

# Boyne Valley CAMINO

Starting at the impressive St Peter's Church, West Street in the medieval town of Drogheda, the Boyne Valley Camino takes us on a journey through history. The route is a mixture of riverside, greenway, wood paths, quiet country roads, canal path and green fields on its route from Drogheda to Old Mellifont Abbey and back.

The 25km walk forms a figure of eight looped walk via Townley Hall Woods on the way out to Mellifont Abbey, through Tullyallen village, down King William's Glen via Belumber Wood, across the beautiful Boyne at the Obelisk and back into Drogheda via Oldbridge along the Boyneside Trail and Ramparts. The Boyne Valley Camino (25km) is part of the Celtic Camino. From Ireland walk the rest of the Celtic Camino from A Coruña to Santiago de Compostela (75km) in Spain. This 100km Celtic Camino entitles walkers to a Compostela in Santiago.

Scan QR Code for Online Map



<b>WAY OUT/ SLÍ AMACH</b> c. 12km DROGHEDA (ST PETERS RC CHURCH) TOWNLEY HALL (OBELISK CAR PARK) MELLIFONT ABBEY c. 7km	<b>WAY BACK/ SLÍ ABHAILE</b> c. 13km MELLIFONT ABBEY BELNUMBER WOOD (TULLYALLEN) DROGHEDA (ST PETERS RC CHURCH) c. 7km
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- Leaving **Mellifont Abbey**, **[STAMP]** return to the crossroad. Go right and retrace your steps for 1.2km to **Lynch's Cross**. Continue straight ahead on this road for a further 1.6km to a T-Junction opposite Tullyallen School and football field.
- Go right and walk 100m to a crossroad. Go left here to **Tullyallen Village**. Continue through the village as far as the supermarket where you can get a stamp on your passport. **[STAMP]**
- Return from the supermarket in the direction of the **[STAMP]** school. You can get a stamp at the **Morning Star Pub**. Take the turn to the left, opposite the Morning Star Pub, signposted for the church and follow this road past the church. (Our Lady of the Assumption).
- Go around the back of the church (site of Williamite Camp before **Battle of the Boyne**) and follow this road back to the village opposite the pub. (There is a well on your right at this T-Junction.)
- Go left here opposite the Morning Star Pub and walk back to the crossroad after the school.
- Go left at the crossroad and approx. 200m downhill you can access **Belumber Wood (King William's Glen)** via a timber gate on your right. Follow this meandering path through the wood for 1.3km. At bottom of steps take left and follow this path to leave woods.
- Carefully cross the **N51** in the direction of Oldbridge House, crossing the **Obelisk** metal bridge. Follow road over bridge veering left along the Boyne Canal, then right across humpback bridge.



'THE WANDERER' - SCULPTURE AT ST. DOMINIC'S BRIDGE



MARY MCALEESE BOYNE CABLE BRIDGE

- After crossing the humpback canal bridge, you can access the start of the **Boyneside Trail** to Drogheda on your left.
- The entrance to **Oldbridge House** (1750) is on your right. You can detour off our walk to enjoy Oldbridge House which houses the Battle of the Boyne Interpretive Centre, café, gardens and magnificent grounds. Managed by OPW.
- Follow the **Boyneside Trail** for 1.6km and this leads onto the ramparts path along the Boyne. This riverside path leads to Drogheda after 2.3km. In Drogheda, follow the path under the roadway bridge (Bridge of Peace) and continue until you reach a pedestrian bridge. (Sculpture - 'The Wanderer').
- Cross St. Dominic's Bridge (Dominican church on other side) and continue straight ahead uphill. At the top of Dominic Street, go right and this will bring you back to **St Peter's Church**. **[STAMP]**

## WAY BACK/SLÍ ABHAILE c. 13km

**MELLIFONT ABBEY**  
GPS: 53.742861, -6.465604

**ST. PETER'S RC CHURCH**  
GPS: 53.715017, -6.352781

Signage posts are placed along the route indicating the route from Drogheda to Mellifont Abbey - outward and homeward. The shell denotes you're on the Camino.



