

HILLWALK TOURS

Escape to Nature!



Hillwalk Guides – *Hiking in Connemara*

Killary Famine Road (*Info Booklet*)

Dear fellow hiker!

We trust that you are looking forward to a wonderful walk following an old famine road along one of Ireland's three fjords. The hike visits Rosroe Pier and returns via two lakes while hopefully offering great views of Mweelrea and Ben Gorm as well as the Maum Turk Mountains and the Twelve Bens in the distance.

In this document, we have put together some information that will help you to maximise the enjoyment of your walk. Please consider the environment when printing this booklet, route notes and map (supplied separately).

- Important Information for your walk
- What to Wear & What to Bring
- History of Connemara & West Ireland
- Local Attractions
- Where to Eat
- Safety Information
- Emergency Procedure
- Leave No Trace & Countryside Code
- More from Hillwalk Tours

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR YOUR WALK

PARKING: Your walk begins with a walk along the quiet country road to Bunowen, between Leenane and Kylemore. Since there is no car parking available along that road, we recommend that you park your car at a readily accessible gravel storage area / quarry (GPS: 53.5835, -9.7782) on the N59 road, 200m from the road to Bunowen. We advise that you do not leave anything of value in your car.

WEATHER: Check the weather forecast before hillwalking and do not do so during any known weather event. Conditions locally can vary, even in the absence of weather warnings, so always consider your own stamina, confidence and comfort level when deciding if you will go ahead with any walk. Weather can change unexpectedly, so always be prepared for this. See the What to Wear, What to Bring and Safety Information sections for more details.

BRINGING YOUR DOG: This hike crosses land that is used for cattle and sheep grazing and dogs are not allowed on this hike.

COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS & FEEDBACK: Hillwalk Tours take great care in the preparation of all our material. However, we rely on comments and suggestions from walkers to continue to provide the best experience possible. We consider all feedback, make improvements where possible and reply individually to every walker. Send your thoughts to feedback@hillwalktours.com – thanks!

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What to Wear

BASE LAYER - This is what you wear against your skin and the best options are breathable and wicking fabrics instead of cotton t-shirts. They will move moisture away from the skin so that you feel more comfortable when you are walking.

FLEECE – Will keep you warm in the cooler months and on top of the hills, and it will allow you to shed layers when you are working hard in the summer.

LIGHT AND COMFORTABLE TROUSERS - Make sure you choose trousers that are stretchy or allow enough space to move your legs freely and choose fabrics that repel water or dry quickly. Jeans / Denims are not suitable for hill walking.

WATERPROOF JACKET AND OVER-TROUSERS - You never know when you will need protection from wind and rain so make sure you pack a breathable, waterproof jacket and over-trousers.

WICKING SOCKS - Choose non-cotton socks that fit well and will move moisture away from your feet to stop them feeling sweaty. Some people wear two pairs: a sock liner against the skin and wool or wool-blend socks over that. This will help to reduce the likelihood of blisters.

Our tip: Apply a little Vaseline or a similar anti-blister ointment and then put on your socks, this reduces rubbing and helps to prevent blisters.

FOOTWEAR – We recommend you bring comfortable, waterproof, lightweight shoes or boots, that provide good ankle support and offer good grip on rock, grass and mud. Remember that the trails can become quite wet and muddy, after periods of rain.

GAITERS – By covering your upper boot and lower leg these help to keep your feet and trousers dry in wet grass and boggy terrain.

WARM HAT & GLOVES – Essential, even in summer, at higher altitudes and on exposed places.

CHANGE OF CLOTHES: We advise bringing a change of clothes (which can be left in your car, if preferred) in case you get wet during your hike, ensuring a more comfortable journey home.

What to Bring

MOBILE PHONE – The most important safety item on the trails is a fully charged mobile phone as it will allow you to call for help in an emergency. If you are planning on using our GPS tracks as a navigational aid or referring to this booklet on your phone during your hike you may need to pack a power-bank to supplement your phone battery.

