

Access Point 3: Rossigh



A sheltered bay typical of many on Lower Lough Erne. A short walk around the point leads to Giant Finn McCool's stone. In Irish folklore he is renowned for his strength. The islands opposite were once thriving homesteads with people making a living from fishing and farming. The Ternan family once lived on Owl Island. One of their sons, Dougie, was the last island boat builder. His father 'Matt' was the inspiration for the song 'A Silent Night' (Christmas 1915) penned about the First World War.

Wildlife
The Great Crested Grebe is a medium sized diving bird. Males and females have elaborate head plumage used in nuptial display.



The Red-Breasted Merganser has a streamlined body enabling swift movement under water.

Access Point 4: Troy (Devenish)



Devenish Island, originally called Ox Island, was once the centre of Fermanagh's cultural and spiritual life. Here Saint Molaise founded a monastic settlement in the 6th century. The round tower, 81 feet high, was built during the 12th century. The Augustinians built St Mary's Abbey on the upper slopes of the hill in 1449. The high cross, the work of a master mason called Matthew O'Dugan depicts the story of creation. Locals used the lower church until the late 16th century.

Wildlife
The Redshank in flight with its 'tiu-oo-oo' whistle call shows white trailing edges along its wings. The Lapwing or "Peewit" is one of Ireland's most familiar waders. The local name comes from its distinctive call.



Access Point 5: Enniskillen (Lakeland Canoe Centre)



The island town of Enniskillen on the banks of the River Erne was named after an ancient warrior called Kathleen who was married to Balor of the Mighty Blows. The twin spires of St Macartan's Cathedral and St Michael's church remind us of our Celtic heritage and Maguire's castle recalls the Irish chieftains. The Watergate reminds us of William Cole's arrival in the town in 1612. The monument of the famous general, Sir Galbraith Lowry Cole, one of the Duke of Wellington's generals in the Peninsular Wars against Napoleon, stands over the town.

Wildlife
Old style hay meadows (less common now) and wonderful wetland habitats support flora such as Bright Early Purple Orchids. Ragged Robin, another common meadow species has red flower petals deeply cleft, giving a ragged look.



Access Point 6: Bellanaleck Marina



Close by is Cleenish Island where Saint Sinnell had his monastery in the 6th century. It was a flourishing centre of learning where many famous saints studied, including Saint Columba of Iona fame. The Church of Ireland in Bellanaleck was built about 1763 and one interesting gravestone, specially commissioned by Lord Cole in 1789, commemorates huntsman Peter Leonard. The Lace Museum in the village traces the history of lace making in Ireland and has rare pieces of Fermanagh Inishmacsaint lace on display.

Wildlife
Upper Lough Erne is internationally important for Whooper Swans that arrive from Iceland in October and remain until spring.



Access Point 7: Carrybridge

Opposite is Inishmore Island, the largest island in Upper Lough Erne. The bridge was completed in the 1950s replacing an earlier one of 1843, which had been designed to allow steamboats to pass under. The Porter family were the main landowners in the area and John Grey Porter was instrumental in getting the viaduct built in the 1890s to make life easier for people travelling in south Fermanagh.



He was the landlord of the nearby Belle Isle estate, originally the seat of the MacManus clan and famous as the site where Cathal Og MacManus compiled the Annals of Ulster in the 15th century. A stone in the estate, unveiled in 1998, commemorates this event.

Wildlife
Peregrine, Ireland's largest falcon, is a powerful bird of prey nesting at several sites in Fermanagh.



Access Point 8: Knockninny


Close by is Knockninny Hill named after Ninnidh a holy man of the area. The Maguire chieftains once had their castle, a two-storied building with walls over two feet thick at Knockninny. Thomas Og Maguire ruled all of Fermanagh from his royal residence at Knockninny. A short distance along the road is the Aughakillymaude Mimmers Centre, the only one of its kind in Ireland. Here visitors can see life size models of mummified bodies dressed in traditional cow suits and medieval rhyming. There have been burials in the area.

Wildlife
Badgers, although difficult to see, are common in Fermanagh, whilst woodlands still have numbers of red squirrels.




