

# Welcome to Marble Arch Caves European Geopark

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Nestled amidst the peaceful and relaxing Fermanagh countryside is Marble Arch Caves European Geopark. From its theatrical cliffs to its hidden underworld, the diverse landscapes offer something for everyone, whether it's simply for a day out, or for somewhere to re-energise with its spectacular walking routes.

Marble Arch Caves and Cuilcagh Mountain Park were jointly awarded Geopark status in 2001 for their outstanding geological heritage and are collectively known as Marble Arch Caves European Geopark. By doing this they have joined other areas across Europe who also have a significant geological heritage that deserves to be promoted and preserved for future generations.

This part of Fermanagh has undergone many changes in its 340 million year geological history. From tropical seas to icy wildernesses, the vast array of preserved landscapes makes Marble Arch Caves European Geopark the unique tourist attraction that it is today.

The enormous range of natural habitats within the Geopark means it is a perfect place to come face to face with nature. The apparently barren limestone grassland and the vibrant damp ash woodland are just two of the areas where some of the areas native species can be seen in their natural habitats.

The Geopark has plenty to offer all types of visitor including the stunning cave tour which runs everyday throughout the open season. The visitor centre has fascinating displays on local history, geology and ecology and also offers a visually stunning audio visual presentation. The visitor Centre contains an appealing gift shop, toilet facilities, an excellent restaurant and an outdoor picnic area for those who wish to cater for themselves.



# Map and Information



## Marble Arch Caves

Marlbank Scenic Loop,  
FlorenceCourt, Co. Fermanagh  
Northern Ireland

Tel: +44 (0) 28 6634 8855 Fax: +44 (0) 28 6634 8928

Email: [mac@fermanagh.gov.uk](mailto:mac@fermanagh.gov.uk)  
[www.marblearchcaves.net](http://www.marblearchcaves.net)



# Cave Tour

The tour of the Marble Arch Caves begins in the Marble Arch Nature Reserve in the ancient woodland of the Cladagh Glen. Your tour guide will lead you through meandering woodland paths past many fine limestone landscape features until you reach the Wet Entrance and your first glimpse of the Marble Arch Caves.

Once inside the caves, the path continues to the jetty where you will embark upon a short boat journey taking you along the Cladagh River and further into the Marble Arch Caves system. Part of the tour follows the journey of Edouard Martel, a daring French cave scientist who first explored the caves in 1895.



Creamy stalactites and cave curtains line the cave roof at various points during the cave tour



As your eyes adjust to the bizarre underground lighting, you will see a vast array of cave features including stalactites and stalagmites, cave curtains, rimstone pools and flowstones. The cave tour continues through many cave passages and chambers culminating with a journey through the Moses Walk; one of the few man-made structures in the caves allowing visitors to 'walk' through an underground lake.

The tour lasts for approximately 75 minutes and involves a walk of approximately 1.5km. Each tour party is conducted through the caves by one of our lively and informative local guides ensuring that your enjoyment and ultimately your safety are paramount.



The 'paddy fields': one of the best examples of rimstone pools in the caves



The longest stalactite in the caves is named after the man who first explored the Marble Arch Caves, Edouard Martel



Underground rivers have helped to carve the Marble Arch Caves over many thousands of years.



# Education Services

Marble Arch Caves European Geoparks offers a variety of educational packages to suit all ages and abilities

## Primary School Education

### **My Environment – “Woodland Wardens”**

A nature walk in the Cladagh Glen. This beautiful woodland setting gives children the opportunity to use their senses in the environment to learn about trees, plants, flowers and animals.

### **Our World – “A Walk on the Wild Side”**

Look at the habitats in the Cladagh Glen and compare it to other habitats. Go for a hop through the trees with Suzie the squirrel. The tour is concluded with a look at the limestone landscape features.

## Post-Primary School Education

### **Limestone Trail – GCSE Geography**

*Theme B: Physical Processes and Challenges, 3, Distinctive limestone landscapes must be managed to avoid long-term damage, along with Theme C, Ecosystems and Sustainability.* A trail that includes the role of rock, structure and weathering process in creating this distinctive environment, limestone features and human pressure on the limestone and the peatland. This fieldwork assists in delivering the themes Learning for Life and Work Area: Local & Global Citizenship Strand and Environment & Society Learning Area: Geography Strand through map-work, role-play, planning, drawing and presenting.