BACKPACK / RUCKSACK (with Waterproof Cover or Liner) - To store all your essentials including extra layers of clothing, your waterproofs, first aid kit, camera and your lunch, snacks and drink

WATER - Don't forget how important it is to stay hydrated and bring at least 1 - 2 litres of water per person, and more depending on the weather!

PICNIC LUNCH: Even on shorter walks it is essential to bring some food with you. Traveling to the start point, weather/trail conditions on the day as well as wanting to capture that perfect photo can all add time to your walk and make breakfast seem like a distant memory! Even for the most experienced hiker, being adequately fuelled throughout a walk will add to your overall enjoyment.

Our tip: Choose a sheltered spot to enjoy your picnic (and optional flask of tea or coffee!). Even on a warm day, we recommend putting on an extra layer while taking your break as the body can cool quickly once at rest.

FIRST AID KIT – It is a good idea to have a small, basic first aid kit to deal with little injuries such as sprains, scrapes, cuts and blisters. Good things to bring are plasters, wound dressings, blister plasters, sterile cleansing

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wipes, pain killers, tweezers (for splinters & ticks), bandages, zinc oxide tape (for blisters or sprains). Many hikers also bring a foil rescue blanket or small bivvy bag, which keeps you dry and warm (or cool) in case of an accident.

WHISTLE & TORCH – In the very unlikely event you need to signal for help (whistle/torch) or if your walk takes longer than expected (torch).

CASH – Remember that ATM & card services may be limited in more rural locations.

Additional Suggestions

SUN CREAM, SUNGLASSES AND SUNHAT – Let's hope you'll need those ☺

MIDGE/TICK/INSECT REPELLENT – A good idea, especially if you are prone to get bitten

CAMERA – Vital for capturing photos of the stunning scenery

WALKING POLES – Assist forward movement and balance, reduce impact on your knees, and help with balance in difficult terrain. A pair is best, but many hikers also just use one.

SIT MAT – A small, foldable mat that provides comfort when sitting on the ground during breaks.

COMPASS – A compass (and the ability to use it), although useful, is not an absolute requirement.

The History of Connemara & West Ireland

Over the years, the whole of Ireland suffered from regular famines after potatoes became the staple food of the country in about 1700. However, in the West of Ireland it was estimated that 90% of the population depended on it and therefore were worst hit whenever the crop failed.

When this occurred, other crops (which were more valuable than potatoes) or any farm animals a small farmer owned were quickly sold to pay rent. This may have enabled a farmer to survive one, or even two years of failed crops but during the period from 1845 to 1852, the potato crop failed repeatedly. In 1840, the population of Ireland stood at more than 8 million. By 1855, the population had diminished by more than 25% to 5.5 million.

It is estimated that over one million died of starvation or the diseases associated with the famine while another one million emigrated to North America or Great Britain. Today, many people living in the USA, Canada and Great Britain can trace their ancestry back to people who left Ireland as a result of the 'Great Famine'.

The term Connemara is frequently used to describe all of County Galway west of Lough Corrib and, despite its troubled past, is one of the most scenic areas in all of Ireland. As with most of Ireland's West, Connemara's history goes back thousands of years. The first inhabitants arrived over 5,000 years ago. With the arrival of Christianity, many monasteries were built in the area that can still be seen today, for example in Kylemore Abbey and on Lough Corrib.

The local "Connemara pony" is native Irish breed of horse. The ruggedness of its environment has developed many of the pony's prized qualities, i.e. hardiness, agility, intelligence and extraordinary jumping abilities. There are a number of stories regarding the origin of the breed: Some believe they developed from Scandinavian ponies that were first brought to Ireland by the Vikings. But many believe that they originated from the 'Irish Hobby', a now-extinct breed established prior to the 13th century which was popular for horse racing and for use by medieval light cavalry. One popular legend, however, says that when galleons of the Spanish Armada ran aground in 1588, some Andalusians horses on board the ships made it to the shore and subsequently bred with the native Irish horses, refining the local ponies.

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Local Attractions

Connemara Seaweed Baths (Leenane) - Embrace the Power of the Sea

Connemara Seaweed Baths are the only salt water seaweed baths in the West of Ireland. Their seaweed is hand cut daily and is fresh with essential nutrients and minerals.

