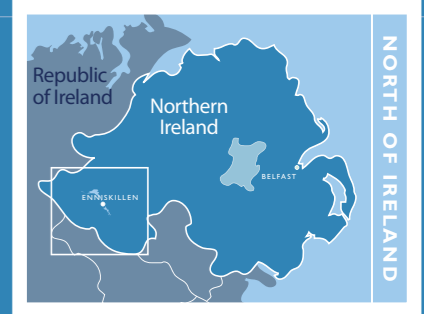
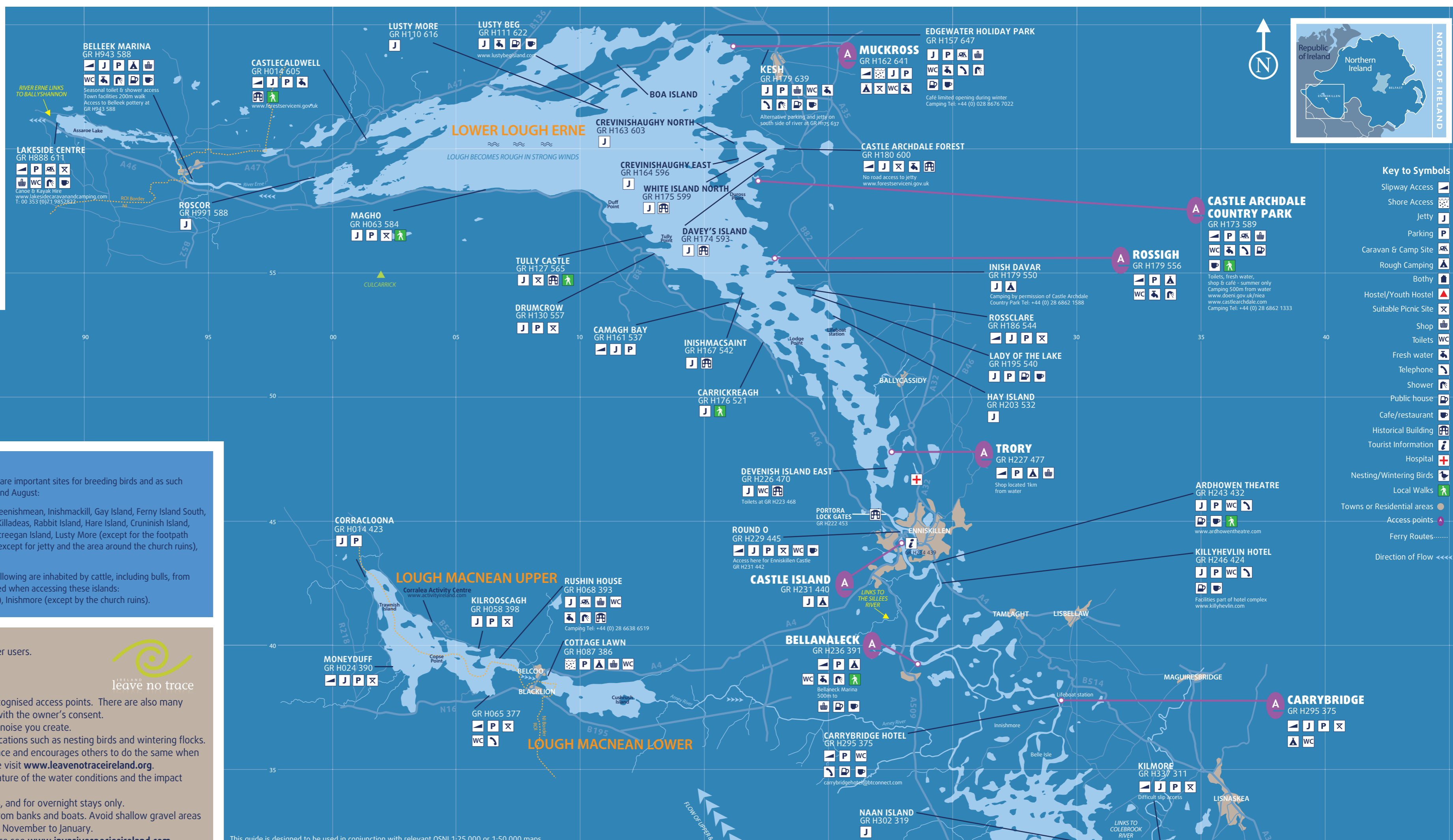


