





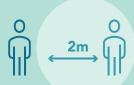
Plan ahead and practice responsible outdoor recreation

Please ensure to follow the **latest government guidelines** and advice



Ensure you **park responsibly** and don't block gateways, forest entrances and narrow roads which need to be passable for emergency services





Distance yourself at least **2 metres** (6 feet) away from other people



Make sure to **check if dogs are allowed** on the trail before you visit and if they are, please **keep them on a lead**

Let's keep the outdoors litter free - Love This Place Leave No Trace



Do not interfere with livestock, crop or farm machinery





Whether walking, jogging or cycling please **be considerate** and make sure to **give others space** who may be also exercising around you



Don't forget to bring your **hand sanitiser**

Respect private landowners - **don't trespass**



We love our scenic outdoor spaces - don't destroy what you've come to enjoy

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GRADE	DESCRIPTION
Easy	Traffic free or on very quiet roads. The surface is usually flat (tarmacadam or compacted gravel) with some gentle slopes. Generally suitable for all users including people with reduced mobility and wheelchair users.
Moderate	Traffic free or on quiet roads. There may be rough surfaces (when off-road) and the route may be undulating with slopes requiring a reasonable level of effort to climb. Suitable for cyclists with a moderate level of fitness and some cycling experience.
Challenging	Traffic free or on generally quiet roads but some sections may be on busier roads. There may be some rough surfaces (when off-road) and some steep gradients. Suitable for cyclists

with a good level of fitness and cycling experience.

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Introduction

n the third volume of our series featuring 100 Irish trails, we are focusing on cycling. The majority of the trails featured are shared use off-road trails suitable for cyclists of all abilities but can be used by walkers and wheelchair users too in most cases (some have a compacted gravel surface).

The majority of the trails we have selected have been graded 'Easy' but some are graded 'Moderate', and one is considered to be 'Challenging'. You can check the definitions of the grades on page two. Try and match the length and grade to your fitness level and cycling ability before you decide which trails to try.

For those of you who still want to walk – all of the routes can be used by either cyclists or walkers apart from the Greenwood mountain bike-specific track in Ballyhoura which only allows cycling. If you are on a bike always let people know if you are approaching and passing from behind.

We recommend you don't bring a dog when cycling as it can be a challenge for all. On a trail shared by cyclists and walkers it is important to keep your dog close to you on a short lead to avoid a passing bike getting caught in the lead.

While we have selected trails that we believe are less busy, all trails can be busy at certain times. Remember to park safely, never causing a blockage and always ensuring access for landowners and emergency services. Also, remember to bring all waste home with you. Let's make sure that our trails are kept clean for the enjoyment of all. For more information on responsibility in the outdoors visit www. leavenotraceireland.org.

Whether walking or cycling, remember the changeable Irish weather and bring a rain coat.

For more information on these trails and to discover more trails in Ireland, please visit the www.sportireland. ie/outdoors.

#LoveThisPlace #LeaveNoTrace

Don't forget to use #Outdoorsforeveryone for any photos you are posting on social media. Please make sure to follow the latest government advice around Covid-19.

Enjoy the outdoors, John Treacy Chief Executive Sport Ireland

TRAIL GRADE: Easy

Moderate

Challenging



Coachford Greenway



his trail, running along the shores of Inniscarra Lake, provides a safe traffic free recreational facility for families who want a short cycle or walk and is accessible to people who use a wheelchair. Along the trail enjoy animals and birdlife that live on or near the water including herons, kingfishers, geese, otters and the occasional sea eagle. Anglers can also access the lake along the trail and it presents perfect viewing opportunities for rowing activities on the lake, being situated directly opposite the Rowing Ireland Headquarters. The trail is 2km from all the facilities of Coachford village. At the trailhead there is free parking for over 20 cars.



County: Cork

Trail grade: Easy

Length (km): 5.6

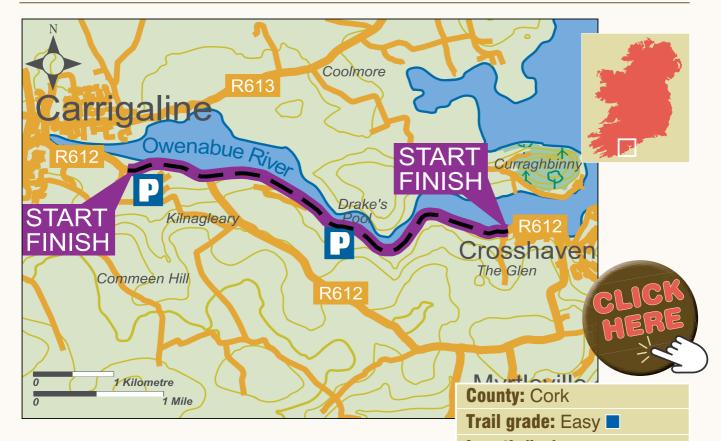
Estimated time: 30m

Dogs allowed: On a lead **Nearest town:** Coachford

village

Start point: Off R619 just north of Roove's Bridge about 200m along Nadrid Road at car park on right

