

Burren Journey 2015



Join Brendan and Nelleke McGrath in the Burren in Ireland for six days and get to know one of the most extraordinary places in Europe. Stay in the local community and see this rural landscape through expert eyes. Walk, cycle, pass the time, listen and learn, and enjoy life in a beautiful place. Find out more about an aspect of culture or the environment that really interests you, or take the opportunity to learn something entirely new.

The Burren has attracted scholars, artists and seekers of beauty for centuries. It stands out for many reasons, both in terms of its rich culture and natural beauty and its extraordinarily diverse heritage of geology, botany and archaeology. Still relatively unknown as a place to visit, that is beginning to change. Located midway along the newly designated Wild Atlantic Way and made a Global Geopark in 2011, the Burren is starting to see more visitors. But Corofin, in the south-east corner of the Burren, remains a charming place, off the beaten track.

The name, 'Burren Journey', encapsulates a number of ideas; the exploration of an exceptional place, a quest for knowledge with a small group of companions and the potential of a journey of self-discovery. Our journey largely confines itself to the countryside around Corofin. This focus is intentional, for we believe that there are great rewards to be gained from a journey into landscape and community that does not travel far.

You will have a small number of companions. There is never more than 12 people in one of our groups and the groups are usually smaller. You come from different places and backgrounds but you all share a lively interest in the world. You are any age from 18 to 80. You are reasonably fit and able-bodied, that is, you can ride a bike and you can walk with ease for an hour or two over rough country.

The week has several components. These include walking and cycling with Brendan McGrath, half-days in the company of other expert guides and practitioners, helping with a conservation project and seeing the land with local farmers. Every week includes two half-days during which you can choose from a range of activities. By enabling you to spend time with several people, with different talents and perspectives, we believe that we are offering the chance to gain insight of one special corner of Ireland (as well as having a good time!).

Optional activities

Fishing	Biodynamic gardening
Visiting sacred sites	Caving
Nature Trek	Archaeology

We also offer, for an additional fee, a third half-day with an experienced botanist, archaeologist or geologist for further exploration of a distinctive aspect of the Burren landscape (This third half-day replaces one of the farm visits).

Some of the team



Nelleke McGrath,
biodynamic gardener



Tim O'Connell, caver



Mick Egan, angler



Brendan McGrath,
landscape expert

You stay at either 'Fergus View' or 'Lakefield Lodge', two of the best and longest established B and Bs in the Burren. All bedrooms have en-suite facilities. Declan and Mary Kelleher at 'Fergus View' and Michael and Mary Cleary at 'Lakefield Lodge' will make you welcome. We provide a lunch and evening meal at 'Riverstown Cottage' on the Monday. The remainder of the week we provide packed lunches and an evening meal at Bofey-Quinns, a pub-restaurant in the village. There is a traditional music session in Bofeys on the Wednesday night.

A Burren Journey holiday costs €900 including accommodation, meals and other expenses¹. The expenses include any equipment that you might need. We will also collect you from, and return you to, Shannon Airport or Ennis railway station, if requested at the time of booking. The price does not include travel to and from the West of Ireland, meals away from Corofin or the purchase of alcohol. There are Burren Journey holidays every week from the beginning of May to the end of September.

A typical Burren Journey week (The schedule will vary and refer to website for latest optional activities available)

	Morning	Afternoon	Evening and night
Sunday			Arrive
Monday	Neighbourhood walk and cycle	Neighbourhood walk and cycle	Meal at Riverstown Cottage
Tuesday	Special activity	Farm exploration	Meal in Corofin
Wednesday	Special activity	Conservation project	Meal/traditional music Corofin
Thursday	All-day trek	All-day trek	Meal/entertainment Corofin
Friday	Walk in upland Burren	Farm exploration	Meal in Corofin
Saturday	Depart		

For more information go to our website, email, write, or ring:

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Brendan and Nelleke McGrath, Riverstown Cottage, Corofin, County Clare, Ireland

1.) A Burren Journey with an additional half-day of archaeology, botany or geology, with an expert guide, costs €1050. The half-day with an expert would be instead of one of the farm visits