

The Wicklow Way

5-DAY SELF-GUIDED HIKING TOUR





The Wicklow Way

The Wicklow Way is one of Ireland's most iconic long-distance walking routes, weaving through the serene mountains, deep valleys, and ancient woodlands of County Wicklow—known as the Garden of Ireland. This celebrated trail offers a wonderfully varied journey from the foothills south of Dublin through peaceful uplands, shimmering lakes, and charming rural villages, showcasing some of the country's most beautiful and accessible landscapes.

HIGHLIGHTS

Glendalough: A spiritual and historical heart of Ireland, Glendalough is home to an early medieval monastic settlement set within a spectacular glacial valley. Its twin lakes, round tower, and atmospheric ruins make it one of the most memorable stops on the Wicklow Way.

Lough Tay & the Guinness Estate: Admire views over the dramatic "Lough Tay," nicknamed the Guinness Lake for its dark waters framed by pale sandy shores. The surrounding mountains create one of the most photographed vistas in Ireland.

Wicklow Mountains National Park: The trail passes through vast stretches of upland wilderness—heathered slopes, mountain passes, and sweeping panoramas that capture the quiet grandeur of the Wicklow Mountains.

Powerscourt Waterfall & Estate: Located near the trail, Powerscourt boasts Ireland's highest waterfall and beautifully landscaped gardens. It's a perfect spot to explore before or after your walking days.

Glenmalure Valley: The longest glacial valley in Ireland offers dramatic scenery and a rich sense of history, with mountain peaks rising steeply on both sides and peaceful forest trails tracing the valley floor.

Charming Villages: Wicklow's rural towns—such as Roundwood, Laragh, and Glenmalure—offer warm hospitality, traditional pubs, and cosy places to rest your feet after a day on the trail.

The Wicklow Way blends mountain wilderness with cultural heritage and gentle rural charm, making it the perfect introduction to Ireland's outdoor beauty. Whether drawn by its history, scenery, or peaceful atmosphere, this route offers an invigorating and unforgettable walking experience.



Daily Itinerary

- 1 Arrive in Dublin
- 2 Dublin to Enniskerry
- 3 Enniskerry to Roundwood
- 4 Roundwood to Laragh
- 5 Depart Laragh



The Wicklow Way Self Guided Hike

Day 1: Dublin

Arrive in Dublin, Ireland's vibrant capital city and an exciting starting point for your Wicklow Way adventure. Blending centuries of history with a lively modern culture, Dublin offers a warm welcome and countless ways to immerse yourself in the spirit of Ireland before you begin your journey south into the Wicklow Mountains.

Take some time to settle into the city and enjoy its energetic yet friendly atmosphere. Wander through the cobbled streets of Temple Bar, explore the elegant Georgian squares, or stroll along the River Liffey past bridges old and new. Dublin is filled with inviting cafés, traditional pubs, independent shops, museums, and galleries—perfect for both leisurely wandering and deeper cultural exploration.

If you'd like to stretch your legs before the walking begins, Dublin offers excellent pre-tour options. Visit the peaceful grounds of Trinity College to see the historic campus and the Book of Kells, or take a walk through the vast Phoenix Park, one of the largest enclosed city parks in Europe. History lovers may enjoy Dublin Castle, Kilmainham Gaol, or the many national museums, all within easy reach.

Food and nightlife are a huge part of Dublin's charm. In the evening, explore the city's buzzing restaurant scene, offering everything from traditional Irish dishes to modern cuisine. Afterwards, enjoy live music in one of Dublin's iconic pubs—many of which host nightly traditional sessions that capture the heart of Irish culture.

With its blend of history, charm, and cultural energy, Dublin provides a memorable and inspiring start to your Wicklow Way experience. Rest well tonight as you prepare for the beautiful landscapes and peaceful trails that await you in the Wicklow Mountains.

MEALS

None

OVERNIGHT

Select hotel accommodations included as standard.



Day 2: Dublin to Enniskerry

Your Wicklow Way adventure begins this morning with a short transfer to Marlay Park, a beautiful historic estate on the southern edge of Dublin. This marks the official starting point of the Wicklow Way, and its leafy parklands, wooded paths, and tranquil atmosphere offer the perfect introduction to the journey ahead. As you set off, the trail gently winds through forests, meadows, and quiet green spaces, gradually leading you away from the city and into the rising foothills of the Dublin Mountains.