Carrigaline to Crosshaven Greenway



he Crosshaven Railway Path runs from Carrigaline to the harbour at Crosshaven with the Owenabue River by your side all the way. This trail runs along the old Cork to Crosshaven railway line, which operated from 1904 to 1932. Along the route you will be able to observe various species of birds and other wildlife or relax and have a picnic at the amenity areas provided. On the route, just opposite the picturesque Coolmore House, you will pass "Drake's Pool" a cove where Sir Francis Drake and five of his fleet of ships took refuge in 1587 when they were pursued by the powerful Spanish Armada.

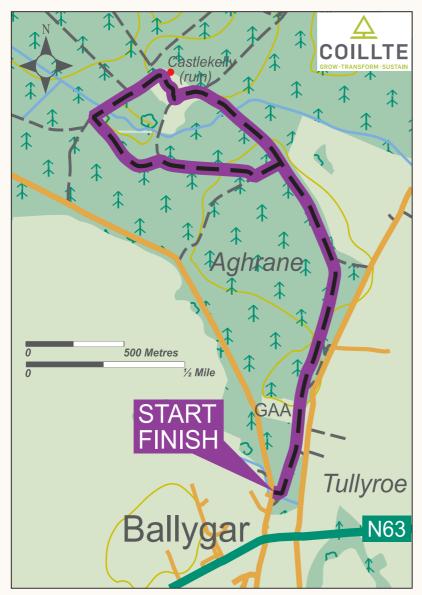
Length (km): 5
Estimated time: 30m
Dogs allowed: On a lead
Nearest town: Carrigaline /
Crosshaven
Start/Finish: Kilnagleary car
park Carrigaline/Car Park

on way into Crosshaven





Aghrane Castlekelly Loop





ghrane forest is an old woodland site which was formerly part of the Castle Kelly Estate. The Castlekelly Loop is a dual purpose, family-friendly, cycling and walking trail. This trail offers views of mixed commercial forest and beautiful parkland trees planted by the old estate. The start of the trail includes a mixed old woodland of Beech, Scots Pine, Ash and Sycamore. Further on you will see the old estate Grand Bridge close to the open parkland and Castlekelly ruin. Trees planted in the open parkland include Copper Beech, Oak, Beech and Cupressus Macrocarpa. Close by is the Aughrim Bog, a site conservation significance supporting a diversity of raised bog microhabitats.



County: Galway

Trail grade: Easy

Length (km): 5.7

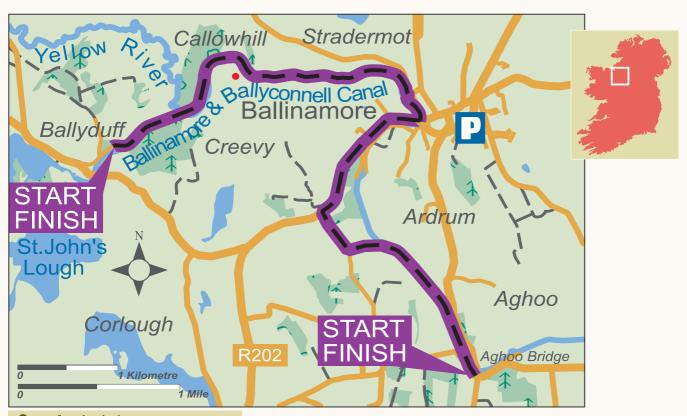
Estimated time: 50m

Dogs allowed: On a lead

Nearest town: Ballygar

Start point: Ballygar village

Ballyduff to Aghoo Bridge — Ballinamore



County: Leitrim

Trail grade: Easy

Length (km): 8

Estimated time: 1h

Dogs allowed: On a lead

Nearest town: Ballinamore

Start point: Ballyduff /

Aghoo Bridge

Waymarked? Yes

his trail takes you from Ballyduff through Ballinamore and onwards to Aghoo Bridge. The trail is part of the multi-activity Shannon-Erne Blueway where you can also go for a walk or paddle a kayak. This linear trail, with the picturesque village of Ballinamore at the centre, takes in the tranquillity of the Shannon-Erne Waterway along the towpath and partly on minor local roads. The route crosses over the canal at several locations, so take care, especially when close to lock chambers. Please also take special care on any road sections or at road crossings.



