



Inis Bigil



Saol na n-oileáhnach An island way of life

Turas iascaireachta á eagrú i nDumha Acha ar Acaill, go mall sa 19ú haois. Spléachadh annamh ar mhodh maireachtála cosúil leis sin ar Inis Bigil. Le capaineadh ó Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann
Organising a fishing trip at Dooagh on Achill Island, late 19th century. A rare glimpse of a way of life similar to that on Inis Bigil.
Courtesy of National Library of Ireland

“inish BIG-ill”

Mhair saol traidisiúnta na hÉireann níos faide ar na hoileáin i nGaeltacht Mhaigh Eo a bhfuil an Ghaeilge á labhairt iontu.

Ag túis an 20ú haois, bhí breis is 200 duine ag cur fúthu anseo, iad ag iascaireacht, ag feirmeoireacht agus i mbun oibre mar oibrithe feirme in Albain i rith an tsamhraidh.

Ba ghnách leis na daoine imeachtaí siamsaíochta a eagrú dóibh féin nuair a bhíodh an t-oileán gearrtha amach ón mórrhír ar feadh míonna i ndiaidh a chéile ag caineál contúirteach Bhéal an Bhulláin. ‘Nuair a bhí mise ag fás aníos bhíodh daoine ag damhsa i ngach teach.’ Bíonn seisiún cheoil ar siúl sa tseanscoil. Ó na 1990í i leith, tá féile eagraithe ag an bpobal beag seo gach mí Lúnasa. Tugtar deis do dhaoine dul amach i ngeoltaí, agus freastal ar sheisiún amhránaíochta, cheoil agus damhsa.

Acmhainn roinnte

Is do lucht adhartha Phrotastúnaigh a tógaigh an séipéal ó thús, ach tharla ócайд stairiúil in 2003 nuair a cinneadh go mbeadh an séipéal ar fáil do bhaill Eaglais na hÉireann agus den Eaglais Chaitliceach Rómhánach.

The traditional Irish way of life has survived longer on the islands of the Mayo Gaeltacht where Irish is a living language.

In the early 20th century over 200 people lived here, making their living from fishing, farming and summer work as farm labourers in Scotland.

People once made their own entertainment when storms and the treacherous Béal an Bhulláin (Bulls Mouth) channel could cut off the island for months. ‘When I was growing up there was dancing in every house.’ Making music has since moved to the old school. Since the 1990s the tiny community has hosted a festival every August with yawl sailing, singing, music and dancing.

A shared resource

Built only for Protestant worshippers, the church made history in 2003 when it was rededicated for both the Church of Ireland and Roman Catholic faiths.



Talamh agus uisce – radharc ó aer ar Inis Bigil
Le caionhead ó Liam Lyons
Water and land – a bird's eye view of Inis Bigil
Courtesy of Liam Lyons



1 Léim ar an mbád agus téigh chomh fada le cainéal Bhéal an Bhulláin agus uaidh sin chomh fada le hAcaill.
Take a boat across the Béal an Bhulláin channel to Acaill (Achill Island).

2 Tabhair faoi shiúloid líube Ghob na Dumhcha agus tabhair cuairt ar an séipéal agus ar an trá.
Explore the Gob na Dumhcha loop walk past a church and a beach.

3 Téigh ar shiúlid i lúb Bhéal an Bhulláin chun breathnú ar radharcanna, bhláthanna agus thuath shuaimhneach. Stroll the Béal an Bhulláin loop for views, flowers and peaceful country.

