

RENVYLE HOUSE HOTEL & RESORT

CONNEMARA, CO. GALWAY, IRELAND.



RENVYLE RAMBLES

A SELECTION OF COUNTRY STROLLS.
HILL WALKS AND WALKS ALONG THE
WILD ATLANTIC WAY



WILD ATLANTIC WAY

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RENVYLE HOUSE AVENUE LOOPED WALK



Distance: 1.6 km **Time:** 15 - 20 minutes

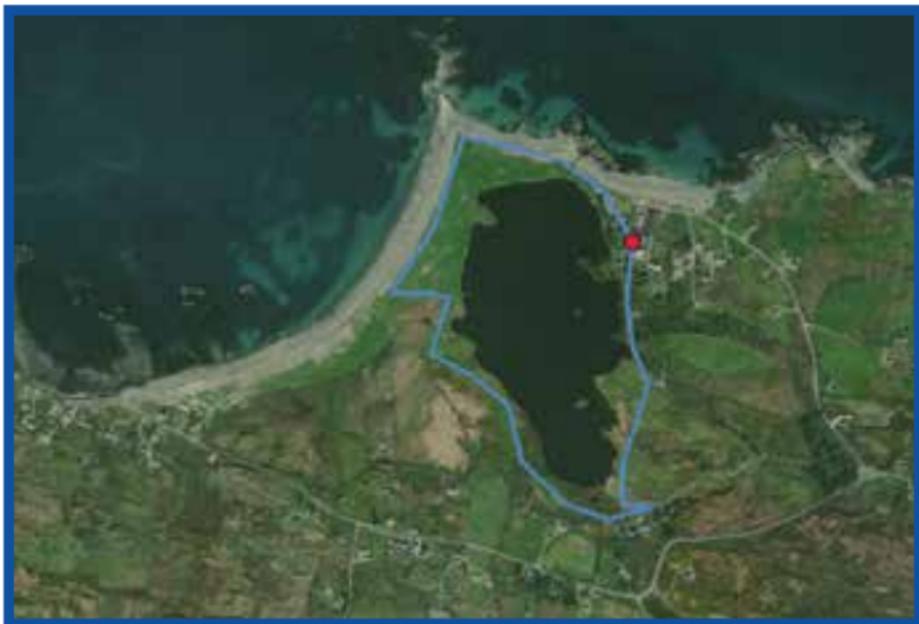
Level: Easy **Route Shape:** Looped

The walk surface is on road

An ideal short walk to stretch the legs and breathe in some fresh, sea air. The walk is all on road surface. Starting out, take a left at our front door and walk along the avenue to the front gates. Keep an eye out for pheasant or hares in the main meadow.

Take a left at our front gates and return to the hotel by the back avenue finishing up along by our pebble shore.

RENVYLE HOUSE -THE GROUNDS - LOOPED WALK



Distance: 2.2km **Time:** 40 minutes

Level: Easy **Route Shape:** Looped

The walk surface is on grass, the pebble beach and road.

This walk takes in the 1 km of coastline on the grounds of the hotel with beautiful views of the offshore islands and beyond. If you are lucky you might see a pod of dolphins or popoises.

Start from the hotel along the coastline along the pebble beach. Before you reach the end of the beach there is a pathway which will bring you towards the lake and a little footbridge for you to cross which will bring you around the south of Rusheeduff lake where you will pass by a Bronze Age stone circle. Keep to the pathway alongside the lake and you will return to a road. Cross the little pedestrian bridge by the Standing Stone and return to the hotel by the main avenue.

COASTAL LOOPED WALK TO RENVYLE CASTLE



Distance: 5.5 km **Time:** 50 minutes - 1 hour

Level: Easy **Route Shape:** Looped

The walk surface is on grass, the pebble beach and road.

