

WELCOME TO BALLINTOY

We do hope you had a safe and pleasant journey and will have an enjoyable stay here at Ballintoy.



We have tried to ensure that you have a comfortable stay and the information given in this guide should answer many questions you may have.

PLEASE KEEP THIS GUIDE IF YOU WANT

CONTACTS

Cottage : 48 Main Street
Ballintoy
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Northern Ireland
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Owners : Trevor & Hilary Ferguson
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Plumber, Electrician & Car Mechanic

In the event of an emergency please don't hesitate to contact the plumber or electrician as required their names and phone numbers are ...

Plumber

Noel Henderson

Tel 07960 527 023

Both are very helpful and know us and the house well.

Electrician

Chris McAfee

07731 527 946

A **car mechanic** who has been recommended to us is located in the Bushmills Car Park and their Telephone Number is 20 732 101.

Helpful Neighbours

Geoffrey & Lorraine, Howard & Alice and Sammy are all residents in Larrybane Park and have proved themselves to be very good neighbours over the years.

GUIDE TO THE COTTAGE

Departure Time

Departure time is 11.00am. Please try and keep to this time as it allows us to prepare for the next guests. If there are no following Guests then no great panic. Just check with us !

On Leaving

We do try and call with you on your leaving day at a time which suits you, but this is not always possible.

If we can't make it please do make sure everything is switched off (including power to showers, cooker, central heating and all electrical devices).

Then just lock up, including the summer house, and just pop the keys into the post box at the side door.

Simple as that.

Bed Linen

Bed linen and towels are changed each Saturday.

Heating

There is full oil fired central heating, the time control is situated in the Utility Room and the temperature control thermostat is in the front Lounge.

There is also a multi-fuel fire in the front Lounge (Logs, Peat or Peat Briquettes, NOT COAL). We use Peat Briquettes as our fuel and we will provide a basket of these for your use. Can you please replace if used, they can be obtained from most supermarkets and garages. (currently about £3-50 a pallette). To start the fire we use paper and sticks, or

firelighters. Please empty the ashes **when cold** into the **grey** dustbin, and the glass can be cleaned with a damp sheet of newspaper.

Water Heating

Again the time controller is in the Utility room . If necessary there is an electric immersion water heater switch which is located in the kitchen. Please use sparingly if required and switched off a s a p.

Telephone

The use of mobile phones is virtually NIL in Ballintoy, some mobiles do sometimes work depending on the network, and the weather (honestly). But to use a mobile you will have to walk along the main road some distance. I found mine worked at the junction with the Harbour Road(about 100 Metres to the west).

There is a landline phone in the house which you can of course use in an emergency. If you use for anything more expensive than normal occassional domestic calls please do check the cost and reimburse us.

Alarm System

There is an alarm system fitted. However we are not in the habit of using it as if it goes off (usually because of a power cut or a bug getting into a detector) when we are not there, it can cause great annoyance to our neighbours. Also very little crime (if any at all) around Ballintoy. So please don't worry about it, and if you do have any problems, just give us a phone call.

Refuse Collection

We have three bins **Grey**, **Brown** and **Blue** . The collection times and days are still abit of a mystery to us, so the easiest way to put the bin out on the right day is to watch the neighbours. If you miss the day don't worry we can look after it.

Also our close-by neighbour Sammy is very helpful and often puts the bins out for us.

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Walks

This is the real attraction with walks along some beautiful countryside. **See the sketch map attached**, which we have prepared to show just the closest walks. Yes literally just out the door !

Larrybane and Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge

For more than 300 years a rope bridge has provided the only form of access to Carrick-a-rede Island for local fishermen. Although still used by the fishermen, the bridge is now much more heavily used by the many thousands of visitors who come to the site each year. Suspended over a 30m chasm, the bridge sways and wobbles underfoot and crossing it requires a strong nerve and a head for heights. You may see a queue of people paying to go down to the rope bridge but you only have to pay to actually cross the



bridge ! **If you don't want to cross the rope bridge, but you just want to see it, then you don't need to queue for a ticket, just walk on down the path.** (The locals all know this but visitors are taken in a bit).

The surrounding area is known as Larrybane, meaning ancient white site, referring to the great limestone cliffs near the bridge. Archaeological evidence suggests the site was inhabited by Neolithic man, and remains have also been found of an ancient promontory fort dating from around 800 AD.



