4.9/5· 33 walker reviews

The Glens and Giant Causeway 8 Days

Walk from Cushendall to Portstewart on this 8-day self-guided hiking tour

DURATION	WALKING DAYS	TOTAL DISTANCE	GRADE
8 days	6	100.6 km	Moderate

From

€1,195

per person

Book or enquire at

walkingholidayireland.com/walking-tours

See website for current rates

About This Tour

An 8-day adventure through Northern Ireland's most spectacular landscape: ancient glens, rope bridges, and the iconic Giant's Causeway UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Tour Highlights

- **Glenariff Forest Park Waterfalls**
  Walk through ancient oak woodland past cascading waterfalls on the famous Waterfall Walkway in the "Queen of the Glens".

- **Rathlin Island Puffins**
  Take the ferry to Northern Ireland's only inhabited offshore island and watch thousands of seabirds, including puffins, at the RSPB West Light Centre.

- **Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge**
  Cross the rope bridge suspended 30 metres above the Atlantic for views along the Antrim coast that make your heart race.

- **The Giant's Causeway**
  Stand on 40,000 hexagonal basalt columns at the UNESCO World Heritage Site where geology and Irish legend collide.

Who Is It For?

This Causeway Coast walking tour suits active walkers who enjoy 4 to 6 hours of hiking per day across varied terrain. Some days include moderate ascent on moorland paths; others follow coastal tracks and quiet roads. You do not need to be an elite athlete, but a reasonable level of fitness makes the experience far more enjoyable.

This tour is ideal for:

Couples and friends who want to walk one of Europe's great coastal paths together

Solo walkers looking for a well-supported self-guided route with the security of daily accommodation bookings and luggage transfers

Over-50s hikers who value comfort at the end of the day and appreciate having the logistics handled

Nature and wildlife enthusiasts, especially birdwatchers drawn by Rathlin Island's seabird colonies

Photographers drawn to…

Day-by-Day Itinerary

DAY 1

Arrival in Cushendall

Overnight: Cushendall

Settle into your B&B in this charming coastal village at the foot of the Glens. If you arrive early, looped walks around the village will stretch your legs and give you a taste of what lies ahead. The local pubs serve excellent food, and you might catch a session of traditional music before your first full day of hiking.

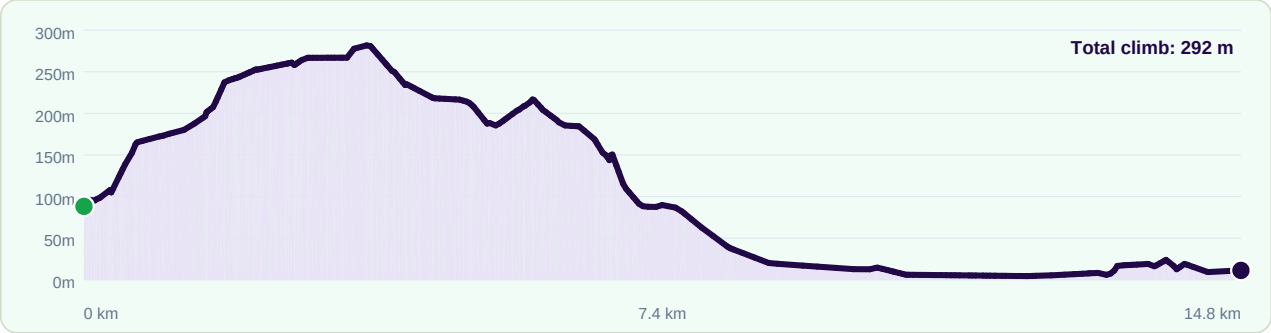
We will provide you with details on how to get there with public transport or a private taxi in your pre-departure info pack.