- Enniskillen Town Centre Access Points**
- 1 ARDHOWEN GR H243 432
  - 2 ERNESIDE SHOPPING CENTRE GR H237 437
  - 3 LAKELAND FORUM GR H233 438
  - 4 REGAL PASS GR H235 438
  - 5 SLIGO ROAD GR H229 440
  - 6 CASTLE ISLAND GR H231 440
  - 7 QUEENS STREET GR H233 444
  - 8 CHERRY ISLAND GR H234 444
  - 9 HENRY STREET GR H229 441
  - 10 ROUND O GR H229 445



**Key to Symbols**

- Slipway Access
- Shore Access
- Jetty
- Parking
- Caravan & Camp Site
- Rough Camping
- Bothy
- Hostel/Youth Hostel
- Suitable Picnic Site
- Shop
- Toilets
- Fresh water
- Telephone
- Shower
- Public house
- Cafe/restaurant
- Historical Building
- Tourist Information
- Hospital
- Nesting/Wintering Birds
- Local Walks
- Towns or Residential areas
- Access-points
- Ferry Routes
- Direction of Flow

### Restricted Access

The following islands on Lough Erne are important sites for breeding birds and as such should be avoided between March and August:

**Lower Lough Erne:** Cleenishgarve, Cleenishmean, Inishmackill, Gay Island, Ferny Island South, White Island South, Horse Island by Killadeas, Rabbit Island, Hare Island, Cruninish Island, Gravel Ridge Island, Stallion Cows, Screegan Island, Lusty More (except for the footpath from the jetty), White Island North (except for jetty and the area around the church ruins), Muckinish, Rosscor Island.

All of the above islands and those following are inhabited by cattle, including bulls, from April to November. Caution is advised when accessing these islands: Devenish (except by the monument), Inishmore (except by the church ruins).

### Earning a Welcome

- Please be friendly and polite to local residents and other water users.
- Drive with care and consideration and park sensibly.
- Change clothing discreetly, preferably out of public view.
- Gain permission before accessing private property.
- Minimise your impact on the natural environment and use recognised access points. There are also many unofficial access points along the shore, which may be used with the owner's consent.
- Be sensitive to wildlife and other users regarding the level of noise you create.
- Observe wildlife from a distance and be aware of sensitive locations such as nesting birds and wintering flocks.
- Outdoor Recreation NI supports the principles of Leave No Trace and encourages others to do the same when taking part in outdoor recreation. For more information please visit [www.leaveonotraceireland.org](http://www.leaveonotraceireland.org).
- Keep the numbers in your party consistent with safety, the nature of the water conditions and the impact on your surroundings.
- Wild camping should be carried out discreetly, in small parties, and for overnight stays only.
- Have respect for anglers - keep well clear of anglers fishing from banks and boats. Avoid shallow gravel areas of rivers where salmon and trout may spawn, especially from November to January.
- Take care to avoid spreading invasive species. For more advice see [www.invasivespeciesireland.com](http://www.invasivespeciesireland.com)

This guide is designed to be used in conjunction with relevant OSNI 1:25,000 or 1:50,000 maps

### Accommodation

A range of self catering, B&B and hotels are available along the trail. For a full list of accommodation providers please visit [www.canoeni.com](http://www.canoeni.com) or [www.discovernorthernireland.com](http://www.discovernorthernireland.com) or contact Fermanagh Tourist Information Centre.

