Saint Patrick's Way Walking Holiday — 9 Days (Entire Route)

The complete pilgrim trail — one stage per day, finishing at Saint Patrick's grave.

DURATION	WALKING DAYS	TOTAL DISTANCE	GRADE
9 days	8	149.2 km	Moderate

From

€1,195

per person

Book or enquire at

walkingholidayireland.com/walking-tours

See website for current rates

About This Tour

Walk the entire 149km Saint Patrick's Way from Armagh to Downpatrick — one stage per day, eight walking days, Pilgrim Certificate at Down Cathedral.

Tour Highlights

- **The Mournes Split into Two Days — Unique to WHI**
  No other operator splits the Mourne Mountains crossing into two days. By overnighting in Hilltown you walk in from Rostrevor through Kilbroney Forest onto the open hillside on Day 5, then cross the western Mournes — Spelga, Spaltha and…

- **Hilltown — Eight Pubs and a Smuggling Past**
  Hilltown is a farming village of fewer than a thousand people at the foot of the Mournes, and it has eight pubs on its high street.

- **Pilgrim Certificate at Down Cathedral**
  The walk's purpose reaches its culmination at Down Cathedral. Present your stamped Passport at the Saint Patrick Centre, receive your Certificate, and visit St Patrick's grave.

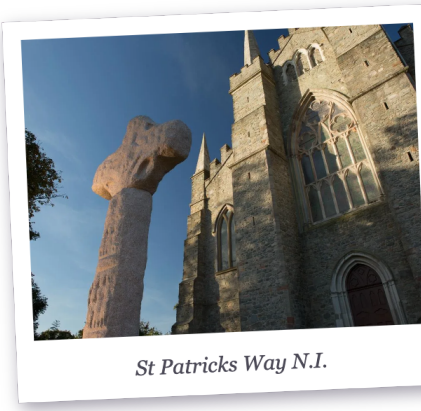
- **Castle Ward — Game of Thrones Winterfell**
  Castle Ward, the National Trust estate used as Winterfell in Game of Thrones, is just 15 minutes from Downpatrick.

Who Is It For?

Your fitness level
Easy to moderate. By splitting the Mournes into two days, no single day exceeds 34km or 350m of ascent. You need reasonable fitness for consecutive walking days, but this is the most accessible version of the complete trail. Good walking shoes for canal and country sections; proper hiking boots recommended for the Mourne days.

The right kind of traveller
You want the full pilgrim trail and the Certificate, but you also want to enjoy each day rather than survive it. You appreciate a fishing town overnight, a split mountain crossing, and time to explore at each stop.

St Patricks Way N.I.


St Patricks Way N.I.

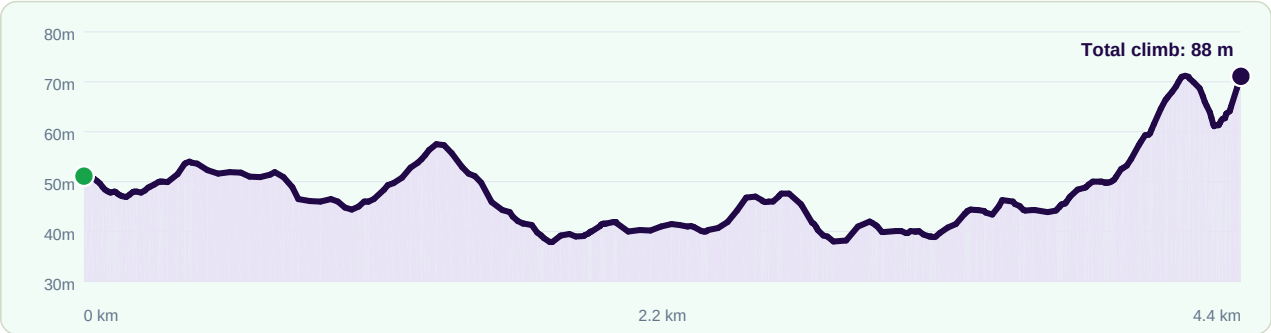
Day-by-Day Itinerary

DAY
1

Arrive Armagh — Navan Fort and City Heritage

Walk: SPW Navan Centre to Armagh Cathedral (4.4 km) · Overnight: Armagh

ROUTE 4.4 km · 36 m ascent · Easy



Arrival into Armagh by public transport from Belfast or Dublin Airports

On arrival into Armagh you have the opportunity to explore the cathedral city of Armagh the home of the head of the major churches in Ireland.

Take the short journey out to the Navan Centre and start your Pilgrims Journey walking back to Armagh.

