

Sí Cholm Cille

Bealach na Gaeltachta



Bealach na Gaeltachta, Dún na Gall are a number of walking trails in the Gaeltacht areas of County Donegal. They include four primary long distance circular routes (Sí Cholm Cille, Sí an Earagail, Sí na Rossan and Sí na Finne) link trails between three of these routes and loops on three offshore islands, Arranmore, Tory and Gola.

For detailed information on all Bealach na Gaeltachta routes, visit www.irishtrails.ie



Note: These routes are closed for one day each year on December 25th.



Sí an Earagail (74 km, Moderate Grading, 4 - 5 days to complete) is a journey through the spectacularly wild and beautiful landscape of north west Donegal. It takes its name from Errigal mountain (751m), whose pyramidal, grey-streaked quartzite cone is almost always visible along the route. Other highlights include Bloody Foreland, Lough Nacung at Dunlewy and the coastal sections along its western edge.

BEALACH NA GAELTACHTA

Most sections of Sí an Earagail and Sí na Rossan follow tracks or minor roads. Parts of Sí Cholm Cille and Sí na Finne cross upland or bogland areas with no path but provide excellent landscape and coastal views.



Sí na Rosann (65 km, Moderate Grading, 3 - 4 days to complete) lies between the western outliers of Donegal's Derryveagh Mountains and its much-indented Atlantic coast in the west. The often dramatic and harsh landscape and is scattered with more than a hundred lakes. The route through this wonderfully scenic area links the town of Dunglow and the villages of Crolly, Maghery, Annagry and Burtonport.



Sí na Finne (48 km, Moderate Grading, 2 - 3 days to complete) loops through the mountains of central Donegal, offering wilderness, mountains, glens, rivers, and lakes. Along the sections away from the villages and roads there is a tangible sense of remoteness. Route highlights include Lough Finn, a lake steeped in legends of the superhero Finn Mc Cumhail, and the River Finn, one of the best salmon rivers in Europe.



Sí Thoraí (8.5 km, Easy Grading, 2 - 3 hours to complete) takes you on a circle around Tory Island. This is a small and remote island of rugged beauty, rich in archaeological and monastic sites and home to a great range of birdlife. From the pier, the walk circles to the west as far as the lighthouse, returning to the pier before heading to the eastern end of the island and looping back. The cliff, ocean and island scenery is spectacular.



Sí Ghabhla (4 km, Easy Grading, 1 - 2 hours to complete) may be short, but it offers outstanding rewards for the walker with dramatic scenery, abundant wildlife and an atmosphere that is unique to Ireland's offshore islands. The route follows the gently undulating sandy roadways on the eastern half and through the centre of the island. Along the way you will pass beaches, cliffs, a lake and deserted dwellings which offer a glimpse a lost way of life.



Sí Árainn Mhór (14 km, Moderate Grading, 4 - 5 hours to complete) takes you on a circle around the island and follows quiet local roads and tracks. The views in all directions along that walk are stunning and the wild and uninhabited interior and the western half of the route is particularly remote. There is a spur walk to the Lighthouse at Rinawros Point.



ROUTE OVERVIEW

Sí Cholm Cille circles around and through the remote landscapes of south west Dhún na nGall. This area, which is associated with St Colm Cille, and from where the route gets its name, is rich in prehistoric and early Christian monuments. The route passes through spectacular unspoilt coastal and mountain scenery, including the lonely valley reaching down to the inlet of an Phoirí, and the dramatic valley of Gleann Gheis.

This route is closed for one day each year on December 25th.

Distance: 65 kms
Height gain: 1465 metres
Estimated Time: 3 - 4 days
Terrain: Boreens, forest roads, some open ground which can be very wet, and quiet country roads that rise and fall as they cross open country.
Grading: Moderate
Waymarking: Yellow arrows and walker symbol



Grading Information

EASY

MODERATE

STRENUOUS

Generally flat trails with a smooth surface and some gentle slopes or shallow steps. These trails are generally suitable for family groups including children and the elderly. Normal outdoor footwear can be worn.

Trail may have some climbs and rough and uneven surfaces. There may be some obstacles such as protruding roots, rocks, etc. Suitable for people with a moderate level of fitness and some walking experience. Specific outdoor walking footwear and clothing is recommended.

Physically demanding trails, which will typically have some sections with steep climbs for long periods. The going underfoot can be extremely rough including many obstacles. Suitable for users accustomed to walking on rough ground and with a high level of fitness. Specific outdoor walking footwear and clothing required.

Contact Details- The Bealach na Gaeltachta waymarked walks are managed by Donegal County Council - Tel: 07491 53900

If you encounter difficulties, call 999 or 112 and ask for Mountain Rescue or Gardai or in the event of fire ask for the Fire Service.
 For local weather information visit www.mtie.ie.

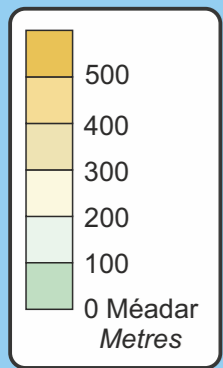


NO DOGS PERMITTED

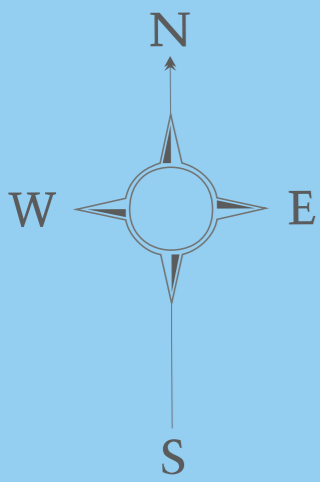
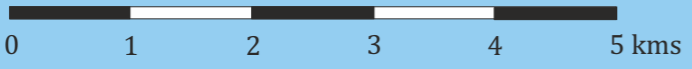
This National Waymarked Walking Trail crosses private property and access is due to the kind permission and generous cooperation of the landowners. Persons entering such private property do so by permission by the partners to this agreement or by private individuals on the route being used will alter this position. Nothing in this notice shall impact or address any pre-existing public rights of way.



Cartography & brochure design by Jeremy Smith - Tel: 07493 29866 Mob: 086 667 8221



1 hour of walking will take you this distancewalking @ 4 kms per houror this farwalking @ 5 kms per hour



MAP INFORMATION

- National Primary Road
- Regional Road
- Minor Road
- Bog/Forest Road
- Information Point
- Food available
- Filling station
- Post Office
- Shopping
- Parking
- Forest/Woodland
- Recommended view point
- Slí Cholm Cille
- Bluestack Way
- Tower Loop (Lúb an Túir)
- Drum Loop (Lúb an Droma)
- Pilgrim Path (Cosán an Oilithrigh)

Warning: Caution required on busy road section

