

# East Clare Walking Festival

October 4th - 6th 2013



Come for the Walks,  
Stay for the Craic

## Cost of Walks

Category A and B:	€12 per walk
Category C:	€8 per walk
Children:	(Category "C" Walks only)
Holy Island Boat & Guided Walk:	€20
Sunday Afternoon Family Walk:	€5 (Children Free)
<i>(Cost of A,B,C and Holy Island Walks include bus/boat transfers and refreshments on return to base).</i>	

## Some Points to Remember

- Please refer to our website [www.eastclarewalkingfestival.com](http://www.eastclarewalkingfestival.com) for updates and any changes which may be deemed necessary.
- Experienced guides will accompany all walks. The decision and authority of the leaders is final and at all times must be adhered to by participants
- Walk Leaders maintain the right to refuse participation due to unsuitable clothing, footwear or insufficient experience
- Those participating in the Walking Festival do so at their own risk
- The organisers maintain the right to change routes where deemed necessary
- All minors must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at all times
- Strictly no dogs allowed
- Please respect the beautiful countryside of East Clare - Leave no Trace

## Entertainment

A hearty welcome awaits you in East Clare! Nightly entertainment will be provided including the very best of East Clare traditional music. A courtesy bus will also be available nightly to bring visitors to/from their accommodation to Mountshannon Hotel and Cois Na hAbhna Pub in Mountshannon.



*"The sun began to slip through the misty clouds at last, showing us distant hills and glints of loughs. This East Clare walk could have gone on forever and we'd never have tired of it."*

Christopher Somerville, Irish Independent Weekend,  
11th June 2011

## Faillte Ireland Approved Accommodation

East Clare can provide you with a range of excellent accommodation options:

### Hotels/B&Bs/Guesthouses

#### Mountshannon Hotel, Mountshannon, Co. Clare

[www.mountshannon-hotel.ie](http://www.mountshannon-hotel.ie). Tel 061-927162

email: [info@mountshannon-hotel.ie](mailto:info@mountshannon-hotel.ie)

#### Sunrise B&B, Mountshannon, Co. Clare

[www.sunrisebandb.com](http://www.sunrisebandb.com). Tel 061-927343

email: [sunrise4bnb@eircom.net](mailto:sunrise4bnb@eircom.net)

#### Hawthorn Lodge B&B, Mountshannon, Co. Clare

[www.mountshannon-clare.com](http://www.mountshannon-clare.com). Tel 061-927120

email: [usfour@eircom.net](mailto:usfour@eircom.net)

#### Clareville House B&B, Tuamgraney, Scarriff, Co. Clare

[www.clarevillehouse.net](http://www.clarevillehouse.net). Tel 061-922925

email: [info@clarevillehouse.net](mailto:info@clarevillehouse.net)

#### Hillview House B&B, Maghera, Tulla, Co. Clare

[www.hillviewbandb.com](http://www.hillviewbandb.com). Tel 065-6831927

email: [hillviewhousebandb@eircom.net](mailto:hillviewhousebandb@eircom.net)

#### Glocca Morra B&B, Ogonneloe, Co. Clare

[www.gloccamorra.com](http://www.gloccamorra.com) Tel: 061-923172

email: [gloccamorra@gloccamorra.com](mailto:gloccamorra@gloccamorra.com)

### Self-Catering and Caravan & Camping

#### Lakeside Caravan & Camping, Mountshannon, Co. Clare

[www.lakesideireland.com](http://www.lakesideireland.com). Tel 061-927225

email: [camping@eircom.net](mailto:camping@eircom.net)

#### East Clare Golf Holiday Village, Bodyke, Co. Clare

[www.clareresorts.com](http://www.clareresorts.com), Tel 061-640694

email: [info@ecghv.com](mailto:info@ecghv.com)



Eagles at Mountshannon  
Photo by: Valerie O'Sullivan, Golden Eagle Trust

### More information

For more information on the wealth of attractions and activities available in East Clare visit

[www.visitclare.net](http://www.visitclare.net)

[www.clare.ie](http://www.clare.ie)

[www.discoverireland.ie/clare](http://www.discoverireland.ie/clare)

[www.shannonregiontrails.ie](http://www.shannonregiontrails.ie)



- Graded Walks with Guides
- Holy Island Boat Trip & Guided Walk
- Sunday Afternoon Family Walk-- Whitegate/Williamstown Loop
- Groups, Clubs, TY Students and individual walkers, all welcome.
- Superb accommodation packages
- Lively pubs and restaurants

