

A Climbers guide to

Donegal Sea Stacks

By

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Donegal Sea Stacks.

This is the rock climbers guide to the Sea Stacks of County Donegal in the north west of Ireland. The stacks are listed starting at Silver Stand by Malinbeg in the South West of Co. Donegal and travelling North East (clockwise) towards the peninsula of Inishowen in the north of the county. Included in this guide are several conventional sea cliff venues, conveniently located throughout the guide to provide alternative climbing options if sea condition are not favourable for access to your chosen stack.

Links to the more conventional rock climbing found in the comprehensive guidebooks to each area and islands. There are found in the area descriptions throughout this guide. For these I have used Google maps pins throughout this guide, [The Sturrall Google Maps pin](#)

Access

The sea stack routes in this guide have all been given conventional rock climbing grades. It is worth bearing in mind that most of these sea stacks require varying length's of sea passage to access the base of the stack. These sea passages are in some of the most inaccessible and remote locations in Ireland. The west coast and islands of Donegal are very exposed to the Atlantic Ocean swells brought by the ever present trade winds. A good working knowledge of such nautical matters is essential to ensure safe practice whilst visiting and climbing on remote and very exposed sea cliffs and stacks.

Glencolumbkille

Teach Breach Sheamus XS 90m **

Grid Reference G516869. This Monster sea stack sits equidistant between Glencolumbkille (to the South) and the Sturrall Headland. (to the North) It is guarded by monster 200mtr cliffs from both directions, a huge committing sea passage is required to land on the beast. Abseil descent of the route. This stack can be easily seen from the Glencolumbkille to Málainn Bhig road.

Pitch 1, 20m, From the huge sea level platform at the Southern end of the stack, scramble up to a large ledge below the steep open book corner.

Pitch 2, 30m, Climb the open book corner and continue up the arete to a superb recess, below the bulge and capping roof.

Pitch 3, 10m, Climb direct to a boulder field at the southern end of the summit ridge.

Pitch 4, 30m, Carefully scramble along the ridge to the airy and exposed summit block.

I. Miller, M. Boner 30/06/09



“Dare to Be” Sea Stack

Chaos Stack XS 45m

Living in the northern shadow of Teach Breach Sheamus, Chaos Stack provides a suitable journey into the pounding heart of nautical darkness. This route climbs the south face of the stack from the tidal ledge at its south-west tip. Abseil descent from the only good rock on the summit of the stack at the north east corner at bottom of the grass and rubble slope. Considerable nautical and mountain guile are required for a happy ascent of Chaos.

From the southern edge of the tidal ledge climb the horizontally bedded south facing wall on immaculate rock for approx 18m to a rubble strewn ledge. Continue upwards on ever decreasing rock quality with the final 10m a bit of an Alpine jenga fest.

W. Gadd, I. Miller 28/06/19

The Sturrall Headland

ACCESS: From Glencolumbkille follow the unstarred road North to the Watchtower on the Headland, Approx 1Km. Continue North for another 1 Km, Sturrall Headland is the awesome looking near kilometre long knife edge ridged peninsula! [More Info Click Here](#)

[The Sturrall Google Maps pin](#) Grid Ref G523879



The Sturrall in distance with Dare to Be and Chaos Stack

The Sturrall Ridge XS 4c 750m

This route climbs the Sturrall ridge from sea to summit and continues along the ridge to the land. This route is a monster.

Access is by steep descent of the north spur of the Sturrall headland to sea level and a 300m paddle to the base of the ridge.

Pitch 1: 25m From the recess at the sea side tower climb the grooves above the abyss to a large grassy ledge.

Pitch 2: 48m Climb slabby rock and up airy ground as the ridge narrows. Steep belay on blocky ground.

Pitch 3: 20m Climb ridge to a flattening.

Pitch 4: 25m Crawl along the ridge with maximum exposure and terror. Big gear belay in wide crack at top of slab.

Pitch 5: 48m Climb steep ground to an excellent pull onto an immaculate slab above UBER big air. Climb slab to twin crack belay on a wee grassy ledge.

Pitch 6: 40m Continue up immaculate slab by finger cracks to a huge grassy recess.

Pitch 7: 50m Climb broken very exposed ground to monster block belay.

Pitch 8: 70m Scramble to Summit.

Tor Glas HS 4a 55m **

Grid Reference G537887 This route climbs the 50 metre Tor Glas found 1km to the south of the An Port road end by it's seaward face.

Pitch 1, 30m, 4a, Climb the right hand side of the conglomerate wall and traverse left along the superb band of black slab until able to ascend to the open book corner. Climb the corner to a big ledge, block belay.

Pitch 2, 25m, Scramble to the summit in fine stack style.

I. Miller 07/06/08

Osmoregulation Diff 23m

Grid Reference G538887 This route climbs the smaller of the 2 stacks in an awesome and committing location, 50m to the North of the above stack. Starting just right of centre on the seaward face, climb the black slab of immaculate rock to a stance and jug haul to the airy twin summits.

I. Miller 07/06/08

[Osmoregulation Sea Stack Film](#)



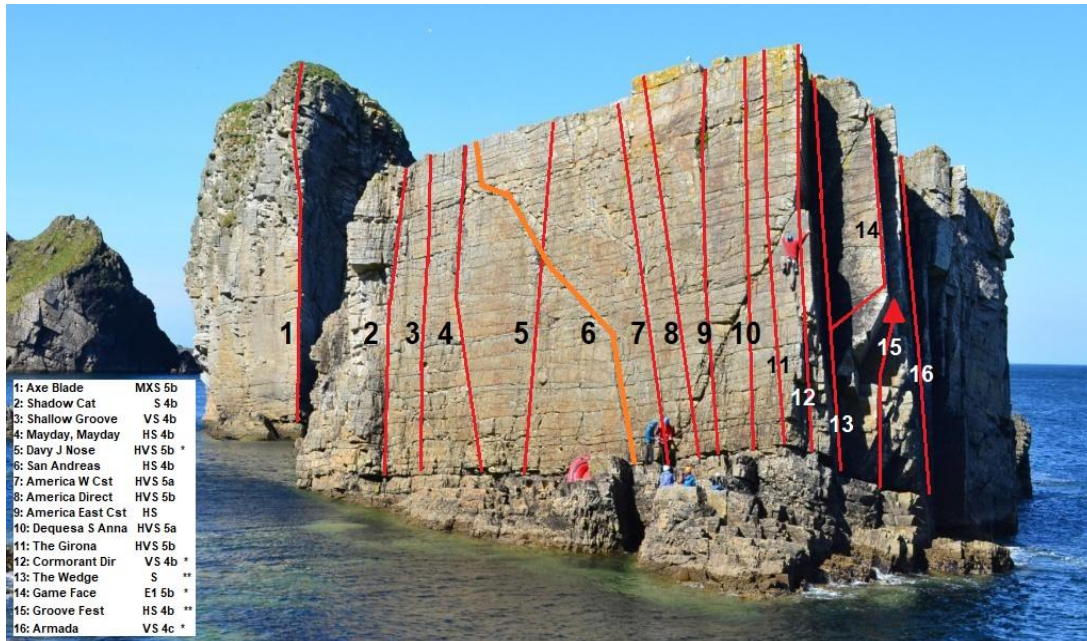
Tor Glas from the sea

The following two routes are found on the 35 metre high sea stack immediately to the south of Berg Stack, at GR544887 and approx 600 mtr to the south of An Port road end. Access is by stack hopping across Berg Stack and a swim. Grid Reference G544887

Vertical Picnic V. Diff 30m

In the centre of the seaward face, climb from the very tidal platform to a superb wee cave and spacious ledge @ 4 mtr. On superb wave washed black rock, climb the groove directly above to a smaller stance and continue to the summit on the steep left hand crack/corner line.

I. Miller, D. O'Connor 03/08/08



Stac an Beag

Axe Blade MXS 5b 28m

Climb the superb full stack height arête running up the North face of Vertical Picnic Stack. This arête is easily found and accessed from Berg Stack.

M. Fowler, N. Fowler 24/08/12

[Stac an Beag Film](#)

[Stac an Beag Google Maps pin](#) Map ref: G546882

Shadow Cat S 4a 20m

Climb the left corner of the wall

I. Miller, M. Family 24/06/14

Shallow Groove VS 4b 20m

Approx 2m right climb the shallow groove and direct up the ever steepening wall above.

I. Miller, J. Hegarty 23/07/14

Mayday, Mayday HS 4b 20m

Start at the crack line about 8m from the left edge of the wall. Follow the fault line to a peapod over a loose bulge, and finish up a chimney.

P. Clerkin, P. Clerkin 02/05/88

Davy Jones' Nose VS 4c 20m

Start below an obvious nose in the centre of the wall, 3m right of Mayday Mayday. Climb over the nose to a ledge at half height. Follow San Andreas (see below) for 2m until horizontal blocks are reached. Climb over these to the top.

P. Clerkin, P. Clerkin 08/05/88

San Andreas HS 4b 25m

Start 2m left of America. Stagger obviously up a fault line left across the main face and finish up a vertical chimney to the top (as for Mayday, Mayday).

P. Clerkin, P. Clerkin 05/05/88

America West Coast HVS 5a 25m

Start as for Cormorant but follow the obvious fault line to a horizontal break at half height. Go over a

[Unique Ascent](#)

broken wall to a ledge, step left and finish up to the top.

P. Clerkin, P. Clerkin 15/05/88

America Direct HVS 5b 21m

Start as for America West Coast, but follow the line of weakness between West and East Coast directly to a ledge, and finish up the centre of the smooth face of America.

P. Clerkin, P. Clerkin 02/05/88

America East Coast HS 20m

Start 3m left of right-hand corner and follow fault line up east coast of America.

P. Clerkin, P. Clerkin 02/05/88

Cormorant VS 4b 22m

Start as for America but follow a large crack line trending right to a ledge at half height. Step left onto the wall and follow the first crack line directly to the top.

P. Clerkin, P. Clerkin 08/05/88

Cormorant Direct VS 4b 20m **

Climb the right hand edge of the wall.

I. Miller, J. Hegarty 23/07/14

Dequesa Santa Anna HVS 5a 25m

Start 1.5m from the right-hand edge, and follow parallel crack lines to the top. Crux at two-thirds height.

P. Clerkin, P. Clerkin 08/05/88

The Girona HVS 5b 21m

Start at the right-hand edge of the wall. Follow a leftward-trending crack past a hedgehog-shaped plant to the top. Crux at two-thirds height.

P. Clerkin, P. Clerkin 08/05/88

The Wedge S 20m **

From the platform, ascend the groove on good holds to a ledge. Continue up past the lichen section left to the top.

S.R. Young, J. Leonard 21/04/73

Game Face E1 5b 20m *

Climb "The Wedge" to the ledge, traverse out right to gain the Arête. Climb the Arête with increased exposure, excellent climbing and mild concerns as you leave the good gear far below. Wires can be placed high in "Groove Fest."

I. Miller, L. Murdiff 23/07/19

Groove Fest HS 4b 20m **

Climb the hanging groove between "The Wedge" and "Armada," with excellent steep jug hauling up to groove and excellent airy bridging once in the groove to summit.

I. Miller, J. Hegarty 23/07/14

Armada VS 4c 21m *

Start 1 m right of The Wedge, the second and smaller obvious corner. Climb over a series of sharp blocks to about 3m and then step awkwardly up into the corner and bridge up to the top.

P. Clerkin, P. Clerkin 15/05/88

At the Port road end follow the path North out to sea along the cliff tops towards the nearest sea stack for 100m until you are overlooking a huge basin of rock and scree. The following three routes climb the lower half of this basin on superb rock.

Mahogany Gaspipe HS 4a 35m

Start 1 m left of the right-hand end of the Main Wall. Climb straight up on good holds with increasing exposure until arrival at belay/abseil pegs.

C. Roberts, J. Spain 11/09/90

Neo-Maxi-Zoomed-Weebie HS 35m

Start 8m left of the right-hand end of the Main Wall. Climb straight through the overhang with little difficulty and continue up a steep wall with increasing exposure until arrival at belay/abseil pegs (one good peg, one very suspect bong)

M. McMahon, M. McConnell Nov 90

Shortcut To Mushrooms HS 4a 35m

Start near the left hand edge of the Main Wall where the small overhang which runs across the main face ends. Climb the left-hand side of the overhang and continue up the steep wall with increasing exposure to the belay/abseil pegs.

M. McMahon, M. McConnell Nov 90

Teetering on the Tottering HVS 5a 35m

Mid-way along the wall containing 'Shortcut To Mushrooms' etc, there is a series of overhangs. Climb up beneath these until you arrive beneath a large grey block. Turn overhang on the right (crux) and continue up wall to the abseil point as for 'Shortcut To Mushrooms.'

M. McMahon, A. Beavis 1991



Standing on Stac an Beag

[An Port \(roadend\)](#)

ACCESS: Directly “out to sea” from An Port road end lie the following 6 stacks. All can be accessed by paddling from the road end slip. An alternative approach is to ascend the slopes directly to the north of the slipway and skirt the cliff tops for approx 500 metres. Once you are overlooking the stacks,

[Unique Ascent](#)

(Grid Reference G546894) descend to the boulder beach between "Rolling Thunder" and "Twin Arch Stack." From this atmospheric wee beach it is possible to access by boulder hop "Twin Arch," "Rolling Thunder" and "Realm of the Senses." (Low tide and a calm sea required)

Black Mamba, VS 4c 22m **

Grid Reference G544892 As you drive down the Port road you can't help but notice a perfect Black Stack sitting about 500m out to sea, this stack is known locally as "An Staca."

Climb the seaward face direct to a steep corner and pull through the corner with the whole world below your heels.

The sea journey to this stack is very emotional.

I. Miller, W. Shuessler 23/03/11

[An Ascent of An Staca film](#)

[An Staca in calm seas](#)

A route at VS 4c was climbed up the bold landward arete of this stack on 30/06/11.

Realm of the Senses, S 50m

The stack nearest An Port road end (Grid Reference G546893 is climbed by both it's landward and seaward faces. The landward face route starts below the landward arete. (facing the road end) Climb the immaculate rock to a grassy ramp. Follow the ramp with increased exposure and gravel to the summit. The seaward face is climbed @ Moderate for 80 Mtr up a superb ramp and deep grot gravel to the summit.

I. Miller 13/09/08

A complete sea level(ish) around the circumference of "Realm of the Senses Stack" at about F6a+ The best wall being the landward face in the narrow channel which provides a slightly overhanging wall of immaculate Quartz jugs with off course, much room for further development.

Andy Thompson and Naoise Ó Muircheartaigh 2020



[Realm of the Senses Stack](#)

Rolling Thunder V. Diff 80m

This stack is another classic wedge shape and is located on the seaward side of "The Realm of the Senses" stack @ Grid Reference G545893. This stack was climbed on it's seaward(ish) face. Just to the North of the huge seaward ramp lies a massive basin of rock walls, Scramble up the centre of the lower

[Unique Ascent](#)

ramp to a rock scar niche. Climb steeply through the niche and grovel to an exposed summit.

I. Miller 13/09/08

Lobster Corner XS 4c,4a 35m

This route climbs the left facing corner crack left of centre on the landward face of "Rolling Thunder" stack. Access is by boulder hop at lowest tide.

Pitch 1. 20m. 4c. From a small non-tidal ledge, climb the steep left facing corner to a wee recess below the ominous chimney crack.

Pitch 2. 15m. 4a. Climb the chimney crack and right facing corner to the stack summit

I. Miller 02/09/09

Lobster Wall S 4a, 3c 35m

This route climbs the jug infested face and corners right of centre on the landward face of "Rolling Thunder" stack. Lowest tide boulder hop.

Pitch 1. 20m. 4a. Climb the juggy corners to a lofty perch at the top of a monster ramp on the North face.

Pitch 2. 15m. 3c. Climb the flake crack up the arete to join "Lobster Corner" to the stack summit.

I. Miller 02/09/09

1 Millibar HS 4b 20m

Climb the wide crack / shallow groove up the centre of the wall

I. Miller, B. Barnes 24/06/16

Twin Arch Stack, V.Diff 40m

This unusual sea stack @ Grid Reference G546894 has two legs at 90 degrees to each other, each housing a super sea arch! Scramble up the centre of the seaward face until forced to make very exposed moves up primary jungle to a tottering pin-point summit.

I. Miller 13/09/08

Swimming Home V.Diff 45m

This route climbs the south face of "Twin Arch Stack." Access by lowest tide boulder hop.

Pitch 1, 15m. Gain the narrow ledge at the southern end of the landward face, traverse seaward and gain a higher large platform. Pull through a wee roof onto a huge platform.

Pitch 2, 20m. Walk along platform like a ballerina to the base of a wide corner.

Pitch 3, 10m. Climb the wide corner to an airy summit.

I. Miller 02/09/09

Rest and Be Thankful S 4a 35m

This route climbs the North Face of "Twin Arch" stack. Access by guile at the very lowest of tides.

Pitch 1. 15m. 4a. From the seaward side of the arch running through the stack climb the right trending hand crack to the summit ridge.

Pitch 2. 20m. Follow summit ridge/ramp to the airy wee summit.

I. Miller 02/09/09

Chubby (North Ridge) Diff 35m **

Grid Reference G545893. 500 metres directly out to sea (West) of the An Port road end, this stack sits immediately to the North of An Staca. Climb it's North ridge on superb Basalt jugs all the way to the summit. The sea passage to the base of this stack is a superb paddle through and under (if you wish) the collection of stacks between Chubby and the road end! Abseil descent of route.

I. Miller 28/06/09

The following two routes are found on the excellent slab on the sea ward face of "Chubby."

Central Direct V.Diff 20m

Climb the centre of the slab.

I. Miller, J. McGee 18/08/12

Chubby ár lá Mild Severe 20m

Climb the ever narrowing crack up the left side of the slab, delicate towards the top.

J. McGee, I. Miller 18/08/12

Sea Ward face of Chubby Film

Fortitude in Distress V.Diff 40m

This classic wedge stack is found on the seaward side of the Twin Arch Stack @ Grid Reference G545894. Climb up the centre of the landward face until you can pull up onto the seaward ramp, scramble up the ramp to the summit. The summit stone has been hit by lightening and is in a burnt out condition.

I. Miller 13/09/08

Fortitude in Distress Film

An Port (north)

Approximately a Kilometre to the North of the An Port road end sits a huge grassy sea stack called Toralaydan Island, running along the South face of this Island sits three sea stacks.

Access: Easiest method of access is by a long committing sea passage either from the An Port road end or from the huge storm beach at G546894.

The Edge of Reason Diff 60m

Grid Reference G545896. At the Land ward end of the chain of three stacks sits a huge triangular stack.

Climb the sea ward ridge with an increase of exposure and malaise to the superb pointed summit.

I. Miller 01/09/10



Toralaydan Stack Family

At the sea ward end of the trio (furthest from the main land) sits a twin headed Basalt Spire. Grid Reference G543897. The first route climbs the lower domed summit nearer toralaydan Island. This stack sits in an extremely dangerous position and a tad of nautical wisdom is essential.

Icon V.Diff 35m ***

Climb the immaculate basalt slab up the seaward face, from sea to summit on the most perfect rock Neptune ever sculpted.

I. Miller 01/09/10

Unique Ascent

Baltic Spire. V.Diff 40m *

This route climbs the main and pointed summit of the twin headed basalt stack. Climb the Eastern arete direct to the summit.

I. Miller 01/09/10

Toralaydan Island. 130m

Scramble up the grassy scree covered land ward face to the huge summit plateau. Access is by a long and emotional paddle from the An Port road end.