Woodland Wardens at work in the Cladagh Glen



**Limestone Trail – Leaving Certificate Geography**  
*Core Unit 1: Patterns and Processes in the Physical Environment*

A trail of the sedimentary structures, bedding planes, joints etc on the Dartry Limestone on Cuilcagh Mountain. Look at the landforms associated with the rock types and understand the surface processes that influence landform development.

Resource books are available for both GCSE Geography and Leaving Certificate Geography

**Vegetation Field Work**

Resource books are also available for vegetation studies for Geography and Biology, from GCSE to 'A' level.

**Languages**

Teachers - would you like to find a link to a school in another European country for languages or any other subjects? We can help. Contact the Education Services at Marble Arch Caves European Geopark for further information.

**Universities**

Contact Marble Arch Caves European Geopark for information about the Geography / Geology and specific areas to visit. A pack of information with a map, work sheets for photocopying is available for University Lecturers. Universities are asked to contact staff at Marble Arch Caves European Geopark in advance of a field visit to any of the European Geopark sites, so that a member of staff can accompany you during your visit.



University students investigating a disused quarry



Studying the limestone pavement on the limestone trail

# Hill Walking

Marble Arch Caves European Geopark provides an ideal location for both leisurely strolls and more serious hill walking. Listed below are some of the walking routes available in the area.

## Long Distance Walking Routes

### Legnabrocky Track

The Legnabrocky Track starts from the entrance to the Cuilcagh Mountain Park area of the Geopark and provides an exhilarating walk to the summit of Cuilcagh Mountain. The route takes you past many Geopark features including derelict 19th Century farmhouses, limestone pavement and blanket bog and the conservation area which is aimed at restoring the blanket bog that was severely damaged by machine cutting of the peat.

Please allow at least 6 hours for the return journey.

### The Hikers Trail

The Hikers Trail starts from Florencecourt House, a National Trust property just a few miles away from Marble Arch Caves European Geopark. The route forms a branch of the 500 mile Ulster Way and will also take you to the summit of Cuilcagh Mountain, this time approaching from the north-east. The route is marked by yellow-topped posts to aid navigation and travels past many Geopark features including dry valleys, superb blanket bog wildlife

Please allow at least 9 hours for the return journey.

### Cuilcagh Way

The Cuilcagh Way is a 33km long distance walking route which is broken down into several stages. There are numerous panels along the Cuilcagh Way which provide you with information on various topics including geology, ecology, history and folklore.

See the [Cuilcagh Way literature](#) for more details on routes and distances.

Marble Arch Caves European Geopark is a remote and exposed location, with weather conditions often changing rapidly. None of these walks should be attempted without good boots, warm and waterproof clothes and some emergency food and gear.



