

## *Ballinalacken Castle, Doolin*

Standing tall on a limestone outcrop, our very own Castle, Ballinalacken Castle, is a two-stage tower house which was built in 1390. It is thought the name comes from the Irish *Baile na leachan* (which means “town of the flagstones/tombstones/stones”).



## ***Historical Timeline:***

- 10<sup>th</sup> Century***      The original fortress is built by famous Irish clan, the O'Connors – rulers of West Corcomroe.
- 14<sup>th</sup> Century***      The fortress itself is found and Lochlan MacCon O'Connor is in charge of its rebuilding.
- 1564***                Control of West Corcomroe passes to Donal O'Brien of the O'Brien family.
- 1582***                The lands are formally granted by deed to Turlough O'Brien of Ennistymon.
- After the Cromwellians triumphed in the area, five of Turlough's castles are razed to the ground – but Ballinalacken is saved as it was not on the list of “overthrowing and demolishing castles in Connaught and Clare.”
- 1662***                Daniel dies and grandson Donough is listed as rightful holder of the Castle.
- 1840***                Lord O'Brien built the manor house beside the castle.
- 1938***                Daniel O'Callaghan bought the property and turned it into The Ballinalacken Castle Country House Hotel.

*Presently it is locked for health & safety reasons.*

*The owners will kindly take their guests on a private tour.*

