

WALKING HOLIDAY IRELAND

FROM
€755
per person sharing

SELF-GUIDED WALKING HOLIDAY · SAINT PATRICK'S WAY

SAINT PATRICK'S WAY (HILLTOWN TO DOWNPATRICK) 6 DAYS

Walk the Mournes from Hilltown to Newcastle, take a rest day under Slieve Donard, then complete the pilgrimage along the coast to Saint Patrick's grave at Downpatrick. 5 nights, 3 walking days, Pilgrim Certificate.

DURATION	WALKING DAYS	DISTANCE	GRADE
6 days	3	57.2 km	Moderate
5 nights B&B	7 to 26 km each	about 1,300 m of ascent	

Family-run since 2012 · Cliff & Louise

walkingholidayireland.com

Tour code SNI-SP-6M

Your route at a glance

Walk the Mournes from Hilltown to Newcastle, take a rest day under Slieve Donard, then complete the pilgrimage along the coast to Saint Patrick's grave at Downpatrick. 5 nights, 3 walking days, Pilgrim Certificate.



Days 2 and 5 — Day 4

DAY 1 — Arrive Hilltown
Arrive in Hilltown, the upland gateway to the Mournes — eight pubs on the main…

DAY 2 — Hilltown to Newcastle — Mourne
26 km · 521 m ascent · Challenging

DAY 3 — Rest Day in Newcastle
A built-in rest day under Slieve Donard. The beach is yours. Walk the…

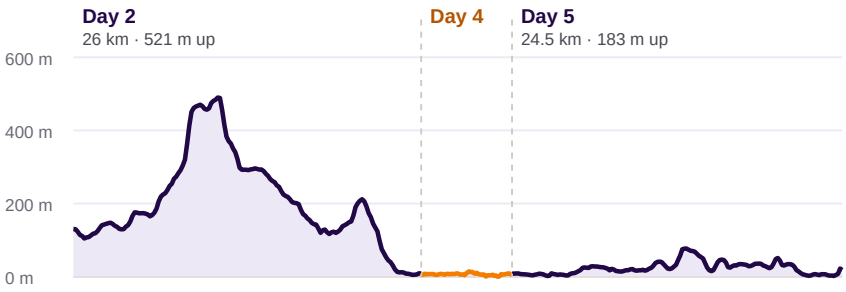
DAY 4 — Newcastle to Dundrum
6.7 km · 9 m ascent · Gentle

DAY 5 — Dundrum to Downpatrick — Saint
24.5 km · 183 m ascent · Challenging

DAY 6 — Departure from Downpatrick
A pilgrim's final morning. Visit Down Cathedral one more time. The Saint…

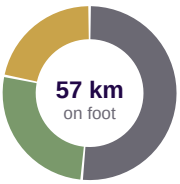
The whole walk in one line

57.2 km · 1,253 m of climbing over three days · from our GPS tracks



What's underfoot

Surface across the three walking days



Road and lane	51%
Footpath and trail	27%
Gravel and forest track	22%

The Mourne Mountains Crossing

Day 2 is the headline: 26km from Hilltown across the western Mournes to Newcastle. Heather moorland, granite peaks, Tollymore Forest Park, and a finish where the…

Rest Day in Newcastle

A full day in Newcastle below Slieve Donard — Northern Ireland's highest peak. Beach, harbour, Victorian promenade.

Murlough Nature Reserve

Day 4 threads through Murlough National Nature Reserve — Ireland's first nature reserve, a 6,000-year-old sand-dune system managed by the National Trust.

Saint Patrick's Grave

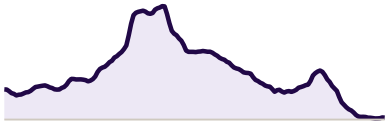
The final day finishes at Down Cathedral and the boulder marking Saint Patrick's grave. Present your stamped Pilgrim Passport at the Saint Patrick Centre for your…

Day by day

Elevation, 0 to 600 m · Challenging · Gentle

1 **Arrive Hilltown.** Arrive in Hilltown, the upland gateway to the Mournes — eight pubs on the main street and the high peaks rising to the east. Settle into your B&B, collect your route notes and Pilgrim Passport, and walk down to the River Bann if there's… **Overnight Hilltown**

