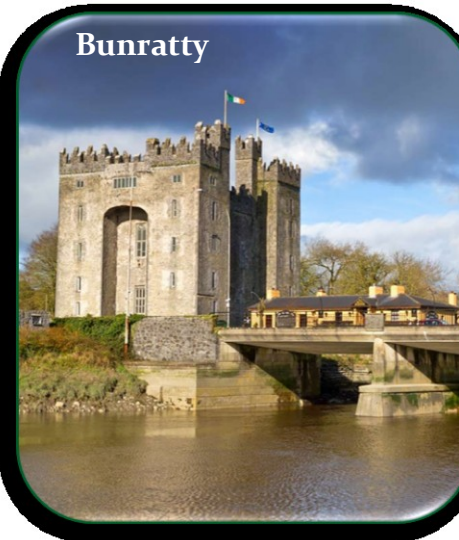
Dublin



Kilkenny



Bunratty



Aughnanure





# DUBLIN

- Vikings – 840s, gained by British – 1171, from 1800 Irish strived to gain independence, won in 1922
- Christ Church Cathedral (11 century), Cathedral of Saint Patrick (1191)
- Dublin Castle – massive stronghold (1204, Normans)





# DUBLIN

- Trinity College – Book of Kells (illustrated manuscript, Irish monks, app 800)
- Merrion Square – Georgian garden square (Oscar Wilde)
- National Museum (all archaeological objects found in Ireland)



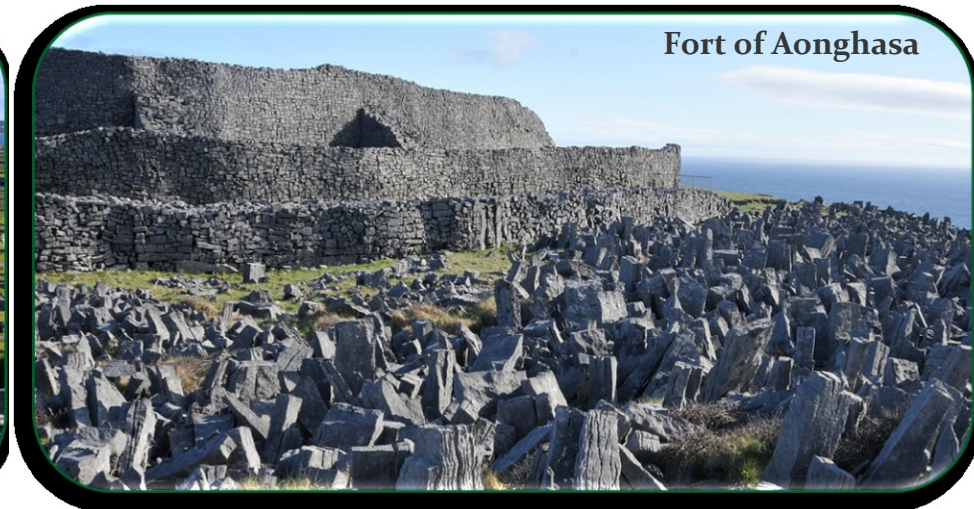


# ARAN ISLANDS

- Archipelago of three small islands, largest Inis Mór – 12 by 3 kilometres
- Unfertile, rocky → digging dirt from cracks & composting seaweed (greenery to lifeless rock)
- Stone forts of Aengus & of Aonghasa, stone walls crisscross islands (1,600 kilometres, livestock)
- Scattered with early clocháns (dry-stone beehive huts from the early-Christian period)



Fort of Aengus



Fort of Aonghasa



# CLIFFS OF MOHER





# RING OF KERRY

- Typical Irish landscape with stunning scenery
- Dramatic coastline, windswept cliffs, unspoilt beaches, blue lakes, green hills, rich flora & fauna
- Ancient monuments, romantic castles, outstanding gardens, colourful towns & villages





# BLARNEY CASTLE

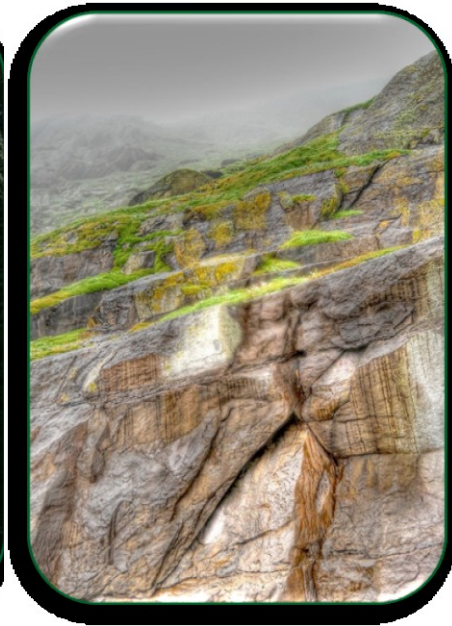
- Originally timber house, replaced by stone fortification (12 century), destroyed (1440s)
- Medieval stronghold (15 century, abandoned in 1690)
- Romantic partial ruin, some rooms & battlements accessible
- Extensive gardens incl poisonous garden (poisonous plants – mandrake, opium, cannabis)





# UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES

- Only two sites
- Both of cultural character





# BRÚ NA BÓINNE (PALACE OF THE BOYNE)

- Complexes of Megalithic sites (Neolithic period, 35 century BC)
- Burial mounds, chamber tombs, standing stones, hedges & other prehistoric enclosures
- App 90 recorded monuments & unknown quantity of yet unrecorded sites  
Significant collections of megalithic art; social, economic, religious & funerary functions





# SCEILIG MHICHÍL (SKELLIG MICHAEL OR GREAT SKELLIG)

- Larger of two Skellig Islands, pyramidal rock (12 km west off the south-west coast)
- Monastery on steep sides of rocky island (7 century)





**THANK YOU FOR  
ATTENTION**