Distance 5 km / 3 miles Assent: 50 m / 160 ft

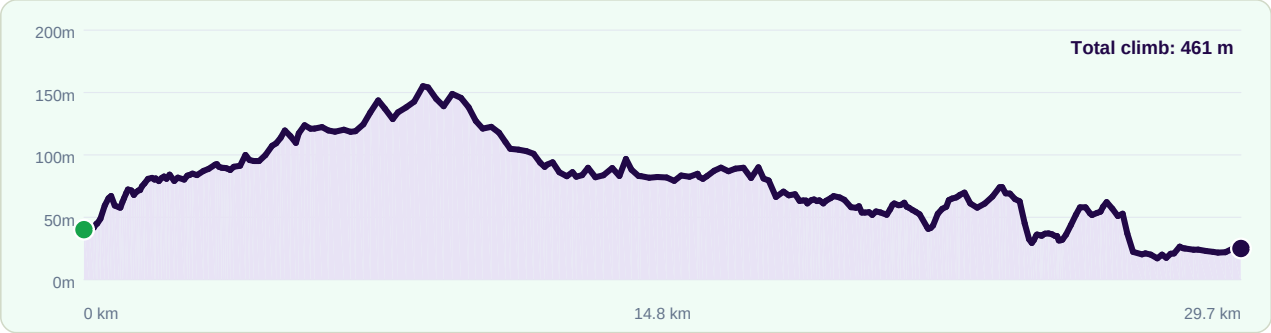
Approximate walking time: 1.5 / 2 hours

DAY
2

Armagh to Scarva

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

ROUTE 30 km · 221 m ascent · Challenging



After breakfast in Armagh you will depart on the St. Patrick's Trail from the city along minor roads and country lanes through the Armagh countryside to Scarva on the Newry Canal.

You have an option to finish today, in Tandragee making the day 26km / 16 miles.

Distance: 33 km 20 miles / Ascent 300 m 980 ft

Approximate walking time: 7 / 9 hours

DAY
3

Scarva to Newry

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

ROUTE 19.3 km · 18 m ascent · Easy

An easy walking day along the banks of the Newry Canal – the oldest canal in Ireland built in the 18th century to transfer the coal from coalfields of County Tyrone to Carlingford Lough for export. Now mostly disused it offers a sanctuary to birds and small wildlife who inhabit its banks.

Distance 20km 12 miles / Ascent 50 m 160ft

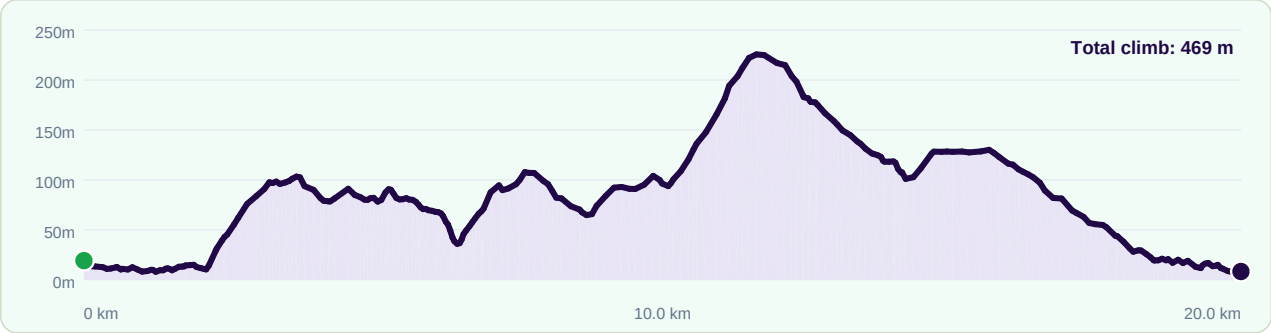
Approximate walking time: 4 / 5 hours.

DAY
4

Newry to Rostrevor

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

ROUTE 20.2 km · 362 m ascent · Moderate



Starting from Newry soon you will be rewarded with wonderful views of Carlingford Lough and the Cooley & Mourne Mountains on either side. This area on the Irish Republic and Northern Ireland borderlands is steeped in folklore which is told in Rostrevor in both Words & Music. The charming village of Rostrevor on the shores of Carlingford Lough is said to have inspired C.S. Lewis in his writings of the tails of Narnia. St. Bronagh's a disciple of St. Patrick set up a monastery in the area whose ruins can be seen today and date back to the 6th centenary.