This walk takes in the 1 km of coastline on the grounds of the hotel with beautiful views of Inis Bofin and Inis Turk and beyond, keep an eye out to sea in case you see any dolphins or popoises. Start from the hotel along the coastline along the pebble beach towards the Castle ruin, take care walking along the uneven surface. Renvyle Castle is also known as O'Flaherty's Castle and is situated in the *Kanrawer Townland* on the Renvyle peninsula. The legendary Irish pirate queen Grace O'Malley (Granuaile Ni Mhaille) made the castle her home away from the sea when she married Donal O'Flaherty in about 1546.

At the castle ruin you can return to the hotel by the public road, take care and keep in to the sides of the road as there is local passing traffic.

COUNTRY ROADS TOWARDS RENVYLE POINT



Distance: 10 km **Time:** 2 hours
Level: Easy **Route Shape:** Looped

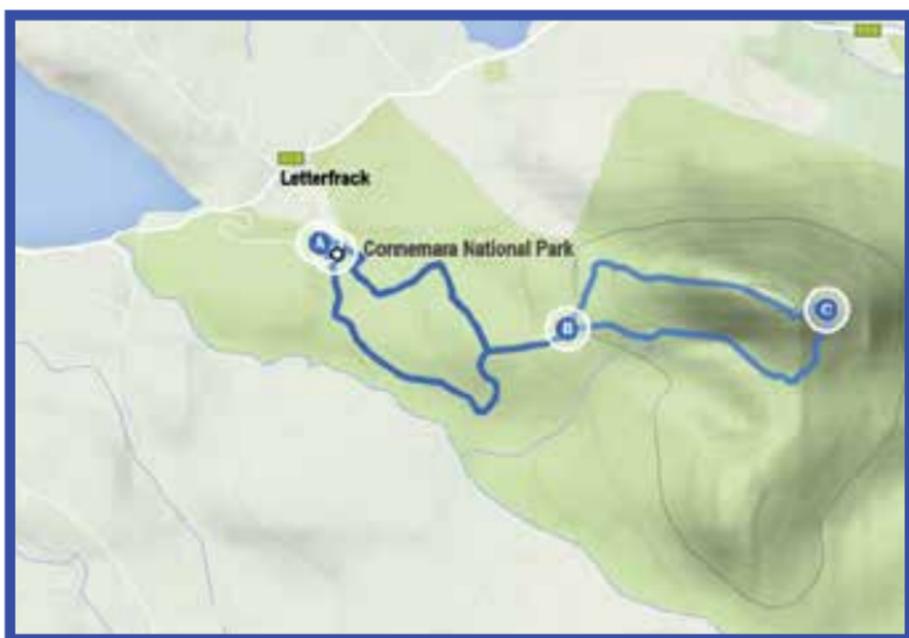
Depart the gates at **Renvyle House** and take a right. At the next triangular junction, take the left up the hill. Near **Tully Mountain** a road joins from the right about 2 miles (3km) out. Turn right onto this road, and you will now be heading westward along a nice quiet valley with Tully Mountain on your left.

Soon after, you descend to a T-junction with a little bridge, keep left here, and go along a narrow little road with quite a few houses. When you come to the next T-junction with a stream coming down from the left, your route is right (north) towards the sea, but you can detour straight ahead (west) and return to this T-junction.

The road heading north winds a few times taking you past the ruins of the **church of the Seven Sisters** and brings you to **Renvyle Castle** on your left, and you can look around here. The route home is simply along the sea, moving onto the pebble beach and back to Renvyle House Hotel via the golf course.

The attraction of this walk is a nice mix of things to see, in a ramble that has no difficulties really.

