



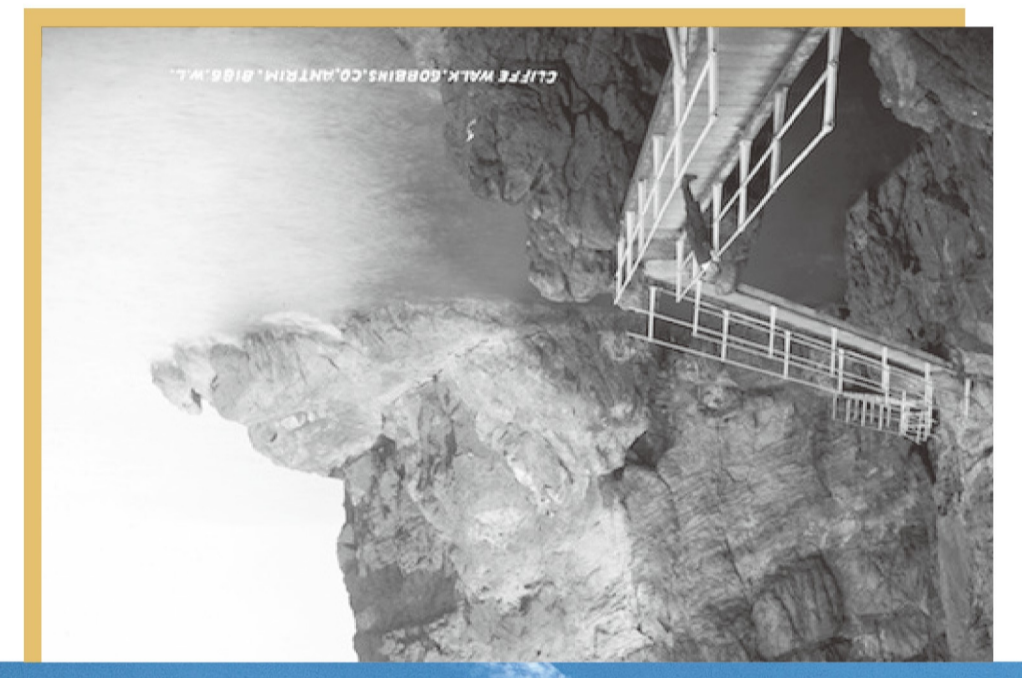
Once opened to the public, the magnificent cliff walk was an instant hit with tourists and attracted steamship passengers from Britain. It received rave reviews in newspapers as far afield as the USA and Australia, alongside images of its floating walkways and iconic Tubular Bridge.

Accessing this legendary land, wasn't always as simple as it is today. It was more common for local people to travel by sea than by road, due to the lack of access to this stunning landscape. It wasn't until the engineering advancements of the 19th century, that this all started to change.

Greatness reimagined.

The Antrim Coast Road was built in the 1830s and 1840s, with the railway arriving in the 1860s. These advancements paired with the rise in people making excursions outside their local area, made this the perfect time to create a world-class tourist attraction. To build on the rising popularity of the area, Chief Engineer of the Belfast and Northern Counties Railway Company, Berkeley Deane Wise, decided to design a dramatic walkway along the cliff face. He put his considerable engineering skills to work and in 1902, The Gobbins Cliff Path was born.

The Gobbins attracted visitors for many decades but was very costly to maintain. Plans to extend the path after Wise's death in 1909 were frustrated by rock falls. The path was closed for a time during the Second World War, and then permanently in 1954. Wise's original bridges, including the Tubular Bridge, decayed and fell into the sea. The new cliff path opened in 2015 and continues to pay homage to a great man and a magnificent attraction.



THE GOBBINS
A Dramatic Coastal Walk

Shaped by Sea & Stone
Mid & East Antrim

shapedbyseaandstone.com



thegobbinscliffpath.com

Middle Road, Islandmagee,
Co. Antrim BT403SL



Health & Safety

The Gobbins will require you to walk for about three hours. The path can be rocky at times and you will be exposed to wind and sea spray. At the end of your adventure, you'll need to hike back up a steep path to the top of the cliffs. Here's a few tips to ensure your safety and enjoyment:

- Wear hiking boots that support your ankles or hire them in the Visitor Centre on the day of your tour
- Wear waterproof clothing
- Make sure everything you take can fit in your pockets, including your water and camera, as bags are not permitted on the path
- A hard hat must be worn by all guests at all times to prevent injury from bumping your head
- Ensure you have read the full terms and conditions at the time of booking.