### Canoe Hire and Canoe Tours

For up-to-date canoe hire and guiding please visit [www.canoeni.com](http://www.canoeni.com)

### Camping

For up-to-date details of official campsites and rough camping opportunities please visit [www.canoeni.com](http://www.canoeni.com)

### Further Information

Fermanagh Lakeland Tourism T: +44 (0)28 6632 3110 [www.fermanaghlakelands.com](http://www.fermanaghlakelands.com)

**Trail updates:** Any changes to the canoe trail that may occur will be updated on [www.canoeni.com](http://www.canoeni.com). Please email any feedback to [info@canoeni.com](mailto:info@canoeni.com)

**Other Resources**

- Canoe Trails [www.cani.org.uk](http://www.cani.org.uk)
- Canoe Association of Northern Ireland [www.outdoorni.com](http://www.outdoorni.com)
- Outdoor NI [www.outdoorrecreationni.com](http://www.outdoorrecreationni.com)
- Waterways Ireland (Navigation Authority) [www.waterwaysireland.org](http://www.waterwaysireland.org)

**NIEA Water Pollution Hotline** Freephone 0800 807060

### Provision for people with disabilities

All sites with slips cater for disability access with varying degrees depending on the water level. It is recommended to check before starting a journey. This guide is available on request in alternative formats.

### Disclaimer

Every effort has been taken to ensure accuracy in the compilation of this publication. Outdoor Recreation NI and its partner organisations cannot however accept responsibility for errors or omissions, but where such are brought to our attention, future publications will be amended accordingly. Canoeing may by its nature be hazardous and involve risk; training is essential for safe participation. It is recommended to take out personal accident insurance. Users must undertake and act on their own risk assessments prior to use of any access site or waterway and review and update during use. The guide must be used in conjunction with an Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 or 1:50,000 map. Neither the publishers, funders, contributors, landowners, site managers, riparian owners nor agents of the aforementioned can be held responsible for any loss, injury or inconvenience sustained by any person or persons as a result of information, guidance or advice given in or omitted from this guide.

### Acknowledgements

Design [www.thinkstudio.co.uk](http://www.thinkstudio.co.uk)

This project has been developed by

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### UPPER LOUGH ERNE

5 Kilometres



For the adventurous, it is possible to extend your journey from Belleek at the north west end of Lower Lough Erne across the border to **Assaroo Lake** in the Republic of Ireland where the Lakeside Centre offers camping and visitor amenities. Staying close to the right hand bank of the river, canoeists pass through a disused eel fishery and under an old railway bridge to arrive at the Cliff power station, getting out on the right hand (northern) side of the river where a zoo metre portage allows access to Assaroo Lake. The river section after Belleek can be fast flowing after heavy rain so this is best left to experienced paddlers in such conditions

The River Erne, flowing into Upper Lough Erne from Belleurbey, links the main Erne system to **Lough Oughter** and **Lough Gowran** in County Cavan. This complex of lakes, the result of a flooded drumlin landscape, is rich in birdlife including whooper swans and great crested grebes. The tiny island in Lough Oughter is well worth a visit. The preferred direction of travel is with the flow from Oughterbank when paddling downstream as this allows you to use the channel to pass through the lock.

The main route continues downstream and the river narrows and becomes flanked by tall trees on the left hand riverbank. Kingfishers can often be spotted along the banks, perching on overhanging trees from which they can dive for food. The Portora Lock Gates (GR H222 453) are situated along this river section and it is important to keep to the left bank when paddling downstream as this allows you to use the channel to pass through the lock.

The island town of Enniskillen or Inis Ceithleann is named after an ancient warrior Cathleen who is said to have been wounded in battle by an arrow and attempted to swim across the river but never reached the other side.

