

"Adventure slowly and be part of the journey..."

The Sperrins - an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty - are Northern Ireland's most extensive mountain range and can be explored via a series of scenic driving routes.

There are four scenic driving routes to choose from: **North**, **Central**, **East** and **South**. Each route represents an opportunity to become immersed in an environment millions of years in the making and steeped in myth and legend.

North: 50 miles/80km
Central: 90 miles/145km
East: 63 miles/101km
South: 64 miles/103km



"Tune in to the rhythms of nature..."

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Sperrins

1 GARVAGH

Destroyed by fire during the Battle of Garvagh in 1641, it is now a thriving rural market town. Of interest are Garvagh Museum, the stone clock tower and nearby forest.

2 LEGAVANNON POT

'Hollow of the Soul' - a spectacular melt water channel between Garvagh and Dungiven.



3 DUNGIVEN

The market town of Dungiven (meaning Given's Fort) lies nine miles south of Limavady near the foot of Benbradagh Mountain. Dungiven provides visitors with a range of locally owned shops on its Main Street and contains historic features such as Dungiven Priory and Castle. The area is also steeped in myth and legend - a rich cultural heritage reflected in a series of contemporary sculptures, two of which - 'Finvola, Gem of The Roe' and the 'O Cahan Harp'- can be found here. A third sculpture, 'The Last Serpent In Ireland' (image shown above) is also situated nearby at Feeny picnic site.

4 BANAGHER OLD CHURCH An impressive ruin,
Banagher Church is thought to date from the late 11th or
early 12th Century. It is believed that the date 474 carved on
the west door was done in the 18th Century. Nearby, the small
tomb of St Muiredach O'Heney can be seen.