Glenfarne — Demesne Cycle / Walk Trail





his site lies on the shore of Lough Macnean which forms the natural boundary between the counties of Leitrim, Cavan, and Fermanagh. The wood forms part of what was once the Tottenham Estate that existed from 1780 to 1919. The "big house" known as Glenfarne Hall was built in the 1800s. The estate was later acquired as a hunting retreat for Sir Edward Harland, founder of the Harland and Wolff shipyard in Belfast. A feature of the trails is the Lough Macnean sculpture trail which comprises eleven pieces which are to be found around Upper and Lower Lough Macnean. There are two trails here, one of which is cycle friendly for families.



County: Leitrim

Trail grade: Easy

Length (km): 4

Estimated time: 40m

Dogs allowed: On a lead

Nearest town: Glenfarne

Start point: Car Park at the lakeside pier in Glenfarne

Wood

Limerick Greenway



County: Limerick

Trail grade: Easy

Length (km): 39

Estimated time: 4h

Dogs allowed: On a lead

Nearest town: Abbeyfeale/

Newcastlewest, Ardagh,

Rathkeale

Start point: Rathkeale - Irish Palatine Museum /

Abbeyfeale - Old Train

Station

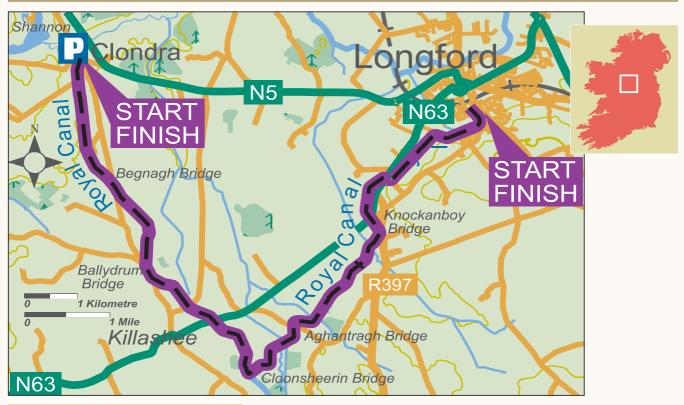
Waymarked? Yes



The Limerick Greenway takes cyclists along the route of the old Great Southern Railway. This is a spectacular journey through time, heritage, and nature, giving the visitor the opportunity to learn more about one of Ireland's hidden jewels, West Limerick. The trail can be split into four sections - Rathkeale to Ardagh (10km), Ardagh to Newcastle West (4km), Newcastle West to Barnagh (10km), Barnagh to Templeglantine (4km) and Templeglantine to Abbeyfeale (9km). Along the route you will find Norman castles, abbeys, medieval ruins, old railway stations, a viaduct, the Barnagh Tunnel and great scenery. Visitors can go through the Barnagh Tunnel which is on a spur of the main greenway.



Royal Canal Greenway — Longford to Clondara Section



County: Longford

Trail grade: Easy

Length (km): 16

Estimated time: 1h 30m **Dogs allowed:** On a lead **Nearest town:** Longford

Start point: Harbour view

Longford/Clondra

Harbour

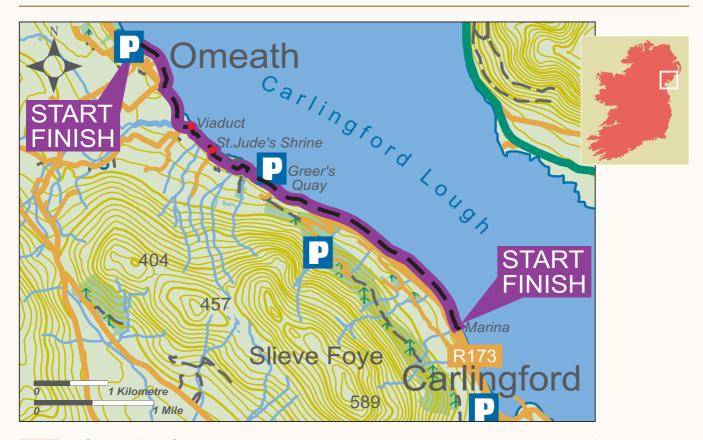
Waymarked? Yes

his off-road trail travels along the old Royal Canal spur from Longford to the main Royal Canal and then onwards to Clondra village, the termination point of the Royal Canal. Completely flat, the terrain consists of tar and chip trackway. Almost entirely off-road, although the trail meets six road crossings where care is needed. Surrounded by farmland, bogland and lush canal bank, the trail is brimming with natural scenery, birdlife, accompanied by the canal's placid waters, this easy trail is a treat. Longford Town boasts an array of pubs, cafés and restaurants, while smaller Clondra and its surrounds are home to a handful of welcoming spots for refreshment too.