Access Point 9: Smith's Strand

Nearby is the Share Holiday Village, a residential lakeside activity centre for the inclusion of both able bodied and disabled people. Opposite is Trasna Island boasting an old artillery fort. The Lady Brooke and Lady Craigavon Bridges link it to the mainland. Cattle graze on the islands and are moved from island to island in a Lough Erne Cot, its design dating back to the Maguire chieftains.



Wildlife
Otter sightings are frequent in winter and American mink are also common.




Specific Information
Share Holiday Village offers many facilities including secure campsite, showers and water.

Access Point 10: Crom Estate

Crom Estate is a nature conservation site owned by the National Trust with over 2,000 acres of woodland, farmland and parkland on the shores of Upper Lough Erne. Crom Castle, built between 1834 and 1836, is named by Lord Erne. The house, designed by Thomas Sadden, was the headquarters of the Lough Erne Yacht Club in the late 19th and early 20th century. The Visitor Centre depicts life in the estate and along the River Erne.

Wildlife
Crom Estate, famous for its oak woodlands, is the most extensive area of natural woodland in Northern Ireland. All nine species of bat found in Northern Ireland are present around the Lough and most notably here at Crom. The pine marten can be found in woodland and rocky areas around the Estate.



Specific information
Facilities at Crom include a campsite, boat storage and café.

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Both the Coast Guard and Search & Rescue cover Upper and Lower Lough Erne. In the unlikely event of an Emergency use the following numbers:
Police and Ambulance 999 (all phones) or 112 (all phones)
Coast Guard 999 (all phones) or VHF channel 16
Note that mobile phone reception is unreliable in many areas.

SAFETY

Canoeing is an adventure sport and as such should be treated with respect. If you are new to the sport, it is advisable to join an organised club where expert coaching can be provided. (Details of clubs can be found at www.cani.org.uk)
When participating in Canoe sport note should be taken of the following safety advice:

- Do not canoe without adequate buoyancy in the form of a personal life jacket or buoyancy aid. Canoe buoyancy should be sufficient to keep the canoe afloat if you capsize.
- It is recommended not to canoe alone. If you are the minimum required for most rescue operations.
- Remember - a canoe may be difficult to see from a larger craft - carry a whistle.
- You do not need to be able to swim vast distances but you will need the water confidence to deal with a capsized boat and get ashore safely.
- Wear adequate clothing. Prolonged immersion in cold water leads to hypothermia - hypothermia can kill.
- Consider attending a recognised course which imparts skills, safety and environmental awareness.
- Carry and know how to use a map and compass.
- Channel markers are indicated on the 1:25 000 OSNI map and are a useful navigational aid.
- The Lower Lough can become very rough in strong winds - carrying rafting poles is a sensible precaution (rafting poles are more stable in rough conditions).
- Leave details of your journey with a responsible adult.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Tourist Information Centre: Enniskillen: +44 (028) 6632 3110
Enniskillen: +44 (028) 6632 2823
Police Station:
County Fermanagh is in Northern Ireland. Pounds Sterling are accepted everywhere in Northern Ireland. Pounds and Euros are accepted around the trail. Euros are accepted everywhere in the Republic of Ireland. There are a range of Hotels, B&B's and Guest Houses dotted around both Upper and Lower Lough Erne. For more details contact the Enniskillen Tourist Information Centre: +44 (028) 6632 3110.
Ulsterbus: +44 (028) 6632 2633
Future changes to the trail will be updated on the website. A feedback facility will also be available at this site www.nicanoeing.com

Accommodation:
Local bus services:
Information Updates:
Acknowledgements: Photography: M. Hartwell, S. Nyquist, D. Broomhead
Historical Research: Breege McClusker
Wildlife Research: Brad Robinson
Design: g2 design

Disclaimer:
The information on this guide may not be 100% accurate - It is designed to be used in conjunction with an OSNI 1:25000 map. The publishers, authors and contributors accept no responsibility for any loss, injury or inconvenience sustained by any person as a result of information or advice given in this guide.

Canoeing on the Lough Erne Canoe Trail

Finding freedom in Northern Ireland on the Lough Erne Canoe Trail

FERMANAGH IS AN IDEAL DESTINATION FOR CANOEING ENTHUSIASTS WITH THE MAGNIFICENT LAKES OF UPPER AND LOWER LOUGH ERNE PROVIDING A 50 KILOMETRE WATERWAY LINKING WITH THE SHANNON



Fermanagh is an ideal destination for canoeing enthusiasts with the magnificent lakes of Upper and Lower Lough Erne, linked by the River Erne, providing a trail of up to 50 km. From the Woodford River on the Upper Lough to the Shannon Erne Waterway can be reached and from there it is possible to paddle all the way to Limerick!

