



Red Cottage Property Guide

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USEFUL NUMBERS

The most up-to-date version of this guide is at: www.Go-Doolin.com/Red-Cottage.php

WIFI PASSCODE: 0851531576

EMERGENCY NUMBER: 999 OR 112

OWNER’S NUMBER: 085 153 1576

DOCTOR (ENNISTYMON) 065 707 1143

DOCTOR (LAHINCH) 065 708 1234

DENTIST (ENNISTYMON) 065 707 1143

POST OFFICE (LISDOONVARNA) 061 707 4110

BANK (AIB, ENNISTYMON) 065 707 1018

GARDA STATION (ENNISTYMON) 065 707 1020

Welcome to Stonecutter's Cottage (also known as the "Red Cottage")

We are delighted to share with you the Stonecutter's Cottage. It is a 19th Century terraced cottage that was built for the foremen of the quarry behind the cottages.

It was very much in disrepair when we bought it 15 years ago and we have completely renovated it from top to bottom. We have also furnished it with the type of furniture and fixtures that was typical for small cottages of that day.

We rent the Cottage out to visitors during the Spring and Summer season.

The Red Cottage comprises of:

- A lounge, with wood burning stove and futon (that converts in to a bed).
- A double bedroom and bathroom (with shower), both off the lounge.
- A fully equipped kitchen-diner is off the lounge.

To get the most enjoyment out of the Cottage and the self-catering experience, we have compiled a Property Guide to help you settle in and enjoy the wonderful pleasures of getting away from it all.

Here, we share with you some of the history of Doonagore and features of the Stonecutter's Cottage.

Why the "Red Cottage"?

The first thing we are asked is why we call it the "Red Cottage". A simple answer; because, drum roll, the door is red! This helps everyone from the postman to visitors differentiate it from the cottage next door (known as the Blue Cottage for the same reason). In this part of the world there are very few house numbers, no postcodes and until recently few road numbers. So much of the navigation is based on property features; be it the door colour or who once lived there.

Why Were the Cottages Built?

Up until the end of the 19th century Doonagore was a bustling hamlet. The Cottage is part of a terrace of six cottages were built for the foremen of the stone quarry that was once worked. Today only four of the cottages still exist. These cottages are referred to as "post-famine" because they feature the relative luxury of three rooms, instead of two.

The roof of the Red and Blue cottages is the original stone from the quarry. To learn more about the quarry we recommend a visit to the Liscannor Rock shop (past the Cliffs of Moher on the left hand side of the road). Which has a small museum and holds photo archives of the history of the Doonagore quarry. "Liscannor Stone" was highly prized and it was shipped from the small harbour in Liscannor all over Europe.

You can see in the photograph on the living room wall what Doonagore village looked like over a century ago. If you look out to the back from the Cottage you can still see some of the rest of the village; the two taller houses used to be the sweet shop and the grocery store.

We have found a photograph of the village as it looked when the quarry was in full production around the 1850s; which we've included below.



The Bog Landscape

All that lies in the front of the cottage is bog land. If you take a walk on the paths across from the Cottage you will see how the farmers have cut long strips of turf and raised it up to dry out. Turf or peat has been the primary source of fuel in Ireland for centuries.

Why the Small Windows?

Like all traditional Irish cottages, they are distinctive for their small windows. Before the famine, English protestant landlords charged the Irish Catholic farmer tenants extra rent for windows; hence the limit in the number of windows and their size.

Why White Washed Walls?

This is the traditional colour of Irish cottages to help create light due to the small size of the windows. Red, Yellow, Blue and Green are the traditional colours for the doors and window sills.

The Stone Hearth

The living room in the Cottage has the original stone wall (exposed) and hearth. One of the most unique and charming features of an Irish county cottage is the large stone hearths. It has long been the central feature of Irish home life.

As a young Dublin girl visiting her relatives in the country, Val has vivid memories of sitting transfixed in front of these huge open hearths where her elderly aunts would spend the day stoking the fire, boiling water in the huge black kettles to make tea. Slowly cooking ham and potatoes in the black cauldrons that hung on cranes over the fire (see the size of the cauldron in the back garden).