Leaving the boundaries of the park, the route begins its steady ascent onto open hillside. As you climb, the views back toward Dublin Bay expand dramatically, revealing the coastline, the city's skyline, and the wide sweep of the Irish Sea. The transition from urban edge to peaceful upland walking is one of the joys of this opening stage, offering a wonderful sense of progression as the mountains unfold before you.

The trail then carries you over the shoulder of Two Rock Mountain, passing through stretches of heather, wild moorland, and upland bog. On a clear day, the panoramas across the Wicklow Mountains are spectacular—rolling hills, dark forests, and long ridgelines that hint at the beauty still to come. The descent begins gradually, leading you into more sheltered terrain as you approach the glacial valley that cradles the village of Enniskerry.

Your day ends in Enniskerry, one of Ireland's prettiest villages, known for its charming square, stone bridge, cafés, and views toward the Powerscourt Estate. After a rewarding first stage, this welcoming village is the perfect place to relax, refresh, and celebrate the beginning of your Wicklow journey.

MEALS

Only Breakfast included. Lunch can be purchased in a local store. Dinner recommendations will be listed in your route notes

OVERNIGHT

Select guesthouse accommodations included as standard. Hotel upgrades unavailable.

HIKE DISTANCE

17.00 km / 10.60 mi

ELEVATION GAIN

735 m / 2411 ft

TERRAIN

37% paved paths and roads, 63% trails
Some road walking, mountain paths and forest tracks. Can be wet underfoot. Boots essential.

TRAVEL TIME

20–40 minutes in the morning & 10 minutes in the evening



Day 3: Enniskerry to Roundwood

Leaving the charming village of Enniskerry behind, today's section of the Wicklow Way offers one of the most beautiful and rewarding stages of the entire trail. The route quickly begins to rise, carrying you into the high country above the renowned Powerscourt Estate, with expansive views across its forests, rivers, and rolling parklands. As you gain height, the pretty valley gives way to open moorland, where the dramatic profile of the Wicklow Mountains begins to emerge around you.

Your ascent continues as the trail winds toward Djouce Mountain, one of Wicklow's most iconic peaks. The path here is a joy to walk—broad boardwalk sections and upland tracks that offer spectacular vantage points across the surrounding landscape. To the east, the Irish Sea stretches toward the horizon; to the west, deep forested valleys and mountain ridges reflect the rugged beauty of the Wicklow range. Even without summiting Djouce itself, the views from the flanks are wide, wild, and memorable.

From Djouce, the route contours toward White Hill, another high point on this magnificent stage. The trail crosses stretches of heather and bogland, where the winds carry the scent of the uplands and the sense of space is immense. On clear days, you may see as far as the Sugarloaf, Lough Tay, and the deep forests that sweep through the valley below.

As you descend from the high ground, the landscape softens into quieter trails, forestry paths, and winding country lanes. This gentle final stretch brings you into the welcoming village of Roundwood, one of the highest villages in Ireland and a peaceful place to rest after a full and rewarding day on the trail.

MEALS

Only Breakfast included. Lunch can be purchased in a local store. Dinner recommendations will be listed in your route notes

OVERNIGHT

Select guesthouse accommodations included as standard. Hotel upgrades unavailable.

HIKE DISTANCE

23.0 km / 14.3 mi

ELEVATION GAIN

1038 m / 3406 ft

TERRAIN

14% paved paths and roads, 86% trails
Some road walking, mountain paths and forest tracks.
Some sections can be wet and boggy. Boots essential.

TRAVEL TIME

10 minutes



Day 4: Roundwood to Laragh

Today's stage of the Wicklow Way is shorter but wonderfully scenic, guiding you through some of the most peaceful and characterful landscapes of the Wicklow Hills. Leaving Roundwood, the highest village in Ireland, the trail quickly immerses you in quiet countryside—rolling uplands, forested stretches, and soft, grassy tracks that showcase the natural beauty of this region.

As you follow the trail southward, you begin to walk beneath the long ridgeline of Scarr Mountain, whose broad slopes dominate the landscape. Although the Wicklow Way skirts the flanks rather than climbing the summit, the presence of Scarr adds a dramatic backdrop to much of the day. Views across the surrounding hills open gradually, revealing patchworks of heath, woodland, and shimmering upland lakes that sit tucked into the folds of the mountains.

Further along, the trail enters stretches of tranquil forestry paths, where sunlight filters through tall trees and the sound of small streams accompanies your steps. The descent becomes more gradual as you approach one of the most atmospheric and historically significant locations in Ireland—Glendalough.