Bathing in Salt Water (Thalassotherapy) is essential for the release of minerals and nutrients found in seaweed. Saltwater seaweed baths provide a natural cure for skin ailments as well as relaxing tired and aching muscles. The benefits of Saltwater Seaweed Baths include detoxification, general wellbeing and relaxation. In addition, it is considered to help if you are suffering from arthritis, rheumatism, eczema, psoriasis, acne or fungal infections.

The seaweeds used in the Connemara Seaweed baths contain more minerals and nutrients than their red and green counterparts. Seaweeds, especially Bladderwrack, help to eliminate toxic build up due to everyday living.

Located in Leenane village, beside the Leenane Hotel, they are usually open daily from 10am until 6pm (**Call to book first!**)

For prices and more info please visit www.connemaraseaweedbaths.com or call +353 (0)95 42408

Killary Cruises, Leenane – Experience Ireland’s only Fjord by boat

Located 2.5km west of Leenane village

Recognised as Ireland's only real Fjord, this 14km (9 miles) long inlet stretching all the way into the pretty village of Leenane, boasts some of the finest scenery in the West of Ireland; and, because of its sheltered nature, its waters are always calm.

An excellent way to take in the landscape is from the water with Killary Cruises. Passing stunning mountainsides with steep slopes, small villages all nearly inaccessible by road and huge salmon farms you will get a completely fresh picture of this area. The boat trip ends where the fjord meets the Atlantic Ocean with small islands dotting the water as you peer across the ocean towards North America. Whatever about seeing New York or Newfoundland, with a little bit of luck you might just see some dolphins in the area!

While you're out on the boat, you can enjoy a homemade Seafood Chowder or a Crab Sandwich fresh from the water. Or, after a long day of hiking, a Sunset Barbeque Cruise is as good a way to relax and unwind as any.

All sailings depart from *Nancys Point*, 2.5km west of Leenane village. Sailing times are usually every two hours from 10.30 to 16.30 (April to October) and the cruises are 90 min in duration. **Be sure you book first!**

For bookings, full sailing times, prices and more info please visit www.killarycruises.com or call +353 (0)91 566736

Killary Adventure Centre, Leenane - Pure Adrenaline and great 'Craic'

Located 5km west of Leenane village

Imagine four 60 foot telegraph poles linked together with tightropes, slippery poles and monkey rings. Now, picture yourself high up in the air, completing the challenges your instructor sets for you. Sounds too scary? Don't worry - whether you are a soft adventurer or after the extreme thrill, Killary has something for everyone, age 8 to 80.

A definite highlight is Ireland's only fixed Bungee Jump. You will never forget the feeling of free falling, safe in the knowledge that there will be no bumpy landing! Other land-based activities include the highest climbing and abseiling tower in Ireland, archery and clay pigeon shooting.

If you are a water-baby, then you can try your hand at a range of activities from windsurfing to wakeboarding to the gentler thrill of a peaceful kayak along the fjord.

For bookings, opening times, prices and more info please visit www.killaryadventure.com or call +353 (0)095 43411 or +353 (0)95 42276

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Kylemore Abbey & Victorian Walled Gardens, Kylemore – Honeymoon romance that lives on

Located 15km from Leenane

Nestled at the base of Druchruach Mountain, on the shore of Lough Pollacappul, Kylemore Abbey is regarded as one of Ireland's most romantic buildings. Discover what makes Kylemore Abbey the No.1 visitor attraction in the West of Ireland on a guided tour through one of Ireland's most famous landmarks.

Originally built as a romantic gift for the beautiful Margaret Henry in 1867, Kylemore Abbey has been home to the Benedictine nuns since 1920. The 1,000 acre estate, with its surrounding mountains and lakes, is steeped in history and tells tales of romance, tragedy, royal visits, gambling debts, innovation, spirituality as well as excellence in education.

