

SHERPA : IRELAND: THE WICKLOW WAY

7 or 9-days/ 6 or 8-nights self-guided walking holidays (JIW - revised: October 09)

This is Ireland's oldest waymarked walking trail and the Wicklow Way reveals some of Ireland's finest views; Powerscourt Waterfall, Luggala, Loch Dan, Glenmalure and historical Glendalough. The trail extends from Marlay Park in Dublin to Clonegal on the borders of Wicklow and Carlow covering a distance of 127 kilometres with some short detours required to find a comfortable bed for the night. The route starts in southwest County Wicklow and winds through the spectacular Wicklow Mountains offering unspoilt trails, remote scenery, lakes, glacial valleys, forests and rural farmland through old market towns and grand estates on its way to the bright lights of Dublin.

We start in the village of Clonegal. A couple of longer but not challenging days introduce you to the Newry forest and over high points of Moylisha and Stookeen Hill to the 17th century village of Shillelagh. From there it's a stroll to the beautiful village of Tinahely with its historic market building, courthouse and shops.

With quiet roads, forest trails and open mountainsides, with expansive views across the counties of Carlow and Wexford, the walk leads to Moyne and, on the most dramatic stages of the walk, through the spectacular Ow valley that passes below Mount Lugnaquilla (925m), and along the long glaciated Glenmalure Valley.

If climbing out of the Glenmalure Valley doesn't literally take your breath away then the fantastic views and the Glenmalure Waterfall probably will. Cross Mullacor Mountain and walk into Glendalough, 'the valley of two lakes' and site of a monastic settlement (from the 6th to the 13th century) for a little sightseeing. A short vehicle transfer gets us underway on the road to Roundwood, which claims to be Ireland's highest village. The penultimate day's walk to the charming village of Enniskerry is a classic with views of Lough Dan and Lough Tay. At the head of the valley is the Guinness family estate and later in the day enjoy views of Powerscourt Waterfall, the longest falls in Ireland. The last walk goes over Prince William's Seat for views across the city of Dublin, now in striking distance for some afternoon sightseeing and a lively evening in the city centre or one of its many fine restaurants.

Whether you choose the 7 or 9 day itinerary, we pre-book your accommodation and take care of your luggage, supply you with maps, route details, a mobile phone and a full back up service, leaving you to simply enjoy the scenery, splendor and solitude of the Wicklow landscape. The Wicklow Way can be tailored to suit you with pre-booked extra rest nights at any location. Our itinerary is from south to north but can be reversed.

Departs: Daily on demand from March – October

Included: 6 or 8-nights accommodation, in Irish Tourist Board approved guesthouses with en-suite facilities, full Irish breakfast, daily luggage transfers, route description and maps.

Grade: Moderate - this tour is suitable for those who have had some experience of walking and are in good general physical condition. There are ascents and descents on stepped trails, although most days are not too long, some people will find this tiring in warm weather.



Contact Outdoor Travel for more itinerary details and reservations

GENERAL INFORMATION

Waymarking: The complete Wicklow Way is waymarked at intervals but you should be able to use a map and compass and will need to refer to the route notes supplied.

Starting point: 7-Day tour: Tinahely & 9-Day tour: Clonegal.

End of Tour: B & B in the outskirts of Dublin. An upgrade to a more central hotel is possible (prices on request).

Breakfast: in Ireland will generally consist of sausage, bacon, eggs, soda (lava) bread etc, cereals and fruit may also be available. It is important to tell us if you have any dietary requirements when you book your holiday so that we can inform everyone that you are staying with.

Baths: it is not normal for your room to have a bath, the main reason being that it takes up a lot of space. Some hotels/guesthouses may have a separate room where a bath is available to guests but in the main expect showers.

Single Supplements: are payable on most of our tours. The single supplement guarantees the privacy of your own room, however, rooms can at times be small and in some places may not enjoy the same facilities as double rooms.

Luggage: When staying in hotels, sometimes your luggage will have been taken to your room awaiting your arrival. However don't be surprised if your luggage is waiting at reception for you to take it to your room.

Getting to the Start

Convenient Major city and international airport:

Dublin airport. There are many flights now to Dublin from the UK including regional airports and from Europe. Some of the best deals are on line through the likes of Ryanair, Aerlingus, or British Airways.

How to get there: For the 9-day tour, the first accommodation can be reached by bus or train to Rathdrum or Bunclody (not included – cost @ 10-15 Euros) followed by a private shuttle provided. It is best to arrive at Dublin by 17:00 to use public transport.

