



*Walks from*  
**CAHERNANE**  
HOUSE HOTEL

RESTORE & EXPLORE



## Ross Castle, Ross Island and the Copper Mines

Rough Island

Scale

1 kilometre

  
**CAHERNANE**  
 HOUSE HOTEL

## Ross Castle, Ross Island and the Copper Mines

Leaving Cahernane House Hotel, continue to the main road and turn left. Cross the Flesk bridge and turn left into the Maurice O'Donoghue Memorial Park. This path takes you along the Flesk river and past the stables of Killarney Race Course, coming out onto Ross Road. Cross the road and take the footpath to Ross Castle.

The castle gives a real insight into the life of an Irish chieftain in medieval times. Ross Castle (Caisleán an Rois – Castle on a Promontory) stands on the shores of Lough Leane (*Loch Léín*). It was built in the late 15th century by the local ruling clan, O'Donoghue Ross. A typical 'tower house', it was surrounded by a fortified wall defended by circular towers, of which only two remain. Ross was one of the last castles in Ireland to surrender to Oliver Cromwell's forces in 1652. The Cromwellians dragged gun-boats up the River Laune and surprised the occupants by attacking the castle from the lake. The castle is authentically restored and contains 16th- and 17th-century oak furniture. Open March–October, 9.30–17.45.

Visitors may experience delays in summer. It's best to check tour times on your arrival. If you don't have time or wish to take the tour of the castle, you may like to avail of the free admission to the exhibition in the reception area.

From Ross Castle, continue onto the Copper Mines, one of the earliest metal mines in north western Europe. Evidence found here shows mining activity from the Bronze age, 4,500 years ago. In the early 1800s the Ross Island Mining Company mined the area for lead and copper. Within a few years, the workforce grew to 500 until 1810 when the works were abandoned.

If you wish to prolong your walk, head north from Ross Castle toward Knockreer Estate, part of Killarney National Park. Paths lead in many directions including along the Fossa Way, into Killarney Golf & Fishing Club, and also into Killarney House & Gardens. Take some time to visit the house and gardens which host a permanent exhibition on Killarney National Park.

Distance: 11km

Estimated time: 2 hours

Terrain: Paved paths and forest trails

Suitable for: Anyone with a reasonable level of fitness

..... Ross Castle, Ross Island & the Copper Mines

----- Other walking paths



Inisfallen Island



Killarney town



Ross Castle

Ross Island

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Lough Leane

Rough Island

Cow Island

Castlough Bay

N71 to Kenmare



Muckross Abbey



Brickeen Bridge

Colleen Bawn Rock

Muckross House



Dinis Cottage

Muckross Lake

Old Weir Bridge



N71 to Kenmare

Torc Waterfall



The Long Range

Five Mile Bridge



Torc Mountain

Old Kenmare Road

# Muckross Dinis Loop Walk

Scale | 1 kilometre

## Muckross Dinis Loop Walk

Leaving Cahernane House Hotel, continue to the main road and turn right. Walk along the path as it veers right into the Yew Valley wood. Beyond this is your first stop, Muckross Abbey (look out for it on your left). Built in 1448, Muckross Abbey was founded as a Franciscan friary for the Observantine Franciscans by local chieftain Donal McCarthy Mór. It contains tombs of Gaelic chieftains, eerie chambers and gloomy staircases. It was here in 1588 that Florence McCarthy married his cousin Lady McCarthy in a secret midnight wedding. Several monks were murdered when the abbey was looted and burnt by Cromwellian soldiers in 1652. History, intrigue, scary bits – it's all here!

After visiting Muckross Abbey return to the Y junction and continue on your route to Dinis Cottage. From here the road passes in and out of lush, mossy woodland, punctuated by constantly changing views of the lakes and mountains. Keep right to stay on course. As you leave the wooded area you will get your first glimpse of Muckross House on your left. Don't be tempted to visit it at this point, we will be closer to it on the return journey.

Soon passing a pretty pink cottage and Arthur Vincent House, you enter the Natural Zone of the National Park - realm of native woods and deer. A little lake on the right marks a geological divide from limestone to sandstone; notice how vegetation and tree types change abruptly. After Brickeen Bridge you shortly arrive at Dinis Cottage. Time to stop for a snack. Immediately after leaving the cottage you cross a little bridge. On your right you will notice signs for The Meeting of The Waters where the 3 lakes meet and The Old Weir Bridge. It's worth taking the 5 minutes walk for the views and photo opportunities.

