

IRELAND – THE WICKLOW WAY

8-day / 7-night easy to moderate **SELF-GUIDED** mountain and moorland walk



Ireland is one of the most spectacular and under-rated walking holiday destinations in Europe, offering great value, easy-to-moderate walking routes through scenic landscapes, small traditional villages, easy-going, warm and friendly locals, and links to communities across the English-speaking world courtesy of the Irish diaspora.

The Irish countryside is a patchwork of lush green low-lying farmland, dramatic ancient mountains and upland moors. One of the most beautiful areas is County Wicklow, just south of Dublin, which despite its proximity to the capital contains many kilometres of wonderfully unspoilt trails through the Wicklow Mountains, a granite chain of hills stretching from Dublin to Wexford. The Wicklow Way is the best known of these trails – it is the oldest established long-distance walking path in Ireland, part of a network of long-distance National Waymarked Trails in Ireland. It runs from South Dublin across the Dublin and Wicklow uplands, then through the rolling hill country of southwest County Wicklow to the small village of Clonegal in County Carlow some 127km later.

Discover the picturesque valleys of Glenmalur and the Glen of Immal. Hike in the rugged beauty of Lugnaquilla and experience the peace and tranquillity of Glendalough. This is home to a 6th Century monastic settlement nestled in the valley of two lakes. This route is ideal for those planning a walk in Ireland for the first time. It follows well-made tracks and paths beside clear rivers, through glens and over heather-clad hills.

A combination of forest trails, dramatic mountain landscapes and rolling countryside offers a varied walking experience encompassing the occasional memorial to historic events and ruined buildings – stark reminders of past human settlement and the long and sometimes tragic history of Ireland. The terrain is undulating with lots of up and downhill walking on varied surfaces including rocky and grassy mountain paths, some boggy stretches, gravel roads, walking on quiet country roads. Good, well worn-in walking boots are essential.

Cost from: \$1985 per person (twin share). Single room and Solo Traveller supplements are on request.

Departs: Daily on demand 1 March – 31 October

Includes: 7 nights' twin-share accommodation in carefully chosen lodging with ensuite bathrooms or private facilities; Irish breakfasts each day; transfers as per itinerary; luggage transfers; telephone welcome briefing; route notes; GPS Navigation App if required; 24-hour emergency telephone assistance.

Not included: Other meals, drinks, personal expenses, travel to / from the start/end of the tour.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations



Suggested itinerary:

Day 1: Arrive Dublin

Plan to arrive mid-afternoon at your hotel in Dublin city, the capital of Ireland, offering a lively mix of old and new, with historic buildings dating to the 13th century contrasting with state-of-the-art infrastructure. There is much to see and do in Dublin – ask about additional nights (at extra cost) when booking.

Day 2: Dublin to Enniskerry

walking @ 18km

Transfer to Marlay Park and the start of the Wicklow Way, walking through the park before rising into the Dublin Mountains, with sea and mountain views. Cross the boundary into County Wicklow and descend into the Glenree Valley to Curtlestown Wood before a transfer to Enniskerry village where you spend the night.

Day 3: Enniskerry to Roundwood

walking @ 25km

Back on the Wicklow Way cross the Glenree Valley and past the impressive Powerscourt Waterfall before skirting Djouce Mountain and ascending to the day's high point on White Hill. Then descend with spectacular views of glacial lakes Lough Tay and Lough Dan. Overnight in pretty Roundwood or nearby Oldbridge.

Day 4: Roundwood to Laragh

walking @ 10km

From Roundwood walk the perimeter of the Barton Estate before crossing Paddock Hill and descending by an old 'Mass Path' to the village of Laragh, at the entrance to the valley of Glendalough. There is time for a very worthwhile visit to the ancient monastic settlement at Glendalough which was founded in the 6th century by St Kevin. Spend the next two nights in Laragh/Glendalough.

Day 5: Around Glendalough

optional walking up to 13km

Today is an opportunity to explore the environs of Glendalough in greater detail. You may wish to visit the interpretative centre and buildings of the monastic city; take the beautiful woodland walk beside the river in the Devil's Glen or one of the shorter walks in Glenmacnas, Glendasan or to the lead mines in Glendalough. Alternatively, take an excursion (not included) to Avondale House at Rathdrum, where Irish nationalist politician Charles Stewart Parnell was born, or to Avoca, the filming location of *Ballykissangel*. Overnight at Laragh.

Day 6: Laragh to Glenmalure

walking @ 13km

This walk starts in the valley of Glendalough and follows an old "green road" to near the Upper Lake before climbing steeply beside Paul an Eas Waterfall and continuing to the pass of Borenacrow (option to climb Mullacor Mountain from the pass). Descend into Glenmalure with good views of the valley and Lugnaquilla, the highest mountain in County Wicklow, before ending the day at the pub at the Drumgoff/Glenmalure crossroads. Overnight in Glenmalure.

Day 7: Glenmalure to Laragh

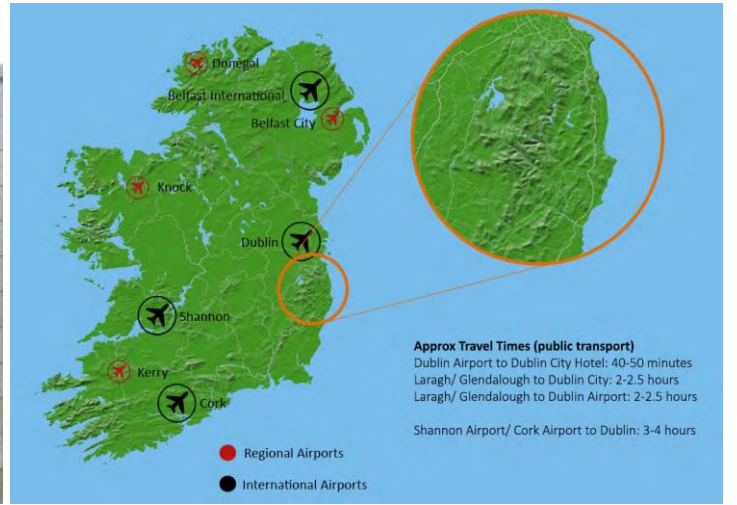
walking @ 14km

From Drumgoff/Glenmalure crossroads start on forest tracks, before climbing to the summit of Mullacor. The route continues along the mountain ridge to Cullentrath Mountain and Derrybawn Mountain, before descending to Glendalough. There is an alternate route in case of bad weather. Overnight at Laragh/Glendalough.

Day 8: Departure day

Tour arrangements end after breakfast. There are local bus services to Dublin city, or bus & taxi service to Wicklow town, from where you can take the train south to Rosslare or north to Dublin.

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Contact Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations

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