[An Ascent of Toralaydan Island](#)

Little Dan Stack.

This route climbs the sea ward face of this remote and difficult to access stack found in the northern shadow of Toralaydan Island. Grid Ref G546898.

Pitch 1. 40m 4c. Gain the sea ward face at the point closest to Toralaydan Island and sea level traverse across the slabs to a vertical wall. Traverse across the vertical wall to gain an immaculate ridge.

Pitch 2. 30m. Climb the ridge to the grassy summit ridge.

Pitch 3. 40m. Scramble to the exposed and airy summit.

Access is by a long and emotional paddle from the An Port road end.

The sense of commitment and insanity on this stack is surreal.

I. Miller 21/07/11

[First Ascent of Baby Dan Stack Film](#)

An Bhuideal

ACCESS: From the An Port road end follow the cliff tops for a shade over a Kilometre to the summit of the peninsula (Grid Ref G554899) overlooking and immediately to the East of the Twin Headed Stack, known locally as “An Bhuideal.” (The Bottle) Grid Ref G549903. Descend the very atmospheric peninsula/ridge to approx 50m before the tower to the North. From here descend the broken ground to the lonely wee south facing storm beach. From the huge flat semi submerged boulder, paddle the 200mtr to the landward side of the stack.

Extreme caution required, this sea passage is very atmospheric.

[An Bhuideal Google Maps pin](#) [More Info Click Here](#)

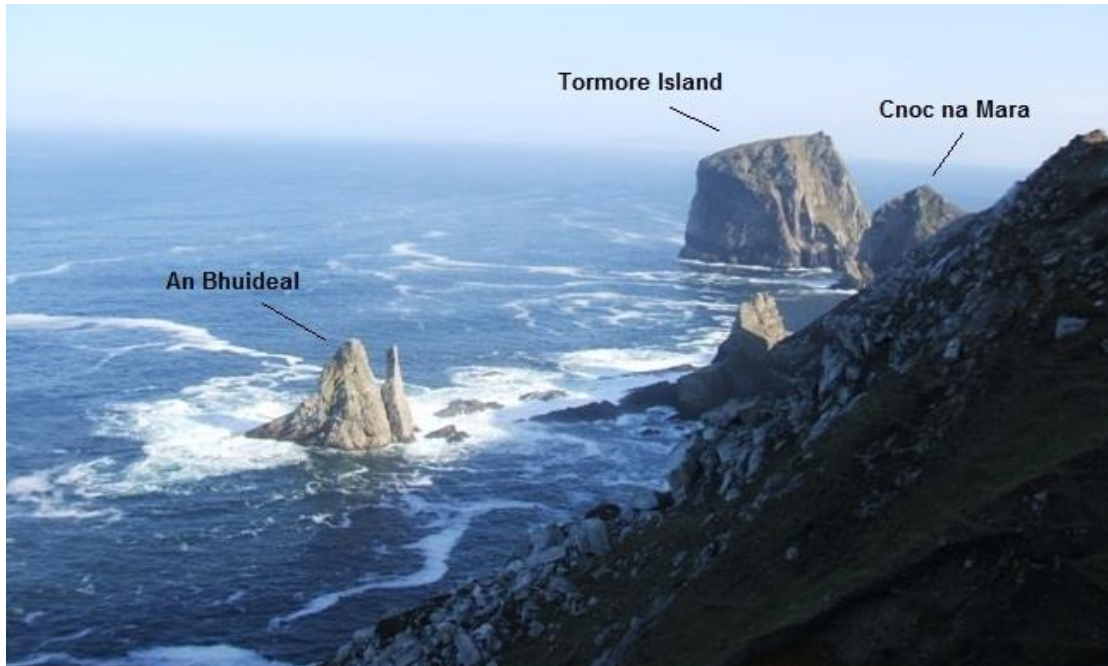
An Bhuideal (main summit) S 4a 50m ***

The following route climbs the huge arete at the Southern end of the landward face. Easily seen from the surrounding cliff tops. Abseil descent of the landward face.

Pitch 1, 25m, 4a. Start on the excellent non tidal ledge below the centre on the landward face of the main stack. Climb up and trend left to an exposed wee ledge on the arete.

Pitch 2, 25m, 4a. Climb the arete to the summit, every hold is a jug and the final 5mtrs will make you smile.

I. Miller, M. Boner 12/04/09



An Bhuideal from the surrounding cliff tops.

Seal Song Arete S 45m **

On the landward face of the main stack of An Bhuideal climb the huge black groove which separates the two towers to an outstanding ledge overlooking the abyss. (possible belay @ 25M) Continue up the arete to the main stack's summit.

An excellent route on excellent rock. :-)

I. Miller, U. Macpherson, W. Schuessler 09/08/11

[First Ascent of Seal Song Arete film](#)

The Altars of Madness HS 4b 25m

On the sea ward face of An Bhuideal, scramble to top right of the sea washed slabs as you face the stack. Climb the sky line on excellent and very exposed rock and continue up through mountaineering terrain to the summit.

I. Miller, L. O'Connor 11/06/14

[An Bhuideal seaward face route film](#)

An Bhuideal (North Tower) VS 4c 50m ***

This route climbs skinny, exposed and spectacular North Tower of this excellent stack. Access as for the main stack and an abseil descent of the route.

Pitch 1: 15m. From the groove between the two stacks gain and climb the landward arete to a ledge.

Pitch 2: 25m 4a. Make a rising traverse of the landward face to an exposed platform on the North Face.

Pitch 3: 10m 4c. Climb to summit

I. Miller, J. Read, M. Boner 13/06/09

The Un-Named Tower

This is the 45m high sea level summit that is attached to the access ridge as for An Bhuideal.

Never Again S 4a 45m

Gain the base of the south facing arete by an airy scramble/walk and climb to the summit ridge as direct as you dare. The closer you stay to the south arete the deeper the cracks and the more daylight you can see through to the sea ward face. From the summit ridge scramble to as close to the summit as you dare, after thinking about standing on the true summit, descend by abseil.

I Miller, J. Nobles 26/08/17

[Unique Ascent](#)

An Bhuideal.

1: Main Stack S 4a,4a ***

2: Seal Song Arete S **

3: North Tower VS -,4a,4c ***



An Bhuideal Topo

Tormore Group

ACCESS: From the An Port road end follow the cliff top path for approx 2KM until you are on the headland overlooking these monster stacks. (Grid Ref G557906) For Cnoc Na Mara and Lurking Fear descend the 200 metre grass slope to the lonely pebble beach facing the stacks. Keep to the grassy slopes, directly above the beach and avoid the scree to your right.

For more details on Cnoc na Mara, <https://uniqueascent.ie/cnoc-na-mara>

Cnoc na Mara VS 4b 152m ***

This route climbs the superb landward arete of the 100 mtr “sharks fin” stack just to the South of Tormore Island. Grid Ref G555906

Pitch 1, 35m. Climb the wide groove right of centre on the landward face to a grassy ledge and block belay.

Pitch 2, 22m. Scramble up the slab to the base of the huge knife edge arete.

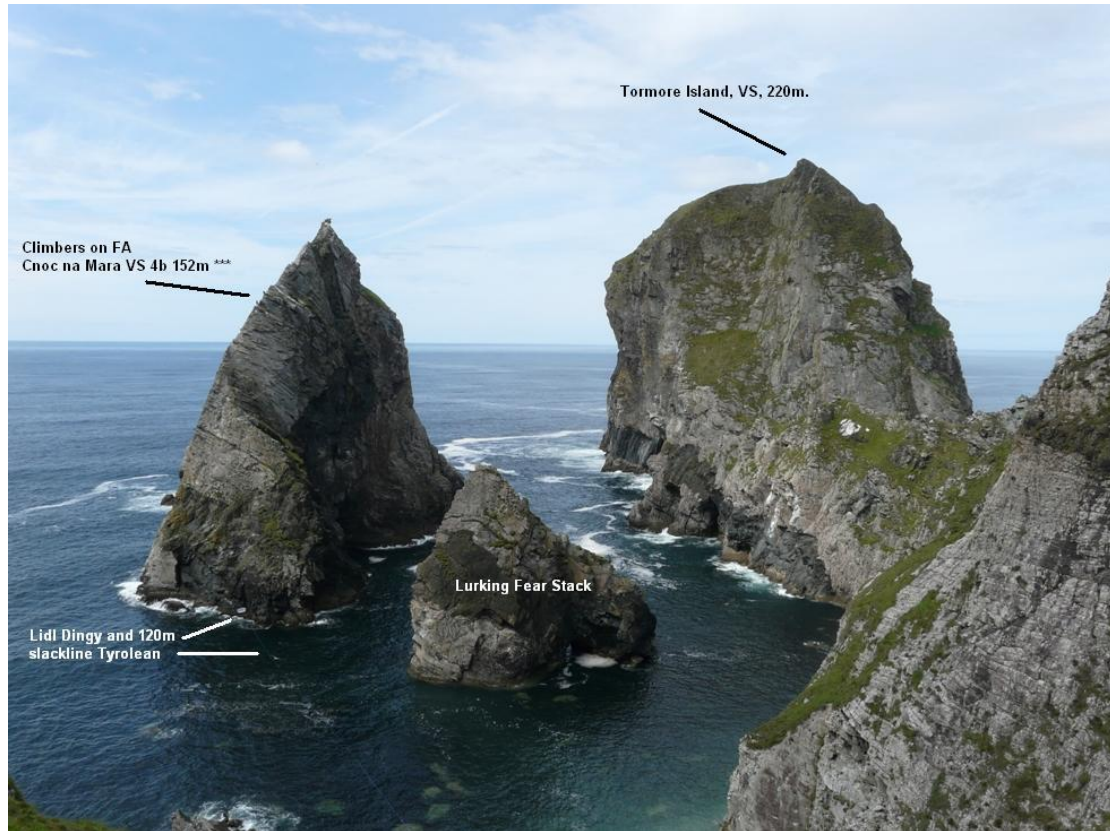
Pitch 3, 35m. Climb the arete to a peg and block belay on the ledge at it's top.

Pitch 4, 60m. An airy pinnacle traverse along the knife edge ridge to the summit.

I. Miller, A. Tees, M. McGuigan. 26/07/08

[Freesolo of Cnoc na Mara Film](#)

[Cnoc na Mara summit view Film](#)



The Cnoc na Mara Family

A Puffin Too Far, VS 4c 150m *

This route climbs the seaward face of the Cnoc Na Mara. A 400 mtr channel crossing from the North end of the beach to the base of the seaward face is the easiest approach. Abseil descent of route from block and peg belays.

Pitch 1, 25m. From the tidal ledge right of the deep recess climb the black corner to the huge seaward platform and a choice of belay recesses.

Pitch 2, 45m 4c. Immediately left (north) of the huge seaward recess and big roofs, climb the right trending groove to below an ominous overhung corner. Struggle up the corner to a superb ledge above the void.

Pitch 3, 40m 4b. In the centre of the ledge climb the steep left facing corner to gain the summit ridge.

Pitch 4, 40m Scramble along the ridge to the summit.

S. Tait, I. Miller 18/04/09.

Euro Trash VS 4b 121m

This route climbs the groove system to the left of "A Puffin Too Far" on the sea ward face of Cnoc Na Mara.

Pitch 1. 20m Climb the wall to the right of the large sea level recess to a large ledge. (as for A Puffin Too Far)

Pitch 2. 20m Climb the staircase above trending left to a large ledge.

Pitch 3. 26m 4B Follow the V groove and continue up a higher groove. Gain the slopy ledge below the roof.

Pitch 4. 25m 4B Exit stage right and surmount the roof, continue up to reach the sea ward summit ridge.

Pitch 5. 30m Follow ridge to the summit

W. Schuessler, A. Flynn 30/07/11

Lurking Fear V. Diff 40m

This route climbs seaward face of the 25 mtr stack on the landward side of Cnoc Na Mara. Grid Ref 556906

Pitch 1, 20mtr, Starting at the wee tidal stance at the Northern end of the seaward face, climb the steep wall of immaculate jugs to gain the easy angled ramp, pad up ramp to the sausage shaped block.

Pitch 2, 20 mtr, Continue up ramp to a very odd pillar, make an airy move up behind it and crawl to the exposed summit.

I. Miller 31/05/08

Cannonball Run HS 4b 25m

From the non-tidal ledge above the high water mark facing Cnoc na Mara climb the shallow corner and slabby face above to a steeper airy finish.

I. Parnell, B. Wilkinson, J. Winter, H. Jepson 08/04/15

An Appointment with Fear, VS 25m

This route climbs South Face/Ridge of the 25 mtr stack on the landward side of Cnoc Na Mara. The atmosphere is considerable.

I. Miller 15/04/10

[An Ascent of Lurking Fear Stack](#)

Tormore Island

At 148m high is Ireland's highest sea stack and is the Daddy of Donegal's Sea stacks, it can be seen from Dungloe, approx 40 KM to the North East! This route climbs the very obvious landward arete at the Eastern end of the island. This feature can clearly be seen from any position along this coast overlooking the stack. Access to this stack by land is a very involved affair a boat approach is recommended. Descent is by 4 abseils back down this route using the block and peg belays described

[Tormore Island Google Maps pin](#) [More Info Click Here](#)

Follow the access details as for Glenlough Bay stacks. Once on the beach, "coastaleer" your way West along the high water mark to the channel facing The Hidden Stack. For Tormore Island there is a further channel crossing to reach the non tidal platform at the bottom of the landward face of Tormore. From car to base of route approx 3.5 hrs! An alternative approach is to paddle from the storm beach as for Cnoc na Mara, this approach requires an uber calm sea.

Tormore Island VS 220m

Pitch 1. 45m Starting on the non tidal ledge in the centre of the landward face, directly opposite the secret 35 mtr stack. Climb the blunt arete to the right of the vertical basalt vein, follow the corners and ledges on superb quartz to a large block belay.

Pitch 2. 40m Continue up the arete on slabby mixed ground to a large ledge below the huge capping roof, peg belay.

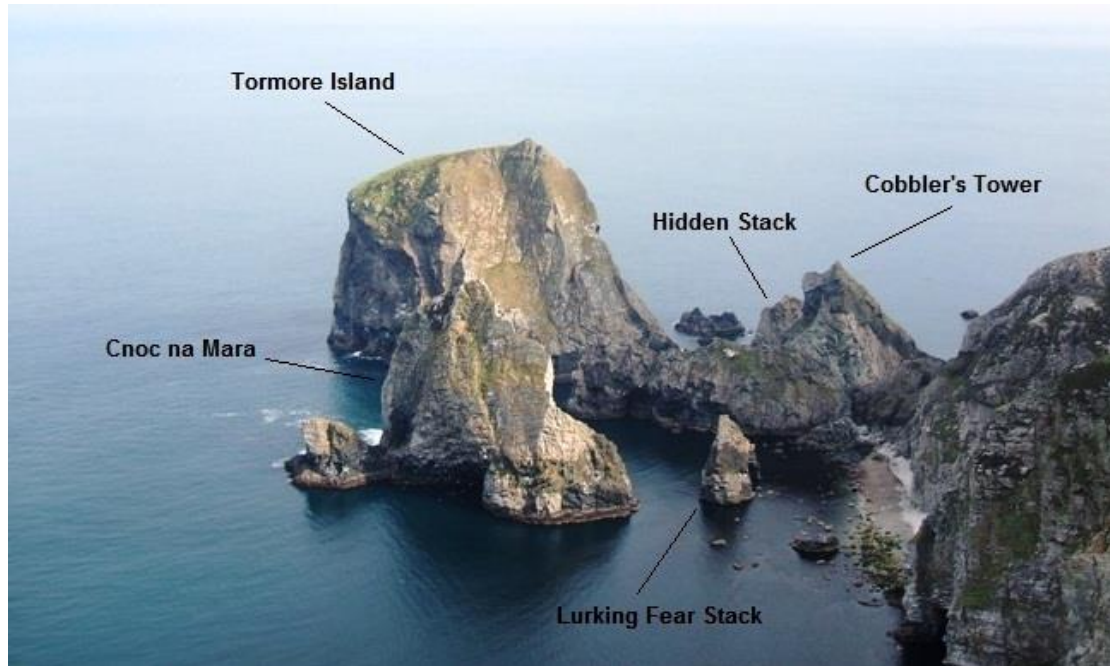
Pitch 3. 45m Climb direct on superb rock to the left end of the huge roofs and become increasingly aware of your surroundings. Pass the roofs on the left and continue on mixed ground to a huge ledge and peg belay.

Pitch 4. 45m Climb gearless, near vertical grass to an exposed wee ridge, follow the ridge for 15 metres to a block belay.

Pitch 5. 20m Scramble up the grass covered ridge to the summit.

I. Miller, P. McConnel, A. Tees, P. Cooper 10/08/08 FFA I. Miller, L. Lemanski 23/09/14

[Tormore Island Film](#)



Tormore Area from the south

Hidden Stack V.Diff 42m

Grid Reference G556907. Hidden Stack sits in the channel separating "Tormore Island" and "Cobblers Tower." Access is by a superb paddle from the storm beach as for "Cnoc na Mara." This route climbs the Southern Ridge, the first feature on the stack you see as you paddle up the channel towards it.

Pitch 1. 15m From the non tidal platform at the base of the South end, climb the up the left side of the South facing ridge to a large ledge.

Pitch 2. 15m Continue

up the ridge to a lonely huge Basalt boulder.

Pitch 3. 12m Scramble along the

summit ridge. Abseil descent down the seaward face from the Basalt boulder.

The sea around "Hidden Stack" are very tetchy indeed and requires due nautical care.

A. Wainwright, I. Miller 13/10/10

Cobbler's Tower Diff 130m

This is the huge tower between Hidden Stack and mainland Donegal, it requires a very calm sea state and considerable nautical guile to stand on it's summit.

Climb the north face of the tower, starting in a scalloped recess on the landward face. The climbing is steep mixed ground leading to a very scary and exposed summit which you will leave as quickly as you can

S. Jock Read, I. Miller 10/07/13

Cobbler's Tower Film

Glenlough Bay

ACCESS: From the An Port road end follow the cliff top path North for approx 3 KM. Once you pass the Tormore viewpoint (Grid Reference G557906) continue to follow the cliff tops as they descend into Glenlough Bay. At Grid Reference G567904, descend to the wide gully immediately to the South of the large ominous looking buttress. Follow the stream down this gully until approx 70 metre above the sea, traverse north for 50 metres and descend the scree slope to the beach. (Directly below the ominous buttress)

Southern Stack XS 4c 45m

Grid Reference G567907. This route climbs the Land ward face of the "flying wedge" stack. Abseil descent of the route.

1: 4c 35m At the Southern end of the landward face, climb the left trending groove and continue upwards to a huge grassy ledge. Classic stack ground, a mixture of good/poor rock and a hint of insanity.

Unique Ascent

2: 4c 10m From the centre of the grassy ledge climb the very obvious bulging and very wide crack on surprisingly good rock and moves to the summit

I. Chestnut, I. Miller 10/05/09



Glenlough Bay

The following two routes climb the Landward face of the huge tent shaped stack in the centre of the bay.

Darkness Descends Diff 95m

From the large crater/pod at the bottom left of the landward face (Southern end), follow the right trending hand crack up the slabs (Northward). Continue right (North) through heather, grot and atmosphere to gain the foot of the North Ridge. Scramble up the ridge to the summit.

I. Miller 25/11/08

Rainman V.Diff 75m

From the pod/crater at the bottom (southern end) of the landward face climb direct to the summit, up the superb slabs and positive holds!

