

† CAUSEWAY COASTAL ROUTE *itinerary*



Old
Bushmills
Distillery

DAY 2

Visit Carrick-a-rede Rope Bridge where you can cross the bridge to the tiny island and see views of Rathlin Island and Scotland. Then head to the North Antrim Coast via the Causeway Coastal Route and visit the Giant's Causeway UNESCO World Heritage Site, one of the most spectacular natural attractions Northern Ireland has to offer. Hear many of the stories that surround this incredible landmark. Also while here, step inside the state of the art Visitor Centre and learn all about the history of the area or simply enjoy a quick bite to eat in the café.

Stop off in the quaint village of Bushmills and visit the Old Bushmills Distillery. Learn the history of the distillery and see how this famous 400-year-old Irish whiskey is made.

Overnight in Bushmills or Portrush

The Rathlin Island detour (optional)



Rathlin
Island

A day trip to Rathlin Island is highly recommended for those wanting to enjoy time on Northern Ireland's only off shore inhabited island. Ferries leave from Ballycastle to cross the Sea of Moyle to the island, please allow 25 minutes for the six-mile crossing to arrive in the harbour at the picturesque Church Bay. Amidst the rugged landscape you can let your mind wander and discover a tranquillity and beauty that is so unexpected. Also, on the west of the island is the renowned RSPB Seabird Centre, where puffins, guillemots, razorbills and kittiwakes can be viewed during the summer months.

Glenariff
Forest Park



DAY 1

Your Causeway Coastal Route adventure begins in the city of Belfast. Heading north from Belfast on the M2 motorway, cruise towards the seaside town of Carrickfergus. The town's harbour-side Norman 12th Century castle has seen over 800 years of action, right up until World War II, with portcullis ramparts, canons and a chilling dungeon.

A few miles north will take you on a loop around Islandmagee and the reconstructed cliff walk at The Gobbins. Book in advance for a spectacular walk along bridges and cliffs suspended metres above the sea with views south to Blackhead Lighthouse and across the sea to Scotland.

Continue north along the coast, push on past the headland of Garron Point and the village of Waterfoot comes into view at the foot of Glenariff, known as the 'Queen of the Glens'. There's no better way to experience the majesty of the area than with a visit to Glenariff Forest Park.

Overnight in Ballycastle

Mussenden
Temple



DAY 3

Head west along the Coast Road and discover Dunluce Castle. It's hard to imagine a more dramatic setting for the ruins of this 14th century castle. Set at the edge of a cliff top, the castle looks like it may just plummet into the water (part of it did just that centuries ago). Back on the coast road and heading west towards Castlerock, a stop at the Bishop's Palace and Mussenden Temple is a must. Looking like a relic from ancient Rome, this one-time library is perched precariously on a cliff top with commanding views west along the eight-mile long Downhill and Benone Beaches against the backdrop of the Inishowen Peninsula in Donegal.

Binevenagh Mountain is a bonus for those wanting to explore and the viewpoint is a short 10 minute drive from Downhill. As an official Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, you can expect breathtaking views from the summit. St Aidan's Church lies beneath the summit and is worth a visit.

With the mountain conquered, head towards the town of Limavady and the Roe Valley Arts and Culture Centre; a hub of Northern Ireland's artistic life. The Roe Valley Country Park also offers refreshing riverside walks, woodland rambles and even salmon fishing, too, if the mood takes you.

Overnight in Limavady