

## IRELAND – THE WICKLOW WAY

**GREAT VALUE**

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 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.

On this holiday you walk just under 100km of the Way from south to north, with the prevailing wind at your back.

A combination of forest trails, dramatic mountain landscapes and rolling countryside offers a varied walking experience encompassing the occasional memorial to historic events from past centuries and ruined buildings – stark reminders of past human settlement and the long and sometimes tragic history of Ireland.

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. You start your walk in the rolling pastoral hills of southern Wicklow, passing through Glendalough which has extensive remains of the early Christian monastery of St Kevin, dating back to the 6<sup>th</sup> Century. As you walk northwards you come into the more grand mountainous scenery of northern Wicklow and the Wicklow Mountains National Park. Your walk ends in the peaceful village of Enniskerry, just 25km from Dublin city but feeling much further.

**Cost from:** \$1480 per person (twin share).

**Departs:** Any day from April to October

**Starts:** Tinahely                      **Ends:** Enniskerry

**Includes:** 7 nights' twin-share accommodation in traditional guesthouses, farmhouses and country homes, all with ensuite bathrooms, 7 breakfasts, 6 packed lunches, luggage transfers, full route notes and walking map.

**Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations**



## Suggested itinerary:

### Day 1: Arrive Tinahely

Plan to arrive mid-afternoon. A courtesy taxi transfer is available from Arklow station, which is served by trains on the Rosslare line from Dublin Connolly station via Rathdrum. The taxi transfer must be booked in advance so let us know if you will be arriving Arklow by train. Accommodation for two nights in a B&B in Tinahely.

### Day 2: Shillelagh to Tinahely walking @ 12km & 180m ascent OR 17km & 350m ascent

Transfer to Shillelagh to start the walk through the gentle rolling hills of Southern Wicklow back to Tinahely along a mixture of green roads, forest tracks and quiet lanes. In springtime these tracks are lined with colourful wildflowers. Stay a second night in Tinahely.

### Day 3: Tinahely to Moyne walking @ 14km, 350m ascent

Follow quiet lanes through the rolling pastoral scenery to Moyne. Accommodation in a rural B&B.

### Day 4: Moyne to Glenmalure walking @ 22km, 570m ascent

Walk on forest tracks through a gentle rolling landscape to the wild and stark mountain scenery of Glenmalure. Overnight accommodation in a local pub B&B.

### Day 5: Glenmalure (Drumgoff) to Laragh walking @ 17km, 500m ascent

Walk up the easy angled tracks above Glenmalure before cutting through the trees almost to the top of Mullacor Mountain. You can then choose 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. Accommodation overnight is in a B&B in Laragh.

### Day 6: Laragh to Roundwood (Oldbridge) walking @ 8km, 250m ascent

Ascend from the village through the forest across the slopes of the mountain, with an option to climb to the summit, then drop down to the hamlet before following lanes into Roundwood. Accommodation in a small B&B outside Roundwood.

### Day 7: Roundwood (Oldbridge) to Enniskerry walking @ 22km, 480m ascent

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. Stay tonight in a B&B in Enniskerry.

### Day 8: Departure day

Tour arrangements end after breakfast in Enniskerry. Take the local bus to Dublin city, or organise a taxi locally to the city or airport at own cost.



**Outdoor Travel** offers several self-guided or small group guided walking or cycling holidays in Ireland – including **Galway, County Mayo, Dingle** and the **Ring of Kerry**. We offer self-skippered or hotel barge boating holidays on the **River Shannon**. Walking and cycling or boating holidays are also available in France, Italy, England, Scotland and most other areas of Europe – including the **Camino de Santiago, Mont Blanc, Wainwright's English Coast to Coast** walk or the **West Highland Way** in Scotland – call for details:

### Contact Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations

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