

Trailhead	A Glenties Garda Station / D The Diamond, Ardara
Start/Finish Points	Glenties Garda Station / The Diamond, Ardara
Services	Full services in both Glenties and Ardara
Distance/Time	12km / 3hrs
Terrain	Footpath, minor roads, tracks, bog roads and river side
Minimum Gear	Hiking Boots, Rain Gear, Fluid, Snacks, Mobile Phone
Difficulty	Easy, Average Levels of Fitness required
Map	OSI Discovery Series Sheet 10
Grid Reference	G 819 942 / G 734 905

Directions to Trailhead

Glenties is situated east of Ardara on the N56. There are buses between the two towns, you can park your car in one and take the bus to start on the other side, walking back to your car. For info call Bus Eireann 074 9121309 or McGeehan Coaches 097 9546150.

The Bluestack Way is fully marked using Yellow Arrows and Walking Man

Walk Directions

A-B. From the Glenties trailhead go up Main Street and **turn left** opposite the Limelight niteclub. Following the yellow arrow and walking man markers, **turn left** at the T-junction. Walk along the quiet country lane for ca 2km and **turn left** through a gate joining a farm track. You are now on private farmland with farm animals grazing, strictly no dogs, unless by express permission from the landowners. After about 200m, opposite an old stone building **turn right** into the field towards the Owenea River and **cross over** the metal footbridge to its southern bank. Keep the river on your right and follow it closely for ca. 1km crossing a number of stiles. Now you join the Lough McHugh Walk and **turn right** over the old Bord na Mona bridge.

B-C. **Turn left** immediately after the bridge and **cross the stile** to continue the walk along the northern bank of the Owenea River keep the River on your left. Look out for Kingfisher, Damselflies and Dragon flies, Trout rising in dark pools, Otter and Mink crossing the path around the river and small Orchids blooming along the trail. After ca. 3km **cross** a small tributary to the Owenea river. Now you will find the half buried rails of the old narrow gauge bog railway that was used to bring the turf out for Bord na Mona. After you **cross the second stile** you are at the new Fisheries bridge, where you **cross back** to the southern river bank at the Pumping station.

C-D. Follow the roughly surfaced bog road south, away from the Owenea River and towards Glengesh Pass and the Donegal hills in the distance. After a gentle rise, you get a great view of the Atlantic Ocean ahead of you. **Turn left**, **cross** the stile beside a wire gate and **take the first right** to bring you to the T-junction with the R261. **Turn left** and follow the road up the hill and straight down into the heart of Ardara. At the diamond in front of the Ulster Bank you find the western trail head of the Bluestack Way.

This is the end of section 3 of the Bluestack Way.

You now have the option to continue west on the International Appalachian Trail (IAT) Ireland, For information see www.walkni.com/iat/ and the Slí Cholombcille (part of the Bealach na Gaeltachta).



In case of emergency call 999 or 112

For comments and suggestions about the trail please contact:
Inga Bock, Rural Recreation Officer, ibock@dldc.org or phone 087 9318077

Slí na Cruagh Gorm - Bluestack Way

12km - Easy - 3 hrs
 Part of Linear Long Distance Walk
 Footpath, Minor roads, tracks
 and River Side

3 of 3

- A** - Glenties, Garda Station
- B** - Bord na Mona Bridge
- C** - Pumping Station
- D** - Ardara, The Diamond

