

# Mutton Island

## Co. Clare

**Mutton Island is situated 1 mile off Seafield Harbour on the West Coast of Co. Clare. It lies 10 miles due south of the Cliffs of Moher and 20 miles south of the Aran Islands and Galway Bay. The island is 35 miles from Shannon Airport by road and 8 minutes by helicopter.**



History states that a tidal wave separated  
Mutton Island from the mainland in 1804 ....  
Why not re-acquaint yourself in 2011

**Price: €500,000**

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## DESCRIPTION

Mutton Island comprises of 185 acres of grassland with a freshwater lake and several springwater wells. It slopes gently from sea level on the east to a height of 110 feet over two kilometers to the west where the watchtower is situated.



The east of the island contains the ruins of two cottages, a disused graveyard and the site of a cross and oratory as well as several walled fields once used for tillage. The north and western shores are indented with numerous breath-taking caves and inlets while the southern and eastern shores slope gently to the sea.

## HISTORY

According to tradition **Mutton Island** gets its name from the sheep that landed there off a wrecked Spanish Armada Ship called the Zuniga which floundered on its coast in 1588. Some of the lost souls from that ship are buried in the disused graveyard on the island and a brass cannon from the ship was still on the island up to thirty years ago

Two promontory forts on the island attest to its prehistoric inhabitation when it was at the outer edge of the known world.

By 548 AD the first recorded building was erected there by St. Senan who built a church and founded a monastic settlement there while on his way from the Aran Islands to the Shannon Estuary.

According to the Annals of the Four Masters it was hit by a massive storm in 801AD when it was called the Island of Fitha.

In 1215 it was granted to the Archbishop of Cashel by the Norman government. In the early 1700's it was used for wine and tobacco smuggling as names like Poulaneena (of the wine) and Port Tobacco Cove evidence. During that time the Island was owned by Sir Edward O'Brien of Drumoland who was a well known and eager customer of wine smugglers.

In the late 1700's a telegraph watchtower and keep were built there by the coastguard to keep vigil for a French invasion that never happened! Since then Mutton Island has had a quiet pastoral history as a self-sufficient continually inhabited island supporting up to twelve families, the last of whom left in 1948

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