

# CNOC CRUACHÁIN

## AN tSIÚLÓID IN AIRDE AR CHNOC CRUACHÁIN

*Níor bhain mé taitneamh riamh as radharc níos deise ná an ceann atá le feiceáil ón gcnoc seo.*

– John O'Donovan, 1838

Ar feadh na gcéadta bliain tá daoine tar éis taisteal go barr Chnoc Cruacháin a bhfuil dumha ársa adhlactha ar a mhullach. Suíteáladh stáisiún triantánachta air den chéad uair le linn obair mhapála na Suirbhéireachta Ordanáis sna 1830idí agus dheimhníodh go raibh an pointe ab airde 234 méadar os cionn leibhéal na farraige.

## AN BOLCÁN

Is éard atá i gCnoc Cruacháin ná fréamh bholcáin a bhorr aníos ó ghrinneall na farraige 340 milliún bliain ó shin. Tá sraitheanna basailt (a bhí ina laibhe leáite uair amháin) le fáil faoina fhánaí féarmhara.

## CNOC CRUACHÁIN AGUS AN STAIR

Nuair a tháinig daoine anseo den chéad uair

9,000 bliain ó shin, bhí Cnoc Cruacháin ina sheasamh os cionn tírdhreacha a bhí breac le lochanna. Thiontaigh na lochanna ina bportaigh le himeacht aimsire ach lean daoine orthu ag tabhairt urraim don cnoc. San aimsir réamh-Chríostaí, thóg daoine an dumha adhlactha ar an mullach. Níos déanaí, sna portaigh thíos, adhlacadh cabhail Sheanfhear Chruacháin, a íobraíodh de réir deasghnátha roimh 175 RC.

Deirtear sna seanscéalta gurbh é Brí Éile ainm an chnoic, agus gur ainmníodh é i ndiaidh Éile iníon an rí sin a roinn Éire ina cúig chúigí. Deirtear go n-insealbhaítí ríthe Uí Chonchobhair Uíbh Fhailí ar an mullach.

Cheangail Críostaithe luatha Naomh Bríd agus Naomh Pádraig le Cnoc Cruacháin. Ar leagan 1838 de Léarscáil 6-orlach na Suirbhéireachta Ordanáis taifeadadh go raibh 'Mac Caille's Church' ag an reilig. Níl aon rian den séipéal le feiceáil inniu.

Leanann na mílte daoine orthu ag tabhairt cuairte ar Chnoc Cruacháin gach bliain, go háirithe ar Lá Fhéile Pádraig.



'An Bolcán, 340 milliún bliain ó shin' - (Jock Nichol)  
'The Volcano, 340 million years ago' - (Jock Nichol)

# CROGHAN HILL

## THE WALK UP CROGHAN HILL

*I never enjoyed a finer prospect than that commanded by this hill.*

– John O'Donovan, 1838

For centuries people have journeyed to the top of Croghan Hill crowned with an ancient burial mound. A triangulation station, first installed during the Ordnance Survey mapping of the 1830s marked the highest point 234 meters above sea level.

## THE VOLCANO

Croghan Hill is the root of a volcano that surged from the ocean floor 340 million years ago. Layers of basalt (once molten lava) lie beneath its grassy slopes.

## THE HUMAN STORY ON CROGHAN HILL

When people first arrived here 9,000 years ago, Croghan Hill towered above a landscape of lakes. Long after the lakes had evolved into

bog, people continued to revere this hill. In pre Christian times, people built the burial mound on the summit. Later, in the bogs below, others deposited the torso of Old Croghan Man, who was ritually sacrificed before 175 BC.

In myth, the hill was Brí Éile, named for the daughter of the king who divided Ireland into five provinces. The kings of the Ó Conchobhair (O'Connors) of Uí Failge (Offaly) are said to have been inaugurated on the summit.

Early Christians associated Croghan Hill with St Bridget and St Patrick. On the 1838 ed. OS 6-inch map Bishop 'Mac Caille's Church' was recorded at the graveyard. No trace can be seen of the church today.

Thousands continue to visit Croghan Hill each year, particularly on St Patrick's Day.

