

Key Information

Trailhead	Lisleibane, Beaufort, Co. Kerry
Services	Beaufort (12km), Killarney (22km)
Dist/Time	8km / 2hrs - 2hr 30mins
High/Ascent	300m/200m
Difficulty	Moderate
Terrain	Sandy paths and mountain tracks.
To Suit	All levels of fitness
Start/Finish Point	Trailhead at Carruntuohil Lisleibane Car Park.
Minimum Gear	Hiking boots, raingear, fluid, snack and mobile phone.
Grid Ref	OS Sheet 78, V836, 873

Directions to Trailhead

The town of Killarney is one of Ireland's most popular tourist locations – and is situated in the southwest of the country on the N22. From Killarney take the N22 (Ring of Kerry road) towards Killoggin. After Fossa Village, turn left at a roadway signposted for Carruntuohil. Continue for approx 8km to pass Kissance's Shop and Service Station and then pass the signs for Carruntuohil and Cronin's Yard trailhead – continuing along the road to Glencar. After approx 1km you negotiate a sharp bend and take a minor roadway on your left, signposted for Carruntuohil Lisleibane Car Park. The trailhead is at a substantial car parking area at the end of this roadway. The car park, at the entrance to Hag's Glen is a traditional starting point for ascents of Carruntuohil, the highest mountain in Ireland.



Carruntuohil is the highest mountain peak in Ireland. The word Carruntuohil is a translation from the Irish language (possibly Corraín Tuathail) but there is some uncertainty as to its meaning and origins. It seems more likely that Tuathail is the basis of the surname O Tuathail (O'Toole) which also occurs in Lios Tuathail - the Irish translation for the nearby town of Listowel. The mountain is 1,039 metres high and is the central peak of the Maggillycuddy's Reeks range - characterised in many places by jagged peak rock structures and knife edged ridges, which provide a type of rugged beauty. For decades the townland of Lisleibane has been used as the starting point for hillwalkers and climbers - from where they walked through the spectacular Hag's Glen and up a steep gully known as the Devil's Ladder. In recent times a car parking area has been developed in Lisleibane and it now serves as a trailhead for the recreational walker to explore the Hag's Glen. This loop follows a well-worn stoney path to reach the River Gaddagh and up into Hags Glen to reach the headwater of the river at Lough Callee and Lough Gouragh. From here you can look up at the wondrous Carruntuohil mountain before making your return along a ridge which runs parallel to the River Gaddagh and back to the trailhead.

A to B

Starting from the carpark at Lisleibane follow the blue arrow along the path for over 1km to reach a 3-way junction close to a footbridge over the Gaddagh River (on **your left**). This is the point from where the loop 'proper' begins - you will return to here from **your left** later - for now **veer right**. [Note that there are purple arrows on the back of the waymarkers you are now following - these are for the Cronin's Yard Loop which travels in the opposite direction to you.]

B to C

Follow the blue arrows as the loop follows a stony path alongside the Gaddagh River into Hag's Glen, crossing a ford after 1km, and 500m later reaching the shore of Lough Callee. Here the loop crosses to the other side of the river and **turns left**.

C to D

Following the blue arrows along the riverbank for approx 500m - and watch for a waymarker which directs you to **the right** and uphill across a ridge and onto the bank of the Gaol River. Now the loop **veers left** and descends again to reach the Gaddagh River at a clump of trees where it **turns right**. Cross a stile and reach a 3-way junction with a footbridge downhill on **your left**. **Turn left** here, cross the bridge and ascend to reach the 3-way junction mentioned at B above. This time **turn right**.

D to A

Follow the blue arrows as the path takes you back to the trailhead just 1km away.

If you like that - try this

Cronin's Yard Looped Walk

Distance: 8km
Time: 2hrs - 2hr 30mins
Grade: Moderate
Terrain: Sandy paths and mountain tracks

Walking in Kerry

Lisleibane Loop Loop 115

Sandy paths and mountain tracks