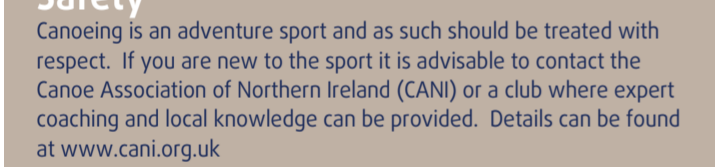
North of Rossigh marks the beginning of an area known by locals as the 'broad lough' which can become very rough in strong winds - so this is an area best left to the experts or kept for a calm day. The main designated access points are along the eastern shoreline. There is little infrastructure until you reach Castle Archdale Marina, the entrance of which is clearly indicated by a large white cairn. Castle Archdale Country Park is a hive of activity with a well equipped campsite and amenities. During the 1939-1945 war, Castle Archdale was a Coastal Command base for Catalina and Sunderland flying boats. To the north east of the marina entrance you can paddle to the remains of the ruins of a 13th century church and seven enigmatic stone figures that look pagan in origin but date to the 9th or 10th century. From White Island North continue north towards the final access point at Muckross, a popular bathing area in good weather, and situated near the mouth of the Glendunagh River which leads to the picturesque village of Kesh.

There are a few other areas well worth exploring around the shores of the 'broad lough'. Boa Island, the largest inland island in Ireland a few miles west of Muckross is surrounded by a forest of birch and ash trees. The main designated access points are along the eastern shoreline. There is little infrastructure until you reach Castle Archdale Marina, the entrance of which is clearly indicated by a large white cairn. Castle Archdale Country Park is a hive of activity with a well equipped campsite and amenities. During the 1939-1945 war, Castle Archdale was a Coastal Command base for Catalina and Sunderland flying boats. To the north east of the marina entrance you can paddle to the remains of the ruins of a 13th century church and seven enigmatic stone figures that look pagan in origin but date to the 9th or 10th century. From White Island North continue north towards the final access point at Muckross, a popular bathing area in good weather, and situated near the mouth of the Glendunagh River which leads to the picturesque village of Kesh.

From the southern end of Upper Lough Erne it is possible to paddle along the Woodford River to join the **Shannon Erne Waterway**, where a series of rivers, lakes and canal cuts lead to Leitrim in the Republic of Ireland, some 63 km away. Beyond this, it is possible to follow the waterway south all the way to Limerick. Most canoeists choose to paddle from Leitrim to Upper Lough Erne as flow along river sections favours this direction of travel.

Other waterways

Lough MacNeaen and links to



**Safety**  
Canoeing is an adventure sport and as such should be treated with respect. If you are new to the sport it is advisable to contact the Canoe Association of Northern Ireland (CANI) or a club where expert coaching and local knowledge can be provided. Details can be found at [www.cani.org.uk](http://www.cani.org.uk)

When taking part in canoeing consider the following safety advice:

1. Attending a recognised training course to develop skills and to acquire safety and environmental knowledge is very important for safe paddling.
2. It is recommended that canoeists consult the relevant maps and obtain up to date information on weather before planning a trip.
3. CANI recommends that paddlers leave details of their journey with a responsible adult based on the shore.
4. Carry adequate basic safety equipment - spare clothes, extra food, warm drink, form of shelter, First Aid kit, means of communication (VHF Radio, mobile phone), torch and whistle.
5. Carry and know how to use a map and compass
6. Wear appropriate buoyancy in the form of a personal lifejacket or buoyancy aid. Canoe buoyancy should be sufficient to keep the canoe afloat if you capsize.
7. It is not recommended to canoe alone - three boats is the minimum required for most rescues.
8. Be aware of other water users such as sailing boats and cruisers. Canoeists should make allowance for the limitations and needs of larger craft that are less manoeuvrable and may be restricted to deep water channels.
9. The Lower Lough can become very rough in strong winds - carrying rafting poles is a sensible precaution as rafted canoes are more stable in rough conditions.
10. Channel markers are indicated on the 1:25,000 OSNI Activity Map and are a useful navigation aid.

