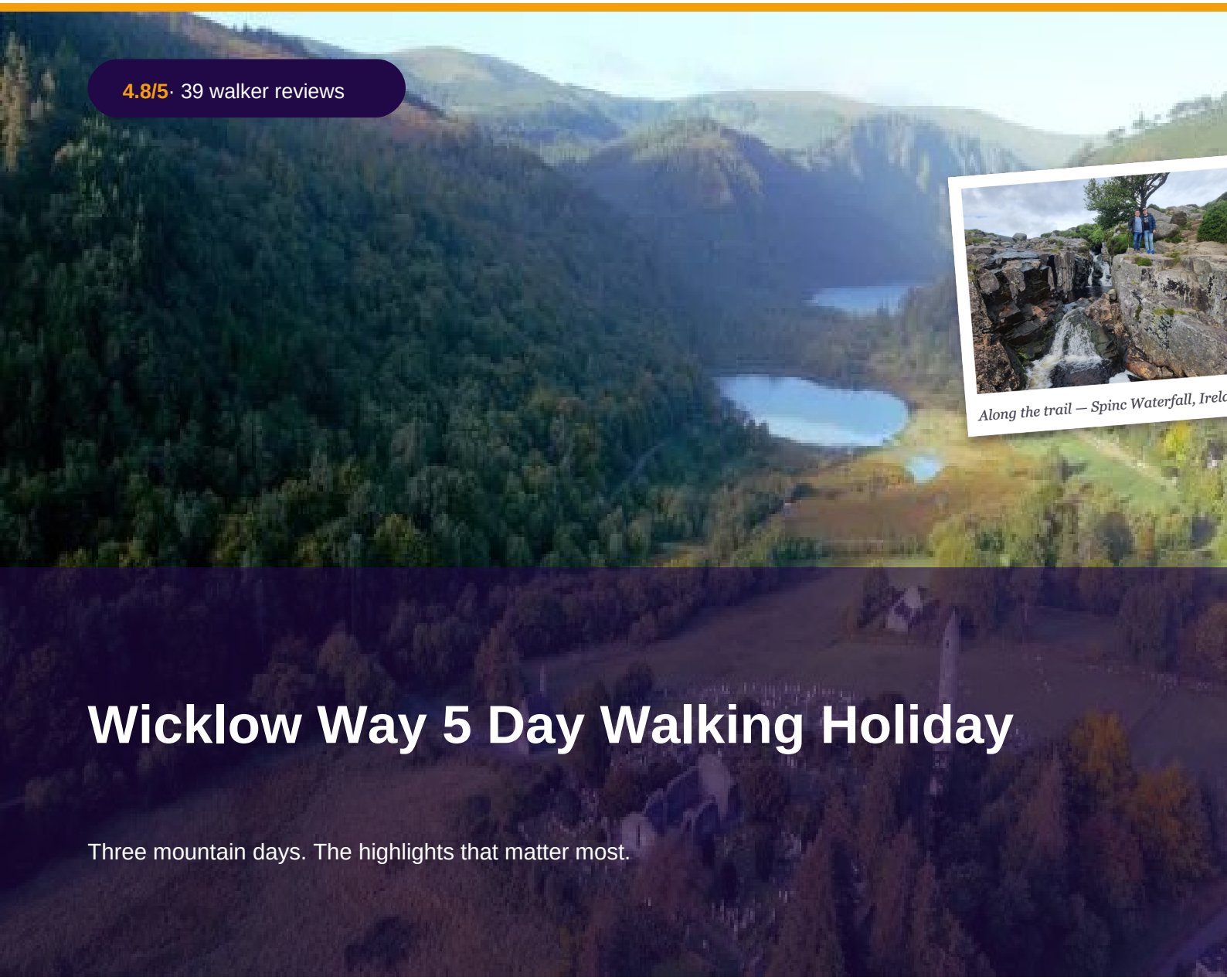


4.8/5· 39 walker reviews

Wicklow Way 5 Day Walking Holiday

Three mountain days. The highlights that matter most.

