National Trust
North Coast Attractions

Simply breathtaking...

With long sandy beaches, rugged cliff top scenery and unspoilt countryside, Northern Ireland’s North Coast is often described as one of the most beautiful coastlines in the world. The Giant’s Causeway, UNESCO World Heritage Site, Carrick-a-Rede rope bridge, Downhill Demesne and Hezlett House are amongst the many attractions of this stunning area of outstanding natural beauty.

To book your group visit contact the North Coast booking office T: +44 (0) 28 2073 3419
See booking information on page 12
Giant’s Causeway

44 Causeway Road, Bushmills, County Antrim BT57 8SU
T: +44 (0) 28 2073 3419
E: northcoastbookings@nationaltrust.org.uk
W: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/giants-causeway

Northern Ireland’s iconic UNESCO World Heritage Site and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is home to a wealth of local history and legend.

- Marvel at the 40,000 basalt stone columns left by volcanic eruptions over 60 million years ago.
- State-of-the-art interpretation within the Visitor Centre unlocks the mystery and stories of the landscape, and offers a unique glimpse into this amazing place.
- See local giant Finn McCool on the Big Screen and search for distinctive rock formations fancifully named the Camel, Wishing Chair, Granny and the Organ.
- Explore the upgraded walking trails and enjoy spectacular coastal scenery accompanied by an outdoor audio-guide available in a range of languages – Dutch, English, French, German, Japanese, Italian, Mandarin, Portuguese, Polish, Russian and Spanish.
- Join an hourly guided tour.
- See some of Europe’s finest cliff scenery, with fantastic bird watching.

Special Interest Tours

A Step Back in Time
Wonder at the grandeur of Northern Ireland’s only World Heritage Site, the beautiful and mysterious Giant’s Causeway. Hear stories of this incredible natural phenomenon on a personalised tour, including the story of the Earth’s evolution 60 million years ago and legend of Finn McCool.

Note: large groups will be split.

Tour cost £2.50 per person additional charge
Duration 1 hour

Coaches: Parking for seven coaches, available at Park and Ride in Bushmills village, 2 miles away.

Visit: Average duration is 2 hours 30 minutes. Fast track admission for pre-booked groups.

Catering: Self-service café at Visitor Centre, 90 covers plus additional 40 seats outside, serving light lunches and snacks, not possible to book. Restaurant and bar facilities available in Causeway Hotel.

To book your group visit contact the North Coast booking office T: +44 (0) 28 2073 3419
See booking information on page 12
Carrick-a-Rede

119a Whitepark Road, Ballintoy,
County Antrim BT54 6LS
T: +44 (0) 28 2073 3419
E: northcoastbookings@nationaltrust.org.uk
W: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/carrick-a-rede

Dare you cross the rope bridge to Carrick-a-Rede Island?

- This scary bridge crosses the ocean over a 30-metre deep and 20-metre wide chasm.
- The bridge was traditionally erected by salmon fishermen and has been here for well over 250 years.
- Beyond the bridge you will discover unrivalled coastal scenery, beautiful views across the seas of Moyle to Rathlin Island and beyond, and spectacular bird-watching opportunities.
- Carrick-a-Rede is a Site of Special Scientific Interest with unique geology, flora and fauna.
- Viewing platform suitable for visitors with disability.
- There are also two quarries – black and white.
- Come and find out more...
- Larrybane Quarry at Carrick-a-rede was used as a film location for ‘Game of Thrones’, the well known American fantasy television series.

Note: Suitable outdoor clothing/footwear is recommended. During height of season, timed tickets may be in operation and visitor numbers may be restricted to access and cross the rope bridge.

Special Interest Tours

Carrick Island and Quarry Adventure
This tour gives an insight into the area’s industrial heritage and traditional salmon fishing. Spectacular coastal views lead to the rope bridge which fishermen built across the 30-metre deep chasm to the island. The reward is an unforgettable insight into the wildlife, geology and history of this incredible place.

