

Welcome...

Bonane Heritage Park is unique in that it has an abundance of well preserved multi-period archaeological sites spanning the Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages right up to pre-famine times. It includes one of the most significant Stone Circles in Ireland. The Park provides visitors with a 2,000 metre walk on gravelled paths through 5,000 years of history while enjoying some breathtaking scenery. Bonane Heritage Park, situated six miles from Kenmare on the main N71 route, is open to visitors all year round.



Opening Times:

Open all year round. Phone: +353 85 7677869
email: info@bonaneheritagepark.com

Location...

Dromagorteen
Bonane
Heritage Park,
Bonane,
Kenmare,
Co.Kerry.



www.bonaneheritagepark.com



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National Award Winners 2008
Care of the Environment

pride of place

Park includes Stone Circle,
Ringfort, Fulacht Fiadh
and much more...

Ringfort:

The Ringfort, used as a fortified dwelling and farmstead, is still impressive some 1,500 years after its construction. It is one of the largest Ringforts in Ireland and one of several in the Bonane Valley. The deep perimeter ditch and double earthen embankment (foss) were constructed manually using primitive tools. The circular construction is thought by archaeologists to be for defensive purposes but may have had a spiritual significance. In later centuries many superstitions were associated with Ringforts and it was considered unlucky to cultivate or interfere with them. Ringforts are also known as fairy forts from the long held tradition that they are home to the fairies or "little people."

The Stone Circle & Boulder Burial:

Bonane Heritage Park has a fine example of a multiple Stone Circle with a large central Boulder Burial dating from the Bronze Age. The Boulder is propped in place by smaller stones above a shallow pit containing cremated or semi-cremated human remains in a communal burial. The Stone Circle was associated with druidical rituals or used as a ceremonial site as part of an ancient calendar based on lunar and solar cycles. The Stone Circle is one of the most significant examples of its kind in Ireland, having eight lunar and solar alignments.



Fulacht Fiadh:

Fulacht Fiadh is the name given to an ancient cooking pit from the Bronze Age. They were generally located beside a source of fresh water. A pit or hole was dug and filled with clean water. The water was heated by placing heated stones in it. Fresh meat wrapped in straw was boiled in this manner.

Bullaun Stone:

A Bullaun Stone is a large flat-topped rock where a basin or bullaun has been carved out. Normally the bullauns face upwards and this example is unusual in that the bullaun is on the side of the stone. The original purpose of bullaun stones is unclear. Recent research in the Bonane area suggests that they have been used to mark astrological alignments.

Standing Stone:

Standing Stones are the most numerous megalithic monuments found in Ireland. There is no definitive theory as to their original purpose. They may have marked boundaries or burial places. They may also have marked astrological alignments. There is a fine example of a Standing Stone to be found in Bonane Heritage Park.

The Famine Ruin:

The small dwelling is typical of the early nineteenth century when large families were reared in primitive conditions. The roof would most likely have been thatched. There are several of these ruins in the area. The adjoining townland of Curragraigue, meaning old village, and the field systems to be found within the Park indicate that this was once a densely populated area.

