



(ABOVE) THE FACE OF THE WORLD-RENOWNED CLIFFS OF MOHER, WHICH IS MADE UP OF LAYERS OF SANDSTONE AND SOFTER SHALE. (LEFT) AERIAL VIEW OF THE GLACIALLY SMOOTHED CARBONIFEROUS (300 MILLION YEARS AGO) FOSSIL-RICH LIMESTONE HILLS.

BURREN AND CLIFFS OF MOHER

IRELAND

GEOLOGY

The monumental scarp here, star of the sixth Harry Potter film, is part of a 14 km coastline known as the Cliffs of Moher. Rising more than 150 m from the cold Atlantic waters, it is formed by layers of shale and sandstone deposited by fluvial and deltaic systems between 323 Ma and 298 Ma. The site is a paradise for birdwatching with up to 30,000 pairs of birds during nesting season. On top of the cliffs is the Burren, a vast limestone area and one of the best examples of glacio-karst landscape in the world. It was created during the Last Ice Age as glaciers moved across the previously weathered rock forming today's *Burren Limestone Pavement*.

HIGHLIGHTS

1) The Geopark is on the route of the 2,500 km *Wild Atlantic Way*, one of the longest defined coastal routes in the world, winding along the Irish coastline. 2) The *Cliffs of Moher Visitor Centre* is an award-winning subterranean building.

ABOUT THE PARK

Area: 530 km²

When to visit: Mar.–Oct.

Geopark since: 2011