DIAMOND HILL IN THE CONNEMARA NATIONAL PARK



Distance: 9km **Time:** 2 hours

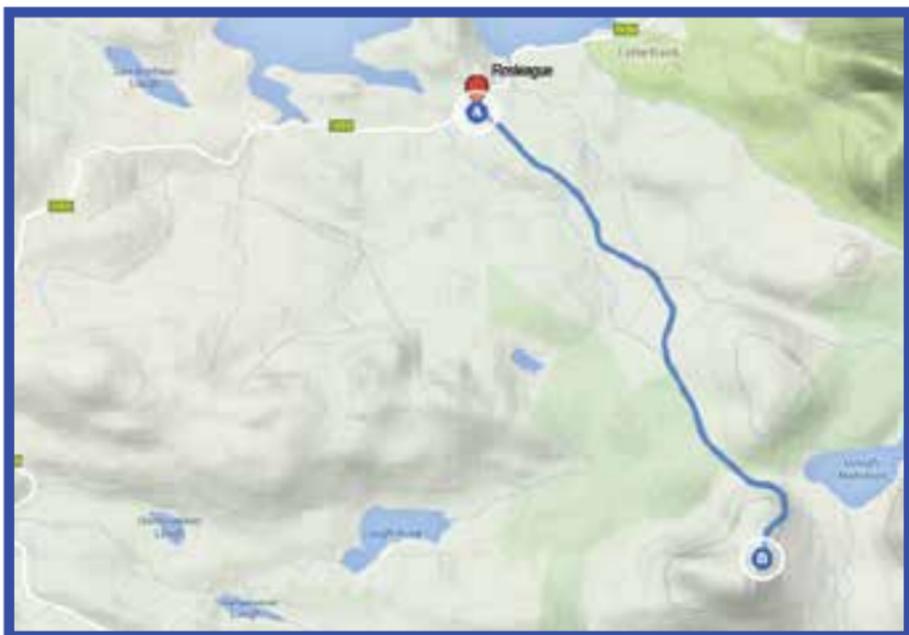
Level: Easy-Medium **Route Shape:** Looped

Park your car in the car park at the entrance of the Connemara National Park. There is no entry charge for walking the Diamond. Follow the path and walk towards the main buildings of the Park, past the children's playground and you are on track to walk Diamond Hill. There are two main looped walks which are clearly marked along the way. The lower looped walk is about 3 kilometres and takes about 35-40 minutes. This is suitable for families with young children as prams can be taken on it, it's also ideal for those short of time but who want to take in some of the lovely views and interesting flora and fauna within the park.

The upper loop walk (including the lower loop) is 9 kilometres in total and the pathway is well maintained. Comfortable walking shoes or runners are advised. It gets steeper at the top with some shale but generally it is easy to navigate. The commanding views of Connemara from the top are worth the 1 hour climb.

If it's a particularly windy day, avoid going to the very top as it is dangerous.

LETTERFRACK - CREGG WALK



Distance: 3km or 5km **Time:** 30 minutes or 1 hour
Level: Easy **Route Shape:** There and Back

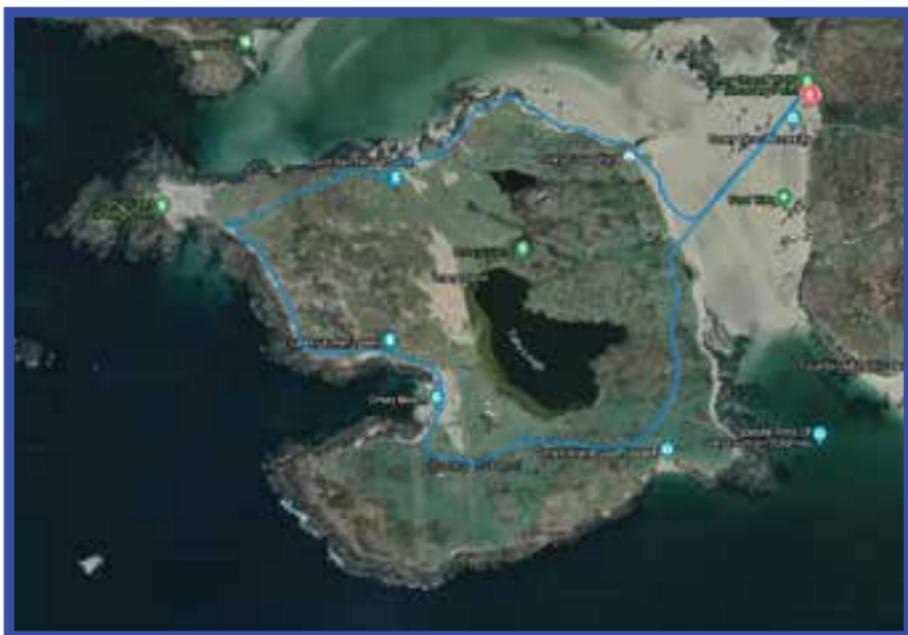
Drive from Connemara West Centre, turn left and take the road to Clifden. Within a half mile, you will see Barnaderg Bay on your right, with a small jetty and old fishing boat. Behind that you can see the Rosleague Manor Hotel. A few hundred yards further on you pass the Hotel entrance on your right and on the next right-hand bend, next to a yellow 'no dumping' sign, you turn left. The road from here is, but taken slowly should present no problems. After about two miles you will see on your right the buildings of the disused marble workings where the famous Connemara green marble was quarried. Park your car on the roadside anywhere in the area.

