

Our Green Story

Ards Peninsula Tours

Ards and
North Down
Borough Council

Recycling
Community
Investment
Fund
YOUR RECYCLING PAYS

Green
Tourism



Owner Brigid Watson set up Ards Peninsula Tours to build on her background in environmental and sustainability education and offer guests intimate insights into the natural heritage of her locale. A former teacher and chartered environmentalist, she likes nothing better than introducing her clients to the local wildlife and nature and to the area's rich Christian and pre-Christian heritage.

Many of Ards Peninsula Tours' clients have come to Northern Ireland to research their roots and family links and love their immersion in the history and heritage of the Ards Peninsula and surrounding countryside. Brigid's genealogical research for clients results in strong friendships and a deeper rootedness and quality of experience – a rich anchoring and understanding of the social, historical and environmental context of St Patrick's Country, Strangford Lough and the Ards area.

Brigid's environmental credentials come from formal education, continuous research into the countryside and, recently, local coastal erosion and from living on her family farm, overlooking the Irish sea. For over ten years traditional Irish varieties of potato were grown and sold at a roadside stall with an honesty box; today potatoes are still sold and also locally produced free range eggs. A native Irish apple orchard has been planted and sheep reared on the farm - making spring lambing a busy time. Guests are invited to visit the farm, learn about agri-environmental schemes they've participated in and the biodiversity of the natural environment, as well as changes in farming locally over the last century.

A choice of coach, walking and boat tours is offered. The Christian heritage Nendrum Monastic site on Island Mahee on Strangford Lough can be reached by a causeway. The choice of tour extends to those that demonstrate the connect between conservation and the land in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and to pre-Christian, Celtic and Christian heritage.

"...this long settled region has a treasure trove of historical sites and is a nature lovers' paradise."

Crucially, Ards Peninsula Tours' customer philosophy is to offer engaging and entertaining tours designed to match customers' interests and needs.

Ards Peninsula Tours' logo is the yellowhammer, a declining bird species that Brigid has worked to reverse through a farm biodiversity project. To join a tour or find out more, call +44 (0)77 6389 8074, email Brigid.watson@btinternet.com or visit the website.

ardspeninsulatours.com



Ards
Peninsula
Tours

The Green Tourism programme was funded by the Council's Recycling Community Investment Fund - a scheme which is powered by the recycling efforts of local residents and businesses. Thanks to an increased amount of recycling by the local community, almost £15M has been saved in landfill costs since the programme's inception. These savings have allowed the Council to create the RCIF which supports new and existing environmentally friendly initiatives.