Carlingford Greenway



he Carlingford Greenway takes cyclists and walkers along the shoreline of the majestic Carlingford Lough between Omeath and Carlingford. The route follows the old railway line offering spectacular views of the Cooley Peninsula, Carlingford Lough, and Slieve Foye. You will pass fields full of grazing sheep, cattle, and horses, through old railway level crossings and even a few bridges with plenty of old railway era gateposts and gates still in situ. The greenway is traffic free for most of its distance and is ideal for parents with children in buggies, walkers, wheelchair users and cyclists. Services are available in Carlingford and Omeath. Bicycles can be hired in Carlingford.

County: Louth

Trail grade: Easy

Length (km): 6.2

Estimated time: 40m

Dogs allowed: On a lead

Nearest town: Carlingford /

Omeath

Start point: Carlingford Marina / Omeath Pier



Great Western Greenway — Castlebar to Turlough



County: Mayo

Trail grade: Easy

Length (km): 7.3

Estimated time: 45m

Dogs allowed: On a lead

Nearest town: Castlebar

Start point: Townpark Car

Park, Springfield / Turlough

Park Demesne

Waymarked? Yes

hared by cyclists and walkers, this greenway provides a tranquil journey through riverside scenery and native woodlands. Largely following the placid Castlebar River, this pleasant linear route connects the county town of Castlebar to the National Museum of Ireland: Country Life in pictorial Turlough Park. The greenway follows a surfaced and forest track through open countryside, quiet by-roads, and native woodland before reaching the Turlough Park demesne. A mainly flat route, there is one steep hill and a number of quaint bridges. In both Castlebar and Turlough you'll find places to stop and enjoy a cup of coffee after cycling this charming riverside trail.



Westport Greenway



County: Mayo

Trail grade: Easy

Length (km): 2.5

Estimated time: 15m

Dogs allowed: On a lead

Nearest town: Westport

Start point: South end
of North Mall Westport /
Westport Quays

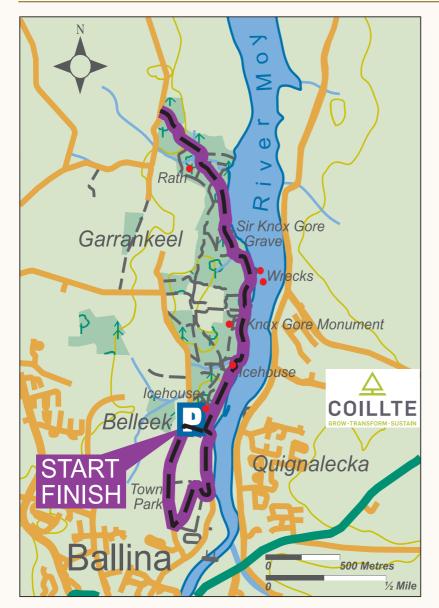
Waymarked? Yes

he Westport Greenway links Westport's town centre with the Quay area along the route of a former railway line. The Quay Area was once a thriving commercial port and has enjoyed recent rejuvenation. Historically the two centres were linked by the railway which allowed goods to be transported from the Quay to the town's railway station and beyond. The disused railway line, now the Westport Greenway, offers traffic free walking and cycling with impressive views of Croagh Patrick and Clew Bay. The route can be used in both directions and can be accessed from the Quay or from the old cattle pass located at Altamont Street near the town centre.





Belleek Wood Greenway





his shared use trail can be walked or cycled through a mature woodland setting splendid views of the with River Moy. Users will pass the 'Creteboom', an old concrete boat which has lain beached in the river for over 30 years. Belleek Wood is a diverse woodland with broadleaf/conifer and mixed woodland types. Red squirrels were first located here around 2006 and the numbers have grown considerably since. Along the riverbank you can observe herons, kingfisher, cormorant and if you are lucky perhaps an otter. There are a number of other trails that weave through the woodland. These offer visitors excellent walking, running and cycling options.



County: Mayo

Trail grade: Easy

Length (km): 4.2

Estimated time: 15m

Dogs allowed: On a lead

Nearest town: Ballina

Start point: Belleek Wood

Car Park

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page will virtually
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find out more! Or email

info@cuhcharity.ie and

Claire will be in touch.

Visit www.cuhcharity.ie



Achill Cycle Hub — Loop 3



County: Mayo

Trail grade: Easy

Length (km): 12

Estimated time: 1h 30m

Dogs allowed: N/A **Nearest town:** Keel

Start point: Keel

Waymarked? Yes

chill Cycle Hub is located on Achill Island at the western end of the Great Western Greenway. There are three on road loops available ranging from 12km to 44km. Sometimes Achill can be wild and windy but is always stunningly beautiful with blue flag beaches, cliffs, and large tracts of blanket bog sweeping over the island's peaks. This loop is a wonderful way to discover the island's interior. The loop featured here makes for a pleasant short cycle with gentle gradients around Keel. Cyclists can detour to visit the 'deserted village' and a megalithic tomb. Excellent views down to the Atlantic and the main beach, An Trá Mhór.