Lower Lough Erne and its rugged shoreline provide a vast expanse of open water where large waves can build during windy periods - an ideal venue for the experienced paddler! In stark contrast the Upper Lough provides good shelter with its maze of bays, narrow channels of slow flowing water and innumerable islands and peninsulas - offering a superb venue for the whole family!

Upper and Lower Lough Macnean, located to the west of the Erne system and in full view of the breathtaking Cuilcagh Mountains, flow into the Erne system via the River Arney and offer a fantastic touring venue. While the River Erne is very slow moving flat water the River Arney is faster flowing (grade 1).

For those who wish to know more about the area, there is on-shore interpretation at points marked 1-10 on the map. A condensed version of the information is provided in this guide.


This guide has been designed for canoeists by canoeists. It gives practical advice on everything required for an enjoyable experience including details of campsites, water points, phone numbers, etc.

Happy Paddling!

Access Point 1: Muckross

Muckross is close to the picturesque village of Kesh, through which the Glendurrugh River flows. Boa Island, the largest inland island in Ireland is a few miles north of Muckross. It was joined to the mainland in 1927 and is shrouded in Celtic mystery. In Caldagh graveyard the Janus figure is found. This three feet high, two-headed, carved Celtic stone with its bulbous eyes and crossed arms has baffled many people.

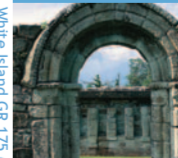
Wildlife
South of Boa Island, small rocky islands such as Gravel Ridge Island and Stallion Cows have colonies of gulls and terns including the UK's only inland colony of Sandwich terns, the largest of Ireland's terns with their loud 'Kro-ick' calls.



Specific Information
Lusty More Island has a short footpath from the jetty to a picnic area with views of the Cliffs of Magho.

Access Point 2: Castle Archdale Marina

Castle Archdale was once home to the Archdale family who was given the land during the Plantation of Ulster. After their fortified castle was burnt in the 1641 rising the family moved inland to a safer location. Courtyard buildings, the only remains, have been converted into offices, a youth hostel, exhibition area, tea rooms and education centre. Edward Archdale built the boathouse in the early 1900s. During the Second World War (1939-1945) Castle Archdale was a Coastal Command base for Catalina and Sunderland flying boats.



White Island, just across the bay, has the ruins of a 13th century church and seven enigmatic stone figures that look pagan in origin but date to the 9th or 10th century.

Wildlife
Snipe, is a ground-nesting species, well camouflaged for hiding in marshy vegetation. Largest of the waders, the Curlew, with its long, down curved bill and wild call, is familiar in wetland pastures.

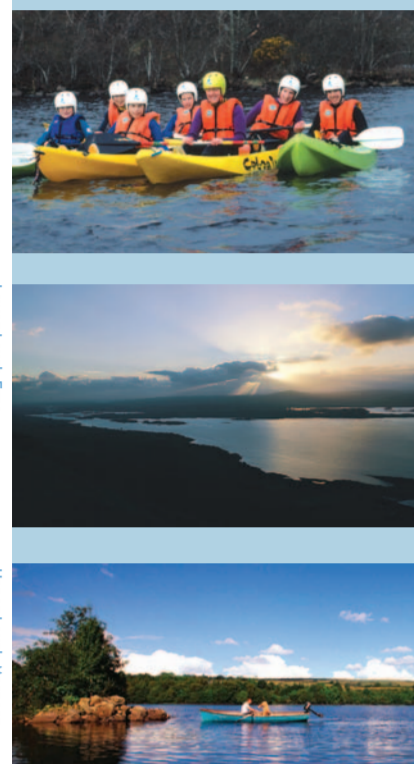
Specific Information
For additional information visit Castle Archdale information panel, located in the marina car park (GR 173 589). The campsite is located around the headland (GR 176 592).