Continue on to the main Killarney-Kenmare (N71) road. Cross the road and take the hilly path until you see a small car park back on the other side of the road. Cross the road again and a short walk brings you to Torc Waterfall. After viewing the waterfall, cross the main road again, through the jarvey parking area and into the National Park. The next stop is Muckross House, Gardens and Traditional Farms.

Muckross House, a Victorian mansion built by Henry Arthur Herbert in 1843. Following turbulent times the house, gardens and lands were gifted to the Irish nation by the then owner Arthur Vincent in 1932.

Leave Muckross House by the tree lined avenue in front of the house and you will find yourself back at the junction where you turned for Dinis Cottage. Keep right, following directions for Muckross Abbey and Killarney town.

Distance: 18km

Estimated time: 4-5 hours

Terrain: Paved paths

Suitable for: Anyone with a reasonable level of fitness

..... Muckross Dinis Loop Walk

----- Other walking paths

Cahernane House Hotel is a unique experience of old Irish history mixed with modern luxuries. Beautifully situated on its own private estate on the edge of Killarney National Park, and only a twenty minute walk to Killarney town centre.

Cahernane House Hotel exudes a sense of relaxation and peacefulness where guests can retreat from the hectic pace of life into a cocoon of calmness and serenity.





## HERBERT RESTAURANT

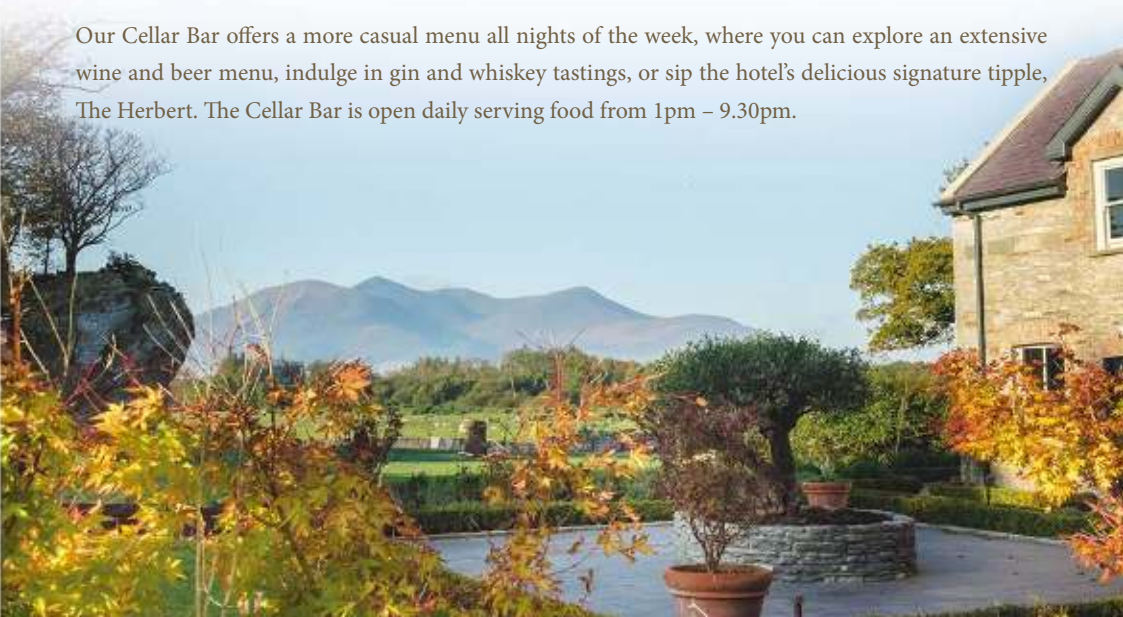
*Stylish Dining*

Our Herbert Restaurant epitomizes the style and grandeur of the original house and commands beautiful views over the surrounding landscape including stunning views over the Tomies and Purple Mountains. The perfect surroundings and ambience to match an exquisite dining experience. A fine dining menu is served in our Herbert Restaurant; think Ring of Kerry spring lamb, local beef from Killorglin, and freshly picked strawberries from Farranfore.

## CELLAR BAR

*A place to relax*

Our Cellar Bar offers a more casual menu all nights of the week, where you can explore an extensive wine and beer menu, indulge in gin and whiskey tastings, or sip the hotel's delicious signature tippie, The Herbert. The Cellar Bar is open daily serving food from 1pm – 9.30pm.





# CAHERNANE

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