Monaghan Greenway



Trail grade: Easy ■
Length (km): 4.2
Estimated time: 25m

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Dogs allowed: On a lead **Nearest town:** Monaghan

Town

Start point: Coolshannagh Roundabout/ just off N54 on Newbliss Rd (R189)

Waymarked? Yes

xplore Monaghan Town's pleasant urban and rural landscapes on this greenway along the route of the former Ulster Canal towpath. This charming trail is generally flat with some gentle slopes and is wheelchair accessible, suitable for family groups, and people of all fitness levels. Following the verdant towpath, visitors will spot heritage structures along the waterway and quaint reminders of times past, including three bridges, a lock house, and two canal locks. The route features some road crossings and sections adjacent to traffic, therefore it is strongly advised that children are accompanied by an adult on these sections.





Lough Boora — Mesolithic Trail



ough Boora Discovery Park is a haven for nature and a prime location for outdoor enthusiasts to explore trails, angling lakes, bird hides and sculptures. There is a network of off-road walkways and cycle paths allowing visitors to explore the park. Lough Boora Mesolithic site was discovered in 1977 and with the help of the National Museum was found to be the shoreline of a post-glacial lake, a remnant of an era when the Shannon and its lakes covered much more of the Midlands than today. The Mesolithic Trail featured here is one of a number of waymarked trails that can be followed by visitors to the site.



County: Offaly

Trail grade: Easy

Length (km): 9.3

Estimated time: 60m

Dogs allowed: On a lead

Nearest town: Kilcormac

5km, Cloghan 12km

Start point: Car park at

Lough Boora

Parklands, main

entrance, off R357

Lough O'Flynn Cycle Route



his cycle takes you on minor roads in a loop around Lough O'Flynn. This cycle has a very rural feel, on very quiet roads with few inhabitants. This route starts and finishes in Ballinlough. Beside Lough O'Flynn the route passes the trailhead for the Lough O'Flynn Bog walks on minor and bog roads through the attractive and diverse landscape of a typical bogland.



County: Roscommon

Trail grade: Easy

Length (km): 12

Estimated time: 50m

Dogs allowed: N/A

Nearest town: Ballinlough

Start point: Ballinlough

Waymarked? Yes

WATERFORD

Sean Kelly Cycle Route — The Railway Loop



County: Waterford

Trail grade: Easy

Length (km): 13

Estimated time: 1h

Dogs allowed: N/A

Nearest town: Dungarvan

Start point: Dungarvan

Waymarked? No

his loop uses part of the now famous Waterford Greenway built on the old Waterford
- Dungarvan Railway line but leaves the greenway for a short excursion around
Ballinacourty Point along the water's edge on a quiet public road. A short diversion off
the trail can be taken to visit Clonea Beach before returning to re-join the greenway.

Mullingar — Athlone — Old Rail Trail Greenway



he Old Rail Trail runs between Athlone and Mullingar through the very heart of Ireland, following the historic Midlands Great Western Railway track, past restored station houses and under pretty stone arched bridges. With lots of entry and exit points, you can hop on and off to explore the villages and attractions along the way, whether for a leisurely 8km cycle from Athlone to Moate or the ambitious 40km. Dún na Sí Amenity and Heritage Park is a must-see attraction on the trail and great options for rest. Refreshments are available

in Moate, Castletown and Ballinea en-route.

Bike hire is available at Athlone, Moate and Mullingar.



County: Westmeath

Trail grade: Easy

Length (km): 40
Estimated time: 3h

Dogs allowed: On a lead

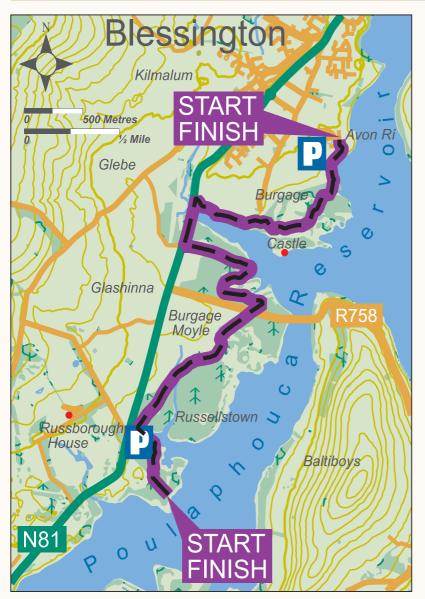
Nearest town: Mullingar/

Athlone

Start point: Old Rail Trail Car Park, Mullingar Business Park/ Ballymahon Rd.