A quarry was in operation at Lorrybane until the early 1970s, mining the limestone for chalk. The area provides some of the most spectacular views along this part of the coast - of Rathlin Island to the north and the Scottish coast to the east. Lorrybane also marks the beginning of the Causeway Coast Path, which stretches 12 miles west to the Giant's Causeway.

The nearby Coastal path

There is a great walk along a coastal path which runs from the Carrick a Rede Bridge car park right to the little white church, and from there along the harbour road back to the village and the cottage. This is a lovely walk which we often take, and our dog can run free along the fenced track.



You can also continue the walk from the Ballintoy Harbour along the coast to the West and go the whole way to Whitepark Bay. This is a beautiful trip and not to be missed.

White Park Bay

The spectacular sandy beach forms a white arc between two headlands on the North Antrim Coast. Its secluded location means that even on a busy day there is plenty of room for quiet relaxation. The beach is backed by ancient dunes that provide a range of rich habitats for bird and animal life.



White Park Bay was donated to The National Trust by the Youth Hostel Association of Northern Ireland in 1938 and is among the most painted and photographed scenes in Northern Ireland.

Giant's Causeway

The Giant's Causeway is Northern Ireland's top tourist attraction, and only World Heritage Site. A dramatic coastal landscape steeped in local mythology, the Causeway draws up to half a million visitors a year from around the world.

The Causeway consists of around 40,000 polygonal basalt columns, jutting out into the sea amid a spectacular coastal landscape of cliffs, headlands and crashing waves.

The Causeway Coaster bus service runs from the visitor centre to the Grand Causeway throughout the year. The route, though steep, can also be walked.



Again there is no actual charge to visit the Giants Causeway, but there is a charge to park a car in their car parks. So many people park their carts (for free) on the surrounding roads which can cause traffic problems at busy times of the year !

Bendhu House

On the walk down to the Ballintoy Harbour you will see a really unusual house with an interesting history. It is nothing if not very unique.

There is a copy of a book (Kept in the front lounge) , recently published, which gives its interesting story.



Ballintoy Harbour

Well worth a nice walk down to the harbour and a place it's difficult to take a bad photograph off. It has an old lime burning structure and a cafe. Great place when the wind blows hard during a high tide. The waves breaking over the rocks, can be quite a sight !



Dunluce Castle

This late-medieval and 17th century castle is dramatically located on a headland that drops straight into the sea. While there is evidence that parts of the castle date back to the 14th century, the first record of it is from 1513 when it belonged to the



MacQuillans, and later again, the MacDonnells. The castle is open all year round and guided tours are available if booked in advance. When closed you can still walk down a long series of steps, past the wishing well and the mermaid's cave, to the stone arch with views to the Skerries and Inishowen, Donegal. The ruins of St. Cuthbert's lies a short walk away from the castle grounds

Dunseverick Castle

Dunseverick Castle and the peninsula on which it stands were given to the National Trust in 1962 by local farmer Jack McCurdy.

The castle was occupied until its capture and destruction by Cromwellian troops in the 1650s, and today only the ruins of the gatelodge remain. A small residential tower survived until 1978 when it eventually



surrendered to the sea below. A small picnic area and car park overlooking the ruins are hidden just behind nearby houses. The Causeway Cliff Path also runs past on its way to Dunseverick Harbour to the east and to the Giant's Causeway to the west.

Fishing

Sea fishing can be organised on boats out of Ballycastle, or simply from the Harbour or rocks at Ballintoy and elsewhere. There are some rods and fishing gear in the Summer House which you are free to use if desired, **at your own risk**. So please be careful and from our experience don't expect much !

Golf

There are many local golf courses. The closest are **Bushfoot** a good 9 hole course between Bushmills and Portbalintrae and a full links course at **Ballycastle**, both offer pay & play. There is also the **Royal Portrush Golf Club** which is home to one of the best and most challenging links golf courses in the world. There is a small set of (little used) clubs in the Summerhouse which you may use if required.

Boat Trips

Again Ballycastle is the place for boat trips. The most popular is the ferry across to Rathlin Island. Two types of ferry fast and slow (45 mins). Worth a visit particularly if you are interested in sea birds, the RSPB are active at the West end lighthouse.