Today Kylemore Abbey and the estate are open to visitors all year and the main areas to be visited are the Abbey, the beautiful Gothic Church, the Victorian Walled Gardens (*which were so advanced when first opened that they were compared with Kew Gardens in London*), the Craft Shop, Pottery studio, Restaurant and Tea Rooms as well as the Lake and Woodland walks.

For opening times, prices and more info please visit www.kylemoreabbeytourism.ie or call +353 (0)95 52000

Where to Eat

Below is a selection of evening meal suggestions near your walk, put together based on the recommendations of previous walkers and on the advice of members of the local community.

Blackberry Cafe, Leenane: Serving reliably good food: home-made soups and chowders with home-baked bread, substantial snacks such as fish cakes and mussels, and delicious desserts like rhubarb tart and lemon meringue pie with cream. The secret of the Blackberry Café appeal is that they don't try to do too much at once and everything is freshly made each day. Tel: 095 42240

Leenane Hotel, Leenane: Serving all locally grown produce and to the highest standard, with regional specialities such as fresh Killary Bay Salmon and Rack of Connemara Mountain Lamb highly recommended. Tel: 095 42375

Mitchell's Café, Kylemore Abbey: Kylemore is renowned for its traditional home-cooked food which has always been an important part of the traditional Benedictine welcome. Mitchell's is a modern self service café and restaurant which serves delicious and healthy soups, stews and salads as well as their famed scones, brown bread and apple pies. (Our personal favourite is their crumble with custard). Usually open till 6pm. Tel: 095 52000 (*For a light lunch and a 'cuppa' the Tea House by the Walled Garden (inside the estate) is also a nice spot.*)

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Safety Information

Even on the best of days there is the possibility that something can go wrong. All it takes is an accidental slip and a badly sprained ankle. In order to know what to do in those circumstances and how to prevent them, if possible, we have provided the following information.

General Advice

- We recommend that, if possible, you **stay on the trail** during your hike.
- Take particular **care on the descent** and/or when you are tired, as this is when most accidents occur.
- Be careful when walking near cliffs and stay clear of the edge.
- Remember, the general rule for **walking on roads** in Ireland is to walk on the right-hand side (facing oncoming traffic). However, if the road is turning to the right, cross over to the left-hand side for better visibility of oncoming traffic.
- Note that the provided walking times do *not* account for breaks taken for lunch/rest/photos/etc. Always ensure that you still have plenty of time to reach the end of your hike before darkness falls.

Impassable & Hazardous Trail

(e.g. due to snow, fog, floodwaters, etc.)

- **Do not take any risks!** If you are not confident at navigating, stick to the trail, or, if necessary, make your way safely to the nearest road where you will come across locals who will help you.
- Rivers and streams may be flooded after heavy rain, particularly in hills and mountains. **Do not take risks by trying to cross flooded rivers** – seek an alternative route on your map *only* if you are confident at navigating. If not, do not take any risks, but make your way back along the trail to the nearest road.

Encountering Animals

DOGS may occasionally be encountered while on the trail. If you are fearful, or the dog is threatening, the general rule is to try to get out of the situation calmly and quickly without making the dog any more upset.

- Try to stay calm and don't yell at the dog or scream. Don't throw anything at the dog or pick up a stick as a weapon. Many dogs are simply afraid of you and this will only make their fear worse.
- Never run from a dog as it will outrun you easily. Running triggers a dog's instinct to chase you. Avoid sudden movement.
- Speak to any harassing dog in a firm, calm voice. Don't smile or speak in a pleading voice. When using vocal commands, deepen your voice as much as possible.

CATTLE are a common feature on some of our walks where the hiking trails cross private land. Cattle may look intimidating but are generally quite timid. Here are some tips for dealing with cattle on your hike:

- If possible, walk around cattle not through the middle of them and don't walk between cows and their calves.
- Calves and young bullocks are very curious and may even run towards you. Continue walking normally. Don't run away. If you do this, the cattle will simply follow you. If they get too close for comfort, don't worry. Simply stand your ground, jump up and shout and they will run away again.