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Follow the traditional yellow Camino scallop shells and arrows used to mark this route. These will be displayed with blue backgrounds, the shell denoting you're on the Camino and the arrow showing the direction.



- Start at **St Peter's RC Church**, **[STAMP]** West St, Drogheda. With church facing you, go left, walk past the **The Marcy Hotel**. **[STAMP]** Walk 200m to a crossroad with the **R132**.
- Go through the crossroad at Bridge of Peace and walk 150m on the **R168** Trinity St. towards Slane. Go left down **Horse Lane** to the river.
- Go right and follow the riverside path for 800m until it brings you back to the **R168** at Mell.
- Go left onto the **R168** and walk 400m to a 3-way junction near Aldi.
- Take the **R168 for Collon/Slane** (stay on the main road) and walk 700m. Just beyond the recycle centre, go left onto a lane after a stone house (bullau stone outside the house).
- Walk 700m to the end of the lane and go right.
- Walk 200m and go under the **M1** motorway via the underpass. Continue for 1km to the busy **N51 Slane Road**. Cross the **N51** carefully and walk to the old road parallel to it.
- Go left onto the old road, passing a well on your right, walk downhill 400m to the end of the road and cross safely to the Obelisk car park at Townley Hall Woods.
- Review Coillte trailhead board in car park. Enter woods through stone piers. Continue along this main trail, ignoring left trails to get to open grassy area with some seating.



MELLIFONT ABBEY - 1142



## DROGHEDA/DROICHEAD ÁTHA

Steeped in history on the banks of the Boyne, **Drogheda / Droichead Átha**, meaning the bridge of the ford, is Ireland's largest town. A medieval walled town full of arts, culture, lively bars, restaurants and many historical sites. Drogheda's proximity to the history-rich Boyne Valley to the west and fantastic beaches to the east make it a perfect base for exploring the town itself and hinterland. Boyne Valley Walking Group often lead walks and detail many local routes.

**f** BoyneValleyWalking



If you'd like to explore more on foot, please search online for 'Drogheda Walks' or pick up a copy of the FREE Drogheda Walks map. Four walks through the town take different routes which highlight places of interest in our built, cultural, religious and natural history.

<b>BRIDGES</b> c. 1.5km WALK	<b>SPIRES</b> c. 4km WALK
<b>WALLS</b> c. 4km LOOP	<b>STEPS</b> c. 6.5km LOOP

**www.drogheda.ie**

For more to see and do in and around Drogheda, visit [www.drogheda.ie](http://www.drogheda.ie)

## POINTS OF INTEREST



**ST. OLIVER PLUNKETT 1625 - 1681**  
Born 1625 in Loughcrew, founded first integrated Jesuit College in Ireland, was hung drawn and quartered in Tyburn, London for 'promoting the Roman faith' - his head is in St Peter's RC Church in Drogheda since 1921. He was canonized in 1975.



**TOWNLEY HALL WOODS**  
Part of Townley Hall estate, planted 200 years ago, mixed broadleaf, conifer and specimen species. The woods is under Coillte ownership for commercial forestry and recreation.



**MELLIFONT ABBEY - 1142**  
Ireland's first Cistercian monastery, founded in 1142. Site managed by OPW - the name comes from Latin Mell Fons - meaning Font of Honey. Treaty of Mellifont 1603 signed here ending the Nine Years War.



**OBELISK BRIDGE - 1868**  
Single span iron girder road bridge. A fine example of 19th century engineering.



**OLDBRIDGE HOUSE - 1750**  
You can detour off our walk to enjoy Oldbridge House which houses the Battle of the Boyne Interpretive Centre, café, gardens and magnificent grounds. Collect a stamp while you're there. Managed by the OPW.



**BATTLE OF THE BOYNE - 1690**  
Between Protestant King William III (William of Orange) and his father-in-law, Catholic King James II - fought in this location to control England, Scotland and Ireland. William of Orange with his army of 36,000 troops was victorious.