DURATION	WALKING DAYS	TOTAL DISTANCE	GRADE
5 days	3	51.7 km	Moderate

From

€785

per person

Book or enquire at

walkingholidayireland.com/walking-tours

See website for current rates

About This Tour

Hike the stunning Wicklow Way with daily distances of 14–20 km through some of Ireland's most breathtaking mountains, staying in welcoming B&Bs with breakfast included.

Tour Highlights

- **Glenmalure — Ireland's wildest glacial valley**
  You'll arrive at one of Ireland's most sacred monastic sites where round towers stand sentinel over valley and lake.

- **Glendalough — 1,400 years in a single valley**
  Walking into Glendalough on Day 2 is one of those moments that justifies multi-day hiking. You descend through forest and then the valley opens below you: two glacial lakes, a round tower still perfectly upright after twelve centuries, and…

- **Lough Tay — the Guinness Lake**
  The moment Lough Tay appears below you on Day 3 is one of the great sights of the Wicklow Way. Cupped in a bowl of granite mountain, its waters are deep and dark — locals have called it the Guinness Lake for generations, and the comparison…

- **Djouce Mountain and the Dublin Bay panorama**
  Your final full walking day takes you over Djouce Mountain — 725 metres, with the ground falling away in every direction.

Who Is It For?

Your fitness level
This tour suits walkers with a reasonable level of fitness who are comfortable on hilly terrain for 4.5–6 hours a day. You don't need previous mountain experience — the route is well-waymarked and our pre-departure pack covers everything you need to know. What helps is having walked for a few hours without stopping before, and not minding some genuine ascent. The longest day (Glendalough to Lough Tay) involves 651 metres of climbing over 20 km. It's a proper day, not a stroll — but it's well within reach of anyone who trains moderately and wears decent boots.

The right kind of traveller
You're someone who wants to actually experience Ireland rather than see it from a coach window.

Day-by-Day Itinerary

DAY
1

Arrival in Glenmalure

Overnight: Glenmalure

Settle in. The mountains are already waiting.

Your tour begins in Glenmalure — not in a city hotel lobby, but in one of the most secluded and spectacular valleys in Ireland. Glenmalure is remote, so we recommend a private transfer from Dublin, which we're happy to arrange as an optional add-on — just ask. On arrival you'll settle into your accommodation, your route notes, and the landscape you're about to spend three days walking through.

The valley stretches southward, the Avonmore River threading between steep heather slopes; the only sounds are wind and water.

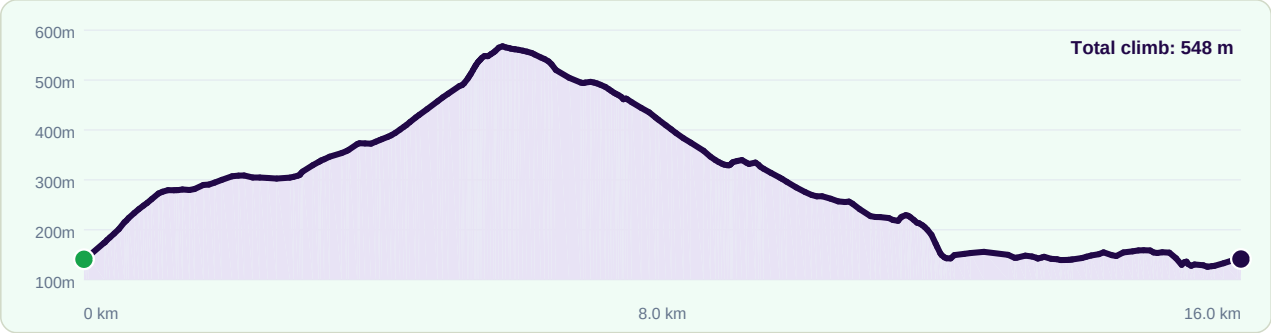
Spend the afternoon at your own pace — check your boots, walk a short stretch of valley floor, or simply sit outside with a cup of tea and let Ireland arrive. In the evening, a local pub provides your introduction to genuine mountain hospitality. Come morning, the trail begins.

