



Saint Patrick's Way (Armagh to Hilltown)

Pilgrim trail through canal country to the Mourne foothills.

DURATION

6 days

WALKING DAYS

4

TOTAL DISTANCE

87.6 km

GRADE

Challenging

From

€700

per person

Book or enquire at

walkingholidayireland.com/walking-tours

[See website for current rates](#)

About This Tour

Walk Saint Patrick's Way Part A — 84km from Armagh through canal country and Carlingford Lough to the Mourne foothills at Hilltown. 5 nights, Pilgrim Passport.

Tour Highlights

- **Armagh — Ireland's Ecclesiastical Capital**

The pilgrimage begins at Navan Centre & Fort (Eamhain Mhacha, the Iron Age capital of Ulster) and Armagh's twin cathedrals. Pick up your Pilgrim Passport for the ten stamps along the route.

- **The Newry Canal Towpath**

Day 3 follows the western bank of the Newry Canal — Ireland's oldest summit-level canal, opened in 1742. Locks, restored bridges, kingfishers and herons. Flat and sheltered — Scarva to Poyntzpass is the prettiest section.

- **Carlingford Lough**

Day 4 traces the shore of Carlingford Lough — Cooley Mountains rising across the water in the Republic, Mournes building ahead. Through Victorian Warrenpoint to the sheltered village of Rostrevor, gateway to Kilbroney Park and the C.S.

- **Into the Mourne Foothills**

Day 5 climbs gently through Kilbroney Forest and onto the open moorland of the Mourne Way to finish at Hilltown — an upland village with eight pubs on a single street, a legacy of 18th-century smugglers.

Who Is It For?

Your fitness level

Moderate. The first three walking days are gentle to easy — country lanes, canal towpath and coastal path. Day 5 (Rostrevor to Hilltown) climbs into the Mourne foothills and is the most demanding day. No exposed high-mountain walking. Good walking shoes and a waterproof are enough.

The right kind of traveller

You want the heritage, the canal country and the Mourne approach without committing to the high mountain crossing. A good fit for a first walking holiday, or for pilgrims who want to walk the southern half of the route as a stand-alone trip. You can return another year and walk Part B (Hilltown to Downpatrick) to complete the pilgrimage.

Solo, couples, groups

Lovely for solo walkers — the trail is well-marked and welcoming. Couples find their rhythm together.

Day-by-Day Itinerary

DAY
1

Arrive Armagh — Navan Fort and City Heritage

Overnight: Armagh

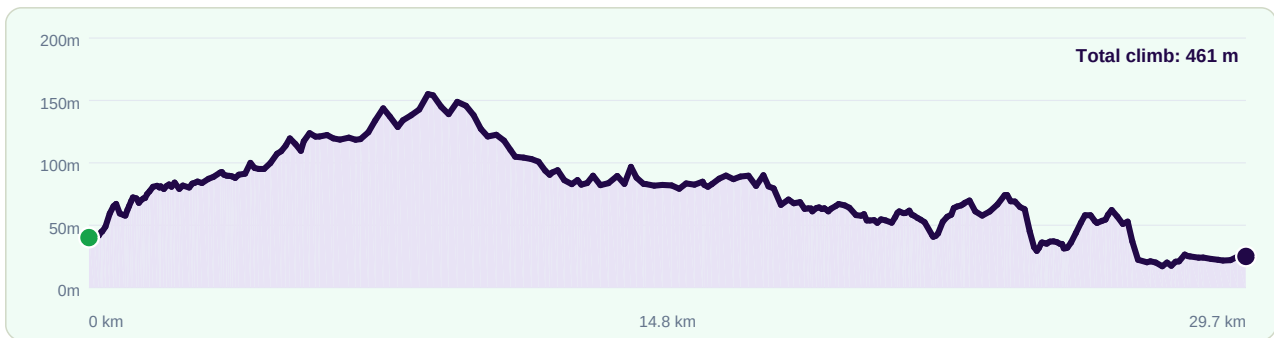
Navan Centre and Fort, Armagh's two cathedrals, Georgian Mall. Collect your Pilgrim Passport and first stamp. The pilgrimage begins.

DAY
2

Armagh to Scarva

Walk: SPW Armagh to Scarva (Sinton's at the Bridge) (30 km) · Overnight: Scarva

ROUTE 30 km · 534 m ascent · Challenging+



29 km · 7–9 hours · Rolling drumlin countryside

South through County Armagh's green drumlins. Hedgerow lanes, quiet farms, gradual ascent. Scarva — picturesque canal village — awaits with your Passport stamp.

