

# THE FLAGGY SHORE

Coastal Heritage Trail



**Map Legend:**  
 Heritage Trail/Route  
 Trail Shortcut  
 National Roadway  
 Regional Roadway  
 Other Roadway  
 Buildings

**Loop Overview**  
 Loop 1: 20m  
 Loop 2: 25m  
 Loop 3: 30m  
 Loop 4: 35m

**Map Symbols:**  
 Walking boots, dog, picnic table, public phone

**1 New Quay** was also built and part built also as described by T. Cooke in 1820 in his 'Suburban Buildings around New Quay' is today a very popular seafood eatery and dining destination. The pier was built by the Fisheries Board in 1887 to replace the 'Old Quay' which stood slightly to the west. George Bennett then placed the name 'The Pier' in honor of his elderly grandfather, part 10 and 11 of Back to Motherland on this pier.



**2 New Quay House** was built in the 1800s by the Starnes family. It fell into ruin for several years before being purchased from the Church of Ireland by Canon Stur by the Purcell family in 1917. Mr Purcell had just returned from Bulgaria. He renovated the house and renamed it as 'Phobena Lodge'.



**3 A Boreic Monument** The O'Donoghue Monument is located opposite the site of a Boreic to be built conducted by the O'Donoghue family during medieval times. History, law, language, genealogy and literature were taught. Donoghue Mór O'Donoghue became a very famous poet and was known as 'The Irish Ovid'. He died in Finsenna in 1344 and the monument is dedicated to his memory.



**4 Finsenna and The Shevets** As you pass through Finsenna village you will notice high stone walls begin to dominate as the remains of an 18th century 17th century stone castle come into view. The Shevets were one of the famous 17th century merchant families of Galway City. The ruins of their great house, 17th century walls, two gate lodges and walled garden still dominate the clustered village settlement at Finsenna.



**5 Shellfish Production** Ford House, located along the shore, was built by the Shevets family as a boat house. Boatbuilders and oyster jacks, constructed in the late 18th century, created a lobster pond to the front of the house. Up to the late 19th century a highly successful lobster exporting business to London and continental Europe operated here. Beyond the island, Finsenna Bay was famous for its oysters in the 19th century. The agricultural surveyor Henry Dutton claimed in 1838 that 'all oysters are greatly inferior to Finsenna'.



**6 A tsunami hit!** As you stand at the Flaggy Shore beach the low-lying cliffs of Aughran Island are visible across the water. It is believed that a stretch of land originally connected Aughran Island to New Quay. When a tsunami wave traveled up the west coast of Ireland after the Lisbon earthquake of 1755, the connection was washed away.



**7 Art and Literature** Built by local landlords, the Shevets, around 1790, Mount Vernon became the summer home of the Lane family in the mid 1800s. Hugh Lane founded Dublin's Municipal Gallery of Modern Art. In 1880 the house was presented to Lady Gregory of Coole Park. Hugh's aunt is a wedding present from her husband, 800 Irish, George Bernard Shaw, Edward Marryat, Oliver St. John Gogarty and J.M. Synge were regular visitors. In 1907, Lady Gregory presented the house to her son, Robert, on his marriage. Robert's daughter Anne recently set memories of summers at Mount Vernon her book 'We used to'.



**8 Tropical seas, glaciers and rock boring shellfish** The shallow waters of the Flaggy Shore, bordered in these rocks are the fossilized remains of plants and animals that lived here in a tropical sea over 200 million years ago. The abrasive action of a glacier passing over this shore approximately 12,000 years ago created visible surface scratches on the rocks. Scattered among the shingle, small rocks etched with holes, indicate the presence of a small shellfish (a bivalve), using the serrated edge of its shell to create shallow burrows.



**9 Underwater exploration** This karst limestone coastline is famous for its clarity and biodiversity. It is part of the Special Area of Conservation of Galway Bay. Common algae reefs, sea grass beds and sea urchin and brown algae (sea urchins, sponges, sea urchins, sponges and numerous other marine organisms) feed among these plants. A colony of common seals, a population of breeding otters and a huge variety of birds are all part of this web of marine life. The National University of Ireland, Galway's marine research station, located here, provides facilities for scientists undertaking research on this unique environment.



**10 A Special Lagoon** Lough Murr or Murr, is the best example of a karst lagoon in Ireland stretching over 14 hectares. It supports diverse, specialized and is home to rare animals and plants. Along this coastline, waterfowl, shorebirds and gulls are frequently sighted. Several of the bird populations occur in numbers that are of national importance. The Brent Geese that fly from Arctic Canada and Greenland, to feed and roost in winter, are of international importance.



**11 Attack** Finsenna Market's tower was built around 1250 as part of a series of stone defenses with three roof-top gun and 10 men. It was prepared for a Napoleonic attack that never happened. The building which of the tower was the guard house. A line of upright stones, engraved with 400, an arrow and a number, indicate the boundary of the land which was to use by the British War Department. Stone number 20 is located close to the entrance gate.

