

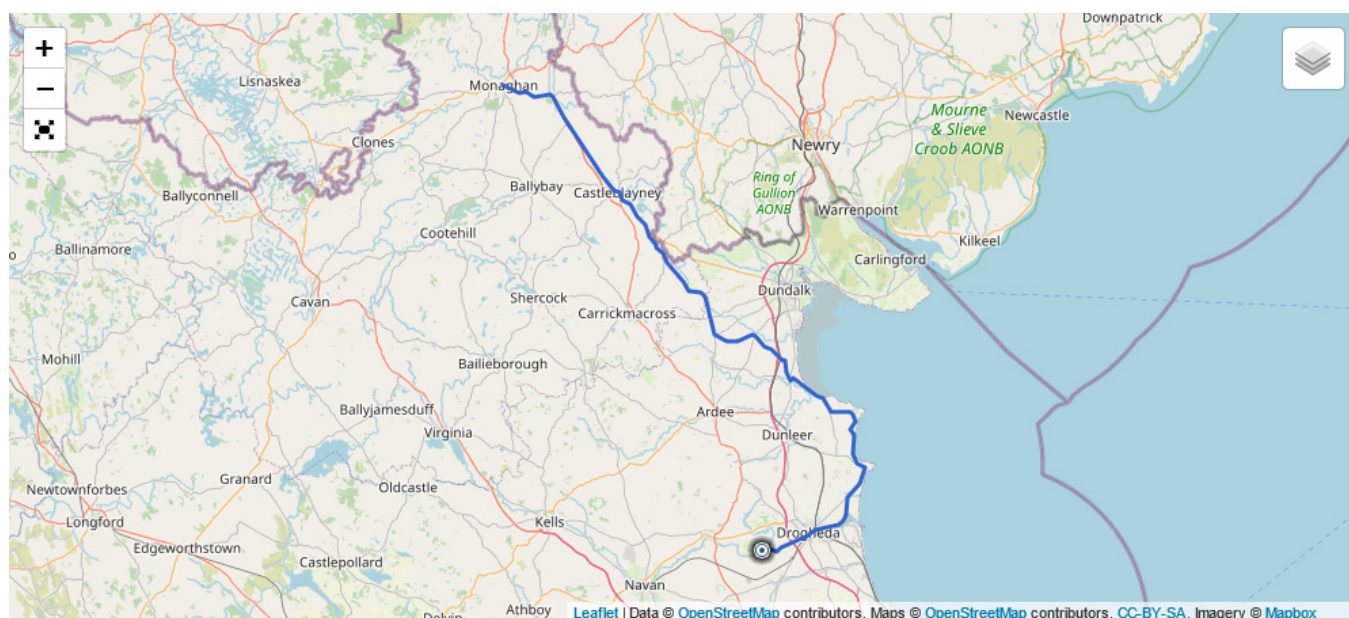


Tour of Ireland (Day 2)

Road

Distance : 100 km Elevation : 900 m Difficulty : 2

Start point : Drogheda End point : Monaghan



From Drogheda (Louth County) to the town of Monaghan. We skim the border of Northern Ireland, without crossing it. This second stage will show a nice postcard of Ireland between green pastures and majestic rivers.

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By Olivier Paudex

Leaving Drogheda

County Louth is the smallest county in Ireland. Its proximity to Dublin makes it an area where commuters live. It is a quiet region. **Drogheda** is located less than 50km from Dublin, via the freeway. Originally, it is a stronghold, surrounded by **the River Boyne**. It has an imposing cathedral, many pubs and restaurants and is a good place for bicycle tourists.



Drogheda's front door



The Boyne River

Annagassan

We continue our coastal road by crossing the villages of **Baltray, Termonfeckin, Clogherhead**. At the crossing with the **R166**, follow the old yellow sign to reach the village of **Annagassan**. The road is really pretty.



Direction Annagassan by the coastal road

Inniskeen



Inniskeen

A few more kilometers before turning inland to the picturesque village of **Castlebellingham**. We follow the road to **Louth**, then we change county to reach **Inniskeen**. Here we are in the county of Monaghan, whose chief town is our point of fall for this second stage. A good idea to stop for a snack break in Inniskeen.

It is the village of the poet **Patrick Kavanagh (1904-1967)**. He composed many texts and songs of the Irish tradition. There is a museum in his name, but I have not visited it.



Irish poet Patrick Kavanagh

Gathering the bits of road that were not gravel to the traveler but eternal lanes of joy on which no man who walks can die.

Castleblayney

After a pretty maxim of the poet, we take again the road on a good twenty km separating us from the next village of **Casleblayney** and its splendid white castle.



The Castleblayney's castle

Monaghan

Another twenty kilometers or so and we will arrive in **Monaghan**, a pretty little town from the 18th century, spared by mass tourism. A very pleasant place to stop and as usual, finish the day at the pub.



Monaghan