I. Miller 25/11/08

[Tent Stack Film](#)

[Glenlough Bay at it's finest](#)

Jenga, XS 5a, 50m *

Grid Reference G569908 This 30 metre quartz tower sits on the beach between the high and low water lines. This tower is an extremely serious climb, **a fall from the last 12 metres would be fatal.**

Pitch 1: 4a 15m Starting on the high water line at the southern end of the landward face, climb the knobbly quartz to a small stance and make a superb rising traverse above the roofs/cave towards the sea to a large airy ledge above the void.

[Unique Ascent](#)

Pitch 2: 5a 35m Follow a raising traverse North to the centre of the seaward face. Climb the right trending fault to the southern end of the knife edge summit ridge. Scramble along ridge to summit.
I. Miller, D. O'Connor 28/12/08

Ends of the Earth Crag

ACCESS: Grid Reference G567912, This hanging slab of immaculate Quartz sits at the seaward tip of the Northern wall in the lonely and scenic Glenlough Bay. Access is a 3.5km cliff top walk from the An Port road end followed by a short exposed scramble down to the top of the crag.

Map ref: G567912

Groovy Gully MOD 35m

The huge groove at the left end of the slab.

I. Miller, C. Gleeson 29/05/09

The Slippery Slope Diff 35m

Climb the centre of the dimpled slab to the right of Groovy Gully.

I. Miller, C. Gleeson 29/05/09

Lorraines Ladder Diff 25m

Starting from the half height ledge, climb the the deep left trending groove 6m to the right of the access "Groovy Gully" chimney.

P. Quinn, I. Miller 08/07/10

Maria's Steps Diff 25m

Climb the deep right trending groove, starting 2m to the right of "Lorraines Ladder."

P. Quinn, I. Miller 08/07/10

Caoimhe's Corner V.Diff 35m *

Climb the excellent left facing corner, 10 or so metres to the right of Groovy Gully.

I. Miller, C. Gleeson 29/05/09

Dimples Left Hand V.Diff 35m

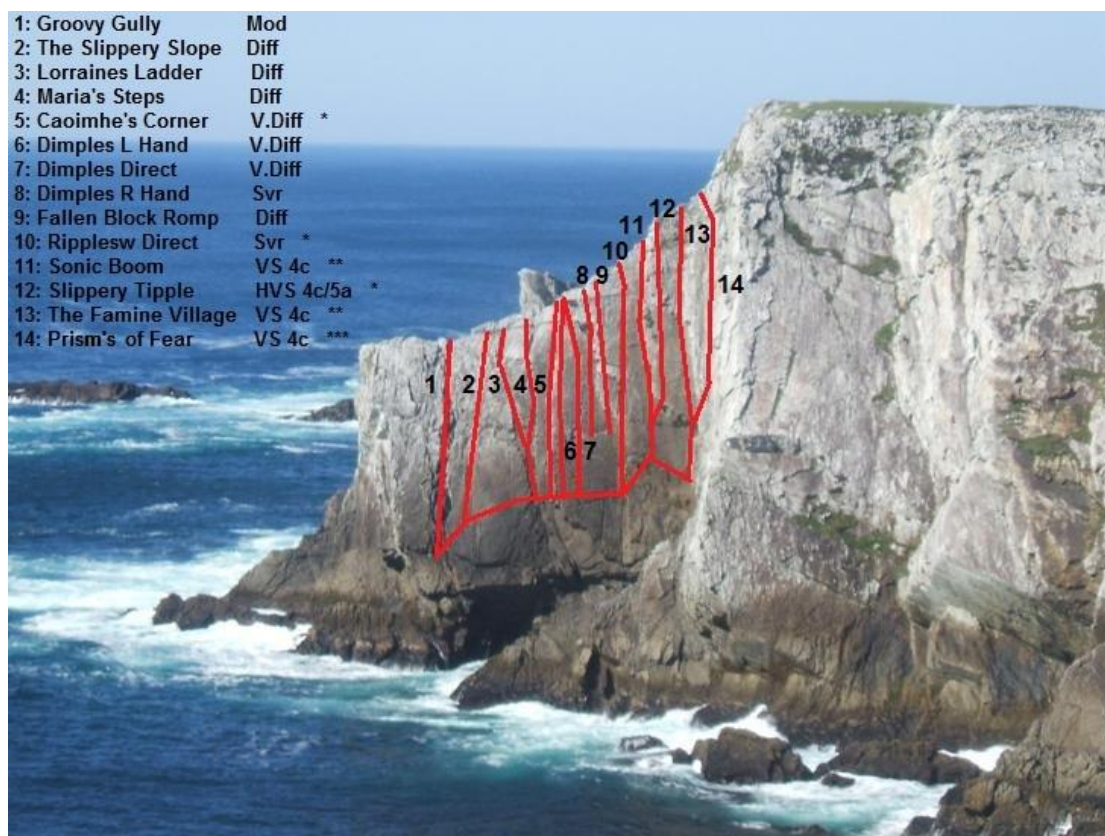
Climb the left edge of the slab above and immediately to the right of "Caoimhe's Corner" direct through the summit niche of "Dimples Direct."

I. Miller, S. Bottoms 14/08/11

Dimples Direct V.Diff 35m

From the belay at the base of Caoimhe's Corner step right and climb the centre of the slab and through a wee niche to the summit.

I. Miller, C. Gleeson 29/05/09



End's of the Earth Crag

Dimples Right Hand S 35m

Climb the next left facing corner to the right of "Dimples Direct," climb the steep corner above and up direct to summit.

I. Miller, S. Bottoms 14/08/11

Fallen Block Romp Diff 35m

Climb direct to gain the huge fallen block at mid height on the crag and romp to the summit.

I. Miller, S. Bottoms 14/08/11

Ripples Direct S 35m *

Climb the centre of the next slab to the right. Your left hand/foot on rippled perfection whilst your right hand/foot is on smooth immaculate rock.

I. Miller, C. Gleeson 29/05/09

Sonic Boom VS 4c 70m **

Abseil approach down "Groovy Gully" to a large recess above the rage.

Pitch 1: 35m 4a From the bottom of Groovy Gully, traverse right on superb rock. Stay as close to Neptune as possible and feel the energy of the sea level blow hole.

Pitch 2: 35m 4c Climb the steep smooth sided left facing corner to the summit.

I. Miller, C. Gleeson 29/05/09

Slippery Tipple HVS 4c 35m *

Climb the left edge of the immaculate "Famine Village" slab. Gain the slab at it's lowest point (crux) and continue direct. Very bold up the bottom of the slab to mid height small wires.

I. Miller, S. Bottoms 14/08/11

The Famine Village VS 4c 60m **

Climbs next corner to the right of "Sonic Boom."

Pitch 1: Traverse diagonally right along base of crag above undercut to main corner on right side of the main face. Belay in corner.

Pitch 2: Climb corner above via small overhang to start and then corner and nice slabby face above to poorer rock and the top.

D. Millar, I. Krella 02/04/11

Thank God Corner VS 4c 40m

Pitch 1, As for Famine Village to belay in the corner.

Pitch 2, Climbs the next corner right of the Famine Village. Climb famine Village corner to overhang, ascend Famine Village for a few metres then step up and right into corner groove. Ascend this to the top.

D. Millar, I. Miller 08/04/11

Prisms of Fear VS 4c 90m ***

Pitch 1. 40m Traverse Diagonally right along the base of the crag above undercut to main corner on right side of main face.

Pitch 2. 40m Gain the ledge on the steep wall on your right, climb the right trending fault/crack to gain the outstanding left trending ramp. Climb the ramp to a wee niche at it's top.

Pitch 3. 10m Continue on ramp to the summit.

An UBER exposed route with a very committing feel on immaculate rock/gear and surroundings

I. Miller, D. Millar. 08/04/11

Gogarth VS 4c 75m

Pitch 1: 4a 10m Traverse in from base of abseil to base of main corner at right hand end of main slab.

Pitch 2: 4c 25m Climb corner for 5m to base of obvious diagonal crack splitting the steep right hand face. Climb this for 7m until you come across a large ledge system traversing the main steep face. Traverse the ledge system rightwards stepping down at one point and then back up to spacious pod in centre of the main face.

Pitch 3: 4c 30m Crouching down, traverse right from pod for few metres to base of a diagonal crack/groove breaking off the main ledge system. Climb this steeply at first and then continue up groove as the gradient eases to ledge system. Climb a leftward trending diagonal groove to a spacious ledge. From here step right onto main arete and climb this for 7m to belay at base of junction of good rock with broken rock.

Pitch 4: 4a 10m Continue up arete and easier angled right hand face on broken ground with care to top.

D. Millar, G. Thomas 26/05/12

Glenlough Bay (North Headland)

Ends of the Earth Stack

This excellent wee stack sits in a very lonely and exposed location, 300m out to sea from the bay to the North of Glenlough Bay, approx 4.5KM from the An Port road end. The stack is efficiently guarded by an extremely tetchy Neptune and is a serious undertaking.

[Google Maps pin](#)

[Ends of the Earth Stack](#) Diff 20m ***

Climb the superb jug covered flake up the centre of the landward face.

I. Miller 22/06/10

Smooth Sailing HS 4b 30m

Climb the centre of the smooth slabs at the southern side of the landward face.

I. Miller, M. Fowler 20/08/12

The following three routes are on the seaward face of "End's of the Earth Stack."

The Entrance to Hades S 20m *

At the northern end of the seaward face starting 3 metres to the left of the enormous slot climbed by "Davie Jones Locker," Jug haul up the steepest part of the face, pull round the roof on its left and stand on the summit.

I. Miller 22/06/10

Davie Jones Locker S 20m **

Climb the huge right trending groove/cave. (internal caterpillar stylee) Pull out and jug haul to summit. Immaculate rock, superb climbing and a location that will live long in your memory.

I. Miller 22/06/10

Two Men in a Boat HVS 5a 25m **

At the southern end of the seaward face the rock steepens alarmingly. Starting below and left of the obvious summit groove climb on huge positive jugs and flakes and up the groove to the summit.

M. Fowler, I. Miller 20/08/12

[End's of the Earth Stack Film](#)

[End's of the Earth Stack Film 2](#)

Beyond the End's of the Earth Crag

This exposed sea cliff sits on the northern tip of the smaller bay just to the north of Glenlough Bay. Follow the same 3.5 KM coastal walk from An Port road end to the top of the headland containing the End's of the Earth Crag. From this headland looking north the crag sits at the far seaward tip of the opposite side of the bay. Access by walking around the smaller bay to the north for approx. for 500m with a steep section at the back of the bay onto the boulder beach. Once on the rock platforms overlooking the crag descend by the slabs to the south and round on the sea level platforms into the cave at the landward side of the crag. Low to mid tide required.

Grid Reference G570914

DJ Locker Traverse S 4a 70m *

Starting at the landward edge of the crag at the lowest lowest point where the main wall meets the sea level slabs.

Pitch 1: 25m Traverse out to sea following the slightly rising thin breaks and ledges. Continue seaward through the right facing corner and belay in the recess.

Pitch 2: 25m Continue to traverse seaward and follow the excellent smooth rock on rounded holds. (ascend too quick and the rock turns to rubble)

Pitch 3: 20m Continue to traverse rising slightly following the huge smooth holds

I. Miller, P. O Toole 03/09/13

[Beyond The End's of the Earth Crag Film](#)

Laura Surprise S 4a 45m

Pitch 1: Traverse out to the scalloped roofed recess.

Pitch 2: Exit out right of recess and climb direct to the summit.

I. Miller, L & M Landau 10/06/16

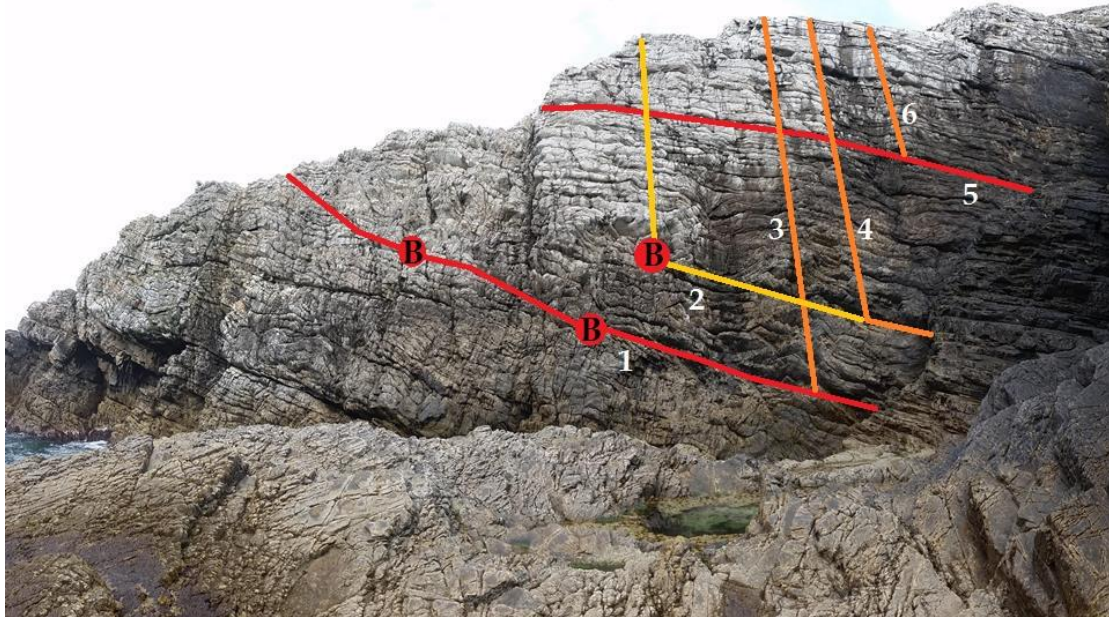
Gregory View S 4b 30m *

Starting on the lowest approach step, make a rising traverse above Neptune until below the summit roof at the crags highest point. Climb direct to and through the roof to the crags highest point.

I. Miller, L & M Landau 10/06/15

[Unique Ascent](#)

1: DJ Locker Traverse	S 4a 70m *
2: Laura Surprise	S 4a 45m
3: Gregory View	S 4a 30m
4: I95	S 4a 25m
5: Exposure Explosion	S 4a 40m **
6: The Intruder	HS 4b 20m



Beyond the End's of the Earth Crag Topo

I95 S 4a 25m *

From the tip of the second approach step climb up to and follow the very shallow wide groove directly up the wall.

I. Miller, T. Bennett, B. Arengi 20/05/15

Exposure Explosion S 4a 40m **

This is a high line traverse of the crag and an excellent exposed route much better savoured with maximum white water violence.

Start at the huge platform at the highest point in the cave below the crag. Traverse out to sea following the huge breaks to the "step down" in the crag summit.

I. Miller, L. O Connor 12/03/14

[Exposure Explosion Film](#)

The Intruder HS 4b 20m

Starting at the step below the top of the black tower below the landward side of the crag. Traverse out onto the face and follow cracks and grooves to the surprisingly big roof, pull through roof to summit.

I. Miller, P. Rooney 08/09/14

The Unforgiving MXS 110m

This 60m twin headed beast sit's in a very remote/lonely location, 4.5km North of the An Port road end. It is fiercely guarded by monster cliff's and a very atmospheric gothic sea channel. Access on was a 750m superb paddle from the headland just North of Glenlough Bay around Neptunes wrath to the southern end of the beast. Descent of the stack is by Guile. Grid Reference G573916

Pitch 1, 30m. Easily scramble up the south face of the southern summit.

Pitch 2, 35m. Continue upwards to the summit of the southern summit.

Pitch 3, 10m. Downclimb to the col between the two summits. Block belay.

Pitch 4, 35m. A monster pitch to the summit of the northern stack, up no grot but alas mucho loose rock/certain death and ultimately mega atmosphere.

[Unique Ascent](#)

A beast for the connoisseur. :-)
I. Miller, C. Gleeson 04/07/09

Pyramid Stack S 160m

Grid Ref G583920 This twin headed stack was climbed as an East to West ridge traverse (& back). Access is by 5km cliff top trek from An Port, followed by a very steep 300m steep grass down climb and a 300m paddle around the grassy island between the stack and land. It's location is mind blowing and is prone to monster seas. A very serious stack

I. Miller 29/06/10

Above and Beyond HVS 5a 45m ***

This route climbs the seaward face of Pyramid Stack taking the outstanding corner of the stack in pitch two.

Pitch 1 20m Directly below the summit corner of the stack lives a perfect square cut sea level recess, belay on the perfect stand below the roof in this recess. climb directly up to the left facing corner on perfect cracks and water sculptured holds. Climb the recessed corner to a palatial belay ledge.

Pitch 2 25m Climb the soaring corner above at first on its right then on its left following perfects hold up to the capping roof. Climb the slotted groove to below the capping roof, consider climbing the roof and then exit airily left onto the summit.

W. Gadd, I. Miller 29/06/19



Standing on the summit of Pyramid Stack

[Pyramid Stack Film](#)

Cronin's Stack V.Diff 30m

Approx. 100m to the East of pyramid Stack climb the landward arête of the wedge stack.

A. Cronin 26/06/13

Gull Island

[Gull Island Google Maps pin](#) Grid Reference G613924 **[More Info Click Here](#)**

Gull Island E1 5a 125m

This route climbs the outrageous, soaring landward arete of this 100mtr beast. Access is a monster walk in from GR G613889 over the summit of Slievetooley (472m). Access to base of the stack is a 100m steep grass/mixed ground scramble to a truly atmospheric location on the boulder beach at the base of the stack. Descent from summit is by guile and 2 abseils down the route. This route has to be seen to be believed!

[Unique Ascent](#)

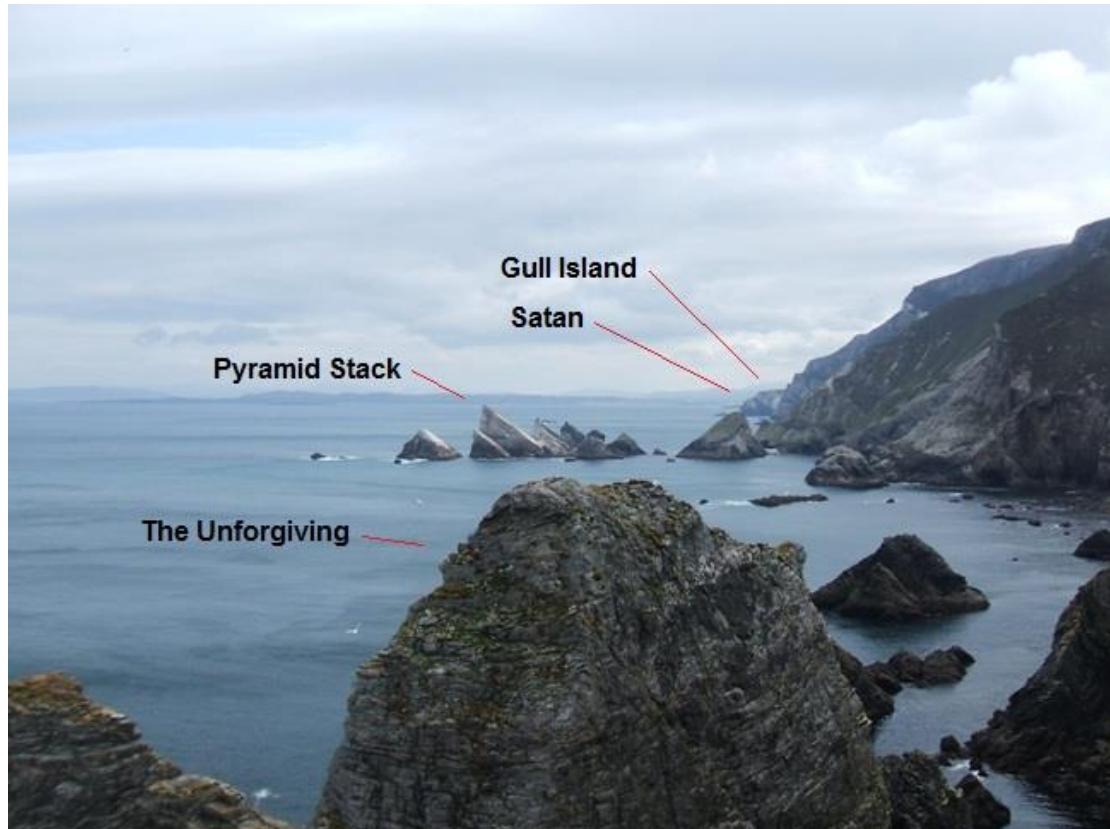
Pitch 1, 50m, 3a. To the West of the landward arete climb the huge corner crack until it terminates. Traverse right & ascend the ramp to gain arete & a tri-peg belay. (3 good gear placements in 50m, fall and U will die)

Pitch 2, 25m, Continue up the Arete by a very atmospheric scramble to the big block overhang at the base of the boulder field. (2 Peg Belay)

Pitch 3, 50m, Climb the stacked boulder field to the two big boulders on top. Crimp left and ascend up superb rock, continue to the summit through two rock bands.