MIDGES can become a real nuisance as they often appear in great numbers and their bite can leave an itchy rash. Midges don't like direct sun and prefer calm, humid weather. They are most active in the early morning and late evening. Midges only attack bare skin and can't bite through cloth. In general, you will not be pestered by midges while walking. Nevertheless, it can be a good idea to bring an insect and tick repellent on your walk.

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TICKS are tiny (1mm), spider-like blood sucking creatures which feed on many different types of animals, including humans. They are frequently found in moorland and other grassy areas, usually close to the ground, especially in moist, shaded places. Once attached ticks feed for several days and then simply drop off. Through their bite ticks can, **very rarely**, transmit a bacterial infection called Lyme disease or Borreliosis. *For information on prevention of tick bites and what to do if bitten, see www.ticktalkireland.org.*

EMERGENCY PROCEDURE

- **In case of an emergency, try to stay calm. Try to work out your exact location on the map and decide if you can help yourself out of the situation.**
- **In a genuine emergency call 112 or 999 free of charge.** The operator may ask you which service you require. For example, ambulance (*if you are near a road*), mountain rescue (*for inaccessible places*), coast guard (*near the sea*), etc.
 - You can call emergency services using any mobile/cell phone - even if does not have call credit or is locked. Simply type 112 instead of the unlock code.
 - If you do not have a phone signal it may still be possible to contact emergency services. Emergency calls can be made on *any* available mobile phone network. If no networks have signal, you will be told that there is no reception and you cannot make emergency calls. You will have to move to another location to place the call, if possible.
 - Please keep in mind that if your phone does not have network coverage on your own network **others will not be able to call you back. So, do not hang up unless directed to do so!**
- You can also signal for help using your whistle or torch. The International distress signal is six blasts on your whistle or six flashes with your torch. If your whistles are heard, you should hear three whistles in reply. Keep repeating the whistle blasts so that your location can be determined.
- Try to keep everyone safe, warm and comfortable while waiting for help, particularly **if you have an injured person**. Move to a sheltered area if possible. Ensure everyone puts on any spare layers of clothing that they are carrying. Insulate everyone from the ground by placing backpacks underneath them (if it is safe to move them). You may loosen the laces on your boots, but *do not* remove them, even in the case of swelling. Try to keep everyone well hydrated, but only drink bottled water.

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The Countryside Code

While out walking in the countryside, remember you are walking in areas where people live and work. And we also share the countryside with much wildlife.

The following are a number of important recommendations to abide by when out walking:

- **Be safe - plan ahead and follow signs**
- **Leave gates and property as you find them**
- **Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home**
- **Where you are permitted to bring them, keep dogs on a lead**
- **Consider other people**

Leave No Trace

Hillwalk Tours is a proud supporter of **Leave No Trace** – an Outdoor Ethics Programme designed to promote and inspire responsible outdoor recreation through education, research, and partnerships. An ethic can be defined as knowing what the right thing to do is, and doing it, even if there is no one about to see you do it. Leave No Trace depends more on attitude and awareness than on rules and regulations.

Practising a Leave No Trace ethic is very simple: Make it hard for others to see or hear you and LEAVE NO TRACE of your visit. See <https://www.leavenotraceireland.org> for more information.

Toilets: If you need to answer ‘the call of nature’ and there are no facilities nearby, please take care to find a discreet spot away from the trail and any water sources. Ensure that you **Leave No Trace** of your visit, i.e. bury your waste and ‘pack out’ your toilet paper by bringing it with you inside a double zip-lock bag or similar. You can find more info on this at www.trailspace.com/articles/backcountry-waste-disposal.html

More from Hillwalk Tours

Did you enjoy your self-guided walk? Consider one of our walking holidays!

Hillwalk Tours was founded by Kilkenny man, James Byrne, and is based in Galway. We have been organising self-guided hillwalking tours in Connemara and other parts of Ireland, the UK and Spain for over 10 years, providing thousands of happy hiking experiences to our many loyal walkers. This walk is a perfect introduction to our other offerings that include overnight accommodation, luggage and walker transfers if required. We take care of everything so all you need to do is put one foot in front of the other along some of the most beautiful landscapes in the world!