Glendalough, meaning the “valley of the two lakes,” is home to an early medieval monastic settlement founded by St Kevin in the 6th century. Its round tower, ancient churches, stone crosses, and serene lake views make it one of the highlights of the entire Wicklow Way. Take time to explore the ruins, wander the lakeshore paths, and absorb the peaceful energy of this sacred valley.

After visiting Glendalough, a final short walk brings you into the neighbouring village of Laragh, your home for the night. With its cafés, craft shops, and welcoming pubs, Laragh offers the perfect place to unwind after a beautiful day on the trail

MEALS

Only Breakfast included. Lunch can be purchased in a local store. Dinner recommendations will be listed in your route notes

OVERNIGHT

Select guesthouse accommodations included as standard. Hotel upgrades available on request.

HIKE DISTANCE

10.0 km / 6.3 mi

ELEVATION GAIN

388 m / 1273 ft

TERRAIN

28% paved paths and roads, 72% trails
Some road walking, mountain paths and forest tracks. Boots essential.

TRAVEL TIME

N/A



Day 5: Depart Laragh

Enjoy one final hearty Irish breakfast before bidding farewell to the Wicklow Way. From here, you can head to the airport or continue your journey to your next destination.

To return to Dublin St. Kevin's Bus is your best option for public transport back to the city centre. From here you can make your way to Dublin Airport for your trip home.

MEALS

Breakfast

*GRADING LEVELS

Moderate

Terrain includes open mountain and bogland, uphill and downhill sections with some steep slopes, with a maximum height of around 800 meters (2,600 feet). Suitable for hikers with a good fitness level, capable of hiking up to 25 kms (15 miles) a day, and average 4-5 hours.

Elevation Graphs

Please see below daily elevation graphs for your selected tour



Dublin to Enniskerry | Max Elev: 510m | Elev Gain: 735m | Elev Loss: 562m



Enniskerry to Roundwood | Max Elev: 687m | Elev Gain: 1,038m | Elev Loss: 1,071m



Roundwood to Laragh | Max Elev: 404m | Elev Gain: 388m | Elev Loss: 456m



Glendalough Loop | Max Elev: 530m | Elev Gain: 551m | Elev Loss: 553m



Laragh to Glenmalure | Max Elev: 639m | Elev Gain: 614m | Elev Loss: 589m



Glenmalure to Laragh | Max Elev: 559m | Elev Gain: 595m | Elev Loss: 613m

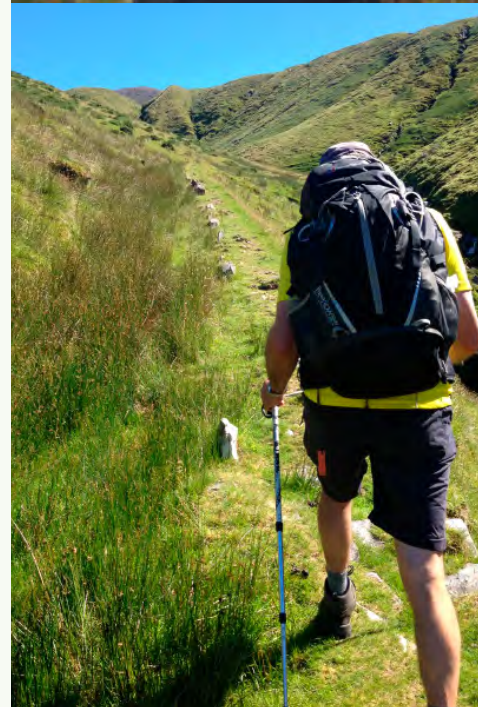
What's Included:

- Handpicked B&B (or small hotel) accommodation at each location in an en-suite room with delicious breakfast included
- Complimentary access to our app, tailor-made for your tour, containing all your documents, GPS navigation & points of interest
- Emergency telephone support
- Detailed, easy to read, digital Route Notes with marked maps of each route
- Extra days/ nights booking on request
- Full pre-departure information to help you get the most from your Irish hiking experience
- Holiday Specialist to assist with planning any additional days, additional activities, travel, airport transfers, etc.

What's Excluded:

- Airfare
- Meals not mentioned as included
- Travel insurance
- Airport transfers to/from Dublin
- Medical costs, personal expenses, gratuities
- Items of a personal nature and hiking gear
- Any items not specifically listed as included in the programme
- Extra hotel nights before or after the tour

“ I wholeheartedly recommend this company and would go with them again without hesitation. Our guide could not have been more perfect for our group, the routes we took were stunningly beautiful and the Irish people could not have been more warm and welcoming. The accommodations were very comfortable... Can't wait to go back to Ireland! ” —NICOLE L.