For the 7-day tour take the train or bus to Wicklow from where you will be picked up and taken to your first accommodation in Tinahely.

Accommodation: The accommodation on this tour is based on approved family-run guesthouses, with en-suite rooms. On the 9-day tour we stay for one night in Clonegal, Shillelagh, Tinahely, Moyne, Glenmalure, Laragh, Enniskerry and the final night on the edge of Dublin. Rooms are booked on a bed and breakfast basis. Evening meals are not included but there are always local pubs or restaurants to hand. Note that on the 7-day tour you start in Tinahely.

Suggested itinerary:

The 7-day tour misses the first 2 walking days of the 9-day tour but thereafter follows the same route.

Day 1 (9-day tour): Arrive at Dublin Airport and take the train or bus to Rathdrum or Bunclody (not included 10-15 Euros) followed by a private shuttle provided.

Day 2: Clonegal to Shillelagh. Distance: 23km, height gain: 122m. Your first walk takes you along some country roads through Newry forest, over Moylisha and Stookeen Hill down into the town land of Mungaculin. Your accommodation for the night will be in the 17th century village of Shillelagh.

Day 3/1: Shillelagh to Tinahely. Distance: 16km, height gain: 90m. Your journey from Shillelagh is on some quiet country roads. On your way you will pass St. Finian's Church. Tinahely is a little village on the banks of the river Derry and was destroyed in the 1798 rebellion. It was subsequently rebuilt and found a new lease of life with the coming of the railway in 1865; it is now a very beautiful village.

Or on the 7-day tour arrive at Dublin Airport and take the train or bus to Wicklow. You will be picked up at the station and transported to Tinahely. Transport time from Dublin to Wicklow is approximately 1hr 30 minutes

Day 4/2: Tinahely to Moyne. Distance: 12km, height gain: 540m. This section of the Wicklow Way takes in some fantastic views of the adjoining counties like Carlow and Wexford; it also passes through an old Ring Fort or Fairy Fort. The walk finishes in the Ow Valley where you will be picked up and transported to your accommodation in Moyne.

Day 5/3: The Iron Bridge to Glenmalure. Distance: 21km, height gain: 230m. A very beautiful section of the Wicklow Way, that winds you through forest trails and into two spectacular valleys, the Ow Valley and the Glenmalure Valley. The Ow Valley lies at the base of Wicklow's largest Mountain; Lugnaquilla standing at 925m. The Glenmalure Valley is Ireland's longest glacier valley that stretches for over 16km, this peaceful valley will be the perfect place for you to spend the night.

Day 6/4: Glenmalure to Glendalough/Laragh. Distance: 14km, height gain: 450m. The trail takes you steadily up out of the valley and as you climb, the beauty of the surrounding countryside and the famous Glenmalure Waterfall will simply take your breath away. The trail crosses the side of Mullacor Mountain and into the valley of Glendalough the valley of two lakes. Glendalough is famous for its 6th Century Monastic Settlement, which you will be able to visit on your way.

Day 7/5: Glendalough/Laragh, short transfer to Roundwood (the highest village in Ireland) and walk to Enniskerry. Distance: 18km, height gain: 600m. One of the longest walks but a classic, it takes in views of Guinness Estate, Lough Dan and Lough Tay, crosses over Djouce Mountain and alongside the Powerscourt Estate. Your day ends in the picturesque village of Enniskerry, which is situated on the doorstep of Dublin.

Day 8/6: Enniskerry to Marlay Park Dublin: Distance: 17km, height gain: 150m. The last section takes you over Prince William's Seat where you will have stunning views over most of Dublin City, the Irish Sea and your final views back into the Wicklow Hills. Your trip finishes on a splendid trail that leads you into Marlay Park

Day 9/7: Depart. After a hearty breakfast you can take a bus from just outside of your accommodation for the 45-minute journey back to Dublin City or the airport.

Other walking holidays – guided in small groups or self-guided with inn-to-inn luggage transfers & meals are available in many parts of the United Kingdom & Ireland and across Europe through **Outdoor Travel**. These include the Way of St James from Le Puy to Santiago, the route of Pilgrims along the River Yonne to Veزالay in Burgundy and St Cuthbert's Way from Scotland into England or the Via Francigena – the pilgrims route to Rome.

We also offer literary walking routes or trails in the footsteps of famous painters and artists in Europe.

Contact Outdoor Travel for more itinerary details and reservations

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