**Winds and Weather**  
A comprehensive weather forecast can be obtained from the BBC website [news.bbc.co.uk/weather](http://news.bbc.co.uk/weather) or from the Met Office [www.metoffice.gov.uk](http://www.metoffice.gov.uk)

**Non-emergency contacts**  
Police non-emergency (Northern Ireland) 0845 600 8000  
Belfast Coastguard non-emergency +44 (0)28 9146 3933

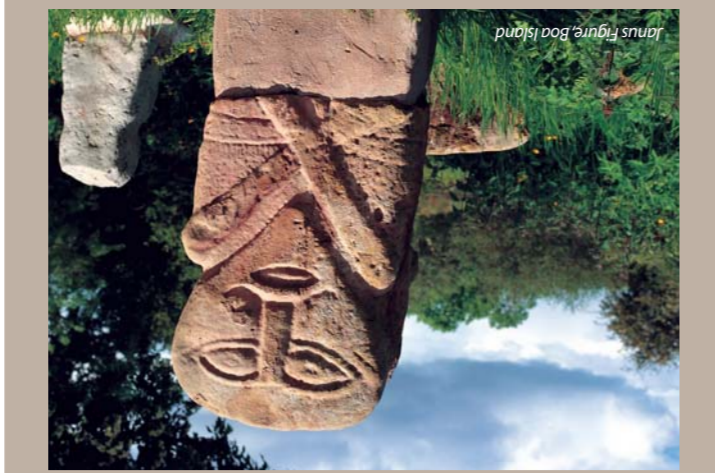
**Emergencies**  
In the event of an emergency - **Dial 999 or 112** to contact Coastguard, police and ambulance. Use **VHF Radio Channel 16** to contact Coastguard

**Useful Maps**  
Maps available from Enniskillen Tourist Information Centre  
OSNI Lough Erne Activity Map 1:25,000

OSNI Discoverer Map Series 1:50,000 Sheet 17 Lower Lough Erne  
OSNI Discoverer Map Series 1:50,000 Sheet 18 Enniskillen  
OSNI Discoverer Map Series 1:50,000 Sheet 27 Upper Lough Erne  
OSNI Discoverer Map Series 1:50,000 Sheet 26 Lough Allen

**Camping on Lough Erne**  
There are many official camping and caravan sites situated around Upper and Lower Lough Erne however only those with shore access are shown on the map. Contact telephone numbers are provided and prior booking is advisable, booking fees vary. Rough camping is possible at many of the access points and is suitable for discreet overnight camping for small groups only. See [www.canoeni.com](http://www.canoeni.com) for comprehensive information on camping opportunities.

**Invasive Species**  
In order to help protect against the spread of invasive species in Lough Erne and across Northern Ireland, canoeists should check, clean and dry clothing and equipment before entering the water and before travelling to other waterways.



Fine Farlan China.  
The river widens again into Lower Lough Erne and winds its way towards Devenish Island, with its 81 foot 12th century tower visible well before arrival, therefore offering a great navigation aid against the countryside backdrop. Devenish Island, originally called Ox Island, was once the centre of Fermanagh's cultural and spiritual life. Saint Molaise founded a monastic settlement here in the 6th Century.

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Other waterways



Rossigh to Muckross

Lower Lough Erne

**canoe TRAILS**

## Lough Erne Canoe Trail

Fermanagh's lakes provide the ideal destination for canoeing. This 50 kilometre trail spans both Upper and Lower Lough Erne providing excellent opportunities for wild camping along the way.



Waterways Ireland  
Uiscebhán Éireann Watterweys Airtann  
Fermanagh District Council

Continuing north west, a short paddle further along the shoreline brings into view the exquisite 16th century boathouse, formerly headquarters of the Lough Erne Yacht Club. The 19th century Crom Castle, home of Lord Erne, provides a stunning backdrop. You can continue to paddle along the eastern shoreline of Inishker and under the White Bridge but it is recommended to briefly retrace your tracks to take in Crichton Tower on Gad Island, an impressive folly.

