



WELCOME TO WATERFALL COTTAGE

We hope you enjoy your stay.

The cottage was our home for 15 years; we love it dearly and we still use it a lot. Please look after it as you would your own.

For your help and guidance, please read the following notes carefully. They contain important safety information, as well as lots of advice on how things work and what to do while you are here.

Before your arrival, Geraldine the housekeeper will have checked a long list of things in the cottage.

If you have any problems, comments or suggestions, please do let us know on mantlehome@gmail.com .

You might also like to make some notes in the Guest Book for the benefit of subsequent guests – particularly if you discover nice things to do or places to go.

Peter and Jane Mantle

Last updated: May 2018

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TELEPHONES

One of the consequences of being surrounded by high mountains is that mobile/cell coverage is patchy. On arrival, it would be a good idea to wander around the cottage, both inside and out, to get a feel for where the best reception spots are; these vary depending on your network provider - and the weather!

Please use your own phones wherever possible. For emergencies, there is a landline telephone in the 2-bed room beside the kitchen. We reserve the right to charge you for any non-emergency usage at cost plus 20%

The landline number for incoming calls is 095-42353. From outside Ireland, that becomes:

UK/Europe	00-353-954-2353
North America	011-353-954-2353

INTERNET & WI-FI

Another consequence of the mountains and our remote location is that our internet service is via satellite. This means it's expensive, quite slow and there are severe usage restrictions.

You are allocated 2GB of free usage per week, which should be more than enough for checking emails and doing basic internet searches, but it will **NOT** be enough to allow you to download large amounts of video content. Be warned that any excess usage will be charged to you at €100 per gigabyte.

The service can be affected by heavy rain, very strong winds and power outages. These are not too common. Please do not touch the dish under any circumstances and please do not fiddle with the settings on the modem or wireless router, which are located in the 2-bed room nearest the kitchen.

MAIL

The official mailing address is Waterfall Cottage, Delphi, Leenane, Co Galway, H91 D2VO, but we are actually in County Mayo by six miles or so (In Ireland you take your postal address from your nearest post office, which in our case is at Hamilton's Bar & Shop in Leenane).

Please leave any mail that is delivered for us on the kitchen dresser.

TV & DVD PLAYERS

A third consequence of the mountainous location (this is getting tiresome!) is that our TV feed is also by satellite. However, there is a good range of channels available, including all the main UK TV and radio stations and a few from the US (CBS etc).

There are two TVs, each with a DVD player – one in the upper sitting room beside the kitchen and one in the downstairs river room. There are 5 remote controls that are relevant:

Upstairs

Control “Walker” works the basic TV controls, notably on/off – programmes are pre-set starting with Channel 301.

Control “Sony” C is used for playing DVDs.

Downstairs

Control A works the basic TV controls, notably on/off.

Control B is then used for viewing and changing channels (Grundig)

Control C is used for playing DVDs, in conjunction with A.

Note that these remotes are NOT interchangeable between upstairs and downstairs, so please do not mix them up.

There is a library of DVDs in the upper sitting room. Note that US-origin DVDs do not work in Europe; we use a different system.

CENTRAL HEATING & HOT WATER

There are two completely separate heating systems. The main system serves all upstairs rooms except Bed/Bath 2. The second system serves Bed/Bath 2 & the downstairs River Room.

The main system is operated from the drying room (off the kitchen) and supplies under-floor pipes and a few wall radiators. The second system is controlled from the downstairs River Room (the boiler-room is off the downstairs terrace).

There is also a small electric under-floor heating system for Bathroom 2, but this is all pre-set and there is no need to touch the wall-mounted settings outside the bathroom door.

All hot water comes from the main tank in the upstairs drying room. There is a supplementary electric immersion heater in the main tank, but it should not be necessary to use that if the timings on the main control unit are set correctly.

There are four Control Units, all of which have on/off switches and timer controls. All of these will have been pre-set for the time of year based on past experience. You can of course change them, as needed.

- Main heating – left hand wall of drying room (“Radiators” & “Underfloor”).
- Second heating system – on wall of downstairs River Room.
- Main hot water – lower right wall, drying room (“H/W Oil”).
- Immersion* - upper right wall, drying room (“H/W Imm”)

** Not normally used – for back-up only*

BURGLAR ALARM & PANIC BUTTON

There’s no need to use the alarm system, which is only activated during long periods of non-occupancy. But do please keep all windows and doors locked when you are away from the cottage.

