

# Bunratty Castle & Folk Park

Bunratty Folk Park is a living reconstruction of the homes and environment of Ireland over a century ago. Rural farmhouses, a village street complete with shops and Bunratty House with its formal regency gardens are recreated and furnished as they would have appeared at the time.

- 1 Loop Head House**  
The house of a fishing-farming family in West Clare. The thatch is roped down to protect it against the Atlantic gales.
- 2 Blacksmiths Forge**  
The blacksmith made tools for many other craftworkers and tradesmen. The hand operated bellows kept the fire blazing. He was one of the most important and respected members of the community.
- 3 Cashen Fisherman's House**  
A simple two-bedroomed home of a North Kerry salmon fisherman. Much of the timber would have been salvaged from the sea. The floor is of rammed clay.
- 4 Bunratty Castle** Information overleaf.
- 5 Mountain Farmhouse**  
A poor farmer's house of a type found on the borders of Limerick and Kerry. It has a loft for extra sleeping space.
- 6 Weaver's Shed**  
A wooden outbuilding for housing the loom of the weaver.
- 7 Shannon Farmhouse**  
This was the first farmhouse to be reconstructed in the Folk Park. It originally stood on the site of the main runway at Shannon Airport.
- 8 Bothan Scáir**  
One roomed dwelling of a poor landless labourer who worked for the local landlord. Many of these houses and their occupants were lost during the Great Irish Famine.
- 9 Golden Vale Farmhouse**  
The home of a farmer from the rich lands in the Golden Vale Counties of Limerick & Tipperary. It has stables/byres & a corn barn. Come in & meet the Bean an Tí. (Woman of the House)
- 10 The Tea Room**  
A byre in the Golden Vale farmyard houses a Tea Room & outside is a picnic area.
- 11 The School House**  
From Belvoir in East Clare. It would have accommodated up to eighty children.

- 12 The Village Street** The village houses & shops have been chosen from many different areas, to form a collection of typical 19th century urban Irish buildings.
  - A The Doctor's House**  
The parlour is used as both dispensary & surgery.
  - B Artisan House**  
Small thatched dwelling house which has been adapted as a potter's workshop.
  - C Brown's Pawnbroker**  
These shops were often an important part of the local economy.
  - D J.J. Corry's Pub**  
Typical village pub. The family kitchen would also be used by well known customers.
  - E Sean O'Farrell's Drapery**  
Irish linen, poplin & woollens were famous. The family rooms were upstairs.
  - F Foster's Printworks**  
Typical of a small town printer which produced pamphlets, handbills, notices & newspapers, setting all the type by hand.
  - G Terraced Houses**  
Built for workers in expanding towns & villages. These are now used to house small enterprises. In No.1. Bridie's traditional Irish handknits & woollens. No.2. O'Brien Studio which is a working 19th century photographic studio with an exhibition of photographs from towns & villages of 19th century Ireland from the famous Lawrence Collection.
  - H Cahill's Grocery**  
Increasingly, in this period, the grocer sold foodstuffs which had previously been home produced as well as imported goods.
  - I McInerney & Sons Hardware**  
Factory produced tools & utensils began to be available in the late 19th century, replacing items previously made by local craftsmen.
  - J Post Office**  
Adjoining the post office is the N.Quinn Drapery, linen & lace. The post office, an integral part of village life, was to be found in all parts of the country by the end of the 19th century.
  - 13 P MacNamara & Sons Bar/Hotel**  
As business began to grow about the turn of the 19th century, accommodation was needed for commercial travellers & others. The hotel bar is fully licensed & provides modern catering facilities.
  - 13A Traveller Wagons**  
The horse drawn wagon was the main type of transport used in the past by the Irish ethnic group known as Travellers.

- 14 Hazelbrook House**  
Built in 1898, this was home to the Hughes Brothers who started a dairy industry in the 1800's & later produced HB Ice Cream which became a household ice cream brand in Ireland.
- 15 Bunratty House**  
A late Georgian dwelling (built 1804) of the type occupied by minor gentry in the 19th century. It was home to the Studdart Family, descendants of the O'Brien's who lived in Bunratty Castle.
- 16 Talbot Collection**  
Nineteenth century agricultural machinery & implements are housed in the stable yard in Bunratty House. Explanatory Audio Visual.
- 17 Regency Walled Garden**  
Built close to Bunratty House and is part of the original much larger garden which existed. Views overlook the Owenogarney river and Shannon river.
- 18 North Clare Farmhouse**  
Reflects the building style & materials of the rocky Moher area of north County Clare.
- 19 Ardcroney Church**  
The Church was moved stone by stone from Ardcroney in County Tipperary to Bunratty Folk Park.
- 20 Horizontal Mill**  
A working corn mill based on findings of an excavation in Mashanaglas, County Cork.
- 21 Vertical Mill**  
A classical example of a rural undershot watermill.
- 22 Byre Dwelling**  
An example from County Mayo of a dwelling occupied by both the family & their milking cows. Pigsty nearby.
- 23 Gift Shop & Exit**



## Food & Refreshments

**MacNamara's Pub (Mac's)**  
MacNamara's Pub or Mac's as its affectionately known is renowned for its delicious home cooked food - whether it's a creamy Irish coffee, soup & sandwiches or a tasty lunch. Mac's old style pub is a superb choice! (Apr-Dec)

**The Tea Room**  
A delightful place to relax and enjoy a cup of tea with some home made buttered scones, soda bread or our delicious apple pie with cream freshly baked by the Bean an Tí. (Mar-Nov)

**The Corn Barn**  
The Corn Barn is available for group lunches offering good food at reasonable prices including hot dishes, soup/sandwiches and desserts. (Group Bookings only - Prebooking required)

Something for the Kids Keep an eye out for our animal friends. Playground area at rear of Village Street.

- Sheep
- Pigs
- Cows & Cattle
- Donkeys & Horses
- Irish Red Deer
- Irish Wolfhounds
- Hens & Ducks
- Playground

**SAFETY STATEMENT**  
Visitors must exercise extreme care as these historical buildings contain uneven steps, floors and headroom. Children must be accompanied at all times. Last Admission to Castle 4.00pm