Lough Erne Trail

Finding freedom in Northern Ireland on the

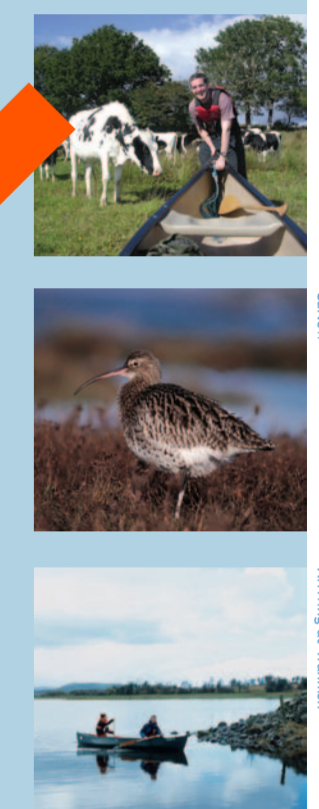


NORTHERN IRELAND



Lower Lough Erne

Upper Lough Erne

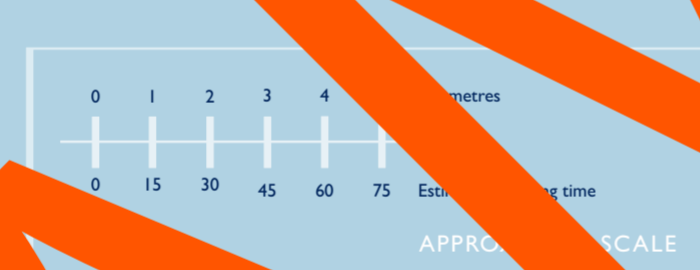


Catlow

Arriving at Trannish

- KEY**
- Camping
 - Official campsite
 - Shop
 - Fresh water
 - Telephone
 - Shower
 - Public house
 - Slipway
 - Cafe/restaurant
 - Toilets
 - Parking
 - Tourist information (Enniskillen)
 - Historical building/ruins
 - Jetty
 - Hospital - AE
- GR - Grid reference (using OS 1:50,000 or 1:25,000 map)

- Earning a Welcome**
- Be friendly and polite to local residents.
 - Drive slowly with care and consideration and park sensibly without causing obstruction.
 - Be as quiet as possible.
 - Get changed discreetly out of public view.
 - Get permission before going on to private property.
 - Avoid wildlife disturbance and environmental damage - only go ashore at recognised landing places.
 - Be considerate to other water users.
 - 'Leave no trace' of your visit and take all litter home.
- Have respect for anglers**
- Keep well clear of anglers fishing from banks and boats.
 - Keep clear of shallow gravel areas of rivers where salmon and trout may spawn - especially in the months of December and January.



- Getting There**
- Various travel and route planning websites are available or RAC road maps at AA or RAC route planner. www.aa.com or www.rac.com
- To Enniskillen from:**
- BELFAST CITY AIRPORT**
Distance: approx 89.3 miles
Time: approx 1 hour 50 minutes
 - SEACAT TERMINAL, BELFAST**
Distance: approx 85.5 miles
Time: approx 1 hour 45 minutes
 - STENA LINE TERMINAL, BELFAST**
Distance: approx 85.4 miles
Time: approx 1 hour 45 minutes
 - LIVERPOOL TERMINAL, BELFAST**
Distance: approx 87.5 miles
Time: approx 1 hour 50 minutes
 - BELFAST INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**
Distance: approx 83.4 miles
Time: approx 1 hour 50 minutes
 - LARNE**
Distance: approx 105.6 miles
Time: approx 2 hours 15 minutes
 - DUBLIN AIRPORT**
Distance: approx 101.5 miles
Time: approx 2 hours 20 minutes
 - DUBLIN PORT**
Distance: approx 105.5 miles
Time: approx 2 hours 30 minutes
 - ROSSLARE**
Distance: approx 202.6 miles
Time: approx 4 hours 35 minutes
 - CORK AIRPORT**
Distance: approx 222.4 miles
Time: approx 5 hours 25 minutes
 - CORK DOCKS**
Distance: approx 225.2 miles
Time: approx 5 hours 30 minutes

Campsites of the Area:

Official Campsite	Telephone	Open From	Extra
Drumrush	+44 (028) 6863 1578	1st March - 15th Oct	
Castle Archdale	+44 (028) 6862 1333	1st April - 31st Oct	
Lakeland Canoe Centre (Island)	+44 (028) 6632 4250	Annual	Free ferry service to Enniskillen
Share Holiday Village	+44 (028) 6772 2122	1st April - 30th Sept	Use of facilities on request
Crom Estate	+44 (028) 67738118	Annual	Free secure boat storage

*The above sites have toilets, fresh water and shower facilities 24 hours per day (see map and key for extra facilities on site or nearby)
Advanced booking is advised - a camping fee is charged. This fee varies per site.

