

6. Gallarus Castle

This recently restored 15th-century tower house was built by members of the Fitzgerald family, who were important chieftains in this area at that time. It was damaged during the Cromwellian Wars in the middle of the 17th century.

7. Cathair Deargáin (Caherdorgan)

This National Monument, which consists of a roughly circular enclosure wall within which are 5 *clocháin* or circular rooms, was probably built sometime in the 8th or 9th century AD, and would have been the home of a fairly strong farmer and his family. The original entrance is no longer extant, and one enters today over a stile. There is a blocked souterrain (underground passage) in one of the rooms.

8. The Chancellor's House

This reputedly was the house of successive Chancellors of the Diocese of Ardfert. It is a long, rectangular ruined building divided into two rooms, and with an oven opening off one of them. It probably dates from the later medieval period.

9. Cill Maolchéadair (Kilmalkedar)

This is by far the most important ecclesiastical site on the Dingle Peninsula. The church is dedicated to St Maolcéadair who died in 616. The twelfth-century nave-and-chancel church is built in the Romanesque style. Near the chancel arch is a cross-decorated stone with the old Irish alphabet carved on one side, dating from the latter part of the 6th century. An Ogham stone, a sundial and other artefacts are also to be found on the site. A few hundred yards from the site is a holy well and an unusual dwelling known as *Fothrach Bréanainn* (St Brendan's or the Priest's House), which perhaps dates from the 16th or 17th century. **(This property is not currently accessible.)** Another holy well lies in the field across the road from the site.

10. Rock Art

This unusual recently-discovered spiral motif may have been a route marker on the Cosán, but it is also possible that it is of prehistoric date and that its position here is fortuitous.

11. Corr Áille (Currauly)

The early ecclesiastical site of *Corr Áille* must have functioned in connection with the pilgrimage to *Cnoc Bréanainn*, although its path passes around the opposite side to the site's original entrance. Here, a stone wall or cashel encloses a beehive hut, a *leacht* (ancient stone platform), a broken cross-inscribed stone and a number of grave-markers that possibly commemorate unbaptised children. Outside the wall there are two further ruined beehive huts, one with an underground passage known as a souterrain.

12. Cnoc Bréanainn (Mount Brandon)

Mount Brandon, the second highest mountain in Ireland at over 950m, dominates the area. This mountain has been a focus of pilgrimage since medieval times, and probably earlier. *Cosán na Naomh* (The Saints' Path) is a pilgrim route through the peninsula finishing eventually on the top of the mountain, which is named after St Brendan. An annual pilgrimage is still made to the summit of Mount Brandon on the last Sunday of June.



5

Cosán na Naomh

Siúlóid Oidhreachta Heritage Walk

Deineadh COSÁN NA NAOMH a fhorbairt de bharr ana-chomhoibriú agus dea-mhéin úinéirí talún an cheantair. Ba chóir go dtuigfí go dtéitear isteach ar thalamh príobháideach le cead agus le dea-thoil na n-úinéirí talún sin amháin agus nach mbronann sé sin aon cheart ar shiúlóirí, cuma cé chomh minic nó cé mhéad duine a dheineann sin.

COSÁN NA NAOMH or THE SAINTS' PATH had been developed with the kind co-operation of local landowners. It is understood that if persons enter private land they do so by permission and with the consent of landowners and no matter how often they enter, or in what numbers, they do not do so as of any right.