DAY 2



26 km · 521 m up · Challenging

Hilltown to Newcastle — Mourne Mountains

26 km · 7–9 hours · Mourne foothills + Tollymore Forest The big day. From Hilltown the trail follows the Mourne Way along the northern foothills of the high Mournes — Slieve Bearnagh, Slieve Commedagh, Slieve Donard rising in the distance. The route contours rather than summits, but the exposure and the views are real. The second half drops into Tollymore Forest Park, an 18th-century demesne of stone bridges, ancient oaks and stepping-stone river crossings (a Game of Thrones filming location). Down through the park…

Overnight Newcastle

3 **Rest Day in Newcastle.** A built-in rest day under Slieve Donard. The beach is yours. Walk the Victorian promenade, visit the harbour, eat well. If your legs are willing, the trail up Slieve Donard (850m, Northern Ireland's highest peak) starts from the seafront… **Overnight Newcastle**

DAY 4

6.7 km · 9 m up · Gentle

Newcastle to Dundrum

6.7 km · 2 hours · Coast and dunes A short, easy recovery day. Past Royal County Down Golf Club and into Murlough National Nature Reserve — Ireland's first nature reserve, an ancient sand-dune system. Boardwalks thread between marram-grass dunes with views back to the Mournes. Into Dundrum village under the ruins of a 12th-century Norman castle; the village is known for its oyster and mussel beds, so eat seafood.

Overnight Dundrum

DAY 5



24.5 km · 183 m up · Challenging

Dundrum to Downpatrick — Saint Patrick's Grave

24.5 km · 6–7 hours · Heritage trail through Patrician sites The final pilgrimage day. Out of Dundrum past the Norman castle ruins and back through the edge of Murlough's mudflats, then north through the Strangford & Lecale AONB. The route passes Saul Church — the site of Saint Patrick's first church in Ireland, a barn given to him by the chieftain Dichu in 432 — and Struell Wells, four ancient holy wells traditionally associated with the saint. The trail climbs into Downpatrick to Down Cathedral and the boulder marking Saint Patrick's…

Overnight Downpatrick

6 **Departure from Downpatrick.** A pilgrim's final morning. Visit Down Cathedral one more time. The Saint Patrick Centre, Struell Wells, and Inch Abbey are all worth an hour if you have it. Castle Ward — Winterfell in Game of Thrones — is 15 minutes away. Transfer to Belfast or Dublin, taking your Certificate and…

Is this walk for you?

GENTLE — MODERATE — CHALLENGING

7 to 26 km	1,253	3
a day	m of climbing in total	walking days

Moderate, with one demanding mountain day. Day 2 — Hilltown to Newcastle — is 26km across exposed Mourne foothills with 743m of cumulative ascent. You need proper hiking boots, waterproofs and the experience to walk in mountain terrain for a full day. The other two walking days are shorter and easier. You want the mountain stage and the pilgrim finish without committing to the full 9 days from Armagh.



INCLUDED

- ✓ 5 nights accommodation in guesthouses and B&Bs (en-suite rooms) — Hilltown, 2 nights Newcastle…
- ✓ Full Irish or continental breakfast every morning
- ✓ Luggage transfers between all accommodation
- ✓ Pilgrim Passport for route stamps
- ✓ Certificate of Achievement at the Saint Patrick Centre
- ✓ Personalised digital itinerary and route app
- ✓ 24/7 emergency contact and on-trail support
- ✓ Pre-departure information pack with heritage notes

NOT INCLUDED

- ✗ Transport to Hilltown or from Downpatrick (we can arrange transfers)
- ✗ Travel insurance (strongly recommended)
- ✗ Lunches and evening meals
- ✗ Alcoholic beverages
- ✗ Personal expenses

Want to walk further?
9 days to Downpatrick from €1,195

FROM

€755

per person sharing

Single room supplement applies. See the website for current rates.

How booking works

1. Tell us your dates and how many walkers. We check the B&Bs.
2. A 25% deposit holds your places; the balance is due before you travel.
3. Your travel pack arrives 14 days before departure.

Check dates and book

info@walkingholidayireland.com · +353 42 932 3396

Scan for live dates

Cliff & Louise · Family-run since 2012 · We walk our routes. We answer the phone.