We have over 200 walks across 20+ different trails with options to suit everyone from the part-time hiker to those with more experience.

Explore our catalogs to learn more about our exciting walking holidays. Discover the diverse range of experiences that await you on each adventure by [clicking here](#).

See our website www.hillwalktours.com for more or contact us at info@hillwalktours.com and one of our team will personally advise you.



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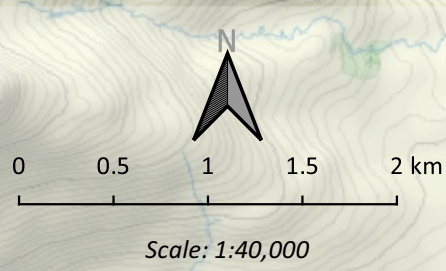
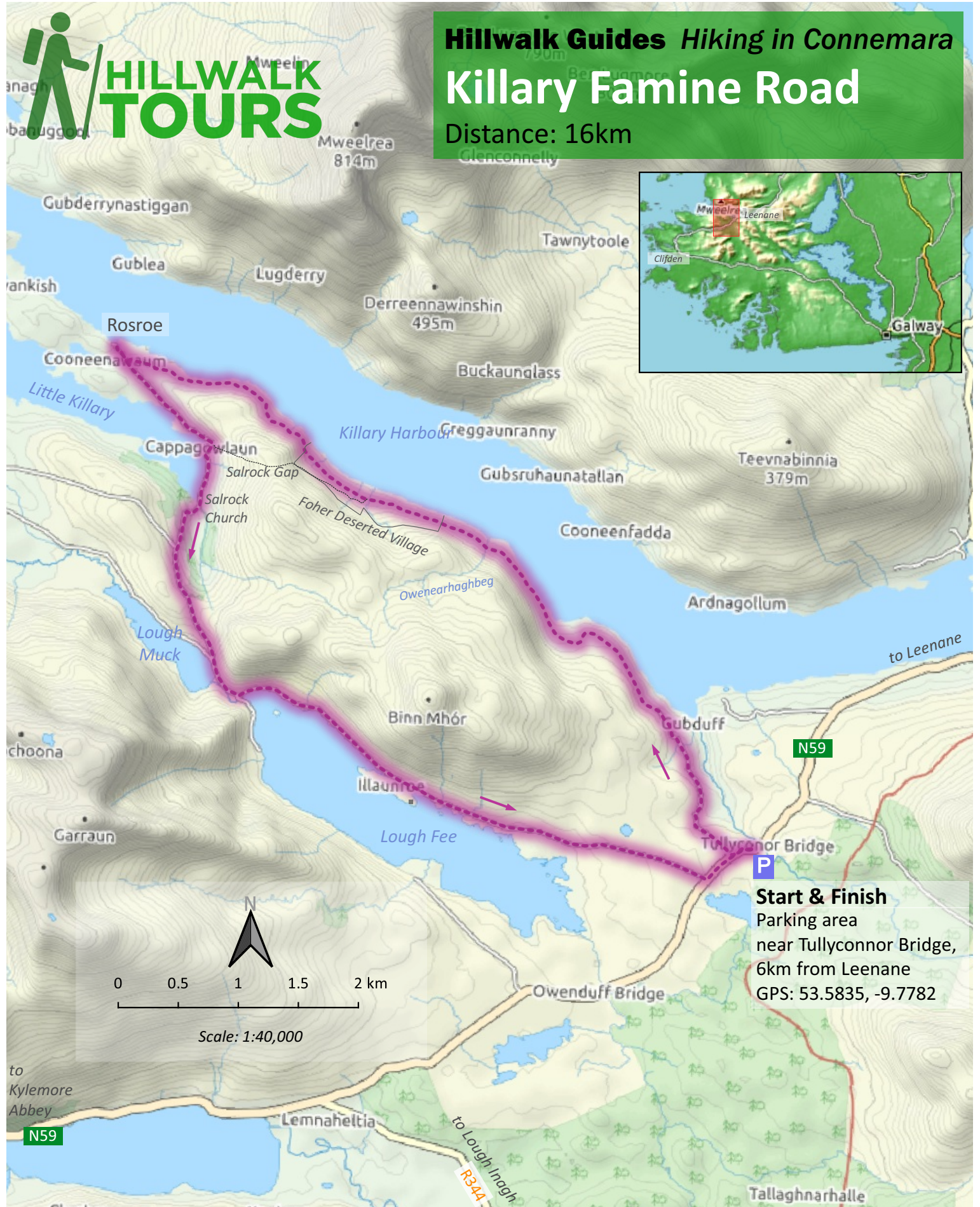