There is also a **panic button** by the bed in the master bedroom. This is a box with red button which should only be pressed in the unlikely event of a fire or an intruder. This triggers alarms and sirens both inside and outside the cottage. To silence the alarm press **0737** on the burglar alarm panel in the drying room.

FIRE ALARM & EQUIPMENT

The main living area of the cottage is equipped with a heat detector system, as well as battery-operated smoke and CO2 detectors which are tested before you arrive.

If you hear any shrill alarms, please immediately vacate the cottage.

There are fire extinguishers and a fire blanket located in the entrance hall area. Please familiarise yourself with their location on arrival.

The wood burning stove in the upstairs sitting room may trigger the smoke detector if the doors are left open. Be sure to close the glass doors of the stove before going to bed at night.

ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES

If you have any difficulty operating any of the appliances, the instructions books are stored in the left-hand drawer of the kitchen dresser.

Dishwasher

This is of standard design and operation. Insert oblong detergent pellets (from the top drawer to the left of the clothes washer) into the box on the inside of the door and snap it shut.

Washing machine & clothes dryer

The clothes washing machine offers a range of wash cycles. For a normal wash, use two round powder tablets (from the top drawer to the left of the machine) and put these in the left hand section of the mini-drawer at the top of the machine.

The clothes dryer in the utility room is controlled by a timer switch. We rarely use this, preferring to let clothes dry naturally on the outdoor clothes line (beside the lower river terrace) or the indoor rails above the old green Aga.

Please do NOT overload the machines.

WATER SUPPLY

The cottage's water supply comes straight from the river. We drink it all the time, but anyone with any doubts or with a sensitive constitution might prefer to drink it after it has passed through a ceramic-carbon filter. If so, use the small thin tap on the right-hand side of the kitchen sink.

The main stopcock for turning off the water supply is located in the small stone structure beside the river. This is only to be used if there is a major leak in the cottage.

POWER SUPPLY

Power outages are rare but can happen in a bad storm. If an outage occurs, you can switch to a back-up generator by turning a big knob mounted high on the left wall of the drying room – turn the knob clockwise through 0 to position 2.

When mains power is restored (the power will go again), switch the knob back to “ESB” – anti-clockwise through 0.

When the generator is running, please do not use the oven, hob, kettle or other non-essential appliances. It only has limited capacity.

GARBAGE DISPOSAL

All garbage should be separated, bagged and put into the outside bins as follows:

Orange wheelie-bin: This is for specific recyclables, as shown on the list on the bin lid (including paper, cardboard, plastic and cans).

Blue-wheelie bin: This is for general waste which should be bagged and tied.

Black bin: This is for bottles and other glass products.

BOOKS & GAMES

There is an eclectic library of books both in the upper day-room and in the bedrooms. Please feel free to add your left-overs, but please do not subtract any of ours.

There are all sorts of board and other games in the closet off the bedroom corridor.
We hope the weather is such that you don't have to resort to using them.

THE AGA COOKING STOVE

We have revived this dear old beast and converted it from oil to electricity, which makes it much easier to use and adjust. For those unfamiliar with these eccentric cookers, they are relatively crude, but people tend to fall in love with them – especially for baking.

There are two main ovens, which are behind the right-hand doors. The top right is the hottest (for roasting), while the bottom right is less hot (suitable for baking, cooking stews etc). The top left-hand door is the simmering oven (for very long, slow cooking) and the bottom left is the warming oven for keeping food warm or warming plates and dishes. The fifth door in the middle is not used.

There are also two hot rings with lids (the middle one being the hottest) and a warming plate to the left. Always keep the lids down when the rings are not in active use. There is no grill as such.