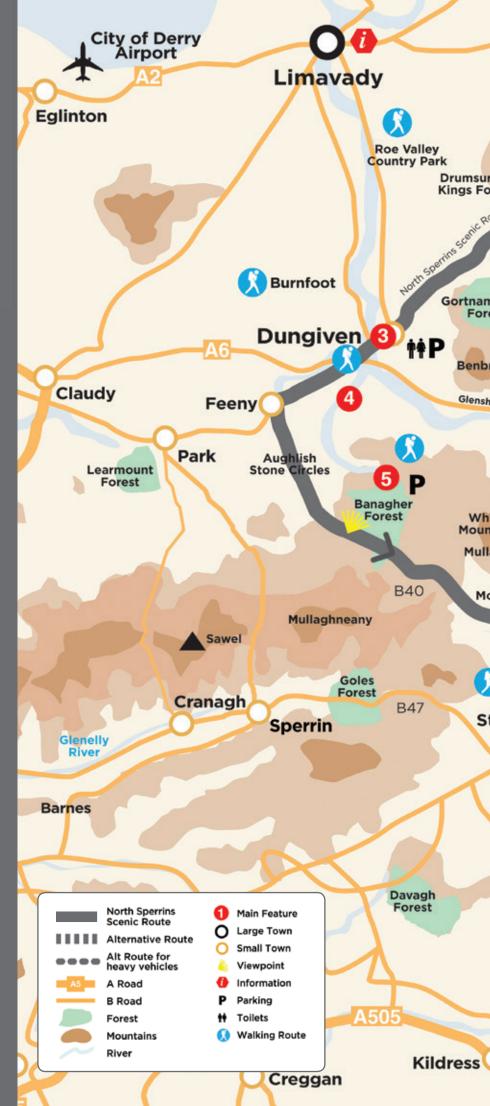


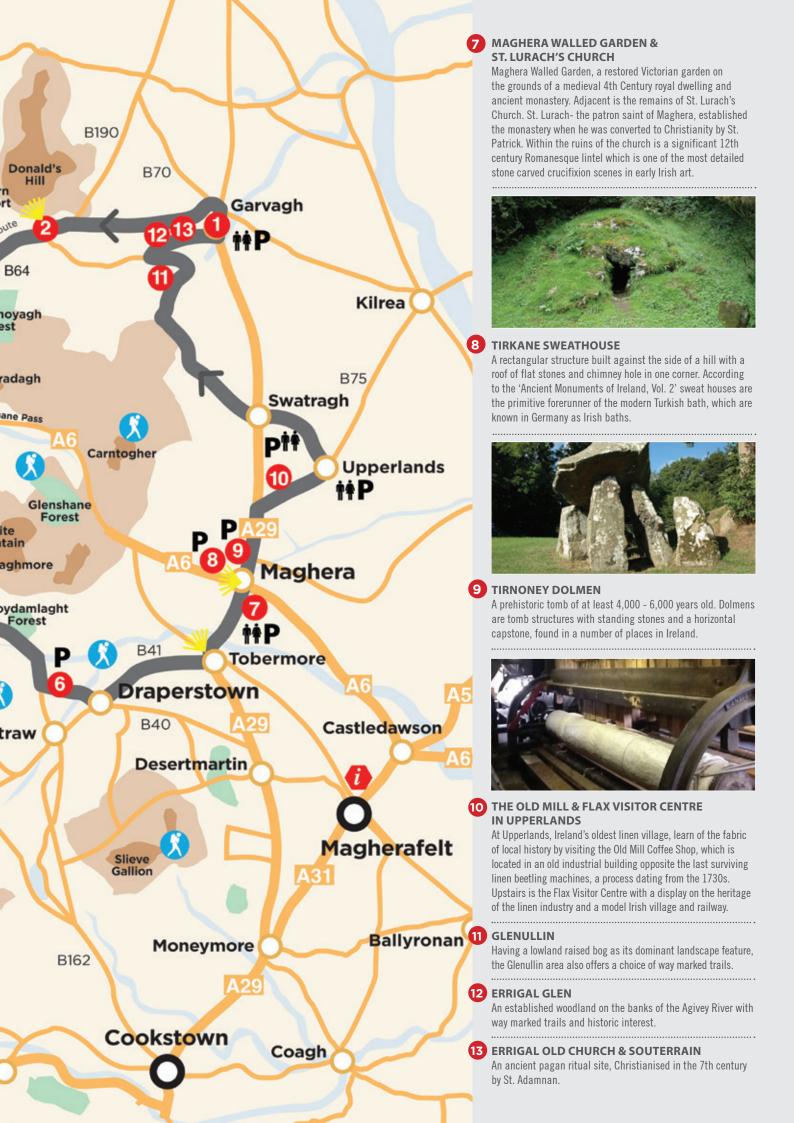
5 BANAGHER GLEN

Banagher Glen lies three miles south west of Dungiven accessed from the B74 and is a secluded, steep wooded glen leading to Altnaheglish Reservoir and Banagher Dam. One of the oldest ancient oak woodlands in Ireland, Banagher Glen is a Nature Reserve and Special Area of Conservation.

6 DERRYNOID WOOD TRAIL

The walk is an easy stroll and comprises a stoned pathway among native and coniferous woodland. Follow the green and yellow waymarkers from the car park, completing the walk in an anticlockwise direction. The walk commences in the car park of the Derrynoid Centre (Closed). Derrynoid Lodge was home to the notorious hanging judge, Judge Torrens. Although the buildings and centre are closed the grounds remain open to the public. The route makes for an easy stroll on forest paths with no obstacles or difficult sections.





Central.





STRABANE'S HERITAGE IN SCULPTURE

18 feet in height and representing the region's rich tradition famous sons. Flann himself is also represented sculpturally, taking pride of place within Strabane's town centre.

FAMOUS CONNECTIONS

Among the notable persons associated with Strabane are John Sir Guy Carleton, a Governor General of Canada; Cecil Frances Alexander of 'All Things Bright & Beautiful' fame; and Annie Maunder, an accomplished astronomer who along with her husband had the 'Maunder' moon crater named in



SION MILLS VILLAGE

Once known for being the home of one of the world's leading rich in industrial and architectural heritage. Discover more of Sion's wonderful history on a walking tour of the village or with a visit to the Sion Stables.

STEWART CASTLE, NEWTOWNSTEWART

1641 insurrection and then in 1689 during King James' return stronghold of Harry Avery O'Neill is also recommended.

Gortin is a small picturesque village nestling in the Owenkillew river valley. The village is an ideal starting point for exploring the surrounding hills and glens by bike or on foot, as well as offering welcoming hostelries to unwind after a day's exercise.

6 MULLAGHCARN

The site on the summit of Mullaghcarn is a place of great religious importance and most probably an ancient burial site.





Sperrins



1 SPRINGHILL HOUSE

Springhill's welcoming charm reveals a family home with portraits, furniture and decorative arts, alongside its celebrated collection of 18th to 20th century costumes located in the old laundry. The walled garden and way-marked trails, with views of Slieve Gallion and the Sperrins, are great for exploring the grounds. Open all year round.

2 MANOR PARK is an attractive park, within the conservation village of Moneymore, including a circular 1km walk with beautiful woodland areas, wildlife ponds, parkland, play area and picnic area.



