



<b>Trailhead</b>	Pier at Tory Island, Co. Donegal
<b>Services</b>	Tory Island, Gortahork (5km from nearest ferry harbour on mainland)
<b>Dist/Time</b>	4km / 1hr-1hr30mins
<b>Ascent</b>	20m/30m
<b>Difficulty</b>	Easy
<b>Terrain</b>	Sandy tracks and minor roadways
<b>To Suit</b>	All levels of fitness
<b>Start/Finish Point</b>	Tory Island Pier
<b>Minimum Gear</b>	Trekking shoes, raingear and fluid
<b>Grid Ref</b>	OS Sheet 1, B855 465

### Directions to Trailhead

The nearest ferryport for Tory Island is located at Magheroarty, 5km from the town of Gortahork on the N56 Coast Road in County Donegal. There is a regular ferry service (approx 45min journey time) – more frequent during Summer months. The Island is also accessible from Bunbeg Harbour approx. 1h.20min journey time.

Words alone could never give a true impression of the rugged beauty of Tory, the indomitable spirit of its people or their rich cultural inheritance. Tory's spectacular cliff scenery is complemented by a rich and varied history which is related in the islanders distinctive Gaelic. Colm Cille figures prominently in the history of this sacred island which he chose as a place of retreat and meditation for his monks. Shipwrecks, poitín smuggling and tales of violent storms have also been drawn into its folklore.

Nevertheless, it is neither the myths, the monastic ruins nor even the majestic cliffs which make the deepest impression on visitors to Tory. It is the islanders themselves, like all people who live in remote places and work hard to make a living, the islanders know how to enjoy themselves and they always make a stranger feel at home.

### Walk Directions

**A-B.** On disembarking at the pier, make your way to a **T-junction** (50m away) to view the mapboard of the island and loop. **Turn left** here.

**B-C.** Follow the surfaced road through the village past the round tower and ruins of **old church** (both on your left). Continue for a further 200m to reach a **Y-junction** where you **veer left**.

**C-D.** Now the loop follows a minor roadway running parallel to the shoreline. In the distance the lighthouse comes into view. Pass Loch O 'Dheas on your left and walk another 1km to reach the lighthouse gate. **Turn right** here.

**D-E.** Now the terrain changes to a 'green' road and sweeps off in an easterly direction. After 150m you pass Loch O'Thuaidh on your right and the roadway changes to a stone-paved surfaced. Reaching the ruins of an old barracks, **turn left** and follow the paved roadway to reach a small wooden cabin (Derek Hill's cabin). Enjoy the view over Tor Ban before turning right. Keeping the cliffs on your left, follow the stony path to reach a viewing point which overlooks an old slipway. After **50m** you reach a **T-junction** where you **turn left**.

**D-E.** Now the terrain changes to a stony roadway and as you travel in **An Bhaile Thiar** (West Village) becomes bounded by dry ditches on both sides. The roadway eventually joins the surfaced road in the village near the **Round Tower**. **Turn left** to return to the **trailhead**.



# Trailhead 65

Loop 65

## Tory Island Loop

4km  
Easy  
Sandy tracks and  
minor roadways

- A Tory Island Pier
- B Mapboard
- C Old Church Ruin
- D Lighthouse
- E Port na Glass Junction

