



Burren Code for Visitors

The Burren is a landscape of contradictions: it covers less than 1% of Ireland's landmass, yet it holds a staggering density of Europe's most protected habitats and ancient cultural sites. Because over 95% of this region is privately owned, being a conscious visitor is essential to its survival.

Here is how you can move beyond being a tourist and become a guardian of this unique landscape.

- **Follow the Burren Code**

The Burren Code is a set of principles designed to safeguard priority habitats, such as limestone pavements and orchid-rich grasslands, which are protected by law.

Leave No Trace: Leave the limestone, wildflowers and natural habitats exactly as you found them. Take nothing, but memories by following the 7 *Leave no trace* principles:

1. Plan ahead and prepare.
2. Be considerate of others.
3. Respect farm animals and wildlife
4. Travel and camp responsibly
5. Leave what you find
6. Dispose of waste properly
7. Protect nature from fire

Respect the Infrastructure: Take care not to damage ancient monuments, stone walls or local buildings.

Be a Good Neighbor: Respect landowners and their livestock. Use designated areas for parking and camping.

- **Move Slow and Stay Local**

A whistle-stop coach tour barely scratches the surface and provides little support to the people who maintain this land. To truly experience the Burren:

Extend Your Stay: Transition from a "passer-by" to a guest. By staying a few days, you allow yourself the time to explore by foot or bicycle.

Choose the Off-Season: Seasonality is a major challenge for the local economy. Visiting outside the summer months helps create year-round, sustainable employment for the community.

Stick to the Path: Use irishtrails.ie to find waymarked trails. This protects fragile ecosystems from being trampled.

- **Support the Local Ecosystem**

Your financial impact can be just as restorative as your physical presence.

Shop Local: Prioritize local produce and service providers to ensure your visit directly benefits the community.

Seek Accreditation: Look for businesses within the **Burren Ecotourism Network** (burren.ie). These providers are committed to high standards of environmental responsibility.

The Bottom Line: The more you invest in the Burren—whether through time, respect, or supporting local trade—the more it gives back. By making informed, responsible decisions, you help ensure this "fertile rock" remains vibrant for generations to come.

