

Where is Clare Island?

Clare Island is situated at the entrance of Clew Bay in County Mayo. It is necessary to take a passenger ferry from Roonagh Pier in order to reach the Island. Cars are parked at Roonagh Pier for the duration of your visit.

Roonagh Pier is 14 miles west of Westport. If you are driving from Westport take the coast road to Louisburgh (10 miles), drive straight through Louisburgh and about a quarter of a mile after the village, take a right turn to Roonagh (the road is clearly signposted for Roonagh Pier and Clare Island.) It is a further 4 miles to the pier.

Is there a taxi service from Westport to Roonagh pier?

There are a number of taxi services from Westport to Roonagh. Contact Westport Tourist Office (098) 25711.

Where can I find the passenger ferry timetable?

During the summer months there are numerous ferry sailings from Roonagh Pier to Clare Island. The boat crossing takes about 20 minutes. There are two main ferry companies which provide this service. Return tickets can be purchased at the company kiosks at the Pier.

O Grady's Ferry Service: www.clareislandferry.com / 086 8515003

O Malley's Ferry Service: www.omalleyferries.com / 098 25045

Bard Summer School commences Wed 4th July at 3pm, boats depart Roonagh at 11am and 1.45pm.
Bard Summer School ends Sat 7th July at 12.30pm, boats depart Clare Island from 1pm.

Which airport should I fly to in order to reach Clare Island?

The nearest airport to Clare Island is Knock Airport, County Mayo. Alternatives are Galway Airport, Shannon Airport, Dublin Airport.

How can I find out about bus and rail travel within Ireland?

Visitors can view further information on domestic travel arrangements on the following sites:

Irish Rail Train Services: www.irishrail.ie

Irish Bus Route and Schedules: www.buseireann.ie

What type of clothes will I require?

Participants are advised to bring comfortable, warm clothes. Weather is very changeable on an island therefore while some days are warm and sunny, others may be wet and windy. There is also an opportunity for some sparkle but it is absolutely not a requirement.

Muscians

Musicians are encouraged to bring instruments.

Accommodation

Participants are required to reserve their own accommodation directly with Island B&Bs. Clareisland.ie and Bardmythologies.com provide a list of B&Bs and self-catering accommodation. Please inform your B&B of your date of arrival, date of departure and any special requirements you may have. Please also inform them if you wish to share your accommodation or reserve a single room.

Participants are advised to inform their guesthouse which boat they will take to Clare Island. Please ask your B&B to collect you from the boat to assist you with your luggage.

Groceries and Post Office

The general food store and post office on the Island is open daily (098) 26987.

Finance

Participants are required to pay their fee in full prior to commencement of the school. Please note that there is no bank or ATM machine on the island. Your B&B will accept cash or cheque as method of payment. 'Cashback' is available from the shop, Sailor's Bar and Community Centre Bar.

Medical Assistance

In case of emergency, a qualified doctor will be available throughout the week. Please inform a member of the Bard Team if you require medical advice or assistance. The Island's public health nurse can be contacted on 098 25407.

What will happen each day of the Summer School & Festival?

On the day of arrival we will enjoy a Welcome Supper in Granuaile House. The Summer School runs daily in the Bard Room and tea/coffee is provided daily. Participants are free to enjoy the Island during lunch and following the daily workshop. The Bard Room is located beside Go Explore Hostel/ Sailor's Bar.

What will happen each evening of the Summer School & Festival?

Entertainment will take place on the Island each evening. This may take the form of a Poetry Reading or an evening of music, song and dance as performed by the people of Clare Island. Events usually take place in the Bard Room, Sailor's Bar or Clare Island Community Centre. On the final evening all participants will gather for the Féasta, a traditional Celtic feast.

Schedule of Events 2018

Bard Summer School commences Wednesday 4th July at 3pm, boats depart Roonagh at 11am and 1.45pm.

Bard Summer School ends Saturday 7th July at 12.30pm, boats depart Clare Island from 1pm

Wednesday 4 th July	Registration	2.30pm -3pm	Bard Room
	Workshop	3pm-6pm	Bard Room
	Welcome Supper	8pm	Granuaile House
Thursday 5 th July	Workshop	10am-4.30pm	Bard Room
	Islander's Night	8.00pm	Sailor's Bar
Friday 6 th July	Workshop	10am-4.30pm	Bard Room
	Poetry Reading, Adam Wyeth	7.00pm	Bard Room
	Bard Féasta	8.00pm	Go Explore Hostel/ Sailor's Bar
Saturday 7 th July	Workshop	10am-12.30pm	Bard Room

What do I do when I arrive on Clare Island?

In advance of your arrival you will have arranged for your B&B or the local taxi service to collect you from the pier to bring you and your luggage to your accommodation. Once you have arrived and settled into your accommodation, we invite you to gather in the Bard Room, beside Go Explore Hostel/ Sailor's Bar. Participants can complete their registration and payment in advance 3pm.

What is included in my fee of 295?

Your fee includes the following:

- 3.5 Days Participation on the Bard Summer School (Tea & Coffee included)
- Two evening meals plus refreshments (Welcome Supper and Féasta)

Dining

Breakfast: Participants will dine in their accommodation for breakfast.
Lunch: Participants may wish to dine in their own self-catering accommodation, prepare their own packed lunch or avail of one of the local places to eat.
Evening Meals: Welcome Supper (Day of arrival)
Bard Féasta (Final Evening)
On other evenings participants have a choice of restaurants for evening meals.

What Is The Féasta?

On the final evening participants enjoy the Bard Féasta. This is an evening of feasting, poetry and music. It takes place in the dining room of Go Explore Hostel/ Sailor's Bar. According to the Celtic tradition those who attend often deliver a song, recite a poem, tell a story or just join in the general music with all those gathered.

Baby Sitting Service

Please ask your B&B or the Brad Team for recommendations about baby-sitting services on the Island.

Travelling Around the Island

Clare Island is a small island and the School and Festival take place in close proximity to most of the accommodation on the Island therefore walking is the most popular form of transport on the Island. O'Leary Bike Hire is located at the quay on Clare Island and has a large number of bicycles for hire. O'Leary Taxi Service is available on 098 25640/ 0862228478.

Island Tours

O'Leary Taxi Service is available for hire on 098 25640/ 0862228478. The service will take you on a tour of Clare Island or bring you to any of the places of interest you may wish to see.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

For further information on CPD please contact Bard directly.

Useful Websites

www.bardmythologies.com

www.clareisland.ie