At night a constant trickle of relatives, friends and neighbors would “come visiting” and huddle around the fire, telling stories, singing songs or playing a fiddle or a tin whistle.

The Traditional Fixtures and Furniture

- Half/Horse barn doors and wrought iron door hinges
- Belfast porcelain kitchen sink and Belfast taps
- Pine counter top and wrought iron straps on cabinets and all doors
- Pine Country kitchen Dresser, circa 1860
- Pine Country wardrobe, circa 1870
- Pine Country kitchen table, circa 1860
- Pine School class room bench, circa 1890
- Birch wood Captain's Chair by the fireplace, circa 1890 (off the American ships that came into Galway harbour)
- Elk wood Fire side three-legged stool
- Wrought iron kettles and crock pots for traditional cooking over the stove (we don't recommend that you cook with them now!)
- Traditional Wicker baskets by the fire place. The one with the handle is actually the traditional shopping basket used by Aran Island women for their grocery shopping.
- Painted milk urn outside the front door
- St. Brigid's Cross – Besides St. Patrick, she is the other most significant patron saint of Ireland. She is said to have converted a pagan king as he was dying in bed by using straw on the ground to make the shape of a cross. It is the tradition of all Irish cottages to place the straw cross above the threshold of the front door for safekeeping.

The Red Cottage Property Guide

We have put together this Guide to the Cottage and the various things you need to know.

Of course, nothing can be 100% comprehensive and things often seem strange in a different house. We are on-hand to help, so please do give us a call. However, we do ask that you spend five minutes before you call to see if the answer is as simple as "switching it on".

When you arrive, we will meet you to go over all the appliances and other "need to knows". For reference, here are the key details.

Electricity

Ireland operates on 240v (13a) and three pin plugs (same the UK). So, you may need an adapter for your appliances (like mobile phone chargers).

To turn on a switch you must push it to **red**.

For safety reasons, please turn off appliances when leaving the house.

The house is fitted with motion detector lights at the front of the house, so it is not necessary to leave the lights on all day when you are out.

Kitchen Equipment

The kitchen is fully equipped and includes:

- Microwave
- Toaster
- Kettle
- Fridge (with small freezer section)
- Electric Oven
- Gas Hob (stove)
- Plenty of crockery and cutlery, pot and pans
- (There is a washing machine and dryer in the outside shed)

Gas Hob

The hob (or stove) operates on gas. In the countryside, gas is supplied in metal "bottles" (sometimes called Calor Gas). Outside the back door you will find the orange gas bottle (along with a spare). They last for ages. But in the event it should run out please swap over the bottles (or give us a call to sort it out).



Central Heating and Hot water

The central heating is from an oil fired boiler. Oil is expensive in Ireland and we do make a surcharge to cover the actual usage during your stay. Obviously, the cost depends on how often you have the boiler running, but it is typically EUR 15 for a week if you use the central heating. Hopefully in the Summer months you won't need it at all.

When the central heating is on it also heats water in the hot water tank. When the central heating is off (for example, the Summer) the hot water is provided by an immersion heater in the hot water tank. More about this later.

Central Heating Timer

The Timer (i.e. controller) for the central heating is in the kitchen (on the wall beside the kitchen table).

There are 3 settings – Off; On and Timer.

The first 2 are obvious in their functionality. The Timer acts like a clock, so you can set it to switch on the Central Heating at a certain time of the day. For example, if you were out all day but wanted the heat to be on when you got back you could set it for 30 mins before the estimated time of arrival. So if you planned to arrive back into the house at 6pm, you could set it for 17:30 (The Timer is in military time). You would then set the "off" for a couple hours later, say, 19:30.

For the Timer to operate, the small spigots are pushed "in". If they are "out" the timer will switch off. It is more obvious than it sounds and we will demonstrate the operation when we check you in.



