

Visitor Map Omagh Town



Strule Bridge 3



2 Oasis Plaza



1 Strule Arts Centre

© THIS INFORMATION IS LICENSED UNDER THE OPEN GOVERNMENT LICENCE V3.0, 2017

Designed & Printed by Edecanville Printing Services Ltd | 028 8224 7831 | www.exploreomaghsperrins.com



Sperrin Sculpture, Mullaghcarn



Gortin Glen Forest Park

EXPLORE Omagh & The Sperrins Region

For all your information needs call into Omagh Visitor Information Centre

Omagh Visitor Information Centre
Strule Arts Centre
1 Townhall Square
Omagh
BT78 1BL

Tel: 028 8224 7831
Email: strulearts@fermanaghomagh.com

To book your stay visit:
www.exploreomaghsperrins.com



EXPLORE Omagh & The Sperrins Region

Visitor Map



Gortin Lakes



Visitor Map Sperrins Region



South Sperrins Touring Route

- 1. Omagh**

Situated at the place where the Drumragh and Camowen rivers meet to form the Strule River. Its strategic location was recognised by the O'Neills who built a castle here and it became a dedicated market town following the Plantation of Ulster in 1610. Despite a major accidental fire in 1742 which destroyed most of its buildings, it developed to become the County Town of Tyrone in 1768, taking over from Dungannon. This led to it becoming a major centre for the local administration of justice with a fine courthouse and associated gaol.
- 2. Glenpark Estate and Open Farm**

The site of the former Ulster History Park now offers guest accommodation, a caravan park and campsite, a licensed restaurant and bar, children's soft play, a farm shop, access to the beautiful grounds, an open farm with rare breed animals and is also a venue for weddings and events.
- 3. Gortin Glen Forest Park**

A photograph of a mountain biker wearing a red jersey, black shorts, and a helmet, riding down a dirt trail in a forest. The trail is surrounded by tall, thin trees and green foliage. The biker is in a dynamic pose, leaning forward and pedaling.

This family-centred forest park offers a range of outdoor recreation facilities including 6 way marked walking trails suiting all abilities, 13km of red & blue grade mountain bike trails, 8km of horse trail, a destination play park and café.
- 4. Gortin Lakes**

These two lakes are known in geological terms as 'kettle hole' lakes left by uneven melting of glaciers. A path encircling the lakes affords spectacular vistas of the high Sperrins.

5. **Gortin**
Gortin is a small picturesque village nestling in the Owenkillow river valley. The village is an ideal starting point for exploring the surrounding hills and glens by bike or on foot, as well as offering welcoming hostilities to unwind after a day's exercise.
 6. **Harry Avery O'Neill Castle**
The hills above Newtownstewart provide the setting for the majestic ruins of one of the Gaelic strongholds of the O'Neills. Although traditionally associated with Henry Aimbredh O'Neill, who died in 1392, it is not certain whether this fortification dates from the 14th or 15th century. It is an unusual structure, especially important in relation to the study of native Irish Medieval life. A visit to the nearby ruins of the Stewart Castle in Newtownstewart is also recommended.
 7. **Ulster American Folk Park**
Embark on a journey back in time from the Old World of Ulster to the New World of the American frontier. Wander the well-trodden pathways of rural Ulster, complete with a bustling street and welcoming farmhouses. Board a full-scale emigrant ship and experience the cramped quarters where hundreds of people lived during their twelve-week Atlantic crossing. Emerge in the New World and marvel at the ingenious solutions these resourceful newcomers created on the frontier. Experience demonstrations of traditional crafts daily by our costumed guides, from forge work and wool spinning to turf cutting and willow weaving.
- 
8. **The Abingdon Collection**
The Abingdon collection represents over 55 years of passionate collecting and provides an opportunity for visitors to take a 'walk in the past'. If you lived through the 50's, 60's and 70's, or just like big boy toys, then there is definitely something for you. The collection is open by appointment only. The collection is free of charge, but contributions are gratefully accepted in aid of Cancer Research UK.
 9. **Barnscourt Estate**
Barnscourt, the home of the Duke of Abercorn family since the early 1600's, is among a handful of remaining old family estates which combine great historical and architectural interest with a landscape of outstanding natural beauty. Restricted access.
 10. **Davies Bawn & Park Amenity Area**
Built on a site occupied at one time by an O'Neill tower house, this defended stone house commands an area of once strategic importance on the River Derg. The bawn was a refuge for planter families and was eventually rendered unfit for occupation after an attack by the O'Neills. Today's ruins consist of a rectangular bawn with the remains of 3 square flankers still visible. Local legend has it that a piper got lost forever in a forgotten passage way under the ruins and his musical laments can still be heard on still quiet nights.
 11. **The Derg Valley - St. Patrick**
According to tradition St. Patrick travelled through the Derg Valley on returning from a period of Lenten Penitential Service at Lough Derg - one of Ireland's most prominent ecclesiastical centres. While in the area check out St. Patrick's Well - the water from which is said to cure toothache; or walk the International Appalachian Trail and discover our geological connections with North America, Europe & Africa. Persons of note associated with the area include hymn writer Cecil Frances Alexander; Davy Crockett - King of the Wild Frontier; and Joe Sheridan, the 'inventor' of Irish Coffee.
 12. **Bolaght Mountain**
The northern slopes of Bolaght Mountain provide an excellent viewpoint from which to survey the rich diversity of the Derg Valley, the Sperrins uplands and the hills of Donegal.
 13. **Sloughan Glen**
This pleasant woodland walk along the Blackwater River takes the visitor steadily upwards to be greeted by the roar of its waterfall thundering over a rocky edge.
 14. **Pigeon Top Picnic Site**
This site overlooking Omagh, offers spectacular panoramic views of the region. Close by in the townland of Cavanacaw a seam of gold is being mined.

