



SALLY GAP

# Wicklow

Renowned for its scenery, Wicklow is a beautiful mix of golden sandy beaches, rolling mountains, wooded glens, cascading waterfalls and lakes.

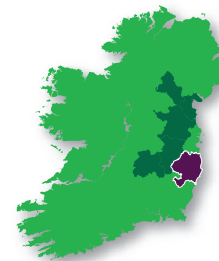
Hidden around every corner are rich and interesting attractions including the 6th century monastic centre of Glendalough in the Wicklow Mountains National Park.

Experience the magnificent houses and gardens such as Powerscourt, Kilruddery, Russborough, Avondale and Mount Usher Gardens which prove Wicklow's reputation as the "Garden of Ireland".

Wicklow's landscape provides a perfect backdrop for a range of activities such as golf, walking, angling, outdoor pursuits and equestrian as well as scenic drives.

Wicklow's picturesque towns and villages have attracted many film makers for years producing such films as "Excalibur", "Michael Collins" and "Braveheart". Popular TV series such as "Ballykissangel" and "Glenroe" were filmed in the attractive villages of Avoca and Kilcoole.

The coastal towns of Greystones and Bray offer good pubs, cafes, restaurants and shopping, combined with stunning sea views along the promenade. Or why not explore the heritage town of Baltinglass, in the southwest of the county on the banks of the River Slaney.



## East on Dublin's Doorstep Pocket Guide

### CONTENTS

#### WELCOME

#### KILDARE

Towns & Villages  
Visitor Attractions  
Kildare Town Map

#### MEATH

Towns & Villages  
Visitor Attractions  
Navan Town Map

#### LAOIS

Towns & Villages  
Visitor Attractions  
Portlaoise Town Map

#### MONAGHAN

Towns & Villages  
Visitor Attractions  
Monaghan Town Map

#### LOUTH

Towns & Villages  
Visitor Attractions  
Dundalk Town Map

#### WICKLOW

Towns & Villages  
Visitor Attractions  
Wicklow Town Map

### ACTIVITIES

Beaches  
Touring Routes  
Heritage & Culture  
Adventure & Watersports  
Walking  
Cycling  
Equestrian  
Golf  
Angling  
Gardens  
Food & Dining  
Sporting Events  
Family Fun  
Festivals & Events  
Travel Options  
Practical Information  
Regional Map



All website & email links are live.

## Wicklow towns and villages

Wicklow, garden of Ireland, renowned for golden sandy beaches and rolling mountains.

**Annamoe G5** is small picturesque village in County Wicklow that is well known for its fishery; there is a small stone humpback bridge which is a popular location to view the beautiful scenery.

**Arklow H5** town is an excellent base to explore the Vale of Avoca and the Wicklow Mountains. The glorious sandy beaches of Brittas Bay and Clogga are well worth a visit. There are many activities you can participate in when you visit Arklow such as angling, golfing and swimming.

**Ashford G6** is a scenic village and home to the famous Mount Usher Gardens, which boast a famous collection of plants gathered from all corners of the world. Devils Glen Woodland and Waterfall is located 4km west of Ashford on the road to Glendalough via Nuns Cross. The waterfall and pool at the head of the glen is called the Devils Punchbowl.

**Aughrim G5** is famous for its granite and is often referred to as the granite village due to the large amount of buildings constructed using local granite, Liverpool Cathedral was also built using this stone. In Aughrim there is a commemorative memorial to honour the memory of those involved in the 1798 rebellion.

**Avoca G5** "There is not in the wide world a valley so sweet as that vale in whose bosom the bright waters meet". So sang Thomas Moore in 1807. The Vale of Avoca, already popular in his time, took on immortality. The popular series "Ballykissangel" was filmed here.

**Baltinglass G4** is a place oozing in heritage. Bronze Age burial chambers (5,000 years old) have been excavated on the Pinnacle, a 383 metre hill. The Abbey, founded by the King of Leinster Dermot McMurrrough in 1148, was built for the Cistercian order of monks, however only ruins remain today.

**Blessington F4** village is on the edge of the Wicklow Mountains and has the biggest man made lake in Ireland and offers fantastic leisure activities & a beautiful lake drive (35km). Close by is Russborough, one of the most beautiful of all the great 18th century houses of Ireland.