**TULLYALLEN VILLAGE**  
The Village of Tullyallen grew up around the Early Christian monastery founded by St Colman in 726. You will see a 15th century gable window of a chapel, built by the Abbot of Mellifont, marking the monastic site in Tullyallen Graveyard.



**MARY MCALEESE BOYNE CABLE BRIDGE - 2003**  
This four lane, 352m, cable-stay bridge carries the M1 between Dublin and Belfast. This attractive inverted Y structure, with 56 individual span cables is illuminated with blue light at night.

## DROGHEDA TO A CORUÑA

The Camino de Santiago (The Way of Saint James), is a network of pilgrims' ways leading to the shrine of the apostle St. James the Great in the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia, northwestern Spain. Pilgrimages were at their peak from the 13th to 16th centuries before the Reformation of the Church and various European wars that hindered travel. The Camino routes are once again becoming popular for distance walks, spiritual journeys, endurance challenges or just the opportunity to do something different for holiday.



**Pilgrim Routes**  
Traditionally, Camino pilgrims started their journey from their own homes and various Camino de Santiago routes developed over time crossing most of Europe. The Camino Ingles, was the route preferred by Irish and British pilgrims on their way to Santiago. Pilgrims would take a boat from the main ports in their countries and land in the north of Spain to continue their journey. The main starting point on this Camino route is A Coruña, in Galicia, Spain.

**Celtic Camino**  
While A Coruña is a traditional starting point, it is only 75km away from Santiago, meaning pilgrims wouldn't be able to obtain their Compostela certificate in Santiago. It is now possible to walk 25km on the Boyne Valley Camino around Drogheda and then do a further 75km from A Coruña to Santiago; a combination of the two walks will give pilgrims the required 100km for a Compostela. The Boyne Valley Camino reconnects ancient routes between Drogheda and A Coruña.

**Link from Drogheda to A Coruña**  
In medieval times pilgrims travelled long distances to Drogheda from all over the North East and Midlands before embarking for A Coruña in Spain. In Drogheda, it is understood that there was a hostel/hospital catering for the pilgrims by providing shelter and rest while they waited for the ships. It was located near the town walls in what is now the Scotch Hall area. Several references are made to Drogheda as a departure point in Dr Bernadette Cunningham's book, 'Medieval Irish pilgrims to Santiago de Compostela'.

## HOW TO GET YOUR CAMINO PASSPORT

The Camino Passport can be purchased from **The Camino Society Ireland** at their office or from their website. The passport comes in book and the newer foldout format and both are official.

Passport cost: €10

**Buy online or at The Camino Society Ireland office**

Address: St. James's Church, James's St, Dublin 8, D08 X799. (Office beside St James's church)

Email: [info@caminosociety.ie](mailto:info@caminosociety.ie)

Tel: 087 224 3618

[www.caminosociety.com](http://www.caminosociety.com)

## STAMPING YOUR PASSPORT

**WAY OUT/SLÍ AMACH**

St. Peter's Church - West Street, Drogheda  
 The Marcy Hotel - West Street, Drogheda  
 Hurley's Delicatessen - Narrow West Street, Drogheda  
 Mellifont Abbey - OPW office during season (May-Sep)

**WAY BACK/SLÍ ABHAILE**

Lynch's Supermarket - Main Street, Tullyallen  
 Morning Star Pub - Main Street, Tullyallen  
 Oldbridge House - Oldbridge, Co. Meath  
 Tourist Office - Tholsel, Drogheda  
 Clarke's Bar - Peter Street, Drogheda

**TO COMPLETE YOUR COMPOSTELA:**  
Bring your Camino Passport to A Coruña in Northern Spain and walk the 75km to Santiago, collecting stamps en route.

DISCLAIMER: The creators of this map shall not be liable, directly or indirectly to the user or any other third party for any accident, injury, loss or damage resulting from the use of the information contained. The walking details on this map were accurate at the time of publishing. Whilst public access is agreed on these walks, it is not a right and forms or trails may be closed from time to time, please obey any temporary signage.

[www.drogheda.ie](http://www.drogheda.ie)

[www.boynevalleycamino.ie](http://www.boynevalleycamino.ie)



This project is being part-funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development through the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure.