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Hillwalk Guides *Hiking in Connemara*

Killary Famine Road

Distance: 16km



Start & Finish
Parking area near Tullyconnor Bridge, 6km from Leenane
GPS: 53.5835, -9.7782



Disclaimer: Hillwalk Tours Ltd does not accept any responsibility or liability for any damage or loss to any person for the result of any action taken on the basis of this information.



Hillwalk Guides – Hiking in Connemara

Killary Famine Road (Route Notes)

Please Note:

- Changes to the route may occur of which we are unaware. This can include changes to the path surface or the surroundings.
- The approximate **‘Walking Time’** is based on a moderate walking speed of 4km per hour and does not include any breaks.
- The **‘Total Ascent’** is the cumulative elevation gain or climb over the entire distance of the walk.

YOUR WALK AT A GLANCE

Distance: 16km

Walking Time: 4-5 hours

Total Ascent: (↑) 130m

Terrain: Country roads, tracks and a gently sloping ‘green road’ along one of Ireland’s only fjords to Rosroe Point. From there you follow quiet, rural roads along the shores of Little Killary, Lough Muck and Lough Fee. This is a relatively easy walk, with only one short climb worth mentioning, on the way to Lough Muck. When the ground is dry some hikers complete this loop walk in walking shoes rather than boots.

Food & Drink: Leenane, Kylemore Abbey

Way Marking: This hike is not waymarked, but the route is very easy to follow by keeping the waters of Killary Harbour on your right during the first half of the walk and following the quiet ‘main’ road back to the car for the second half.

Access & Parking: This hike starts with a walk along the quiet country road to Bunowen, between Leenane and Kylemore. But since there is no car parking available along that road, we recommend that you park your car at a gravel storage area / quarry (GPS: 53.5835, -9.7782) on the N59 road, 200m from the road to Bunowen.

From the Quarry / Gravel storage area along the N59 (GPS: 53.5835, -9.7782):

- Turn left out of the quarry and follow the road for almost 200m to a junction with a road on your right, signposted for to Bunowen. Turn right here and follow the road downhill.
 - As you walk past bog land and turf cuttings look out for the stumps and roots of ancient bog pines that have often been exposed. The whole area was once covered in pine trees.
 - On your right the road overlooks a wooded valley where the Bunowen River flows down towards Killary Harbour, while ahead of you on the other side of the inlet, rises the great bulk of Mweelrea, the highest peak in Connacht.
 - You pass a couple of houses and farm buildings before you come to a gate on a gentle rise on the road, near the place where the watery expanse Killary Harbour joins from the right. (Some people also park their cars in a layby here, but there is only enough space for two cars.)
- ① *Killary Harbour is one of only three examples of glacial fjords found in Ireland (the other two are Carlingford Lough and Lough Swilly at the borders with Northern Ireland). Dramatically surrounded by mountains that rise steeply from the water’s edge, the fjord stretches for 16km and has a maximum depth of 45 metres.*

In recent times, Killary Harbour has become a centre for aquaculture, with mussels being farmed in the deep, clear waters of the fjord. Fish cages belonging to salmon farms and mussel rafts are a prominent feature, along with the boats that service them.