THE JUNGLE NI is Northern Ireland's leading outdoor adventure activity centre and offers an exciting choice of adrenaline-packed activities, exhilarating events, onsite glamping accommodation, an off-site residential centre and funky conference facilities.

4 REUBEN'S GLEN

A picnic area and wooded walk follows a small river, just over 1 mile /1.6km in distance. The sound of wildlife combined with the ripples of the stream, creates an oasis of tranquility in the midst of an intensive farming area.

- 5 INISCARN FOREST has a range of walks and is also the starting point for those wishing to climb the hillwalk on Slieve Gallion Mountain.
- **SLIEVE GALLION** is one of the mountain peaks of the East Sperrins (total ascent 528m), offering views of the surrounding region.



LOUGH FEA has a 4.15 km circular pathway offering panoramic scenery, making this the ideal place for walkers. Kids play area and picnic facilities are also available.







DAVAGH FOREST TRAILS

Davagh Forest is a picturesque forest which boasts 31km of walking, cycling and mountain bike trails. The mountain bike trails consist of the 3km green trail, the 7.5km blue trail and the 18km red trail and are of varied difficulty. Suitability ranges from family friendly to experienced bikers who can test themselves against heart-racing single-track, berms, rock drops and extreme slab features. Facilities include play park, changing facilities, bike hire, car parking, toilets and bike

BROUGHDERG is a rural area boasting many archaeological treasures indicating 7000 years of human habitation. Also offering magnificent views of the Sperrins.



10 BEAGHMORE STONE CIRCLES

A large, impressive series of Bronze Age ceremonial stone monuments excavated from the surrounding bog between 1945 and 1949 and in 1965. The main features include the six stone circles (built of fairly small stones) occurring in pairs, with 12 small cairns which held cremation burials and stone rows all



11 WELLBROOK BEETLING MILL

The last working water-powered linen beetling mill in Northern Ireland is a unique experience for all the family. Try some scutching, hackling and weaving and over the thundering cacophony of beetling engines, learn about the importance of the linen industry in 19th-century Ireland.

- 12 DRUM MANOR FOREST PARK is colourful in Spring and Autumn with a shrub, butterfly and Japanese garden, arboretum, ponds, mixed woodlands and way-marked trails. Facilities include a large play area, picnic provision and
- 13 KILLYMOON CASTLE, originally built in 1671, and renovated in 1803 by the famous architect John Nash, is now open to the public. Drop into the tea room called 'Tommy's Kitchen' for homemade delights and a tour of the castle. Seasonal opening hours apply.

Sperrins



- OMAGH is situated at the place where the Drumragh and Camown rivers meet to form the Strule River. Its strategic location was recognised by the O'Neills who built a castle here and it became a dedicated market town following the Plantation of Ulster in 1610. Despite a major accidental fire in 1742 which destroyed most of its buildings, it developed to become the County Town of Tyrone in 1768, taking over from Dungannon. This led to it becoming a major centre for the local administration of justice with a fine courthouse and associated gaol.
- 2 CAPPAGH OLD CHURCH & GRAVEYARD

 The main body of this church dates back to the 16th Century but this site may have been used as a church site since the early Christian period. A bell associated with this parish, known as the 'Cappagh Bell', is in the National Museum of Ireland, Dublin.

3 GORTIN GLEN FOREST PARK

A major recreational feature of the forest is the five-mile long drive, which offers some breathtaking views. A number of vista parks have been created where the motorist can pull in and enjoy the magnificent scenery. Also available is access to a number of walking trails.