**Bray F6** is a quintessential 19th century town with a promenade & an exhilarating cliff walk and the magnificent Bray Head.

**Brittas Bay G6** has a 5km stretch of beautiful white sand dunes and clean beaches and has won & maintained the Blue Flag for many years now. It is ideal for bathing, sailing & walking.

**Donard G4** is an enchanting village at the northern end of the Glen of Imaal. The Dwyer McAllister Cottage, which is a few kilometres southeast of the town, is worth a visit to anyone interested in Irish history.



GLENDALOUGH

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**Glendalough G5** and its Monastic site has been one of the most sacred Christian places in Ireland for over a thousand years. Today it still retains its haunting beauty with two silent lakes between steep mountains. Ancient monastic ruins & round tower, rare and beautiful oak forest, exciting cliffs for rock-climbers and mining relics provide endless interest.

**Kilcoole F6** just south of Greystones was famous for being the film location of TV series 'Glenroe'. Fans of Glenroe can visit Glenroe Pet Farm. The shingle beach in Kilcoole is a paradise for birdwatchers. This nature reserve runs all the way to Wicklow town where it leads to the Broadlough.

**Rathdrum G5** town, situated high on the western side of the beautiful Avonmore valley, offers majestic views of the Avonmore River, which flows through the Vale of Clara. The town has been the location of films like "Michael Collins", "A Love Divided" and "Durango". Avondale House and Forest Park is set on 500 acres. It was the birthplace of Charles Stewart Parnell, one of the greatest political leaders of modern Irish history.

**Roundwood F5** claims to be the highest village in Ireland, and has a lovely setting on the edge of the Wicklow Mountains.

**Shillelagh H4** is a 17th century planned estate village, with attractive terrace stone houses and a handsome courthouse with a clock tower. Tomnafinnoge Oak Forest, standing just off the Tinahely road, is one of the largest standing oak forests in the country. The Irish shillelagh originates from this village.

**Wicklow G6** town is built on the side of a great promontory overlooking the sea; Wicklow enjoys one of the most attractive settings of any Irish town. A centre for fishing, sailing and walking, it has easy access to many of the wonders of the surrounding county including Wicklow Gaol, Wicklow Head & the ruins of Black Castle.

For more information on Wicklow towns and villages, visit our website [www.discoverireland.ie/dublinsdoorstep](http://www.discoverireland.ie/dublinsdoorstep)

## East on Dublin's Doorstep Pocket Guide

### CONTENTS

### WELCOME

#### KILDARE

Towns & Villages  
Visitor Attractions  
Kildare Town Map

#### LAOIS

Towns & Villages  
Visitor Attractions  
Portlaoise Town Map

#### LOUTH

Towns & Villages  
Visitor Attractions  
Dundalk Town Map

#### MEATH

Towns & Villages  
Visitor Attractions  
Navan Town Map

#### MONAGHAN

Towns & Villages  
Visitor Attractions  
Monaghan Town Map

#### WICKLOW

Towns & Villages  
Visitor Attractions  
Wicklow Town Map

### ACTIVITIES

Beaches  
Touring Routes  
Heritage & Culture  
Adventure & Watersports  
Walking  
Cycling  
Equestrian  
Golf  
Angling  
Gardens  
Food & Dining  
Sporting Events  
Family Fun  
Festivals & Events  
Travel Options  
Practical Information  
Regional Map





# Visitor Attractions



## Glendalough Monastic Site & Visitor Centre

G5 ↑↑↑

Glendalough, Bray, Co. Wicklow.

Tel: 0404 45352/45325

Email: [george.mcclafferty@opw.ie](mailto:george.mcclafferty@opw.ie)

[www.heritageireland.ie](http://www.heritageireland.ie)

Sat Nav: 53.052771, -6.286926

This early Christian ecclesiastical settlement was founded by St. Kevin in the 6th century. Set in a glaciated valley with two lakes, the monastic remains include a superb round tower, stone churches and decorated crosses. The Visitor Centre has an interesting exhibition and an audio-visual show.

French, Italian and Spanish guided tours are available all year by advance booking.

**Open:** Daily: Mid October – mid March, 9:30 - 17:00, mid March – mid October 9:30 - 18:00.

**Admission:** Adult: €3.00, Senior/Group: €2, Student/Child: €1, Family: €8.

The Visitor Centre is fully accessible for visitors with disabilities. Access to the graveyard is very difficult for wheelchair users.



