

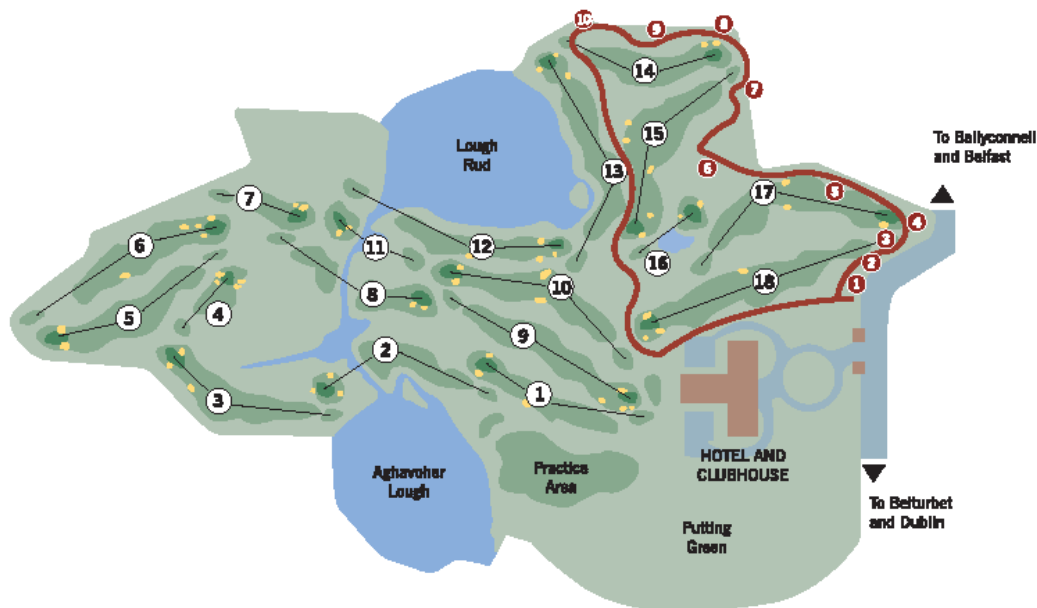


SLIEVE RUSSELL

PGA[®] National

IRELAND

GOLF COURSE MAP



THIS WALKWAY IS APPROXIMATELY 2 MILES AND INCLUDES A NUMBER OF STEEP HILLS, PLEASE WEAR SUITABLE FOOTWEAR.

This footpath can be taken as either a leisurely stroll or a brisk walk. Following the boundary of the course, it demonstrates the natural terrain of Cavan with its drumlins and valley landscape. The walk provides some excellent vantage points for viewing across the magnificent course and into the surrounding countryside. Route highlighted in red.

- (1) The walk, as it starts off to the north of the hotel, passes by the Aughrim Wedge Tomb and tennis courts which uses ornamental planting as screening. The path is edged with laurel hedging (*prunus laurocerasus*). Here it provides an excellent sound and visual barrier from the main road.
- (2) The path passes through some mature ash (*fraxinus excelsior*) and sycamore (*acer pseudoplatanus*) and by their line, we can see the definition of an old boundary or field.
- (3) Very shortly we see an example of one of our most common forestry trees spruce (*picea*) and then on to some mature beech (*fagus sylvatica*) and scots pine (*pinus sylvestris*).
- (4) As the path leaves its course along the road it turns into a low lying marsh area with its typical vegetation. Here we can see recent planting of willow (*salix*) and alder (*alnus*). These trees have the advantage over other species in that they can extract from waterlogged soil, thus ensuring their survival and success.
- (5) As we pass along this low lying section of the walk, we can also see such herbaceous plants as iris (*iris*), sedge (*runcus*), geranium and aruncus, growing under the canopy of the trees. New introductions to the area include species of pine and spruce on the raised, dryer ground to the left.
- (6) Over the bridge and rising in front of us, the meandering path brings us over a rolling hill, which apart from some recent tree planting, was virtually undisturbed over the history of the course development. As the seasons change so too does the ground vegetation, but the predominance of gorse (*Ulex europea*) is very obvious as it naturalised over the area. Again, we can see an ancient boundary line of mature oak (*quercus robur*) and beech (*fagus sylvatica*). Nearing the top of the hill, take time to absorb the beautiful view across the Golf Course and into the surrounding landscape.
- (7) As the path follows the boundary along the top of the hill, we notice a fine example of a mature Irish hedgerow. With a mixture of deciduous and evergreen species – hawthorn (*crataegus monogyna*) and holly (*ilex aquifolium*) are the main plants, with others like blackthorn (*prunus spinosa*) and birch (*betula pendula*) adding seasonal interest.
- (8) In contrast to the naturalised hedgerow, we now see an example of a modern, fast-growing, hedge or screen plantings. The tall conifers on the right are thuja and are a common sight both in rural and urban situations, where the demand is for an instant and evergreen screen.
- (9) As the path nears its furthest point, we pass under mature cherries (*prunus*), poplars (*populus*), larch (*larix*) on the left, as well as birch (*betula*) and holly (*ilex*) which have honeysuckle (*lonicera*) winding around their branches on the right of the path.
- (10) Coming into view is the 'Feather Bed Lane' which is steeped in local history and folklore. From spring into summer, we can admire the primrose (*primula*) and foxglove (*digitalis*) flowering on the banks under the dense shade of the tree canopy.

At the end of the new path and before we take the return journey across the course, we can stop and admire another aspect of the Slieve Russell Hotel and Golf Course and how well it has blended into, rather than contrasting against the countryside of West Cavan.