

Munster MPC 2017

This years Munster MPC will take place on the Dingle peninsula in County Kerry and will include an ascent of Brandon Mountain, at 952m the highest peak in Ireland outside of the Macgillicuddy Reeks.

It should be noted that, as always, the route is subject to change in the event of bad weather. Teams will be advised by MPC staff.

Directions to start

From Tralee follow N86 signs to Dingle. On reaching Dingle pass by the harbour on your left to get onto the R549. The starting point on Friday night is about 2.5km from the car park. You can drop off gear at a pet farm Q428082 and park car for weekend at the Pilgrim's Path car park at Q434094. There is no parking at pet farm drop off point (Q428082) although we have been given kind permission to use it as a turning area/drop-off. Please keep noise to minimum at drop off point as there is a residence at this point.

Route Outline

Friday Night

The Friday night hike includes two river crossings so gaiters are strongly advised!

After gear check proceed up the track and through a gate at Q430083. Continue along the track and cross stream using stepping stones at Q434085 and up the valley to ford the river again at Q446087. Once across the stream follow the river bank to the campsite at Q447088. Find a spot and get set up – this will be a standing camp so choose wisely! If there has been a lot of rain in the days preceding the MPC it may not be possible to cross the river at Q446087. In this event an alternative campsite further up the valley will be used. Stay to left of river & continue up the valley to alternative campsite at Q452091

Saturday

From the campsite follow the river upstream and cross it at Q452091. Continue past the 2 ruined farmsteads and up to cross the stream at Q459096. Be careful crossing here as the large boulders can be slippery.

Navigation on this next leg may be tricky as the ground is broken with small crags and large boulders. Continue climbing parallel to the stream on your right as you proceed up the through the broken ground to the steepening slopes and up to the stone wall in the saddle at Q469102.

Cross the wall here and carefully climb the last few metres to the top of Binn Beann Ard at Q468106 (unnamed on the 1:50,000 maps). Be careful of the steep cliffs on the northeast flanks of the ridge. The views from the ridge are spectacular with the beaches of Stradbally and the slopes of Beenoskee to the East, and the 3 sister of Ballydavid head and hopefully the Blasket Islands to

the West. Far below you on the eastern side of the ridge are Paternoster lakes formed by the effects of glaciation.

From Binn Beann Ard drop to the Col at Q467107 and cross the wall at Q465109. Follow the ridge northwestwards and cross the wall again at Q463113 before climbing the slopes to the summit of Brandon Mountain at Q460116.

Follow the Pilgrims Path – Cosán na Naomh (posted with white posts in parts) southwestwards before it swings south-eastwards and then southwestwards again down past several stations of the cross to number 6 (Q452108) near a large Ogham stone.

From the cross head southwards to where the ground starts to steepen at Q452100. Drop down here to Q453099 and turn west-northwestwards to the stream at Q457100. Follow the stream downhill past the cloghan at Q458097 and down to the valley floor at Q458095. Follow the stream from here past the 2 ruined farmsteads and back across the river at Q452091 to the campsite at Q447088.

Sunday

Retrace the Friday walk in back to the road head.

Well done on completing this year's Munster MPC. Don't forget MPC hoodies are on sale at the car park.