

# Aran Islands, Connacht, Ireland

Perched on the edge of Galway Bay, Inis Mór is the largest of the three Aran Islands — a wind-sculpted limestone world of ancient forts, drystone walls, and an Irish language still very much alive. Most cruise ships tender into Kilronan Pier, where ponies, bikes, and minibuses wait to whisk you to one of Europe's most dramatic prehistoric sites.

- Tender port
- Typical call: 6–8 hrs
- Currency: Euro (EUR)
- Irish & English spoken
- Best May–September

## MY DAY IN PORT

|            |         |             |
|------------|---------|-------------|
| Ship/Date: | Arrive: | All aboard: |
| Excursion: | Notes:  |             |

## GETTING ASHORE

**Docking:** Tender to Kilronan Pier (Inis Mór); ships anchor in Kilronan Bay

**Walk to centre:** Tender lands at the pier — Kilronan village is steps away

**Best For:** Prehistoric forts, cycling, Atlantic landscapes, Celtic culture

**Don't Miss:** Dún Aonghasa — Bronze Age fort on a 100 m sea cliff

Getting around: Taxi ☒ Negotiated with driver · Rideshare ☐ not available

## TOP THINGS TO DO

- Dún Aonghasa — Cliff-Edge Prehistoric Fort** — The island's unmissable sight: a massive semicircular stone fort from around 1100 BC, balanced on the rim of a near-100-metre sea cliff with nothing...
- Cycle Inis Mór** — Hire a bike at Kilronan Pier and follow the island's main road westward through a patchwork of drystone walls.
- The Wormhole (Poll na bPéist)** — A perfectly rectangular tidal pool carved by nature into the black limestone near Gort na gCapall — a geological oddity that gained fame as a Red...
- Grey Seal Colony** — Near Kilmurvey Beach, a signposted viewing point on the road to Dún Aonghasa overlooks a resident colony of Atlantic grey seals.
- Pony-and-Trap Island Tour** — The most traditional way to see Inis Mór: a local driver narrates the island's history, folklore, and daily life from the seat of a horse-drawn cart...

## BEST WALKS

- Kilronan to Dún Aonghasa on Foot** 6 km each way | ~2 hrs one way | Moderate — Walk the main island road west through Kilmurvey village to the Dún Aonghasa visitor centre, then climb the flagstone path to the cliff-top fort.
- Lúb Dún Eochla Looped Walk** 10 km loop | ~3 hrs | Easy–moderate — A waymarked looped trail starting from Kilronan that climbs to Dún Eochla, a circular early medieval stone fort with 360° views across the island, before looping back to...

## WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

| CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS) |      |     |      | DAYLIGHT & MONEY                                                                                                           |  |
|-------------------------------|------|-----|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Mon                           | High | Low | Rain | Apr 6:39AM–8:38PM · Jun 5:11AM–10:06PM · Aug 6:19AM–9:05PM · Sep 7:13AM–7:53PM · Oct 8:05AM–6:42PM<br>Currency: Euro (EUR) |  |
| Apr                           | 51°  | 46° | 12d  |                                                                                                                            |  |
| Jun                           | 59°  | 55° | 15d  |                                                                                                                            |  |
| Aug                           | 61°  | 58° | 19d  |                                                                                                                            |  |
| Sep                           | 60°  | 57° | 16d  |                                                                                                                            |  |
| Oct                           | 57°  | 53° | 20d  |                                                                                                                            |  |

## KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Weather can cancel the call. The Aran Islands are fully tender-dependent and exposed to Atlantic swells. In rough conditions the ship may skip or shorten the port — check the morning briefing.
- Grab a bike as soon as you land. Bike-hire shops at Kilronan Pier sell out quickly when multiple ships or ferries arrive. E-bikes are available and worth the extra cost on the hillier western stretches.
- Bring euros in cash. There is one ATM in Kilronan village (at the Spar shop). Card acceptance is limited at smaller stalls and some tour operators.
- Irish (Gaeilge) is the first language here. Signs are bilingual; locals speak fluent English, but a few words of Irish are warmly appreciated.
- Budget your time carefully. Dún Aonghasa alone is a 3–4 hr round-trip on foot; leave at least 45 minutes before all-aboard to tender back. Missing tenders happens here.
- Layer up — Atlantic winds are real. Even in summer the cliff-tops and exposed roads are blustery. A waterproof layer is essential regardless of the forecast.

# Aran Islands, Connacht, Ireland — Port Map

[cruiseports.org](https://cruiseports.org)

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



- |                                      |                                                         |                                 |                                                            |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b> Teampall Bheanáin           | Ancient, tiny church, one of Ireland's smallest.        | <b>2</b> Áras Éanna Arts Centre | Island's main arts centre, gallery, and theatre.           |
| <b>3</b> Dún Aonghasa                | Dramatic prehistoric fort perched on a 100-meter cliff. | <b>4</b> Dún Eochla             | Well-preserved circular stone fort in the island's centre. |
| <b>5</b> Dún Dúchathair (Black Fort) | Dramatic cliffside fort with dark stone walls.          | <b>6</b> Kilmurvey Beach        | Beautiful sandy beach, perfect for swimming and relaxing.  |
| <b>P</b> Cruise port / terminal      |                                                         |                                 |                                                            |