

# Scenic touring route 1

## Donegal Bay Drive

Donegal Bay is touched by many different features and routes. The wild scenery and the central highlands are a feature of this spectacular drive. Every turn provides a spectacular view. This fascinating drive includes Slieve League, which are the highest marine cliffs in Europe rising over 606m above the ocean, bustling market towns, wild, primitive and historic glens. Also included is a detour to the ancient pilgrimage centre on Lough Derg. It is journey, which can easily occupy a full day.



Bundoran → Ballyshannon → Creevy Pier → Rossnowlagh → Murvagh → Lough Derg & Pettigo → Donegal Town → Mountcharles → Inver → Dunkineely → Bruckless → Killybegs → Kilcar → Carrick → Teelin → Malin Beg → Malinmore → Glencolumbkille → Glengesh Pass → Ardara and return.

### Touring Highlights

#### BUNDORAN

An ideal seaside resort with something for everyone whatever their age or interest.

- EU Blue Flag Beach
- Game angling centre
- Surfing
- Donegal Adventure Centre and Surf School  
Tel: 071 9842418
- Waterworld. Indoor aqua adventure playground for children of all ages.  
Tel: 071 9841172
- Bundoran Seaweed Baths and Relaxarium  
Bundoran. Tel: 071 9841172
- Bundoran 6 Screen Cineplex  
Tel: 071 9829999

#### BALLYSHANNON

Ballyshannon is the oldest town in Ireland and is the birthplace of Alingham the poet and rock guitarist Rory Gallagher.

- Walking Tour of Ballyshannon
- Game Angling Centre
- Handcrafted Pottery-Celtic Weave  
Tel: 071 9851844
- Donegal Parian China Tel: 071 9851826
- Ballyshannon Cinema Tel: 071 9852928
- Abbey Assaroe Mill Wheel Tel: 071 9851580

#### CREEVY

Creevy is situated on the edge of the Atlantic Ocean, looking into Donegal Bay and surrounded by the Hills of Donegal.

- Deep Sea Angling - An Dúanaí Mara.  
Tel: 071 9852896
- Angling
- Kilbarron Castle

#### ROSSNOWLAGH

Set in a 4km crescent of golden sand, it is popular for all kinds of watersports, board sailing, surfing and water skiing.

- Franciscan Friary & Museum.  
Tel: 071 9851342
- EU Blue Flag Beach
- Surfing / Board Sailing

#### MURVAGH

This townland boasts the magnificent Donegal Golf Club which lies along the Atlantic between Ballintra and Donegal Town. National Blue Flag beach

#### LOUGH DERG & PETTIGO

Situated between Lough Erne and Lough Derg, Pettigo is a picturesque village on the edge of Counties Donegal and Fermanagh ideal for walking and angling. The island of Lough Derg attracts over 30,000 annually it is a popular catholic pilgrimage site. Tel: 071 9861518

#### DONEGAL TOWN

Situated at the point where the River Eske flows into Donegal Bay this bustling small town is still very popular and an ideal base from which to explore the south and west of the County.

- Magees on the Diamond Tel: 074 9722660
- Donegal Castle Tel: 074 9722405
- Donegal Craft Village Tel: 074 9722225
- Donegal Railway Heritage Centre  
Tel: 074 9722655
- Kevin Sharkey That Gallery Tel: 074 9725898
- Waterbus Donegal Town: 074 9723666
- Tourist Office : 074 9721148

#### MOUNTCHARLES

Overlooking the broad expanse of Donegal Bay and associated with the folklorist and writer Seamus McManus Mountcharles is a picturesque seaside village.

- Sea Angling Centre

#### INVER

A noted game angling centre with a fine beach.

- Beach
- Game Angling

#### DUNKINEELY

Set on the northern shore of Donegal Bay, this village is close to the very scenic peninsula, rich in wildlife, which leads to St. John's Point.

- Beach
- Lighthouse, St. John's Point
- Exotic flora, St. John's Point

#### BRUCKLESS

A small village with excellent reputation for it's traditional music and food.