19km 11.8 miles / Ascent 400m / 1312ft

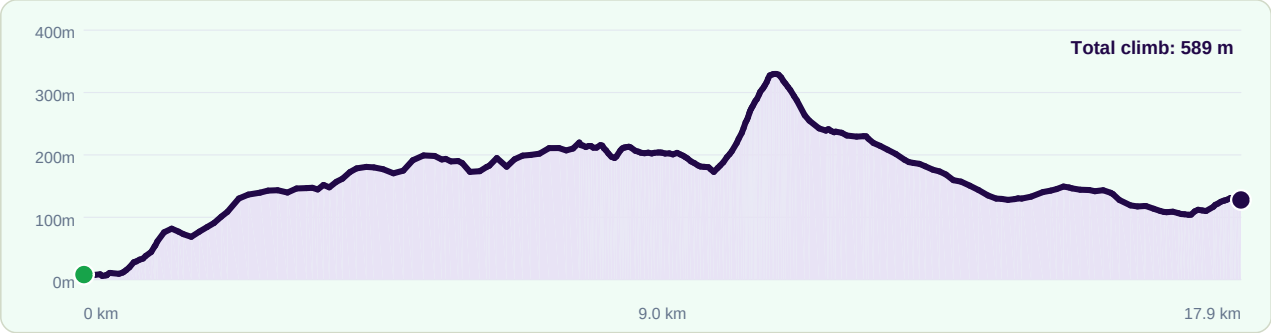
Approximate walking time: 4 / 5 hours

DAY
5

Rostrevor to Hilltown

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

ROUTE 18.1 km · 450 m ascent · Moderate



Today your walk will take you into the Mourne Mountains, firstly through Kilbroney Forest then onto open hillside trails to the village of Hilltown. Your overnight accommodation is located in a charming little farming village. With fewer than 1000 people, Hilltown has the impressive eight pubs in the high street, a legacy from 18th-century smugglers who shared out their contraband here.

Distance 14km 9miles Ascent 350m / 1148 ft

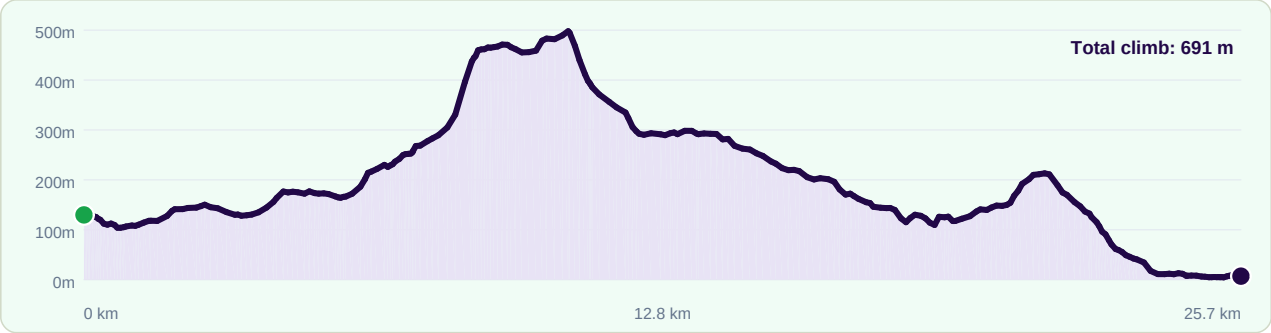
Approximate walking time: 4 / 5 hours

DAY
6

Hilltown to Newcastle

Walk: SPW Hilltown to Newcastle (26 km) · Overnight: Newcastle

ROUTE 26 km · 521 m ascent · Challenging



Returning to the trail from your accommodation, you will quickly rise into along the River Bann – Northern Ireland's longest river – whose source is located in the Mourne Mountains – and across the western Mourne Mountain hills of Spelga and Spaltha and enjoy views back into the local countryside and the inner Mourne Mountains. For the second half of the day you will enter Tollymore Forest Park before rising up to the outer reaches of the park into the shadows of Slievenabrock Mountain, you will quickly be rewarded with views of Newcastle and The Irish Sea at Dundrum Bay before meandering along quiet country trails into the seaside town of Newcastle.