4 GORTIN LAKES

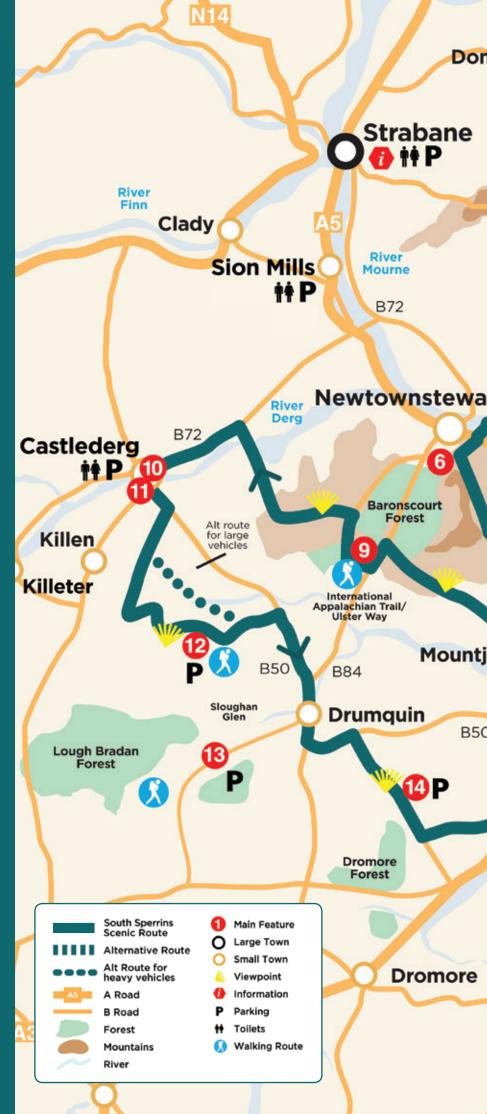
These two lakes are known in geological terms as 'kettle hole' lakes left by uneven melting of glaciers. A path encircling the lakes affords spectacular vistas of the high Sperrins.

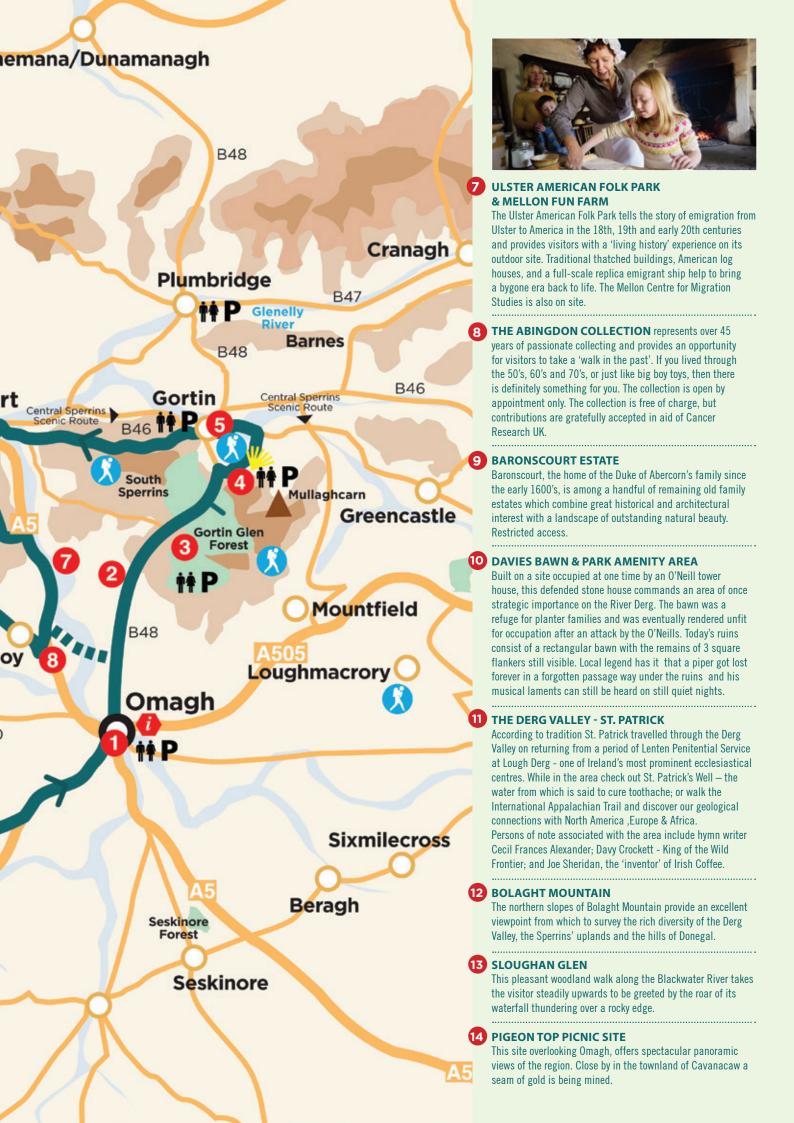
5 GORTIN VILLAGE

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6 HARRY AVERY O'NEILL CASTLE

The hills above Newtownstewart provide the setting for the majestic ruins of one of the Gaelic strongholds of the O'Neills. Although traditionally associated with Henry Aimbreidh O'Neill, who died in 1392, it is not certain whether this fortification dates from the 14th or 15th century. It is an unusual structure, especially important in relation to the study of native Irish Medieval life. A visit to the nearby ruins of the Stewart Castle in Newtownstewart is also recommended.







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