#### KILLYBEGS

A lively fishing town with Ireland's largest fleet of trawlers, it is a bustling town where local and foreign ships tower over the quayside

- St. Catherine's Church 16th Century tomb slab
- National Blue Flag Beach
- Fintragh Bay

#### KILCAR & CARRICK

The Kilcar and Carrick area maybe described as a painters paradise with its mountains valleys, beaches and bays.

- Studio Donegal, Kilcar is home to Donegal Tweeds and Hand knits Tel: 074 9738194
- Tuna Charters: Tel: 074 9738377
- Aislann Chill Charta (Theatre)  
Tel: 074 97388376

#### TEELIN

Scenic views, Slieve League Marine Cliffs

- Bunglas
- Sea angling
- Nuala Star Teelin boat Trips.  
Tel: 074 9739365

#### MALINBEG/MALINMORE

These villages near Glencolumbkille have wild scenery and dramatic cliffs with fine sandy beaches.

- Trabane (Silver Strand)
- Glennmalin Court Cairn
- Tweeds and hand knits
- Outdoor activity centre

#### GLENCOLUMBKILLE

Named after St. Colm Cille Glencolumbkille is located in the scenically splendid Sliabh Liag peninsula. This area is renowned for its wealth of traditional culture, music and prehistoric settlements.

- Oideas Gael - Irish language and cultural courses. Tel: 074 9730248
- Kenneth King Paintings. Tel: 074 9730126

#### MAGHERA

The Maghera Caves are located here accessible by walking along dazzling silver beach.

- Assaranca Falls
- Maghera Caves
- Beach

#### PORT

A wild remote hamlet near which is Ireland's highest Tromore Sea Stack.

### ↓ Sliabh Liag



### ↓ Donegal Bay Waterbus



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# Ardara to the Bluestacks

A small, but exquisitely beautiful coastal peninsula with twin resorts is included on this drive which otherwise features the Bluestack Mountains and the glens and passes which cross the county east and west.



**Ardara → Rosbeg → Portnoo/Narin → Kilclooney → Glenties → Fintown → Ballybofey/Stranorlar → Barnesmore Gap → Lough Eske → Frosses → Ardara**

## Touring Highlights

### ARDARA

Heritage Town and a major centre for the manufacture of hand-woven tweed.  
Sandfield Pitch n Putt. Tel: 074 9541344  
Stephen Bennett Artist- A professional fine art painter based in Ardara.  
Tel: 074 9541652  
Triona Design - Family run shop specialising in Donegal Tweed Tel: 074 9541422

### ROSBEG

A lovely resort village and an angling centre boasting a couple of fine sandy beaches.  
Kiltorris Lough  
Dawros Bay Beach

### NARIN/PORTNOO

An ideal spot for golfing and fishing with an 18-hole golf course and numerous lakes and rivers on the doorstep. The area also boasts a dolmen centre and a blue flag beach. Twin resort towns with magnificent beach.  
Blue Flag Beach

### KILCLOONEY

There are a number of megalithic sites notably the kilclooney Dolmen located here including two portal tombs and the remains of a court tomb.  
Dolmen Eco Tourism Centre- Is the first green energy centre in the Republic of Ireland and feature wind turbine, heat pump, Solar Panels etc. Tel: 074 9541444

### GLENTIES

Glenties is the most prolific winner of the

National Tidy Town competition. This is a town which is set against a backdrop of beautiful mountains scenery.  
St. Conal's Museum - fascinating local history record.

### FINTOWN

A small village overlooking a lovely lake in the valley of the River Finn.  
Fintown Railway - The only operational gauge railway in Donegal and you can enjoy a four mile return trip that will take you along side Lough Finn. Tel: 074 9546128

### BALLYBOFEY / STRANORLAR

Situated on the banks of the River Finn these twin villages are linked by an arched bridge are popular with anglers, golfers and shoppers alike.  
Game Angling Centre

Balor Theatre Tel: 074 9130424  
McElhinneys Department Store  
Tel: 074 9131217 [www.mcelhinneys.ie](http://www.mcelhinneys.ie)  
Drumboe Woods

### BARNESMORE GAP

The mountains of Barnesmore and Croaghconnellagh stand like lofty sentinels each side of this impressive gateway between northern and southern Donegal.  
Scenic Drive

### LOUGH ESKE

Lough Eske is a few miles to the north of Donegal Town and is surrounded by the majestic Blue Stack Mountains. Follow the Lough Eske drive, try some trout angling or visit Ardnamona Gardens.  
Ardnamona Wood  
Scenic Route

## ↓ Glengesh Pass





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# The Rosses & Gweedore

The Gaeltacht is a generic term for areas in Ireland where the Irish Language is the first Language of the people and the social and the cultural traditions associated with this linguistic tradition are safeguarded.