DAY
3

Scarva to Newry

Walk: SPW Scarva To Newry (19.3 km) · Overnight: Newry

ROUTE 19.3 km · 195 m ascent · Moderate



20 km · 4–5 hours · Canal towpath

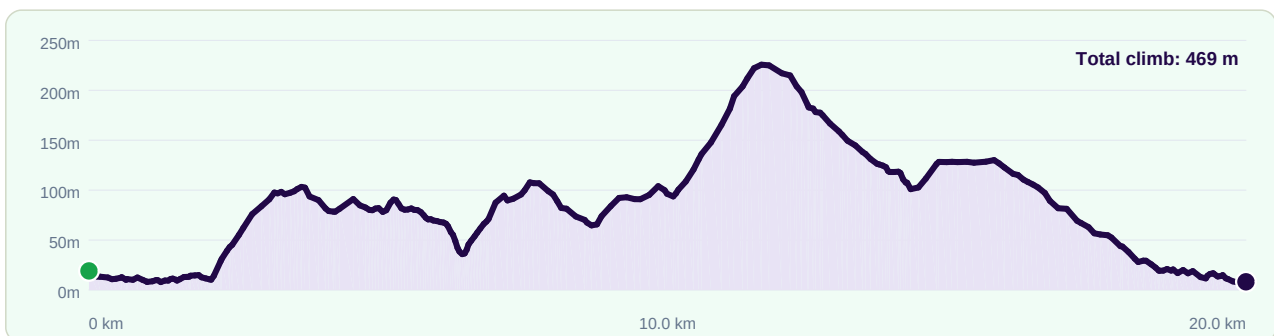
Flat and peaceful along Ireland's oldest canal. Birdlife, lock-keeper's cottages, merchant heritage. Arrive in Newry with energy to spare — save it for tomorrow.

DAY
4

Newry to Rostrevor

Walk: SPW Newry To Rostrevor (20.2 km) · Overnight: Rostrevor

ROUTE 20.2 km · 495 m ascent · Moderate



15 km · 3–4 hours · Coastal path above Carlingford Lough

Short day by design — you are saving your legs for tomorrow's mountain crossing. Climb gently from Newry, then follow Carlingford Lough to Rostrevor. Kilbroney Forest Park. Rest, eat well, prepare.

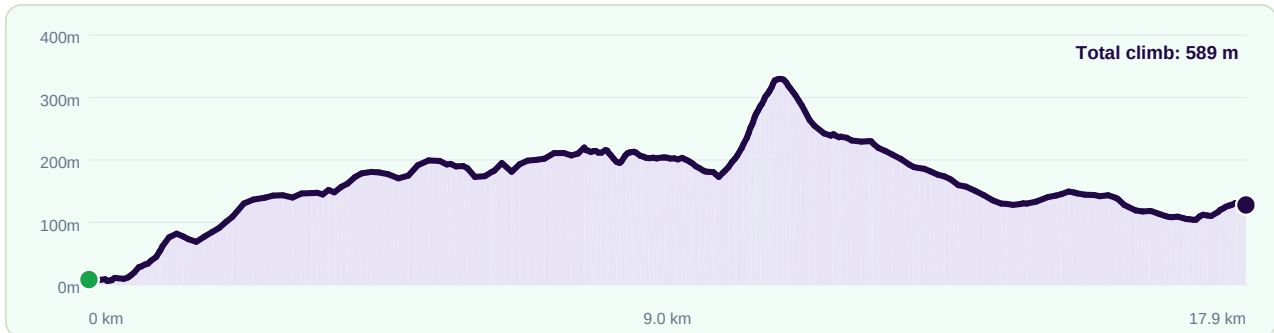
DAY

5

Rostrevor to Hilltown

Walk: SPW Rostrevor To Hilltown (18.1 km) · Overnight: Hilltown

ROUTE 18.1 km · 622 m ascent · Moderate



18 km · 5–6 hours · Mourne foothills

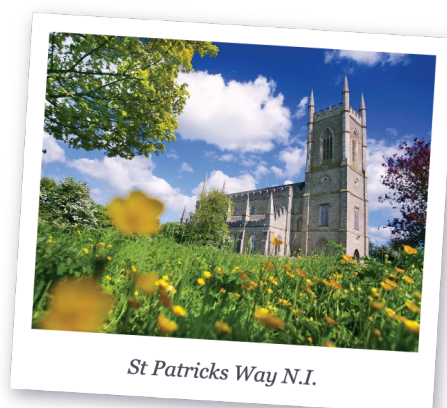
The Mournes proper begin today. The route leaves Rostrevor through Kilbroney Forest Park, climbing into the conifers and out onto open moorland that contours the foothills of Slieve Martin and Tievedockaragh. Above the tree line the path follows the Mourne Way past the Yellow Water River — sometimes exposed, always with the high Mournes opening to the east. The descent drops you to Hilltown, an upland village on the River Bann with eight pubs on the main street — a legacy of 18th-century smugglers who divvied up their contraband here.

DAY

6

Departure from Hilltown

A morning in Hilltown. Quiet street, eight pubs, the River Bann — a proper Mourne village. Transfer onward to Belfast or Dublin, or extend your pilgrimage with our 9-Day Entire Route package to continue over the high Mournes to Newcastle and on to Downpatrick, where Saint Patrick is buried.



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)



St Patricks Way N.I.

Get in touch

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Web: walkingholidayireland.com

This tour: walkingholidayireland.com/walking-tours/saint-patricks-way-SNI-SP-6D

FROM

€700

per person

See website for current rates