

# EDUCATIONAL TOURS

## EXPLORE A WORLD OF LEARNING IN ONE

A TRIP THROUGH TIME,  
A GEOGRAPHICAL  
ADVENTURE AND A  
CULTURAL EXPERIENCE  
FOR YOUR STUDENTS.



**DOOLIN CAVE**

**EUROPE'S LARGEST  
STALACTITE**





# EXPLORE, ENGAGE AND EXCITE

**“TELL ME AND I WILL FORGET, SHOW ME  
AND I MAY REMEMBER, INVOLVE ME  
AND I WILL UNDERSTAND.”** CONFUCIUS

Give your **SECOND OR THIRD LEVEL STUDENTS** a fascinating educational tour of Ireland’s famous Doolin Cave.



**GEOLOGY**

Rich in geographical wonder, historical significance, natural diversity and cultural character. There’s no better way to bring learning to life.

In-depth, inspiring and incredibly dramatic, this immersive experience offers your students a journey deep into the heart of the earth and 350 million years back in time, to understand how it all began.



**NATURAL HISTORY**



**DISCOVERY**

It’s an unforgettable deep dive that is true education in action - and we’re excited to share it with you.



**125 STEPS DOWN**  
**350 MILLION YEARS BACK IN TIME**  
**ONE INCREDIBLE DESTINATION**



EXHIBITION



ECOTOURISM

# WHY BRING YOUR STUDENTS?

Doolin Cave - from the Irish word *Pol an Ionain* which means 'Ivy Cliff Cave' - is a limestone cave near Doolin in County Clare, on the western edge of The Burren.

The Cave offers a true underground experience: you'll travel 200 feet down into the earth to view a fantasy-like world created from water, time and the hand of nature. Your students will journey through an intricate system of passages and pathways, leading into the majestic cathedral-like dome of the cave.

The hero of Doolin Cave is EUROPE'S LARGEST STALACTITE, called The Great Stalactite. This incredible structure makes Doolin Cave a celebration of the incredible power of one: living proof of how a single continuous drop of water formed this mighty structure that is the only one of its kind in Ireland.



# WHAT EDUCATIONAL THEMES CAN YOU EXPLORE?

## GEOLOGY

An area of great geological significance within the Burren Geopark, Doolin Cave is a Geosite.

## HISTORY

Learn about the fascinating discovery of the cave in 1952 when explorers J M Dickenson and Brian M Varley noticed a small stream that disappeared under a large, steep cliff.

## CONSERVATION

Hear about how Doolin Cave practices sustainable development - meeting today's needs without compromising future generations.

## SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA

We are members of the Burren Ecotourism Network which promotes sustainable tourism in the Burren

## NATURE

Over ground, you'll explore one of Europe's most compelling landscapes - the Burren - with its wealth of fauna, rare flora and bird life.

## CULTURE

Experience the rich heritage and culture of the area, including traditional farming practices.

## ENVIRONMENTALISM

Study our native, indigenous shrubs and trees, planted to retain the biodiversity of the area.

## SOCIOLOGY

Doolin Cave is a family owned attraction so learn about the people who call the Burren home.

# WHAT WILL YOUR STUDENTS EXPERIENCE?

## THE UNIQUE STRUCTURES OF THE CAVE

Your group will experience and get up close to the force of nature that is the Great Stalactite. Measuring 7.3 metres long and weighing around 10 tonnes, this vast structure reaches down from the roof of the Cave, catching the light, reflecting colours and detail like a massive, ornate glass chandelier.

Your tour guide will also share information on the extensive show of other speleothems within the cave. These geological structures form when mineral deposits accumulate over time and are typically found in calcareous caves due to carbonate dissolution reactions.

Speleothems at Doolin Cave include Stalagmites, Helicities, Columns, Pillars, Fossils and Bell Formations.

## THE NATURAL WORLD OF THE BURREN

As a contrasting above-ground experience, your student group can follow the Doolin Cave Eco Trail - a fascinating 1 km looped path around the cave that showcases the Burren at its best.

You can use the key discovery points enroute to learn about the formation of the landscape and how the 'karst' pavement was moulded and sculpted over time.

