



Fastnet Trails

Toormore ↔ Goleen - 14km Linear

Map of the Toormore ↔ Goleen Linear Walk



This walk is mostly along quiet country roads but there are a few km (1-2 and 3-4) on grassy paths across fields and a stretch (4-5 & 11) along the R591. It is about 14km long. It is a moderate walk which takes about 3.5 hours depending on how long you linger over the views.

NOTE - this walk includes a stretch of about 1km on the R591, which is a busy secondary route, and requires caution, particularly if dogs and/or children are part of the walking group. There is a second short stretch on the R591 near Goleen which is also worthy of caution.

It is highly recommended that you wear a hi-viz vest for safety reasons and good footwear for comfort reasons.



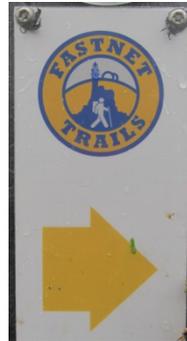
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Walk Guide

Toormore to Goleen

Read this Walk Guide in conjunction with the map above for best results. The route is marked with amber arrows which you need to look out for.



Starting at the trailhead map (1) follow the rough road up alongside the church. The road climbs a little, round some bends and very soon you see a small gate on the left leading to a path down and across the field.

Now follow the path and proceed up the valley watching out for flowers and wildlife along the way. After about one kilometre you emerge through a farm gate onto the public road (2) where you need to turn LEFT.

The road rises sharply but soon levels off and then descends steadily for about 500m to a cross roads (3) where you should turn RIGHT. The road is again rough and quite steep in places, passing a few houses but always keep going STRAIGHT ON until the road levels and descends to a small gate.

A gravel and grass path alongside the drainage ditch eventually swings left and continues down the edge of the field alongside a stream until it reaches another small gate. Here you turn RIGHT along a wide stone track between fields until you see a small gate ahead of you exiting onto the road (4).

On the road turn LEFT and after a few metres you meet a main road where you turn RIGHT. You need to follow this main road for just over one kilometre taking extreme care to watch out for traffic. As the road veers to the right you'll see a small stone built shed at a junction (5) on the LEFT and you need to take this turning.

Follow this quiet road west now for over one kilometre, ignoring side roads left and right until you reach the harbour(6) at Dunmanus beside a stone cottage. Continue and after a short distance you will see Dunmanus Castle on your left in its fine position overlooking the sheltered harbour.

About 500m further on the road meets the coastline and you have fine views over Dunmanus Bay. Follow the coast road now for about three kilometres, the road rising steadily all the way and you will see a small road going off to the right and almost immediately after a road (7) going back sharp LEFT.

Follow this side road uphill for 500m and as it levels off you'll see a recently refurbished building on a bend - this used to be the local store! The road now descends steadily with fine views of Knockaphuca on your left. Continue down the road for nearly one kilometre ignoring side roads until the road swings sharp right (8) opposite a large modern shed/workshop. Here you need to go STRAIGHT ON down a stony track which leads you through a muddy path to emerge on the main road.

Continue alongside the main road for a short distance and you'll see a side road opposite (9). Cross with care and walk down there for about 750m into Ballydevlin where you will find a cross roads (10) at which you bear RIGHT naturally. Fine views of the sea here. After about another kilometre you emerge onto the main road (11) again and turn LEFT, walking only about 200m downhill before turning LEFT again down a quiet side road with a few houses.

After a short distance you drop downhill past Heron's Cove restaurant and B&B, cross a stream and enter the village of Goleen (12).



looking across Dunmanus Bay to the Sheeps Head



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Starting at the trailhead (12) in Goleen you need to cross the road and head down towards the harbour. Very soon you will come to a small bridge over the stream and you go STRAIGHT ON up the hill past the Heron's Cove restaurant and B&B. The road winds for about 500m and you emerge onto the R591 and turn RIGHT uphill (11) for a few 100m. At the first opportunity turn right onto a quiet side road.

Follow this narrow road for about 1km and it will sweep sharply LEFT at a rural cross roads (10). Continue north and after about 700m you emerge onto the R591 again (9). Cross with care and turn LEFT (back towards Goleen) but almost immediately veer RIGHT onto a narrow path through trees, which soon emerges into a stony road and then a public road (8). You should be able to see a workshop building on your right and you continue keeping to the RIGHT.

Follow this road northwards, enjoying views of the rugged Knockaphuca on your right. Look out for a recently restored building on your left with STORE over the door. Soon after the road begins to descend and gives views over Dunmanus bay. The road steepens and swings sharply left to reach a junction (7) where you must turn RIGHT.

Now follow the coast road for about 3km as it descends gently from Dunkelly to Dunmanus castle with great views of the sea and the Sheeps Head peninsula. After the castle you'll soon see Dunmanus Pier (6) and then you continue east for just over

1km, ignoring side roads, until you reach the R591 again (5).

Turn right and follow the R591 with care for just over 1km looking out for a side road (4) to the LEFT soon after passing a restored schoolhouse on your right. Take this LEFT turn and look for a small gate on the RIGHT after about 50m. This brings you onto a wide stoney road between fields which heads due south for about 500m. Now look for another small gate alongside the stream on the LEFT and follow the path up along the side of the field until eventually you emerge through a third small gate onto a track.

The track climbs briefly past a house entrance and then levels off and very soon descends steeply to a cross roads (3). Now turn LEFT and follow the public road steadily uphill for about 500m when it levels off and descends again briefly. As it levels off at the bottom you are crossing a small valley and you'll see a field gate (2) to the right with signposts to Toormore. Follow the path down the valley and this will bring you to Altar Church and the Toormore Trailhead(1).

If you plan to continue to Schull (or Lowertown) you could continue straight on at (2) to avoid backtracking.



Dunmanus Castle and bridge

Dunmanus Castle

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