Churches



Ballintoy Parish Church

The church as it now stands is a replacement for an older structure and was completed in the year 1813. Repairs needed to be made to the roof following considerable damage caused by

a hurricane in December 1894. It is believed that the steeple, which was badly damaged in this storm, was not replaced on the church tower. Ballintoy has a sundial affixed to the exterior wall on the west corner.

Apparently, it has also been used to record tidal movements and is dated 1817.

It appears there are two dials, one a vertical sundial. but the other isn't a sundial and looks more like a device for telling the tides. But how can you tell the tides using a sundial, or maybe it is not a sundial but a moon dial. Perhaps a full moon would be strong enough to cast a shadow. the inscribed lettering is too worn away to be clear.



Finally the device in the middle which causes the shadow, (known in



sundial construction as the Gnomon), is a peculiar wedge shape. This casts an area of shadow unlike the thin line on the normal sundial on the other face.

The church is usually unlocked and inside is well worth a visit, as is the graveyard which has some very old gravestones.

Catholic Church

St. Mary's & St Joseph's Church.

Just along the Main Street, there is no information board but the following are believed to be correct (Taken off website)

Mass Times Vigil (Saturday Evening) Masses 6:30pm
Sunday Masses Masses on Holydays Vigil:7.00pm.
Weekday Masses Tues 9.30am

EATING OUT

There are two eating places in the village :

The Fullerton Arms



The Fullerton Arms Guest Inn is situated in the middle of Ballintoy village, about 2 minutes walk from the Cottage. Pool Table, Darts and good food at reasonable prices and occasionally live music.

So best to visit the Fullerton and indeed the Carrick-a-rede across the road to see when the live entertainment

takes place ! The Fullerton also do carry outs, and this Menu is on our pin board in the Utility room.

This is the one we probably use most and never been disappointed.

The Carrick a Rede

Just across the road from the Fullerton and well worth a visit. Much smaller Pub (with separate large function rooms) which serves good food, again at reasonable prices. We have recently heard that they have lost or changed their chef so no current information available !



Other local eating places :

The Nook

A popular bar/restaurant in an historic listed building, dating from 1850's, built as the original school house; this has all the original Victorian features. Found right at the entrance to the Giant's Causeway. Good food, and interesting inside, watch out for the 'sloping' tables.

They often have special offers.

48 Causeway Road, BT57 8SU, Bushmills,



The Smugglers Inn

The Smugglers Inn is a traditional Inn near the Giants Causeway. Hard to miss on the road from Ballintoy to about one mile from the town of Bushmills. We haven't eaten here for a long time but usually looks quite busy.



The Bushmills Inn

The Bushmills Inn Hotel lies in the village of Bushmill, This hotel and restaurant have been restored to its origins as an old coaching inn and mill house The food is good but expensive ! It has a car park round the back and is a useful place to go if you want to connect your laptop computer to the internet. You have to be a guest / customer to qualify, but a coffee and scone or guinness and bun will usually do, just ask at reception, normally helpful.



Bayview Hotel, Port Ballintrae

Just been modernised. Good but pricy food.
Great view of harbour and the bay, nice walk to Harbour and a great beach where the Bush Riiver discharges into the sea.
2 Bayhead Road, Portballintrae, Bushmills BT57 8RZ



SHOPPING

Shops in Ballintoy



The Village Shop

Just a stroll down Main Street, but they are only open seasonly and are worth a visit. A lot of charm, but don't count on doing a full shop here !
Ice cream and dulce usually available, dulce is local edible seaweed, a unique taste !

To do a real shop the closest are Ballycastle or Bushmills where there are Supermarkets, Ballycastle has the greatest choice, but Bushmills the easiest wth a car park behind their smallish supermarket.

Post Box

The nearest Post Box is just outside the Wee Shop. Unmissable.



The Wee Shop

ATM / Cash Machines

The two pubs in Ballintoy will accept credit or debit cards for payments and may provide cashback (ie cash charged to your credit or debit card).

The nearest ATMs are available in the diamond in Bushmills and the Main Street in Ballycastle.

And Finally

If you find that any of the information provided is incorrect or out of date please advise us on your departure. Also do let us know if you have any further recommendations.