



Ireland: Wicklow Way - Self Guided Tour 2024

The Wicklow Mountains form a granite chain of hills stretching fifty miles from Dublin to Wexford. The Wicklow Way is the oldest long distance path in Ireland, and follows good tracks and paths alongside rivers, through glens and over hills. This route is ideal for those walking in Ireland for the first time. We start in Dublin and our journey begins in the Dublin mountains that form a back drop to the city, towards the pretty town of Enniskerry. Our route continues through the Wicklow Mountains National park towards Roundwood, Ireland's highest village! We stay two days here with an option to walk around the lakes . We continue towards the beautiful rolling pastoral hills of southern Wicklow to the famous monastic village of Glendalough with the haunting remains of the monastery of St. Kevin with its origins going back to the 6th Century. We have two nights in Glendalough where there are numerous walks to choose from. The last days walk brings us further into the heart of the "Garden of Ireland" to our finish point in Glenmalure..



TOUR ITINERARY

Day 1 - Arrive in Dublin

You will be spending your first night in Dublin where we typically stay in a lovely hotel by the harbour in Dun Laoghaire on the outskirts of the city. Dun Laoghaire has the wonderful backdrop of the Dublin mountains where your journey will begin.

The cost of a taxi from Dublin airport to Dun Laoghaire is approx. €50. Alternatively, there is blue coloured Air Coach, departing every 20 minutes from just outside the Arrivals Hall at Dublin Airport, which will take you into Dublin city and Dun Laoghaire. The return ticket costs €16 and the journey should take around 40 minutes.

[Accommodation - Hotel / B&B in Dublin](#)

Day 2 - Dublin to Enniskerry

You will be picked up at your accommodation and we will bring you to the start of the walk near Marly Park the official start of the Wicklow way. From here you walk towards the Wicklow national park. You will start by taking in the old forest tracks then rising above the tree line to open shrub and grass lands offering fantastic views of the city and the Irish Sea. The walk then goes deeper in to the park after you pass through the Glencullen valley. From there you will pass through forest full of bird life with view of the Glenree valley. This is where you will be picked and transferred to the village of Enniskerry (18 km, 540m ascent)

Accommodation - B&B in Enniskerry

Day 3 - Enniskerry to Roundwood

Today is a day to remember. You will be picked up from your B&B and dropped to where you stopped yesterday. From here you will start by following the Glenree river before making your way to the Powerscourt waterfall the highest waterfall in Ireland. At 121 meters it is a must see. You will then pass over the waterfall and continue towards Djouce Mountain taking in the views of the Irish sea on your left and the high mountains and Loughs to your right. You then follow the small country lanes to Roundwood where you will spend two nights. (18 km, 500 m ascent)

Accommodation - B&B in Roundwood

Day 4 - Roundwood

Today you can have a more relaxed day if you wish as you have the option of 3 different looped walks around the Vartry Reservoir. The loops can be 3.4km to 18km depending on what loops you want to do on the day. The walks around the Reservoir offer the chance to see lots of birdlife and some deer as well. It is a really nice way to spend a day (3.4km -- 18km, 50m – 120m ascent)

Accommodation - B&B in Roundwood

Day 5 - Roundwood to Laragh/Glendalough

You start off the day walking on small country lanes. Walk through one of Ireland's few oak forests. After the country lanes you are back in the open hillside with big sky views. You will drop down into the village of Laragh here you will spend two nights (12km, 350m ascent)

Accommodation - B&B in Laragh

Day 6 - Laragh/Glendalough

Today you have many options as you have the chance to explore the famous Glendalough. From here you can take a wide range of different walks you can do 9 in total. We really like the spinc trail and it's marked with white markers. The trail offers you panoramic views of the two Loughs. You can also explore the monastic village and round tower. Overall Glendalough is one of the most interesting places in all of Ireland. (3 km, 250 m ascent – 15km 600m ascent)

Accommodation - B&B in Laragh

Day 7 - Laragh to Glenmalur

Leaving Laragh you will walk through Glendalough along the forest tracks you will then cross over to Glenmalur. It is the longest glaciated valleys in Ireland. You will be in the shadow of the highest mountain in Wicklow offering views of the most remote part of the National Park. You will then start to descend into the bottom of the valley in to the tiny mountain village where you will stay in a mountain lodge for your last night. (22 km, 480 m ascent)

Accommodation - B&B in Glenmalur

Day 8 - Return home

You will be collected after breakfast and brought back to your start point, the seaside town of Dun Laoghaire, south of Dublin City Centre

2024 TOUR DATES AND PRICE

€1005.00 per person sharing (April, May, June, September)

€1035.00 per person sharing (July & August)

What does the tour price include?

- Seven nights' accommodation: A mixture of guesthouses and hotels
- All breakfast
- Luggage transfer between your accommodation stops
- Full route details with a map of the tour
- Transfer from your accommodation in Dublin to walking start point
- Transfer from Glenmalure to back to Dun Laoghaire

Tour can start any day from 16th April until 1st October.

ACCOMMODATION AND MEALS

Accommodation

In Dublin we stay in a lovely hotel by the harbour in Dun Laoghaire on the outskirts of the city. Dun Laoghaire has the wonderful backdrop of the Dublin mountains where your journey will begin.

The accommodation is allocated on a twin sharing basis. We stay in a mixture of hotel & bed & breakfast accommodation, where we hope to fuse the best standard we can get with the warmest welcome.

We do reserve the right to change the accommodation around during the week, but we will always endeavour to provide a high standard.