DAY 2

Glenariff Forest Park to Cushendall

Walk: Antrim Glenariff Forest Park to Cushendall (14.8 km) · Overnight: Cushendall

ROUTE 14.8 km · 218 m ascent · Easy · Glenariff Forest Park to Cushendall



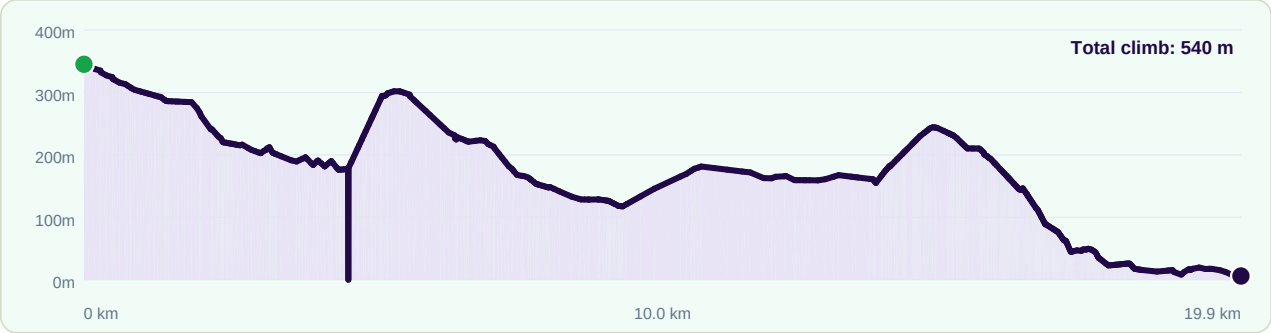
We bring you to Glenariff Forest Park, the "Queen of the Glens". Walk the famous Waterfall Walkway through ancient woodland and past cascading falls. Choose from circular trails before hiking out of the glen and back along the coast to Cushendall. Watch for red squirrels in the canopy above.

DAY 3

Moyle Way: Orra Beg to Ballycastle

Walk: Antrim Moyle Way to Ballycastle (19.9 km) · Overnight: Ballycastle

ROUTE 19.9 km · 447 m ascent · Moderate · Altarichard Rd to Ballycastle



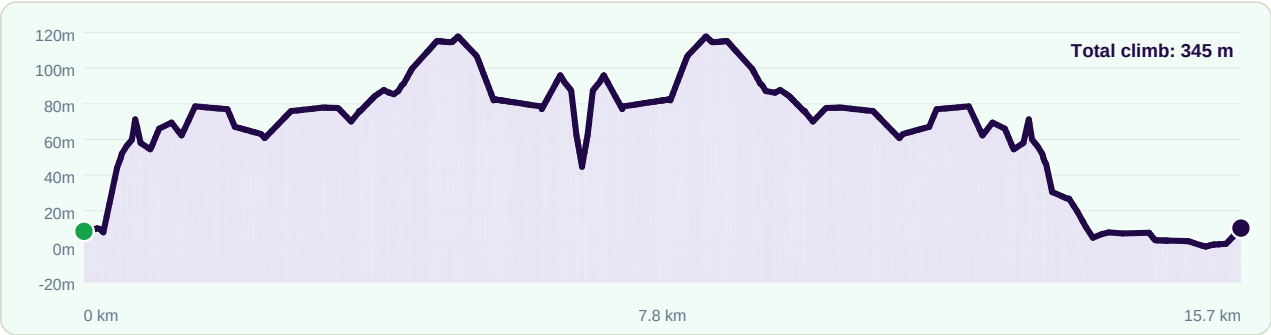
We transfer you to the start of the Moyle Way near Orra Beg. This outstanding hike takes you through woodland, across open moorland, and along ridgelines with panoramic views of the coast and, on clear days, Scotland. You descend into Ballycastle where your luggage waits at your B&B.

DAY 4

Rathlin Island

Walk: Antrim Rathlin Island (15.7 km) · Overnight: Ballycastle

ROUTE 15.7 km · 240 m ascent · Easy · Rathlin to Rathlin



A short walk from your B&B takes you to the ferry for Rathlin Island, Northern Ireland's only inhabited offshore island. The RSPB West Light Seabird Centre hosts thousands of breeding seabirds, with puffins the star attraction from April to July. Walk or cycle the island's quiet roads, visit the upside-down lighthouse, and enjoy the deep peace of a place with more birds than people.

