

# Discover the Beaches of County Galway

Trá an Dóilín, An Cheathrú Rua



## Cuir Aithne ar Thránna Chontae na Gaillimhe

### Social History

To the north of Trá an Dóilín is a large rock known locally as 'Cloch Chormaic' (Cormac's Stone) which is said to be part of a huge boulder that was flung to and fro between here and Tír an Fhia (land opposite Trá an Dóilín) by two giants, until it broke up.

Immediately south of Trá an Dóilín is Trá na bPáistí. It derives its name from a Children's Burial Ground which was located here. The site is marked by a large inscribed boulder.

### Stair Shóisialta

Ó thuaidh de Thrá an Dóilín tá an charraig mhór a dtugtar Cloch Chormaic go háitiúil air agus a ndeirtear faoi gur cuid de mhoghlaeir a bhí á chaitheamh anonn is anall idir an áit sin agus Tír an Fhia ag beirt fhathach a bhí ann go dtí gur briseadh é.

Díreach ó dheas de Thrá an Dóilín tá Trá na bPáistí. Is as ceallúrach a bhí lonnaithe ansin a ainmníodh é. Tá bollán le hinscibhinn air ina chomhartha ar an suíomh.

### Beach Code of Conduct

- Guard against all risk of fire
- Leave only footprints – don't be a litterbug
- Kill nothing but time
- Take nothing but memories and photographs
- Don't disturb, don't destroy and act responsibly

### Cód Iompair ar an Trá

- Ná déan tine a adhaint
- Ná fág ach lorg do chos i do dhiaidh – ná bí i do bhodach bruscair
- Gaomhnaigh agus ná cealaigh
- Ná tabhair leat aon rud ach cuimhní agus fótagraif
- Ná mill agus ná cuir isteach ar aon rud agus bí freagrach

Keep Galway Litter Free  
Coinnigh Gaillimh saor ó Bhruscair

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Is é Rannóg Timpeallachta i gComhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe a d'fhoilsigh an bhileog seo i gcomhpháirt le Fóram Oidhreachta Chontae na Gaillimhe

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References/Tagairtí: Robinson, T. 'Connemara Part 1: Introduction and Gazetteer' 1990 Folding Landscapes, Roundstone, Galway.

For further information  
Chun a thuilleadh eolais a fháil

[www.galway.ie/services/environment/beaches](http://www.galway.ie/services/environment/beaches)



Trá an Dóilín is located approximately 2 km to the south-west of Carraroe village, in the townland of An Cheathrú Rua Theas (Carraroe South). It faces west across Greatman's Bay to Garmna Island. 'An Dóilín' translates as 'the creek', which may refer to a small stream that enters the sea to the north of the beach.

Tá Trá an Dóilín suite tuairim is 2 km siar ó dheas ó shráidbhaile na Ceathrún Rua, i mbaile fearainn na Ceathrún Rua Theas. Tá a aghaidh siar aige trasna Chuan an Fhir Mhóir. Tálann an fheamainn substaint chailcreach a strompann a cuid fronn agus nuair a bhásann sí, caitear i dtír ar an trá smíodair 'cloiche' a bhfuil cuma craobhíní air. Níl ach roinnt bheag áiteanna in Éirinn a gcaitear i dtír an cineál sin ábhair thrá agus is gnáthóg uathúil agus leochaileach atá ann.

## A Coral Beach

Very often referred to as 'the Coral Beach at Carraroe' this beach is composed of maërl rather than sand. Maërl is red coralline seaweed that grows along the west coast of Ireland with extensive beds here in Greatman's Bay. The seaweed secretes a limey substance which stiffens its fronds and when it dies, the twig-like 'stone' fragments, are washed up on the beach. This type of beach material is washed up at only a few locations in Ireland and is a unique and fragile habitat.

## Trá Choiréalach

Tugtar Trá Choiréalach na Ceathrún Rua go minic ar an trá seo agus is as maerla seachas gaineamh a dhéantar é. Is feamainn dhearg choiréilíneach a fhásann ar chósta thiar na hÉireann an maerla agus tá achar mór de ar ghinneall Chuan an Fhir Mhóir. Tálann an fheamainn substaint chailcreach a strompann a cuid fronn agus nuair a bhásann sí, caitear i dtír ar an trá smíodair 'cloiche' a bhfuil cuma craobhíní air. Níl ach roinnt bheag áiteanna in Éirinn a gcaitear i dtír an cineál sin ábhair thrá agus is gnáthóg uathúil agus leochaileach atá ann.