Tour cost £7.70 per person  Child: £3.90
Duration 1 hour 30 minutes

Admission and opening times

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<td>1 Jan - 31 Jan</td>
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<td>1 Feb - 26 Feb</td>
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<td>27 Feb - 25 June</td>
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<td>26 June - 3 Sep</td>
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Last entry to rope bridge 45 minutes before closing. Car park and North Antrim Coastal Path open all year. Bridge open weather permitting. Closed 24, 25 and 26 December.

To book your group visit contact the North Coast booking office T: +44 (0) 28 2073 3419
See booking information on page 12

Coaches: Coach parking, 250 yards from tea-room. All coaches are required to park in the lower section of the main car park.

Visit: Average duration is 1 hour 30 minutes. Large groups can be accommodated.

Catering: Tea-room, self-service, 40 covers, provides a range of light refreshments, such as freshly made scones and homemade soup. The tea-room has excellent views across to Rathlin Island.

Shopping: Shop offering a selective range of Carrick-a-Rede branded merchandise and hand crafted locally sourced souvenirs.
**Downhill Demesne and Hezlett House**

**Mussenden Road, Castlerock, County Londonderry BT51 4RP**
T: +44 (0) 28 7084 8728
E: downhilldemesne@nationaltrust.org.uk
W: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/downhill-demesne-and-hezlett-house

Dramatic clifftop views, ruins and a temple, a quaint thatched cottage and colourful gardens give avid explorers everything they need for an inspiring day out.

- The striking 18th-century mansion of the eccentric Earl Bishop now lies in ruin, while Mussenden Temple sits perched on a cliff edge.
- You can learn about the reality of 17th-century life in Hezlett House, one of Northern Ireland’s oldest surviving buildings.
- Enjoy a stroll around the inspiring gardens
- Hezlett House is also home to the Downhill Marbles Collection.

**Note:** suitable footwear advisable. A moderate level of fitness is required to walk from drop-off point at Bishop’s Gate to Mussenden Temple. Garden best: April–June.

**Special Interest Tours**

**The Bishop’s Tour**
With fabulous clifftop walks and views over Ireland’s wild north coastal headland, the Downhill Demesne, once home to its flamboyant creator Earl Bishop Hervey, provides a dramatic setting for this tour. Discover history as you walk through the gardens at Bishop’s Gate, towards the stunning Mussenden Temple.

| Tour cost | £7.00 per person |
| Duration | 1 hour 30 minutes |

**Admission and opening times**

**Group:** adult £4.25; outside normal hours £7.00
**Minimum group size:** 15

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<tr>
<td>Downhill Demesne grounds</td>
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<td>Downhill Facilities</td>
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<td>16 Sept - 29 Oct</td>
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<td>Hezlett House and facilities</td>
<td>17 March - 9 April</td>
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<td>10 April - 23 April</td>
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<td>24 April - 18 June</td>
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<td>19 June - 10 Sept</td>
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| Last admission | 30 minutes before closing. Open Bank Holiday Mondays and all other public holidays in Northern Ireland. Hezlett House and facilities closed 24, 25 and 26 December.

**Coaches:** Parking available for coaches advised to use nearest drop off point at Bishop’s Gate entrance, 400 yards from Lion’s Gate car park or Hezlett House.

**Visit:** Average duration is 1 hour 30 minutes. Tours can be tailored to suit your group’s specific interests by special request.

**Catering:** Tea and coffee available at Hezlett House.

**To book your group visit contact**
Downhill Demesne T: +44 (0) 28 7084 8728

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**Hezlett House and facilities closed 24, 25 and 26 December.**

**Opening times**

- **Downhill Demesne grounds:** Open all year, Dawn to dusk
- **Downhill Facilities:**
  - 17 March - 10 Sept: 10-5
  - 16 Sept - 29 Oct: 10-5
- **Hezlett House and facilities:**
  - 17 March - 9 April: 10-5
  - 10 April - 23 April: 10-5
  - 24 April - 18 June: 10-5
  - 19 June - 10 Sept: 10-5

**Visit:** Average duration is 1 hour 30 minutes. Tours can be tailored to suit your group’s specific interests by special request.