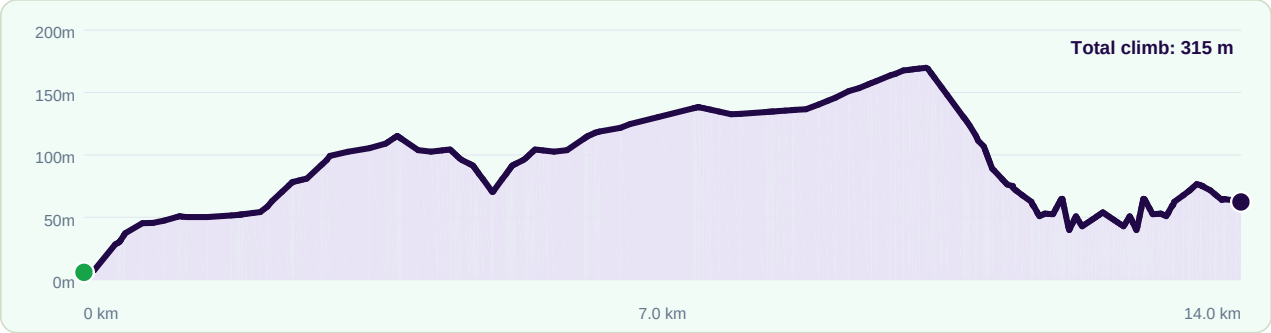
(Ferry tickets not included; must be pre-booked. Weather-dependent.)

DAY 5

Ballycastle to Ballintoy via Carrick-a-Rede

Walk: Antrim Ballycastle to Ballintoy (14 km) · Overnight: Ballintoy

ROUTE 14 km · 275 m ascent · Easy · Ballycastle to Ballintoy



Walk quiet country roads and forest tracks from Ballycastle to the famous Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge, suspended 30 metres above the sea. Cross the bridge (if you dare) for views along the coast in both directions. Continue to the pretty village of Ballintoy, whose harbour served as a Game of Thrones filming location.

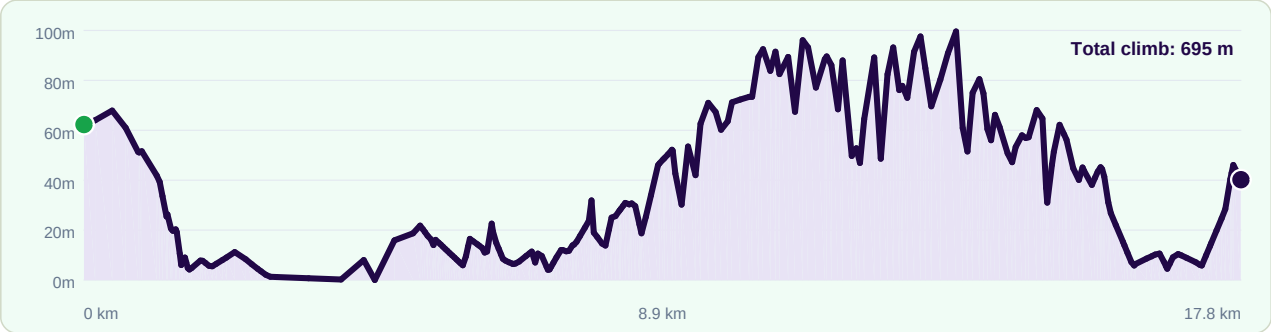
(Rope bridge ticket not included; crossing is optional.)

DAY 6

Ballintoy to Giant's Causeway and Bushmills

Walk: Antrim Ballintoy to Giant's Causeway (18 km) · Overnight: Bushmills

ROUTE 18 km · 494 m ascent · Moderate · Ballintoy to Giant's Causeway



This is the day. The walk from Ballintoy to the Giant's Causeway is the finest coastal walk in Ireland. White Park Bay's crescent beach, Portbraddan's tiny church, the ruins of Dunseverick Castle, and then the cliff-top path drops to the 40,000 interlocking basalt columns of the Giant's Causeway itself. Legend says the giant Fionn mac Cumhaill built them; geologists credit a 60-million-year-old volcanic eruption. Either way, standing on them feels otherworldly.