Meals: A picnic lunch is not included as part of this tour but there are plenty of options each day locally to get food (details and recommendations in your travel details) If you bring a thermos flask, this can be filled with tea or coffee. You should bring a water bottle for drinks during the day. You will be able to buy additional snacks and drinks from local shops for during your walk.

An evening meal each night costs somewhere between €25 and €40.

WHAT TO BRING

Your enjoyment of your walking holiday will be greatly helped by having the right gear. The following list should help you in planning your packing for your trip.

Footwear: Good footwear is vital for a happy walking holiday! We recommend waterproof, breathable, walking boots with good ankle support. Boots which are “broken in” (i.e. not brand new), teamed with **well fitting hiking socks** will keep your feet snug and dry and help to avoid blisters.

Hiking Clothes

We recommend the “onion look” of layering clothing as the best protection against heat/cold:

- Base Layer -this layer should not retain moisture but transport it away from the skin (there are lots of “wick away” fabrics now on the market.
- Insulation layer - this layer should stop you from losing body heat - fleece is ideal
- Outer Layer - this layer should keep you dry even in a downpour! A waterproof, breathable jacket and over-trousers are as important as your comfy boots. You should bear in mind that clothing tends to lose its “waterproofness” over time so if you have had your gear for many years it might be time to treat yourself with a trip to an outdoor store!
- Walking trousers/ shorts (avoid denim)
- Warm hat and gloves for chilly mornings or high mountains
- Sun hat
- Walking stick/pole (a great help on uneven terrain)

Daypack - a small comfortable rucksack to carry the bits and pieces you will need during the day:

- Water bottle/flask
- Moleskin/plasters/“second skin” - ward off any impending blisters before they become a problem!
- Sun screen
- Camera
- Binoculars
- Mobile phone

GENERAL INFORMATION

Weather

Because we are an island located near the Gulf Stream Ireland has a very mild climate making it ideal for walking. We recommend that you bring your rain gear as well as your sun hat as a day that starts with rain can end with glorious sunshine! The temperature range during the summer is between 15 and 22 degrees centigrade (60 to 72 degrees Fahrenheit).

Money - The Irish unit of currency is the Euro (€), 100 cent = € 1.

To help you budget, here are some common items that you might purchase during your holiday:

3 course evening meal:	€25 - €45 per person	Sandwich/filled roll	€6- €8
Bottle wine:	€17 upwards	Tea/coffee	€2 - €3.50

Travel Insurance

It is essential to take out holiday insurance to cover cancellation, personal accident, illness, or loss of possessions. This can be obtained from travel agents, airlines.

Electrical current/Mobile Phone

The standard electrical supply is 220 volts AC (50 cycles). To use small appliances mainland European visitors may require a plug adaptor to fit our 3-pin flat or 2-pin round wall sockets. The mobile phone system in use is a digital GSM 900 system.

Websites on Ireland

Some recommended websites on Ireland that might help you organize your trip if you are planning to spend more time in the country before or after your holiday with us.

www.discoverireland.com – Irish Tourist Board (Failte Ireland) official website providing a wealth of information on all regions of the country.

www.heritageireland.ie info on historical sites

If you plan to spend some extra time in **Dublin**, the following will give you some more ideas of things to see and do

www.visitdublin.com Dublin Tourism, Tourism Centre, Suffolk Street, Dublin 2

www.dublinuncovered.net www.indublin.ie

Electrical current

The standard electrical supply is 220 volts AC (50 cycles). To use small appliances mainland European visitors may require a plug adaptor to fit our 3-pin flat or 2-pin round wall sockets.

Travel

Arrival: You should aim to arrive in Ireland either in the morning or early afternoon of the first day of your tour. If you wish to transfer to your first accommodation by public transport, bus/train timetables should be consulted before you book your flights. If you wish to transfer to your first accommodation by taxi, your arrival time is not as crucial.

Departure: Whether you transfer to the airport by train, bus or taxi, your departing flight should be from late-morning onwards. Please allow ample time for travel to the airport, plus 1 to 2 hours for checking-in your luggage. Again, if you wish to transfer to the airport by public transport, bus and train timetables should be consulted before you book your flights.

You will find the bus and train timetables on the internet.

Bus www.buseireann.ie

Train www.irishrail.ie

Visa requirements

If you hold an EU passport you only need to make sure your passport is valid for the period of your stay. You will need photo identification travelling between Britain and Ireland.

All other nationalities require a passport that is valid for 3 months beyond the intended length of stay. Most nationalities including the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand do not require visas for Ireland and receive an automatic 90 day visitor's visa on arrival. If your nationality is not mentioned here you should check with your travel agent or consular office.

Tour Grading

Walking in Ireland ranges from gentle to very challenging. Our holidays are graded so that you can choose the most suitable for you. Obviously we cannot be precise about grading as weather conditions also affect the difficulty of a walk and the descriptions below are intended as a guide only.

Grade 2 - moderate	A mixture of glen, coastal and moderate hill walking. Much of the walking is on existing tracks and trails, with some open moor land. Up to 1,500 feet (500 m) ascent, 8 miles (13 km). Walking time - up to 7 hours a day, including rests. For most moderately fit people of all ages.
Grade 3 - strenuous	Mainly hill walking on open moor land, with some steep ascent and descents. Up to 3,000 feet (1,000m) ascent, 10 miles (16 km). Walking time - up to 8 hours a day. For hill walkers with some experience.
Grade 4 - very strenuous	All walks are mountain climb up to 4,000 feet (1,300 m) ascent, 12 miles (20 km) each day. Some routes involve crossing steep terrain where a good head for heights is essential. Walking time - up to 9 hours each day. For strong hill walkers.