The controls you need to know about:

1. DO NOT TOUCH the big red switch on the wall to the right of the stove. It must always be ON (in the down position).
2. On the left-hand side of the Aga is the control box. If you want to turn the Aga off (e.g. because the room is too hot) just slide the blue knob in the bottom right hand corner of the display (see picture) up to the OFF position. DO NOT TOUCH any other controls. Be aware, however, that if you do turn it off, it takes about 7 hours to warm up again.
3. Conversely, if the Aga is off when you arrive, slide the blue knob to the mid-position between “off” and “on”, i.e. to the clock illustration. This will operate the Aga to preset routines, including turning it off at night. DO NOT EVER slide the blue knob to the ON position - the Aga will overheat.
4. The black knob on the control panel on the left of the stove governs oven temperatures. The norm is to keep it at somewhere between Moderate and High, but you can adjust as you like.

If you don't like the look of this antique monster, we won't take offence. Just turn it off (see 2. above) and use the conventional electric hotplate, grill and fan oven on the opposite wall.

SAFETY WARNING

If you are using the rail above the Aga to dry clothes or towels, NEVER HAVE THE LIDS UP. It is the quickest way to set fire to the building. (One not-so-clever guest in

one of the other Delphi cottages did just that – and then tried to sue us for ruining his vacation! He lost.)

HOUSE RULES: THE TWELVE COMMANDMENTS

1. Always keep dogs on a lead. This is sheep country and the local farmers take a murderous view of any unfettered dogs.
2. Please keep dogs off the furniture and out of the bedrooms.
3. Please never use candles. Torches/flashlights are provided.
4. Please close the fire-stove doors at night.
5. Please do not over-use the internet.
6. Please put mats or coasters under hot items, especially on wood surfaces.
7. Please lock all doors & windows if you are going out.
8. Please report any breakages.
9. Please do not swim in the river; it can be dangerously powerful.
10. The fishing rights belong exclusively to Delphi Lodge. If you want to go fishing (fly fishing only) contact David on 095-42222, but they may be fully booked.
11. The downstairs river terrace is extremely slippery when wet. Please take great care.
12. Please keep off the flat roof where the satellite dish is located and make sure that all children are warned not to go up there in any circumstances.

LEFT-OVER FOOD & DRINK

Previous guests may have left behind some basic supplies that are still usable (salt, pepper, sugar etc). If you have stuff left over that may be useful for incoming tenants, please feel free to leave them, but perishable goods are best discarded.

DEPARTURE CHECKLIST

When you leave at the end of your stay, please make sure that:

- The washing up has been done
- All garbage has been bagged & binned.

- The keys are returned through the letterbox

WHAT TO DO & WHERE TO GO

FOOD SHOOPING

For daily basics such as bread, milk and newspapers, the nearest store is Hamiltons in Leenane (8 miles away).

In Louisburgh (11 miles) there is a small supermarket. But for major food shopping it is best to head for Tesco in Westport, where there is also a good butcher and a fishmonger.

GENERAL SHOPPING

For local crafts, we like the Possibly Shop, which is on the road to Clifden just after Letterfrack. But all the tour buses head for the large craft shop at Kylemore, which is also not bad.

Westport has some nice shops, but for serious shopping head for Galway, with its large Brown Thomas department store, a fantastic cheese shop (Sheridans) and loads of arty stuff.

PETROL

Be warned that there are NO petrol stations in the area that are open all hours. The nearest petrol is at Hamiltons in Leenane, which is only open in the daytime. There is also a petrol station and good general store just outside Louisburgh on the Westport Road, which is open until 9pm.

EATING OUT

Restaurant preferences are so subjective. You might want to flick through the Comments Book to see what others have said. Be warned that many places are only open for the “tourist season” (from Easter to September). Here are a few of our favourite places:

For lunch: You can't beat a nice crab sandwich at Hamilton's Bar in Leenane, especially when washed down with a pint of their exceptional Guinness. Soup and other sandwiches also available.

For convenience: The Blackberry Café in Leenane. Moderate menu with some local seafood. Not a gourmet experience and not all that cheap, but solid and dependably filling. Or there is a restaurant just down the road in the Delphi Resort and Spa. Delphi Lodge also sometimes takes outside diners at their huge table; it can be fun.

In Westport: We recently had an outstanding meal in a little Italian bistro called La Bella Vita. Authentically Italian with fresh ingredients, it's small and unpretentious

and very reasonably priced. Highly recommended. Sage is also popular. And An Port Mor in Bridge Street is getting some very good reviews

Further afield: There are two excellent hotel restaurants, both about 50 minutes away – Newport House in Newport (a great chef and a seriously good wine cellar) and Ballynahinch Castle (lovely location and pretty good food). But you have to drive home again afterwards, which may curtail indulgence.