Distance 22km 14miles / Ascent 550m 1800 ft

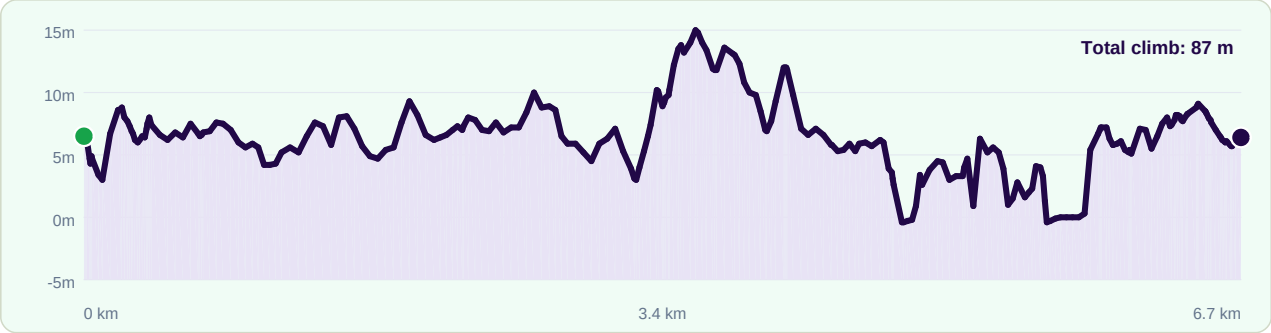
Approximate walking time: 6 / 7 hours

DAY
7

Newcastle to Dundrum

Walk: SPW Newcastle To Dundrum (6.7 km) · Overnight: Dundrum

ROUTE 6.7 km · 9 m ascent · Easy



After the last two days in the Mourne Mountains today is a very easy day walking along the beach from Newcastle and through the 6000 year old sand dunes of Murlough Nature Reserve to Dundrum, where you can explore the ruins of the villages 12th Century Norman Castle and its views of inner and outer Dundrum Bay and relax in the evening sampling some of the villages famous seafood cuisine.

12 km 7.5 miles / Ascent 80m 260 ft

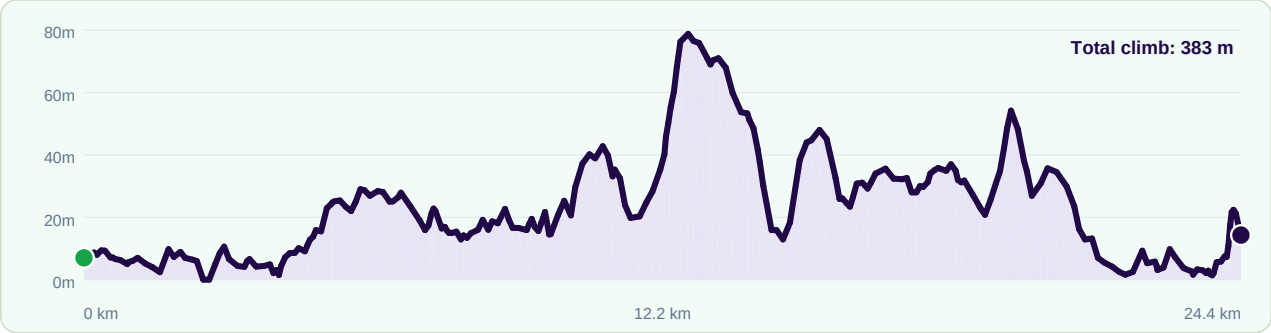
Approximate walking time: 3.5 / 4 hours

DAY
8

Dundrum To Downpatrick

Walk: SPW Dundrum To Downpatrick (24.5 km) · Overnight: Downpatrick

ROUTE 24.5 km · 183 m ascent · Challenging



The final walking day into Downpatrick starts along old disused railway tracks on the shores of inner Dundrum Bay before joining minor roads and country lanes as you make your way to Downpatrick. Be sure to stop of on route and explore the 35m 3000-4000 year old Ballynoe Stone Circle, just off the trail

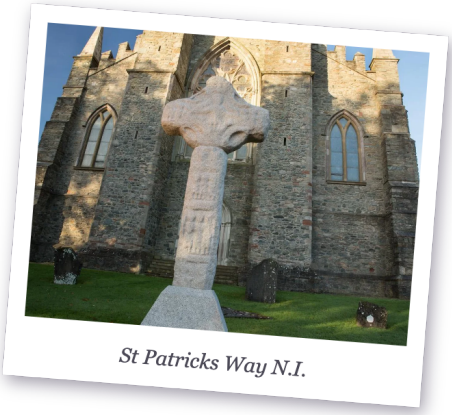
23 km 14 miles / Ascent 300 m 980 ft

Approximate walking time: 6 / 7 hours

DAY
9

Departure From Downpatrick

From Downpatrick you will make your onward journey by public transport. But not before collecting your certificate of completion from the Downpatrick Centre.



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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

Email:info@walkingholidayireland.com

Web:walkingholidayireland.com

This tour:walkingholidayireland.com/walking-tours/saint-patricks-way-SNI-SP-9M

FROM

€1,195

per person

See website for current rates