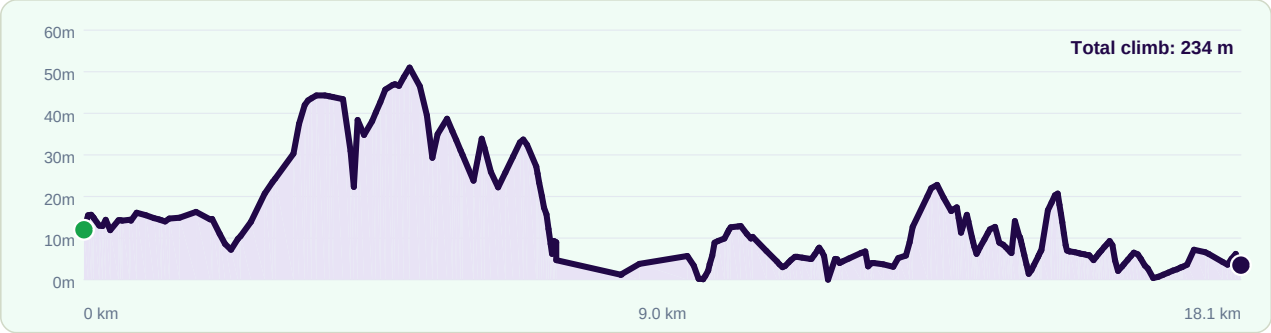
Important: Sections of today's route are tide-dependent. Your route notes include tide times and alternative paths.

DAY 7

Giant's Causeway to Portstewart via Dunluce Castle

Walk: Antrim Bushmills to Portstewart (18.2 km) · Overnight: Portstewart

ROUTE 18.2 km · 98 m ascent · Easy · Bushmills to Portstewart



Your final walking day follows the coast through Portrush to Portstewart. You pass the dramatic ruins of Dunluce Castle, perched on the cliff edge, and walk the magnificent Whiterocks Beach with its limestone caves and sea arches. Ramore Head and Portrush Harbour lead to the promenade walk into Portstewart. Celebrate with a delicious meal and perhaps a dram of Bushmills.

DAY 8

Departure from Portstewart

After breakfast, your walking holiday ends. If time allows, a morning stroll along Portstewart Strand is a fine way to say goodbye. Buses connect to Coleraine for trains to Belfast and Dublin.

Walking the trails of Ireland

What Our Walkers Say

Rated 4.9/5 by 33 walkers

*****

We had a great walking holiday on the Giant Causeway. Everything was well organised. The B&Bs were good and the people were very friendly. The routes were alternating and sometimes challenging. Most important thing was that Cliff was there when we needed him.

- Elly - 2024

*****

Beautiful area. Scenic walks through valleys, hills, forests and by coast. Friendly, warm people. Accommodation, transport and organisation of trip are top class.

- Michael L - 2024

*****

Fortunately, we didn't need your help number during our walking adventure in Northern Ireland last week, but it felt safe to have your number at hand. We had a marvellous holiday and were very lucky with the weather. The trip was very well organised. The hiking routes were clear, with the elevation profile with coloured track types, and especially the QR codes, so we never got lost. The driver who collected us at the airport and brought us to the starting point of the first two hikes was an…

- Joke vd W. - 2023

Ready to Walk Ireland?

Every tour is self-guided with hand-picked accommodation, daily luggage transfer, detailed route notes and GPX files, plus our personal local support throughout your walk. Dates and group sizes are flexible — just ask.

What's Included

- ✓ Accommodation: Welcoming en-suite B&B rooms
- ✓ Breakfast: Full Irish breakfast every morning
- ✓ Luggage Transfer: Daily transfer of your main bag between accommodations
- ✓ Personalised Itinerary and route app for your smart phone that keeps you on the trail at all times.
- ✓ Support: 24/7 emergency support throughout your holiday
- ✓ Pre-Departure Pack: Information pack sent before you travel, so you know exactly what to expect

Not Included

- ✗ Flights: Travel to Ireland is not included
- ✗ Insurance: You'll need travel and walking holiday insurance
- ✗ Meals: Lunches and dinners are not included (though we'll recommend great local spots)

Along the trail — County Clare, Ireland

Get in touch

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Web:walkingholidayireland.com

This tour:walkingholidayireland.com/walking-tours/causeway-coast-SNI-CC-8M

FROM

€1,195

per person

See website for current rates