

DISCOVER YOUR GEOPARK

Blacklion & Surrounding Area



**CUILCAGH
LAKELANDS
GEOPARK**

www.cuilcaghlakelands.org



1 Cavan Burren Park

Cavan Burren Park is a unique landscape of geological and archaeological features in an open natural setting - a truly prehistoric park. Whether it's Cavan Burren's wide open landscapes, fascinating Interpretative Centre, the perfectly preserved glacial erratics, spectacular megaliths, bog-bridge walking trails or limestone pavement, a visit to Cavan Burren Park is an opportunity to experience a vast yet accessible world of natural and built heritage.

Take time to experience the Interpretative Centre and four walking trails including one multi-accessible trail all which guide the visitor through some of Cavan Burren Park's most intriguing archaeological and geological features.



2 Cornagee Viewpoint

Cornagee translates literally from Irish as 'rounded windy hill' and on many days of the year you can see why! Due to the elevated location of Cornagee Viewpoint, it offers fantastic views over the surrounding landscape. From here, straight in front of you is Upper Lough MacNea and to your left you will see Lurganacally Mountain.

The characteristic u-shaped valley of Glenfarne can be clearly seen from Cornagee Viewpoint. This valley would have been originally formed by a river, but during the last glaciation, huge ice sheets would have taken advantage of this route and scoured out the huge u-shaped valley that we see today. In clear weather, the mountains of south Donegal may be seen to the north-west and Truskmore, guarding over Sligo town to the west.



3 Moneygashel Cashel

Moneygashel Cashel, located not far from Blacklion, includes the remains of three stone Cashels, one of which has been described as 'the finest of its kind in southern Ulster'. The Cashel dates from the early Christian period. A Cashel is a secure circular enclosure which accommodated houses and animal shelters. This area also boasts evidence of much earlier settlement and ritual with the nearby court tomb and standing stones. Moneygashel Cashel is part of the Gowlan Looped walks.



4 Shannon Pot

Why not pay a visit to the Shannon Pot – the traditional source of the longest river in Ireland and the UK measuring over 360km in length. The Shannon Pot is a large spring about 16m in diameter with a depth of over 9m. This mystical spring with its associated folklore flows throughout the year and is fed by streams that disappear into the limestone rock.



5 Marble Arch Caves

Discover magical moments in one of Europe's finest show caves. The Marble Arch Caves pay homage to the fascinating secrets of a world of subterranean rivers, winding passages, lofty chambers and an array of delicate cave formations.

Enthusiastic guides conduct tours along carefully constructed paths enabling you to comfortably traverse through awe-inspiring passages whilst the discrete lighting displays the cave features and delicate cave formations to their best.

The tour takes approximately 75 minutes and passes through approximately 1mile/1.5km of cave passage with energetic sections of steps and stairways.

The Marble Arch Caves is open year round. For information on opening hours, today's tour, planning your visit or to make an online booking visit www.marblearchcaves.co.uk. The Customer Service Team is available daily from 9.00 am by telephoning +44 (0)28 66321815 or email mac@fermanaghmagh.com.



6 Florence Court House

Florence Court is romantically named after the wife of Sir John Cole who first built a house on the spectacular site in the early 18th Century. The present Palladian style house was probably built by his son John, afterwards the 1st Lord Mount Florence.

The wings and Pavillion were added to the mid-18th Century block around 1770 by William Cole, 1st Earl of Enniskillen and may have been designed by Davis Ducart. Disaster struck Florence Court in 1955 when the main building was virtually gutted by fire.



The rest of the house and the striking plasterwork after the manner of Robert West has been meticulously restored by the National Trust. Family pictures and historic items owned by the 6th Earl of Enniskillen have been returned to Florence Court in accordance with his wishes, and are on display in the house.

Florence Court is well known to gardeners as the home of the Irish Yew, *Taxus baccata* 'Fastigiata', which is now a feature of gardens throughout the world. The original tree, discovered in about 1760, can still be seen on the fringe of Cottage Wood to the south-east of the house.



