

## THINGS YOU MAY SEE

**THE BEACON:** Built to mark the harbour mouth for sailors far out to sea, it is shown on a map dated 1788, but the present structure was built in the 1830's. The Loo rock in the harbour entrance is named after HMS Looe which struck it and sank there on 30<sup>th</sup> April 1697.

**BALTIMORE SAILING CLUB,** founded in 1956.

**BOAT YARDS:** Now derelict, these yards supported a thriving wooden boat building industry up until 1985. The Baltimore shipwrights ranked second to none in skill. The tradition lives on, mainly in Oldcourt.

**DUN NA SEAD CASTLE:** "Fort of the Jewels", may be open to the public at certain times.

**FISH PALACE:** Notches cut in the rock face just NW of the new house in The Cove were to support beams used to press oil from pilchards in the 17<sup>th</sup> C.

**FISHERY POINT** on Coney Island has the remains of a late 19<sup>th</sup>C Cornish fish factory, built in an attempt to revive the pilchard fishery.

**LIFEBOAT HOUSE:** Built in 1915, it now houses the Tyne Class "Hilda Jarret". An inshore lifeboat has also just been stationed on the pier.

**RAILWAY STATION,** now the Glenans Sailing School. The branch line from Skibbereen opened in 1877, and closed in 1961. At times it was a boon to the fishery – up to 17 trains daily in WW 1!

**SHERKIN ABBEY,** visible from the village. A Franciscan Friary founded by Sir Fineen O'Driscoll in 1449. Burnt in 1537 and later repaired.

**TULLAGH GRAVEYARD,** with a ruined church.

**ROCKS:** The spectacular coastal outcrops are made up of Devonian sandstones, siltstones and slates deposited in a delta about 355 million years ago, then compressed, folded and weakly metamorphosed during the Variscan orogeny around 290 million years ago.

*Brochure commissioned by Baltimore Tidy Town  
& compiled by Brian Marten*

## ABOUT BALTIMORE

Baltimore's sheltered harbour has attracted settlers since Neolithic times (there is a passage grave, ~3,500BC, on an island near Reengaroga causeway). Some say that the village was a Druidical center in pre-Christian times. A ringfort (enclosed farmstead) dating from the early Christian era is located SE of the lifeboat station (but overgrown and inaccessible).

The imposing Dun na Séad Castle which dominates the village square was built by the Normans in 1215. It was destroyed by the McCarthys around 1305, but later rebuilt by the O'Driscolls who had long been a maritime power in the area. An ongoing feud between the O'Driscolls and the men of Waterford resulted in the latter raiding in 1537 - they burned Dun na Séad as well as the Abbey and the O'Driscoll's Dunalong castle on Sherkin. It was later rebuilt in the style of an Elizabethan fortified house. It survived as a ruin to be recently restored to its present condition.

In the 16<sup>c</sup> the village was a significant fishing harbour with links to France and Spain. The pilchard fishery was important in the 17<sup>th</sup> C, with involvement of fishermen from SW England (Fish Palace in The Cove).

Baltimore received a Town Charter in 1613 when it was part of the Carbery estate, and had two MP's up to 1800 when the charter was forfeited.

On 20<sup>th</sup> June 1631 Algerian pirates descended on the village, killed two people and carried 109 others off to slavery in North Africa. They were guided in by a man called Hackett who was later executed in Cork. After this infamous "Sack of Baltimore" some of the locals decided to move upriver to a safer location, and founded Skibbereen.

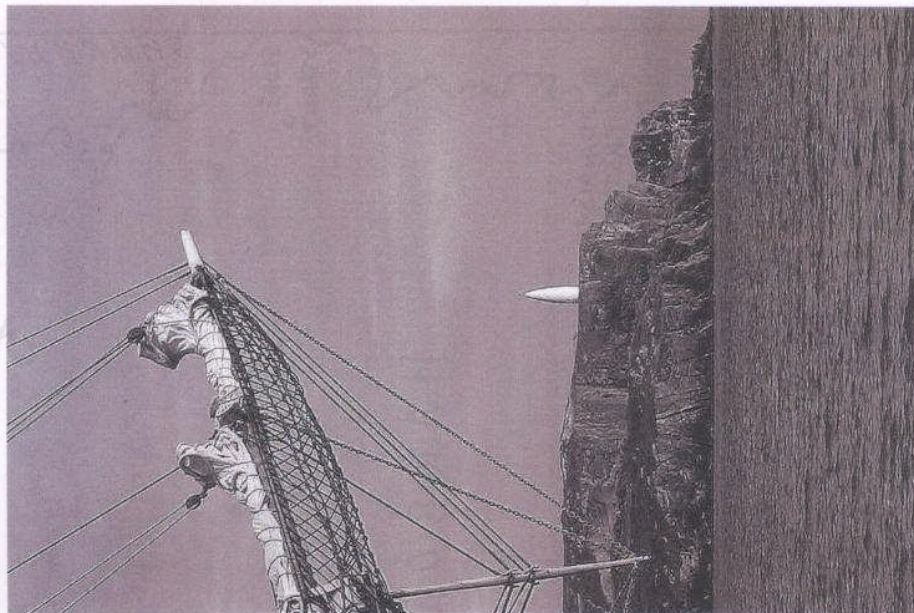
Sailing and yachting became much more popular after WW II, and tourism started to increase dramatically. But fishing is still an important year-round industry.

For more information see brochure "Explore Baltimore" and [www.baltimore.ie](http://www.baltimore.ie)

**NB: Please don't walk on private land  
without owner's permission!**

## BALTIMORE

### WALKING MAP



*The Beacon, marking the harbour mouth, with bowsprit of the "Picton Castle"*

**Approximate walking times  
one-way, from The Square**

The Cove: 10 mins. 0.75 km.

The Beacon: 22 mins. 1.5 km. The best views

Lifeboat Station: 10 mins. 0.75 km

Trafaska: 25 mins. 2 km via Lahern; quiet leafy lane & glen