I. Miller, M. Bonner 24/04/09

Gull Island Film



North coastline of Slievetooley

Satan XS 4c/5a 90m

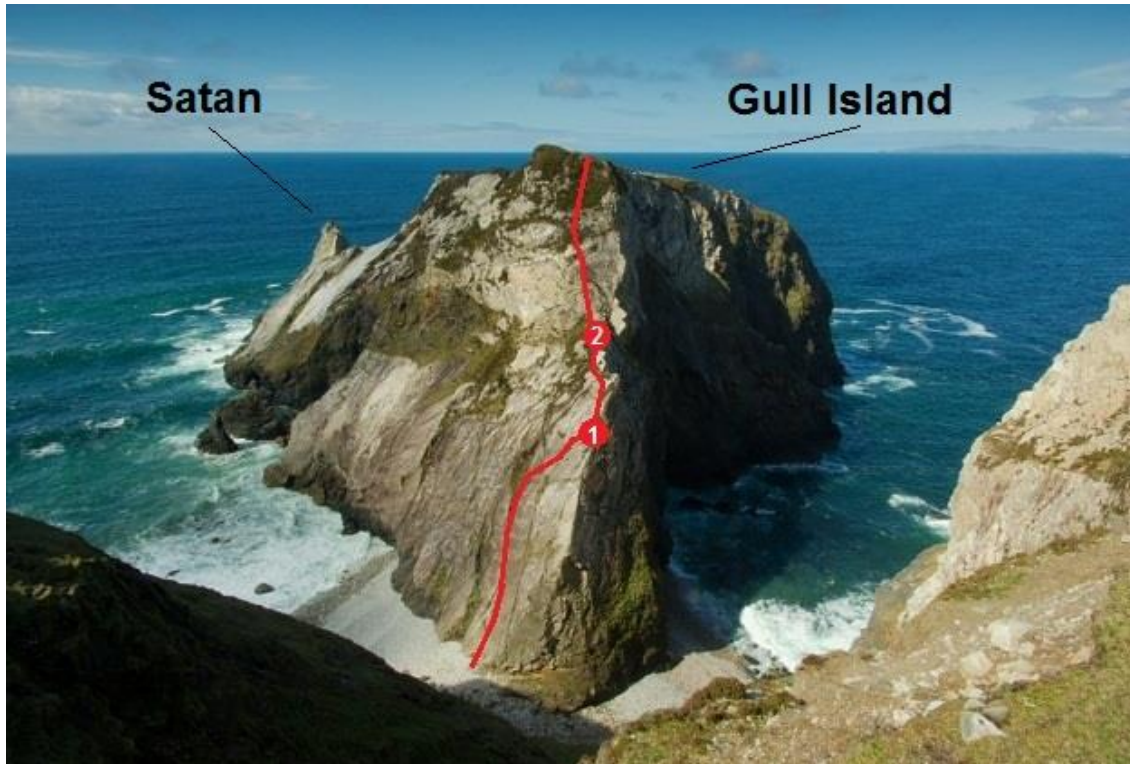
Grid Reference G612926 This monster sits to the immediate west of Gull Island in a very remote and inaccessible location. Access details as for Gull Island followed by a 500 mtr sea passage around the West side of Gull Island and through a gothic channel between the 2 stacks to the only landing place on Satan. **This stack will take the souls of the unwary!** Abseil descent of route.

Pitch 1, 25m. Climb the left trending V chimney from the sea level "port" to a col between the main stack and an offshoot lump to the south.

Pitch 2, 30m Climb up the centre of the landward face, up steep Basalt and belay at the cam crack at the base of the East summit tower.

Pitch 3, 35m 5a Climb corner to left of tower, to arrive on summit ridge, scramble to the summit with caution, considerable atmosphere and exposure.

I. Miller, M. Bonner 19/05/09



Satan And Gull Island

Maghery

Approx a kilometre to the south of Maghery Village, this stack outstanding wee Arch stack provides an excellent day out.

[Bristi Google Maps pin](#) Grid Ref B708075 [More Info Click Here](#)

Bristí Stac S 4a 25m

Climb the southern edge sea ward face by the overhung right facing groove and follow the shallow corner up the centre of the slab to a wee niche below a head wrecking steepness. Step right above BIG AIR and climb the steep right facing corner to the salvation of the summit.

If you are alone at this point your mind will be in tatters! :-)

I. Miller 09/06/11

[First Ascent of Bristi Stack Film](#)

North Route VS 4c 25m

Climb the left facing corner at the Northern edge of the sea ward face step right at the top of the corner onto a sub summit ledge. Pull onto the summit at the wee vegetated niche.

I. Miller, W. Schuessler 19/06/12

Ned Gaffney's Perch Svr 29m

This route takes the landward face of the stack, starting on the large tidal ledge at the southern side. Climb the steep crack trending right to join the vegetated ramp to the summit.

I. Miller, N. Gaffney 21/06/13

[Bristí Stack Film](#)

There are several other much smaller stacks in this bay which have all been climbed by their easiest routes to their summits.

[Unique Ascent](#)

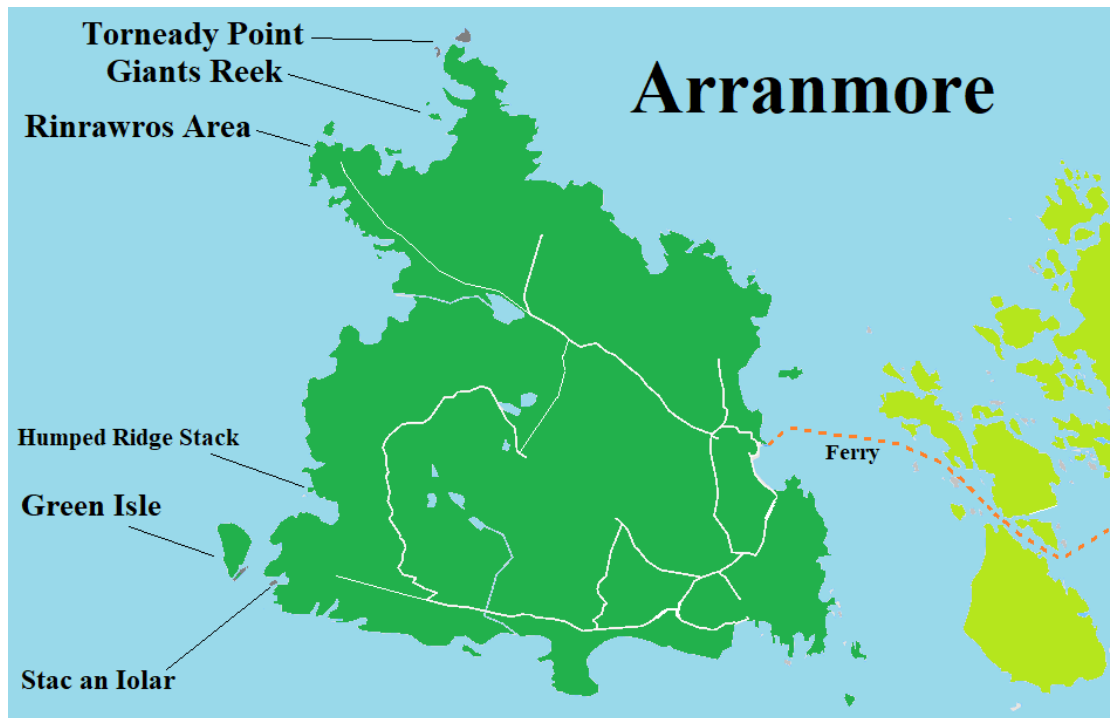


Arch Stack Sea Ward Face



Bristi Stac

Arranmore Island



Arranmore Island Map

[Dragons Back Stack](#) Diff 40m **

Grid Ref B636144, climb the landward ridge of this immaculate wee stack on perfect black granite. Access is by "Gully of the Gods," and involves a surreal paddle through the pounding heart of Darkness.

I. Miller, C. Gleeson 24/07/11

Stac an Iolar

The Iconic Sea Stack known locally as "Stac an Iolar," sits in a truly outstanding location in a monster amphitheatre nautical sculptured madness at the South West tip of Arranmore Island.

[Stac an Iolar Google Maps pin](#) Grid Ref B636147 [More Info Click Here](#)

Blood Line [Stac an Iolar](#) XS 40m ***

Access to sea level is by "Gully of the Gods" and is the only sane access to the foot of this cauldron.

The stack is climbed by a well defined seaward facing corner on the sea ward ridge to a large airy stance. Continue up the wall above on broken egg shells to gain a huge left trending offwidth. Ascend the overhanging offwidth by guile to a mind blowing summit.

An ascent of this stack will live forever in your "what the f**k was I doing" memory.

S. "Jock" Read, P. Brennan, I. Miller 23/07/11

[First Ascent of Bloodline film](#)

[Unique Ascent](#)



Dragon's Back Stack



Climbers on summit of Stac an Iolar

[Unique Ascent](#)

Humped Ridge Stack

This excellent 35m Quartz stack sits at the Northern end of the lonely wee bay just to the North of Cronagarn Hill on the South West tip of Aran Island.

Access is by a steep grassy scramble down to a huge storm beach in the bay to the East of the stack. Followed by a 300m sea passage. Grid Reference B641155.

The North Ridge Diff 40m **

Starting at Sea level at the point where the stack is nearest to land, simply climb the excellent ridge to the summit.

I. Miller 08/06/10



Humped Ridge Stack from the South

Dark Matter HS 4b 25m **

In the centre of the West (sea ward) face climb the steep chimney come corner direct to the summit ridge.

I. Miller 08/06/10

At the Southern end of the seaward face the steepness eases and quartz jugs become abundant.

Seal Song V.Diff 20m

Climb the line of least resistance immediately as the angle of the face eases.

I. Miller 08/06/10

Selkies Song V.Diff 15m

3m right of "Seal Song" climb the airy crack and jug haul to the true summit.

I. Miller 08/06/10

Vice Grip S 25m

Climb the seaward edge of the south face, up superb quartz jugs and up through a tricky wee Groove to the summit.

I. Miller 08/06/10

Unique Ascent

Popcorn V.Diff 25m

Climb the centre of the sea ward face and up the left trending ramp to the summit.

I. Miller 08/06/10

The Slabby East face (Landward Face) is 40m long and is immaculate nobular Quartz, it can be climbed/scrambled anywhere at Diff/V.Diff.

Arranmore Island. North End

The Lighthouse Stack Diff 85m ***

This route climbs the superb landward ridge of the Lighthouse sea stack found below the lighthouse at Rinrawros Point on Aran Island. Grid Reference B 643188.

Pitch 1, 30m. Starting on the huge very tidal platform at the bottom of the ridge, climb on jugs and immaculate rock to a recess on the ridge. Block Belay.

Pitch 2, 25m. Ascend the ridge to a brief wee flattening. Cam slot Belay (1 & 1.5)

Pitch 3, 30m. Continue up the ridge on endless jugs and perfect rock to a definite and outstanding summit.

I. Miller 25/07/09



The Lighthouse Stack

Altars of Madness VS 4c 50m *

This line climbs the shallow arête at the far sea ward end of the non tidal platforms running out from the low tide land bridge.

Pitch 1 25m. Climb the arête to gain the ramp as for “The Outer Realms” and belay where the angle of the wall above begins to look less steep.

Pitch 2 25m. Climb steeply to begins to gain the outstanding slab of rippled quartz. Climb the slab on small holds and very small gear to the summit.

I. Miller, A. Craig 12/07/2019

The Outer Realms HVS 5a 50m **

This line climbs the ramp and groove left of centre on the south face of the stack.

Pitch 1 35m Climb the superb exposed ramp up through the bulge to a stance below the steepening and wee roof.

Unique Ascent

Pitch 2 15m Climb the steep groove above to the summit ridge.
W. Gadd, I. Miller 02/07/19

[The Lighthouse Stack, Arranmore Island](#)

[An ascent of Lighthouse Stack film](#)

Broken Arrow. V.Diff 50m **

This route climbs directly up the North face of the stack below the light house on Aran Island.

Pitch 1, 25m. From the centre of the North Face base, climb up through a wee steepening on Jugs and immaculate rock to a huge crater in the middle of the wall.

Pitch 2, 25m. Follow the jugs out of the top of the crater seaward to arrive on the seaward end of the summit ridge.

I. Miller 25/07/09



Standing on Un-Named Stack

Hybrid Theory. V.Diff 50m **

Directly below the Rinrawros point lighthouse, follow the clifftops down from the buildings until you are facing the centre of the seawall opposite. This route climbs the superb black ramp immediately below the huge right facing corner.

[Unique Ascent](#)

Pitch 1, 25m. From the huge ledge just above sea level directly below the corner, climb the corner ramp in immaculate black rock. Belay at top of corner.

Pitch 2, 25m. Step across the abyss and take a rightward trending line across the slab above to the summit.

I. Miller 25/07/09

Un-Named Stack

Follow the lighthouse boundary wall down towards the sea, at the bottom of this wall is a large zawn containing a very obvious sea stack. The stack was climbing on both its sea ward and land ward faces on 18th May 2017 by Iain Miller.

Giants Reek Stack

Sitting in the midst of an amphitheatre of huge cliffs, access is by an ULTRA committing paddle around Torneady point or by RiB.

[Giants Reek Google Maps pin](#) Grid Reference B653190.



The Giant's Reek Stacks

The Seaward Ridge XS 140m

This route climbs the steep seaward ridge of this 120m monster stack. Abseil descent of the route.

Pitch 1, 15m. From the sea level platforms scramble up superb quartz to a large ledge at the bottom of the steep ridge.

Pitch 2, 15m. Climb on jugs up superb rock to a ledge below steep vegetation.

Pitch 3, 45m. Continue up the ridge, alternating between superb rock and deep grot grovelling. Climb the short vertical mud section (crux) to belay at base of first tower.

Pitch 4, 40m. Climb the knife edge ridge to the skyline summit ridge tower.

Pitch 5, 25m. Follow the summit ridge to the airy summit.

I. Miller, J. Crowe 08/08/09

Access is as per the Seaward Ridge route. This route climbs the landward face of the above monster stack off Aran Island.

Fu Manchu XS 140m

Start from the seaward end of the obvious tidal platform at the base of the face.

Pitch 1, 20m. Climb up good rock to the base of a distinct black chimney.

Pitch 2, 20m. Climb the disconcertingly loose chimney (belayer beware) and exit right to a grassy ledge at the base of a large hairy black slab. Excavate some holds and traverse left across the top for the gully and follow easier grass slope to good belay off blocks in a distinct black corner.

Pitch 3, 20m. Take a spectacular traverse right following relatively easier ground to belay on at the base of large crack on good quartz on the rhs of the stack.

Pitch 4, 20m. Follow quartz blocks and steps to belay on good ledge above a short steep wall that has some huge loose blocks on the right.

Pitch 5, 25m. Follow the last of the rock for 10 meters to reach welcoming grassy summit slope.

Pitch 6, 35m. Finish along the awesome ground as per the seaward ridge route.

D. Millar, S. Read 08/08/09

Realm of Damocles XS 200m **

Grid Reference B654193. This truly monstrous ridge rises from sea level to the summit of this 150m+ cliff. The ridge can be very easily seen from anywhere on this coast. (or a quick glance at OSI map 1)

Access to sea level is not without considerable trauma, on a long paddle was done from Torneady Point. The route up the ridge is to simply follow the very exposed crest of the ridge from sea to summit! This route is Awesome, un-escapable, Ultra committing and is guaranteed to make you smile. (eventually)

I. Miller, P. Stevens 16/07/08



The Realm of Damocles Ridge

Torneady Point Stack

. This stack sits just to the west of the northern tip of Aranmore Island. Access is difficult and an atmospheric and committing paddle was made around the headland to the north.

[Unique Ascent](#)

Grid Reference B654196

South Face Route V.Diff 55m

Pitch 1. 45m From the small recess ledge/recess at the southern end of the landward face, climb up jugs and the left facing corner to a large ramp overlooking the channel.

Pitch 2. 10m Climb the steep juggy corner to the southern summit.

I. Miller, P. Stevens 16/07/09

Dead Man's Fingers. HS 4B 85m *

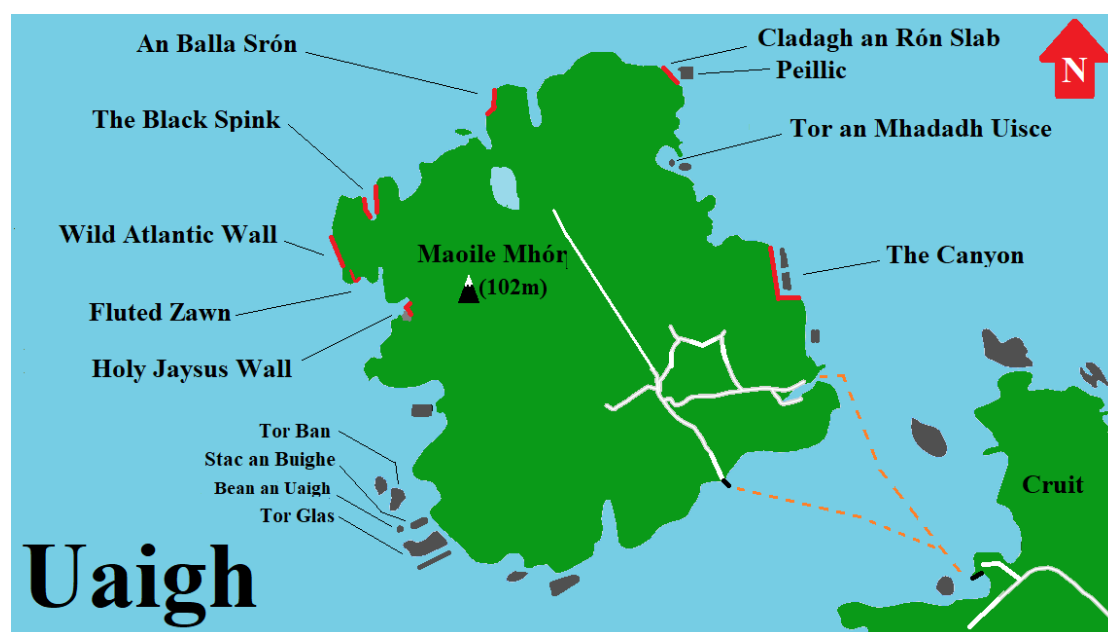
This route climbs the North Face of this stack.