7 Cuilcagh Mountain Park

Cuilcagh Mountain Park takes in 2,500 hectares on the northern slopes of Cuilcagh Mountain. In the heart of the Global Geopark, Cuilcagh Mountain with its distinctive tabletop profile forms a natural focal point of an area rich in geology, archaeology, folklore, history and wildlife. At 665 metres, the mountain summit is the highest point in both Fermanagh and Cavan.

As you steadily climb the Cuilcagh Boardwalk Trail, you meander and weave your way through a rugged boulder landscape to eventually reach the viewing platform. The viewing platform positioned precariously at the edge of the mountain plateau offers breath taking views over the surrounding landscape and an opportunity to take a well-deserved rest before starting your decent.



To get here, search '**Cuilcagh Boardwalk Trail**'

8 Cathal Búí Trail, Blacklion

The Cathal Búí Trail is a 1km easy, circular route which takes approximately 30 minutes to complete. The trail is named after Cathal Búí MacGiolla Ghunna (Gaelic Poet circa 1680 – 1756) who came from the West Bréifne area. He composed many poems or songs, most of which were love songs that are still sung in Gaeltacht areas today. His best-known poem (song) is 'An Bonnán Búí' – (The Yellow Bittern). It laments the death of a bird that could not get a drink because Lough MacNean was frozen over.



9 Cottage Lawn, Belcoo

The Cottage Lawn is an amenity area in the village of Belcoo on the shores of Lough MacNeán and alongside the Belcoo River. It is home to some exceptional mature trees and offers fine views across to the Hanging Rock and Cuilcagh Mountain. With a playground located at the site, it is an ideal area to bring children to play.



10 Lough MacNeán Amenity Area

Lough MacNeán is a large freshwater lake divided into two parts. Lower Lough MacNeán, the smaller eastern lake, located in County Fermanagh whilst Upper Lough MacNeán, the larger western lake, is split between County Fermanagh, County Cavan and County Leitrim. On the strip of land between the two lakes are the villages of Belcoo and Blacklion, in the heart of the Geopark. Today the site boasts a wonderful playground, an adult gym facility as well as a floating jetty.



11 Killinagh Church

Killinagh Church is located just outside the village of Blacklion in the townland of Termon (Tearmann). 'Tearmann' land was church land affording sanctuary in early Christian and mediaeval Ireland. The remaining church walls show features dating from the 12th to the 16th Century but it is generally agreed that this monastic site dates to the 6th Century. Earlier still it had been a pre-Christian site with associations to the pagan god, Crom Cruach. The remnants of pre-history surround the site with probable Bronze Age burial mounds and even earlier megalithic structures.



The MacGauran (Mag Shamhráin) clan were chieftains of this area in late mediaeval times. Many of the Killinagh clergy were MacGaurans and are buried in the adjacent cemetery.



12 Whitefathers Cave

This cave located just outside Blacklion is a good example of the hundreds of kilometres of cave systems which lie beneath Cavan and Fermanagh. This cave and its environs gives visitors an excellent insight into cave formations. The surrounding woodland dominated by ash makes this site a magical stop off for visitors to the Geopark.

Please view cave entrance from safety of the path – do not enter cave.



13 Market House Tourist Information Centre

The Market House was built in the early 1800's and is located in the centre of Blacklion village, at the heart of the Geopark. Today the Market House is used as a Tourist and Information Centre, with a gift shop offering local souvenirs to purchase.

A warm welcome will greet you here, with friendly and informative Geopark Ambassadors on hand to help with all information in relation to local attractions, activities and events in the area. For information on opening hours, please contact the Centre directly by telephoning +353 (0)71 9853941 or email markethouse2@gmail.com.



14 Lough MacNea Viewpoint

Upper Lough MacNea is split between counties Fermanagh, Cavan and Leitrim. From this viewpoint you can see across to Thur Mountain, which lies north of Glenfarne village. Thur Mountain contains areas of significant upland bog, heath and grassland as well as a wealth of archaeological monuments.

