Discover the Beaches of County Galway

Cuir Aithne ar Thránna Chontae na Gaillimhe

Welcome to Trá an Doilín (the beach of the creek), which is located in the townland of An Cheathrú Rua Theas (Carraroe South). As you look out from the beach you are looking across Greatman's Bay to Garmna Island.

Fáilte chuig Trá an Dóilín, atá lonnaithe i mbaile fearainn na Ceathrún Rua Theas. Agus tú ag breathnú amach ón trá tá tú ag breathnú trasna Chuan an Fhir Mhóir ar Oileán Gharmna.

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
- Caomhnaigh agus ná cealaigh
- Ná tabhair leat aon rud ach cuimhní agus fótagraif
- Ná mill agus ná cuir isteach ar aon rud agus bí freagrach

For further information
Chun a thuilleadh eolais a fháil
www.galway.ie/services/environment/beaches

Why is this beach known as the Coral Beach?
Cén fáth a dtugtar an Trá Choiréalach ar an trá seo?

Walk on this beach and you will immediately know that it is not sand beneath your feet. Instead you can feel sharp, twig-like little stones.

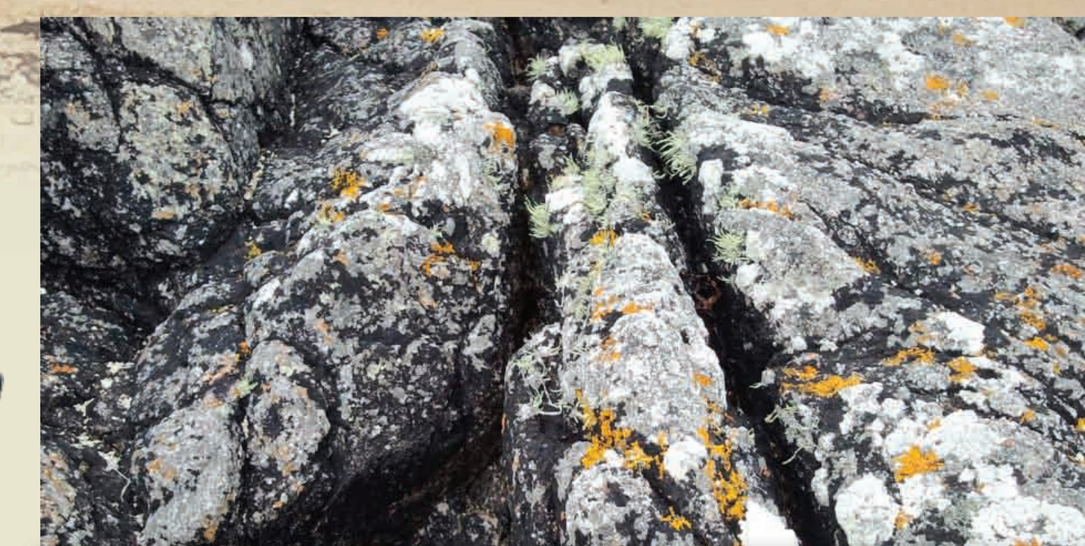
Red coralline algae grow in Greatman's Bay. When they die, they lose their colour and break up into hard grey, white and brown pieces that are washed up on the beach. These remains are called maërl. It is what you can feel beneath your feet.

Maërl is only washed up on a few beaches in Ireland and it creates a unique and fragile habitat of high conservation value. Trá an Dóilín is within a designated Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

Siúil ar an trá seo agus beidh a fhios agat ar an bpointe nach gaineamh atá faoi do chosa. Ina áit sin aireoidh tú cloichíní beaga géara mar a bheadh craobhóga.

Fásann algaí dearga coiréalacha i gCuan an Fhir Mhóir. Nuair a bhásaíonn siad, cailleann siad a ndath agus bristear iad i smionagar crua liath, bán agus donn a chaitear suas ar an trá. Tugtar méarla ar an iarsma sin. Is é sin a airíonn tú faoi do chosa.

Is beag trá in Éirinn a gcaitear an méarla i dtír ann agus cruthaíonn sé gnáthóg uathúil agus leochaileach a bhfuil luach ard caomhantais ag baint leis. Tá Trá an Dóilín taobh istigh de Limistéar Caomhantais Speisialta (LCS).



How many colours can you see on the beach?
Cé mhéad dath a fheiceann tú ar an trá?

Grey and pink granite rocks, interspersed with rockpools and draped with brown, red and green seaweeds, contrast with the white, greys and browns of the maërl. Bands of yellow, grey and black cover sections of the rocks.

