

Route Description

Getting There. Follow the R319 from Achill Sound to Keel, take the first right at Menawn View Bar. Follow the road for 1.8km stay left at the road junction. Follow the road for 300m take left turn and you have arrived at the car park. There is plenty of room to park at the graveyard but still park so that you don't inconvenience the locals. Make sure you bring all the correct gear but don't take anything that is unnecessary remembering that whatever you bring in will have to be brought back out. The Sionnach is a litter free activity.

Safety First. This route has some ground that is exposed both in the sense of steepness and to the incoming weather. Take your time walking at a pace that suits the whole team, sharing both the load and the navigation. This route is a low level one but there are still hazards. Keep away from all sea cliffs Do not be tempted to get too close. As it is late October and night fall quite early the last leg out to Saddle Head might be cancelled depending on your time in reaching Lough Nakeeroge (46). Follow the instructions given by the Sionnach staff.

It's Halloween so bring a mask or stupid hat etc

Friday

Car Park F 640073

Leave the car here and check in. full gear check will take place here to ensure each member of the patrol has all essential kit. Follow the track to base camp.

To Base Camp F 629073

Follow the track to base camp for 1km. Base camp is situated at the edge of famine village with plenty of room on either side of the track. Do not do any damage to the ruins and walls as this is an historic monument.

Saturday

Base Camp F 629073 to track junction F623070

When you have packed up (no litter please) Follow the broken track for 500m to reach the crossroads while enjoying views of Slievemore and Blacksod Bay.

Track Cross roads to Signal tower F 617073

Leave the track to set off on the mountain to begin a short climb to the signal tower at spot height 194. Get out your map and do some feature recognition.

Signal Tower to spot height 269 at F607075

From the signal tower continue the short climb to spot height 269. From here you should be able to see the entire route out to Saddle Head take advantage and get your bearings.

Spot 269 to Col 169 F596073

Enjoy views of Annagh strand below to your right where high camp is located. This gradual descent over spot height 234 leads you to the col..

Col 169 to Annagh Strand (high camp.)

From Col 169 start your decent using a natural ramp. Take your time and pick your route wisely avoiding ground that is too steep. Slowly drop down to high camp going toward the western side of the Corrie lake Lough Nakeeroge (18). This is Ireland's lowest corrie at only 18 metres above sea level. At high Camp pitch your tent and take with you "Day Hike" gear for the remainder of the day. Map, compass, wet weather gear, warm clothes, lunch etc

High Camp to Booley village F593 081

This is the remains of either a "booley" hut or a small fishermen's village. Only a vague outline of the beehive huts remains.

Booley to Lough Nakeeroge (46) F 578086

This leg is over 1 km so be sure to navigate properly. There are plenty of small features to help you keep on the correct course.

Lough Nakeeroge (46) to spot height 123 F566090 near Saddle Head and back.

This is a relatively straight forward leg of the route which has to be retraced on the way back. PLEASE NOTE there are sea cliffs close by. The ground at the cliff edge can be loose or broken so keep well back and follow the instructions of the Sionnach staff.

Lough Nakeeroge (46) to Bunafreva Lough F585083. and on to High camp

The map says there is a "Fulacht Fia" here. Know what that is? Lets see if any thing remains and then Head East back to High Camp.

Sunday

High Camp

Pack all your gear and take home all your rubbish. From high camp begin your climb back out to the col at spot height 169.

From Col 169 head eastward back to the Start via the signal tower and famine village. You have been here before but doesn't it look different when you are going the other direction.

It is late in the season and might be coolish so bring plenty of warm gear. And why not bring a kite.