We kindly ask that you help us conserve energy and costs by not leaving the heat on all day. Because the Cottage is small it gets warm quickly. A cosy and effective alternative is the living room fire place. You will be amazed at how the heat from the fire warms up the whole house! See Fireplace instructions for details on how to operate it.

Immersion Heater

The controller for the Immersion Heater is in the airing cupboard (on the left hand side behind the curtain in the bathroom).

We use the Immersion Heater for hot water when in the Summer the Central Heating is typically off.

The Immersion Heater Timer follows the same logic as the Central Heating Timer; On, Off and Timed. As with the Central Heating, it is wasteful to leave the immersion heater on all day.

The Timer comes "on" where a spigot is pulled to the outer ring (and goes off when it encounters a spigot in the inner ring). It is more obvious than it sounds and we will demonstrate the operation when we check you in.



We have set it for typical times people want hot water. If you need hot water and it has all been used up you can switch the timer to "on" and it takes around 15 minutes to heat up enough water for a shower etc. (do remember to put the timer back to "timed" or "off" afterwards).

Internet Access

The Cottage is in an area with fairly good 4g coverage and we use a wireless base station for internet access.

The passcode for WIFI access is 0851531576.

If the connection does not work try rebooting the modem. The modem is the small white box on top off the hi-fi. Easiest thing to do is pull out the power cord for 30 seconds. Brutal, but it works.



You will find that most cafes and pubs will have WIFI access.

Shower

Hot water for the shower comes from either the Central Heating or the Immersion Heater (see notes above on these). To turn the shower on, turn the knob clockwise. You can control the amount of hot water by rotating the inner ring of the knob also clockwise.

Stereo

There is a stereo system and a small selection of CDs. The stereo also has a radio built in. We don't have a TV at the Cottage, because people are out and about most of the time and it was a waste of space and licence fee! If this is a big problem for you, we can arrange a "loan" TV during your stay.

Door Locks

Half doors are a feature of Irish country cottages. Please lock the top and the bottom (reach over and slide the bolt across). The front door lock requires you to pull the door towards you as you turn the key. When entering the house you will have to give the bottom half of the door a good push.

Alarms

There are two alarms in the Cottage; one is a ceiling mounted fire alarm (smoke detector);



The other one is a carbon monoxide detector.



If they go off it is, typically, a false alarm. Each has a button to silence them.

Please do not ignore any alarm and always investigate the cause of a false alarm; be it burnt toast or smoke blowing back into the room from the fire. Be sure you understand the reason. Solving the problem by removing the batteries is foolhardy in the extreme.

There is no house (burglar) alarm at the Cottage.

Futon

To create a spare bed, first pull the futon away from the wall by about two feet. Stand in front of it and gently lift the seat up towards your face. That motion will unlock the back rest and it will slide into a flat position. To put it back into an upright position, go behind the futon (wall side) and lift it up in a folding motion as though you were closing a book.

Fireplace

To enjoy the fireplace we recommend that you buy turf briquettes or a small bag of Ready-Fire-Coal (this provides several hours of heat) and some fire lighters. There is a starter pack provided.

Place the fire lighter in the centre of the mound of briquettes or simply light a match to the bag of Ready-Fire-Coal. Before lighting the fire, please make sure that the flue is open (the lever on the right hand side of the chimney pipe). For the "open" position, the lever should be in the vertical in relation to the pipe. As the fire gets going to can close the flue a little to keep more heat in the Cottage (but **never** close it completely with the fire lit).

To start the fire you should almost close the doors; just allowing a little air to slip through and then slowly open the doors once the fire is going.

To be honest, the fireplace is more art than science and a little experimentation will quickly find the best setting. Enjoy!

We ask that you not burn garbage, food, plastics, etc. in the fireplace. Please only burn briquettes, wood or smokeless coal; all of which can be purchased at most petrol stations or grocery shops.

At night, please ensure the door a fully shut and that the fire has burnt down before you retire.

Parking

Temporary parking in front of the gate is fine, so long as you park closely to the wall and leave enough room for the farmers with their big tractors to pass.