## Powerscourt House, Gardens & Waterfall

F5 & ↑↑↑

Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow.

Tel: 01 2046000

[www.powerscourt.ie](http://www.powerscourt.ie)

Sat Nav: 53.185773-6.186934

One of the world's great gardens, Powerscourt is situated 20km south of Dublin City Centre in the foothills of the Wicklow Mountains.

The garden was begun by Richard Wingfield in the 1740's and stretches out over 47 acres. An audio visual brings to life the rich history of the Estate. The house is now home to the best of Irish design in gifts, clothes and furniture. You can also treat yourself to a dish from the Avoca Cookbook in the Terrace Cafe.

**Open:** Daily 9.30 – 17.30. Gardens close at dusk in winter.

Closed 25th & 26th Dec.

**Admission:** Gardens: Adult: €8, Student/Senior: €7, Child under 16: €5, Child under 5 free of charge.

**Wheelchair accessibility:** Partial access to house & gardens.

## East on Dublin's Doorstep Pocket Guide

### CONTENTS

#### WELCOME

#### KILDARE

Towns & Villages  
Visitor Attractions  
Kildare Town Map

#### LAOIS

Towns & Villages  
Visitor Attractions  
Portlaoise Town Map

#### LOUTH

Towns & Villages  
Visitor Attractions  
Dundalk Town Map

#### MEATH

Towns & Villages  
Visitor Attractions  
Navan Town Map

#### MONAGHAN

Towns & Villages  
Visitor Attractions  
Monaghan Town Map

#### WICKLOW

Towns & Villages  
Visitor Attractions  
Wicklow Town Map

### ACTIVITIES

Beaches  
Touring Routes  
Heritage & Culture  
Adventure & Watersports  
Walking  
Cycling  
Equestrian  
Golf  
Angling  
Gardens  
Food & Dining  
Sporting Events  
Family Fun  
Festivals & Events  
Travel Options  
Practical Information  
Regional Map



# Visitor Attractions



## The National SEA LIFE Centre F6

Strand Road, Bray.  
Tel: 01 2866939  
www.sealife.ie  
Sat Nav: 53.357109, -6.152344

Dive in and be wowed by the many strange, beautiful and fascinating creatures of the deep as you journey

through the amazing underwater world of SEA LIFE. Prepare for astonishing close views of everything from humble starfish to tropical sharks, all in displays which recreate their natural habitats. To get any closer you'd have to get wet!

Hold a crab or touch a starfish in our Rockpool Experience. Watch our fun talks and feed shows every hour on the hour throughout the day. Take part in our kids quiz trail.

**Open:** March – October: Daily, 10.00 – 17.00 (last admissions).

November – February: 11.00 – 16.00 Mon – Fri, 10.00 – 17.00 Sat & Sun.

**Admission:** Adult €12.50, Child €9.50, Senior/Student €11, 2 Adults & 2 Children €38, 2 Adults & 3 Children €40, 2 Adults & 4 Children €42, Children under 3 free. Last admission 1 hour before closing.



## Wicklow's Historic Gaol G6

Kilmantin Hill, Wicklow Town.  
Tel: 0404 61599  
www.wicklowshistoricgaol.com  
Sat Nav: 52.97932, -6.038103

Welcome to one of Ireland's best and most interactive experiences... Wicklow's Historic Gaol. On entering the building,

you will be transported back in time and meet face to face with some of the most notorious characters to have walked the floors of this dramatic and history filled building. As you travel back in time, you are entering one of the cruellest, most historically shameful places in Ireland.

**Open:** All year, Monday – Saturday 10.30 – last admission 16.30.

Sunday 11.00 – last admission 16.30. Winter 11.00 – 15.00, check with gaol for details of Friday night tours (opening hours subject to change).

**Admission:** Adult: €7.30, Child: €4.50, Student/Senior: €6, Family (2+3): €19. Group Rate: €6 per adult, €4.25 per child.

