

BURRISHOOLE LOOP WALKS

Walking in the West of Ireland

DERRADDA



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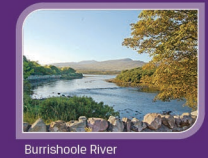
BURRISHOOLE LOOP WALKS



Burrishoole Bridge



Burrishoole Abbey



Burrishoole River

- 1** Derradda Community Centre
Derradda Community Centre was the Old National School which served the area for over 50 years.
- 2** Salmon Leap Bridge
Salmon Leap Bridge is situated where Lough Furnace and Lough Feeagh meet. The salmon leap provides the last hurdle for the salmon returning to spawn after their one thousand mile migration from the north Atlantic.
- 3** The Marine Institute
The Marine Institute in Furnace is at the forefront of marine research in Ireland, particularly in the area of Atlantic salmon. It has tracked the species for over fifty years.

- 4** Burrishoole Bridge
This seven-arched bridge which crosses the Burrishoole channel, was built at a place which was used as a fording point (crossing) from as early as the 13th century. Burrishoole, which was originally called Ceann Trachta "the head of the strand", was a port of some importance even before the first Norman family, the Butlers, invaded the district in 1185.

- 5** Lettermaghera Pier
Lettermaghera Pier. This pier, situated on Lough Furnace, was used to bring seaweed and gravel in from the shores of Clew Bay when the tide was suitable at Burrishoole.

- 6** "Fiddler Doherty's Cottage"
"Fiddler Doherty's Cottage" This cottage, which is in ruins, was home to a well-known local musician and dance teacher. This location offers a good viewpoint for Croagh Patrick and Lough Furnace.

- 7** Lough Furnace & Lough Feeagh
Lough Furnace and Lough Feeagh form an integral part of Clew Bay. Lough Furnace consists of a lower layer of salt water which ebbs and flows with the tides and an upper layer of lighter fresh water. It is one of a very small number of known permanently stratified lakes in the British Isles and supports a high diversity of fauna and invertebrate species. Saints Island, situated in Lough Furnace, supports nesting black-headed gulls.

Lettermaghera loop

Distance: 8 km
Highest point: 89 metres
Trail Surface: Minor roads, bog roadways, Greenway
Difficulty: Shortest / Easiest
Duration: 2 hours
Trailhead: Derradda - GPS 53.903900, -9.586597



This beautiful walk takes the hiker through Newport's lake land. As many as nine lakes can be seen at various stages along the way. Interestingly these lakes are all at slightly different heights. Lough Ellinore the first one encountered means the lake of the island of the Yew Trees. The village of Lettermaghera is typical of mountain villages in the west of Ireland, well spread out, each house seeking what shelter it can from the prevailing southwesterly winds, that in winter storms roar in from the Atlantic Ocean.

Furnace loop

Distance: 10 km
Highest point: 35 metres
Trail Surface: Minor roads, bog roadways, Greenway
Difficulty: Middle Distance - Moderate
Duration: 2.5 hours
Trailhead: Derradda - GPS 53.903900, -9.586597



The Furnace loop circumnavigates Furnace Lake. Today it is the Marine Institute that draws the walkers' attention. This is an aquaculture and catchment management laboratory. The Burrishoole River is central to the recording of migratory stocks of fish by the Marine institute. Burrishoole seven arch bridge was built in the 18th century on the site of a ford where the sea tide met the fresh water from the river. In the 16th century there was an active iron smelting works in the area, hence the name Furnace. The underlying rock in the area is red sandstone it is most apparent while walking on the west side of Furnace Lake. Wild swans can often be seen on the lake from the Greenway.

Oghillees loop

Distance: 11 km
Highest point: 107 metres
Trail Surface: Minor roads, bog roadways, Greenway
Difficulty: Longest - Most Challenging
Duration: 2.5 hours
Trailhead: Derradda - GPS 53.903900, -9.586597



This is another reference to Yew Trees. One must assume that in times past there were many yew trees in this area. Oghillees townland is 340 hectares in size and reaches to the top of Bengorm Mountain at 600 metres. The Mayo coat of arms includes nine yew trees, one for each barony.