The heart of Gaelic speaking Donegal, the county's two highest peaks and the glorious Glenveagh National Park in the Derryveagh Mountains are the major features on this drive.



**Dungloe → Burtonport → Cruit Island → Kincasslagh → Carrickfinn → Annagry/Crolla → Bunbeg/Derrybeg/Gweedore → Bloody Foreland → Meenlaragh → Gortahork → Dunlewey → Glenveagh → Churchill → Return to Dungloe**

## Touring Highlights

### DUNGLOE

Capital of the Rosses and is a lively town, Dungloe is known all over Ireland and further afield as the one time home of the Mary From Dungloe and the festival called after her.

Tourist Office Tel: 074 9521297  
Game Angling Centre  
Pitch & Putt  
Ionad Teampall Croine  
Library Tel: 074 9522124

### BURTONPORT

A fishing port in the western Gaeltacht where you embark for the island of Arranmore.

Ferry Service to Arranmore Island on daily basis all year round Tel: 074 9520532  
Deep Sea Angling Centre

### CRUIT ISLAND

A bridge joins this scenic island to the mainland and is noted for its wildfowl sanctuary. Whether or not you play golf a trip to the Island is highly recommended.

### KINCASSLAGH

Home to the popular famous Irish Singer Daniel O'Donnell.

### CARRICKFINN

Small village with a wildlife sanctuary and home to Donegal Airport with services to Dublin and Prestwich (Glasgow).

Tel: 074 9548284  
Wildlife sanctuary  
Donegal Airport

### ANNAGRY / CROLLA

Annagry is a beautiful village situated in the heart of the Irish speaking Rosses. Crolla is home to the famous singing groups Clannad, Altan and the singer Enya. Call into the family pub Leo's Tavern & enjoy the displays of gold and platinum records celebrating their achievements.

Leo's Tel: 074 9548143  
Crolla Dolls - This company that have introduced the new generation of the world famous Crolla Doll, first made in Donegal in 1939. Tel: 074 9548466

### GWEEDORE / BUNBEG / DERRYBEG

These three towns are so close they could be mistaken as one.

Game Angling Centre- Bunbeg  
Donegal Coastal Cruises-Ferry service to Tory Island from Bunbeg Pier.  
Tel: 074 9531320/9531340  
Beach-Bunbeg  
Craft Shops-Derrybeg  
Gola Island Ferry-Ferry trips to Gola Island  
Tel: 087 2474146

### BLOODY FORELAND

Bloody foreland derived its name from the colour of the rock on this scenic headland. Breath taking scenic drive

### MEENLARAGH

Gaeltacht village with ferry service to Tory Island. Tel: 074 9531320/9531340

### GORTAHORK

An attractive resort village on the shores of Ballyness Bay.  
Maggie Dan's - local theatre entertainment  
Tel: 074 9165630

### DUNLEWEY

Dominated by Errigal Mountain, Donegal's highest mountain reaching over 752 meters this tiny village overlooks two lovely lakes which run the length of the village.  
Ionad Cois Locha Tel: 074 9531699

### GLENVEAGH

Glenveagh National Park- 16,000 hectares of mountains, lakes, woods and wild bog. The park has a visitor centre, you can take a tour of Glenveagh Castle, which was built in 1870, and the castle gardens are among the finest in Ireland. Restaurant & Tea room available.  
Tel: 074 9137090

### CHURCHILL

Located on the shores of Lough Gartan this lively village has homely pubs and is ideal for activity enthusiasts.  
Colmcille Heritage Centre - An exhibition featuring the life and times of St. Colmcille  
Tel: 074 9137036  
Gartan Outdoor Education Centre  
Tel: 074 9137032

## ↓ Crolla river



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# Fanad Peninsula to Sheephaven Bay

Deep bays and spectacular peninsular scenery, an ancient Celtic castle, a rock where the O' Donnell Chieftains were inaugurated, and a most varied and interesting forest park, are some of the fascinating attractions of this drive, presided over by massive Muckish Mountain.