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- Pass through the gate and follow the road which soon gives way to a broad gravel track running gently down across a rugged moorland slope.
- You pass a house, just beyond a small conifer plantation, and soon after that a boathouse and slipway on the shore which are associated with the fishery enterprises in Killary Harbour.
- Continue along the track for 700m to another gate (and stile) where you cross a concrete slab bridge over the Owenearhaghbeg stream. A small waterfall pours into Killary Harbour here from the steep slopes of Binn Mhór. The flow can be quite impressive after heavy rain.
- As you continue the track becomes grassier and runs along a low, ruined, drystone wall.
- Pass through a gate in a wall and continue with a wall and fence on the right to reach the old fields and buildings of the abandoned village of Foher.
- ① *These days Foher consists of old stone walls and roofless ruins. But they are scattered across a slope that was obviously quite fertile in its time. If you look closely lines of old potato ridges can be seen everywhere. Despite this, the Great Famine led to this little settlement being abandoned in the late 1850s.*
- Follow the grassy track through the remains of the village for almost 1.5km and then go through a gate and a stile.
- ① *High above Foher on your left, look for a rugged little gap that marks Salrock Pass, where legend says the Devil tried to drag St Roc, a local Saint, over the mountain. An old trail still leads across the pass to Little Killary.*
- ① *The track ahead towards Rosroe follows an old famine relief road, dating from around 1850, before the village was abandoned. In Victorian times, it was considered wrong to simply give charity to people. For that reason, roads like this were constructed to provide employment for starving farm labourers during the famine in return for food.*
Tough the road is now overgrown and has never seen much traffic, it was well engineered across a steep and rugged slope. A short distance ahead is a short, steep climb where the track negotiates a cliff face. You can see how the road there was supported with a 'retaining wall' to make sure it didn't move down the slope.
- Follow the track and, around 1.5km from the end of Foher village it is diverted away from Killary Harbour by a wall.
- A short distance further on you join a minor road beside a cottage at Rosroe. Turn right to follow the road to Killary Harbour and Rosroe Pier.
- ① *Directly beside the pier is Rosroe Cottage, where the Austrian-British philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein, often considered to be the greatest philosopher of the 20th century, lived and worked for much of 1948. A plaque on the wall recalls his time here. The cottage was subsequently owned by the Anglo-Irish poet Richard Murphy.*
You have now completed almost half of your hike and the little harbour alongside can be a good place to take a lunch break.
- When you have finished your visit to the harbour follow the road back inland, passing the track to Foher and a number of cottages on the way.
- After 600m, the road runs alongside the sea inlet of Little Killary and then climbs for a short distance to a place where you often have good views towards the wooded head of the inlet.
- Continue downhill and then climb through some woodland past a number of driveways. Follow the road uphill and ignore a road on the right, shortly after leaving the trees behind.
- After a little climb the road drops down towards the shore of little Lough Muck, where you turn left and follow the road through a gap between hills gap to reach Lough Fee.
- The road now hugs the shore of the lough and passes some farmhouses.
- ① *About half way along the lough is a 500m long, wooded peninsula called Illaunroe. The famous surgeon and polymath, Sir William Wilde – father of poet and playwright Oscar Wilde owned a fishing lodge here. As a young man Oscar spent considerable time at Illaunroe and it is said that he learned to fish here.*

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- Beyond Illaunroe the road eventually begins to bear away from the shore of Lough Fee before climbing gently up a wide, boggy slope.
- ① *Ahead in the distance are the Maum Turk Mountains and the Twelve Bens off to the right.*
- When you reach a T-junction with the N59, turn left and follow the road for 450m to the Quarry / Gravel storage area where you left your car.

After Your hike

For refreshments we recommend the village of **Leenane** or the restaurant at **Kylemore Abbey**.

Leenane (from the Irish 'An Líonán', meaning "where the tide fills") is a little village on the shore of Killary Harbour. It is located on the northern edge of Connemara, in a valley between the mountains of Munterowen West and Devilsmother.

The village was the setting for the iconic 1990 film 'The Field', with Richard Harris, John Hurt and Sean Bean, and for Martin McDonagh's play 'The Beauty Queen of Leenane', which enjoyed successful runs on Broadway and in London's West End.

Please see your Info Booklet for more information on **Kylemore Abbey**.

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