

Mulroy Drive... The Story

The Wild Atlantic Way, the longest defined coastal touring route in the world, stretches 2500km from Inishowen in Co Donegal to Kinsale in west Cork leading you through some of the world's most dramatic scenery. This 35km touring route, **The Mulroy Drive**, in north Donegal, connects you to Fanad Head Lighthouse, stunning Ballymastrocker Bay and Rosguill Peninsula, all of which are located on the Wild Atlantic Way. You can choose to do this as a day trip where you will have a host of restaurants, bars & shops to explore, or meander at your ease.

Mulroy Dive circles Mulroy Bay, an area steeped in history and boasting some of the most stunning scenery in Ireland. Start your journey at Milford and meander northward to the pretty little village of Kerrykeel (Carrowkeel) nestled at the foot of the Knockalla Mountain and overlooked by Ranny Hill. Kerrykeel's most famous son was the late John Kerr, an Irish ballad singer who recorded the song 'Mulroy Bay'.

Continuing northwards to Rosnakill and Tamney you can't help but marvel at the stunning beauty of Mulroy Bay and its many islands. It is generally accepted that the first permanent settlement of the MacSuibhne Clan (Scotland) in Ireland was in this area of the Fanad Peninsula when in 1532 Turlough MacSuibhne built a castle (known as a 'spook') called 'Carraig na File', on the west coast of Fanad. When you reach Mass Mount Chapel in Tamney be sure to visit the graveyard which dates back to 1797. In 1843 the original church here was extended, re-roofed and a bell tower erected. The wood for the roof was brought by raft from Araheera across Mulroy Bay and those same beams are still part of the roof today over 170 years on.

The next section of Mulroy Drive takes you along the Wild Atlantic Way and to the Island Roy View Discovery Point at the Harry Blaney Bridge, a landmark in its own right. Stop off here and be blown away by the stunning views of Mulroy Bay to the east and the Rosguill Peninsula to the northwest.

Back on The Mulroy Drive you must visit The Olde Forge in the village of Cranford. The Forge dates back to 1920 and the old bellows here are one of only a handful in Ireland. Nearby the Woodquarter Walking Trail hugs the western shore of Mulroy Bay, over undulating ground that rises steeply at the furthest section affording you once more wonderful panoramic views of Mulroy Bay. This is a lovely spot for a relaxing shoreline picnic while you watch the activity around the thriving aquaculture on the Bay's mussel, oyster, scallop and salmon farms.

From here you return to Milford and you've literally come the full circle of Mulroy Bay and completed the Mulroy Bay Drive.

Milford (Baile na nGalloglach)



MULROY BAY

Steeped in history, records show that Milford was founded in the 18th century by the Clementine family. The Irish 'Baile na nGalloglach' means the 'town of the galloglach'. The Galloglaigh were an elite class of mercenary warrior who came to Ireland from Gaelic-Norse clans in Scotland between the 13th century and the late 16th century.

By 1900 Milford fairs were reported as being the best cattle and horse markets in Co Donegal. The horse market was usually held at the top of Main Street in an area known as Market Square. Today Milford is a hub for visitors to the Fanad Peninsula with ample opportunity to sample local food and excellent accommodation while exploring Fanad Head Lighthouse, a Signature Discovery Point on the Wild Atlantic Way, and just 30 minutes' drive from the town. To make the most of this rural idyll, take a walk along The Columbkille Trail on the banks of nearby Loch Colmcille. This remote and tranquil Trail passes through spectacular unspoilt landscape which is rich in history and wildlife.

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EXPLORE THE MULROY DRIVE



MULROY BAY IMAGE COURTESY OF PROINSIAS CARR

Viewing Points

- 1 Kindrum
- 2 Tamney
- 3 Carlan South
- 4 Kerrykeel (Carrowkeel) Pier

- 5 Kerrykeel (Carrowkeel) Lower
- 6 Kerrykeel (Carrowkeel) Upper
- 7 Milford
- 8 Woodquarter
- 9 Cranford
- 10 Devrinleagh

