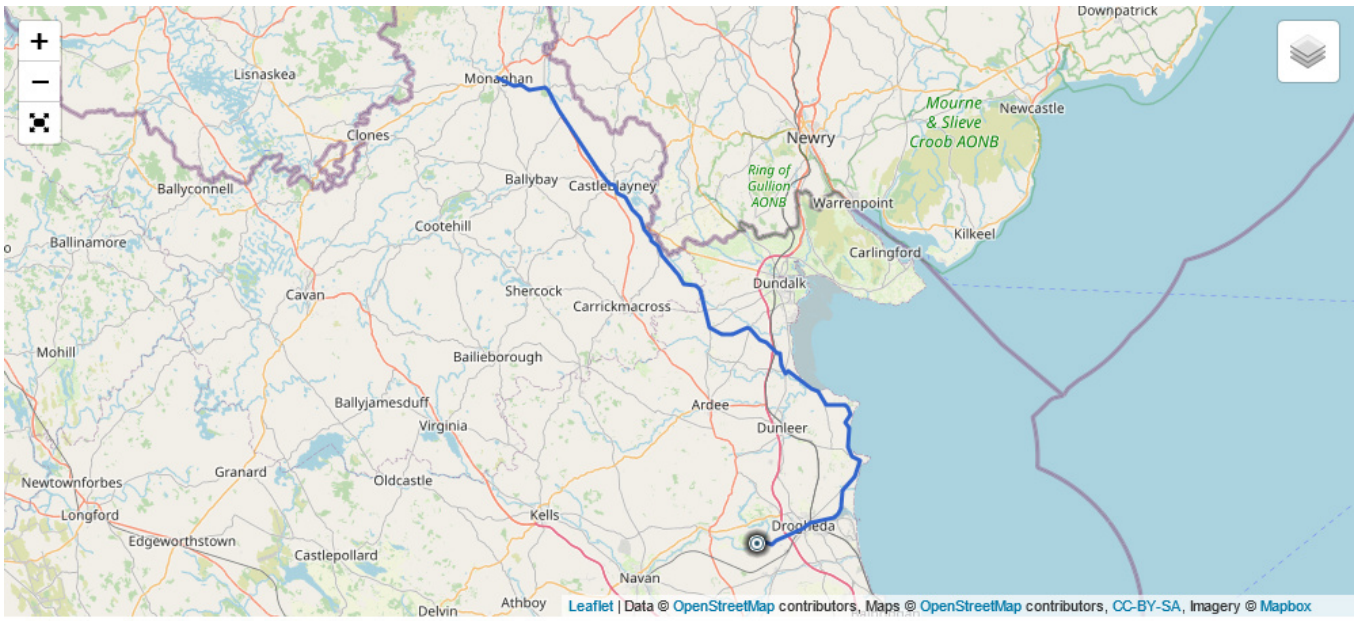


Tour of Ireland (Day 2)

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.

Published Monday September 11th 2017, 22:07
Modified Monday September 11th 2017, 22:13



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