



Trailhead	Tymeen Football field, near the BlueStack Centre.
Services	Donegal Town
Dist/Time	2.5km/1hour
Ascent	30 m
Difficulty	Easy
Terrain	Track/Open Ground
To Suit	All levels of fitness
Start/Finish Point	Tymeen Football field, near the BlueStack Centre.
Minimum Gear	Walking shoes & Rain gear
Grid Ref	Grid Ref: G 882 868 Map OSI discovery sheet 11

Directions to Disert Walk

From **Donegal Town** take the N56 for **Killybegs**. At the roundabout take the **second exit** and follow the signs for **Bluestack Centre**. At the Centre continue for 5km **keeping right** until you see the football field on **your left**. Park here. There are toilet facilities and a picnic area in the car park.

Walk Directions

A-B. Leaving the car park **turn left** walk along the road for 150m when you **turn right** into a laneway. 400m down the lane you will find an old lime kiln (**on your left**).

B-C. Continue up the lane, following the signs for the **Bluestack Way** through a number of gates. Please remember to close the gates after you. Along here there is an abundance of wild Fuchsia. Follow the lane for **ca. 1.3km** until you reach the sign for **Disert Graveyard** on **your left**.

C-D. Enter the field through the gate and follow the strimmed path to the river, entering the ancient graveyard through a little wooden gate. **Disert** means place of solitude. It is believed that monks came to study and pray here. The **megalith**, said to be the burial site of a druid chieftain, evidences the long history of the site dating back to pre **Christian** times. It is associated with one of Ireland's patron saints, **St. Colmcille**, who is believed to have blessed the **Holy Well** in the 6th century. As you enter via the farm gate, the mass rock is on your left. The graveyard was used for Mass through the penal years and continued to be used for the interment of un-baptised children until the early 1930's. Numerous local traditions have built up surrounding the site ranging from ways to improve virility to methods of curing eye disorders and backache. The clay from the site was used to put in the foundations of houses to banish rats. Exit by the same path.

D-A. The flora in this area is abundant. In spring; bluebells, primroses, wood anemone, lesser celandine and dog violets thrive here; in summer foxgloves, thistles, bracken, wild strawberries and various fern and mosses. Birds associated with this area are cuckoo, raven, merlin and kestrel. **Turn left** back on the lane and follow it for 200m until you reach a gate. Here you are leaving the **Bluestack Way** that goes off to the **right**. **Turn left** and walk along the road until you reach your starting point at the car park on **your right**.



Fáilte Ireland
National Tourism Development Authority

FI/11530-13

In case of emergency call 112

We welcome feedback on your walking experience. Contact us at: walking@failteireland.ie

DISERT TRAIL, BLUESTACK MOUNTAINS, DONEGAL

2.5 km

Easy

Track/Open Ground