Walkers on the Legnabrocky Track



## Leisurely Strolls

### Cladagh Glen

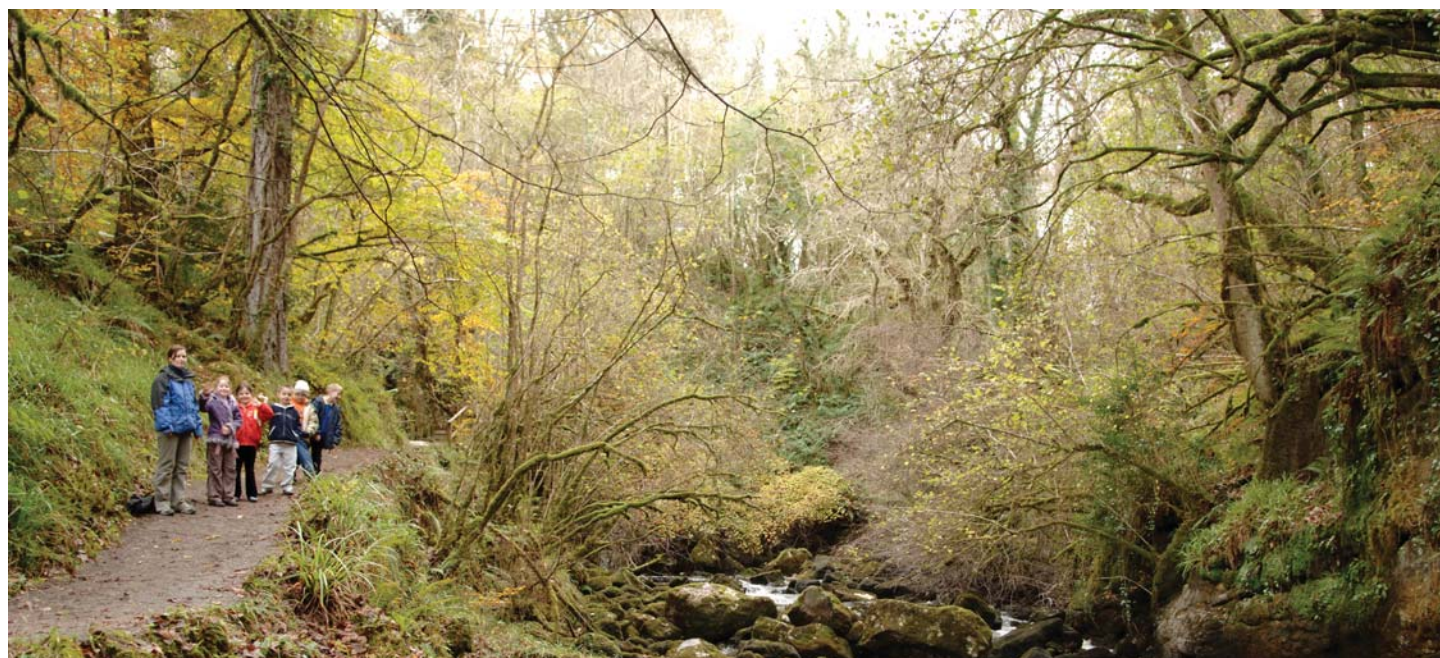
Behind the visitor centre of Marble Arch Caves European Geopark you can find the Cladagh Glen Nature Reserve. For a peaceful and relaxing walk, follow the path alongside the Cladagh River. The unique ancient plant life that grows on the rivers banks changes with every season as does the amazing wildlife with otters and pine martens being just some of the animals that reside there.

### Killykeeghan Nature Reserve

Approximately 1 mile away from the Marble Arch Caves Visitor Centre is Killykeeghan Nature Reserve. This pleasant circular route takes you past many archaeological as well as geological features of the landscape. There are car parking and toilet facilities at the site.



One of the many 19th Century derelict farm cottages



The Cladagh Glen Nature Reserve



## Other Attractions

### WELCOME TO FERMANAGH

Fermanagh is steeped in culture and history, apparent through its wide range of tourist attractions, which include stately homes, craft centres, castles and forest parks.

Co Fermanagh, often referred to as Northern Ireland's lake district, is a perfect holiday destination for fishing, cruising and a variety of other activity holidays. Fermanagh's largest lake Lough Erne, is 50 miles long and joined to the River Shannon by the Shannon-Erne Waterway, making it the longest navigable inland waterway in Europe.

### OTHER ATTRACTIONS IN FERMANAGH

As well as the attraction of the Marble Arch Caves European Geopark, Fermanagh has lots to offer the visitor to the Lakeland county.

Here are the Top Ten attractions to visit in the local area.

**Belleek Pottery** – Ireland's oldest pottery offering guided tours all year round. It is the oldest pottery in Ireland and is famous for its delicate parian china. An extensive visitor centre includes a shop, restaurant and museum. [www.belleek.ie](http://www.belleek.ie)

**Ardhowen Theatre** – a 300 seat theatre situated in the main county town of Enniskillen overlooking Upper Lough Erne. Entertainment includes theatre productions, dance, pop, jazz and classical concerts, local drama and musical productions, traditional and folk events. A restaurant on site offers morning coffee and lunches. [www.ardhowentheatre.com](http://www.ardhowentheatre.com)

**National Trust Properties** – Visit the historic houses of Castle Coole and Florence Court and the expansive woodland estate at Crom. Guided tours are offered of both 18th century stately homes which are marvellously preserved. Crom Estate overlooks Upper Lough Erne and offers 2000 acres of woodland, parkland and wetland and is one of Ireland's most important nature reserves. [www.ntni.org.uk](http://www.ntni.org.uk)

**Lough Erne** – this lake dominates the entire County and can be accessed by hiring your own cruiser or by taking a tour on one of the waterbuses. Travelling by cruiser is one of the best ways to explore the area and many of the attractions and towns and villages are just as accessible from the water as by land.

**Devenish Island** – an ancient monastic dwelling site on Lower Lough Erne can be reached by ferry or on the waterbus mv Kestrel. The island was founded in the 6th century and today visitors can view extensive ruins including a 12th century Round Tower, Augustinian Abbey, St Molaise's House and a 15th Century carved cross.

