

Guidelines for Visitors

Welcome to Tory. As well as being home to a close-knit community of native Irish speakers, renowned for its music and singing, story telling and painting, Tory is also famous as a wildlife refuge. It has been designated as a Special Area of Conservation and as a Special Protection Area, and provides one of the last strongholds for Ireland's only globally threatened bird – the Corncrake.

Tory is also home to many other vulnerable bird species such as Chough, Lapwing and Skylark, and in spring and autumn often provides a welcome landfall for migrating birds. Basking sharks, whales and dolphins can be seen offshore and seals regularly use the bays. "Dougie", a wild Bottle-nose Dolphin, has made Tory his home since 2006 and often escorts the ferry to and from the harbour.

In recent years, the number of breeding Corncrakes has declined and, with more visitors arriving every year, it is important that disturbance of the wildlife is kept to a minimum. Tory is a small island and it is easy for visitors to unwittingly disturb nesting birds, particularly when they make their nests on the ground. For example, most birds are very good at disguising their nests and it is easy to step on them by mistake. Many birds hold territories during the breeding season and it is important that they are not frightened off at this time. Approaching too close to a nest will cause the adult bird to fly up, leaving the eggs or chicks exposed to predators like Herring Gulls, which patrol the island looking for an easy meal.

Most of the land on Tory is privately owned and many of the meadows are managed for Corncrake conservation under agreements with BirdWatch Ireland. This involves providing long grass late into the year and limiting disturbance. Corncrakes are shy and like to stay hidden, so this allows them to successfully nest and rear their chicks. It also helps many other species of ground-nesting birds, such as Skylark, Meadow Pipit, Lapwing, Snipe and Redshank.

We hope visitors will be happy to follow these guidelines

- Keep your dog on a lead at all times
- Stay on the footpaths as much as possible. If you do leave them, please be careful where you put your feet
- Don't get too close to nesting birds. If your approach causes a bird to run away or to fly up, move back
- Stay well back from the cliff edges
- When bird-watching or taking photographs in the villages, please be discreet and respect the islanders' privacy
- Keep Tory tidy – please put any litter in the bins provided or, even better, take it home with you

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Where to see birds on Tory Island



Points of Interest

- 1 The Cross
- 2 Round Tower / bicycle lane
- 3 Tomb - Holy Chry
- 4 The Cull
- 5 The Second Cup
- 6 The Light House
- 7 DWEL HERS HAIR
- 8 HORN SIVY
- 9 St. Columba's Chapel
- 10 The Shop
- 11 Air for lary
- 12 The Torpedo (jerry)
- 13 Dán Brúic
- 14 The Walking Snow



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* Indicates ground nesting birds which are particularly sensitive to disturbance



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