

Rathlin Island, County Antrim, Northern Ireland

Six miles off the Antrim coast, this L-shaped island of 150 souls hosts tens of thousands of nesting seabirds and one of Ireland's most unusual lighthouses — a wild, genuine escape that rewards every expedition ship call.

Tender port (Church Bay anchor)

Typical call: 5–7 hrs

GBP — no ATM on island

English

Best Apr–Jul for puffins

🚤 MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____

Arrive: _____

All aboard: _____

Excursion: _____

Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender only — ships anchor in Church Bay; tenders land at the harbour pontoon in the village

Best For: Seabird watching, walking, cycling, wildlife, off-the-beaten-path scenery

Walk to centre: 0 min — village, pub, café & visitor centre are right at the pier

Don't Miss: RSPB West Light Seabird Centre (puffins + upside-down lighthouse) — book the Puffin Bus at the pier

Getting around: **Rideshare** ❌ not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- RSPB West Light Seabird Centre** — Northern Ireland's largest seabird colony clings to the cliffs at the island's western tip.
- Mill Bay Seal Spotting** — A flat 10–15 minute walk south from the harbour brings you to Mill Bay slipway, where harbour and grey seals haul out...
- Boathouse Visitor Centre & Marconi Heritage** — Right at the harbour, the Boathouse Museum tells the island's story
- Cycling the Island Loop** — Hire bikes at the harbour — electric bikes recommended given the hills — and explore Rathlin's narrow roads past...
- Robert the Bruce's Cave (Boat/Zodiac)** — According to legend, the Scottish king sheltered in a sea cave on Rathlin's rugged northeast cliffs (below the East... through artefacts, photos, and tales of over 40...

BEST WALKS

- Harbour Village Stroll** 0.5 miles • Easy • 20 min — From the tender pontoon, walk to the Boathouse Visitor Centre, find the Marconi Memorial, peek into St Thomas' Church (1800s, with a...
- Mill Bay Seal Walk** 1.2 miles • Easy • 30–40 min return — Head south along the flat coastal path from the harbour to Mill Bay slipway for near-certain seal sightings.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr	50°	42°	15d
Jun	59°	51°	16d
Aug	61°	53°	20d
Sep	59°	52°	16d
Oct	54°	48°	19d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

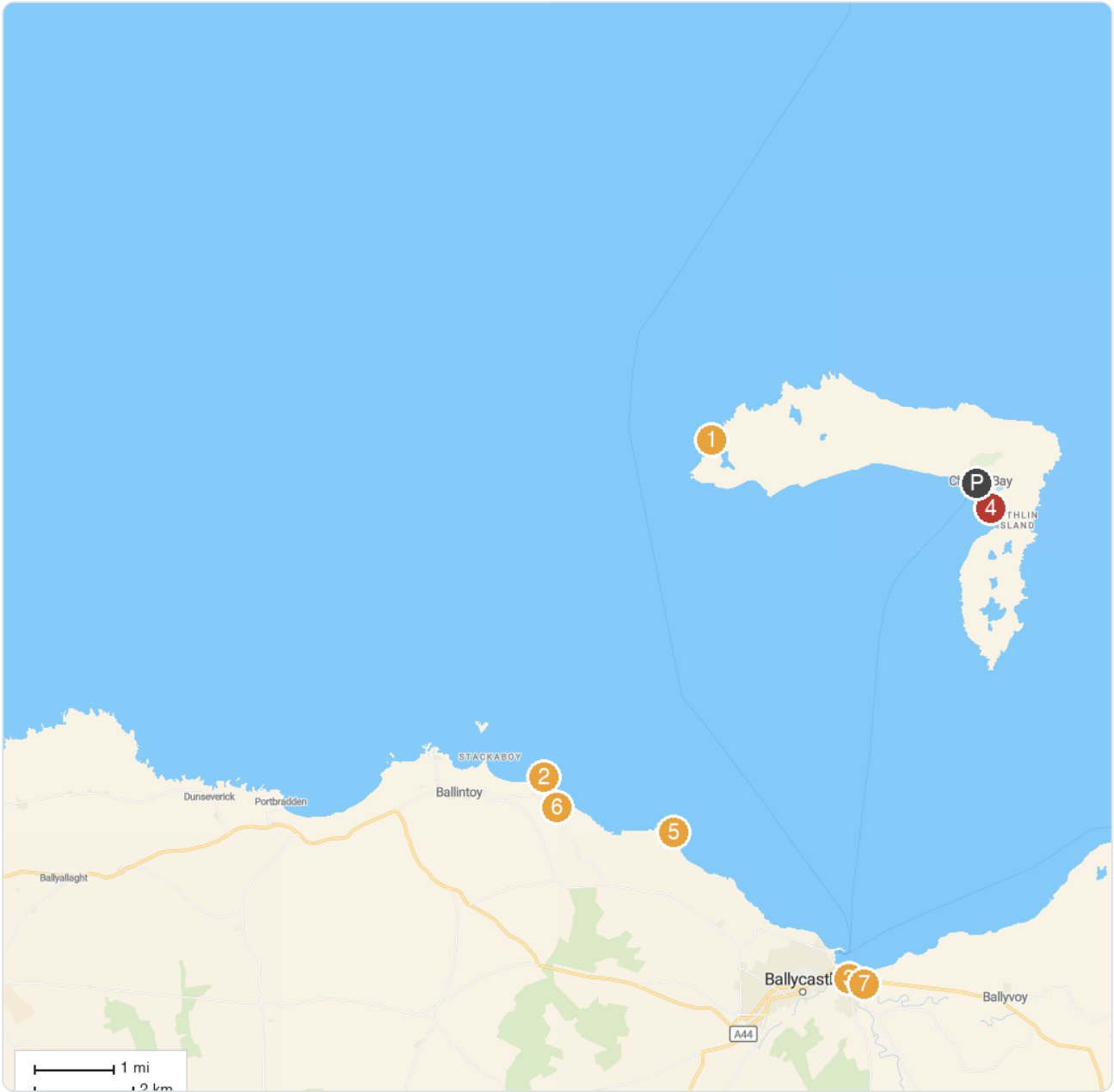
Apr 6:20AM–8:30PM · Jun 4:43AM–10:07PM · Aug 5:58AM–8:58PM · Sep 6:57AM–7:41PM · Oct 7:55AM–6:24PM

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Bring GBP cash. There is no ATM on Rathlin Island. The Puffin Bus, bike hire, and small craft stalls typically require cash. McCuaig's Bar and the Manor House accept cards.

Rathlin Island, County Antrim, Northern Ireland — Port Map cruiseports.org

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



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|--|---|--|--|
| 1 RSPB Rathlin West Light
Seabird Centre | Lighthouse and centre for viewing puffins and other seabirds. | 2 Carrick-a-Rede - National Trust | Famous rope bridge connecting mainland to a small island. |
| 3 Ballycastle Golf Club | Scenic 18-hole links golf course near Ballycastle town. | 4 Kelp House | Historic building showcasing Rathlin's kelp harvesting industry. |
| 5 Kinbane Castle | Dramatic ruins of a 16th-century castle on a headland. | 6 Portaneevy Car Park & Viewpoint | Coastal viewpoint offering panoramic views of Rathlin Island. |
| 7 Bonamargy Friary (State Care Monument) | Historic ruins of a 15th-century Franciscan friary. | P Cruise port / terminal | |