

# Legends *in* Northern Ireland

Discover 4 places to experience unusual legends in Northern Ireland.

## Glossary

- Wind: turn completely or repeatedly
- Blast: use an explosive
- Lapping: folding over
- Hearthstone: stone in front of a fireplace
- Churn: proceed by or as if by means of rotating members (such as wheels or propellers)
- Gnarled: rough and twisted, especially from old age or no protection from bad weather
- Loom: appear as a large, often frightening or unclear shape or object
- Crouch: bend close to the ground
- Knotted: having knots (place where pieces of string, rope, etc. have been tied together)
- Outstretched: reaching out as far as possible
- Gale: very strong wind
- Sprout: grow
- Ward off: avoid
- Scurvy: an illness of the body tissues that is caused by not having enough vitamin C
- Sapling: young tree

## Choose the correct option

Blackcave Tunnel and the Devil's Churn, Larne, Northern Ireland

The "Black Arch" guards the entrance to the picturesque Glens of Antrim.



**BLACKCAVE TUNNEL, OR "THE BLACK Arch,"** as it is known as by most local people, sits at the start of the legendary Antrim Coast Road on the \_\_\_\_\_ of Larne. The road \_\_\_\_\_ through picturesque scenery and charming towns and villages and has been described as one of the world's most epic \_\_\_\_\_ drives.

The road was built in the 19th century by a local civil engineer named William Bald, . He managed to \_\_\_\_\_ many cubic tonnes of rock away from the coast to create the route and \_\_\_\_\_ many archways along the way, including "The Black Arch."

Next to the Black Arch, there are two strangely shaped large rocks sticking out from the ocean, and a small cave entrance with a staircase that takes you \_\_\_\_\_ the seawall and closer to the

lapping waves of the sea. This strange creation is called the “Devil’s Churn,” and is one of Larne’s most famous haunted tales.

The story goes that one night a drunken piper went into the rocky opening and never returned.

Apparently, as the clocks strike midnight, you can hear him playing his pipes under the \_\_\_\_\_ of a house in the Ballycraigy area of Larne, . It is called the Devil’s Churn due to the old hand churn-like sounds the \_\_\_\_\_ waves produce moving between the rocks and the cave.

### 'The Big Fish', Belfast, Northern Ireland

A giant sculpture of the legendary "Salmon of Knowledge" celebrates the return of fish to Belfast's River Lagan.

**“THE BIG FISH,” ALSO KNOWN** as “The Salmon of Knowledge,” is a sculpture made from a \_\_\_\_\_ of ceramic tiles. You’ll find it along the \_\_\_\_\_ of the River Lagan in Donegall Quay, Belfast.



the story tells of a fish that eats some hazelnuts that had fallen into the Well of Wisdom. After \_\_\_\_\_ the nuts, the salmon \_\_\_\_\_ all the knowledge in the world. According to the tale, the first person to eat the fish would then \_\_\_\_\_ all of its knowledge.

This sculpture of the legendary salmon was constructed in 1999 to celebrate the return of fish to the River Lagan. . According to local \_\_\_\_\_, kissing the fish \_\_\_\_\_ wisdom.

### Madman's Window, Larne, Northern Ireland

It is said a heartbroken man visited the gap every day to stare blankly out at the sea.





## WALKING ALONG THE GLENARM COASTAL

Path, a few miles south of the village of Glenarm, you'll come across two large \_\_\_\_\_ boulders. , a naturally created, window-shaped \_\_\_\_\_ in the rock looking out \_\_\_\_\_ the Irish Sea.

The geological \_\_\_\_\_ gets its

nickname from a local tale about a man from the village who lost his sweetheart in the waters of Glenarm Bay.  the heartbroken man, losing grip on his sanity, visited the rocky hole on a daily basis to \_\_\_\_\_ blankly through the gap and out to sea, apparently waiting for his sweetheart to return to him.

## The Armada Tree, [Larne, Northern Ireland](#)

This gnarled old tree supposedly sprouted from seeds kept in the pocket of a 16th-century Spanish sailor.

### A GNARLED OLD TREE

\_\_\_\_\_ over the tombstones in a small church graveyard. Its trunk bent at an odd angle, it seems to \_\_\_\_\_ over the ground, its knotted branches \_\_\_\_\_ in all directions.



According to local legend, this Spanish Sweet Chestnut tree \_\_\_\_\_ from seeds stored within a dead sailor's pocket. Supposedly, the 16th-century Spanish sailor buried beneath it had been carrying chestnuts with him while on his maritime journey, likely to \_\_\_\_\_ scurvy.

. Unfortunately for him and the rest of his crew, \_\_\_\_\_ whipped the waves into a furious frenzy, blowing their ship off course and wrecking it near Northern Ireland. One sailor's body washed up on the shores of Ballygally in 1588, where kind locals discovered the corpse and buried it in an unmarked grave at St Patrick's Church of Ireland.

. Soon, a \_\_\_\_\_ sprouted from the wet earth. It somehow managed to survive, despite the strong winds that so often battered the village. Now dubbed the Armada Tree, it's viewed as an

unlikely, unexpected transplant from the Spanish Armada. Scientists who analyzed the tree have dated it to the 16th century, adding some credence to its legendary origin story.

*Update as of June 2020: In the early morning hours of June 29, 2020, after standing in the graveyard for over 430 years, the Armada Tree fell. There was no wind, and it's believed that the tree was suffering from root disease. There are plans underway to \_\_\_\_\_ the wood and create something extraordinary to commemorate the \_\_\_\_\_ tree.*

**Some phrases / sentences have been removed from the text. Match them to the correct gap. Write the corresponding letter in the boxes.**

- C** whose task was to link the many small communities within the Glens of Antrim with the main towns in the area
- H** where the cavern is supposed to exist
- D** The giant sculpture is based on a character from the tale "The Boyhood Deeds of Fionn"
- G** Each of its tiles is decorated with texts or images that relate in some way to an aspect of Belfast's history
- B** On the far side of these boulders is the "Madman's Window,"
- E** It is said that after this terrible accident,
- A** The sailor was part of the Spanish Armada
- F** But his grave didn't remain unmarked for long