Athlone

Blessington Greenway





he Blessington Greenway is a shared use trail linking the historic town of Blessington with the Palladian mansion at Russborough House. The trail starts at The Avon Activity Centre at the southern end of Blessington and leads south along the shores of Blessington Lakes, through forest and natural woodland. The route crosses an ancient medieval Ringfort and uses the footpath along part of the N81 before turning back into the forest at Burgage Moyle lane. It then crosses the Valleymount Road and makes its way to Russellstown Bay adjacent to Russborough House. Along the way you will have the opportunity appreciate the magnificent scenery and wildlife in the area.

County: Wicklow

Trail grade: Easy

Length (km): 5.5

Estimated time: 60m

Dogs allowed: On a lead **Nearest town:** Blessington

Start point: Avon Rí Out-

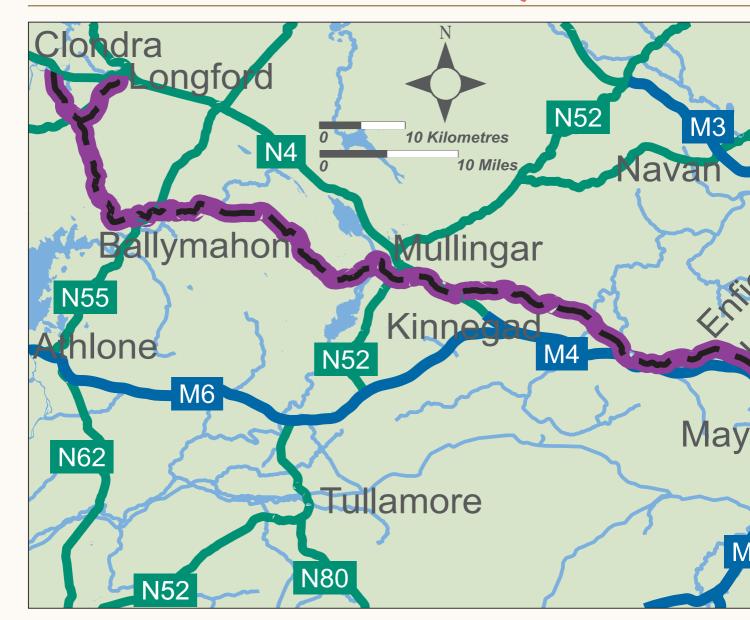
door Pursuits Centre/

Car Park off N81 opposite

Russborough Hse



Royal Cana







l Greenway



County: Kildare, Meath, Westmeath, and Longford

Trail grade: Easy Length (km): 130

Estimated time: Various

Dogs allowed: On a lead **Nearest town:** Maynooth /

Clondra

Start point: Maynooth, Enfield, Mullingar, Ballymahon, Clondra, Longford

Waymarked? Yes

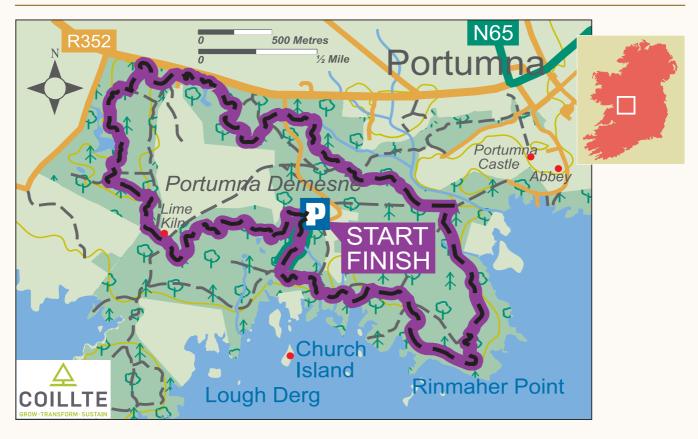


long the old canal towpath, beside tranquil waters, the delightful Royal Canal Greenway winds its way for 130km from cosmopolitan Maynooth, through friendly Enfield and lively Mullingar to charming Clondra in Longford. It's a relatively flat trail, once the domain of placid barge horses, today the realm of walkers, runners, and cyclists of all ages and stages. Passing through picturesque waterside villages, it gives a glimpse of a very special part of Ireland so often passed by unnoticed. This peaceful, green sanctuary is home to a cornucopia of native wildlife yet it is remarkably easy to access by both road and train. Users can join the Royal Canal Greenway at any trailhead and travel in either direction, or complete as a long-distance linear trail, from east-to-west or west-to-east. There's always a welcoming café or pub to stop at for refreshments, often with outside seating as well as picnic spots, playgrounds and attractions along the way. The Greenway is accessible by public transport (the Dublin-Sligo train line) and it passes through four counties (Kildare, Meath, Westmeath and Longford) all the way from Ireland's Ancient East to Ireland's Hidden Heartlands. It's a photographer's dream with gentle constantly changing scenery — a boat passing through one of the traditional locks, or mother duck with her brood of ducklings serenely paddling by.