There are lots of other restaurants, and hotels with restaurants, in Westport & Clifden and there are even two others in Leenane in season. None, however, has generated much rapture in our souls in recent years.

PUBS & LOCAL MUSIC

Our favourite local bar is (you guessed it) Hamilton's Bar in Leenane. We also like Matt Malloy's in Westport, which features live traditional music almost every night of the year. Matt is the flautist with The Chieftains and the bar attracts a motley crew of peripatetic musical geniuses. But it can be crowded and it's obviously noisy.

For an authentic off-piste cultural experience, head for The Larches in the gorgeous Lough Nafooe Valley (16 miles). But check that they have music and dancing on or you may end up just eyeballing one lonely old drunk in solemn silence.

And for another experience straight out of *Deliverance*, take the small road to the only bar in Drummin (9 miles). Expect to be fleeced by the locals at the pool table.

FISHING

You are in the heart of Ireland's finest fly-fishing country, where the quarry are (depending on the time of year) salmon, brown trout and white trout (also known as sea trout or sea-run browns).

On your doorstep is one of Ireland's most famous fisheries, Delphi, comprising a chain of beautiful lakes and a mile of river fishing. It's not cheap and it can be booked out for weeks at a time, but it has great fishing, great guides, stunning waters and a long season. Call the fishery manager David on 087-638-8510 or email him on DaveTheFish@hotmail.com to check availability.

One tip for the summertime: If Delphi is fully booked on the main beats, ask them for a boat and guide on either Glencullin or Tawnyard Loughs. These are beautiful places that are under-fished, but which can provide a wonderful trouting experience between July and September.

Further along the road to Leenane there's the mighty Erriff river, noted for its salmon fishing between June and September. It fishes best for a few days after heavy rain, but it can get rapidly booked up. Call Oscar on 095-42252/42382.

There are several other river and lake systems that can be worth a day trip, most notably Kylemore Abbey, Lough Inagh, Ballynahinch and Newport. In general, the wetter the weather, the better the salmon fishing. May to September are the best months.

For trout fishing, there is no more authentic west-of-Ireland experience than taking a guide and a traditional wooden boat for a day on Lough Corrib, with a lunchtime picnic on one of its many islands. Catches are frustratingly inconsistent, but that's fishing. Our favourite guide is John Somerville whose latest contact details David at Delphi Fishery will know (see above for David's contact details). If John is already booked, he will know other guides who are not. March to September.

For sea fishing, we recommend Johnnie Brittain of Bluewater Fishing in Clifden. A lovely man and utterly professional. You never know what you might catch. He's even had Bluefin tuna. 095-21073.

GOLF

Westport (30-mins, 098-28262) has a good, tough 18-hole championship course that is partly parkland and partly runs alongside Clew Bay. The Connemara links at Ballyconneely (095-23502) beyond Clifden are also well worth a trip on a sunny day, despite the 70-minute drive.

Oughterard (50 minutes, 091-552131) has another parkland course. Serious links aficionados may want to venture as far as Enniscrone or Belmullet/Carn, but they are nearly two hours away.

Reservations are always a good idea on any course.

RIDING

Our favorite riding place has just gone bust (!), so Google to find if there are now others operating in the area.

HIKING

One of the joys of the west of Ireland is that you can go hiking just about anywhere. Although there are few marked trails, there are several recognised hikes in the area, both low-level and up on the hills. There are some useful guidebooks in the day-room library and we recommend you buy the local Ordnance Survey map (Hamiltons stock them).

Be warned that the hillsides can be boggy and a hiking pole is a good idea. And treat the hills with great respect. Mists can come in off the ocean very quickly and disorientatingly, so choose your weather carefully.

There is just one grumpy farmer who lives above the beach at Dooneen (on the north side of the mouth of Killary Harbour). He has tried to fence off access to the beach and often abuses people who go there. But you can still get there without crossing his land if you go at low tide. And we do!

BEACHES

Buying the local Ordnance Survey map (available at Hamiltons) is always a good idea. (When we leave them here, they invariably disappear!). You will be able to identify many sandy beaches in the area, nearly all of which are generally devoid of people.

