



Ireland: Wicklow Way – Self Guided Tour 2017

Moderate 7 nights

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. The route runs from south to north beginning in the beautiful rolling pastoral hills of southern Wicklow leading to the grander more mountainous scenery of northern Wicklow. You will be passing through the famous Glendalough with the haunting remains of the monastery of St. Kevin with its origins going back to the 6th Century. It is a fine walk using good tracks to cross the hills. Much of the higher section is through the Wicklow Mountains National Park. The tour finishes in the pretty village of Enniskerry where you can visit Powerscourt Estate with its famous Georgian House and gardens.



TOUR ITINERARY

Day 1 - Travel to Tinahely

The Dublin (Departing from Conolly Station) to Rosslare train line runs through Rathdrum to Arklow. All details for the train times and prices are on the website www.irishrail.ie.

From Arklow you will be collected to your accommodation.

Accommodation - B&B in Tinahely

Day 2 - Shillelagh to Tinahely

You will be dropped in Shillelagh at the start of the day. You then walk through the gentle rolling hills of Southern Wicklow to Tinahely along a mixture of green roads, forest tracks and quiet lanes. (12 km, 180 m ascent; or 16.5 km, 350 m ascent)

Accommodation - B&B in Tinahely

Escape the Crowds

Day 3 - Tinahely to Moyne

Follow green roads and quiet lanes through the rolling pastoral scenery to Moyne. *(13.5 km, 350 m ascent)*

Accommodation - B&B in a quiet rural location.

Day 4 - Moyne to Glenmalure (Drumgoff)

Follow forest tracks up out of the gentle rolling landscape to the wild and stark mountain scenery of Glenmalure, the largest and most rugged of the ice-carved Wicklow glens. *(21.5 km, 570 m ascent)*

Accommodation - Pub B&B

Day 5 - Glenmalure (Drumgoff) to Laragh

Walk up the easy angled tracks above Glenmalure before cutting through the trees almost to the top of Mullacor Mountain. A choice is then made either to walk down through the forest, or follow the ridge around the mountain to descend over the upper lake to Glendalough. From Glendalough you climb out on forest tracks to drop down to the village of Laragh. *(17 km, 500 m ascent)*

Accommodation - B&B in Laragh

Day 6 - Laragh to Roundwood (Oldbridge)

Climb from the village through the forest across the slopes of the mountain, an option will allow you to climb to the summit, then dropping down to the hamlet before following lanes into Roundwood. *(8 km, 250 m ascent)*

Accommodation - B&B outside Roundwood

Day 7 - Roundwood (Oldbridge) to Enniskerry

Leave the village and join the mountain road to gain the higher ground before branching off to join a good path over the mountains above the Powerscourt estate. You descend from the high slopes through the forest to follow lanes into the village. *(22 km, 480 m ascent)*

Accommodation - B&B in Enniskerry

Day 8 - Return home

2017 TOUR DATES AND PRICE

What does the tour price of €710.00 per person include?

- Seven nights accommodation: A mixture of guesthouses, farmhouses and country homes; all rooms have WC and shower ensuite.
- All breakfast
- 6 packed lunches
- Luggage transfer between your accommodation stops
- Full route details with a map of the tour

Single room supplement €245 (if travelling with others)

High season supplement (July/August) €30 per person

Solo tour supplement €300 (if travelling alone)

Tour can start any day from April until October.

ACCOMMODATION AND MEALS

Accommodation

The accommodation is allocated on a twin sharing basis. We stay in bed & breakfast accommodation, where we hope to fuse the best standard we can get with the warmest welcome. We ensure en suite facilities almost all of the time however in some of the more remote spots one might occasionally have to share a bathroom.

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 provided on most walking days. Your lunch will normally comprise of sandwiches, a chocolate bar or piece of cake, and a piece of fruit. If you bring a thermos flask, this will 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 €20 and €30.

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:	€20 - €45 per person	Sandwich/filled roll	€3 - €4.50
Bottle wine:	€17 upwards	¼ bottle of wine	€5 - €6
Tea/coffee	€2 - €3.50	Pint of beer	€3.50 - €4.50

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 www.irishfolktours.com

Smoking

A no smoking ban has been operated in Ireland since spring 2004. You are not allowed to smoke in public places (i.e. pubs, hotels, restaurants, shops, trains and buses etc.). However, you may smoke outside in the open air.

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.