Portumna Forest Park — Rinmaher Cycling Trail



ortumna Forest Park covers almost 450 hectares and consists of coniferous woodland with occasional patches of semi-natural woodland dominated by ash and beech with silver birch frequent along the lake shore. As well as walking trails there are two mountain bike trails and both are open and flowing with gentle gradients through beautiful woodland and along the lake shores. The Rinmaher Trail, featured here, is mainly on narrow singletrack trails and provides good views along the lakeshore near Rinmaher Point south towards Terryglass and east towards Portumna Bridge.



County: Galway

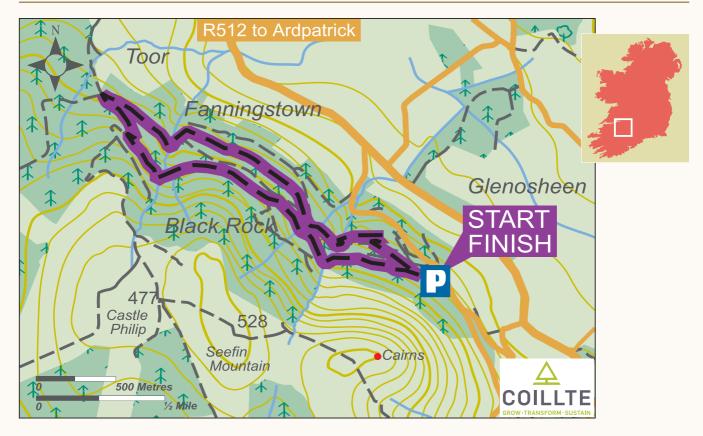
Trail grade: Moderate

Length (km): 10
Estimated time: 1h
Dogs allowed: No

Nearest town: Portumna
Start point: Portumna

Forest car park
Waymarked? Yes

Ballyhoura — Greenwood Loop



allyhoura Trail Centre has the largest mountain bike trail network in Ireland. The trails range from the moderate 6km Greenwood loop (featured here) to the demanding Castlepook loop, over 50km in length. The trails are a combination of narrow singletrack, boardwalk and forest road. All trails are waymarked in one direction - pick the colour of the loop you want to ride and follow the arrows. The Greenwood Loop is a good introduction to mountain biking trails. There are also waymarked walking trails on the site. Car parking costs €5 on entry (exact change required). Bikes can be rented on site but pre-booking strongly advised.

County: Limerick

Trail grade: Moderate

Length (km): 6

Estimated time: 45m

Dogs allowed: No

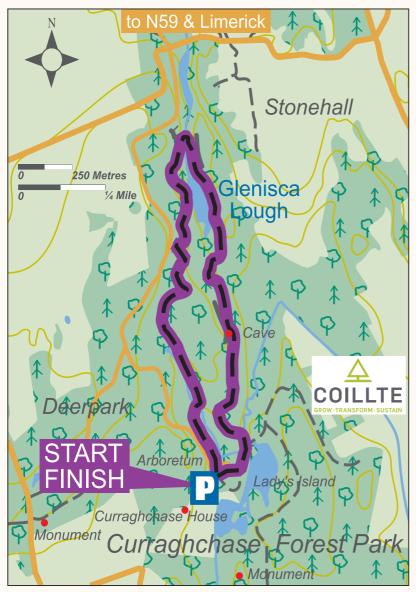
Nearest town: Ardpatrick

Start point: Ballyhoura Trail

Centre car park
Waymarked? Yes



Curragh Chase — Glenisca Trail





here are over 300 hectares of rolling parkland, trails, mixed woodland, lakes and an arboretum at Curragh Chase. This planned landscape was formerly the home of the de Vere family. The façade of the former grand house sits on the hill overlooking the main car park. The Glenisca Trail is one of three trails on the site. It is shared by walkers and cyclists. It takes visitors into the forest passing an old cave, limestone outcrops sitting under the trees and the Yew woodland. If you are coming to the forest to connect with nature, then this trail will meet your needs. Car parking costs €5 on entry (exact change required).