Pitch 1, 4b, 30m. Starting at the Northern end of the landward face (where the sea level tongue spits out) climb the black slab & wall. Stepleft and continue up the jug fest to a large belay ramp.

Pitch 2, 4b, 25m. Climb the flake crack out right and continue left, ascend the steep groove to belay on the summit ridge.

Pitch 3, 30m. An excellent and airy summit ridge traverse to the southern summit

P. Stevens, I. Miller 16/07/09



Owey Island

[Complete Owey Island Guidebook Download here](#)

Bean an Uaigh Area

From the pier follow the road west through the village and continue west up and over the distant hill. From the summit of the hill descend to the cliff tops aiming to the left of the large bay below you.

The following routes are found on the short sea cliffs along this section of coastline facing out to the collection of sea stacks. There is a lot of solid granite, but nautical guile is advised.

[Google Map pin for Bean an Uaigh Area](#) Map ref: B709228

Uaigh Bhig

This dramatic little stack sits to the North West of Tor Ban and is guarded by a modicum of Neptune's Wrath. This is an excellent wall of immaculate wave battered rock with perfect cracks and features.

[Unique Ascent](#)

[Google Pin for Uaigh Bhig](#) Grid Ref B707226

Above the Rage V. Diff 20m

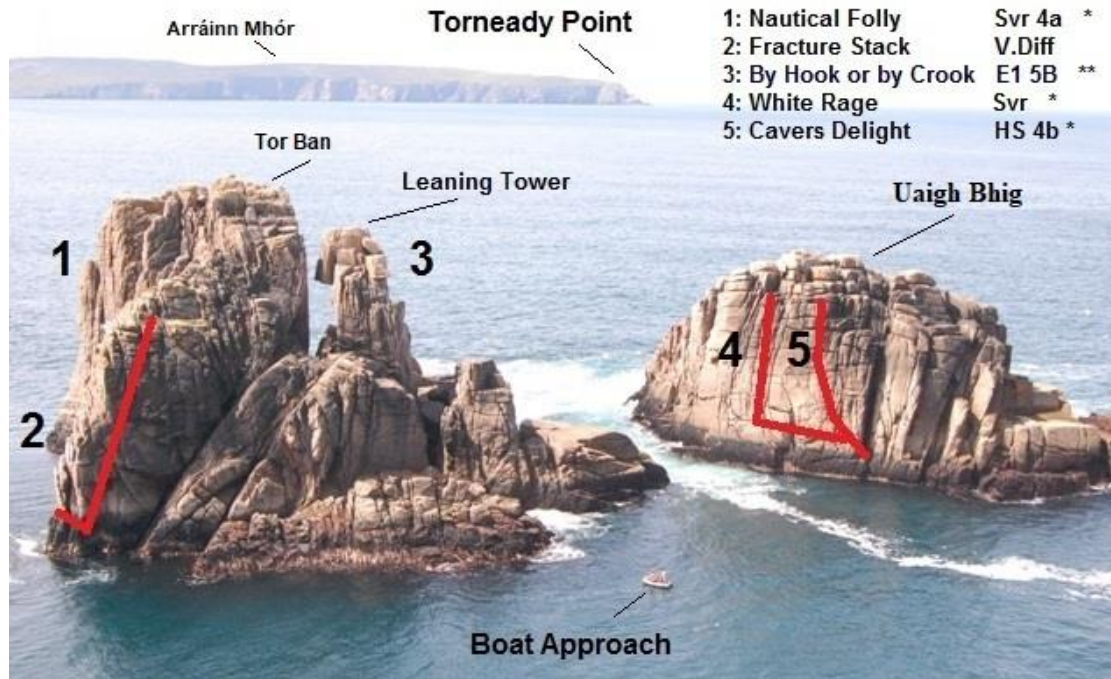
Climb the chimney/groove in the channel between this stack and Tor Ban.

I. Miller 03/05/23

Cois Mara VS 4c ** 20m

Gain the platform to the right of the "Above the Rage" chimney and climb the cracked wall leading out right. Make a step of faith out right to a jug and continue airy following the jugs.

I. Miller, F. Fhionnlaoich 02/06/23



Tor Ban and Uaigh Bhig

First in HS * 20m

Climb the first full crag height crack, just right as the stack turning into the channel with Tor Ban. A superb route of perfect holds, alas they face the wrong directions.

I. Miller 03/05/23



1: Above the Rage	V. Diff	
2: Cois Mara	VS 4C	**
3: First In	HS	*
4: White Rage	S	*
5: 2nd Coming	S	

Uaigh Bhig from Tor Ban

Thinness VS 4b 20m

Climb the thinner crack left of the double barrelled "White Rage."

I. Miller 03/05/23

White Rage S 20m *

This route climbs the most obvious deep crack in the left of centre of the wall.

I. Miller S. Read 26/06/10



1: Above The Rage	V. Diff	
2: First in	HS	*
3: Thinness	VS 4b	
4: White Rage	S	*
5: Scallop Fest	S 4a	**
6: Caver Delight	HS 4B	*
7: 2nd Coming	S	
8: Edge of Reason	S	
9: Grooved Arête	S	*

Uaigh Bhig Main Face

Scallop Fest S 4a * 20m

From the juggy bulging flake just above the high-water mark, follow the excellent holds trending slightly left to arrive at a huge scalloped jug. From the first scalloped jug reach up and to another and follow them to the top.

I. Miller 03/05/23

Cavers Delight HS 4B 20m *

On the land ward face of this excellent little stack climb the groove / face immediately to the

left of the monster chimney/gash at the right hand end of the face.
S. Read, I. Miller 26/06/10

2nd Coming S 15m

Climb the first full crack height crack line left of the deep chimney recess.
I. Miller 03/05/23

Edge of Reason S 15m

Climb the left edge of the deep chimney recess.
I. Miller 03/05/23

Grooved Arête S 15m *

Climb the oddly shaped arête at far right of crag.
I. Miller 03/05/23

Tor Ban

This is the big flat topped sea stack NW of Tor Glas with a detached leaning pillar, which can look like a square window through the stack when looking from mainland Uaigh.

Fracture Stack V. Diff 30m

From the cave a difficult move right and around the corner leads to delightfully easy climbing on good granite to the summit ridge.
A. Tees, I. Kyrella, B. Magowan 22/06/09

Nautical Folly SVR 4a 30m *

At the seaward end of the East facing wall of Tor Ban (facing the Lady of Owey) there sits a large tidal platform. Climb the prominent right facing corner in the centre of the seaward wall directly above the ledge. Superb rock and holds all the way to summit.
I. Miller, C. Gleeson, M. Boner 27/06/09

The following route climbs the West face of the leaning tower on Tor Ban. Scramble/cave your way to the seaward face of the tower (between the tower and the parent stack) to the massive seaward platforms.

By Hook or by Crook E1 5B 20m **

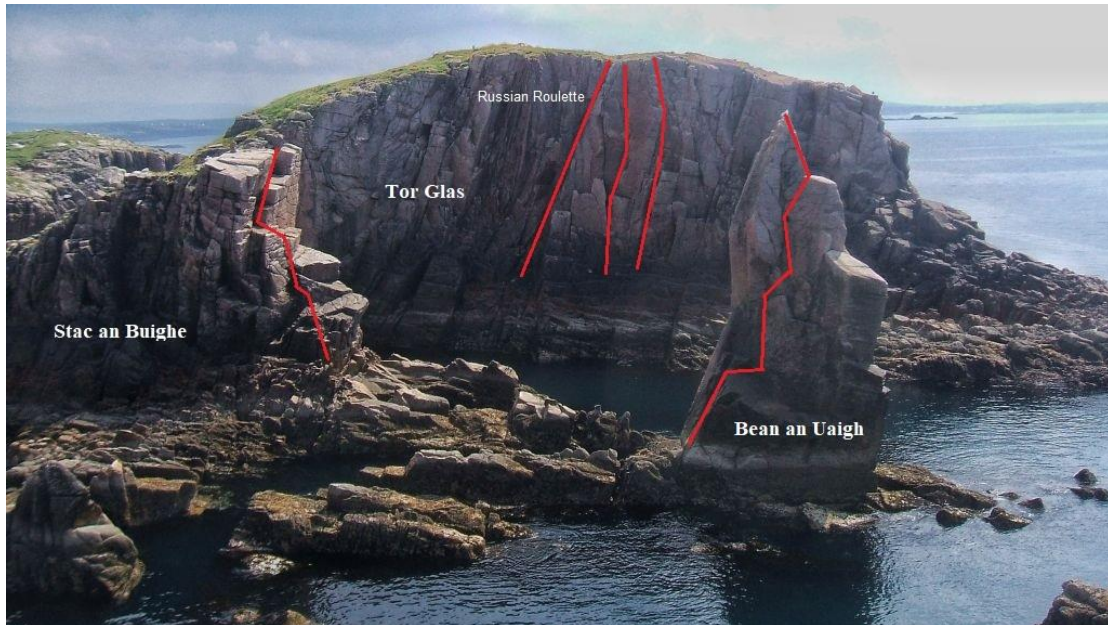
At the seaward end of the west face of the tower climb the series of ledges to the left of the obvious roof crack. Micro wires needed.
I. Miller S. Read 26/06/10

Stac an Buighe

This is the flat topped sea stack between Bean an Uaigh at its seaward end and mainland Owey, just to the north of Tor Glas.

Finbar's Route Diff 25m *

Climb up the centre of the wall by a series of big stepped ledges on the seaward side. Nice little airy crux at the very top.
F. Mullen 22/06/00



Stac an Buighe , Tor Glas & Bean an Uaigh from Tor Ban

Stac an Buighe Film

Bean an Uaigh

The following route climbs the stunning narrow needle stack just North of Tor Glas and is known as Bean an Uaigh.

Stac an Buighe E1 5b 16m **

Climb the stack on its North face via the crack at first then the groove to the summit.

Andrzej Smialy & Party 4/07/03

Tor Glas

Living off the southwest tip of Owey Island is the large grass topped Island. The South face of Tor Glas is made up of clean granite slabs with some slightly scrittly rock in places.

[Google Map pin for Tor Glas Island](#) Grid Ref B707224

Cordite Cracks HS 4a 20m

A couple of metres east of the big corner taken by 'Gun Runner' there is a crack in the slab which disappears at about 5 metres, to be replaced by a thin one. After a couple of thin unprotected moves, the climbing is easier to reach, and overcome, a short steep layback crack at the top.

A. Tees, V. Schaffer, B. Magowan, 11/08/12

Gun Runner S 4a 20m

Layback delightfully up the big corner to about two thirds height, where there is a thin crack on the left (just above the feature after which the route is named) giving access to the slab above. There is a temptation to continue up the corner above, but the exit is sugary and unpleasant. Traverse left across the slab under the overhanging step, and climb a short corner to the top. An option would be to go straight up the slab over a couple of furry unprotected mantles!

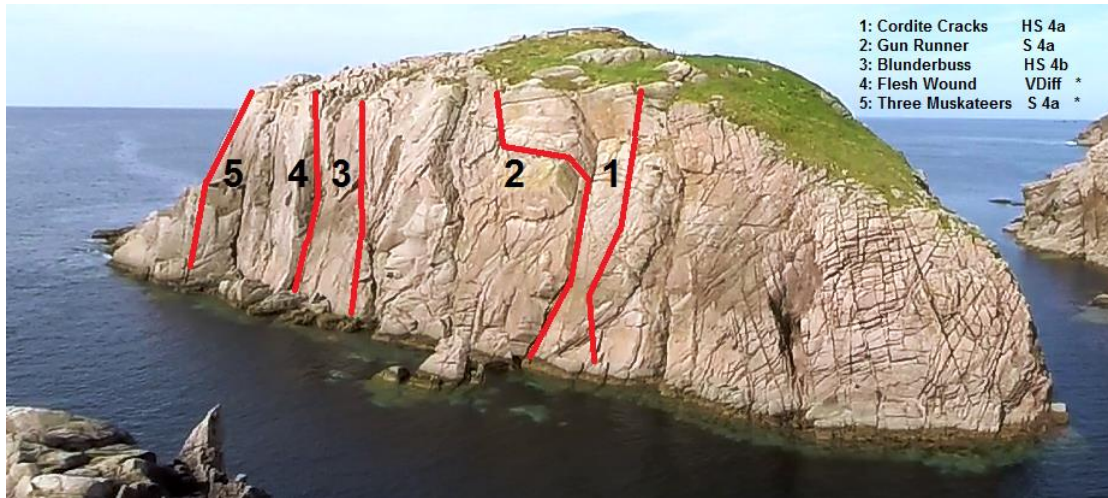
A. Tees, V. Schafer, B. Magowan, 11/08/12

An Radharc is fear S 4a 20m

Between the "Gun Runner" and the chimney that separates the crag. Start in the small triangular recess and climb the deep grooves above and continue on jugs through the

Unique Ascent

steepening. Climb the steep corner on jugs to finish.
I. Miller, E. Cahill 27/05/23



Tor Glas

Beyond 'Gun Runner' there is a chimney which provides an obstacle to traversing along the bottom of the slab.

Blunderbuss HS 4b 20m

Easier to ab down beyond this, to a big platform. This route takes prominent twin grooves, which steepen and bear left towards the top. At the top the rock becomes sugary in the corner, so make a thin step left to the arête, treating the flake with caution.

A. Tees, V. Schafer, B. Magowan, 11/08/12

Flesh Wound V. Diff 20m *

Approx 10m left of 'Blunderbuss' is a trough, with a deep right to left groove leading into a steep corner, above it. Start just left of the trough, gain the groove and continue up the overlapping corner on great holds and protection.

B. Magowan, V. Schaffer, A. Tees 11/08/12

Sun Trap S 20m

Climb the left facing corner on thin holds and small gear (nuts & cams) to an airy exit move.

J Mallon, K. Mc Daid Aug 18

Three Musketeers S 4a 20m *

Beyond 'Flesh Wound' is a stepped layback off width, and beyond this a lovely arête sweeps down to the sea. This route starts on the right of the arête, and gains it higher up, on perfect rock, with a slight sting in the tail on the last move!

A. Tees, B. Magowan, V. Schafer, 11/08/12

On the west face of Tor Glas.

Russian Roulette HS 4b 25m

This route climbs the ramp on an unusual combination of crumbly holds and quite good protection. Thoughtful and skilful climbing may result in the survival of your belayer, especially if he forgets his helmet. An experience not to be missed.

A. Tees, B. Magowan, 11/08/12

Forked Lightening E1 5b 20m **

Climbs the strikingly obvious forked lightening crack on the North side of Torglass Island. Climb the crack via chimney to start onto ledge then continue up crack as it zig-zags its way up the face, with crux at top. Big gear handy.

D. Millar, M. Boner 2009

Not all jugs are your friends E2 5b 20m *

A meter or two right of "Forked Lightening," climb the steep open groove to a stance at half height. Continue up the steep flake above with increasing difficulty to the top.

D. Ryan, L. Murdiff, I. Miller 29/04/23

Rachael's Run S 4b 16m

Starting 20 metres right of forked lightening, climb up onto the block ledges on increased difficulty. Awkward move onto final ledge and then climb the corner to the top.

J. Mallon, Princess Kathy Aug 2015

At the seaward end of this face the rock becomes a ridge that runs gently into the sea towards Árrain Mhór. The following two routes are found just to the right of this ridge.

An Ceann Ramhar V. Diff 15m *

Climb the left hand groove/chimney, either internally or externally

I. Miller 01/05/23

An Ceann Tanaí V. Diff 15m *

Climb the slightly slender right hand groove /slot.

I. Miller 01/05/23

Tor Lice Riseagh

These are the two sea stacks known as the Leap Isles (Tor Lice Riseagh). These are just North of Nordkapp etc and are separated from the main island, and each other, by The Canyon.

The following two routes are on the stack nearest mainland Donegal.

Window Route V. Diff 27m

An obvious rectangular window through the northern end of the sea stack nearest Cruit. Starting at sea level up to a ledge and bridge up the window to a large slab of rock and an easy scramble to the top.

M. McGuigan, A. Tees, B. Magowan June 2007

Shannon Collective VS 15m

Climb the first steep corner on the Island directly opposite 'sting'. The island is called Tor Lice Riseach, the rock of the flags of thong weed. Access by swim and tesco inflatable aeroplane on the first ascent.

S.J. Read, E. Mullen June 2010

The following routes are on the sea ward face of the stack.

A Day in the Life VS 4c 24m **

Climb the thin cracks and small holds immediately right of the groove.

I. Miller, M. Ibanez 22/08/16

Cloud of Midgies VS 5a 24m *

Climb the next crack line right with and excellent well protected finish.

I. Miller, M. Ibanez 22/08/16

At the far right of the seaward face of this stack the rock is separated by two deep recesses. The first recess has a hole leading to the through to the landward side of the stack. The rock is separated by these grooves into two narrow faces of excellent rock.

The following routes are found on the right hand of these two narrow faces. These is an excellent tidal ledge at its base.

An Díon E1 5b 18m *

Climb the perfect flakes and edges up and into the little roof high on the face. Pull through the roof strenuously.

An Chúinne HS 4b 18m

Climb the corner from sea level and continue up the deep above to the ledge and huge block belay.

I. Miller, F. Fhionnlaoich 07/08/23

On the left stack as you face out to sea from mainland Owey.

Thrutch VS 4b 12m

Climb the first full crag height open book corner / groove on the northern end of the landward face. It has a large tidal ledge at its base.

I. Miller, L. Murdoff, M. Robertson 18/06/19

Long Arm of John E2 5c * 13m

Climb the steep crack to the right of the inverted triangular niche at sea level. Make a hard move through the steep crack and continue up on ever bulging ground.

J. Gilmore, I. Miller 11/08/2020

Stork VS 4c 14m

Climb the next full crag height groove next as you enter the canyon.

I. Miller, L. Murdoff, M. Robertson 18/06/19

Reach VS 4c 14m

Climb the next full height corner groove with a bit of a stretch to exit

J. Gilmore, I. Miller 11/08/2020

The most obvious feature by far, on this landward facing wall of the stack is the huge right facing corner. The corner itself is currently unclimbed as the top third is very suspect, any falling rock will kill your second.

John's Route HVS 5b *

From the base of the huge right facing corner, climb up the centre of the narrow wall to the small roof and bulging crack/groove. Climb the crack to the summit.

J. Gilmore, I. Miller 11/08/2020

The following routes are found on the south face of the stack overlooking the heart of the canyon.

Trouble in Paradise E1 5b 25m **

Starting on the non tidal ledge at the centre of the base of the south face, traverse at sea level to gain the main corner of the stack. Climb the corner above through the steep groove and hard pulls above.

C. O' Fiannachta, J. Gilmore 11/08/2020

JCVD HVS 20m

From the non tidal ledge at the base of the south face of the stack, climb up the overhanging groove and step left onto face and follow the cracks upwards, stepping right at the very top.

S. Villanueva O'Driscoll, E. Son 2nd to 6th July 2018

The next two routes are on the Donegal end of the sea ward face of the left stack as you face out to sea from Owey. Access to the base of the routes is by easy sea level traverse from the Atlantic end of the stack.

Rookies Roost S 4a 15m

Climb the deep chimney.

I. Miller, L. O'Connor, J. Bags 03/07/14

Waiting Wife VS 4b 20m

Climb the centre of the slab with thoughtful gear and excellent rock.