**Letterkenny → Ramelton → Rathmullan → Portsalon → Fanad Head → Kindrum → Kerrykeel → Milford → Cranford → Carrigart → Rosapenna → Downings → Atlantic Drive → Rosguill Peninsula → Doe Castle → Creeslough → Ards Forest Park → Marble Hill → Portnablagh → Dunfanaghy → Horn Head → Falcarragh → Glenveagh → Kilmacrennan → Return to Letterkenny**

## Touring Highlights

### LETTERKENNY

Letterkenny is the largest town in Donegal and takes its name from the Gaelic Irish "Leitir Ceannain" meaning hillside of the O'Connors. St. Eunan's Cathedral  
County Museum  
Tel: 074 9124613 Admission free  
Tourist Office - Open all year, selling the best of Irish souvenirs. Tel: 074 9121160  
Cinema - The ultimate 6-screen cinema experience Tel: 074 9125050  
Craic Pots - Ceramic Painting for all ages Tel: 074 9125996  
Arena 7 - Ten Pin Bowling, Wayne's World Tel: 074 9128853  
Jungle King - State of the art indoor activity centre newly opened for children up to the age of 12. Tel: 074 9177731  
Old Foundry Paintball Games - Extremely popular sport, offering 3 varied and exciting playing areas. Tel: 074 9128086  
Town Park  
Leisure Centre Tel: 074 9125251  
An Grianán Theatre -North West's premier entertainment venue. Tel: 074 9120777  
Pitch n Putt. Tel:074 9125688  
Newmills Flax and Corn Mills - features a restored mill, parts of which are 300-400 years old. Tel: 074 9125115

### RAMELTON

Is a scenic village set along the banks of the river Lennon.  
Heritage Town

County Genealogical Centre Tel: 074 9151266  
Game Angling Centre  
Killydonnell Friary

### RATHMULLAN

Rathmullan is a popular seaside resort, which will remembered for the historical Flight of the Earls.  
Lough Swilly Ferry to Buncrana  
Tel: 074 9381901  
Flight Of the Earls Heritage Centre  
Tel: 074 9158131  
Blue Flag Beach  
Sea Angling - Rathmullan Charters  
Tel: 074 9155080  
Pitch and Putt

### PORTSALON

Portsalon is home to Ballymastocker Bay, which is alongside a EU blue flag beach recently 'voted the most beautiful beach in the world'  
Scenic Views

### FANAD HEAD

Located at the top of the Fanad Scenic Drive is the scenic Fanad Head. From the grounds of the attractive lighthouse you can see the rugged horn of Dunaff Head across the Bay.  
Lighthouse  
Scenic Views

### MILFORD

Milford lies at the foot of Mulroy Bay and is popular fishing centre for the river Lennon and Lough Fern.

Game Angling Centre  
Bunlin Glen Waterfalls & Forest Walks

### CARRIGART / DOWNINGS / ROSAPENNA & ROSGUILL

The Rosguill Peninsula, which projects out into the Atlantic between Sheephaven and Mulroy Bay, offers some of the most spectacular views in all of Ireland. Seeing is believing... travel along the scenic Atlantic Drive and see for yourself. Carrigart is a picturesque village and Downings is the main fishing Village.  
National Blue Flag Beach  
Tweed Shop  
Mevagh Dive Centre-Mevagh Dive Centre is Donegal's first purpose built Dive Centre and Ireland's newest. Tel: 074 9154708  
Sea Angling-Michael McVeigh  
Tel: 074 9155080

### CREESLOUGH

Attractively situated at the head of Sheephaven Bay.  
Doe Castle- This MacSuibhne castle is protected on three sides by the sea.  
Ards Forest Park- Ards Forest Park is probably the most beautiful and certainly the most varied of Ireland's Forest Parks.  
Tel: 074 9121139

