

10 Leisure Walks of Discovery

A BOOT UP THE MOURNE MOUNTAINS

REPRINT

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!

Includes the following walks:

Slieve Donard • Bloody Bridge • Slieve Binnian • Hare's Gap • Lough Shannagh
Slieve Meelmore • Rocky Mountain • Tollymore Forest • Hare's Gap – Commedagh
Slieve Loughshannagh

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

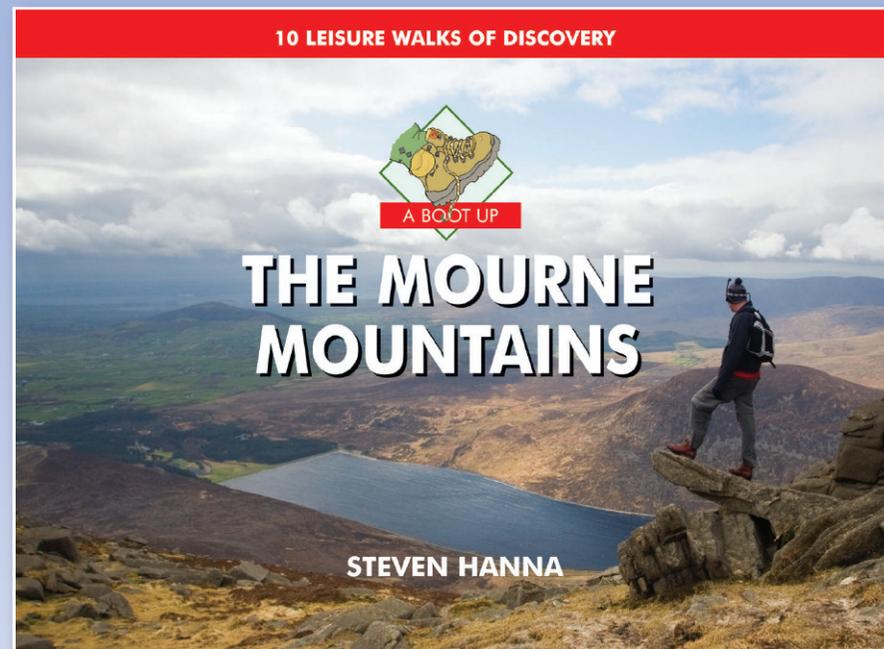


Steven Hanna is a highly talented photographer, who specialises in Fine Art Landscape Photography. His work is regularly published in magazines, both within the UK and mainland Europe, and has been exhibited across the length and breadth of Northern Ireland. Steven's images bring home the stunning natural 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.

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Halsgrove Publishing, Halsgrove House, Ryelands Business Park, Bagley Road,
Wellington, Somerset TA21 9PZ Tel: 01823 653777 Fax: 01823 216796
www.halsgrove.com e-mail: sales@halsgrove.com

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The Mourne Wall, with Slieve Binnian in the distance.



Above: Late evening light along the Brandy Pad.

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

Below: Views looking down on Ben Crom Reservoir.



Left: Foley's Bridge.



1 Slieve Donard

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 Domnóg (or Domnógort). He is the patron saint of Maghreen. The view from the summit on a clear day can be outstanding, with the possibility of seeing Belfast 30 miles away to the north.

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.

2 Bloody Bridge

Everyone must at some time, follow the trail from Bloody Bridge amongst all the picturesque rock pools and boulders, huff 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: Likes

Length: approx 5 hrs

Time: approx 5 hrs

Notes: Steep in places, with some areas being very loose footing

Nearest Refreshments: Newsfile

Note: Tents available in car park at starting point

Example of a double-page spread.