



Causeway Coastal Route



ONE OF THE WORLD'S GREAT ROAD JOURNEYS



Did you know that the Causeway Coastal Route was rated one of the world's great road journeys? Also, the Causeway Coast along with Belfast was named by Lonely Planet as the #No 1 Best Region to Visit in 2018.

High praise indeed! Why not jump in the car and follow the 120 mile signposted Causeway Coastal Route to see what has got everybody so excited. Explore the delights of this incredible part of the island of Ireland where you'll discover dramatic clifftop walks, captivating coves and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

On top of that, there are beautiful nature reserves with an abundance of wildlife and golden sandy beaches that stretch for miles.

Explore charming towns and villages, each with their own distinctive personality, world-class links, parkland golf courses and much more besides.

This map guides you along the coast. Be sure to stop off at some of the iconic attractions and beauty spots – we've highlighted a few of them to get you started, but there are so many more hidden gems to discover. Look out for the brown and white Causeway Coastal Route road signs and set the Sat Nav to GO!

SIGNATURE DISCOVERY POINTS



1 CARRICKFERGUS CASTLE

For more than 800 years Carrickfergus Castle has been an imposing monument on the Northern Ireland landscape whether approached by land, sea or air. This Norman castle has a turbulent military past and remains one of the best preserved medieval structures in Ireland.

www.discovernorthernireland.com

2 WHITEHEAD RAILWAY MUSEUM

Plunge yourself into a world of hissing steam, oiled wheels and stream train whistles and witness live restoration of heritage locomotives and carriages. A museum tour also reveals how the picturesque town of Whitehead developed around the station.

www.steamtrainsireland.com



3 THE GOBBINS COASTAL PATH

The Gobbins is a spectacular coastal walk along the Causeway Coastal Route. This fully guided, immersive experience includes a walk through suspended bridges, tunnels and caves, enjoying breath taking views of the coastline and witnessing the ever-changing flora and fauna.



4 CARNFUNNOCK COUNTRY PARK

Get your walking boots on and wander through 191 hectares of mixed woodland, colourful gardens, trails and a maze, or let the kids loose in the adventure playground. Check out original estate features including the Icehouse and Lime Kilns.



5 ARTHUR COTTAGE

This traditional thatched cottage was the ancestral home of the 21st President of the USA, Chester Alan Arthur. Today it is an interpretive centre with live open fire baking demonstrations and traditional music nights.

www.shapedbyseaandstone.com



6 GLENARIFF FOREST

One of the nine Glens of Antrim, the breath-taking Glenariff Forest Park has superb walking trails and a three mile long cascading waterfall walkway. If you're lucky, you might see red squirrels and Irish hares.

www.visitcausewaycoastandglens.com



7 RATHLIN ISLAND

Wild and beautiful Rathlin Island with its abundant sea-life is only 20 minutes from the seaside charm of Ballycastle. Explore the island on foot, bike or by boat; take in three lighthouses and the RSPB West Light Sea Bird Centre with its chorus of puffins, guillemots and kittiwake.

www.rathlinballycastleferry.com



8 CARRICK-A-REDE ROPE BRIDGE

Test your nerve as you cross the swinging rope bridge between the mainland and the fisherman's island, the waves crashing far below you. Once across, you're rewarded with magnificent views of the coast and Rathlin Island.

www.nationaltrust.org.uk



9 GIANT'S CAUSEWAY

The Giant's Causeway is a spectacular place on every level. Walk through narrow pathways lined with tall hexagonal columns, climb to the top of strangely sculpted stacks and clamber across rows of stones each with six perfect sides, pounded by waves for millennia.

www.nationaltrust.org.uk



10 OLD BUSHMILLS DISTILLERY

The world's oldest licensed distillery is idyllically located beside the rippling River Bush. Savour the evocative sights, sounds and smells on a tour that celebrates centuries of this distilling craft and its connection to the village and its people.

www.bushmills.com



11 DUNLUCE CASTLE

Perched on the cliff edge, this brooding castle with its turbulent back story of battling clans is said to have its own banshee. Walk through the crumbling rooms, take in the dramatic sea views and explore historical and archaeological exhibits.



12 DOWNHILL DEMESNE CASTLE AND MUSSENDEN TEMPLE

Mussenden Temple is a dream-like folly, perched on a cliff above miles of fine, golden sand. A short walk away, you'll find the eerie shell of the once glamorous and thriving 18th century Downhill Castle.

www.discovernorthernireland.com

www.nationaltrust.org.uk



INDULGE YOUR SENSES

Northern Ireland was named Food Destination of the Year at the International Travel and Tourism Awards in November 2018. Across the Causeway Coastal Route you can revel in the wonderful tastes of the Atlantic Ocean and the surrounding countryside, washed down with a locally brewed craft ale or dram of Irish Whiskey.

Local chefs proudly present the freshest produce from farm to fork. Look out for businesses displaying the Taste Causeway Quality Assurance logo. It recognises quality Causeway Food and Drink from across the region. And of course you can add your favourite foods to your basket on a trip to the Causeway Speciality Market in Coleraine or the Naturally North Coast and Glens Market at various locations throughout the region.