**Wheelchair accessibility:** Severely limited.



## Mount Usher Gardens G6

Ashford, Co. Wicklow.  
Tel: 0404 40205/40116  
www.mountushergardens.ie  
Sat Nav: N 53 00.543 W 6 06.463

Mount Usher Gardens measure 20 acres with over 5,000 different plants and trees. The Vartry River flows through

them passing over weirs and under several bridges, from where different views of the gardens can be enjoyed. In March-April, thousands of bulbs are flowering in the meadows. March, April, and May are the best months for admiring Rhododendrons, Azaleas, Camellias and Magnolias of all sizes and colours.

The presence of majestic, mature trees among these Eucalyptus, Nothofagus, Oaks and Eucryphia are always impressive, especially when their glorious autumn colours begin to show. Shopping Courtyard and Avoca Café.

**Open:** Daily 10.30 – 17.20. 26th February – October 31st.

**Admission:** Adult: €7.50, Senior/Student: €6, Child (5-15 yrs): €3. Child under 5: Free of charge.



## Russborough House & Demesne F4

Blessington, Co. Wicklow.  
Tel: 045 865239  
www.russborough.ie  
Sat Nav: 53.135517, - 6.572386

Russborough House is beautifully maintained and lavishly furnished,

containing fine furniture, tapestries, porcelain and much of the Beit collection of paintings. Magnificent views of the Blessington Lakes and Wicklow Mountains. Parkland walks for the more energetic and a 20,000 square feet Maze for the most adventurous. New for 2011 is a self guided interactive exhibition featuring interactive touch screens, audio handsets, 3D photographs and cinema projection. Also craft workshops including a weaver and a blacksmith with a working forge. Kitchen Garden Cafe & souvenir shop.

**Open:** Daily from May – September from 10.00 – 18.00.

**Admission:** Adult: €10. Senior/Student over 16: €8. Child under 16 years: €5. Child under 5: Free of charge. Family ticket: €25.

## East on Dublin's Doorstep Pocket Guide

### CONTENTS

### WELCOME

#### KILDARE

Towns & Villages  
Visitor Attractions  
Kildare Town Map

#### LAOIS

Towns & Villages  
Visitor Attractions  
Portlaoise Town Map

#### LOUTH

Towns & Villages  
Visitor Attractions  
Dundalk Town Map

#### MEATH

Towns & Villages  
Visitor Attractions  
Navan Town Map

#### MONAGHAN

Towns & Villages  
Visitor Attractions  
Monaghan Town Map

#### WICKLOW

Towns & Villages  
Visitor Attractions  
Wicklow Town Map

### ACTIVITIES

Beaches  
Touring Routes  
Heritage & Culture  
Adventure & Watersports  
Walking  
Cycling  
Equestrian  
Golf  
Angling  
Gardens  
Food & Dining  
Sporting Events  
Family Fun  
Festivals & Events  
Travel Options  
Practical Information  
Regional Map





**ABBEYS, HOUSES & CASTLES:**

**Baltinglass Abbey G4** Baltinglass. The Abbey is situated on the east bank of the River Slaney on the North side of Baltinglass town. The six beautiful gothic arches on either side of the nave, supported by alternate round and square pillars, are a noteworthy feature of the ruins.

**Avondale House & Gardens G5** Rathdrum. Tel: 0404 46111, www.coillteoutdoors.ie. Open: April/May/June & Sept 12.00 – 16.30, Tues – Sat, July & August 11.30 – 17.00 daily. October open weekends only, open Bank Holiday Monday's.

Admission: Adult: €7, Concession: €6.50, Child: €4.50, Family: €20 (2+2).

Grounds only car parking: during open season €5, per car.

**Joyce's House F6** Martello Tower, Bray, Tel: 01 2868407. Please contact directly for opening times & prices.

**Killruddery House & Gardens F6** Bray, Co. Wicklow. Tel: 01 286 3405, www.killruddery.com. Open: April, weekends only, 9.30 – 17.00, May 1st – Sept 30th 9.30 – 17.00, daily. Admission: Adult: €10, Concession: €8, Child: (3-12 yrs) €3, Family: €18 (2+2). Gardens only: Adult: €6, Concession: €5, Child: (3-12yrs) Free of charge.

**Altidore Castle F6** Kilpeddar. Tel: 087 7601369. Open: Mar 5th - 25th, May 1st – 31st, and June 1st – 10th daily 13.00 – 17.00.

**The Black Castle G6** ruin stands on a rocky promontory over the sea, at the eastern side of the town. There is a fine vantage point for views over the town and the coast of North Wicklow from the ruins.