**Enniskillen Castle** – a rich historic complex in Enniskillen town. On view are Fermanagh County Museum and the Inniskilling Museum. Historic buildings include the castle keep, once home of the Gaelic Maguire chieftains and the 17th century Watergate. Open all year [www.enniskillencastle.co.uk](http://www.enniskillencastle.co.uk)

**Sheelin Irish Lace Museum** – Award winning museum in the village of Bellanaleck. All lace dates from between 1850 and 1900. Exhibits on display include Irish crochet wedding dress, veils, shawls, parasols, collars etc. Open all year [www.irishlacemuseum.com](http://www.irishlacemuseum.com)

**Buttermarket Craft and Design Centre** – comprising 17 craft workshops, studios and galleries alongside Boston Quay Craft Shop and Rebecca's coffee shop, housed in the restored early 19th century dairy market. The buildings have been renovated and house such diverse contemporary and traditional crafts such as pottery, fly-typing, applied art, picture framing, hand knitting and wood turning. Open all year [www.thebuttermarket.com](http://www.thebuttermarket.com)

**Inish Rath Island** – home of the Krishna Spiritual Community – Peacocks, herons, swans, deer, squirrels and hares inhabit this peaceful island, where woodland walks give way to rolling lawns leading to the elegant Victorian stately house. Guided tours, video presentation and café can be experienced. [www.krishnaisland.net](http://www.krishnaisland.net)

**The Organic Centre** – 8 acres of open gardens including kitchen garden and shop. Café open weekends during the summer. We also have a range of polytunnels with some very unusual edible plants, an orchard and soft fruit area, willow sculptures, a basket willow growing area and display of composting techniques. [www.theorganiccentre.ie](http://www.theorganiccentre.ie)

## Other Activities

For the more active visitor, Fermanagh offers a wide range of other activities. This includes:

### GOLF

There are two 18-hole golf courses at Castle Hume and Enniskillen ([www.castlehumegolf.com](http://www.castlehumegolf.com) and [www.enniskillengolfclub.com](http://www.enniskillengolfclub.com)). One of the most exciting developments in Irish Golf will be the new Nick Faldo Championship Golf Course currently under construction on the banks of Lough Erne and Castle Hume Lough. This spectacular Lakeland course offers golfers one of the most stunning views available in world golf. The course and its surrounds can be viewed on [www.loughernegolfresort.com](http://www.loughernegolfresort.com). In addition a luxury hotel and golf lodges will also be available to book in 2006.

### CRUISING

Cruising is a unique way to explore the attractions of Fermanagh, all from the waters edge. A number of cruiser hire bases are dotted throughout the lake. From 2 to 8 berth cruisers are available and are equipped to the highest specifications. [www.fermanaghlakelands.com](http://www.fermanaghlakelands.com)

### CYCLING

The Kingfisher Cycle Trail has over 300 miles of mapped and signposted cycle trails in the Fermanagh region, from rolling hills, to country lanes and the Atlantic Coast, the trail has something for all tastes. Suitable for independent or group travel with all-in packages are available using a variety of high quality accommodation. [www.cycletoursireland.com](http://www.cycletoursireland.com)

### FISHING

Lough Erne offers excellent game and coarse fishing opportunities and attracts many UK based and European visitors for pleasure fishing and competitions throughout the year. Licences and permits can be purchased locally. [www.fermanaghlakelands.com](http://www.fermanaghlakelands.com)

### WATERSPORTS

As well as cruising there are a number of watersports to be enjoyed on the lake – from waterskiing to canoeing, windsurfing and jetskiing. A number of activity centres offer these and many other outdoor activities.

For further details on activity centres see below

- Corralea Activity Centre, Belcoo [www.activityireland.com](http://www.activityireland.com)
- Lakeland Canoe Centre, Enniskillen 028 6632 4250
- Lusty Beg Island Activity Centre, Kesh [www.lustybegisland.com](http://www.lustybegisland.com)
- Share Holiday Village, Lisnaskea [www.sharevillage.org](http://www.sharevillage.org)
- Field Studies Centre, Derrygonnelly [www.field-studies-council.org](http://www.field-studies-council.org)
- Lough Melvin Holiday Centre, Garrison [www.loughmelvinholidaycentre.com](http://www.loughmelvinholidaycentre.com)
- Adventure Tours NI [www.adventuretoursni.com](http://www.adventuretoursni.com)





# Accommodation

Fermanagh can offer a wide range of accommodation provision. The latest Accommodation Guide entitled 'Find Somewhere to Stay' has a comprehensive list of hotels, guesthouses, B&B's, self-catering, hostels and caravan and camping sites.

