



Dear Educator,

On behalf of Blacksod Sea Safari and Geraghty's Charters, we would like to invite you to consider the Blacksod Lighthouse and Inishkea Islands Experience for your next class outing.

From arrival on the busy pier, your students will take a guided tour of Blacksod Lighthouse, learning the history of the castellated building and its importance to the community over many generations. Knowledgeable guides will lead the class up the metal stairs to the optics room where they will learn about prisms in the presence of the iconic Fresnel lens, hear the unexpected role the building played in World War 2 and the history of the other lighthouses strategically placed around the Erris Peninsula. The lively tour culminates on the balcony where incredible views of Achill Island, Slievemore and Ballycroy await. On a bright day, visitors may be lucky enough to spot a pod of dolphins or even a whale breaching in the bay!

Students will board our boats for a 35-minute sailing to the historic Inishkea Islands. Along the way, enjoy incredible views of Achill Islands cliffs of Croaghan which, towering at a staggering 685 metres high, are amongst the tallest sea cliffs in Europe. Landing on the pier of Inishkea South, they will be immediately immersed in Irish history as they explore the abandoned cottages and deserted buildings which line the shore. Providing perspective of what life was like for those on the remote islands on the very edge of Europe, visitors will be amazed to learn that unoccupied Inishkea South was once home to a busy Norwegian whaling station!

Subjects covered by the tour include the rich history of the Gaeltacht islands and the tragic circumstances which lead to their abandonment. Hear the unique pre-Christian rituals practised by the remote community and learn how these hardy island folk survived the famine and the first world war. Students will also take in the geography of these unusual machair islets. Notable fauna of Blacksod Bay includes dolphins, migratory geese, and many species of waders. The Inishkea Islands are also home to the largest breeding colony of grey seals in Ireland. Students may also be interested in learning about tourism in the most remote parts of our country with a view to future careers in the industry.

Activities to partake in upon the island include swimming in the clear waters, walking the sandy beaches and hiking the green hills to the highest point to observe the mainland in the distance. Follow the ancient paths carved by islanders dating back 5,000 years, see the stone walls built to contain livestock and the furrowed lazy beds which once contained the crops to feed the three hundred strong community. A hearty packed lunch is essential as there are no facilities, making Inishkea a truly deserted island and the trip a fascinating one!

Our tours can be tailored to suit all ages and a dedicated guide can be provided to accompany your class on the island. All Government issued safety protocols are strictly adhered to. Step back in time and provide an educational and truly memorable, once in a lifetime adventure for young minds, guaranteed to be the talk of the school for many years to come!

Please contact us at 083 0263100 or BlacksodSeaSafari@gmail.com to discuss capacity, availability, and price per student. We look forward to welcoming you and your students to Blacksod Pier, Blacksod Lighthouse, and the historic Inishkea Islands!

Is mise le meas,

Micheál Keane,

Blacksod Sea Safari

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