

The Oratory at Mamean

Start and Finish –

At Lough Inagh Lodge Hotel.

Description –

This is a walk along a quiet back road, and an ascent on a traditional pilgrim's path to an Oratory up in a beautiful pass in the Maumturks. Your return is by the same route. You could consider shortening the walk by driving part of the route or even all the way to the car park mentioned.

Comments –

The Oratory is a very evocative peaceful scene, in a dramatically private spot nestling up there for ages. The legend is that St. Patrick lived up there, and his stony bed is there to prove it. The Stations of the Cross are fourteen cairns suitably inscribed along a stony circular path, and there is also a holy well. And did I mention a beautiful little lake, and mighty Binn Ramhar looming over all?

Directions –

Turn left at the Lodge and walk south on the R344 road for 500 m to the end of the wood, where there is a roadside park. Turn up left, signed for MamEan, and soon this side road levels off, with the Maumturks towering above. The road rises and falls in short stretches, and you pass the signpost where the Western Way goes left off the road.

The scenery along here is wonderful, and it is a peaceful and scenic little road. It continues to rise and fall as you progress, with lively streams rushing from the towering hills on the left and passing under little bridges on the road. You are actually on a road section of the Western Way here, and then you reach the car park clearing where the Western Way heads up into the hills to the left. This is some 8 km from the Lough Inagh Lodge Hotel.

Turn up left as directed by the MamEan and Western Way signs – the route is initially on a grassy track, but becomes stonier as you ascend. The oratory is say half an hour walk up there. Your return route is as you came.