For longer parking and overnight, please park on the driveway beside the cottage with the blue door. Please leave enough room for the residents of the Blue Cottage to access the gate as they park there car behind their cottage.

Please proceed with caution when pulling out of the driveway, as oncoming traffic cannot see you easily.

When re-entering the Cottage from the driveway, kindly respect the privacy of the residents of the Blue Cottage and do not cut across their front garden.

Garbage

The Irish government has initiated a major campaign to control waste and maintain a healthy environment. Consequently, the disposal of garbage is very costly (EUR 5 per bag of garbage). So please do try to minimize the waste you create.



There are two bins at the cottage; a black one for general waste and a blue one for recycling. Please do follow the rules on recycling as there are penalties if we send non-recyclables to the waste company.

Emergency Phone Numbers

In Ireland, the Emergency Services can be contacted on **999** (or the EU wide number 112 also works). This will connect you to the Emergency Services Operator and is, as the name suggests, for emergencies only.



There is also an Irish Tourist Assistance Service on +353 1 661 0562 (or 1890 365 700) who speak a variety of languages and can give guidance in non-emergency situations.

The Police Station in Ennistymon can be contacted on +353 65 707 2180.

Hints and Tips

Here are a few of the "hints and tips" we have learnt over the years. If you spot one we should include, please let us know.

Driving in Ireland

The roads in Ireland are generally pretty decent; with big investments in the last 10 years thanks to the EU. We drive on the left.

From Dublin Airport and Shannon Airport to the Cottage it is dual carriageway all the way until the last 35km; when you go on to local roads. Most visitors think the roads are quiet, even in the height of the Summer season. Driving standards are generally high and people obey the speed limits and traffic laws.

Once you are in the countryside the roads get narrower and driving speeds slow down. It's a rural area, so that may mean traffic can stop whilst cattle are moved between fields or you are driving at 20km behind a tractor. So take it easy, allow a bit more time to get to places and enjoy the scenery.

Currency and Cash

The Irish currency is the Euro. Whilst credit cards are widely accepted, many transactions are still cash based. There is no cash dispenser in Doolin (the closest is in Lahinch or Ennistymon). So it is worth ensuring you have enough cash when you are passing through these towns.

Personal Safety

Ireland is blessed with being a safe and secure place to visit. There is relatively little crime. If visitors experience crime, it is most likely petty theft from bags and cars. So please do take common-sense precautions like keeping valuables out of sight, not leaving bags unattended and locking cars when you leave them. In the unlikely event you need to report a crime to the Police (known as *An Garda Siochana*) there is a station in Ennistymon (+353 65 707 2180).

Local Petrol Station and Store

There is a petrol station and small grocery store, the Mac's Service Station (known locally as "Desies") at the crossroads between the R479 and R498 i.e. the Cliffs Road and the main road down to Doolin village.

Grocery Shopping

The best place for food shopping (other local mini-marts in Lahinch and Lisdoonvarna) is the Supervalu Supermarket (also known as Fitzpatrick's) in Ennistymon. Where possible, we suggest visitors drop in on their way through from the airport (or the South and East in general). It is on the right-hand-side as you leave Ennistymon heading towards Doolin. It's a large, modern, supermarket with a good range at reasonable prices.

Shop Hours and Sunday Trading

Most shops are open 9-5 (with some closing for lunch). Supermarkets and grocery stores are normally open longer hours, as are petrol stations. Sunday trading hours are more limited, with most

shops not opening and others having more restricted hours or rules (for example alcohol cannot be sold on Sundays before 12.30pm).

Online Grocery Delivery

Some visitors have arranged deliveries from Tesco.ie; which is the online arm of a large supermarket chain with a store in Ennis. We haven't tried it ourselves, but those that have say it works fine.

Mobile Calls and Data

Despite attempts to make mobile phone roaming charges less expensive, it can still be a shocking experience when you get home and see what you have been charged for calls and (especially) data whilst abroad.

With this in mind, many visitors buy a local SIM card for use in Ireland. All of the local providers offer call and data packages on a "pay as you go" basis. SIM cards can be bought in the Airports or towns.