In the vicinity of the Marble Arch Caves European Geopark, the following accommodation is available.

## SELF CATERING

### FLORENCECOURT

Benauglin Cottages  
Tully

Florencecourt

Tel 028 6634 9847

Email: KCDA@larganess.centre.fsnet.co.uk

[www.bencottages.com](http://www.bencottages.com)

5 luxury self catering cottages – each cottage sleeps 4-6

Heather Lodge

Derriens East

Florencecourt

Tel 028 6634 8812

Email: niheatherlodge@aol.com -

Ground floor apartment – sleeps 2

Lakeside Bungalow

Derryhenry

Macken

Florencecourt

Tel 028 6634 8622 - Bungalow – sleeps 6

Laurel leaf House

90A Marlbank

Florencecourt

Tel 028 6634 8917 - 2 storey house – sleeps 9

Rose Cottage

National Trust Holiday Cottages

Florence Court Estate

Florencecourt

Tel 0870 4584422

[cottages@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:cottages@nationaltrust.org.uk)

[www.nationaltrustcottages.co.uk/northernireland](http://www.nationaltrustcottages.co.uk/northernireland) -

cottage - sleeps 4

Sally's Grove

Marble Arch Road

Florencecourt

Tel 028 6634 8642

Email: [sallysgrove@hotmail.com](mailto:sallysgrove@hotmail.com)

[www.sallysgrove.com](http://www.sallysgrove.com) - house – sleeps 6

### BELCOO

Corralea Activity Centre

162 Lattone Rd

Corralea

Belcoo

Tel: 028 6638 6123

Email: [info@activityireland.com](mailto:info@activityireland.com)

[www.activityireland.com](http://www.activityireland.com) - 4 cottages

### BELLANALECK

Derryallen View

Mr & Mrs Rasdale

Crocknacrieve

Macken, Enniskillen

Tel 028 6634 8559 – bungalow sleeps 6

Gatelodge Rushin Farm

Ivan & Martha Loane

Rushin, Bellanaleck

Tel 028 6634 8221 – bungalow sleeps 6

Email: [angelagm@hotmail.com](mailto:angelagm@hotmail.com) and

[www.geocities.com/thetropics/resort/9995](http://www.geocities.com/thetropics/resort/9995)

### DERRYLIN

Knockninny View

Mrs McBarron

Corragole, Derrylin

Tel 028 6774 8285 – house sleeps 6

Meadow Sweet Lodge

Mrs A McManus

Kilnarainey, Derrylin

Tel 028 6774 8449 – bungalow sleeps 6

[www.themeadowsweetlodge.com](http://www.themeadowsweetlodge.com)

Kates Cottage

Mr J Maguire

Belturbet Road, Derrylin

Tel: 028 6774 8492/8798

Bungalow sleeps 5

#### **KINAWLEY**

Alder Cottage  
Mrs B Lenane  
Glassdrummond, Kinawley  
Tel 028 9058 3680 – cottage sleeps 5  
Email: [bridgetlenane@hotmail.com](mailto:bridgetlenane@hotmail.com)

Forge Cottage  
Mr F Dolan  
Derryhenny, Macken  
Tel 028 6634 8458 – cottage sleeps 4

Pine Cottage  
Mrs H Finlay  
Toneywall, Kinawley  
Tel 028 6774 8518 – cottage 3 rooms

#### **BED AND BREAKFAST**

##### **FLORENCECOURT**

Arch House  
Mrs Rosemary Armstrong  
Marble Arch Road  
Florencecourt  
Tel: 028 6634 8452  
Email: [tullyguest60@hotmail.com](mailto:tullyguest60@hotmail.com)  
[www.archhouse.com](http://www.archhouse.com) -5 rooms

##### **BELCOO**

Customs House Country Inn  
Mr D Martin  
Main Street  
Tel 028 6638 6285  
Email: [info@customshouseinn.com](mailto:info@customshouseinn.com)  
[www.customshouseinn.com](http://www.customshouseinn.com)