Things to See & Do

See map for location of each attraction

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|---|---|--|---|
| 01 Bunlin Mass Rock <i>Bunlin</i> | 17 Glebe House and Gallery <i>Churchill</i> | 33 Donegal Cycle Route | 48 Letterkenny Golf Club <i>Letterkenny</i> |
| 02 Kerrykeel Country Market <i>Kerrykeel (Carrowkeel)</i> | 18 St. Colmcille Heritage Centre <i>Churchill</i> | 34 Eco Adventures <i>Woodquarter</i> | 49 Arena 7 <i>Letterkenny</i> |
| 03 The Olde Forge Museum <i>Cranford</i> | 19 The Work House <i>Dunfanaghy</i> | 35 Sli na Slainte <i>Milford</i> | 50 Aura Leisure Centre <i>Letterkenny</i> |
| 04 Glenalla House Garden <i>Ray, Milford</i> | 20 The Gallery <i>Dunfanaghy</i> | 36 Rosguill Charters <i>Downings (Downies)</i> | 51 Donegal Heritage Trails <i>Rathmullan</i> |
| 05 Greenfort Garden <i>Kerrykeel (Carrowkeel)</i> | 21 New Mills Flax and Corn Mill <i>Newmills</i> | 37 Mevagh Dive Centre <i>Carrigart</i> | 52 Gartan Outdoor Education Centre <i>Churchill</i> |
| 06 Fanad Lighthouse <i>Fanad Head</i> | 22 Grianan Ailigh <i>Burt</i> | 38 Summer Rose Charters <i>Downings (Downies)</i> | 53 Inch Levels Wild Life Reserve <i>Inch Levels</i> |
| 07 Teach John Mhicí Bán <i>Carrigart</i> | 23 Carrablagh House Garden <i>Portsalon</i> | 39 Carrigart Horse Riding Centre <i>Carrigart</i> | 54 Jaws Watersports <i>Dunfanaghy</i> |
| 08 McNutts Woollen Mills <i>Downings (Downies)</i> | 24 Rathmullan House Garden <i>Rathmullan</i> | 40 Dunfanaghy Stables <i>Dunfanaghy</i> | 55 Narosa Life (Surf) <i>Dunfanaghy</i> |
| 09 Glen Valley Adventure Centre <i>Glen</i> | 25 St. Colmba's Glebe Gallery <i>Churchill</i> | 41 Adventure One <i>Ballyhiernan</i> | 56 Seas the Bay (Boat Charter) <i>Dunfanaghy</i> |
| 10 Doe Castle <i>Creeslough</i> | 26 Fort Dunree Museum <i>Dunree</i> | 42 Dunfanaghy Golf Club <i>Dunfanaghy</i> | 57 Sea Fishing Donegal <i>Portsalon</i> |
| 11 County Museum <i>Letterkenny</i> | 27 Wood Quarter Forest Trail <i>Milford</i> | 43 Rathmullan Sailing and Watersports School <i>Rathmullan</i> | 58 Tullagh Bay Equestrian Centre <i>Clonmany</i> |
| 12 An Grianan Theatre <i>Letterkenny</i> | 28 The Meadows Trout Fishery <i>Tawny</i> | 44 Portsalon Golf Club <i>Portsalon</i> | 59 Glenevin Waterfall <i>Clonmany</i> |
| 13 Regional Cultural Centre <i>Letterkenny</i> | 29 Ashtree Stables <i>Cranford</i> | 45 Rosapenna Golf Club <i>Downings (Downies)</i> | 60 Oakfield Park <i>Raphoe</i> |
| 14 Tropical World <i>Letterkenny</i> | 30 Mulroy Clay Pigeon Club <i>Milford</i> | 46 Ards Forest Park <i>Creeslough</i> | 61 Rathmullan Angling Charters <i>Rathmullen</i> |
| 15 Lurgybrack Open Farm <i>Letterkenny</i> | 31 Lough Fern Fishery <i>Milford</i> | 47 Century Complex <i>Letterkenny</i> | 62 Donegal Boardwalk <i>Carrigart</i> |
| 16 Glenveagh National Park and Castle <i>Churchill</i> | 32 Colmcille Walk <i>Milford</i> | | |

Did you know...
To enjoy its spectacular 360° views you will have to climb 76 steps to the top of Fanad Lighthouse, voted the 2nd most beautiful lighthouse in the world.

Did you know...
Until the late 20th century Mulroy Bay locals usually travelled by water. Currachs were used for everyday journeys while larger ferries also crossed Mulroy Bay each day. There was also a weekly steamer to Glasgow in Scotland.

Letterkenny (Leitir Ceanainn)



THE POLESTAR, LETTERKENNY

Letterkenny, was a small fishing village in the 17th Century, and is now Co Donegal's largest town with a population of more than 19,000, offering an extensive range of accommodation from hotels and B&B's to self-catering. This vibrant town offers an excellent choice of award-winning restaurants, cafés and pubs with entertainment nightly.

Letterkenny is known for the Gothic-style St. Eunan's Cathedral, with its towering spire clearly visible from all over town. The Main Street is said to be the longest in Ireland. An Grianán Theatre and The Regional Cultural Centre have a year-round programme of events for all tastes. Letterkenny also offers a wide range of indoor and outdoor activities for all the family. Donegal County Museum has displays on local history in a 19th-century workhouse building and southwest of town, while the Newmills Corn and Flax Mills have a huge working waterwheel powered by the River Swilly.

Just 20 minutes away, the famous Glenveagh National Park and Castle, with its 16,000 hectares of wilderness, is just waiting to be discovered on foot or bike (can be hired on site). Step back in time with a guided tour of the fully furnished Castle built in 1870 or take a stroll around Glenveagh's extensive gardens which are a real treat for garden lovers.

Family Friendly Playgrounds...

All family friendly playgrounds are **FREE** to use



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|-----------|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| Buncrana | Rathmullan | Town Park, Letterkenny |
| Milford | Tamney | Aura Letterkenny Leisure Centre |
| Carrigart | Ards Forest Park | Ballymacool Town Park, Letterkenny |
| Churchill | Ballyliffin | |
| Cranford | St. Johnston | |
| Ramelton | Bernard McGlinchey | |



FANAD LIGHTHOUSE