Port Island is located on Upper Lough MacNea. Known as Inis Oichta, this island was referenced in the Annals of the Four Masters (2,242 AM – 1616 AD) where in 1499 Melaghlin MacRaghnaill was taken prisoner by Con Carragh O'Rourke and subsequently freed by Rory Maguire. There are also the remains of a possible tower house on this island.



15 Dowra Courthouse

Dowra Courthouse was originally built in 1932 and is a significant architectural structure in the village. Following a restoration project, the Courthouse is a key building in Dowra and a focal point for the village. The Courthouse was transformed and now offers a workspace for the Arts as well as a tourist information point, with information about the Geopark on display.





PETTIGO

Drummoney Falls

EDERNEY

KESH

Tullychurry Forest

Boa Island
Janus Figure

Castle Caldwell Forest

Castle Ardara Forest

LISNARICK
IRVINESTOWN

Magho Cliffs Viewpoint

Tully Castle

Lough Navar Forest

Correl Glen

Conagher Forest

Big Dog Forest

Carrigan Forest

Ballintempo Forest

Aghnaglack Court Tomb

Pollnagollum Cave

Belmore Forest

MONEA

Ely Lodge Forest

Inishmacsaint

BALLINAMALLARD

Devenish Island

ENNISKILLEN

Enniskillen Castle Museums

LISBELLAW

TEMPO

BROOKEBOROUGH

MAGUIRESBRIDGE

Bellanalect Quarry

BELLANALECT

LISNASKEA

FLORENCECOURT

KINAWLEY

Drumod Sulphur Spa

SWANLINBAR

Brackley Lough

BAWNBOY

BALLYCONNELL

Ballyconnell Canal

St. Mogue's Island

BALLINAMORE

MILLTOWN

Drumlane Abbey

BUTLERSBRIDGE

Turbet Island

Annagh Lough

KILLESHANDRA

Killeshandra Town Lake

Killykean Forest Park

Lough Oughter Loughshore

CAVAN



ENNISKILLEN

Enniskillen Castle Museums

Bellanaleck Quarry

BELLANALECK

FLORENCECOURT

KINAWLEY

Gortalughany Viewpoint

Drumod Sulphur Spa

SWANLINBAR

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200

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Cladagh Glen

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7

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KILTYCLOGHER

Ballintempo Forest

Aghnaglack Court Tomb

BELCOO

BLACKLION

Hanging

Killykee National Reserve

Garryagh Lough

Cuilcagh

GLANGEVLIN

DOWRA

River Shannon

Owenmore

15

9

8

10

11

14

12

2

1

3

4

400
300
200

500
400
300

MAP LEGEND

1 Geopark site

 Rivers

 Road

 County Boundary

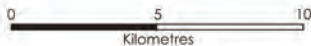


 Forest

 Peatland

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What is a UNESCO Global Geopark?


A Geopark is an area with really special rocks and landscapes. These may be special because they are good for education or because they are of significant scientific value. They may also be special because the rocks and landscapes are very rare or simply because they are exceptionally beautiful.

Geoparks aren't just about rocks and landscapes though, they also include places that have important history and archaeology, fascinating plants and wildlife and often this is intertwined with intriguing folklore. After all, many of these features are inherently linked with the ground beneath our feet.

 Abbey	 Castle	 Information	 Shopping
 Archaeological	 Cave	 Information Centre	 Toilets
 Birdwatching	 Cycling	 Jetty	 View Point
 Boat Hire	 Fishing	 Parking	 Walking
 Cafe	 Free Wifi	 Picnic Area	 Wheelchair Accessible
 Camping	 Geological	 Playground	
 Caravan	 Gym	 Round Tower	

The Geopark Code

 1. Preparation is key

 4. Leave what you find

 2. Take your litter home

 5. Respect others

 3. Keep to the trail

 6. Minimise fire risk



Contact Information

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This is Cavan!
Tourism Information
www.thisiscavan.ie

Fermanagh Lakeland Tourism
www.fermanaghlakelands.com

For more information on upcoming activities latest news,
additional Geopark sites and much more please visit:

www.cuilcaghlakelands.org
www.cavanburrenpark.ie
www.marblearchcaves.co.uk



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Fhear Manach agus na hÓmaí



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