

10 Leisure Walks of Discovery A Boot Up THE MOURNE MOUNTAINS

Steven Hanna

At the very heart of an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in County Down, the Mourne Mountains are home to Northern Ireland's highest peak Slieve Donard at 849 m (2,786 ft). They are a popular area with walkers and climbers alike. This guide provides you with route details for ten beautiful walks, ideal for families or groups of friends, taking you high up into the mountains to explore in solitude such areas as Windy Gap, Slieve Binnian, Hare's Gap and the peak of Donard, whilst also covering areas such as Bloody Bridge, Tollymore Forest and Murlough Bay.

This guide, tough yet small enough to slip into your pocket, is packed with colour photographs and explanatory notes about places of interest along the way, and is the perfect walking companion. Don't head into the Mournes without it!



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Steven Hanna is a highly talented photographer, who specialises in Fine Art Landscape Photography. His work is regularly published in magazines, both within the UK and mainland Europe, and has been exhibited across the length and breadth of Northern Ireland. Steven's images bring home the stunning natural beauty of the sweeping landscapes of Northern Ireland, where he lives with his wife Lynne in Cullybackey, County Antrim. Apart from his passion for scenic photography, Steven also engages in commercial wedding photography and lifestyle portraiture. A varied portfolio of his latest work can be viewed online at www.stevenhanna.co.uk.

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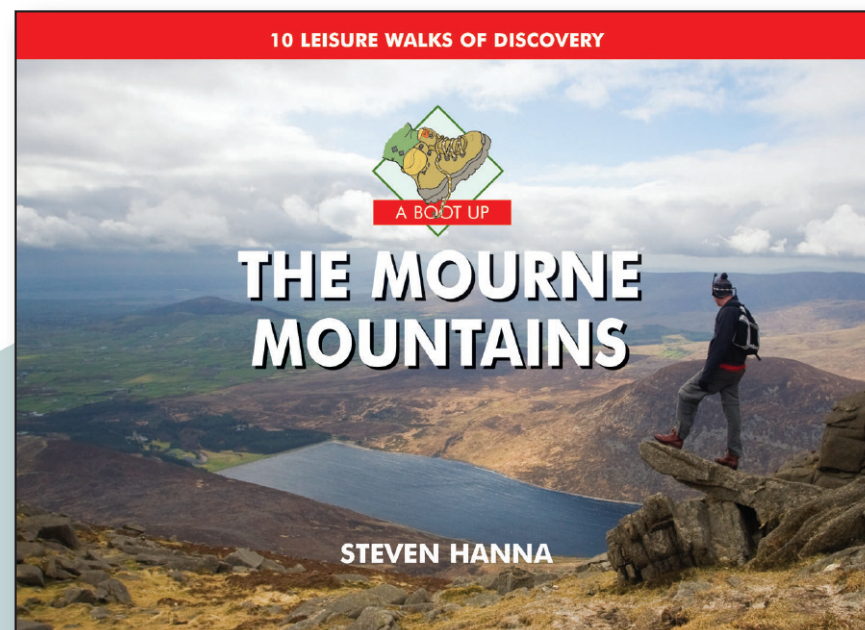
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A BOOT UP THE MOURNE MOUNTAINS



The Mourne Wall, with Slieve Binnian in the distance.



A Belfast Water Commissioner's Tower built in 1921 sits at the summit of Slieve Meelmore.



Late evening light along the Brandy Pad.



Foley's Bridge.



The Hare's Gap, and the Mourne Wall leading up to the summit of Slieve Bearnagh.



Views looking down on Ben Crom Reservoir.

1

Slieve Donard

6 At this point, by heading left and following the very steep incline of the Mourne Wall you will reach the summit of Donard at 849 metres high. Behold the highest mountain peak anywhere in Northern Ireland. Slieve Donard is named after a follower of Saint Patrick, known as Saint Donagort (or Donagort). He is the patron saint of Maghery. The view from the summit on a clear day can be outstanding, with the possibility of seeing Belfast 30 miles away to the north.

7 After reaching the summit, your descent is via the same route you followed on your way up. Care should be taken as the descent from the summit of Donard can be quite awkward in places.

Another stunning waterfall in Donard Forest

2 Bloody Bridge

Everyone must at some time, follow the trail from Bloody Bridge amongst all the picturesque rock pools and boulders, high up into the Mournes.

A strenuous walk in places which leads you up the other side of Donard to its summit. This would be a slightly quieter route to Donard's summit than that used in Walk 1.

Waterfall in the Bloody Bridge River

2

Bloody Bridge

Level:
Length: approx 10km
Time: approx 5 hours
Terrain: Strenuous in places, with some trees
Leaving any kids behind
Nearest Refreshments: Invercork
Info: Tickets available in car park at starting point

Example of a double-page spread.