Our favourites are White Strand, directly due west of the cottage but a 20-minute drive around Mweelrea mountain, and Glassilaun, which is beyond Leenane (ask for directions in Hamiltons or follow the signs for Scubadive West).

LOCAL FESTIVALS & EVENTS

There are a number of local festivals throughout the summer season - arts & music festivals in Galway and Westport, the oyster festivals in Galway and Clarinbridge, a regatta in Roundstone, and famous horse shows in Clifden and Ballinasloe. There are also big horse-racing festivals at Galway and Ballinrobe, and smaller ones on the beaches at Omey and Carrowniskey.

Check with the tourist office in Westport (098-25711 or 25739) for events that are on during your stay.

THE ISLANDS

Trips to the offshore islands are always a delight in good weather. Take a ferry from Cleggan to Inishboffin or Inishturk. For Clare Island the ferries leave from Roonagh Pier near Louisburgh. All three have great bird life, lovely beaches, at least one pub and an atmosphere of times gone by. The Aran Isles can be a bit too touristy in summer.

OTHER DAY TRIPS

For taking in all the sights of Connemara and south Mayo, we recommend the following round-trip drives:

- Roundstone (4-5 hours): Leenane > Kylemore > Letterfrack > Clifden > Ballynyconneely > Roundstone (taking in O'Dowd's pub) > Ballynahinch (tea?) > Lough Inagh and back via Leenane.

- Joyce Country (3-4 hours): Leenane > Lough Nafuoey > Clonbur > Cong > Cornamona > Lough Corrib > Leenane.
- Westport (<2 hours): Head up the road for half a mile to Doolough and take the first right, eventually passing Tawnyard Lough, then over the mountain to Drummin and eventually hitting the road to Westport. Return via Murrisk, Lecanvey and Louisburgh.

MUST-SEE SIGHTS

- The Victorian walled gardens at Kylemore Abbey (20 mins away)
- Westport House (for which Delphi Lodge was a sporting annexe)
- The top of Croagh Patrick (on a nice day – take a walking staff).
- The National Museum of Country Life (15 mins beyond Castlebar).

SUGGESTIONS FOR WET DAYS

Yes, it does rain in Ireland – sometimes for days at a time. With the right clothing (a good waterproof hooded jacket, over-trousers and wellington boots) you can still venture out for a refreshing walk, even though the scenery may be shrouded in gloom.

Here are some ideas:

- Curl up in front of the fire with a good book and a glass of whiskey
- Watch a DVD or two or three
- Play charades, backgammon, bridge, trivial pursuit, scrabble, chess or dominoes (all in the games closet).
- Do a big jigsaw puzzle (ditto)
- Tour Westport House and/or the Museum of Country Life.
- Head for the pub.
- Book some fishing for when the rain stops.
- Go shopping in Galway
- Don your wetsuit and go surfing at Carrowniskey Strand.
- Start writing that definite 21st century novel...

Whatever else you do, please don't spend hours surfing the web – it will cost you, big time.

PROBLEMS & CONTACTS

Emergencies

For the police, fire brigade or ambulance service dial 999.

Doctor/Hospital

The local doctor are Eileen O'Connor on 098-66168 and Karina Morrison on 098-66681. Mornings are normally the best time to call for an appointment.

Out of hours, there is an emergency helpline called Westdoc on 1850-365000.

The nearest hospital with an Accident & Emergency unit is in Castlebar (50 minutes) and it's signposted as you enter town.

Caretaker/housekeeper

Our caretaker/housekeeper & occasional gardener is Geraldine McNally on 087-639-5847.

Maintenance manager

Our maintenance manager is Martin Joe Wallace on 087-224-6159 or home 095-42968. He can deal with most mechanical problems or get a plumber or electrician if needed.

In absolute desperation, you might find some neighbourly assistance from Delphi Lodge 095-42222 – ask for David, Carole or Mick.

Owners

If you need to contact us, email is best: mantlehome@gmail.com. If you really need to talk to us, try 0044-1264-781066, our home in the UK. Or The Delphi Club in the Bahamas should know where we are if we are not in England; call 001-242-366-2222 or 001-242-577-1698 (ask for Max).