I. Miller, L. O'Connor, J. Bags 03/07/14

Tor Buighe

Directions: At the Northern tip of Cruit Island, approx 100m out to sea sit's this island of immaculate Granite. Access is by an 800m coastal walk from the Owey pier followed by a short sea passage. Care must be taken on the sea passage as the channels separating the Island from Cruit are prone to monster seas.

[Google Maps pin for Tor Buighy](#) Map ref: B725231

Recourse VS 18m *

Climb the corner line

W. Schuessler Aug 12

Fight the Width Above E2 5c 18m **

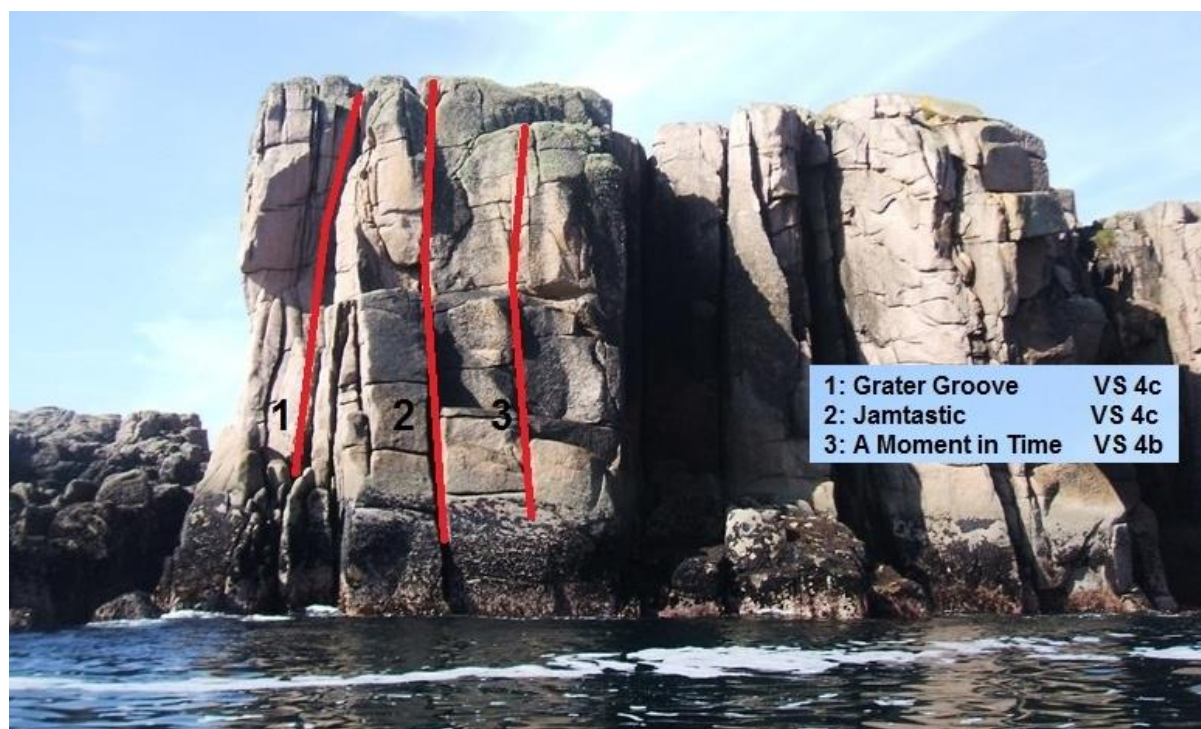
Climb the central line direct to the heinous overhung off-width finishing groove.

L. Murdiff, I. Miller 10/08/22

Worrisome Optimism E2 5b 18m

Climb the groove / crack to the left of "Festival of the Pump."

L. Murdiff, I. Miller 10/08/22



The Grater Groove VS 4c 18m

At the juncture of the landward facing wall and the East sea facing wall, climb the wide chimney/groove up/on and through the sharpest crystal rock it is possible to imagine. Falling would be very unpleasant indeed!

I. Miller, E. Wallace 03/06/10

Jamtastic VS 4c 18m

Approx 5m right of "The Grater Groove," climb the full crag height off width. Big daddy cams are a good idea.

R. Khanna, I. Miller 14/08/10

A moment in Time VS 4b 15m

Approx. 3m right of "Jamtastic," climb the shallow left facing corner crack.
R. Khanna, I. Miller 14/08/10

Laughing Fools V.Diff 20m **

Approx. 20m right of "The Grater Groove," the cliff steps back to form a steep bay. Climb the left hand side of the bay by the right facing corner with the huge mid height platform.

I. Miller, E. Wallace 03/06/10

After a wee cave and blowhole the crag swings out ninety degrees to face Cruit briefly.

Crescent Arch E1 5a ***

Climb the inverted S shaped corner crack up the centre of the wall. Outstandingly steep climbing

L. Murdoff, I. Miller 28/06/22

Happy Days Diff 18m

Beyond the large bay the cliff contains a steep slabby wall of perfect sea battered granite.

Climb the first full crag height groove immediately left of the "Distant Drums" corner.

I. Miller 03/06/10

Distant Drums S 4a 18m

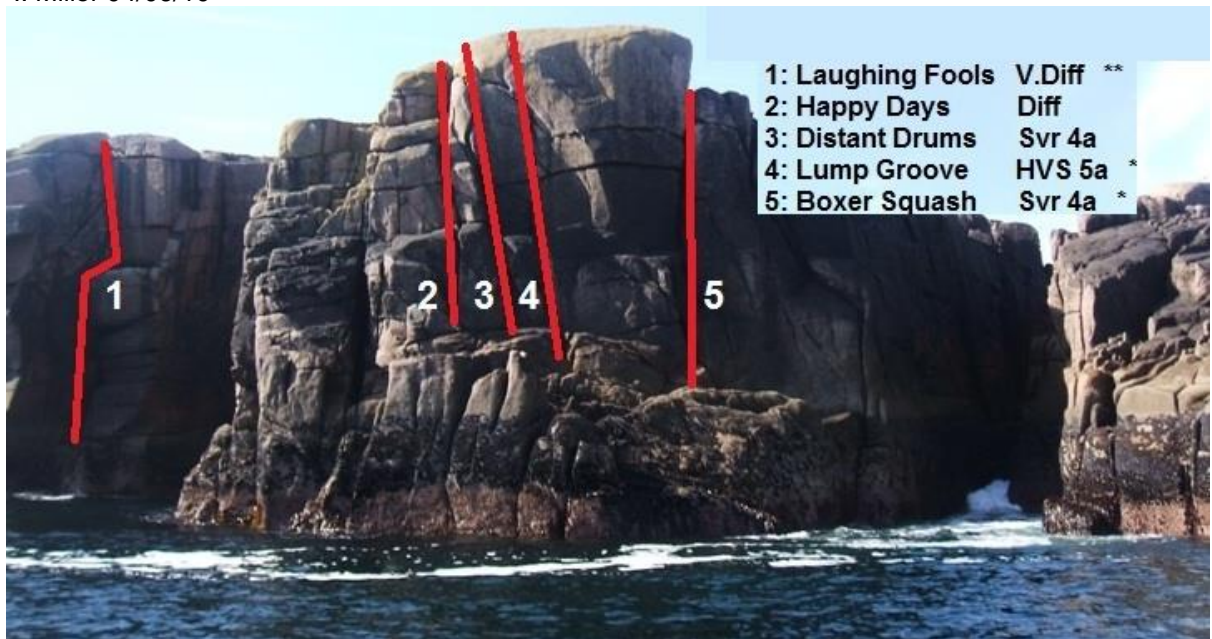
Left of centre on this wall, climb the crack running into and through the right facing corner at half crag height.. A cheeky few starting moves!

I. Miller, E. Wallace 03/06/10

Lump Groove HVS 5a 18m *

2m right of "Distant Drums" climb the easy looking deep crack, hard start, hard middle and a superb finish.

I. Miller 04/06/10



Boxer Squash S 4a 15m *

At the far right of the crag, just before it tapers down into a deep geo, climb the full crag height 8inch offwidth with internal quartz noular assistance.

I. Miller, E. Wallace 03/06/10

Tilted Lift VS 4b 15m **

Climb the leftward trending flake to join the crux of "Boxer Squash," finish up groove.

I. Miller, W. Schuessler 20/06/12

Decime Norberto E1 5a 15m *

Climb the steep right facing flake crack and up the blunt arête above.

W. Schuessler, I Miller 20/06/12

- | | |
|--------------------|----------|
| 1: Boxer Squash | S 4a * |
| 2: Tilted Lift | VS 4b ** |
| 3: Decime Norberto | E1 5a * |
| 4: Oscar Waiting | S 4a |
| 5: Doggone | S 4a |



Oscar Waiting S 4a 15m

To the right of "Decime Norberto," climb the twin cracks and across to a wee niche. Follow the left groove to the summit.

W. Schuessler, I Miller 20/06/12

Dog Gone S 4a 15m

From the far end of the tidal ledge, climb the wide crack and cross the slab the niche, as for "Oscar Watching." Climb the right groove to the summit.

I. Miller, W. Schuessler 20/06/12

The tidal ledges for the previous 8 routes ends abruptly at a deep steep sided zawn of perfect rock. The following route is the first of many to be climbed in this zawn. Access is by a careful scramble down the back of the zawn to a ledge running along the right wall on the high tide mark.

The First of Many MS 12m *

In the center of the right wall as you face out the zawn, climb the perfect flake to a small pedestal, stand on the pedestal and continue up the left trending flake crack.

I. Miller, W. Schuessler 20/06/12

1: The First of Many MS 12m *



Na hOileáin

Living 50 metres out to sea from Golfers Crag is an excellent complex archipelago comprising two main islands. Both main islands run parallel to each other from north to south. They are approx. 10m high at their highest points and are approx. 100m in length. They pretty much contain every conceivable climbing medium from chimneys and tunnels to finger and hand cracks.

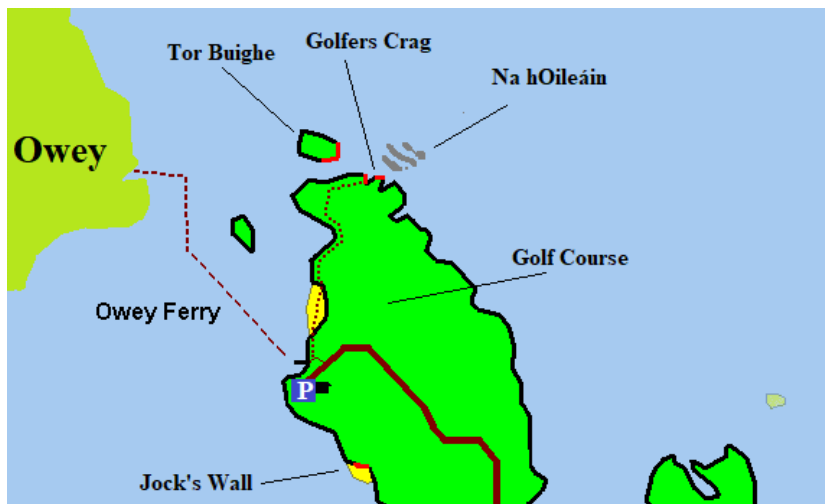
[Google Maps Pin to the Islands](#)

Easiest access to the islands is to follow the coastal path round from the Owey pier at the golf course clubhouse as for golfers crag. Just before Golfers Crag veer right to the tiny enclosed storm beach. From here it is a 100m sea passage out to the crags

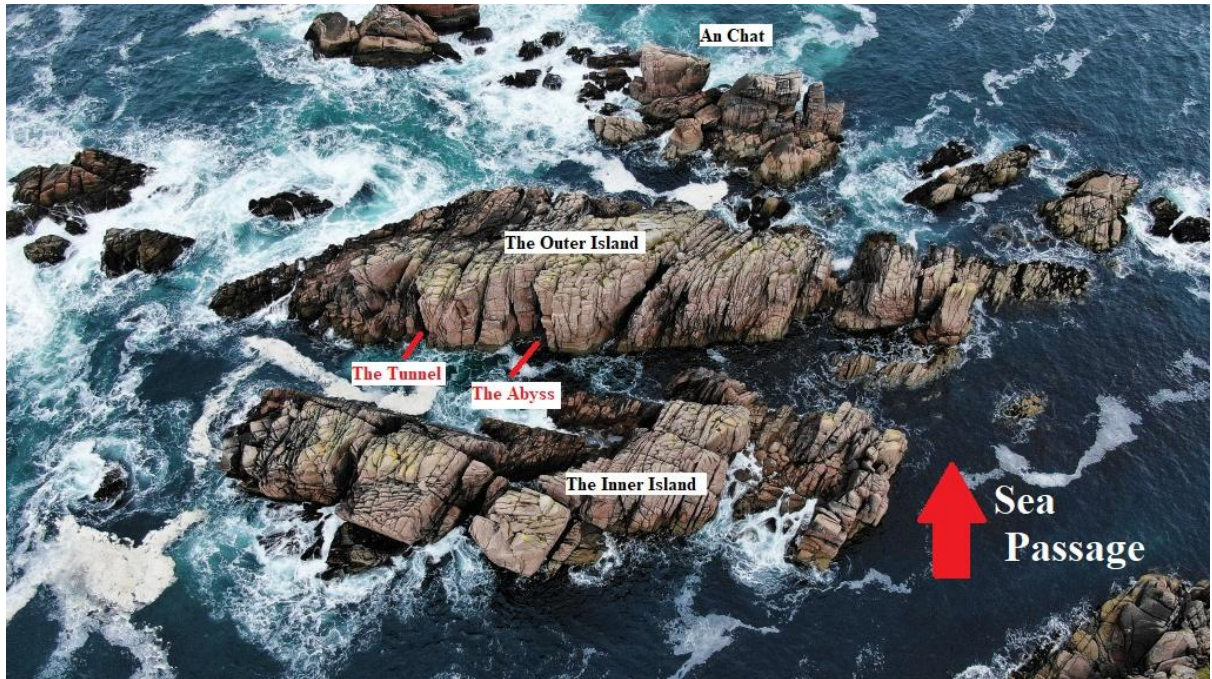
[Parking at Cruit Island Golf Course](#)



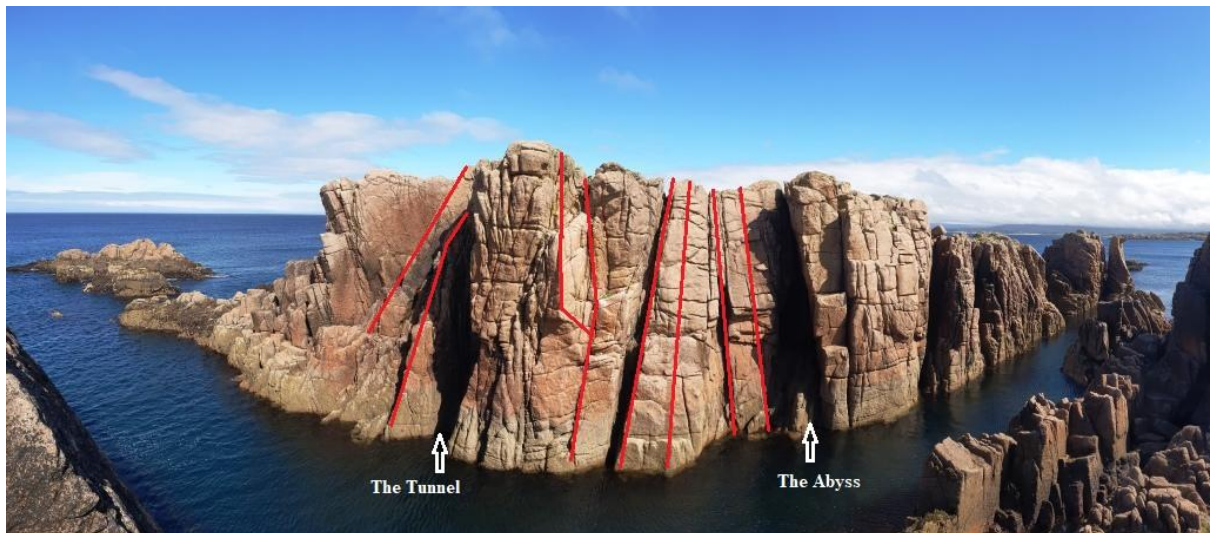
Na hOileáin



Na hOileáin map



Plan View of Na hOileáin



The Outer Island's landward face

The Outer Island

At the northern end of the island just before the "Into the Light" chasm lives two full crag height aretes. Access to their bases is by traverse above the high water line from the north.

Leftie S 10m

Climb the left arete, on good moves and no gear higher up. The groove to the left is climbed at V. Diff
I. Miller 09/09/20

Righty Diff 10m

Climb the right arete
I. Miller 09/09/20

To the left (north) of the bulging prow lives a skinny tunnel the following three routes climb in this tunnel with increasing levels of technical grunting. Access is best by excellent sea level traverse in from the north.

Into the Light mild severe 12m

Climb the tunnel from sea level and follow the floor up and into the light.

I. Miller 04/09/20

Climb to the light, Carol Anne VS 4c 11m

At the mouth of the chimney climb directly up and shimmy up the groove above.

I. Miller 26/09/20

Dark Silhouette HVS 5a 12m

Climb into the tunnel until the floor start to steepen and the walls narrow. From here chimney up direct and exit into the light at the highest point of the crag, hyperventilating.

I. Miller 26/09/20

The cliff now bulges out to give a main face type feel

The cliff then has a square cut recess in its upper half the following climb up into and out of this recess.

The Crooked Stairway Mild Severe 11m

Climb the superb crack up to the recess from sea level and continue up the open book corner at the back of the recess to the summit.

I. Miller 27/09/20

Ankou Arete E1 5b 10m` **

Climb the crack out of the ocean as for "Crooked Stairway" until you can just about get into the recess. From here go out left above the roof to gain the foot stance at the base of the arete. Climb the arete and up to the summit. Airy and scary

I. Miller 27/09/20

Air Arête V. Diff 10m

At the left side of the face climb the arete

I. Miller 09/09/20

The Flowing Grace HS 4b 10m

Climb the face between "Air" and "Flue" on a mix of rounded and positive holds.

I. Miller 09/09/20

Flue S 4a 10m **

Climb the chimney and cracks above in the centre of the face.

I. Miller 09/09/20

Ramptastic VS 4b 10m *

In the middle of the face between "Flue" and "The Abyss," climb the inverted staircase and the ramp above.

I. Miller 27/09/20

The cliff now disappears under-ground again into The Abyss.

Magh Meall S 4b 11m **

Climb into the depth of the Abyss, simply climb as deep as you can until forced upward by your body width.

I. Miller 28/09/20

Bealach Gé VS 5a 10m

From the Abyss climb the arête and face to the left of "The Steps."

