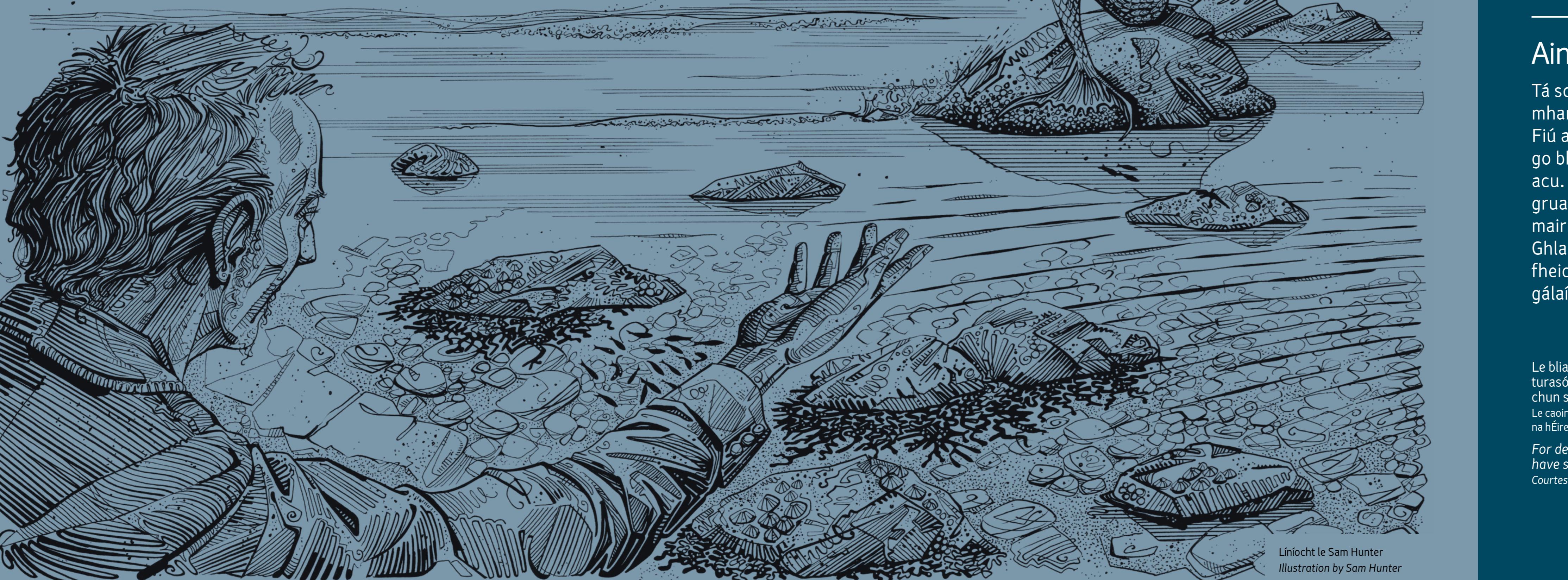




Sky Road

Ag féachaint i dtreo na farraige
Looking out to sea



Bóthar na Spéire

“bow-her na SPARE-eh”



Bunús an aimhíne

Fadó nuair a fiafraíodh turasóirí cá raibh an bóthar ard ag triall, is suas ‘i dtreo na spéire’ a d’fhéachadh muintir na háite. Bóthar na Spéire a thugtar air ó shin i leith.

Thug an t-údar William Makepeace Thackeray cuairt ar an gceantar sa bhliain 1842. Bhí an méid seo a leanas le rá aige: ‘The Bay and the Reek which sweeps down to the sea and a hundred islands in it, were dressed up in gold and purple and crimson, with the whole cloudy west in a flame.’

Ainmhithe na mara

Tá scéalta faoi na murúcha, nó an mhaighdean mhara, chomh sean leis na scéalta béaloidis. Fiú amháin sa 20ú haois, tá iascairí ann a deir go bhfuil murúcha feicthe i measc na n-oileán acu. Iad ina suí ar na carraigeacha agus a cuid gruaige glais á cíoradh acu, iad ag canadh agus mairnéalaigh á mealladh i dtreo a mbáis acu. Ghlac mairnéalaigh leis gurb ionann murúch a fheiceáil agus comhartha go raibh longbhá nó gálaí gaoithe i ndán.

Le blianta anuas, stopann turasóirí agus daoine na háite chun sult a bhaint as an radharc Le caoinhead ó Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann

For decades tourists and locals have stopped to admire the view
Courtesy of National Library of Ireland

The origin of the name

When early tourists asked where the high road led, local people pointed ‘up towards the sky’. It has been called the Sky Road ever since.

Author William Makepeace Thackeray visited the area in 1842: ‘The Bay and the Reek which sweeps down to the sea and a hundred islands in it, were dressed up in gold and purple and crimson, with the whole cloudy west in a flame.’

Creatures of the ocean

Stories of mermaids, known in Ireland as merrows, are as old as folklore. Even in the 20th century, fishermen claim to have seen them among the islands. Sitting combing their green hair on the rocks, they sang to lure sailors to their death. Seafarers regarded them as a sign of shipwreck or gales.



1 Téigh chomh fada le hInis Bó Finne ar an mbád ó Chuan an Chloiginn.
Take a boat to Inishbofin from Cleggan Harbour.

2 Téigh chomh fada le Trá lárphoirt áit a bhfuil corp laoch Lochlannach agus corp an aisteora Peter O’Toole curtha.
Travel to Eyrephort Beach where the remains of a Viking warrior and film actor Peter O’Toole rest.

3 Bain lán do shuíl as fothracha rómánsacha Chaisleán an Chlocháin a tógadh sa 19ú haois nuair a shroicéann tú ceann Bóthar na Spéire.
Admire the romantic ruins of 19th century Clifden Castle at the start of the Sky Road.