For the ultimate experience in food provenance, book a guided food tour or visit one (or all) of the Artisans at Work.



CAUSEWAY COAST FOODIE TOURS

Your host, Wendy Gallagher offers you mouth-watering guided food and drink tours, by road, sea and river showcasing the freshest local produce including unique 'Catch and Cook' experiences.

www.causewaycoastfoodiestours.com



IRISH FEAST

Join Caroline Redmond for a journey of local and gastronomic discovery and walk, talk and eat your way around our towns and villages. Share in her love of slow food, slow tourism and a love of history.

www.irishfeast.com



TOAST THE COAST

Indulge yourself with this luxury coastal tour serving up a range of handmade, hooked and harvested food from the best of local award-winning producers and formed by creative chefs into a fusion of traditional and newly formed recipes.

www.toastthecoastni.com



BROUGHGAMMON FARM

An award winning farm in picturesque surroundings on the outskirts of Ballycastle specialising in kid goat, free range rose veal and seasonal wild game. Enjoy a superb tour and taste experience or partake in a workshop with a difference.

www.broughgammon.com



HILLSTOWN BREWERY

Hear about the different grains and hops used by these 'home brew revolutionaries' in a thriving craft brewery tucked away amongst the sheep sheds behind a traditional farmhouse near Randalstown.

www.hillstownbrewery.com



BRIGHTER GOLD

Visit this working farm to see the press and bottling of this range of aromatic and distinctive rapeseed oils, grown and harvested beneath Bineveagh Mountain in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

www.brightergold.co.uk



NORTH COAST SMOKEHOUSE

Inhale the smoky aromas at the award winning North Coast Smokehouse. Specialising in handcrafted hot smoked goods, produced in the old fashioned way, the range includes salmon and trout, sea salt, black pepper and dried dulse (seaweed).

www.northcoastsmokehouse.com



URSA MINOR

Discover your feather touch and get your hands into some dough with a tour and demonstration at the family run bakehouse and café in Ballycastle, specialising in handmade sourdough bread and patisserie style sweet bakes.

www.ursaminorbakehouse.com

ARTISANS AT WORK

For more Artisans at Work experiences, visit artists in the surroundings of their workshops and be swept away by their enthusiasm, while you learn about the history of unique crafts and further the senses.



STEENSONS JEWELLERS

Drawing inspiration from the surrounding landscape in Glenarm, one of the majestic nine Glens of Antrim, you can design your own ring, pick your stones and watch the crafting process at the renowned Steensons - jewellers behind the Game of Thrones® crown.

www.thesteensons.com



SCULLION HURLS

Hurling is the fastest game on grass and at Scullion Hurls you can see a bespoke hurler being crafted expertly by a member of the Scullion family, the name behind one of the best known brands in the ancient game of hurling.

www.scullionhurls.com



HOT MILK FORGE

Meet Eamon Higgins, the man behind the forge on the outskirts of Ballymena and let yourself be introduced to the art of blacksmiths where a real fire is used to weld and create products using steel as your raw material.

www.artistblacksmithschool.com

TOWNS & VILLAGES



Uncover the unique personality of the towns and villages with a variety of events and entertainment, from walking festivals to food festivals and musical extravaganzas to sporting adventures.

Check out: www.discovernorthernireland.com to see what's on where you are planning to be.

CARRICKFERGUS - This ancient town looks out across Belfast Lough with its imposing castle a reminder of its Norman roots. Walk round the 400 year old town walls, explore the 800 year old St Nicholas Church and spend time exploring the shops.

GLENARM - Here you can expect winding Dickensian-style streets, a fairytale castle with an amazing history and gorgeous castle gardens.

BROUGHSHANE - Close to Slemish Mountain where St Patrick tended sheep, the village is now known for its amazing floral displays. It was named Channel 4's UK Village Of the Year 2018.

CARNLOUGH - Carnlough's picturesque harbour with its pleasure boats and small fishing boats is wonderfully photogenic. About a mile inland you'll find the stunning Cranny Falls!

BALLYCASTLE - This bustling family seaside resort serves as the ferry port for access to wild and beautiful Rathlin Island.

BUSHMILLS - The village is home to the famous Bushmills Distillery and has a growing reputation for fine local produce.

PORTRUSH - A much-loved local holiday spot with great nightlife and a thriving restaurant scene. World-class golf, plus excellent surfing by the shimmering beaches.

PORTSTEWART - Upmarket and laidback, known for championship golf, great seafood and award-winning ice cream. Walk the cliff path alongside the castle that houses Dominican College, or along the promenade next to long stretches of golden sand.

COLERAINE - 9,000 years old, Coleraine is the site of Ireland's earliest known settlement. The town hosts the Causeway Speciality Market on the second Saturday of every month, packed with delicious locally-grown produce.

LIMAVADY - This busy market town is where the Londonderry Air (better known as Danny Boy) was penned. Roe Valley Country Park and Binevenagh Mountain are must-sees.

