

All Grid references taken from 1:25000 series OS map "The Mourne's"

## Route Planner

**Mountain** – Doan

**Distance** – 5km

**Approx time** – 2hrs

**Difficulty** – Moderate

**Max Height** – 594m



*View looking up towards Doan*

### Start Point

Car park at **Grid 280,279**

**Description** – From Hilltown follow road up to and past Spelga Dam, follow road to T junction and take a left. Continue along road for approx 800m then as you start to go down hill there is a small car park on the left.

### **The Route**

From the car park cross the road and head down hill till you see a stile crossing the wall on your right. From here there will be an obvious track heading up towards the mourne wall. After about 200m the track splits, at this point head right taking the track that leads upwards (the lower track runs out after 600m).

After 1km the track ends, at this point if visibility is bad it may be a good idea to turn around, unless you are confident of where you are and where you are heading. From the end of the track keep heading uphill until you reach the mourne wall roughly 500m from the end of the track.

Once at the wall turn follow it to the left until you reach a stile at the bottom of the climb up to Slieve Loughshannagh. Use the stile to cross the Mourne wall. Doan will now be in front of you and slightly to the left; it is just over 1km to the top from his point.

There is no obvious track from here to the summit of Doan; we found it easiest to follow a small track that circles around the base of Slieve Loughshannagh, then cut right towards Doan when the ground becomes a bit flatter.

As you start towards the peak you will have to your right and beneath you the clear blue waters of Lough Shannagh (not the mountain this time), whilst to your



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left a large plateau that sweeps across to Slieve Bearnagh and down to the shores of the Ben Crom Reservoir. Before you get to the steeper slopes of Doan you will cross what I can only call an old lake bed. Mushrooms of earth sprouting from the ground carved through time by waters running off the surrounding mountains, in some respects very eerie but magnificent to behold.

Starting up the slopes of Doan you will notice that the summit is split, first you will pass beneath a lower peak as you move towards the summit. Scaling the summit from here becomes a little challenging and will require a small rock climb, but do not be perturbed it is quite accessible (honest no need for ropes and mountaineering badges).

From the summit the view is amazing a 360° view taking in Ben Crom and Silent valley reservoirs, as well as the domineering peak of Slieve Binnians North Tor.

After reflecting in your surroundings to return to your start point you have 2 options.

### **Option 1**

Follow the same route back heading to the now left of Slieve Loughshannagh and the stile you crossed earlier, then back down the track to the car park. Or

### **Option 2**

Head back towards Slieve Loughshannagh but head to the right of the peak into the saddle between it and Slieve Meelbeg. When you reach the wall you will again find a stile, use this to cross the wall then follow the valley down towards Fofanny Dan Reservoir. Keep to the right of the valley as you descend, you will see a small stream cutting its way down the valley which you will need to follow.

The terrain here is very wet under foot and there are no clear paths to follow. You should be aiming towards the bottom left corner of a small wood. Located at the bottom of the valley; here there is a bridge that will allow you to cross the river.

Once across the bridge walk up the side of the wood (keep the wood on your right) towards the road, once at the road turn left, and follow back to the car park. Note the last 600m along the road will be up a gentle gradient.