EXPLORE Omagh & The Sperrins Region

Central Sperrins Touring Route

- 1. Strabane's Heritage in Sculpture**
Dance with the 'Tinnies', 5 sculptural figures measuring some 18 feet in height and representing the region's rich tradition of music and dance; or spend a moment of reflection with Strabane's very own wishing pig 'Ambrose', named after a literary creation of Flann O'Brien, one of Strabane's most famous sons. Flann himself is also represented sculpturally, taking pride of place within Strabane's town centre.
- 2. Famous Connections**
Among the notable persons associated with Strabane are John Dunlap, printer of 'The American Declaration of Independence'; James Wilson, grandfather of U.S. President Woodrow Wilson; Sir Guy Carleton, a Governor General of Canada; Cecil Frances Alexander of 'All Things Bright & Beautiful' fame; and Annie Maunder, an accomplished astronomer who along with her husband had the 'Maunder' moon crater named in their honour. A heritage trail of the town provides the perfect opportunity to discover more about these famous connections and Strabane's wider history.
- 3. Sion Mills Village**
Once known for being the home of one of the world's leading linen producers, Sion Mills today is an idyllic tree lined village rich in industrial and architectural heritage. Discover more of Sion's wonderful history on a walking tour of the village or with a visit to the Sion Stables.
- 4. Stewart Castle, Newtownstewart**
This plantation building suffered severe damage during the 1641 insurrection and then in 1689 during King James' return from the Siege of Derry. A visit to the nearby ruins of the stronghold of Harry Avery O'Neill is also recommended.
- 5. Gortin**
Gortin is a small picturesque village nestling in the Owenkillew river valley. The village is an ideal starting point for exploring the surrounding hills and glens by bike or on foot, as well as offering welcoming hosteliery to unwind after a day's exercise.



6. **The Guardian - Sperrins Sculpture Trail**
The Guardian is a 7m tall sculpture and one of the three Sperrins Giants. It stands atop Mullaghcarra, designated an area of special scientific interest because of its earth science features, and unique upland habitat.
 7. **Loughmacrory Megalithic Wedge Tomb**
is a burial chamber which has a front chamber and a doorway marked by three stones. It is believed to have been constructed around 4000 years ago. Enjoy the flora and fauna of 'Loughmacrory Lakeside Walk'. This walk is set within a beautiful, unspoilt freshwater environment with changing views of the lough from around its shoreline.
 8. **Nally Heritage Centre**
(St Colmcille's GAA Ground)
The centre encompasses aspects of social, economic, political, sporting and geographical history relating to the local area. This is enhanced with artefacts which span from historic times to the modern day. 'Social Life of the People' examines the impact of churches, education and housing evolution on the lives of the people from as early as the 5th century. 'Making a Living' examines the development of the transport infrastructure from earliest times. Farming is also accorded special recognition to acknowledge its dominance for centuries in parish life.
- 
9. **An Creagán Centre**
Distinctively designed to mirror the archaeology of the area and gives you the opportunity to step back in time. It also houses an interpretative exhibition and offers archaeological, environmental and cultural guided tours of the surrounding area.
- 
10. **Aghascrebagh 'Ogham' Stone**
This is one of the very few 'ogham' stones in Northern Ireland. The marks on the edges of this stone are characters from an alphabet that was used in medieval Ireland. The 25-letter alphabet was supposedly inspired by Ogma, god of eloquence.



- 11. Barnes Gap and The Glenelly Valley**
Carved by the glacial flows of the Ice Age this giant landscape features picturesque walking and cycling routes, peaceful picnic sites, and mysterious archaeological remains. On route follow the signs to find Bodoney Church, Glenroa Portal Tomb, and Clogherny Wedge Tomb, while Goles Stone Row is just over 3.5km/2 miles East of Sperrin. Near Cranagh slumbering giants are stirring.
- 12. Loughash Wedge Tomb**
Sample something of the Sperrins' prehistoric past with a visit to this ancient burial chamber. The entrance, which faces west, has a double portal arrangement leading to a single burial chamber where it is believed 3 individuals were interred.
- 13. Donemana/Dunamanagh Village**
A quiet country village with a tradition of sporting excellence. It nestles at the foothills of the Sperrins, among wooded hillsides and on the banks of the River Dennett, and provides an opportunity to sample something of our rural heritage.