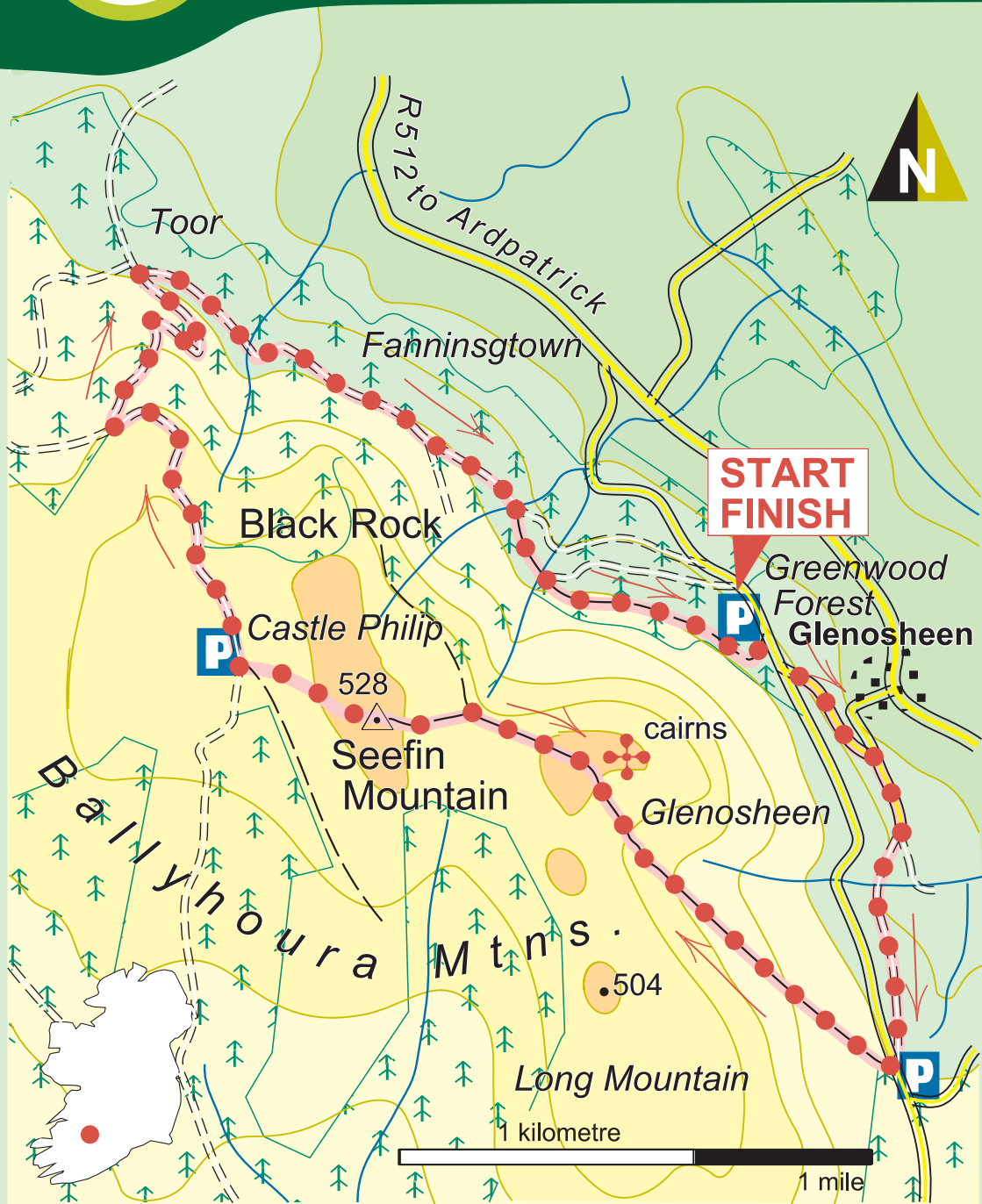




Trailhead 19

Ballyhoura Country Walks

Blackrock Loop



TRAILHEAD SERVICES
DIST / TIME
DIFFICULTY
TERRAIN
MIN. GEAR
GPRS

Greenwood Forest, Ardpatrick, Co Limerick
Kilfinane
11km / 2hr30min - 3hrs
Hard
Mix of minor roads, paths and forest tracks
Walking boots, raingear, liquids and mobile phone
8 30' 16"W (Greenwoods carpark Ardpatrick) 52 19' 4"N



Simply different

Ballyhoura Country

Blackrock Loop

The Ballyhoura area is already famous for its summertime walking festival, but the Seefin climb on part of the Ballyhoura Way is an equally beautiful walk, which will not take all of three days. A long-distance trek, the 90km walk along the Ballyhoura Way follows the historic route of the O'Sullivan-Bere clan as they fled north from Cork in 1602.

Part of the circuit includes Seefin Mountain, and takes in spectacular views across all six counties in the province of Munster. Taking you up mountainsides, along forestry tracks and criss-crossing roads, the landscape is peppered with fascinating archaeological sites, old abbeys, churches and castles.

Directions

Leave the Trailhead via the exit to main road and turn right uphill for 300m. Take the road to the left following purple arrows and pass by "The Goat's Path" overhead the hamlet village of Glenosheen. Veer right at junction and head uphill until you meet the reservoir on the right hand side. Turning right you travel upwards to tar road for 1km. Turn left here and travel for 50m before turning right into carpark and upwards towards the highest peak in the Ballyhoura Mountains. On your right is Seefin at 528m above sea level. Take time here to wander about the peak and enjoy all counties of Munster. Head back out onto route and turn right going downhill and you will reach the turn off for Glenanaar Bog to your left. Continue along this path and climb up shoulder of hill until you reach "The Black Ditch".

From here turn right along the ditch and path through rocky outcrops leading into car park. Views include Blackrock Cliff Edge to the North and a rocky outcrop known as "Castle Philip" an outlaw hideaway in the South horizon.

Leaving car park turn right facing out into the Golden Vale. Continue downhill past hairpins and cross mountain bike track coming from your left. Past lefthand hairpin look out for Coillte Barrier on your right. Turn right here and continue straight on for 1.5km. Take path to the right at handrail and continue to metal Bridge. After bridge turn to the right and follow path along beech covered ground. Look out for arrow to the right at left hairpin bend. Walk on down through winding path to old car park. From here you will see the sixteenth century Castle Oliver and Oliver's Folly. Ballyorgan Village is to the east. Take the left path going west for 50m and turn left. After 50m turn right and back to Trailhead to finish walk.

