

AILL NA SEARRACH



The area immediately north of O'Brien's Tower below Aill Na Searrach (Cliff of the Foals) has become a world famous surf spot with the famous Aileen's wave drawing world class surfers. In certain conditions the wave can reach

60 foot and has been compared to giant waves such as "Jaws" in Maui, Hawaii. Aileen's wave has featured in the movies Sea Fever and Wave Riders.



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CLIFFS OF MOHER VISITOR EXPERIENCE

The Burren and Cliffs of Moher is a UNESCO Global geopark.

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O'BRIEN'S TOWER



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O'BRIEN'S TOWER

O'Brien's Tower stands near the highest point of the Cliffs of Moher 214m at Knockardakin. It was built in 1835 by the landlord of the locality - Cornelius O'Brien - a descendant of the first High King of Ireland, Brian Boru and a member of the O'Brien clan. O'Brien built the tower as an observation platform for the visitors who were even then flocking to the Cliffs of Moher. The tower was originally made up of four separate sections but these have now been reduced to two with the existing archway, bearing the O'Brien crest, added later. The tower was restored in 1970 and most recently in 2008 and it is once again being used as a viewing point for the Cliffs and the Aran Islands. On a clear day the view encompasses the coast of Connemara to the north across Galway Bay and the Clare coastline to Loop Head and beyond in the south to the Kerry Mountains.



Cornelius O'Brien (1801-1857) was elected Member of Parliament for Clare in 1837 and served as an MP for 20 years. During his life he was responsible for building many local landmarks: the bridge over the Inagh River between Lahinch and Liscannor (1836), St Brigid's Well, St Brigid's National School (1845) and the roadside Relievers Well, a Gothic Well house.

It is said that Cornelius won a bet with another landowner that he could build a wall "six foot high and one inch thick" over a given distance. Using the local Liscannor flagstones he claimed victory and the resulting flag fences can still be seen along the cliff edge. The flags were quickly adapted as building material as well as floor covering in farmhouses throughout the 19th century. O'Brien also put up a circular stone table for entertaining guests on the sandstone ledge of the cliff. In the locality it was said of O'Brien that 'he built everything around here except the cliffs'. He died in 1857 and his remains lie in the O'Brien Vault in the graveyard adjoining St. Brigid's Well.

This map marks named points of interest along the Cliffs of Moher from Áill na Searrach to beyond Hags Head. Many of these names are in the Irish language and relate to old Irish myths and legends.