Corralea Forest Lodge  
Mrs T Catterall  
154 Lattone Road  
Tel 028 6638 6325

Bella Vista  
Mr R Doherty  
Cottage Drive  
Tel 028 6638 6469

Rockview House  
Mr M McTernan  
Aghavass, Belcoo  
Tel 028 6638 6534

##### **BLACKLION**

Macnean House  
Main Street  
Tel 00353 7198 53022

##### **DERRYGONNELLY**

Meadow View  
Mrs J Wray  
Sandhill  
Tel 028 6864 1233

##### **BELLANALECK**

Corrigans Shore Guest House  
Ms C Corrigan  
Clonatrigh  
Tel 028 6634 8572

##### **LETTERBREEN**

Abocurragh Farm Guest House  
Mrs B Mullally  
Tel 028 6634 8484

#### **HOSTEL**

##### **DERRYGONNELLY**

FSC Derrygonnelly  
Tir Navar  
Creamery Street  
TEL 028 6864 1673  
Email [fsc.dg@field-studies-council.org](mailto:fsc.dg@field-studies-council.org)  
[www.field-studies-council.org](http://www.field-studies-council.org)  
This is a residential environmental education centre



#### **For further tourist information on Fermanagh please contact:**

Fermanagh Lakeland Tourism,  
Wellington Road, Enniskillen,  
Co. Fermanagh,  
BT74 7EF

**Telephone:** +44 (0) 28 66346736  
**Email:** [info@fermanaghlakelands.com](mailto:info@fermanaghlakelands.com)  
**[www.findfermanagh.com](http://www.findfermanagh.com)**

For comprehensive listings of all accommodation available in Fermanagh please see 'Find Somewhere to Stay'.



## Notes

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**Do you need more information? Fill out the following slip and return to:**

Marble Arch Caves European Geopark, Marlbank, Florencecourt, Co. Fermanagh, BT92 1EW, Northern Ireland

Please send more information on the Marble Arch Caves European Geopark  
Please send more information on Fermanagh Lakelands

☐☐

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Tel \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

I am happy to receive future mailings from the Fermanagh Lakelands

☐ Yes

☐ No



# European Geopark Network

If you think of Europe's geological heritage, images of the conifer covered Alps, the legendary Giant's Causeway or perhaps even the fiery landscapes of Iceland spring to mind. In reality, right across Europe there are rocks and landscapes that are just as awe-inspiring, and every one of these has had a direct impact on the life of every European citizen.

In north-west Europe, four European Geoparks have come together to share ideas and exchange experiences on how to communicate their unique aspect of Europe's geological heritage to the wider public. Each of the four Geoparks is located in an area that has been bypassed by the mainstream tourist industry, so by promoting their geological heritage this situation will change for the better!

The four areas are linked through their common history of volcanoes and water.

This is perhaps most obvious at Vulkaneifel European Geopark in Germany where the remains of extinct volcanoes are apparent. The many ancient volcanic craters are now filled with water making the area an excellent location for watersports and various other outdoor activities.

The Copper Coast European Geopark in Co. Waterford in the Republic of Ireland also has evidence of volcanic activity that helped to form the array of minerals that have given the coastline its name. The sweeping cliffs and hidden coves of this dramatic coastline are just waiting to be explored either on foot or for the more adventurous, by sea.

At the Marble Arch Caves European Geopark, molten rock that hardened underground has influenced the groundwater flow and cave formation in the area. From the majestic cliffs of Cuilcagh Mountain offering superb walking opportunities to the lofty underworld of the Marble Arch Caves which can be explored with one of the lively guides, there is plenty to do and see.

Whilst at Bergstrasse-Odenwald Naturpark, also in Germany, water-action from many millions of years ago led to the formation of the Messel Pit UNESCO World Heritage Site. This ancient freshwater lake has preserved many creatures in near perfect conditions including horses, turtles, crocodiles and bats. The Geopark has many other attractions on offer which can be explored with the help of the superb Geopark Wardens.



Felsenmeer or 'sea of rocks', one of the many fascinating landscapes of Bergstrasse-Odenwald Naturpark



The spectacular cliffs of the Copper Coast European Geopark



The 'eyes of the Eifel'; one of the many ancient volcanic craters of Vulkaneifel European Geopark





**Marble Arch Caves European Geopark**  
Marlbank Scenic Loop, Florencecourt, Co. Fermanagh, Northern Ireland  
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[www.marblearchcaves.net](http://www.marblearchcaves.net)





# Marble Arch Caves European Geopark Tour Book

