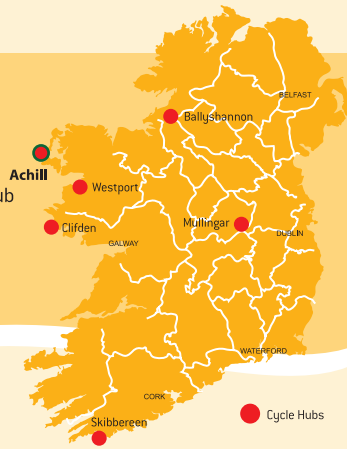


The National Cycle Network is being developed throughout Ireland. A number of Cycle Hub towns are located across the country. Each hub town has a number of looped cycle routes consisting of half day & day cycles.



Achill Cycle Hub

Loop 1 : 44 kilometres, 3-4 hours

Start : An Caol - Keel

The longest tour, taking you to the southern corner of Achill Island. Experience the spectacular sea cliff scenery along the 'Atlantic Drive'. Visit Kildownet Church & Castle once used by Granuaile (The Pirate Queen) and ponder on those who inhabited the early promontory forts. There are some moderate climbs and a steep descent/ ascent on this route. You can pause for some well deserved refreshments in An Caiseal/ Cashel or Gob a Choire/ Achill Sound. There is an option to short cut the route at An Aisléim / Ashleam.



Loop 2 : 28 kilometres, 2-3 hours

Start : An Caol - Keel

This looped cycle route visits the north east corner of Achill Island with views back to the mainland. Visit the 'deserted village', the beaches at Dumha Goirt and Golden Strand with opportunities for swimming. The route then follows quiet lanes back towards Bun a Chorraigh/ Bunacurry before returning along the main island road.



Loop 3 : 12 kilometres, 1-1.30 hours

Start : An Caol - Keel

This route makes for a pleasant short cycle with gentle gradients around An Caol. You can detour to visit the 'deserted village' and a megalithic tomb. Excellent views down to the Atlantic and the main beach - An Trá Mhór.



BIKE HIRE

Bike Hire is available on the Island, further information is available from Achill Tourism, Cashel, Achill Sound, Co. Mayo, Telephone: +353 (0)98 47353 Local: 1850 224455. Web: www.achilltourism.com Email: info@achilltourism.com

DISCLAIMER

These cycle routes have been constructed by the local authority and other organisations. Cyclists use these routes entirely at their own risk. No responsibility can be accepted by the local authority, or by the publishers and authors of this information leaflet, for any loss, damage or injury caused or sustained during your cycle.

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These routes are part of a countryside network developed by Fáilte Ireland in association with the Local Authorities.

Fuller details of these and other route options are available from

www.discoverireland.ie/cycling



Your nearest Tourist information office

Achill Tourism

Cashel, Achill Sound, Co Mayo

Telephone 09847353

Web www.achilltourism.com



Achill Cycle Hub



“Experience spectacular scenery, visit the ‘deserted village’ and meander along quiet country roads...”

The West Mayo Cycle Network, with the Island of Achill as its hub, offers three routes varying in distance from 12km to 44km with numerous shorter alternatives. Each cycle offers breathtaking views of the west coast off Mayo and Achill Island. Numerous picnic stops are dotted along the route as well as a number of local public houses and restaurants.

Wild, windy and stunningly beautiful, Achill has numerous historic sites and excellent facilities and activities. The island has a long history of human settlement with megalithic tombs and promontory forts dating back 5,000 years. There's also a 15th century fortified tower house, Kildamnait Castle, the 19th century Acaill Mission, and the poignant deserted villages at Slievemore and Ailt. The Achill landscape is also a major draw with picture postcard Blue Flag beaches, some of Europe's highest cliffs and large tracts of blanket bog sweeping over the island's two peaks and down to the shore. Walking and cycling along the quiet lanes and trails is a wonderful way to discover the island's interior.

Trail Description

Loop 1 :

Start / Trailhead: An Caol – Keel
Distance: 44 km
Estimated Time: 3-4 Hours
Terrain: Some Moderate Climbs and a Steep descent/ascent. Spectacular sea cliff scenery along the Atlantic Drive.
Traffic: Generally light but can get busy during holiday season.
To Suit: Suitable for people with medium levels of fitness.
Minimum Gear: Helmet, Bike, Mobile Phone, Fluid, Snacks and Waterproofs.
Services: Services are available throughout the Island.

Loop 2 :

Start / Trailhead: An Caol – Keel
Distance: 28 km
Estimated Time: 2-3 Hours
Terrain: Quiet Roads and Bog Tracks.
Traffic: Generally light but can get busy during holiday season.
To Suit: Suitable for people with medium levels of fitness.
Minimum Gear: Helmet, Bike, Mobile Phone, Fluid, Snacks and Waterproofs.
Services: Services are available throughout the Island.

Loop 3 :

Start / Trailhead: An Caol – Keel
Distance: 12 km
Estimated Time: 1-1.30 Hours
Terrain: Moderate Climbs and some wonderful views of the Atlantic.
Traffic: Generally light but can get busy during holiday season.
To Suit: Suitable for people with medium levels of fitness.
Minimum Gear: Helmet, Bike, Mobile Phone, Fluid, Snacks and Waterproofs.
Services: Services are available throughout the Island.