Rough Camping

- Trannish Island: No facilities
- Inish Davar (Island): No facilities (contact Castle Archdale Country Park: +44 (028) 6862 1588.

Do not light fires at any of the camp sites unless permission has been granted by the land owner. Never miss an opportunity to use a proper toilet facility. If you must go in the outdoors the following rules should be observed.

- Be discreet.
- Go to the toilet at least 50 metres from paths and 200 metres from huts, campsites and crags.
- Whenever possible dig a 15cm (6 inch) hole and bury your waste.

Overnight camping: is possible on the grass/beach at the public access sites (some sites are fairly limited 2 - 3 tents max)

Site	Parking	Toilets*	Showers*	Water*	Facilities near by
Muckross	
Rossleigh	Restaurant
Trory	
Bellanaleck	800m from village
Carrybridge	Pub/Restaurant directly opposite (east side)
Knockniny	Café
Smiths Strand	
Derryad Quay	
Trail Bay	
Cottage Lawn	400m from village
Belleek Marina	400m from town

*Please note: the public facilities are open from 8am - 8pm from 1st April - 1st November. Some facilities remain open until 10pm in the Summer.

Extra notes:

- Carrybridge: use east side of waterway (small site)
- Knockniny: use area South of the toilet facility, the large grassed area to the north of this site is private - please do not camp here.

CANOE HIRE (one stop camp/canoe hire facilities)

Company	Contact
Bluelough	+44 (028) 4377 0715 (camp/canoe hire/guided tours/instruction and accommodation)
Canoe Centre (Enniskillen)	+44 (028) 6632 4250 (canoe hire/guided tours/instruction and accommodation)
Corralea Centre (Lough Macnean Upper)	+44 (028) 6638 6123 (canoe hire/guided tours/instruction and accommodation)
Share Holiday Village (Upper Lough Erne)	+44 (028) 6772 2122 (canoe trail packages available/camp/canoe hire/guided tours/instruction and accommodation)
The Outsiders	+44 (028) 6775 1936 (canoe hire)
Tollymore Mountain Centre	+44 (028) 4372 2158 (guided tours/instruction)

Some companies will not allow hire of boats without proof of BCU Level 2 Coach Award (or equivalent), in this case, hire of qualified guide will be required. Please phone in advance to avoid disappointment.
Blue Lough offer a 50% discount to all CANI, ICU, BCU, SCA and WCA members!

- Restricted Access**
- Between March and August do not land on the following Lower Lough Erne Islands:
- Ferry Island (south)
 - White Island (south)
 - Horse Island at Killadeas
 - Rabbit Island
 - Hare Island
 - Cruninish Island
 - Muckinish
 - Roscor Island and any island with nesting gulls (Gravel Ridge, Gravel Ridge Island, Stallion Cows, Screegan).
- As well as being the breeding ground for nesting birds the following islands are often inhabited by cattle (including bulls!) from April to November. So it is advisable to be cautious even though there are landing areas:
- Devenish (except at the historical monument)
 - White Island (North)
 - Inishmore (except around the church ruins)
 - Lusty More (except for the foot path from the jetty).

This leaflet has been produced by CANI and CAAN.

CANI
The Canoe Association of Northern Ireland is the governing body for canoeing in Northern Ireland.
Email: office@cani.org.uk
Website: www.canionline.org.uk

The Countryside Access and Activities Network for Northern Ireland
The Countryside Access and Activities Network is responsible for the strategic development and management of countryside recreation across Northern Ireland.
Email: info@countrysideaccess.org.uk
Website: www.countrysideaccess.org.uk

Both CANI and CAAN endorse the principles of 'Leave no Trace' and the 'Country Code'.

This project has received financial support from:

- Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure
- Environment and Heritage Service
- Fermanagh Local Strategy Partnership
- EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation
- Waterways Ireland
- The National Trust

ACCESS MAP: based upon 2003 Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland 1:50,000 map with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright 2003. Permit no 40035.