### MARBLE HILL / PORTNABLAGH & DUNFANAGHY

This scenic resort area with Killyhoey beach fringing the Atlantic is a major centre for brown trout anglers and special interest holidays. Follow the Horn Head drive where

you will get a real sense of the power of the sea and the resilience of the land.  
Blue Flag Beach  
The Workhouse - Tel: 074 9136540  
The Gallery - Tel: 074 9136224  
Horn Head Scenic Drive  
Diveology-Learn and explore with Diveology  
Tel: 086 8095737

### FALCARRAGH

A lively town on the edge of the Gaelic speaking area of west Donegal. A good base from which to tackle the climb up Muckish Mountain.  
Church and High Cross  
An tSean Bheairic - Tel: 074 9180888

### MUCKISH GAP

The slate-grey mass of Muckish Mountain dominates the view as you drive along the windy roads of Muckish Mountain.

### KILMACRENNAN

Located on the banks of the River Lurgy with game angling, Kilmacrennan and nearby Doon Well where the water has curative properties and Doon Rock where chieftains were inaugurated in the 13th to 17th centuries has many associations with the O'Donnell clan.

## ↓ Fanad Lighthouse



## ↓ Lackagh Bridge







# Raphoe, Grianan Ailigh & Inch Island

A tour, starting in Letterkenny and passing through the fertile eastern foothills of the county. This short tour incorporates a diocesan cathedral, an ancient ring fort and a wildfowl sanctuary.



**Letterkenny → Convoy → Killygordon → Castlefin → Lifford → Raphoe → Newtowncunningham → Grianan Ailigh → Burt → Bridgend → Burnfoot → Inch Island and return.**

## Touring Highlights

### CONVOY

A small village east of Letterkenny. Mallaghagarry Forest Park

### KILLYGORDON

Excellent stretch of the River Finn above and below Killygordon Bridge. Amenity area.

### CASTLEFINN

Lying south-west of Lifford, this village is set among the gentle hills and fertile land of east Donegal. Amenity area.

### LIFFORD

For centuries, Lifford has been the gateway to Donegal, set in a rich Archeological hinterland. Lifford Courthouse-Witness re-enactments of the famous cases such as the Napper Tandy Trial and the Lord Leitrim Murder. Tel: 074 9141733  
Lifford Strabane Cineplex - 4 screen cinema Tel: 074 9141963  
Cavanacor House, Pottery and Art Gallery. Greyhound Track. Tel: 074 9142766

### RAPHOE

Raphoe is set in rich farming country, with lush hedges and low hills capped with Heather and Gorse, with its triangular 'Diamond' is a typical 17th century Plantation town. Beltany Stone Circle - Sixty-four of the original eighty stones remain.

St. Eunan's Cathedral- St. Eunan's Cathedral, Raphoe is an ancient building, which stands on an even more ancient site. Mongorry Forest

### BURT

Grianán Aileach-Stone Fort- This fort or temple dates back to 1,7000 BC as a temple to the pre-Celt God, Dagda. This place is also closely associated with Niall of the Nine Hostages, two of whose three sons, Conall and Eoghan give their name to the areas of County Donegal we know as Tircannall and Inishowen  
Burt Castle: This castle which was one of the clan O' Dochertaigh's strongholds in Inishowen and is one of the best known of all our castles lying as it does near the main Derry To Letterkenny road.

### BRIDGEND

Start of the Inishowen 100 scenic Drive

### BURNFOOT

If you thought that the view from the top of Grianan Aileach were spectacular, this village is the starting point of an even higher mountain road. Scalp Mountain Scenic Drive-highest accessible point in Donegal by car. Tel: 074 9368179

### INCH ISLAND

Situated on the Southwest corner of Inishowen lies Inch Island, while the name of the place is Inch Island, it is in fact attached to the mainland by a wide causeway. It is an excellent place for bird watching.

## ↓ Views over Lough Swilly



# Inis Eoghain 100

It may sound like a Formula 1 race, but it gets its name from the approximate distance in miles of the signposted drive, which officially starts in Bridgend on the Inishowen Peninsula. You will certainly not wish to break any speed records as you linger and savour the many scenic and historical gems which Inishowen, the biggest of the Donegal peninsulas, has to offer.