## A Variety of Habitats

Grey granite rock, interspersed with rockpools and draped with seaweeds, surrounds the coral beach. Look closely and you will see that the rocky shore is divided into bands of different colours. This is because different plants and animals, which vary in colour, live on different parts of the shore depending on how long they can survive out of the water. The further up the shore they occur, the longer they must remain exposed, as the tide retreats.

The most obvious colours are created by lichens. Grey lichens inhabit the upper shore above a band of yellow lichens. The distinctive black tar lichen occurs next. It forms a band on the upper limits of the littoral fringe. Rock pools, inhabited by seaweeds, beadlet anemones, top shells and other animals trapped by the outgoing tide, are found in the lower zone. Seaweeds cling to the rocks, along the mid and lower shore, providing food and shelter for a variety of animals. Limpets and barnacles anchor themselves to the rocks to prevent themselves being washed out by the tide.

A huge diversity of flowering plants is found in the grassland above the beach. Clovers, plantains, mayweed, yarrow, knapweed, buttercup, nettle, ladies bedstraw, red dead nettle, chickweed, eyebright, milkwort and common daisy, all add to the vibrant colours of this area. In a cleft in the outcropping rock, a small area of reedmarsh inhabited by fresh water loving plants including reedgrass, sedges, mint, rushes and meadow sweet is found. Heather, furze, wild thyme and tormentil create a blaze of colour against the grey granite rock.

## Éagsúlacht Gnáthóg

Tá cloch eibhir liath clúdaithe le feamainní agus locháin charraige scaipthe anseo agus ansiúd thart timpeall ar an trá choiréalach. Breathnaigh go cúramach agus feicfidh tú go bhfuil an cladach roinnte i mbandaí le dathanna difriúla orthu. Is é an chúis leis sin go maireann plandaí agus ainmhithe difriúla, a bhfuil dathanna éagsúla orthu, ar chodanna difriúla den chladach agus é sin ag brath ar an méid ama ar féidir leo maireachtáil as an uisce. Dá fhaide thuas ar an gcladach iad, is mó an t-am a chaitheann siad triomaithe agus iad ag fanacht go dtuillfidh an taoide.

Is iad na léicin a chruthaíonn na dathanna is suntasaí. Maireann na léicin liatha ar an gcladach uachtair os cionn bhanda na léicean buí. Is é an léicean tarra dubh suaithinseach an chéad cheann eile. Is é a dhéanann banda ar theorainneacha uachtair an imill chladachúil. Faightear locháin charraige in íochtar cladaigh agus feamainní ag fás iontu mar aon le bundúin choirnéacha, faocháin Mhuire agus ainmhithe eile a bhíonn sáinnithe iontu nuair a thránn an taoide. Bíonn feamainní i ngreim ar na carraigeacha i lár agus in íochtar an chladaigh agus cuireann siad beatha agus foscadh ar fáil do raon ainmhithe. Greamaíonn bairnigh agus garbháin iad féin leis an gcarraig ionas nach scuabtar amach san fharráige iad.

Faightear éagsúlacht mhór plandaí blátha ar an talamh féaraigh taobh thuas den trá. Cuireann na plandaí seo a leanas le dathanna beo na háite – an tseamair, naprún Phádraig, an lus Bealtaine mara, an athair thalún, an mhínscoth, an crobh préacháin, an neantóg, an boladh cnis, an chaochneantóg dhearg, an fhliodh, an glanrosc, lus an bhainne agus an nóinín. I siúnta sa lomán carraige, tá achar beag de riasc giolcaí ina bhfuil plandaí a dtaitníonn fóruisce leo, ina measc an féar giolcúil, an chíb, an mismín, an luachair agus an t-airgead luachra. Cuireann an fraoch, an t-aiteann, an tím agus an néalfartach le loinnir datha in aghaidh na cloiche eibhir léithe.