How to find us

You can reach us by train, bus or car. Our Visitor Centre is located less than 40 minutes from Belfast and 20 minutes from Larne in a quaint little peninsula known as Islandmagee.

The coast with the most...

Venture onto the suspended walkways that hug the cliff face and span sea-carved crevasses. Experience the unique geology and biodiversity, the birds and beasts and the ever-changing flora and fauna along the cliff face. Weave your way along basalt cliffs, through underwater tunnels and hidden caves where past generations of smugglers hid their loot and present generations of wildlife call home.

A tour as special as this one is extremely busy and must be booked in advance. Due to the nature of this amazing place, you can only access the cliff walk as part of a tour group. To find out more about this cliff hugging experience and to book your preferred time slot, visit our website below.

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Nature's finest

Nature thrives here due to the complex environment of sea, cliffs and caves. During the tour you will spot many surprising varieties of plants and animals that thrive in this unique habitat.

Plants

There are so many coastal plants, ferns and grasses growing on The Gobbins. The most common varieties include sea campion, also known as "Dead Man's Bells", Splleenwort, the small ferns that thrive in the crevices of the rock, Harebell, the flower of County Antrim, Sea Thrift and Kidney Vetch, a flower known for its wound-healing properties.



Animals

Keep your eyes peeled for the birds that sing overhead and dive for fish. Northern Ireland's only mainland colony of colourful Puffins dig burrows here to lay their eggs and Guillemots and Razorbills crowd the cliffs during breeding season. Cormorants, with their distinctive necks, hunt from the rocky outcrops. Kittiwakes, smaller cousins of gulls, cry the sound that gave them their name.



Offshore you might be lucky enough to see an inquisitive seal popping its head up. Minke Whales, Bottlenose Dolphins, Harbour Porpoise and Basking Sharks have also reportedly been seen at The Gobbins, however these are a rare spectacle.



Take it all in...

1 The Path

Let the adventure of a lifetime begin. First, you'll make your way from the clifftop, down a rugged track, past a stunning waterfall, to the entrance of the cliff walk – Wise's Eye. From this point you can access the breath-taking viewing platform – this is not included in the guided tour.

2 Wise's Eye

Like all great tourist attractions, The Gobbins would not be complete without an entrance as unique as the cliff walk. Carved out of the rock itself, this narrow opening has become one of the most photographed parts of the tour.

3 First Bridge

Take in the panoramic views of the coast as you make your way over the first of many spectacular structures. Built during the reconstruction, this bridge and two others are yet to be named.

4 Second Bridge

The narrow path hugs the cliff face as you cross the second bridge of the tour. With the crashing waves of the Irish Sea underfoot, you can embrace nature in all its glory as you pass over.

5 Sandy Cave

Tucked away at the back of a narrow inlet, protected by a sea stack, Sandy Cave is one of the few places calm enough for sand to gather. This was previously an exciting setting for picnickers and can be viewed from the path on the tour.

6 Tubular Bridge

The Tubular Bridge is one of The Gobbins' most easily-recognised features. The new structure replicates the one Wise designed for the original path, before it fell into the sea.

7 Man O'War

On the other side of the Tubular Bridge you will see a sea stack, formed from the cooling of molten lava. From the water, it is said to resemble a great battleship.

8 The Gallery

You are now approaching one of the best viewing points on the tour. The Gallery is set on the cliff face, almost perpendicular to the sea and provides a bird's eye view of the crashing waves below.

9 The Aquarium

Beyond The Gallery, the path veers out to a small sea stack and back, creating a pool of seawater. This is the perfect chance to see the variety of marine life that live in this part of the sea. It's our very own natural aquarium!

10 The Tunnel

As you descend into the eerie quiet of the Tunnel, the silence is broken only by the waves crashing outside. This is the lowest stretch of the path and actually passes below sea level.

11 Spleenwort Cave

This colourful cave gets its name from delicate Spleenwort ferns. The moist and airy conditions of the cave allow them to flourish all year round.

12 Otter Cave

This is one of the most interesting caves in The Gobbins. When the original path was built, Wise and his men discovered the cave and found many animal bones inside. Rumour has it, that the otters in the area found the bones and hid them in the cave. Since then, a landslip has covered the entrance to the cave and the mystery remains unsolved.

13 Third Bridge

The penultimate bridge leads around a corner where you will see the final and most impressive structure along the Cliff Path.

14 The Swinging Bridge & Gordon's Leap

Last and certainly not least, is the suspension bridge that reaches across the mouth of a cave and ends at an outcrop called Gordon's Leap. This impressive structure was carefully constructed to mimic the original which was known as The Swinging Bridge. Are you daring enough to cross it?