Accommodation



We use a selection of comfortable and welcoming bed and breakfast (B&B) accommodations that offer a homely, intimate atmosphere for our guests. These B&Bs are often family-run, providing a personal touch and excellent local hospitality. The accommodations are carefully chosen for their locations, offering easy access to walking and hiking routes, with many situated in picturesque villages or near stunning natural landscapes.

The style of B&Bs varies, but all offer cosy rooms with traditional Irish décor, comfortable furnishings, and modern amenities like en-suite bathrooms, Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee-making facilities. Some properties may have more luxurious options, while others maintain a charming, rustic charm that reflects the local culture. You can expect hearty breakfasts, typically with local produce such as Irish soda bread, smoked salmon, and eggs, served to fuel you for a day of outdoor activities.



Culinary Delights

Ireland's culinary offerings are a well-kept secret, providing hearty and abundant fare—a perfect reward after a satisfying hike through the hills. Breakfast is served daily at your accommodation. Vegetarian and gluten-free options are available with advance notice. If you have specific medical dietary needs, please inform us in advance to arrange suitable meals. Recommendations for dinner spots are provided for your leisure on your free evenings.



Upgrade Options

For those seeking a more luxurious stay during your holidays we can offer upgraded accommodations in some locations. These provide additional amenities and a higher level of service, ensuring guests enjoy a more indulgent experience while still being immersed in the beauty of Ireland's landscapes.

Boutique Hotels: These are carefully selected hotels offering a blend of contemporary luxury and traditional Irish charm. They typically feature stylish, well-appointed rooms, fine dining options, spas, and additional amenities such as lounges and on-site bars. Many boutique hotels are located in scenic settings or within walking distance of popular hiking routes.

4 or 5-Star Hotels: These hotels offer a higher level of comfort and service, with spacious, well-designed rooms, gourmet restaurants, fitness centers, and sometimes pools or wellness facilities. The emphasis is on premium quality and attentive service, creating a relaxing environment after a day of hiking.

Country Houses and Manor Hotels: Set in tranquil rural locations, these stately homes and country houses offer a more peaceful, refined experience. They often come with lush gardens, elegant dining rooms, and a welcoming atmosphere. Staying in a country house can feel like being a guest in a grand private estate, with the charm of old-world Ireland.

Highend Guesthouses: These upgraded guesthouses offer a more intimate setting than hotels but still provide higher levels of comfort and service. Rooms may be more spacious with added amenities such as premium bed linens, complimentary refreshments, and en-suite bathrooms with higher-quality toiletries.

These upgraded accommodation options are ideal for those who want to combine outdoor adventures with a touch of luxury, offering guests a perfect balance of relaxation, comfort, and access to the natural beauty of Ireland.

“ Everything was perfect! Great personalized service; knowledgeable, very nice and very experienced guides. Great choice of walks, accommodations, restaurants, side visits and excellent recommendations. They treat their walkers as special guests. I have used many walking companies in Europe and I know I am a tough, demanding customer. They are in the top 1%, they excel in every area. ” —ROSA G.



Exploring Dublin

Pre-Tour Recommendations

If you plan to arrive a few days early before beginning your Wicklow Way adventure, Dublin is the perfect base. Ireland's capital blends rich history, lively culture, and warm hospitality, offering endless ways to immerse yourself in the country before you set out into the peaceful landscapes of Wicklow. With world-class museums, iconic landmarks, and a vibrant food and music scene, Dublin sets the tone for an unforgettable Irish journey.

Things to See and Do in Ballycastle

Trinity College & the Book of Kells

Walk through Ireland's oldest university, famed for its cobbled courtyards and historic library. The 9th-century Book of Kells is one of the country's greatest artistic treasures.

Dublin Castle & Chester Beatty

Explore centuries of Irish history at Dublin Castle, then wander next door to the Chester Beatty Library—an award-winning museum housing rare manuscripts, artworks, and global artefacts.

Kilmainham Gaol

A powerful and moving museum offering insight into Ireland's struggle for independence, housed within a former 19th-century prison.

St Stephen's Green & Grafton Street

Enjoy a relaxed stroll through this elegant city park, then wander nearby Grafton Street, known for its boutique shops, cafés, and talented street musicians.

