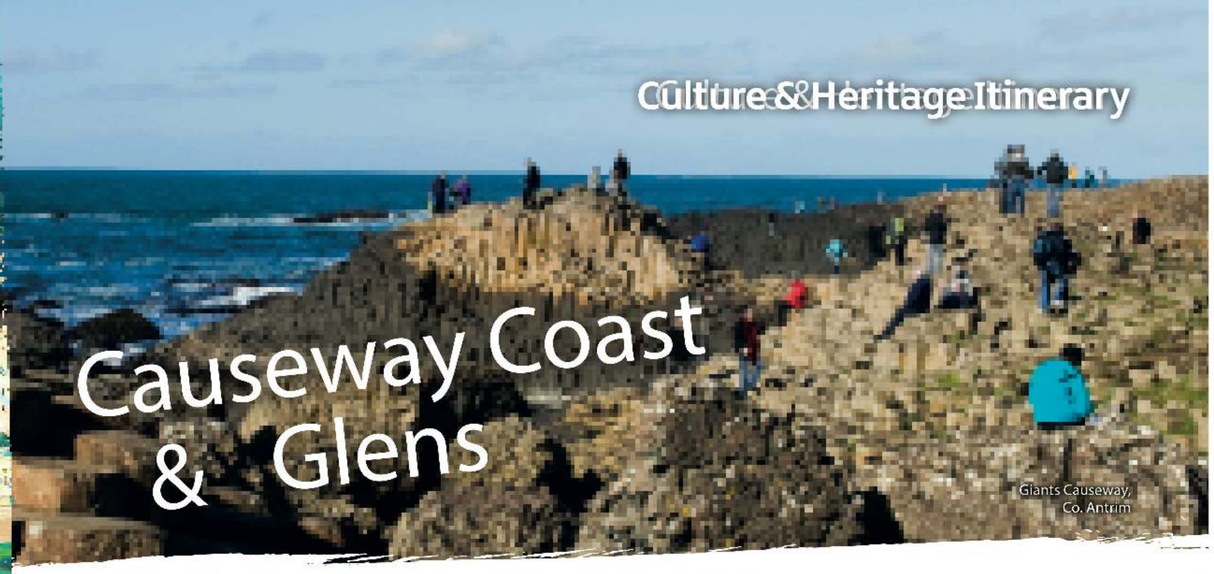

Causeway Coast & Glens

Giants Causeway, Co. Antrim

From City of Derry Airport travelling along the Causeway Coastal Route

The captivating Causeway Coastal Route stretches for 120 miles from Lough Foyle to Belfast Lough, with the principal route linking the pretty little coastal villages of Glenarm, Carnlough, Cushendall, Cushendun and Ballintoy. The route allows visitors to travel inland and explore the famous Glens of Antrim, unmissable attractions include Carrickfergus Castle, The Gobbins Cliff Path, Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge, Dunluce Castle, Old Bushmills Distillery and the Giant's Causeway, Ireland's first World Heritage Site.

VISIT 1

Mussenden Temple & Downhill Demesne

Downhill began to assume its present form around 1772 when Frederick Hervey (1730-1803) - known as the Earl Bishop from his twin titles of Earl of Bristol and Bishop of Derry - chose this scenic site to build a country house. Mussenden Temple, located in its beautiful surroundings, perches dramatically on a 120 ft. cliff top offering spectacular coastal views. The house and estate, which has landscaped gardens and walks covering over 150 acres, was one of the most noted houses in Ireland.

107 Sea Road, Castlerock,
Co. Londonderry, BT51 4RP
T: +44 (0) 28 7084 8728
W: nationaltrust.org.uk/downhillestate

VISIT 2

Dunluce Castle

Dunluce Castle is sited dramatically close to the edge of a headland, along the North Antrim Coast. Surrounded by jaw-dropping coastal scenery, this medieval castle stands where an early Irish Fort was once built and its history

Dunluce Castle, Co. Antrim

can be traced back to early Christians and Vikings.

87 Dunluce Road, Bushmills,
Co. Antrim, BT57 8UY
T: +44 (0) 28 2073 1938
W: discovernorthernireland.com/Dunluce-Castle

VISIT 3

Old Bushmills Distillery

Bushmills Irish Whiskey is made at the world's oldest licenced working distillery in County Antrim on the beautiful North Coast. The original grant to distil was signed in 1608 by King James I. There has been distillation on this site for over 400 years, using the unique water from their own stream and Irish barley. Why not experience the rich aromas and full- bodied flavours of this distinctive and world-renowned whiskey?

2 Distillery Road, Bushmills,
Co. Antrim, BT57 8XH
T: +44 (0) 28 2073 3218
W: bushmills.eu

VISIT 4

Giant's Causeway

Flanked by the wild North Atlantic Ocean and a landscape of dramatic cliffs, the Giant's Causeway, Northern Ireland's first UNESCO World Heritage Site, is a geological wonder and home to a wealth of history and legends. The 40,000 basalt stone columns left by volcanic eruptions 60 million years ago have certainly captured the imagination of all who see it.