GAME OF THRONES®



Doors of Thrones, Door 8 Mary McBride's, Cushendun.

The Causeway Coastal Route has been part of HBO's hit TV series since Episode 1, Season 1. The area welcomes Game of Thrones® fans into the world of Westeros to witness the ancient castles, wild places, picturesque old harbours, towering cliffs and unspoilt countryside.

Take a self-guided tour and experience the authentic world of the Seven Kingdoms by downloading the Game of Thrones® Filming Locations Northern Ireland app from either Google Play or the App Store. Alternatively, pick up a copy of the Northern Ireland Game of Thrones® Territory Filming Locations map from one of the many Visitor Information Centres in the area. Feast on a Thrones style banquet, embark on a themed safari trip or don a cape for the ultimate Instagram post.

For more on Game of Thrones® tours and experiences, go to discovernorthernireland.com/gameofthrones

ADVENTURE COAST

Whiterocks Beach, Portrush



The Causeway Coastal Route is a natural playground.

Grab a surf board and catch the best waves in Northern Ireland or master the art of stand-up paddleboarding and explore the surrounding caves. Why not jump, swim and scramble through the rocks and water for the ultimate coastal experience accompanied by an expert guide?

If that all seems like too much hard work, book a sea safari, feel the wind in your hair and the spray on your skin as a high speed boat blasts you around the iconic coast.

Back on land, don your walking boots and explore the many waymarked trails through forests, mountains and along the Causeway Coast Way with magnificent views throughout. Add in a local guide and you'll be fully informed on the history of our land. Watch out for the local wildlife!

For the ultimate challenge, cycle like a pro on the epic Stage 2 route of the 2014 Giro d'Italia. And speaking of pros, the Causeway Coastal Route is home to some of the best golf courses in the world and major golf champions. Put your skills to the test on a links or parkland course dotted throughout the area.

Enjoy the ride!



PUBLIC TRANSPORT TRAVEL INFORMATION

Discover the Causeway Coast with NI Railways on board one of the world's great railway journeys between Derry-Londonderry and Coleraine, or explore the spectacular coastline with Ulsterbus.

www.translink.co.uk

BUS SERVICES

Goldline Express 221

Belfast – Giant's Causeway direct

Goldline Express 218

Belfast – Coleraine

Goldline Express 243

Derry-Londonderry – Giant's Causeway

Ulsterbus Express 234

Derry/Londonderry – Coleraine

CAUSEWAY RAMBLER 172/402

Coleraine – Ballycastle

Hop-on hop-off to the main attractions Dunluce Castle/ Bushmills Distillery/Carrick-A-Rede Rope Bridge

ANTRIM COASTER SERVICES 252

(JULY & AUGUST ONLY)

Larne – Ballycastle

RAIL SERVICES

Belfast – Coleraine – Derry/Londonderry



VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRES

Ballycastle

Portnagree House Harbour & Marina Visitor Centre

14 Bayview Road, BT54 6BT

T: +44 (0)28 2076 2024

E: ballycastlevic@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk

Ballymena

The Braid, 1-29 Bridge Street, BT43 5EJ

T: +44 (0)28 2563 5010

E: tic.reception@midandeastantrim.gov.uk

Ballymoney

Ballymoney Town Hall

1 Townhead Street, BT53 6BE

T: +44 (0)28 2766 0230

E: ballymoneyvic@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk

Bushmills (seasonal)

Main Street, Bushmills BT57 8QA

T: +44 (0)28 2073 0390

E: bushmillsvic@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk

Carrickfergus

Carrickfergus Castle

Marine Highway, BT38 7BG

T: +44 (0)28 9335 8222

E: visitorinfo@midandeastantrim.gov.uk

Cushendall Local Information Office (seasonal)

Old School House, Cushendall
BT44 ORR

T: +44 (0)28 2177 1180

E: antrimhistory@gmail.com

Giant's Causeway

44 Causeway Road,
Bushmills, BT57 8SU

T: +44 (0)28 2073 1855 option 2

E: giantscausewaytic@nationaltrust.org.uk

Larne

The Book Nook, 96C Main Street, Larne,
BT40 1RE

T: +44 (0)28 2826 0395

E: info@midandeastantrim.gov.uk

Coleraine

Town Hall, 35 The Diamond,
BT51 1DP

T: +44 (0)28 7034 4723

E: colerainevic@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk

Limavady

Roe Valley Arts Cultural Centre
24 Main Street, BT49 0FJ

T: +44 (0)28 7776 0650

E: information@rvacc.co.uk

Londonderry / Derry

44 Foyle Street, BT48 6AT

T: +44 (0)28 7126 7284

E: info@derryvisitor.com

Portrush (seasonal)

Town Hall, 2 Kerr Street
Portrush, BT56 8DX

T: +44 (0)28 7082 3333

E: portrushvic@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk

Rathlin Island (seasonal)

Church Bay, Rathlin Island,
BT54 6RT

T: +44 (0)28 2076 2024

E: ballycastlevic@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk



**Causeway
Coast & Glens
Borough Council**



Mid & East Antrim



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