The road continues from here to the top of **Cregg Hill** which is a distance of about half a mile. It is best to walk this since manoeuvring space for vehicles at the top is limited.

You will be rewarded by the magnificent views. Below you to the northeast, you will see **Lough Nahillion** nestling high in the hills. To the North and North-West you will see views over **Ballinakill Harbour** to the offshore islands in the Atlantic. The Twelve Bens can be seen to the East, Clifden to the South-West, and to the South is the valley of the Owenglen River. From the summit you are overlooking the Connemara bog lands including the Roundstone Bog lying further south. The area is particularly renowned for the variety of heather which it hosts and it also provides a habitat for Greenland White Fronted Geese, all of which are protected species within the European Communities. To the east, beyond the forestry, lie part of the Connemara National Park.

OMEY ISLAND WALK

ACCESS 2 HOURS BEFORE & 2 HOURS AFTER LOW TIDE



Distance: 8km **Time:** 2 hours 30 minutes

Level: Moderate **Route Shape:** Looped, beach and road

To get to the start of the walk travel towards Clifden on the N59. At c14km, turn right onto R379 signs for Cleggan. Drive through the village of Cleggan and onto Claddaghduff, take a right at the church to Omey Strand where you can park your car.

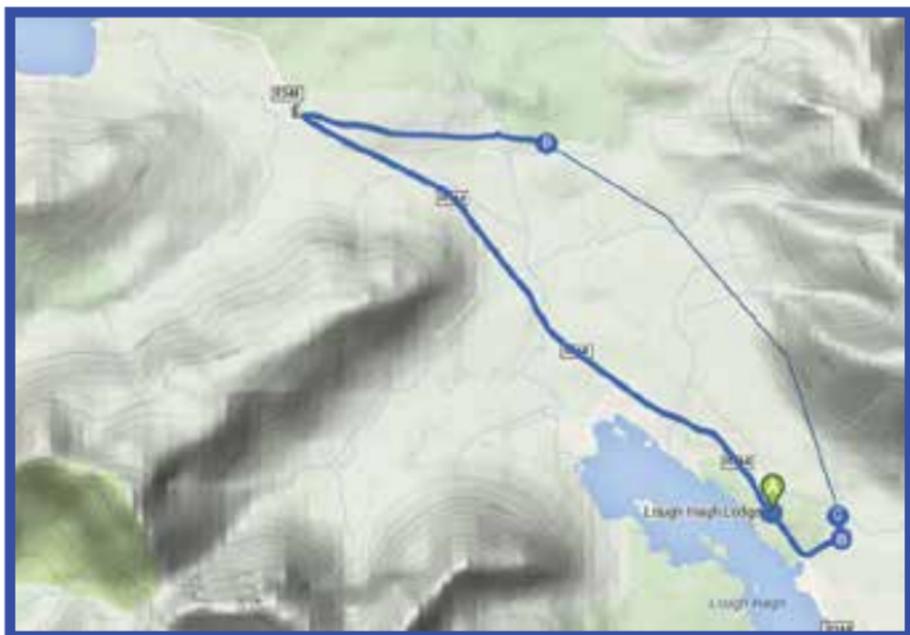
The best way to explore Omey Island is on foot. Firstly you'll need to access the island by traversing the tidal strand between Claddaghduff and Omey.