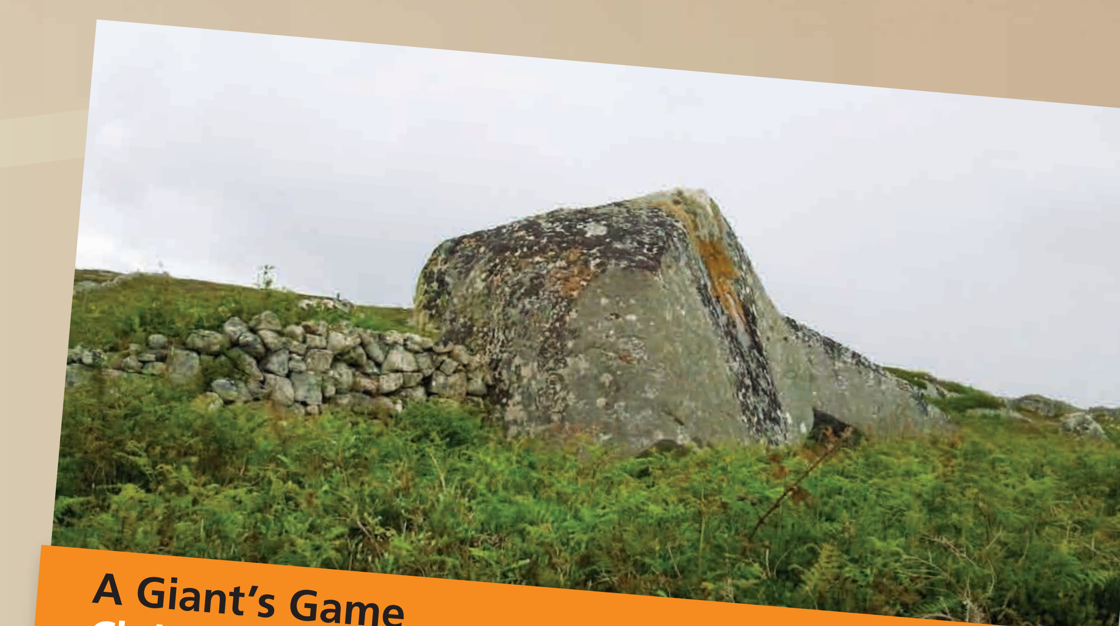
What are these yellow, grey and black bands of colours? They are different types of lichens. Each type lives on the part of the shore that has the best conditions for its survival. As the tide goes in and out each day, different areas of the shore are covered by water for different lengths of time. If dry conditions are best for the lichens survival, it will live high up on the shore, in an area that is only splashed by the tide. As you can see this is where the yellow lichen likes to live. Which colour lichen likes to be underwater the longest?

In the grassland behind the beach, plants such as clovers, plantains, mayweed, yarrow, knapweed, ladies bedstraw, eyebright, milkwort, daisy, heathers, furze, wild thyme, tormentil, mosses and lichens all add to the blaze of colour at this special beach.

Tá na clocha eibhir liatha agus bándearga, locháin charraige scaipthe ina measc, agus iad clúdaithe le feamainní donna, dearga agus uaine, i gcodarsnacht le dathanna bána, liatha agus donna an mhéarla. Tá bandaí buí, liatha agus dubha ar chuid de na carraigeacha.

Céard iad na bandaí datha buí, liatha agus dubha sin? Is cineálacha éagsúla léicean iad. Maireann gach cineál ar leith ar an gcuid sin den chladach a bhfuil na dálaí maireachtála is fearr ann dó. De réir mar a thuileann agus a thránn an taoide gach lá, bíonn codanna éagsúla den chladach clúdaithe le sáile ar feadh tréimhsí ama éagsúla. Más fearr a fheileann dálaí tirime don léicean, mairfidh sé thuas ard ar an gcladach, i limistéar nach ndéantar ach é a steancadh leis an taoide. Mar a fheiceann tú, sin an áit ar maith leis an an léicean buí maireachtáil. Cén dath atá ar an léicean is faide a chaitheann an t-am faoin uisce?

Ar an talamh féaraigh taobh thoir den trá, cuireann na plandaí leis an loinnir dathanna i dtimpeallacht na trá speisialta seo, amhail an tseamair, an slánlus mara, an lus Bealtaine mara, an athair thalún, an mhínscoth, an boladh cnis, an glanrosc, lus an bhainne, an nóinín, an fraoch, an t-aiteann, an tím chreige, an néalfartach, na caoinigh agus na léicin.



A Giant's Game
Cluiche na bhFathach

If you take a walk to the north of Trá an Dóilín you are likely to see a large rock called 'Cloch Chormaic' (Cormac's Stone). Two giants were throwing a huge boulder back and forth between here and Tír an Fhia (land opposite Trá an Dóilín). It eventually broke up and this is what remains.

Má dhéanann tú siúlóid ó thuaidh de Thrá an Dóilín, tá an seans ann go bhfeicfidh tú carraig mhór a dtugtar Cloch Chormaic air. Bhí beirt fhathach ag caitheamh moghlaera ollmhóir anonn agus anall idir an áit seo agus Tír an Fhia (an talamh trasna ó Thrá an Dóilín). Briseadh as a chéile ar deireadh é agus níl fanta ach é seo.

Text/Téacs: Zena Hoctor
Translator/Aistritheoir: Padraic de Bhaldraithe
Photography/Fótagrafaíocht: Zena Hoctor/John N. Murphy
Design/Dearadh:: Signiatec Ltd www.signiatec.ie