



Granuaile Loop

Trailhead :	Achill - GPS 53.9027747 -9.9412805
Terrain:	Mountain
Distance :	6.8 km
Difficulty :	Strenuous
Highest Point:	189m
Duration:	2-3 hr approx
Minimum Gear:	Hiking Boots & raingear
Services :	Mulranny, & Achill

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1. Ailt

The ruins of Ailt village run along the river Sruthán na hAilte where once the villages of Ailt a'tSagairt, Ailt a' Mhianaigh, Ailt na Mánrach and Baile Úr existed. 79 families lived here in 1838 and in 1854 the landlord William Pike evicted the tenants as it was more profitable to have cattle rather than people on his land.

2. Leachtai

Around 40 large stone cairns stand as monuments of an ancient burial site on the old funeral path to Kildownet Cemetery known as 'Leachtai'. They are situated on Derreens hill above Log a'Duine Mhairbh and Ailt village on either side.

3. Caisleán Ghráinne Mhaol

To the south west is Gráinne Mhaol's castle in Kildownet which was built in the 16th century. The Achill Lifeboat lies at anchor beneath the castle which was once the anchorage of Gráinne's fleet. Further south is a sweeping view of Currane, Achill Beg, Clew Bay and Clare Island.

4. Cuan Na h-Aisléim

The Northern side of the loop offers a sweeping view from the cliffs of Ashleam Bay to the west through to Davitt Bridge at Achill Sound eastwards. In Bleanaskill we see 'Sketcher's' the former home of Alexander Williams.

5. Bealach Mara Acla

The narrow strait between Achill and Currane Peninsula from the bridge at Achill Sound to Achill Beg is viewed from the southern section of the loop. This was a busy and important transport and travel sea-way for hookers, yawls and small boats until the beginning of the last century. The revival of the Achill Yawl twenty years ago for sailing competitions has been most popular.