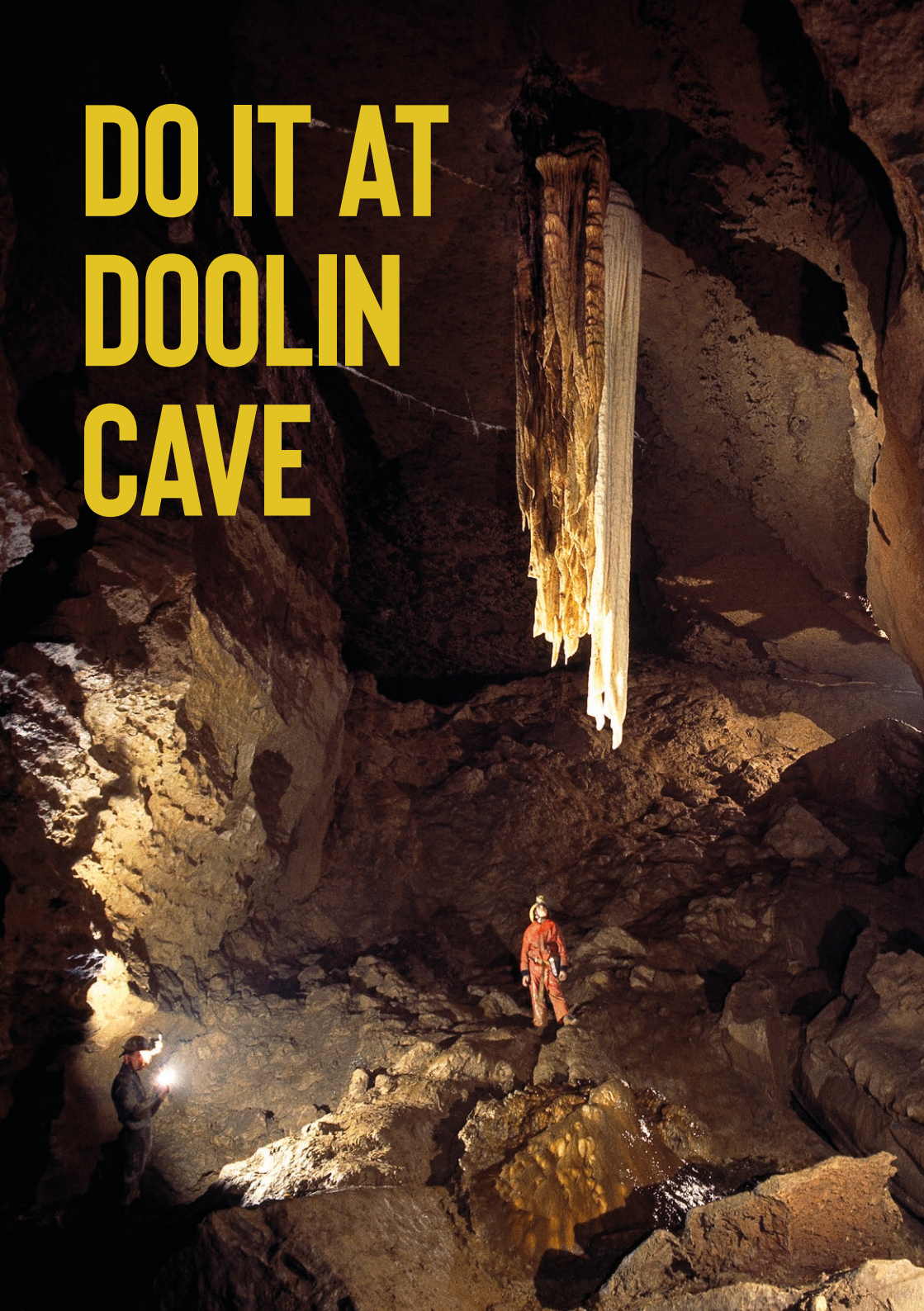
Your group can explore the natural wildness of the area, featuring many indigenous woodland plants, meadow wildflowers, Alpine, Arctic and Mediterranean plants as well as trees and local grasses.

## THE ART OF DOOLIN CAVE

See how our unique character has inspired local art in the form of Doolin Cave Pottery. Resident artist Caireann Browne creates her pottery pieces from glacial clay which has been hand dug 12-ft deep within the caverns of the Cave. The clay is completely unique, discovered by geologists to contain pollen from pre-Ice Age flowers which are no longer found on Earth. A lesson in art, the pottery designs echo the drip and layering of the Cave's stalactites.



# DO IT AT DOOLIN CAVE



## WE HAVE EVERYTHING YOU NEED FOR AN INSPIRING, INFORMATIVE, MOTIVATING, AND FUN EDUCATIONAL TOUR

- Up close examination of the largest stalactite in Europe
- Fully guided tour
- Natural History, Social History and Geography educational content in a unique location
- Award-winning visitor centre
- Part of the Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark
- A Burren Ecotourism Attraction
- Picnic area and café
- Looped eco-trail
- One point of contact for easy, convenient bookings
- Excellent value for money
- Group rates for groups of 10+

## SAMPLE ITINERARY

Below is a sample itinerary based on a maximum group size of 22 - equating to a total of 44 students. Safety hard hats are provided on every cave tour.



### 11 AM ARRIVAL DOOLIN CAVE

Group A - Guided tour of Doolin Cave  
Group B - Self-guided walk of Doolin Cave eco-trail

### 12 NOON SECOND TOUR

Group A - Self-guided tour of Doolin Cave eco-trail  
Group B - Guided tour of Doolin Cave

### 1 PM LUNCH

Afternoon: Back on the bus to explore local sites of the Burren

## A LITTLE SOMETHING FOR YOU

The tour organiser will receive a complimentary family pass to Doolin Cave to enjoy at a time that suits you.



## WHERE WILL YOU FIND US?

We are situated on Ireland's famous Wild Atlantic Way, in the heart of the Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark. There are many other features of the Burren landscape including limestone pavements, grikes, flora and fauna, all ready to be explored right on our doorstep.

We're easy to get to - located an easy 15-minute drive from the Cliffs of Moher and 5 minutes from Doolin Village on the R479 (Doolin to Fanore Road). Our Eircode is V95 R299.

## HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

We are delighted to offer you a special group student price of €8 per person.

## HOW CAN YOU ARRANGE A TRIP?

Email us on: [tours@doolincave.ie](mailto:tours@doolincave.ie)

Telephone us on: 065 707 5761

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