

The Burren & Aran Isles, Ireland

“Wild Flowers, Birds & Culture”

May 24-28



Limestone pavement, The Burren

The Habitat? From the Gaelic *boireann* meaning “barren place of stone”, The Burren, a carboniferous limestone plateau, covers most of northwest County Clare and consists largely of stunning sheets of limestone pavement, often fragmented by crevices or grikes, interspersed in the east with seasonal lakes or *turloughs*. On the coast lie the impressive 200 metre high Cliffs of Moher, whilst offshore can be seen the Aran Isles, low lying and stretching across the mouth of Galway Bay.



Bloody Cranesbill

The Wild Flowers & Birds? The Burren is *unique*, with the amazing co-existence of plants from the arctic tundra to the Pyrenees and Alps, with Mountain Avens growing alongside Spring Gentians & Dense-flowered Orchids, whilst O’Kelly’s Orchid, Heath Spotted Orchid, Early Marsh & Western Marsh Orchids and Common Twayblade all occur. Other notable plants include Bloody Cranesbill, Turlough Violet, Mossy Saxifrage, Catsfoot, Burnet Rose, Hairy Rockcress, Turlough Dandelion & Blue Grass. Black Guillemot, Razorbill, Guillemot, Arctic Tern & Red-billed Chough top the bird list plus Spring migrant birds too.

The Accommodation & itinerary? Depart Shannon Airport after breakfast and drive via the Shannon Estuary to the 19th century fishing village of Ballyvaughan for 4-nt stay at *The Hyland’s Burren Hotel*, a cosy, friendly hotel offering excellent local produce and comfortable *superior* rooms. From here exploring The Burren with guided walks over various botanical trails inc. The Burren NP. Also a day’s boat excursion to The Aran Isles, touring Inis Mor & visiting Dun Aonghasa, the best preserved Celtic fort in Ireland. Also visiting The Burren Centre, The Burren Perfumery & Floral Centre, Aliwee Caves and Poul nabrone which boasts the best preserved Megalithic stone in Ireland. Returning to Shannon Airport early evening.

Cost: £875 [s/s £85]

Deposit: £200

B/L due: Mar. 24

Included in the cost: 4 nts. dinner, bed & b/fast in *superior* rooms at the *Hylands Burren Hotel*, all transportation, boat excursion to the Aran Isles with fully transported/guided Island Tour & entrance to Dun Aonghasa, entrance to Cliffs of Moher, Ailwee Caves & The Burren Centre Exhibition and all locally, professionally guided botanical walks.

Not included in the cost: Return travel to Shannon Airport, lunches, drinks, travel insurance & items of a personal nature.



Spring Gentian