



# West Coast, Ireland

## (Slyne Head to Erris Head)

### GPS Coordinates of location:

Latitude: From 53° 23' 58.02"N to 54° 18' 26.96"N  
 Longitude: From 010° 13' 59.87"W to 009° 59' 51.98"W

Degrees Minutes Seconds (e.g. 35 08 34.231212) as used by all emergency marine services



### Description of geographic area covered:

The region covered is the wild and remote west coast of Ireland, from Slyne Head north of Galway to Erris Head south of Sligo. It includes Killary Harbour, Clew Bay, Black Sod Bay, Belmullet, and the islands of Inishbofin, Inishturk, Clare, Achill, and the Inishkeas. It is an area of incomparable charm and natural beauty where mountains come down to the sea unspoilt by development. It is also an area without marinas, or easy access to marine services. Self-sufficiency is absolutely necessary, along with careful navigation around a rocky lee coastline in prevailing westerlies. A vigilant watch for approach of frequent Atlantic gales must be kept. Inishbofin is reported to be the most common stopover of visiting foreign-flagged yachts in Ireland, of which there are very few on the West coast. Best time to visit is May-September.

### Area Covered



### Erris Head



**Port officer's name:**

Daria & Alex Blackwell



**PO contact information:**

**Email:** [dariablackwell@gmail.com](mailto:dariablackwell@gmail.com),  
[alera57@gmail.com](mailto:alera57@gmail.com)

**Phone:** 098 42511

**Mobile:** 087 954 2514

**VHF ch:** 16 (when on the water)

**Address:** Port Aleria

Rosnakilly, Kilmeena

Westport, County Mayo

**Website:** [www.coastalboating.net](http://www.coastalboating.net)

**Best way to contact:** email in advance,  
mobile on arrival

**Services available in area covered:**

- There are no marinas in the west of Ireland between Galway and Killybegs in Donegal, so services remain difficult to access. Haul out facilities are now available in Kilrush on the Shannon River and elsewhere by special arrangement with crane operators.
- Visitor Moorings (Yellow buoy, 15 tons): Achill / Kildavnet Pier, Achill Bridge, Blacksod, Clare Island, Inishturk, Rosmoney (Clew Bay), Leenane. All routinely serviced with exception of Leenane
- Water is available at Westport Quay, which dries out at low tide. Mayo Sailing Club located in Rosmoney near Westport offers free guest moorings. There is a pontoon with water and electricity accessible to visiting yachts. Tie up is limited to 15 minutes. The clubhouse which has showers and toilets is open only on days when club activities are underway (currently Tuesdays and Thursdays as well as Saturdays in summer). Access into Westport can be had via bicycle or taxi. Distance is about 5 miles.
- Westport has all major services: see below. Other towns have limited access and services.
- The Irish Coast Guard monitors VHF channel 16 and announces stations and times for broadcast of weather information. Clifden Coast Guard Station near Slyne Head broadcasts on channel 26. Belmullet near Erris Head uses channel 83.
- There are no local radio nets. In fact, few people listen to their VHF radios, preferring to use mobile phones.
- Dive operators found in most bigger towns and islands.
- We have a mooring by our house for raft up with *Aleria*

**Harbourmaster:**  
*(None in region)*

Phone:

Email:

VHF Ch:

GPS coordinates:

Website:

**Services available:**

- Supermarkets, produce markets, butchers, fish markets, banks, sundry shops, restaurants and pubs abound in Westport. Leenane (Killary Harbour), Newport and Belmullet have smaller shops, and some restaurants and pubs. There is a small shop as well as pubs and places to eat on each of the islands, bar the Inishkeas which are uninhabited, but in general, self-sufficiency is recommended.
- There are dry cleaners that handle laundry in Westport. There are no laundromats.
- Clew Bay Boats in Westport is a repair shop and chandlery. Phone: 098-50633 Mobile: 087-3230499 Email: [clewbayboats@gmail.com](mailto:clewbayboats@gmail.com)
- Fuel: Fuel stations are not convenient to the harbours in this area and require a car to access. A fuel truck will come to Westport Quay on prior arrangement.
- This entire region is of scenic and historic interest. Mountains come down to the sea, producing spectacular vistas and dramatic landscapes. Many archaeological sites date to megalithic and early Christian periods. Wildlife abounds.
- Westport connects by rail direct to Dublin. Ireland West Airport Knock is just over an hour's drive by car or bus. Taxi service is readily available.