**Catering:** Tea and coffee available at Hezlett House.

**To book your group visit contact**
Downhill Demesne T: +44 (0) 28 7084 8728
Portstewart Strand

Contact Details
Portstewart Strand
118 Strand Road, Portstewart, BT55 7PG
E: portstewart@nationaltrust.org.uk

The magnificent two-mile Strand of glistening golden sand is one of Northern Ireland’s finest beaches for all ages. It is the perfect spot to spend lazy summer days, fun family picnics and take long walks into the sand dunes that are a haven for wild flowers and butterflies.

White Park Bay

Contact Details
White Park Bay, Whitepark
Road, Ballintoy, BT66 8SU
E: northcoast@nationaltrust.org.uk

This 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, animal and plant life.

Rathlin Island

Contact Details
Cushendun, County Antrim
E: northcoast@nationaltrust.org.uk

Nestled at the mouth of the River Dun (The Brown River) at the foot of Glendun, Cushendun is a charming, historic village with lots of character and folklore. The surrounding hills are a patchwork of hill farms, small fields, hedgerows and traditional stone walls.

Rathlin is a peaceful and beautiful island with a distinctive landscape and way of life. The land at Ballyconagan is a mosaic of heath, grasslands, mires and ponds.

Causeway Hotel

Contact Details
Giant’s Causeway Hotel,
40 Causeway Road, Bushmills
T: +44 (0) 28 2073 1210
+44 (0) 28 2073 1226
E: causewayhotel.reception@nationaltrust.org.uk
W: www.thecausewayhotel.com

With comfort and charm, the historic Causeway hotel enjoys an idyllic location at the entrance to the Giant’s Causeway UNESCO World Heritage Site.

• Enjoy stunning scenery and easy access to some of Northern Ireland’s top attractions including Carrick-a-Rede rope bridge, Old Bushmills Distillery and Dunluce Castle.
• Ideal for groups and individuals for a short stay, delightful dining experience or simply relaxing after a day’s sightseeing
• For a more private experience with stunning views across the bay to the Atlantic Ocean, the recently refurbished Function Room offers a unique venue for your private function, event or dining requirements.

28 stylish ensuite rooms, many with ocean views and private terrace

The hotel’s cosy bar and restaurant offer a range of tempting foods from light bites to more substantial local fayre.
Booking your group visit

Contact the North Coast Booking Office
Dedicated booking telephone line: +44 (0) 28 2073 3419
E: northcoastbookings@nationaltrust.org.uk

We look forward to welcoming group visits to the National Trust North Coast attractions. To ensure a world class service and visitor experience for your clients we advise of the following:

- The minimum recommended length of visit for the Giant’s Causeway is 2 hours 30 minutes, and 1 hour 30 minutes for Carrick-a-Rede rope bridge.
- To qualify for a discounted group rate the minimum group size is 15 pax.
- Payment by cash, credit card or pre-arranged tour operator voucher will be accepted.
- Free admission and complimentary refreshments will be offered to the driver and guide accompanying groups.
- Guides and group organisers may make a free preparatory visit for planning purposes. Such visits must be pre-booked by contacting the North Coast Booking Office.
- The north coast weather can suddenly change so come prepared. Wear suitable outdoor clothing and footwear that can handle the mild to the wild.

About the National Trust
The National Trust is an independent registered charity founded to protect beautiful and special places for ever, for everyone. As one of Europe’s leading conservation bodies, we care for and provide access to countryside and coastline of outstanding natural beauty.

By choosing to visit a National Trust place you will be helping protect Northern Ireland’s natural and cultural heritage for present and future generations to enjoy.

Registered charity number 205846
Photo credits: Arthur Ward | visulante.com