Places to Eat

There are dozens and dozens of places to eat and drink in the local area. The last few years has seen a major focus on "Culinary Ireland" and you should find the choice and quality is first class.

So rather than list lots of places, we have noted below the ones we would say are the "must dos" if you want to taste the best of what's on offer.

Of course chefs change and every restaurant can have an off-day. So don't take our recommendations as a cast iron guarantee and do let us know about your own experiences and special finds.

Even in the peak season some restaurants are closed mid-week; so do check before you set off.

- **Vaughan's Anchor Inn** Is in Liscannor and is great for sea food. Tel: +353 65 708 1548.
- **Wild Honey Inn** A "gastro-pub" outside of Lisdoonvarna. Tel: +353 65 707 4300.
- **Ballinanlacken Castle** Good food in great setting. Between Doolin and Lisdoonvarna. Tel: +353 86 361 3719.
- **Gregans Castle** Great food in a great setting outside of Ballyvaughan. We had our wedding here. Tel: +353 65 707 7005.
- **Cullinans** A "surf and turf" focused restaurant in Doolin village. Tel: +353 65 707 4183.
- **Gus O'Connors** Hearty food on Fisher Street. One of the three "music pubs" in Doolin. Tel: +353 65 707 4168.
- **Stonecutters Kitchen** Great homemade cakes as well as meals. On the Cliff Road. Tel: +353 65 707 5962.
- **Fitz's Pub & Eatery at Doolin Hotel** Upmarket "Pub grub" on the way into Doolin village. Tel: +353 65 707 4111

Things To Do

Doolin is a wonderful place, with lots to do. Here is a list of "the things we like to do". It's in no particular order and it's not exhaustive. You can Google for more information.

Aillwee Caves

Very impressive caves. There are also sheep dog demonstrations, too.

Arran Islands

Part of the "Gaeltacht", where Gaelic is spoken as the first language. A short ferry ride from Doolin.

Burren Centre

In Kilfenora village there is an interpretation centre for The Burren. A good place to start to understand The Burren and to get a cup of tea.

Burren Perfumery

A delightful excursion that is also very interesting. Has a charming coffee shop.

Burren Walking Tour

Hardy walking. You will learn a lot about the history and use of the Burren... but do go prepared for a hike.

Cliffs Guided Tour

The Cliff Walk starts in Doolin and is well worth taking. Pat Sweeney will keep you entertained and informed; and the Cliff Walk he has created is fabulous.

The Cliffs of Moher

You can't come to Doolin without seeing the cliffs. Either from the visitors' centre or from a sea cruise.

Coast Road Drive

If you do nothing else, do this. Truly breathtaking on a global scale.

Doolin Cave

The second biggest stalactite in the World. Need we say more. Good place for a cup of tea, too.

Doolin Pitch & Putt

Don't knock it. A challenging course with fantastic views and all for tuppence.

Father Ted's House

The parochial house used for the Father Ted series. Offers teas (ah, go on, you will. You will).

Galway

Interesting city for the Spanish influences stemming from the wrecking of an Armada ship taking the long route home. Has a top university, where only the hardest working students get it.

Lahinch

Surfer-dude-town plus fish and chips, Sea World centre and famous links golf course. Great beach walk.

Liscannor Rock Shop

Val's favourite shop (yes, really). Interesting rocks, stones and jewellery. Good place for a cup of tea.

North Clare Cycle Routes

A well signposted network of cycling routes that keep you off the main roads.

Spanish Point and Beyond

Past Lahinch, great coastal drive. Softer landscape than The Burren drive.

The Burren

This is an area of outstanding natural beauty and home to many stone-age and beyond artefacts; the Poulnabrone Dolmen is the most famous.

The Doolin Pubs

Doolin is famous for its pubs. Most offer nightly traditional Irish music entertainment. In Doolin any of the three pubs will give you all the "craic" you need.

Village of Kilfenora

Not just worth visiting for The Burren Centre, but an interesting village with monastic ruins. The so called "City of Crosses".