



Seating area with view



Fully equipped kitchen



Dining room with fireplace



Kitchen fireplace



The Hilltown Donegal Town, Ireland

Generously donated by: Karen and Boyce Budd

Website: www.vrbo.com/131249



Bedroom #1



Bedroom #2



Sitting room with fireplace

Offer: Seven nights valued at \$1,722
Not included: cleaning/service fee of \$500 plus \$1,000 security deposit
Sleeps: 10 Bedrooms: 4 Bathrooms: 2
Restrictions: Good for one year, excluding June, July, August, depending on availability, pets considered, non-smoking only



Mullaghmore Castle



View to Donegal Bay



Silver Strand at Malinmore

The Luck of the Irish

The Hilltown is an old traditional stone farmhouse plus additions, stable, and farm buildings on 50 acres of actively farmed land. Located amidst the rolling hills of the spectacular northwest coast of Ireland, it is steeped in beauty and history. In mid-summer, when all is in darkness around the house, the tops of the Blue Stacks are often bathed in the sun's last orange rays. Murravagh Beach, a three-mile strand on the South side of the bay, where the tide recedes for up to one quarter of a mile, is minutes from the front door. Donegal Golf Club, locally known as Murravagh Golf Club, is a superb links course described as "the Muirfield of Ireland" and is located about one mile away. Several pubs are also within a mile. What else does one need? The Hilltown has proven to be the perfect setting for Irish-style decompression and/or a wonderful part of the world for families to spend time together.

Things To Do

- Extensive hiking and mountain climbing opportunities including Slieve League, the highest edge-of-the-Atlantic mountain on the west coast of Europe
- World-class golf courses within a day's drive
- Cycling (mountain bikes can be rented in Donegal Town)
- Beautiful beaches
- Horseback riding
- Ocean, lake, and river fishing
- Exploration of ancient round forts, stone cairns, abbeys, castles and the remains of great houses
- Trips to off-shore islands
- Shopping in Donegal Town, Ardara and Glencolumbkille for native tweeds and sweaters
- Boating
- Swimming
- Sailing
- Picnicking
- and on and on

The History

William McKinley, born in 1882 in a thatched cottage a mile from the Hilltown, emigrated to the US and then returned to purchase the Hilltown in 1928. His reason? He wanted his expanding American family to learn of their roots. His parents and some of his siblings are buried in the Drumhome Churchyard on the hill directly opposite the house.

Three of his grandchildren, the current owners, have rehabilitated and modernized the house from top to bottom while striving to retain the charm and feel of the traditional Irish farmhouse which they experienced as children.

The house is located on a hillside with panoramic views of long, green, drumlin hills at the head of the Donegal Bay.

These hills in turn are framed by the Blue Stack Mountains some 15 miles distant.

It has been the romantic location of choice for many honeymoons, and a cozy nest from which three generations of McKinley heirs and many of their friends have launched excursions throughout the northwest of Ireland.

Amenities

- Bedroom 1: Two Queen beds
- Bedroom 2: Queen bed
- Bedroom 3: Queen bed
- Bedroom 4: Bunk beds for four
- Two bathrooms, one with shower and the other with tub
- Full kitchen with microwave, dishwasher, refrigerator, and cooking utensils provided
- Mudroom has large-sized washer and dryer
- Satellite TV and CD/DVD player in sitting room
- Working fireplaces located in kitchen, dining room and sitting room with turf and wood provided
- Dining room oak table seats eight
- Breakfast table seats six
- Linens provided
- Pets considered
- Wi-fi