

Bá na Scealg

“bawna sh-CAL-lug”

Oileáin Sceilge
Skellig Islands

Sceilg Mhichíl
Skellig Michael



1 Lean Conair an Mhanaigh ó dheas feadh na trá agus thar ceann de dhúnta Mhic Cárthaigh Mór chomh fada le fothracha na Prióireachta.

Follow the Monk's Trail south along the beach past one of McCarthy Mór's strongholds to the ruined Priory.

2 Samhlaigh gur oilithreach meánaoiseach thú le linn duit a bheith ag dul ó Bhaile an Sceilg chomh fada le Sceilg Mhichíl.

Imagine being a medieval pilgrim as you sail from Bhaile an Sceilg (Ballinskelligs) to Sceilg Mhichíl (Skellig Michael).

3 Faigh amach faoi na bealá a léiríonn ealaíontóirí idirnáisiúnta, comhaimseartha an tírdhreach seo in Ionad Ealaíon Chill Rialaig.

See how international, contemporary artists interpret the landscape at Cill Rialaig Arts Centre.

‘an áit sceilgeach’

An ‘charraig sceilgeach’ a thugtar ar bhaile Gaeltachta Bhaile an Sceilg, bunaithe ar Sceilg Mhichíl atá i bhfad amuigh san Atlantach.

‘an charraig is iontaí agus is dochloíte ar domhan’

Sin é an cur síos a rinne an drámadóir Éireannach, George Bernard Shaw, ar Sceilg Mhichíl. É sin ráite, lonnigh pobal de mhanaigh luath-Chríostaí ar na leaca arda, mhair siad i gclocháin choirceogacha, dúirt siad a gcuid paidreacha ina n-aireagail agus thug siad aire dá gceapa glasraí. Shnoigh siad breis is 600 céim sa charraig ionas go bhféadfaidís na leaca a bhaint amach óna mbáid.

De bhrí go raibh na stoirmeacha ag dul chun donais b’éigean do na manaigh Sceilg Mhichíl a fhágáil faoi dheireadh an 13ú haois agus lonnigh siad i bPrióireacht Bhaile an Sceilg. Tógadh an phríóireacht mórthimpeall ar mhainistir taobh leis an gcladach a thóg bráithre Agaistíneacha céad bliain roimhe sin. Sheol manaigh áirithe chomh fada le Sceilg Mhichíl i rith an tsamhraidh chun aire a thabhairt do na hoilithrigh a bhíodh ag triall ar an áit bheannaithe.

‘the place of the craggy rock’

The Gaeltacht village of Ballinskelligs is named the ‘craggy rock’ in Irish after Skellig Michael far out into the Atlantic.

‘the most fantastic and impossible rock in the world’

This is how Irish playwright George Bernard Shaw described Skellig Michael. Yet a community of early Christian monks settled on its high ledges, living in beehive huts, praying at their oratories and tending their vegetable plots. They carved over 600 steps in the rock to reach the ledges from their boats.

Increasingly stormy weather forced the monks to abandon Skellig Michael by the end of the 13th century and base themselves at Ballinskelligs Priory. It was built round a cloister near the shore by Augustinian friars a century before. Some monks sailed over to Skellig Michael in summer to look after the pilgrims who now flocked to the sacred place.



wildatlanticway.com