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| <p><b><i>Yacht Club(s):</i></b><br/> <b><i>Mayo Sailing Club</i></b></p> <p>Phone: None<br/> Email: <a href="mailto:info@mayosailingclub.com">info@mayosailingclub.com</a><br/> VHF ch: 16/12 (not monitored)<br/> GPS coordinates: 53.825N, 009.620W<br/> Reciprocal to OCC members? Yes<br/> Website: <a href="http://www.mayosailingclub.com">http://www.mayosailingclub.com</a></p>   | <p><b><i>Services available from Port Officer:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Piloting services in Clew Bay</li> <li>• Mooring/anchorage advice for Clew Bay, Killary Harbour, Blacksod Bay, and the islands (Inishbofin, Inishturk, Clare Island, Inishkeas)</li> <li>• Assistance with clearing in formalities and visas</li> <li>• Snail mail and shipping arrangements</li> <li>• Transport: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Contact for car rental</li> <li>○ Arrangements for transfers to airport/train/bus/taxi.</li> <li>○ Transport to supermarket for provisioning</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Showers and laundry can be arranged.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b><i>Marinas: None in region</i></b></p> <p>Phone:<br/> Email:<br/> VHF ch:<br/> GPS coordinates:<br/> Website:</p>   | <p><b><i>Local cruising guides and charts:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Irish Cruising Club <i>South &amp; West Coasts of Ireland Sailing Directions</i>, edited by Norman Kean, 13<sup>th</sup> Edition 2013, ICC Publications</li> <li>• <i>Cruising Ireland</i>, Mike Balmforth &amp; Norman Kean, 2012, ICC Publications.</li> <li>• Imray, C54, Ireland West Coast, Galway Bay to Donegal Bay (1:197,000)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Cruising the Wild Atlantic Way</a> by Daria &amp; Alex Blackwell</li> <li>• <a href="http://www.CoastalBoating.net">Cruising Around Ireland, www.CoastalBoating.net</a></li> </ul>                                    |
| <p><b><i>Other useful information specific to this area:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have written articles about sailing this area and posted them on our website <a href="http://CoastalBoating.net">CoastalBoating.net</a>.</li> <li>• A tourist map of the Clew Bay region is available <a href="#">here</a>.</li> <li>• Ireland is a relatively safe and very welcoming country in general. It's not hard to find a bit of 'craic' as they say – the closest translation being 'a really good time'. Just find a pub, ask when the traditional music starts, and get ready with a nice cool pint of Guinness.</li> <li>• Hill walking in Connemara from Leenane on Killary Harbour is a great choice. The light on the hills has inspired brilliance in bards and poets for hundreds of years.</li> <li>• Climb the Holy Mountain, Croagh Patrick, from where St. Patrick drove the snakes out of Ireland. There is a chapel at the top and the most magnificent views of Clew Bay and its '365 islands, one for every day of the year.' Near Westport.</li> <li>• Ride bicycles along the Great Western Greenway from Croagh Patrick to Achill Island, through the towns of Murrisk, Westport, Newport, Mulranny and Achill Sound.</li> <li>• In the islands and much of Connemara, native Irish is the primary language. Signage in the Gaeltacht is often only in Irish Gaelic. Maps tends to be in English.</li> <li>• Try surfing, fishing or beachcombing on Achill's 7 Blue Flag beaches sandwiched between some of the highest cliffs in Europe.</li> <li>• Walk or bicycle the magnificent hill bogs on Inishbofin and visit the Cromwellian fort ruins. The diving is also really good! Lovely protected harbour. Pubs, a museum, a small shop and a spa hotel are right on the harbour.</li> <li>• Walk across the island of Inishturk and get 360 degree views of all the islands and hills from Galway to Mayo. Take a day trip to Caher Island.</li> <li>• Learn about Granuaile, aka Grace O'Malley, the 16<sup>th</sup>C Pirate Queen who led ships of men against the Spanish armada and befriended Queen Elizabeth I by sailing up the Thames and demanding a meeting. Her castle, chapel, and rumoured resting place are on Clare Island. Clare Island has a community centre with toilets, showers and a bar/restaurant.</li> <li>• Anchor off the deserted Inishkeas on a settled weather day and visit the monastic ruins.</li> </ul> |   |