**Buen Camino Boyne Camino**

emergency situation, call 999 or 112. food and drinks. Recycle or dispose of any waste correctly. If you encounter an bring clothes layers, sunscreen for any weather eventually. Bring adhere to the rules of the trail area shared with vehicles and cyclists so please wear hi-visibility. Some parts of the trail are shared with vehicles and cyclists so please where you are going, bring a charged phone, go in company, go in good light. Please ensure your persons safety while enjoying this Camino. Let someone know

**Advice to Walkers**

Community (Boyné Boyné Visua). (Trail), OPW staff, Carolan Family (Morning Star), Vivienne Byrne (artists), Brian (Collie), Tullyallen Community (Belumber Wood), Geoff, Peter, Eadair (Boyneside Boyne Valley), Eddie (Meadow), Kieran (Meadow), and Jasper (Peter's County Council), Meath County Council, Drogheda ID5 / Love Drogheda, Discover Society of Ireland, Monaghan Jim Carol & St. Peter's R.C., Barry Eaton (Louth We would particularly like to thank the following for their assistance: - The Camino Camino become a reality.

and community, local businesses, local artists, local authorities, local schools, charities

Boyne Valley Walking (Daisy, Terry, Pat, Aine, Coimthe, David) would like to thank our community for their huge support of this project. The kindness of the

**A Big Thanks To**

**Boyne Valley CAMINO**  
FREE MAP & GUIDE

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**25km LOOP WALK**

**BOYNE VALLEY WALKING**

[www.boynevalleycamino.ie](http://www.boynevalleycamino.ie)





MELLIFONT ABBEY – 1142



TOWNLEY HALL WOOD



BELNUMBER WOOD



BOYNESIDE TRAIL/GREENWAY



DROGHEDA



ST. PETER'S RC CHURCH



ST. OLIVER PLUNKETT  
By Edward Lutrell

# Boyne Valley CAMINO

**WAY OUT/ SLÍ AMACH** c. 12 KM  
**WAY BACK/ SLÍ ABHAILE** c. 13 KM

**DROGHEDA (ST. PETERS RC CHURCH)** c. 5 KM  
**TOWNLEY HALL (OBELISK CAR PARK)** c. 7 KM  
**MELLIFONT ABBEY**

**MELLIFONT ABBEY** c. 6 KM  
**BELNUMBER WOOD (TULLYALLEN)** c. 7 KM  
**DROGHEDA (ST. PETERS RC CHURCH)**

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**BOYNE VALLEY WALKING**

Parking	Church
Caution	Supermarket
Picnic Area	Hospital
Stamp Location	Bus Station
Toilets	Train Station
Drinking Water Refill Station	Tourist Office
Coffee	Pedestrian Crossing
Snacks	Passage Grave
Restaurant	Battle of the Boyne Site
Pub	Viewpoint

**GPS Coordinates**

<b>ST. PETER'S RC CHURCH</b>	53.715017, -6.352781
<b>MELLIFONT ABBEY</b>	53.742861, -6.465604
<b>TOWNLEY HALL (INTERSECTION OF KING WILLIAM'S GLEN &amp; N51 SLANE ROAD)</b>	53.726472, -6.416898
<b>OLDBRIDGE HOUSE</b>	53.723307, -6.423357

Scan QR Code for Online Map

**Buen Camino**

## Waymarkers

Traditional yellow Camino scallop shells and arrows are used to mark this route. These will be displayed with blue backgrounds, the shell denoting you're on the Camino and the arrow showing the direction. These may be wall mounted (in the town), on National Road Authority-standard posts at the side of the roads / paths / boardwalks / along roads and on wooden Coillte-standard posts / finger posts in woods. They will be maximum 500m apart and should be evident at each junction.



CAMINO SIGNAGE



OLDBRIDGE HOUSE – 1750



TOADSTOOLS IN TOWNLEY HALL



BOYNESIDE TRAIL/GREENWAY



BOYNE RAMPARTS, DROGHEDA