



COSÁN NA gCAPALL  
**BEARA**  
BRIDLE WAY

# WELCOME TO THE BEARA BRIDLE WAY

Etched into the sides of the Miskish and Knockgour mountains of the Slieve Miskish range which knuckles the Beara peninsula west, the Beara Bridle Way is Ireland's first ever horse trail. The main trail hugs the flanks of the mountains, overlooking 17 kilometres of rugged mountain scenery, stunning seascapes and dazzling island views. It includes some optional but highly recommended detours that climb to access even better vistas from elevated viewing points.

The Bridle Way links Clonglaskin townland several kilometres west of Castletownbere town with the colourful village of Allihies, once famous for its coppermines, and the coastal townland of Urhan near picturesque Eyeries village.

Despite the wildness of the scenery, the terrain has something for all experience levels and can be undertaken at any pace.

## CLONGLASKIN, CASTLETOWNBERE TO ALLIHIES



The Beara community are delighted to revive this Bridle Way which was first opened to horses in 1824 to facilitate copper mining at Allihies. This 5km trail includes a steep, 230m ascent and descent, so it is recommended that both horse and rider are fit and have previous trekking experience.

The trail initially takes the rider into forestry where the track climbs steeply up the side of the Gour eventually emerging to reveal panoramic views encompassing both Castletownbere and Allihies. It then descends past the ruins of the disused copper mine and joins backroads to arrive into Allihies village.

There are three optional route spurs on this section, all well-signed. **1.** The first diverges from the main trail as you leave the forestry and winds 1.3km south up Gour Hill towards the summit and a spectacular viewing point. **2.** The second is approximately 2.5 km long and leaves the main route about 1km after the forestry then climbs towards the summit of Knockgour before levelling and continuing towards the summit of Knockoura where it rewards with panoramic views of both Kenmare and Bantry Bays. **3.** The final spur is offered once on public road near Allihies. Riders will meet a bridle gate about 500m after leaving the main route where the spur continues on private land, climbing gently for 3km to breast a high point giving views west of Allihies and Ballydonegan Bay.

Back on the main trail and on the approach to Allihies, riders can follow signage to enjoy pre-booked lunch at Beach View B&B (027 73105) while their horses are corralled in a paddock within sight.

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



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**KEY TO SYMBOLS**

	Bridleway Gates		Parking
	View Point		Restaurant
	Accommodation		Swimming
	B&B for Horses		Bar
	Post Office		Drinking water for horses
	Trekking Centre		

## CONDITIONS OF USE

The Bridle Way has been developed by Beara Tourism on behalf of the local community who welcome all considerate users who are in compliance with the Conditions of Use. The trail follows both public and private tracks and the Bridle Way is only possible because of the kind permission of several private landowners.

- To ride on the Bridle Way you MUST become a member of the Beara Bridle Way and sign The Beara Bridle Way membership agreement.
- Membership of The Bridle Way is only open to Gold Members of the British Horse Society (BHS) OR by availing of the trekking services provided by local riding establishments.
- Members of The Bridle Way must adhere to the Code of Conduct of the membership agreement which should be read carefully and which includes:
  - Members must wear a properly fitted riding hat to a current approved standard and appropriate riding boots.
  - The Bridal Way can be used during daylight hours only.
  - Taking due care with other pedestrian users, livestock and vehicles.
  - Yielding at all times to pedestrians on the Bridle Way.
  - Taking the usual safety precautions with equipment, tack, first aid and care for both rider and horse including the carrying of equine shoes.
  - Obeying the country code and adhering to the marked route.
  - Members under 16 years of age must ride the Bridle Way with an adult member.
  - Absolutely no dogs are permitted on those sections of the Bridal Way on private land.
- It is also recommended that trail users ride at a pace appropriate to the level of experience of both the rider and the horse.

## SAFETY INFORMATION

For emergency services dial 999 or 112.

In anticipation of loss of a horse shoe, trail users should carry equine shoes.

The local veterinary can be contacted on 027 70366.

For the emergency farrier or horse box or any other horse-related issues please ring Tir na Hilan trekking on 086 172 1279 or Karin on 086 376 0688.

Please be aware that there is no mobile coverage for approximately 10% of the trail.

For more information on the trail contact Beara Tourism 027 70054 or [bearatours@eircom.net](mailto:bearatours@eircom.net)

Find us on Facebook - Beara Bridle Way



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