**Ceann na Conaire:** Sráidbhaile Chruacháin

**Seirbhísí:** An Daingean, Ród, Bealach an Tírialigh

**Fad:** 2.5km

**Am:** 40 nóiméad

**An bealach go dtí an mullach:** 234m

**Grád na Conaire:** Dian

**Tír-raon:** Seanlánaí agus dromchlaí míchothroma

**A Oireann Do:** Leibhéal aclaíochta níos airde ná an meán

**Trealamh Íosta:** Buataisí siúil, éadaí siúil & fón póca

**Grád na Conaire:** Dian

Is conairí iad seo a éilíonn saothar dian fisiceach, a mbíonn dreapaí thar fhánaí géara ar feadh stráicí fada i gcodanna iontu agus féadfaidh an bealach faoi do chois a bheith an-gharbh lena n-áirítear go leor constaicí. Oiriúnach do dhaoine a bhfuil leibhéal ard aclaíochta acu agus taithí acu ar siúl ar thalamh garbh. Tá coisbheart saineúil siúil ag éadaí don saol amuigh faoin aer riachtanach.

**Uimhreacha Éigeandála:** 999 / 112

Forbraíodh siúlóid Chnoc Cruacháin le comhaontú agus comhoibriú cneasta na n-úinéirí talún áitiúla - idir phoiblí agus phríobháideacha. Cuidigh leis an dea-thoil a chaomhnú trí chloí leis na treoirí seo a leanas:

1. Pleanáil roimh ré agus ullmhú
2. Bí tuisceanach do dhaoine eile
3. Bíodh meas agat ar ainmhithe feirme agus ar an bhfiadhúlra - tabhair faoi deara go mbíonn eallach ar féarach ar an gcnoc. Ní cheadaítear madraí ar bith.
4. Siúil ar an mbealach marcáilte
5. Fág aon rud a aimsíonn tú
6. Diúscair do chuid dramhaíola i gceart
7. Ná las aon tine

Trasnaíonn cuid de na conairí seo maoin phríobháideach. Is le cead is le toiliú úinéir na talún a théann daoine isteach sa mhaoin phríobháideach sin agus ní chruthaítear aon cheart rochtana ná ceart slí dá bharr. Is cuma cé mhéad airgid a chaitheann comhpháirtithe an chomhaontaithe seo ná daoine príobháideacha ar an gconair atá á úsáid ní athróidh sé sin an stádas seo. Ní bheidh tionchar ag aon ní sa bhfógra seo ar aon chearta slí poiblí a bhí ann cheana agus ní thabharfaidh aghaidh ar a leithéidí.



This project was funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and Offaly County Council under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme.



**Trailhead:** Croghan Village

**Services:** Daingean, Rhode, Tyrrellspass

**Distance:** 2.5km

**Time:** 40 minutes

**Ascent:** 234m

**Trail Grade:** Strenuous

**Terrain:** Old lanes and uneven surfaces

**To Suit:** Higher than average level of fitness

**Min Gear:** Walking boots, hiking clothing & mobile phone

**Trail Grade:** Strenuous

These are physically demanding trails, which will typically have some sections with steep climbs for long periods and the going underfoot can be extremely rough including many obstacles. Suitable for users accustomed to walking on rough ground and with a high level of fitness. Specific outdoor walking footwear and clothing required.

**Emergency Numbers:** 999 / 112

The Croghan Hill walk was developed with the agreement and kind cooperation of local landowners – public and private. Help preserve goodwill by adhering to the following guidelines;

1. Plan ahead and prepare
2. Be considerate of others
3. Respect farm animals and wildlife – note cattle graze on the hill. No dogs are permitted.
4. Travel on the marked route
5. Leave what you find
6. Dispose of waste properly
7. Do not light any fires

Parts of these trails cross private property. Persons entering such private property do so by permission with the consent of the landowner and no right of access or right of way is created as a consequence. No amount of expenditure by the partners of this agreement or by private individuals on the route being used will alter this position. Nothing in this notice shall impact or address any pre-existing public rights of way.