County: Limerick

Trail grade: Moderate

Length (km): 3.6

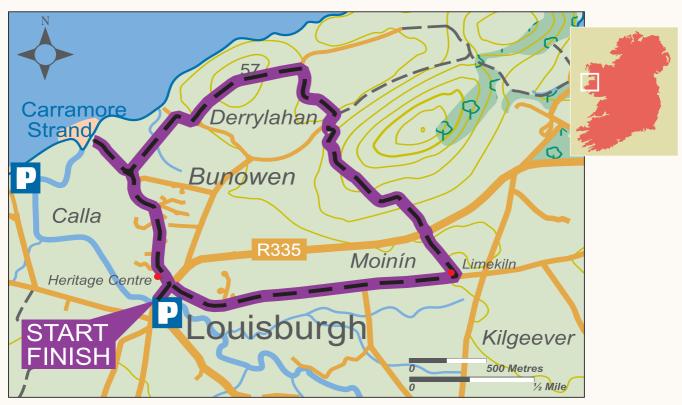
Estimated time: 60m

Dogs allowed: On a lead

Nearest town: Kilcornan

Start point: Forest entrance car park

Louisburgh Cycle Hub Loop 2 (Bunowen)



ith Louisburgh as your base there is a choice of three cycle loops - some of which meander along wonderful sea cliffs and beaches, whilst others take inland winding back roads, through rugged countryside. These routes will guide you to spectacular scenery surrounding Louisburgh. Carry some food and drinks as there are no shops on these routes. This loop featured here offers incredible views over a short distance. Pleasant cycling awaits you but don't be fooled by the short distance as there are a couple of quite steep hills on this loop. Fortunately these are only short walks – if fitness is a concern – yet the panoramic views from the summit are worth it.

County: Mayo

Trail grade: Moderate

Length (km): 7

Estimated time: 45m

Dogs allowed: N/A

Nearest town: Louisburgh

Town

Start point: Car park on River Walk before

bridge



Pilgrim's Road to Clonmacnoise



he Pilgrim's Road from Ballycumber to Clonmacnoise monastic site runs along the crest of an esker. Eskers are banks of sand and gravel laid down at the end of the last Ice Age. For pilgrims, the esker route was dry underfoot, and afforded a view over the surrounding countryside, which you can enjoy on your cycle. Cycling from Ballycumber, as you approach Clonmacnoise the view is stunning with Mongan's Bog on your left, the Shannon Callows on your right and Clonmacnoise round tower ahead. The monastery of Clonmacnoise was founded in 545. The site is rich in ecclesiastical detail including a pre-Norman cathedral, seven other churches, several high crosses and two round towers.



County: Offaly

Trail grade: Moderate

Length (km): 25
Estimated time: 1h
Dogs allowed: N/A

Nearest town: Ballycumber

/ Clonmacnoise

Start point: Ballycumber/

Clonmacnoise

Belmont Green Bike Loop





Demesne elmont is new location for cyclists and walkers. Opened In summer 2020 there are three trails for bikes and one for walkers. Belmont is located near Bray/Greystones, five minutes from Exit 7 on the N11. (Bray South / Greystones North) R767. Follow the signs to Killruddery House & Gardens. The Belmont Green Bike Loop, featured here, is a wide gravel trail through native woodland which can be walked or cycled and is suitable for anyone who can ride a bike. Two other more challenging trails for mountain bikes are also available. The trails are free to use but parking costs €5. There is a coffee shop on the site.

County: Wicklow

Trail grade: Moderate

Length (km): 4.3

Estimated time: 40m

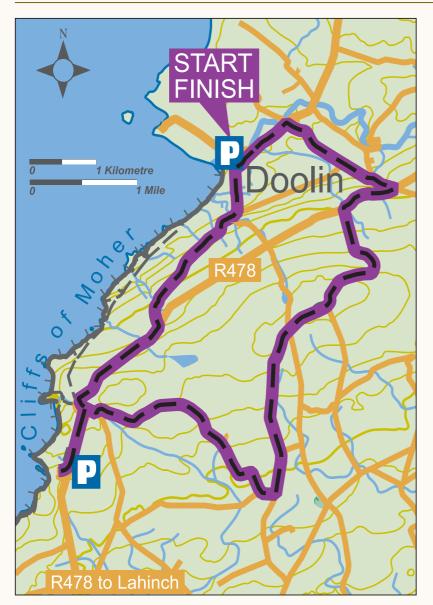
Dogs allowed: No

Nearest town: Greystones

Start point: Belmont Desmene car park



Doolin Cycle Hub Loop 1





North Clare Cycle network consists of four signposted cycle routes on quiet country roads in the north of the county. The loops all start and finish in Doolin village and include distances of 18km, 26km, 43km, and 47km in length. Loop 1, which is featured here, is the shortest route at 18km and takes a route from Doolin southwards towards the Cliffs of Moher before returning to the village. Each route offers wonderful views of the local countryside with stunning coastal panoramas. There are numerous stop-off points along the way with restaurants, pubs and other facilities and services. Bikes are available for hire in Doolin.



County: Clare

Trail grade: Challenging ■

Length (km): 18

Estimated time: 1h 30m

Dogs allowed: N/A **Nearest town:** Doolin

Start point: Doolin car park





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