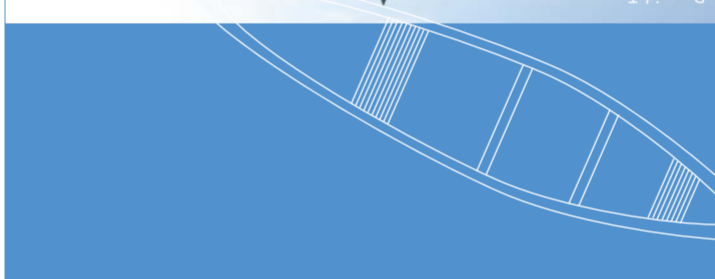
From here the route north west past Trinity Church on the Derryvore peninsula is flanked on either side by ancient woodland. This tranquil area offers a great opportunity to view Grey Heron fishing from the banks and if you are really fortunate, deer and wild goats may be spotted drinking from the lough.

Inish Rath is a unique stop-off point. The island is home to a thriving Hare Krishna community and visitors are welcome, however it is best to make contact in advance. Access can be gained via jetties on the island's western shore. After passing under Lady Craigavon Bridge, Trannish Island offers a bothy and campsite which can be booked in advance via the nearby Share Discovery Village at Smith's Strand where camping with facilities is also available.

From Trannish Island there are several routes which can be taken to Knockninny through a maze of islands with native woodlands. A great reference point is Knockninny Hill where the Maguire chieftains once had their castle. Knockninny offers a camp site to the south of the toilet block.

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Other waterways



Rossigh to Rossigh

Devenish Tower



Upper Lough Erne

The Lough Erne Canoe Trail is one of the most popular canoe trails in Northern Ireland because it is suitable for such a wide range of abilities. As with all canoe trails in Northern Ireland, access to the water is free and no licence is required.

The maze of bays, narrow channels of slow moving water and innumerable islands and peninsulas in Upper Lough Erne offer a superb venue for families or those embarking on their first canoe trip.

Lower Lough Erne, north of Rossigh, is known by locals as the 'broad lough' and can become very rough in strong winds, so this is an area best left to experts.

The Erne System flows from south to north, that is, from Upper Lough Erne to Lower Lough Erne. The flow is insignificant on the lough sections where wind direction is a much more important consideration and therefore this should not impact on your decision of which direction to travel.

There is a small flow along the River Erne section through Enniskillen. It is possible to paddle 'upstream' most of the year, however flow can become significant during periods of high rainfall so it is wise to check conditions in advance. The Arney River flows west to east from Lough MacNean Lower to Upper Lough Erne and is faster flowing Grade 1 water.

The islands and quiet shores of Lough Erne are ideal for wild camping, making it perfect for those seeking a true wilderness experience. Wildlife highlights include kingfishers, otters and grey herons whilst numerous historic lough-side features such as the iconic Devenish Tower, Crom Estate and Enniskillen Castle are well worth a visit.



Continuing north west, a short paddle further along the shoreline brings into view the exquisite 16th century boathouse, formerly headquarters of the Lough Erne Yacht Club. The 19th century Crom Castle, home of Lord Erne, provides a stunning backdrop. You can continue to paddle along the eastern shoreline of Inishker and under the White Bridge but it is recommended to briefly retrace your tracks to take in Crichton Tower on Gad Island, an impressive folly.

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Other waterways



Knockninny to Enniskillen

Kingfisher



Originally the seat of the MacManus clan and famous as the woodland. Continue east the west of Belle Isle Estate, the river section otherwise difficult to identify amongst the recording station which is a great marker for the start of and Belle Isle which will bring you via Carrybridge. The Inishmore Viaduct or preferably east between Inishmore options to pass by Inishmore Island. Either west under the approach with caution in strong winds. There are two of water on the Upper Lough so this journey is best Knockninny to Inishmore Island is the only expansive piece Carrybridge is a popular water skiing location during the summer months so exercise caution when approaching. A small rough campsite for a few tents is available on the north side of the bridge on the east side of the river (GR H295 375). A basic toilet block and fresh water are available here. Alternatively, accommodation is available at the Carrybridge Hotel on the western bank. Whether a resident or not, the hotel is a popular spot with locals for food and drink.

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