44 Causeway Road, Bushmills,
Co. Antrim
T: +44 (0) 28 2073 1855
W: nationaltrust.org.uk/giants-causeway

On the menu today

After a busy day sightseeing, the Causeway Coast and Glens' chefs can help you recharge, they use the finest local ingredients, just for you! Choose your setting… will it be fine dining, a contemporary bistro, or a traditional pub? Maybe a coastal café is your thing, and who can resist fish and chips by the harbour?

For various food and drink options, please visit:
W: visitcausewaycoastandglens.com/food-and-drink/places-to-eat

City of Derry AIRPORT

discovernorthernireland.com

VISIT 5

Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge

Historically, fishermen used to erect a rope bridge to Carrick-a-Rede Island to check their salmon. Today, the National Trust operates a double hand-railed rope bridge across the 30m deep/20m wide gorge. Visitors who are brave enough to cross the bridge will be rewarded with stunning views of the North Coast.

119a Whitepark Road, Ballintoy,
Co. Antrim, BT54 6LS
T: +44 (0) 28 2076 9839
W: nationaltrust.org.uk/carrick-a-rede

Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge, Co. Antrim

VISIT 6

Ballintoy Village and Harbour

The picturesque village harbour has featured in HBO's epic series Game of Thrones®. Accessed by a spectacular, steep and winding road, it is a painter's paradise with sea stacks, rocky islands, pools and a busy harbour leading to one of Europe's great cliff-top and wild beach walks.

Harbour Rd, Ballintoy, Ballycastle,
Co. Antrim, BT54 6NA
W: discovernorthernireland.com/things-to-do/ballintoy-harbour

VISIT 7

The Dark Hedges

This beautiful avenue of beech trees was planted by the Stuart family in the eighteenth century, and was intended as a compelling landscape feature to impress visitors as they approached the entrance to their Georgian mansion, Gracehill House. Two centuries later, the trees remain a magnificent sight and have become one of the most photographed natural phenomena in Northern Ireland. In fact, the famous trees have been used as an iconic filming location in HBO's epic series Game of Thrones®, representing the King's Road.

Bregagh Road, Ballymoney, Co. Antrim,
BT53 8PX
W: discovernorthernireland.com/things-to-do/the-dark-hedges-p703291

VISIT 8

Rathlin Island

Myth and mystery surround Rathlin, the most famous legend is that Robert the Bruce, driven from Scotland by Edward I of England, took refuge in a cave and was inspired to never give up by the persistence of a web-spinning spider. Rathlin has three lighthouses, and at the West Lighthouse you can view thousands of returning seabirds such as guillemots, razorbills, kittiwakes, fulmars and puffins. The island is also home to the magical Golden Hare.

Rathlin Island Ferry Ltd, Ballycastle Ferry Terminal, 18 Bayview Road,
Ballycastle, Co. Antrim, BT54 6BT
T: +44 (0) 28 2076 9299
W: rathlinballycastleferry.com

VISIT 9

Cushendun Village

Designed by Clough William Ellis in 1912, Cushendun is an unspoilt village, beach and harbour in the Glens of Antrim, renowned for its distinctive architecture and unspoilt charm. Ellis designed a village square with seven houses which are today run as craft shops and tea rooms. There are also several caves, made famous for their scenes in the multi award-winning TV show, Game of Thrones®.

Cushendun Village, Co. Antrim,
BT44 0PS
W: nationaltrust.org.uk/cushendun

VISIT 10

The Gobbins Cliff Path

The Gobbins is a unique walking experience; a dramatic cliff-face path which incorporates spectacular bridges, tunnels and staircases. First opened in 1902, this coastal curiosity has been brought back to life. A re-envisioned version of The Gobbins opened in August 2015 with new walkways run parallel to the eroded remains of some of the original structure. The Gobbins walk takes between 2.5 and 3 hours to complete.

Gobbins Visitor and Community Centre, 68 Middle Road, Islandmagee,
Co. Antrim, BT40
T: +44 (0) 28 9337 2318
W: thegobbinscliffpath.com

Carrickfergus Castle, Co. Antrim

VISIT 11

Carrickfergus Castle

For more than 800 years, Carrickfergus Castle has been an imposing monument on the Northern Ireland landscape. Originally built in 1177 by John de Courcy, it has been altered throughout the centuries and has been in use as a garrisoned property until as late as 1928. The castle now houses historical and other displays as well as cannons from the 17th Century to 19th Century.

Marine Highway, Carrickfergus,
Co. Antrim BT38 7BG
T: +44 (0) 28 9335 1273
W: shapedbyseaandstone.com/attraction/carrickfergus-castle

Places to stay

A jam-packed day of fun needs a good night of rest before and after! When planning your trip, you will find the perfect accommodation to suit your needs and prices to match any budget. For options please visit:

For options please visit:
W: visitcausewaycoastandglens.com/accommodation

The Gobbins Cliff Path, Co. Antrim

Northern Ireland Embrace a Giant Spirit