The Guinness Storehouse

Discover the story of Ireland's most famous stout across seven interactive floors, finishing with panoramic views over the city from the Gravity Bar.

Temple Bar

The cultural heart of Dublin, filled with traditional pubs, live music, colourful murals, and a buzzing atmosphere day and night.

Phoenix Park

One of Europe's largest enclosed city parks—home to Dublin Zoo, sweeping lawns, woodland trails, and a resident herd of wild fallow deer.

Why Ireland Walk Hike Bike?

Having watched many travelers flash through Ireland, founder Linda Woods wanted to provide a more slow-paced, immersive approach to experiencing the country. "My aim was to slow people down so that they could really sink their feet into the soul of the country, meet the locals and discover what makes Ireland and the Irish tick."

Whether you're looking to walk, hike or bike, or a combination, our team of local travel specialists and guides are here to ensure that you have a most delightful and memorable trip to Ireland.

- Irish Owned & Operated
- More Than 25 Years in Business
- Highly Knowledgeable Local Guides
- 4.9 Stars on Google Reviews
- Exceptional Customer Service
- Handpicked Accommodations

We've designed our Tours to maximize every moment of your holiday. Every detail is taken care of so you can just show up, unplug and relax.

- **Personalised Tour app** with GPS navigation functionality, all your documents and important information in one place
- With our Self-Guided Tours you can book your tour **start date to match your travel plan** (subject to accommodation availability)
- **Select accommodations** with genuine local hospitality
- **Luggage transfer** each day with some **private transfers** to the start of your hike to remove unnecessary, unscenic road walking to ensure you are getting the best out of each hiking day
- An expert, local **holiday specialist** during the planning process to help with any questions you may have in the build up to your trip
- **Pre-Tour briefing**, either in person or over the phone before you set off on your first hike
- **Emergency contact** number for any issues while you are on the trails



Travel Insurance

We highly recommend that you obtain suitable travel insurance before your departure date to protect yourself throughout your trip. This coverage should include comprehensive medical insurance for illness and injury, trip cancellation, and should cover for your other travel arrangements such as flights, pre and post-tour arrangements and your personal possessions.

Our travel insurance partners are World Nomads.

Visit www.irelandwalkhikebike.com/questions/travel-insurance-partner to get a quote, or you can contact your own insurance provider.

Getting to Dublin

There are four primary international airports in Ireland: Dublin, Shannon, Cork, and Belfast (Aldergrove) International. Several smaller regional airports—Kerry, Knock, Donegal, and Belfast City (George Best)—also provide convenient access from mainland Europe and the UK.

For tours beginning in Dublin, Dublin Airport is by far the most convenient arrival point. It is Ireland's busiest and best-connected airport, served by hundreds of international flights daily. We recommend arriving at least one day before your tour begins to allow time to relax and enjoy the city before heading south toward the Wicklow Mountains.

Dublin Airport (www.dublinairport.com)

Located just 10 km from the city centre, Dublin Airport offers excellent transport links. Over 1,000 buses operate daily to Dublin City and beyond, with direct services stopping right outside the arrivals area. Taxis and car-hire options are also readily available. Once in Dublin, you can easily access the start of the Wicklow Way by public transport, taxi, or private transfer.

Booking Details

ENQUIRIES

For questions about this hiking tour, reach out to our Ireland Travel Specialists at info@irelandwalkhikebike.com.

RESERVATIONS

To book your tour email us at info@irelandwalkhikebike.com

PAYMENT CONDITIONS

A deposit of €150.00 per person is required at the time of booking. Balancing payments are then required no less than 8 weeks prior to the tour start date.

Our full terms and conditions can be found at www.irelandwalkhikebike.com/terms-conditions

CANCELLATIONS

Should you need to cancel, cancellation charges will apply. These are calculated from the day written notification is received by the company or our agent as a percentage of the total tour price, including surcharges as follows:

More than 56 days from start date: Deposit only

35 to 55 days from start date: 30%

15 to 34 days from start date: 50%

14 days to departure day: Nil Refund

To book your place on your Self-Guided Hike, sign up online [HERE](#) or email us at info@irelandwalkhikebike.com.

We look forward to helping you plan an amazing adventure in Ireland — one you'll remember for years to come!

—Ireland Walk Hike Bike

Interested in exploring Ireland beyond your chosen hiking tour?

Ask us about our cycling and self-drive tours. Book two tours back to back, or add a pre or post-tour adventure.

Ireland Walk Hike Bike has got you covered!

Ireland Walk Hike Bike

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