G. Fredrikson, K. Boyle 20/07/22

The Steps S 4a 10m *

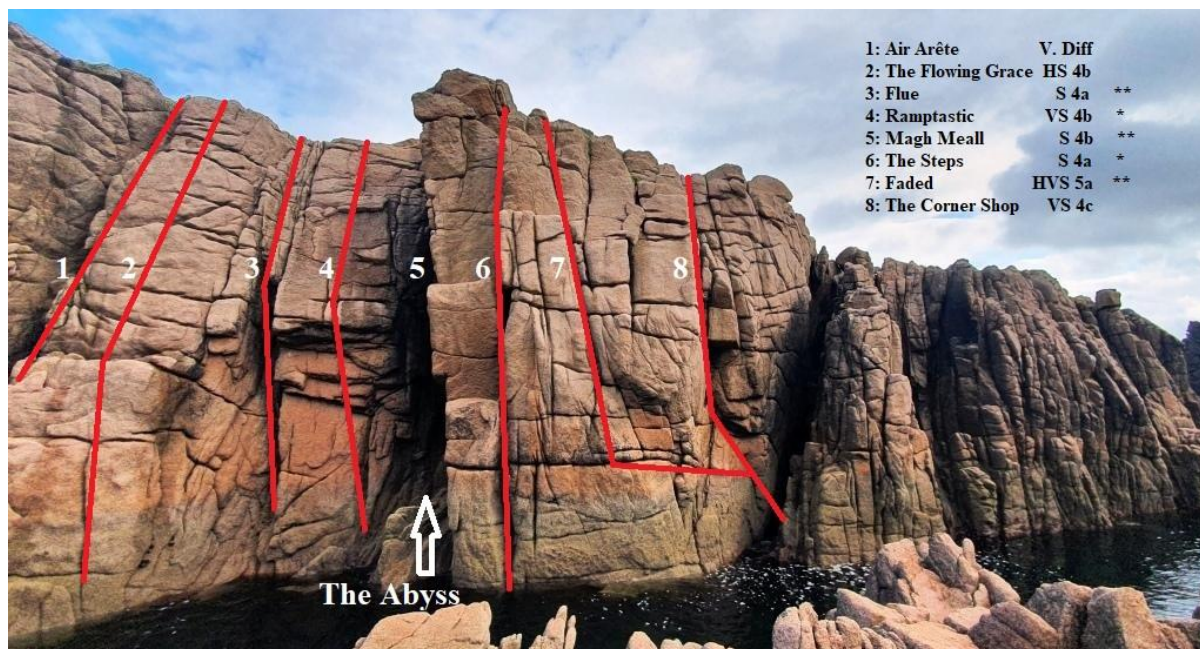
Gain the wide stepped crack from the mouth of the Abyss

I. Miller 28/09/20

Faded HVS 5a 10m **

Sea level traverse in to gain the left trending deep crack in the centre of the face.

I. Miller, F. Fhionnlaoich 16/10/20



The Corner Shop VS 4c 10m

Climb the recessed corner

I. Miller 28/09/20



The Edge of Spikes S 4a 8m

Climb the edge of spikes

I. Miller 27/09/20

Slanted Groove VS 4b 8m

Climb the left trending crack/groove

I. Miller 27/09/20

Wriggle S 4a 8m

Climb the chimney / groove on the face beside the slender stack

I. Miller 04/09/20

The following routes are found on the skinny sea stack with the very unusual gangplank sticking out the top. Getting off the summit is a jump across the gap to the parent island.

Slenderman Diff 8m

Climb the wide crack up the centre of the landward face of the skinny sea stack at the southern end of the island.

I. Miller 04/09/20

White Light S 4a 10m

Climb the corner/arete on the stack that points towards Errigal

I. Miller 09/09/20

Window of the Soul S 4a 10m

Bridge up the gap between the stack and the parent island

I. Miller 04/09/20

And finally, on the outer island this is the route of the crag best savoured climbed heading north. (climbing towards America)

Comfortably Numb HVS 5a 100m ***

A sea level traverse from Slenderman Stack to the far end of the crag. As you traverse northwards the rock gets steeper, the moves and holds are simply outstanding right til the very end

I. Miller 28/09/20

An Chat Stac

Rump Steak S 4a 8m **

Climb the line of right trending immaculate holds in the hind quarters of the beast

I. Miller 27/09/20



The Inner Island landward face

Gola Island

Tor Shéimí Coll

Sitting 30 meters out to sea from outdoor Relief, Blackie etc lives a prominent wedge shaped sea stack. All four routes were free soloed with easiest access to the landward wall being a sea level traverse from ledges at the seaward end of the stack. The rock on this stack is immaculate Gola granite. All four routes were free soloed with easiest access to the landward wall being a sea level traverse from ledges at the seaward end of the stack. The rock on this stack is immaculate Gola granite.

[Gola Island Google Maps pin](#) Map Ref B763275 [More Info Click Here](#)

Hermits S 4a 15m

Climb the first set of vertical cracks in from the traverse ledges at the seaward end of the stack.
I. Miller 01/06/16 38

Hide Away S 4b 15m

Climb the second set of cracks and hold directly below the arête and follow the arête to summit.
I. Miller 01/06/16

Main Vein HS 4b 16m *

Climb the centre of the wall direct to half way ledge, continue trending right to highest point on the face.
I. Miller 01/06/16

Corner on the Edge V. Diff **

Climb the corner direct through the two overhangs on enormous glorious jugs.
I. Miller 01/06/16



NW Sea Stack

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------|
| 1: Hermits | S 4a |
| 2: Hide Away | S 4b |
| 3: Main Vein | HS 4b * |
| 4: Corner on the Edge | V. Diff ** |

Gola Island Sea Stack

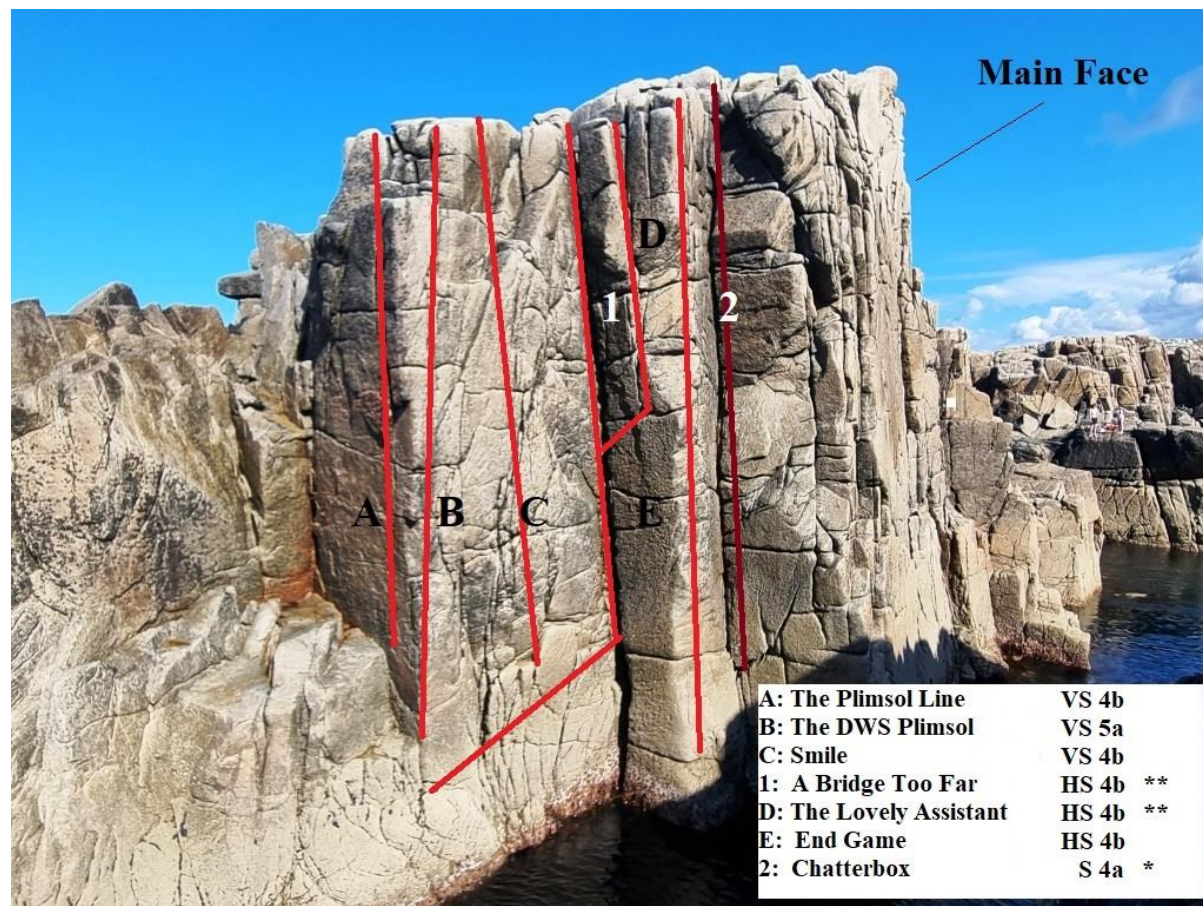
Tor na Dumhcha

[Unique Ascent](#)

This 20 metre stack is situated just off the Lower An Ghlaishigh headland by Gweedore. Access is by a five minute walk and a short sea passage. The stacks south face is a 20 metre vertical wall of excellent "Gola" type sea battered granite.

Directions: From Jacks Hotel as you leave Gaoth Dobhair take the sharp left and follow the B class road to the small beach car park. On foot follow the coastal path North over several new wooden bridges to the headland overlooking the stack.

Grid Reference B803304



The Seaward end of the main face

At the sea ward end of the stack the rock lowers in height and tapers into the sea. Scramble in landward just above the high-water mark to a large non tidal recess.

The Plimsol Line VS 4b 8m

Climb the left face of the arête above the recess

I. Miller 26/08/21

The DWS Plimsol VS 5a 12m

Climb the right face of the arête above the channel.

I. Miller 26/08/21

Smile VS 4b 12m

Between "The Plimsol Line" arête and the deep corner of "A Bridge to far." In the center of this bulging face climb the line of huge perfect jugs to below the bulge. Reach up left and climb the twin cracks to the top

I. Miller 26/08/21

1: A Bridge Too Far HS 4b 20m **

From the Large Triangular ledge at the seaward end of the face traverse across the steep wall on monster jugs to gain the base of the corner. Bridge (or squirm) up the corner with increasing air between your feet.

I. Miller, M. Boner 17/05/09

The lovely Assistant HS 4b 20m **

Climb as for "A Bridge Too Far," and span left to join the hanging groove on the wall to the right. Climb the mini groove on superb rock and situation.

I. Miller, L. Timoney 06/09/22

End Game HS 4b * 15m

Climb the full crag height arête between A bridge too Far and Chatterbox.

I. Miller 26/08/21

2: Chatterbox S 4a 15m *

Climb the big corner immediately to the seaward side of the main face, abseil access or a traverse in from the main face is much more sporting.

M. Boner, I. Miller 17/05/09

2a: First Blood S 4b 15m

From the stance at the end of the first pitch of "Nature always provides," traverse out to sea onto the square cut arête, climb this arête on its's outer edge to the summit.

I. Miller, B & M Martin 15/06/16

3: Nature Always Provides S 35m **

Pitch 1: 20m Starting on the spacious recess at the bottom of Easy Exit, follow a superb sea level traverse just above the high water mark to a smaller stance at the bottom of the Arete at the seaward end of the face.

Pitch 2: 15m Climb the groove and arête directly above the stance.

I. Miller, M. Boner 28/02/09

Poppyoptart HS 4b 15m

An alternative 2nd pitch to "Nature Always Provides." From the stance climb the steep sharp arête and through the bulge to the top.

I. Miller, J. Fan 29/06/23

4: Ziggy Zig Ahh! VS 4b 15m *

Climb the left most crack on the face.

I. Miller, A. Harding. R. Anderson 10/08/14

5: Exit Stage Left VS 4b 15m **

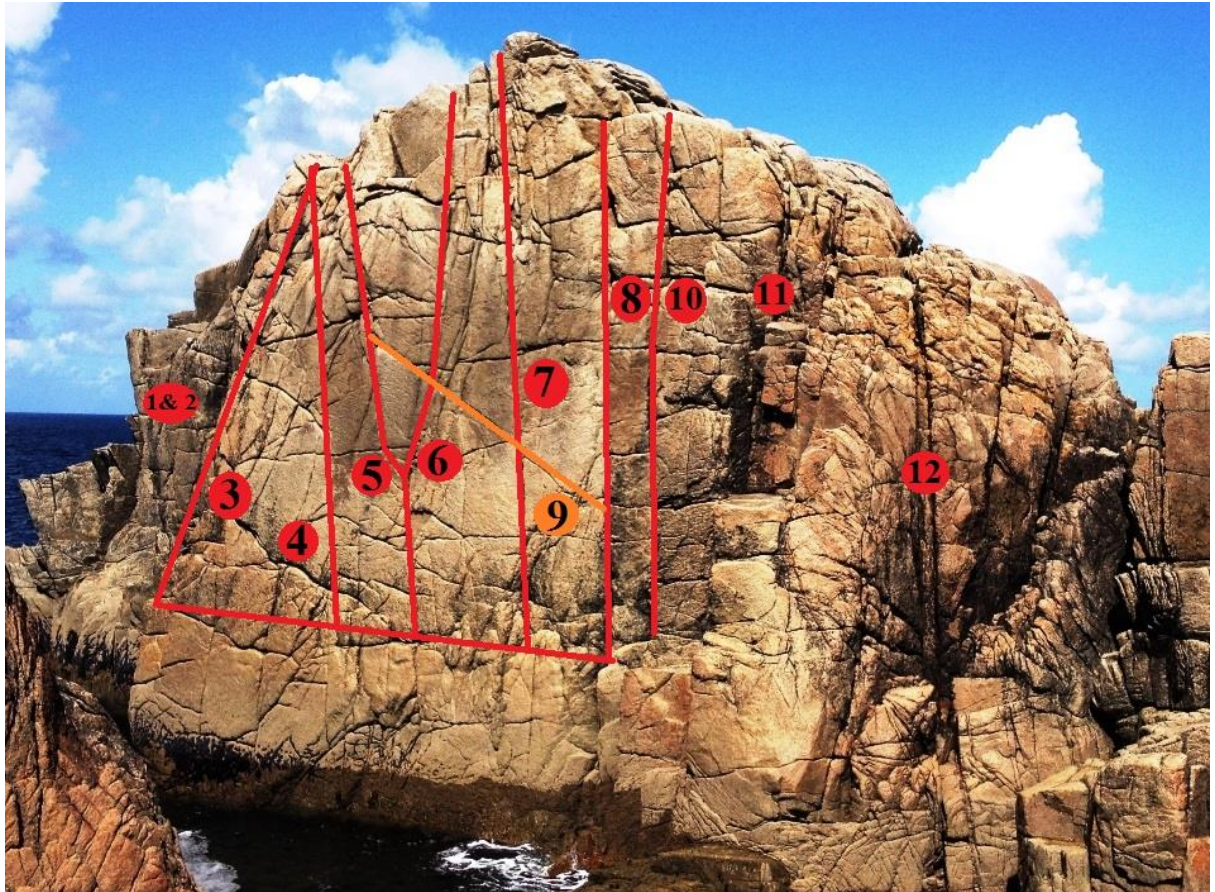
Climb "Unhindered by Talent" for 3 metres, make a step left onto a superb series of layback jugs. Layback on jugs to the summit.

I. Miller, E. Wallace, M. Boner 31/05/09

6: "Fine Display, Young Wallace!" HVS 5a 15m **

Climb The steep & sustained finger/hand crack to the left of "Unhindered by Talent." Eases nicely in the last few metres.

I. Miller, E. Wallace, M. Boner 31/05/09



The main face

7: Unhindered By Talent VS 4c 15m ***

Climb the superb hand crack up the centre of the face.

I. Miller, M. Boner 17/05/09

8: The Internal Grin S 15m **

Climb the superb left facing corner, right of the centre of the face on huge jugs, big gear and a massive smile.

I. Miller, M. Boner 21/02/09

9: One for the Photographer VS 4b 18m *

Starting at the bottom of “The Internal Grin,” make a rising traverse seaward following the shallow diagonal crack line, join “Exit Stage Left” and the follow to summit.

I. Miller, H. McCormack 09/10/14

10: Heavens Hexes HS 4b 15m *

Climb the excellent steep jamming crack between “The Internal Grin” and the “Easy Exit” chimney, without jamming!

M. Boner, I. Miller 28/02/09

11: Easy Exit Diff 12m

At the extreme right of the face climb the wide chimney groove, finish on the ledge or step left and continue to summit.

I. Miller, M. Boner 21/02/09

12: Exit Stage Right Diff 6m

On the access ramp from the landward side of the main face climb the dark chimney crack.

M. Boner 31/05/09

Bloody Foreland

2 km from The Foreland Heights Bar heading north on the R257 take a left at a sharp right hand bend and follow B road to viewing area on left at Altawhinny bay follow pathway to Triplet stacks Gluin, Scolt and unclimbed stack is take gravel Road on left 100 mtrs past viewing area and follow to end Access to these three tidal stacks is by 45mtrs Abseil to Shale beach or Small boat journey crossing.

Gluin 25 mtrs V.Diff

Grid Ref B813334 Climb landward arete to alcove between needle and stack and traverse along narrow ledge and exit to summit at small chimney on poor rock.

M. Boner 2009

Scolt 22mtrs VS 4c

Grid Ref B813333 Climb crack on Seaward face that widens as you ascent to 10cm wide at summit by several ledges on poor rock.

M. Boner 2009

Stol 30mtrs VS 4c

Grid Ref B813335 Climb a right trending diagonal crack with poor protection to a small ledge near seaward face, from here climb vertical crack to cliff top via small ledges on poor rock & limited protection, scramble up to summit on grass.

M. Boner 2009



1: Stol Vs 4c 20m
2: Glúin V.Diff 25m
3: Scolt VS 4c 18m

Bloody Foreland Stacks

Horn Head

[Unique Ascent](#)

Vertical Hill walk S 4A 205m

From the carpark at horn head walk towards an old tower, 200 meters past this on the right just below the highest point a continuous rib of rock can be seen the route follows this.

