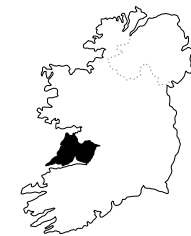


# County Clare



Clare (An Clár) is a trip in itself. It combines an Atlantic-pounded coast, and dramatic and unique wind-swept landscapes with artefacts from prehistory through medieval times. Of course all this physical attraction is fine, but what will really get into your soul is that Clare carries a song in its heart. This is the centre for traditional Irish music. From tiny village pubs to large venues, you'll hear the county's musicians not just keeping the legacy of song alive but refining and developing it.

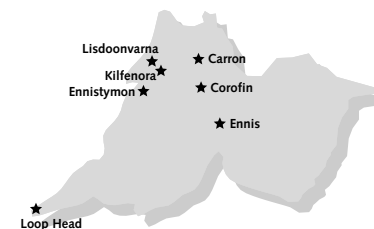
Ennis is the main city. From this hub of narrow streets and nightlife, the entire county is a short trip away. But you'll want to take your time becoming part of Clare's fabric. Wander the coast. The desolate barrens south of Kilkee to Loop Head have dramatic cliffs and sweeping vistas and a surprising paucity of visitors. North, you'll find absolutely wonderful villages such as Miltown Malbay, Ennistymon and Kilfenora, where you'll find character and characters ready to make you feel right at home.

The iconic headlands of the Cliffs of Moher and the music-filled pubs of Doolin are a draw for many. Use them as an excuse to plunge further, for you'll be right on the edge of the Burren, a stark, alien landscape of wild beauty and delightful villages such as Corofin.

Learn the fabric of this water-dashed, windswept land and soon you'll be singing your own songs of joy.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- **Urban Jungle** Enjoying the many pubs, songs and nightlife of Ennis (p372)
- **Rural Idle** Delighting in the amazing drives, walks and villages of Loop Head (p384)
- **The Real Deal** Swooning to the music in the uncompromised traditional pubs of Kilfenora (p399), Lisdoonvarna (p394) and Corofin (p399).
- **Barren Burren** Finding lost dolmens and abandoned abbeys amongst the rocky expanse of the Burren at Carron (p398)
- **Village Life** Becoming part of the scene in the artful, tuneful town of Ennistymon (p386)



■ POPULATION: 105,000

■ AREA: 3147 SQ KM