**For more information:**

**C/O Clareville House, Tuamgraney, Scariff, Co. Clare**  
**Web: www.eastclarewalkingfestival.com**  
**Email: eastclarewalkingfestival@gmail.com**  
**Tel: +353 (0)87 6867548**

**Friday October 4th**  
**9pm – Welcome Reception at Mountshannon Hotel, Mountshannon, Co. Clare.**

*The Welcome Evening affords you the opportunity to meet members of the East Clare Walking Club who will be your guides for the weekend. You will be able to view the walking routes, mingle with your fellow walkers and chat about your chosen walks. A warm welcome awaits you with guest speakers, music and craic.*

**Saturday October 5th**

**“A” Walk Slieve Bearnagh Ridge 16km**

**Distance: 16km Duration: 6hrs**  
**Register: 9am Bus departs: 9.30am**

One of the star walks of this area of South East Clare. The walk starts at the shore of Lough Derg and height is rapidly gained following the East Clare Way, before branching off to gain the summit of Moylussa (532m) the highest point in County Clare. Westward over rough terrain with no paths, the ridge walk offers panoramic views over Lough Derg, The Shannon Estuary and well beyond before descending to rejoin the East Clare Way to the finish near Broadford.

**“B” Walk Turkenagh to Mountshannon**

**Distance: 12km Duration: 4.5hrs**  
**Register: 10am Bus departs: 10.30am**

Starting near Turkenagh Bridge and following East Clare Way through open moorland of the Slieve Aughtys, we turn off over rough bogland to a viewing point (378m) overlooking Bohatch with fine views along Lough Derg. Descending to rejoin the East Clare Way, the route gradually descends to Mountshannon using forestry tracks, woodland paths and quiet country lanes.

**“C” Walk Bohatch Dolmen - Mountshannon**

**Distance: 8km Duration: 2.5hrs**  
**Register: 12:00pm Bus departs: 12.30pm**

Starting in Bohatch, with wide views of Lough Derg and taking in the dolmen, this gentle walk follows various parts of the East Clare Way and descends to Mountshannon by woodland paths, tracks and quiet country lanes.

**“D” Walk Woodpark / Holy Island**

**Distance: 5km Duration: 2.5hrs**  
**Register: 13:00pm**

A 2km walk from Mountshannon through the Woodpark nature area to the jetty at Knockaphort. A short boat ride brings you across to Holy Island for a guided tour with local historian of this famous ecclesiastical site. Return from Knockaphort jetty via the Woodpark riverside trail.

**Sunday October 6th**

**“A” Walk Sheane to Mountshannon**

**Distance: 17km Duration: 5.5hrs**  
**Register: 9am Bus departs: 9.30am**

An ascent of the southern slopes of the Slieve Aughty mountains, leaving the East Clare Way initially on forestry tracks, the walk takes in rough untracked ground and bogland to rejoin the East Clare Way at Turkenagh Bridge. Time and conditions permitting a detour will be taken to the highest point of the area (378m) with extensive panoramic views before rejoining the East Clare Way and descending to Mountshannon by paths, tracks and quiet lanes.

**“B” Walk Coose to Mountshannon**

**Distance: 12km Duration: 4.5hrs**  
**Register: 10am Bus departs: 10.30am**

A steady ascent up the eastern slopes of the Slieve Aughtys, following the East Clare Way, footpaths and forestry tracks to open moorland with panoramic views of Lough Derg and surrounding areas. Returning to Mountshannon through woodland paths and quiet country lanes using stretches of the East Clare Way.