**Buncrana → Ned's Point /Dunree → Dunaff → Clonmany → Ballyliffin → Carndonagh → Malin → Malin Head → Culdaff → Ballymagaraghy → Kinnagoe Bay → Stroove → Greencastle → Moville → Redcastle → Muff → Burnfoot → Fahan → Return to Buncrana**

## Touring Highlights

### BUNCRANA

The principal town and resort on the lovely Inishowen Peninsula, Buncrana boasts a 5km sandy beach.

Tourist Office-Seasonal Tel: 074 9362600

Leisure Centre Tel: 074 9361000

Game Angling

Swan Park

Tullyarvan Mill – A textile Museum

Tel: 074 9361613

National Knitting Centre: a centre of excellence of the cottage industry in Ireland.

Tel: 074 9362355

Blue Flag Beach Fahan

Car Ferry from Buncrana to Rathmullan

### NED'S POINT & DUNREE

Fort Dunree Military Museum.

Tel: 074 9361817

Ned's Point Fort

Viewpoint, Mamore Gap

### CLONMANY

This lovely village lies beside a river overlooked and sheltered by mountains.

Glendowen Exclusive Design: hand crafted Donegal Tweed. Tel: 07493 76265

Beach

Tullagh Bay

### BALLYLIFFIN

A Golfers Paradise.

Pollan Strand

Doagh Visitor's centre: This outdoor museum tells the story of life in this area in the 1970's going back to the famine in the 1940's. During the months of November and December the village becomes Lapland with Santa arriving down the chimney.

Tel: 074 9378078

### CARNDONAGH

This Inishowen Peninsula contains a large cattle market and agriculture co-operative, which serves the many farmers for miles around.

8th Century Cross & Carved Stone

### MALIN

The first item of interest to look out for as you near this village is its unique 10 arched stone bridge believed to be the only one of its kind in the country. Over a period of forty years this town has been in the winning top ten of Ireland's tidiest towns and has won out right on two occasions.

Chartered Sea Angling: Inishowen Boating company Tel: 07493 70605

Five Finger Strand

### MALIN HEAD

This spectacular headland is Ireland's most northerly point.

Bamba's Crown

For the adventurous Walker there is the 'wee house of Malin and the rock formation 'hells hole'.

### CULDAFF

The Culdaff area is rich in historical sites from the monastic churches of Cloncha and Carrowmore to the enigmatic stone circle at Bocan and the Megalithic Tombs at Deen and Care.

Birthplace of Charles Macklin, the celebrated 18th century actor, who was born in 1690.

Blue Flag Beach

Sea Angling Centre

Carrowmore High Crosses

### KINNAGOE BAY

A plaque at Kinnagoe bay tells the tale of the sinking of the La Trinidad Valencera, which broke her back in the bay. Superb views of valleys and moor lands with intermittent glimpses of sea.

### STROOVE

Port-a-Doris Strand leads to a cave through a lovely natural arch.

Lighthouse

Picnic Site

Cliff Walks

### GREENCASLE

A commercial fishing port and a most attractive resort.

Inishowen Maritime Museum and

Planetarium. Tel: 074 9381363

Lough Foyle Ferry- Ferry crossing from

Greencastle to Magilligan Tel: 074 9381901

### MOVILLE

This busy scenic town is situated in a wonderful location along the banks of Lough Foyle.

Promenade

Moville Green

Cooley Cross

### REDCASLE

Redcastle is a small village overlooking Lough Foyle with nice coastal walks.

Leisureland Redcastle- One of Ireland's leading indoor heated fun parks, catering for children of all ages. Tel: 074 9382306

Yacht Club

### MUFF

A rural village amid the hills of the Inishowen Peninsula.

### FAHAN

St. Mura's Abbey stands at the entrance to the village of Fahan and in the graveyard is the ancient St. Mura's cross (8th cent.) a celtic cross etched on a village steeped in history with its newly completed Lough Swilly Marina - Tel: 074 9360008

## ↓ Fort Dunree



## ↓ Malin Head