DAY
2

Glenmalure to Glendalough/Laragh

Walk: WW Glenmalure to Laragh (16 km) · Overnight: Glendalough / Laragh

ROUTE 16 km · 471 m ascent · Moderate · Glenmalure to Laragh



Your first full walking day climbs immediately out of Glenmalure's sheltered floor and onto the open mountain. The path rises through a pine forest before breaking onto an exposed hillside—and with every hundred metres of ascent, the view behind you expands.

Tonelagee's broad flank guides you northward across open moorland, where the wind has a different quality to the valley air: colder, cleaner, with the smell of peat and distance. The final descent into Glendalough is gradual and beautiful — forest giving way to valley, the Upper Lake appearing first, then the Lower Lake, and finally the monastic site itself: the round tower rising above the tree canopy, the ruined churches clustered at the water's edge.

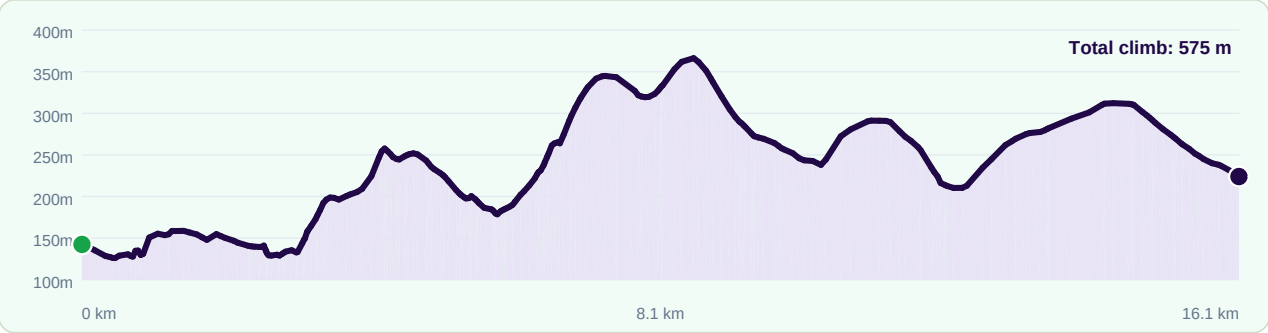
You'll be staying in Laragh village, a five-minute walk from the monastic site. Go back after dinner, when the day-visitors have left and the evening light is doing something remarkable to the stone. This day establishes your rhythm: real climbing, real reward, real rest.