**“C” Walk Whitegate to Williamstown Loop Walk**

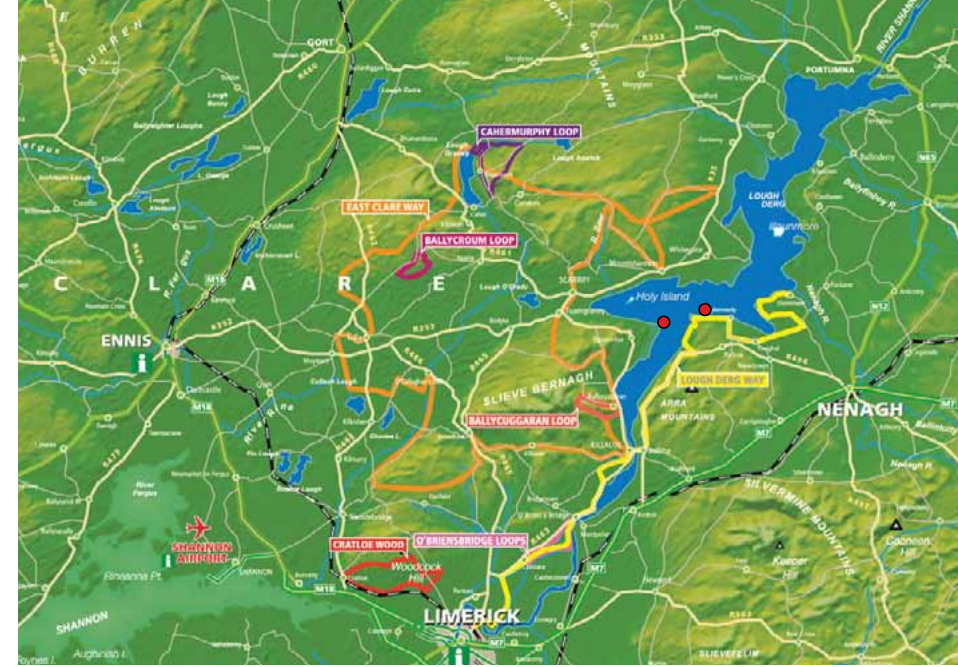
**Distance: 8km Duration: 2hrs**  
**Register: 13:00pm at Half Barrel**

Commencing at the Half Barrel Pub in Whitegate, this pleasant loop walk heads down the village and turns left towards Williamstown Harbour passing Glebe House and Newtown Lane Cross on your way. This was the location of a whole village before the Famine of the 1840s. A little farther on, you will see a large old Lime Kiln, which is situated at the turning for Dromaán House. The walk proceeds on towards the beautiful and historic Dromaán and Williamstown Harbours with great close up views of Lough Derg with the Tipperary Hills (Keeper Hill & Devil's Bit) in the distance. You will notice the remains of the historical Williamstown House on your left and shortly afterwards will pass what was once the home of the renowned boat builder Jackie Tuohy. Next up is the recently restored Williamstown Quay with its superb view of Island Mor and on then past the ancient burial ground know as Cappagh Kyle. Turning left at Ash Tree Cross, the walk proceeds back to Whitegate Village, passing the Old Forge and the National School (1909) on the way.

**“D” Walk Woodpark / Holy Island**

**Distance: 5km Duration: 2.5hrs**  
**Register: 13:00pm**

A 2km walk from Mountshannon through the Woodpark nature area to the jetty at Knockaphort. A short boat ride brings you across to Holy Island for a guided tour with local historian of this famous ecclesiastical site. Return from Knockaphort jetty via the Woodpark riverside trail.



**Boat Trip & Guided Walk on Holy Island**

**Saturday/Sunday – Weather Permitting**  
**Register: 13:00pm each day. Duration: 2/2.5 Hrs**

Holy Island or Inis Cealtra (Approx. 20 Hectares in size) is situated at the mouth of Scariff Bay on Lough Derg, which is the largest lake on the River Shannon. It is one of the most famous monastic sites in Ireland and it's secluded position has enabled it to survive in a wonderful state of preservation. It's many attractions include a well preserved Round Tower, the ruins of six Churches and a Cell Like Structure which is one of the most extraordinary buildings in Ireland. There are Ancient Graveyards, High Crosses, Bullaun Stones, a Bargaining Stone and a Holy Well. We depart from the beautiful Mountshannon Harbour on a 15/20 minute boat trip to the island and this is followed by an hour long Guided Walk in the company of our experienced local historian. Then it's the return voyage on the boat to our base in Mountshannon.

**Registration for Walks**

**Mountshannon Hotel, Mountshannon.**  
**Registration for the Whitegate/Williamstown Loop Walk ONLY on Sunday afternoon will take place in the Half Barrel Pub & Restaurant, Whitegate.**  
**Please book early for all walks especially the Holy Island Guided Walk as spaces are very limited.**

**Guidelines for Walks**

Please choose a walk appropriate to your experience and ability:

- “A” Walks – Very Experienced Walker
- “B” Walks – Experienced Walker
- “C” Walks – Casual Walker
- “D” Walks – Casual Walkers

**Clothing and Equipment**

“A” and “B” Walks are on open high rough country. Waterproof jacket, overtrousers, hat and gloves, sturdy walking boots are required. No runners or jeans. You should also bring a packed lunch, drinks, snacks, whistle and spare clothes. “C” & “D” Walks are on a mix of forest tracks, pathways, country lanes and minor roads. Appropriate clothing and footwear are essential. Accompanied children are welcome but these walks are not suitable for buggies. See OSI Discovery Maps 52 and 58 for more information on the topography of the area.