As Omey is a tidal island it can be accessed by walking across, 2 hours before low tide to 2 hours after low tide. This will give you about 4 hours which is more than enough time to explore the island and return to the mainland.

When you reach Omey follow the coastline around to the right, taking the route along the beach not inland. You'll come to a sand path above the shoreline which leads northwards. You'll traverse two beaches and look for a point where the fence line turns inland at the back of the second beach. This will lead to the ruins of Teampal Feichin, a medieval granite church dedicated to St. Feichin.

Head back to the beach and proceed to follow the shore where you'll reach the island's northwest corner, and will see another small tidal island to the west named 'Cruagh Island'. Cross the beach, taking the road passing two mobile homes and veer left, past the lake and returning down to Omey Strand.

LOUGH INAGH THE WESTERN WAY



Distance: 16 km **Time:** 4 hours

Level: Easy (*may be muddy in patches*) **Route Shape:** Looped

Start out from the **Lough Inagh Lodge** (A) walk left towards Recess and when you reach the little car park at the end of the wood (B), turn left up the hill, signed '**Mamean**'. Almost immediately the good views begin. As you approach towering **Cnoc na hUilleann**, you reach (less than 1.5 km from the start) an obvious **Western Way** sign (C), and you leave the road to follow this sharp left, heading generally Northwest on the grassy way.

The way is mostly obvious, and there are a few gates and a few WW wooden posts to reassure you. You simply go along the valley with **Binn Briochain** and its quartzite ridges high above your right shoulder. There are lovely views back down the valley and across left to the **Gleninagh**, (Gleann Eidhneach, the Ivy Glen) flanked by **Ben Baun** and **Ben Dubh**.

Beware of some final mucky patches just before the Way reaches a stony little road, which brings you down to a bridge across a babbling river (D).

Here the Western Way goes right, into a wood, but you stay on the little road as it goes down past a homestead to another secluded bridge. The next part of your route is very scenic, crossing westward along the top of the valley. Then the narrow road drops gently to bring you to the main valley road (E), where there are good views over towards **Kylemore Lough**.

Your way home is to turn down left along the valley road, here Lough Inagh awaits, now about an hour's walk away.

LEENANE WALK



Distance: 2½km **Time:** 1 hour
Level: Easy **Route Shape:** Looped

This walk begins in Leenane village walking on the Westport road and past Leenane Cultural Centre.

The parallel patterns seen on some of the steepest slopes of Bengorm are faint traces of old cultivation ridges. It is a long time since these were used, some dating to the time of the Great Famine of the 1840's. The way descends towards the Glenagevla River. Cross the bridge before turning right. Follow the road into a sheltered valley. On the left is Binn Garbh or the Rough Summit (*called the Devil's Mother on most maps*).

As you reach the turn in the road you will see the entire valley is protected by a ridge running unbroken from Binn Garbh around to Letterbrickaun. This feature is typical of a glacial valley, scoured and scraped and deepened by the moving ice sheet, which had its origin at the head of the valley under the ridge. The road heads back along the river, through the village of Glenagevla (Gleann na nGeimhleach), or the valley of the prisoners.

Ahead we again see Bengorm with the Sheeffry Hills behind and to the east. You will soon return to the bridge which was crossed earlier and, turning left, begin to retrace our steps towards Leenane.

High on the hillside large walled fields are clearly seen, telling of a past when Leenane was a great sheep centre. These huge pens were used to hold stock brought to the village for the great pattern fairs of the past. Away ahead, and to the right, the Western Way winds its route over the shoulder of the hill.

When walking, please respect the countryside and....

Wear comfortable, appropriate shoes and bring some rainwear.

Inform someone where you are going and an approximate time of return.

Bring back all your own rubbish.

Take care of the flora and fauna in the area.

Please respect the land, the fencing and the walls in this area as these belong to somebody.

Thank you and have a safe and lovely walk.

This booklet is for guideline information only.
Information may have changed since this publication

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