DAY
3

Glendalough to Lough Tay / Roundwood

Walk: WW Laragh Village to Roundwood (16.2 km) · Overnight: Glendalough / Laragh

ROUTE 16.2 km · 490 m ascent · Moderate · Laragh Village to Roundwood



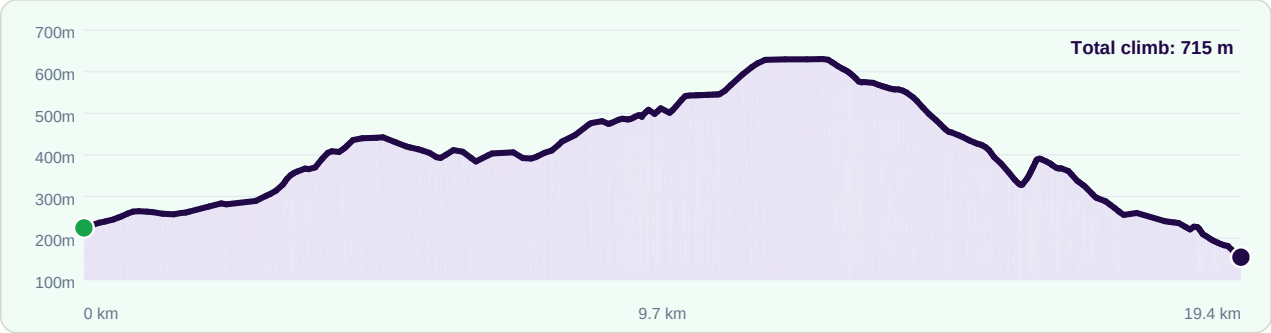
Leave Glendalough heading north and west, climbing steadily through the old oak woodland above the Upper Lake before the trees thin and the mountain proper begins. The ascent to Spink's long ridge rewards you with views across the valley you've just left, back to the Glenmalure slopes, and south toward the Blackstairs Mountains on the Carlow border. Then the landscape shifts: open moorland, granite outcrops, the sky wide open in every direction. The moment Lough Tay appears below the ridge, it is one of those sights that stops you mid-step—a dark, oval lake cupped in the granite bowl of Luggala; its far shore is a wall of rock, the colour of the water shifting between green and near-black depending on where the clouds are. You understand immediately why people have been photographing this lake for a hundred years. The descent to Roundwood—Ireland's highest village—is through a birch forest and across an open hillside as the light softens. By the time you reach your B&B, you will have covered the most celebrated stretch of the Wicklow Way and earned the deepest…

DAY
4

Lough Tay to Enniskerry

Walk: WW Roundwood Village to Crone Wood (19.5 km) · Overnight: Enniskerry

ROUTE 19.5 km · 603 m ascent · Moderate · Roundwood to Crone Wood



Your final full walking day begins with the mountains still around you and ends with Dublin Bay on the horizon — one of the great transitions in Irish hiking. The path climbs from Roundwood back onto the Wicklow plateau, and the ascent to Djouce Mountain (725 m) is steady and open: excellent ground underfoot, views building with every step.

From Djouce's summit, the landscape breaks dramatically to the north, featuring the Sugar Loaf's sharp cone in the middle distance, Bray Head jutting into the sea beyond, and Dublin Bay glittering in whatever light the day has offered.

This is the moment when you understand the full scope of what you've walked through: from the hidden depths of Glenmalure to this high vantage point, with Glendalough's valley somewhere in the ridgeline behind you.

The descent to Enniskerry winds through Crone Wood—ancient-feeling oak and ash—along a fast-running stream and deposits you gently in one of Wicklow's prettiest villages. The walk is done. You've earned the evening.

DAY
5

Departure from Enniskerry

Onwards, with memories that outlast the muscle soreness.

A leisurely final morning in Enniskerry — there's no rush. When you're ready, head back to Dublin airport or the city centre — there are regular buses from Enniskerry, and we can arrange a private transfer as an optional add-on if you'd prefer. Or extend your trip: Powerscourt House and Gardens is a twenty-minute walk from the village; Bray and the coast are just beyond. Most walkers sit over a long breakfast before leaving, comparing notes on Day 3's Lough Tay moment, and finding that the Wicklow Mountains already feel like somewhere they want to return to. They usually do.

What Our Walkers Say

Rated 4.8/5 by 39 walkers

*****

Wonderfully personalized tour description and suggestions for things to do and see in Dublin. Everything functioned- taxi services, luggage.

The trip from Roundwood to Enniskerry. The heather in full bloom, the views. The friendly Irish people. I've been to many countries but never met such overall hospitality

- Lynda O. - 2026

*****

Wouldn't change a thing!! It was a great holiday. Transfers and contact with carriers were excellent. The locations of the B&Bs were excellent. Ireland was beautiful and friendly. Absolutely recommended for everyone!!

- Patrick and Silvia - 2024

*****

Thank you for all the wonderful arrangements and for making the trip so easy! I had a wonderful time and already miss Ireland!

- Jodi K. - 2024

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 Wicklow, Ireland

Get in touch

Email:info@walkingholidayireland.com

Web:walkingholidayireland.com

This tour:walkingholidayireland.com/walking-tours/wicklow-way-5-days

FROM

€785

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See website for current rates