Pitch 1 Start 10 meters above the sea on the lip of an overhang. Follow a corner to belay on a grassy ledge. 35 mtr

Pitch 2 Follow the rib to the next grassy ledge. 35mtr

Pitch 3 Climb towards the striking arete with the Triangular roof on top, belay at base of arête. 40mtr

Pitch 4 Climb the arete belaying on top of the roof.30mtr

Pitch 5 Climb easily up to a large ledge and big boulder belay. 35mtr

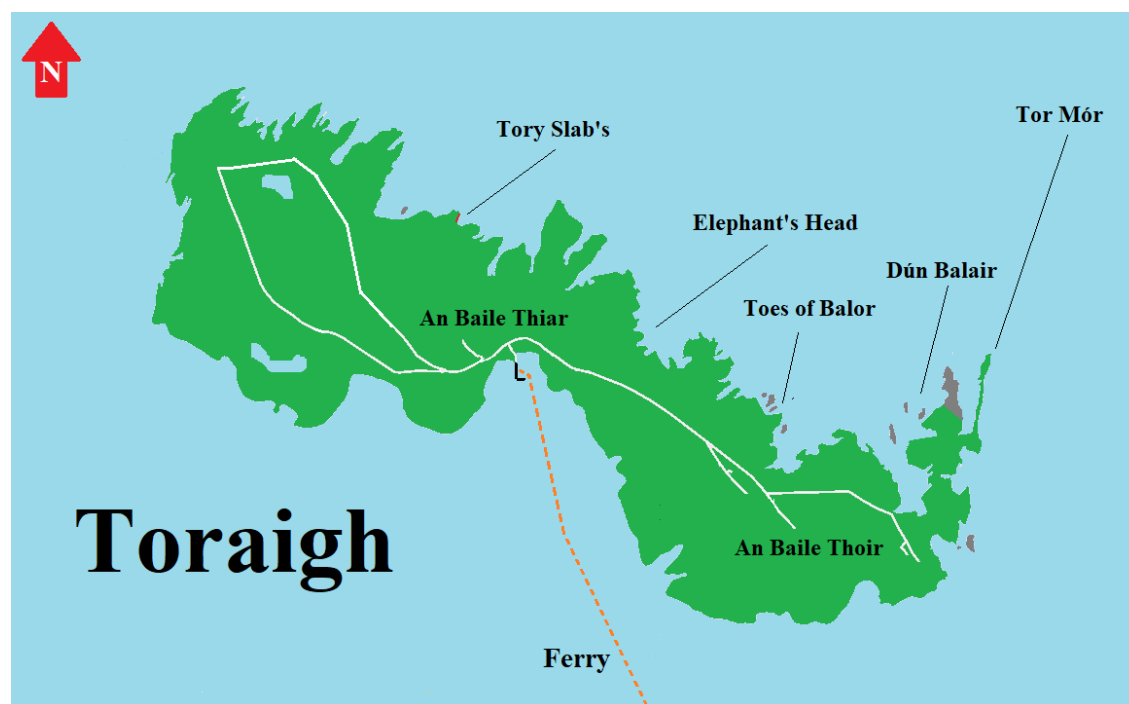
Pitch 6 Scramble easily to top being careful of loose rock. 30mtr

H. Hennessy M. Keogh 25/06/2013

Toraigh

Toraigh (Tory Island) is Ireland's most remote inhabited island. It lies 14km off the west coast of Donegal. The island is approximately 5km long and 1km wide, with 91 residents living in two tiny villages at each end of the island. Getting to Tory is by daily passenger-only ferry service from Machaire Rabhartaigh on mainland Donegal to An Baile Thiar on Toraigh (<https://toryferry.com>). A day trip to the island can be a very rushed affair and a much longer stay is by far the best way to experience the island. For further Tory Island rock climbing information go to the online guide at [Mainland Donegal Guide](#) and [Donegal Islands Guide](#)

Tory Island Film



Tory Slabs

The West side of the first inlet is a big clean eroded slab. Abseil from the cleaned block to the huge sea level central recess. Abseil access from the summit of the slab to the central sea level recess, the rock, gear and climbing is excellent.

Directions: Crags are North & slightly West of Village, around the most Westerly longest zawn. There are higher and more spectacular cliffs east, but rock quality is perhaps not so good.

[Google Map pin to The Tory Slabs](#) Map Ref: B852472

Crested 10 HS 4b 15m

Three quarters out along the East side of a long zawn are two obvious corner/grooves, split by a fin or

Unique Ascent

sliver of rock. This takes the right one.

A. Tees, B. Magowan 05/06/04

Long Zawn Sliver S 4a 15m

This takes the LHS of the rock sliver. Starts out to the left, and gains the corner higher up. 50 metres West of Long Zawn, are 2 short inlets separated by a promontory which narrows into an arete.

B. Magowan, A. Tees 5/06/04

Gravy Groove S 4a 45m *

Pitch 1. From the huge recess at sea level in the centre of the crag, traverse at sea level towards the back of the geo to the base of the full crag height groove.

Pitch 2. Climb the groove on immaculate rock.

W. Schuessler, C. Gleeson, I. Miller 28/07/11

One Too Many HS 4b 30m ***

From the central recess at sea level make a rising leftward traverse to the centre of the slab on your left, continue direct up the slab.

W. Schuessler, I. Miller 28/07/11



Tory Slab

Central Line V. Diff 30m ***

From the central recess climb the full crag height hand crack up the left of the recess.

W. Schuessler, C. Gleeson 28/07/11

Grand Wall HS 4b 27m

From the recess climb the left wall directly above. A tad necky! :-)

I. Miller, C. Gleeson 28/07/11

Also Ran V. Diff 28m *

Climb the right ward trending hand crack from the huge sea level recess, finish direct.

I. Miller, C. Gleeson 28/07/11

Mille Failte Diff 20m

The long easy eroded crack near the end of the West face of the first short zawn, just West of the long

zawn containing Crested 10.

A. Tees, B. Magowan June 04

Star of the Sea S 4a 20m **

On the sea facing wall at the end of Tory Slab, abseil from the top of arete above Mille Failte to a small ledge at sea level. Climb the centre of this sea facing wall.

B. Magowan, A. Tees, June 04

Arrowhead Slab V. Diff 20m

On the opposite side of the zawn from "Mille Failte" there is an obvious slab descending to a point. Abseil down the slab to a platform below and climb up again! Start in the corner to the right of the point.

A. Tees, B. Magowan June 04

Huffin and a Puffin S 4a

On the east side of the island before you reach the bigger cliffs this wall can be found on the right 200 meters past the path. approach is by abseil down a corner to a good stance on the far right of the wall. climb the corner to top. Excellent for the grade.

H Hennessy M Keogh R Redmond 08/06/2013

Centre Stack Area

Sitting off the north west side of Tory Island there stands in a row four very impressive 45m sea stacks.

From the main pier in the west village where the ferry to mainland Donegal arrives, follow the only road out of the village east. After 1 Kilometre turn off the road and over the moonscape land toward the huge tower dominating the horizon. This tower is clearly and easily seen from mainland Donegal, alas it is not a sea stack as it is still joined to Tory Island by a loose and exposed ridge. From the viewpoint overlooking this tower look out to sea as all four of these stacks are in perfect view either side of the tower. For the three stacks to the West of the tower, abseil down to the storm beach facing the nearest stack. From here it is an excellent wee sea crossing to all three stacks.

The nearest stack to the storm beach is the right hand of the three to the left of the tower. This 45m stack has a wide groove/narrow chimney in its upper reaches of its land ward face. The stack has two recorded routes to its pinnacle summit, both are based around this chimney feature. The easier route climbs the chimney direct and continues up the steep ledges above to a perched belay at the edge of the abyss. Descent is by abseil down the chimney.

The highest and most impressive of these sentinels is the 45m centre stack. This perfect cone pinnacle stack has been climbed twice by two different routes. In 2009 the sea ward face was climbed by a full stack height arête. In 2011 the much more impressive and slightly scary looking land ward arête was climbed at Severe a much more relaxed grade than it looks.

[Google Maps pin to The Toes of Balor Area](#)

The smaller stack to the left of the centre stack remains unclimbed

Sea Ward Face Route. S 4a 45m

Grid Reference B868463. This route climbs the seaward face of the largest and central stack of the trio North of the Tower on the Island of Tory. Access is by a 50 mtr abseil and a superb wee sea passage.

Pitch 1: 4a, 20m. From the seaward end of the channel between this stack and the beast to the south, climb cracks up left of the sea level platform and a steepening, step up and right to belay at base of chimney.

Pitch 2: 25m. Climb the clean rib to the summit

P. Stevens, M. Boner 18/07/09

Proper Mission S 4a 40m **

Grid Ref. B868463. Climb the outstanding landward arete of the centre stack.

Pitch 1. 10m 4a. Climb the steep face directly below the arete to a large slabby stance.

Pitch 2. 30m 4a. Climb the arete on excellent rock, holds and gear.

I. Miller, W. Schuessler 27/07/11

First Ascent of Proper Mission film

The Land Ward Face. VS 4c 45m *

Grid Reference B868462. This route climbs the landward face of the superb stack immediately to the West of the tower on the island of Tory. Access by 50 metre abseil and a wee sea passage.

Pitch 1: 4b, 20m. From the base of the landward face, climb the slab & step/swing over the void. Continue upward on massive jugs to belay on the ramp.

Pitch 2: 4c, 25m. Scramble up the ramp, & thrutch up the very obvious chimney. Continue up the very wide crack on superb rock to the summit.

I. Miller, C. Gleeson 18/07/09

North Face Route. HVS 5A 43m

Grid Reference B868462. This route climbs the Northern face of the Southern Stack, starting at the land ward end of the channel separating the 2 stacks.

Pitch 1: 4C, 18m. From the sea level platforms, climb the obvious "V" groove in the nose of rock to a belay on the landward facing ramp.

Pitch 2: 5A, 25m. Climb the Chimney as for the "The Landward Face Route," and continue to the summit by the steep right hand cracks.

P. Stevens, M. Boner 18/07/09



Center Stack Area

Rí Thoraigh E1 5b 65m **

Pitch 1: 25m Start on the left side of the face. Climb big blocks and up the corner to the belay on the ramp below the right end of the diagonal left trending roof.

Pitch 2: 20m Climb the face up and left parallel to roof line until its end. Continue up passing the bulge split into two parallel finger cracks to reach the comfy belay on the ledge.

Pitch 3: 20m Climb to the right for 2m on the steep face and climb up and right following protection and wisely choosing the good quality rock.

M. Przybylski, P. Tinney 29/10/2014

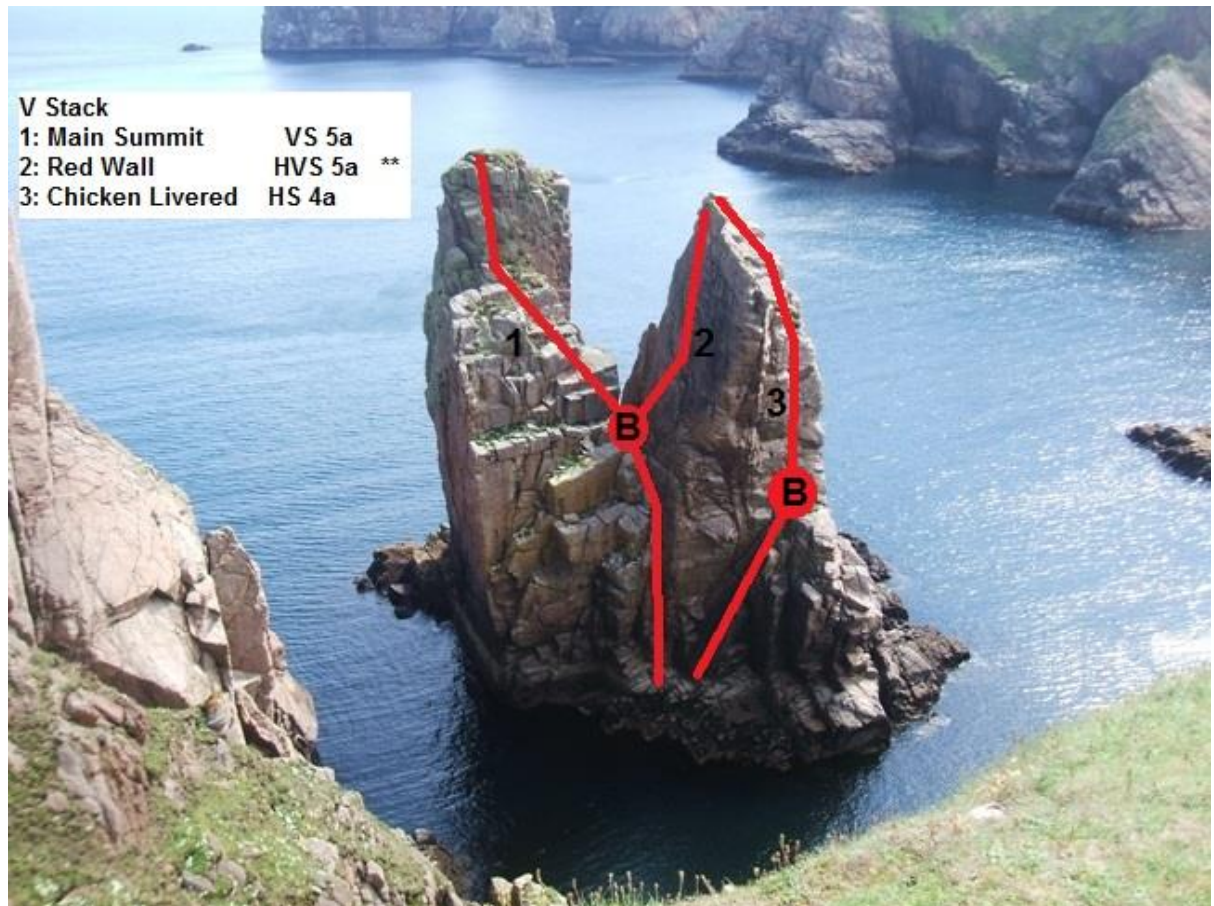
Unique Ascent

V Stack

To the right of the tower sits V stack an excellent twin summited 40m sea stack.

Access is as for the Centre stacks to arrive at the viewpoint overlooking the tower. An abseil is required from here to access the sea level platforms facing the land ward face of the stack. (No insitu abseil anchors on the cliff tops 2011) From the sea level platforms it is a short sea passage to the base of the land ward face and a large recess at the base of the V.

Both summits have been climbed from the same initial pitch up the steep corner below the V. This takes you to a huge ledge with a airy window looking out to sea between the summits. The left summit, the slightly higher one is climbed about Severe up a series of large ledges to a final grot struggle up a loose chimney to its flat topped summit. The slightly lower right summit is climbed direct from this platform following a deep crack up the wall above to the small summit spire.



Main Summit. 45m VS 5a

Grid Reference B869461, This route climbs the landward face of the left hand summit of the ULTRA obvious "V" shaped stack, Immediately to the south of the "tower" on the island of Tory. Access is by a 50m easy angled abseil and a short sea passage, descent is by abseil of route.

Pitch 1, 5A, 25m. Starting below the meeting of the twin summits, climb the steep corner, step left & continue to a superb belay between the summits.

Pitch 2, 4a, 20m. Climb to the left hand summit via the very obvious summit chimney

P. Stevens, I. Miller 19/07/09

Red Wall. HVS 5a 43m **

This route climbs the right hand summit of the "V" stack on the island of Tory. Access and descent as for main summit.

Pitch 1, 5A, 25m. as for main summit route.

Pitch 2, 5A, 18m. From the recess between the twin summits, climb the thin ramp rightward, and

continue leftward, climb to the summit up broken cracks.

P. Stevens, I. Miller 19/07/09

Chicken Livered HS 4a

This route climbs the landward face of the right hand summit.

1: 20m Climb the ramp to a stance at the base of the upper wall.

Pitch 2: 20m 4a Climb the wide crack to the summit.

W. Schuessler, F. Donnelly 02/09/12

Dún Balair

This 40m square block sea stack sits in a supremely atmospheric location at the base of the 90m high Dún Balair headland at the east end of Tory Island. It is by far the most adventurous of Tory's outstanding collection of sea stacks.

Access is by a 2km walk east from the main west village on Tory to a wee northwest facing storm beach just beyond the east village. Above the beach are the remains of the old fishing boats winching gear that Tory islanders used to use to dry heave their fishing boats on to land for the winter for safe keeping. Once on the storm beach it is a 800m paddle around the 50m high Promontory Fort head and out to sea north ward along coast below the base of the ominous 90m Dun Balai headland. Landing on the stack requires an flat calm sea. The stack has easy landing platforms at the base of both it's sea ward and land ward faces. The base of the stack sits in a very exposed location and can only be safely gained in a very calm sea state. The channel between the stack and the headland behind it contains a collection of semi submerged skerries and these cause a great deal of white water violence at most tide states.

Once on the stack there is a huge ledge system around its base allowing easy access to all of its faces.

The only recorded route to its summit climbs the groove system up the centre of the sea ward face in two pitches at a very amenable V. Diff. Descent is by abseil down the route.

Dún Balair V. Diff 50m ***

Grid Reference B876463. At the Eastern end of Tory Island and sitting in an outstanding location at the base of a wall of 80m sea cliffs is a remote and UBER intimidating 55m sea stack. This route climbs the center of the West face. (sea ward face)

Pitch 1. 25m From the center of the sea ward face climb the right facing corner and up ledges to a large stance below a right trending crack.

Pitch 2. 25m Climb the short steep crack and ascend a series of right trending steps to the summit.

Access is by an ultra committing 700m paddle from the wee storm beach at GR B876455 and descent of the stack is by abseil down the route.

I. Miller, R. Khanna 15/08/10

Behind the stack is a huge sea arch running through the Dun Balai headland, this huge arch makes for an excellent wee paddle through.

Tor Mór Ridge

At the far Eastern end of Tory Island lives a truly outstanding 400m long rock ridge sticking out into the Atlantic ocean. The ridge is attached to Tory island at a summit known as The Anvil and runs North out into the Atlantic for 400m to the spectacular Tor Mor summit at it's sea ward end. It's highest point on the ridge is Tor Mor at approx 70m and the ridge is on average 50m high and in many places a true knife edge with spectacular drops at your feet into the sea.



Climbers of the summit of Tor Mór

On 26th August 2012 Stephen "Jock" Read and myself climbed the ridge using a mixture of mountaineering and rock climbing techniques, moving roped together for the ridge traverse and pitching several rock steps at about half way along the ridge at about Severe. The final 50m of the ridge onto the summit of Tor Mor was an excellent pitch of immaculate granite climbed at Severe.

Tor Mór Ridge provides an outstanding day out of mountaineering and rock climbing along a very exposed and atmospheric ridge high above the sea. Standing on Tor Mór Summit will live a very long time in your happy memory.

Breakfast in Bed HVS **

Climb the overhanging nose to the left of the open book corner of the original route.
J. Redman, E. Jones June 2021

Tor Mor Ridge Ascent Film

The Dukes Head

This 20 metre stack lives hidden away in a small amphitheatre of defending sea cliffs and vertical grass at the mouth of a huge sea cave just off Dundonnell Head at Grid Ref C062382.

Access is easiest by sea from Marble Hill beach and involves an excellent 3 km round trip paddle. The base of the stack catches all north west to east sea motion with the narrow channel between the stack and mainland Donegal funnelling any motion to prevent safe landing.

Dukes Corner S 4a 15m *

Climb the full stack height sea ward facing corner on the North (seaward) face of the stack.
I. Miller, F. nic Fhionnlaoich 19/03/18

Unique Ascent



Fiona standing on the Dukes Head sea stack

Inishowen Peninsula

Living off the Dunaff Headland on the west coast of Inishowen is the Bothán Mhara Sea Stack. This 70m Sea Stack lives approx. 100m out to sea from the base of the 220 meter high surrounding sea cliffs. Access is by a long paddle around the headland from north or south or by descent down a horrorshow of a gully at Grid Ref C308489 followed by a 300m paddle to the base of the stack. For more details on Bothán Mhara, [For More Info Click Here](#)



Bothán Mhara Route

Bothán Mhara Severe 120m

From a non-tidal recess at the South East tip of the stack climb the corner then chimney to the base of the huge slabs. Pad up the slabs direct to the bottom of the short left facing steep corner slab. Climb corner slab to the summit ridge, walk and scramble the summit ridge to the summit at the North end.

I. Miller 24/08/14

[Unique Ascent](#)

Disclaimer

This guidebook is intended for information purposes only, it is not an instruction manual. This free guidebook is for the use of experienced outdoor climbers to make their own judgement calls as to what is and where is safe to climb on any given day.

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained within this guidebook at the time of writing, it alas cannot be guaranteed to be completely accurate. Many of the routes, locations and even some of the islands in these guidebooks are seldom visited, with a considerable amount of the routes having only ever been climbed once before.

The west coast and islands of Donegal are very exposed to the Atlantic Ocean swells brought by the ever present trade winds. A good working knowledge of such nautical matters is essential to ensure safe practice whilst visiting and climbing on remote and very exposed sea cliffs and stacks.

Rock climbing is an activity with a very real danger of personal injury or death. Participants in these activities must employ appropriate levels of mountaineering / rock climbing guile and common sense. Participants must take personal responsibilities for their actions and involvement in these activities at all times.

In Ireland all land is owned by someone, the inclusion of a location in this book does not mean we have the right of access or the right to climb there. Please respect the rights of the landowner and we can continue to visit these beautiful places.