

Discovery Point

Causeway Coastal Route

The West Bay

Paddles and Fins

The West Bay attracts thousands of visitors every year. Not all arrive by land. Keep a keen eye on the sea for their fins!

Dolphins and sharks

Not all visitors to West Bay arrive by train or campervan, instead making their way via the ocean. Occasionally a travelling pod of bottlenose dolphins will make a stop over in any number of large bays along the north coast either to feed or interact. Other ocean travellers to stop off are the world's second largest fish, the basking shark. Notable for their slow moving, they give away their presence with two distinct fins (dorsal and tail) breaking the surface. The sharks swim with their large mouths gaping, filtering the water for plankton (tiny plant and animal organisms). Keep an eye out also for the smaller harbour porpoises who reside in these beautiful waters all year round.

Fun in the bay

The annual West Bay, Portrush Raft Race (in May) is a fun-filled family event enjoyed by thousands and raising much needed and deserved funds for Portrush Lifeboat. The first race was held 29th May 1982. First over the line was the aptly named 'The Portrush Flyer' (named after a famous steam train to the 'Port').

Both the West Bay & Ramore Head are part of the popular Ulster Way and Causeway Coast Way Walking Trail, offering superb coastal walking. The North Coast Sea Kayak Trail offers kayakers a journey of exploration and discovery.



Basking Shark. Courtesy of Colin Speedy, Swiss Shark Foundation



Did you know?
Bottlenose dolphins get their name from their distinct bottle-shaped beaks. They are famous for acrobatic breaching (clearing the water). Along with all other whales and dolphins (including sharks) they are a protected species and every effort must be made to avoid disturbance.

Bottlenose Dolphins. Courtesy of DOE (NI) Marine Division

Portrush Raft Race courtesy of Nigel McDowell



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