

## Munster MPC 12th-14th April 2013

### Galty Mountains, Co Tipperary

Map: OS Discovery Series Sheet 74 1:50,000 - Magnetic variation -4 degrees

The Galtee Mountains or Galty Mountains (Irish: Na Gaibhlte or Sléibhte na gCoillte) are a mountain range in Munster, spanning parts of counties Limerick and South Tipperary. The name "Galtee" is thought to be a corruption of the Irish "Sléibhte na gCoillte" - "Mountains of the Forests" however this Irish name has fallen out of use. The Galtees are Ireland's highest inland mountain range, taking the form of a high ridge which rises up almost sheer from the surrounding plain. The highest peak is Galtymore which rises to 917 m (3,009 ft).

Galtymore sits near the middle of the east–west Galty mountain ridge. To the east of Galtymore is Galtybeg (799 m) and to the west is Slievecushnabinnia (766 m).

The slopes of Galtymore are steep but the summit is broad, rounded and rocky. This is due to the constant freeze-thaw action experienced by the summit during the last ice age. The north face shows much evidence of glacial erosion. It harbours a number of corrie glaciers, most of which are now occupied by Loughs. Lough Diheen lies between Galtymore and Galtybeg, while Lough Curra lies between Galtymore and Slievecushnabinnia.

The Galtees were formed during the Caledonian Foldings, which caused the underlying Silurian rocks to fold into great ridges. However, the Silurian rocks were quite soft and were quickly eroded. The eroded dust from these rocks compacted over millions of years to form Old Red Sandstone, a tough enduring rock. The Galtees are of Red Sandstone, but with a softer Silurian rock core.

### Getting There:



Not to scale

See Route form Caher in “Red” over-page

The best access is via the M8 motorway (Dublin – Cork), exiting at either junction 10 or 11 for Caher.

From either junction, follow the signs for Limerick or Tipperary (north) on the N24. Avoid the N24 for Caher as this will take south away from the mountains.

If you are coming from the south via the Caher direction, follow the N24 towards Tipperary and Limerick for about 5 km from the motorway underpass and turn left at Glebe (S 0101 289) towards Rossadrehid village (R927 292)

If you are coming from Tipperary direction you will turn Right off the N24 in Bansha (R 957 328) towards Rossadrehid. (R927 292)

Turn off left at Rossadrehid Post Office (R927 292) beside the Statue of Our Lady. Follow the tar road south for circa 1 km to and then west for circa 380 metre. The first car park will be marked on your right with flags (R920 282)

We have an option for additional parking closer to the forest edge if available (R925 269), but you will be directed accordingly on the night by MPC staff.

### **Route Outline**

#### **Friday**

Check In: Check in from 7.30pm onwards, (Last Check in 10.30pm) Please park cars carefully and make sure your patrol checks in, has a gear check and brief from a member of staff before setting off for the camp site.

Remember that inadequate or unsuitable equipment or clothing can result in refusal from the event, so prepare carefully and be prepared for all likely conditions the location or weather might raise.

After crossing stile at R 924 267, there are two tracks. They both lead to Lough Muskry, though the track that turns to the west at 20-30 metres after the stile will be the easier to follow in darkness, even though it is fractionally longer. Note that on older maps, the trail is depicted as following the eastern side of the river for the first 500 metres, this is not the case and you will be staying to the west of the river.

Follow Track to Lough Muskry and proceed to the smaller lake, south-east of the main lake  
The Campsite is at the south side of the small lake at R921 242

#### **Saturday**

The north-eastern side of Farbreaga has two ridges, one extending east and one to the north-west. We will be heading from camp, towards the peat hags north-west of Farbreaga at R 933 255

Follow the broad ridge to the south-east, then south towards Farbreaga spot height of 724 at R 934 250

From Farbreaga (R 934 250), follow the ridge south-west to Greenane trig pillar (R 925 239). Follow the ridge west to Spot 786 (R 911 239) via the cairn and rock formation know as “O’Loughlin’s Castle”. Continue west for 300 metres until the valley can be seen to south-west (R 907 239).

Descend to south-west to fork in river at R 901 232. If visibility is poor, consider the use of aiming-off and the use of an attack point to find the river fork.

You might want to rest and refuel here and revel in what is a well hidden gem of a beauty spot.

Proceed to the west, taking a bearing for spot height 657. This bearing will see you cross the Black Road (track) at R 894 232. At this crossing point, turn and follow the track north to its apparent end, south-east of Galtybeg (R 893

235). At this point, turn north-west towards the col between Galtymore and Galtybeg at R 886 240. Be aware that the ground about the col can be very boggy.

Col at R 886 240. Ascend west to Galtymore summit (R878 238) at 919 metres, the highest point of the weekend. Hopefully, the weather and visibility will be good and you will be able to see the Glen of Aherlow to the north and the Knockmealdown Mountains to the south-east as well as the main Galty Ridge.

Return east to the col at R 886 240. Ascend east to Galtybeg R 890 241 and follow the north-eastern spur down to R 891 242, at the back wall of the Corry containing Lough Diheen. At this point turn south-east along the ridge edge to col at R 896 241.

Continue in an easterly direction, then follow the spur south-easterly that ascends towards the check point 300 metres west of spot 786 at R 907 239.

From here, take a bearing to descend the slope to the north towards the western side of Lough Muskry (R 916 245), taking care to avoid the steep and rocky ground to the south and south-west of Lough Muskry. On reaching the western side of Lough Muskry, turn south-east and return to the camp site between the Lough and the cliffs.

### **Sunday**

After packing up and having your camp site checked out by staff. Remember your leave no trace training. Bag-up and remove all your rubbish and be particularly careful of food and rinsing pots or pans into the grass.

Teams will **not** be checked-out until their site is seen to be clean and litter free. In respect of this, plan ahead and remember, don't drop litter and don't make a mess over the weekend and your clean-up time will be minimal.

Once checked-out, leave camp via the western side of Lough Muskry and proceed to north-west, towards broad col at R 912 252, then head north to Knockastakeen at R 915 258. Follow ridge to north to flag at R 917 265 and descend to south-east to pick up the way-marked path towards the forest stile at R 924 267 and the track back to the car parks.

### **General Notes**

There are escape routes to the north off the ridge to the road, though many points are particularly steep, include convex slopes or sections of cliff. In respect of this, emergency decent to the north will be limited to specific points as advised by staff. Decent to the south, towards the N8 tends to involve more gentle ground, but should still only be undertaken under the guidance of event staff.

If for some reason you do need to come off the mountain or incur any other form of emergency, you must contact the event organiser via any member of staff to let them know immediately. You will be given phone numbers at the check in for this eventuality.

Please do not deviate from the route. If you inadvertently miss or by-pass a staffed base, inform the staff on the next base immediately, as staff on the missed base will need to be notified and your group checked-off as safe.

Please note that this is only a route Outline and may be amended on the day, for example in the event of poor weather, bad visibility etc. It is important that your patrol prepares a route card and is aware of the times between each checkpoint, bearings etc. The Patrols will be based at a standing camp and so should be prepared with day packs for the Saturday hike. Please ensure that the patrol is properly prepared for the weekend and remember that there will be a full equipment check at the start.

Contact No.s

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