

<b>Trailhead</b>	<b>A</b> The Diamond, Donegal Town
<b>Start/Finish Points</b>	<b>A</b> The Diamond, Donegal Town / <b>D</b> Tymeen Football Field
<b>Services</b>	Donegal Town/ Lough Eske Hotels/ Bluestack Centre
<b>Distance/Time</b>	24km / 6-7hrs
<b>Terrain</b>	Footpath, minor roads, tracks , bog roads and hill side
<b>Minimum Gear</b>	Hiking Boots, Rain Gear, Fluid, Snacks, Mobile Phone
<b>Difficulty</b>	Moderate, Medium Levels of Fitness required
<b>Map</b>	OSI Discovery Series Sheet 11
<b>Grid Reference</b>	G 928 784 / G 882 868

## Directions to Trailhead

Donegal Town is situated on the N15 primary road, half way between Sligo and Letterkenny. The Diamond is the centre of town, just north of the harbour car park and Tourist Information Office.

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

## Walk Directions

**A-B.** From the trailhead, follow the yellow arrow and walking man along the footpath on the left side out the Ballybofey road passing the famine graveyard and Community Hospital. After the Flooring Company shop, the **trail turns left** towards the River Eske and crosses under the Donegal Town bypass. Now you walk along quiet country lanes, joining the International Appalachian Trail at a T-junction, **turn left**, **cross** the River Eske and go **straight through** the next crossroads following the signs for Lough Eske Castle Hotel and Harvey's Point Hotel to the shores of **Lough Eske**.

**B-C.** After leaving the lake shore, the road climbs to a T-junction. **Turn right** here and follow the road until you pass Eas Dun Lodge B&B. Take the **first turn left**. Now the road changes to a gravel track and rises steadily, giving fantastic views along the south-eastern Bluestack Mountains and back over Lough Eske and south east Donegal. The trail enters the Eglish Valley and becomes a paved road once more. At the end of the valley **turn right** to cross the Eglish River and **stay right** to pass the ruin of the Meenataggard Dance Hall. Pass through the gate, climb over the stile and follow the fence line through the field, and over another stile. Now the route **turns south** and passes by an old house, crosses the Struell River and once more joins a paved road. Here you have the option to **turn left**, leave the trail for the day and follow the **red arrow and walking man** south to get to the Bluestack Centre and Hostel (074) 9735564 (ca6km), or **turn right and stay on the trail**.

**C-D.** After ca. 350m **turn left** and follow the route on a farm track through a series of gates and over open moorland where you can see turf being 'won'. Enjoy the views from this plateau. As you descend the track turns into a paved road and ends at a T-junction. Here you have another **option to leave the trail** for the Bluestack Centre (**see above**). If you **turn right** you arrive at Tymeen Football Pitch after ca.1km; a perfectly groomed pitch at the foot of the Bluestack Mountains with a picnic bench, toilet and shower facilities.

This is the end of section 1 of the Bluestack Way.

Note: The Bluestack Way forms part of the International Appalachian Trail (IAT) in Ireland from Sliabh Liag to Larne. For information see [www.walkni.com/iat/](http://www.walkni.com/iat/)



**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](mailto:ibock@dldc.org) or phone 087 9318077

# Slí na Cruagh Gorm - Bluestack Way

24km - Moderate - 5 to 7 hrs  
Part of Linear Long Distance Walk  
Footpath, Minor roads, tracks  
and open hill side

1 of 3

- A** - Diamond Donegal Town
- B** - Harvey's Point Hotel
- C** - Bluestack Drive, Owenboy
- D** - Tymeen Football Field