**ART CENTRES & GALLERIES:**

**Avoca Painting School & Gallery G5** Knockanode, Avoca. Tel 0402 35555, www.avocapaintingschool.com

**Conary Arts Centre G5** Conary. Tel: 087 2334714, www.conary.net

**Courthouse Arts Centre H5** Tinahely. Tel: 0402 38529, www.tinahely-courthouse.ie

**Mermaid Arts Centre F6** Main St, Bray. Tel: 01 2724030, www.mermaidartscentre.ie

**Signal Art's Centre F6** Albert Ave, Bray. Tel: 01 2762039, www.signalartscentre.ie

**The Space Inside Arts Centre G6** Wicklow Town. Tel: 085 1138367.

**Arklow Visual Art Gallery H5** Arklow. Tel: 0402 32732, www.arklowvisualarts.com

**Cherrylane Fine Arts Gallery F6** Killincarrig, Delgany. Tel: 01 2875565, www.cherrylanefinearts.com

**Kilmantin Art Gallery G6** Bridge St, Wicklow town. Tel: 0404 61980.

**River Gallery G5** Aughrim, Tel: 0402 36878, www.visitwicklow.ie

**The Wicklow Gallery G6** Rathnew. Tel: 0404 64633, www.visitwicklow.ie

**Shuttleknit, Crinion Park G6** Wicklow Town. Tel: 0404 25641 www.shuttleknit.com

**Geoffrey Healy Pottery F6** Kilmacanogue. Tel: 01 2829270 www.healy-pottery.com

**CRAFT CENTRE**

**Avoca Handweavers Mill G5** Avoca Village. Tel: 0402 35105, www.avoca.ie (Outlet in Enniskerry & Kilmacanogue).

**MUSEUMS**

**Arklow Maritime Museum H5** Bridgewater Centre, Arklow, Tel: 0402 32868, www.arklowmaritimemuseum.com. Open Tuesday – Saturday from 10.00 – 17.00. Admission: Free of charge.

**Greenan Farm Museum & Maze G5** Rathdrum. Tel: 0404 46000, www.greenanmaze.com Open: Please contact directly, & see website for workshops taking place throughout the season. Admission: Adult: €8, Children over 3 years: €5.50 (Children under 3 go free), Family: €23 (2 adults & 2 children), extra child: €3.50.

**NATURAL ATTRACTION**

**Parnell National Memorial Park G5** Rathdrum. Tel: 0404 46262. Parnell National Memorial Park has, since its creation proved to be an outstanding tourist amenity, with its bronze statue of Parnell, its walks, ponds, free car park and restful seating areas. Well worth a visit!!

**Sculpture in Woodland G6** Ashford. Tel: 01 2011111. Unique in Ireland, Sculpture in Woodland was formed to develop a greater awareness of wood as an artistic medium. 20 sculptures are located here, by Irish & International artists

**The Mottee Stone at Avoca G5** Legend suggests that Fionn MacCumhailh hurled the stone from the top of Lugnaquilla Mountain. However, geologists would suggest that it is one of many erratic boulders that were carried in the great ice flows of the ice age and then deposited as the ice melted.

**Wicklow Mountains National Park G5** Upper Lake, Glendalough. Tel: 0404 45425, www.heritageireland.ie. The National Park, which covers much of upland Wicklow, contains an area of approximately 20,000 hectares (49,421 acres). This includes large areas of mountain blanket bogs, including the Lugnaquilla, Liffey Head Bog complexes and Glendalough Wood Nature Reserve. The National Park provides protection for the landscape and wildlife, from rare orchids to the wild and beautiful Peregrine Falcon.

**For further information on places to visit & activities in Wicklow, please see our activities, garden & heritage pages.**

**East on Dublin's Doorstep  
Pocket Guide****CONTENTS****WELCOME****KILDARE**

Towns & Villages  
Visitor Attractions  
Kildare Town Map

**MEATH**

Towns & Villages  
Visitor Attractions  
Navan Town Map

**LAOIS**

Towns & Villages  
Visitor Attractions  
Portlaoise Town Map

**MONAGHAN**

Towns & Villages  
Visitor Attractions  
Monaghan Town Map

**LOUTH**

Towns & Villages  
Visitor Attractions  
Dundalk Town Map

**WICKLOW**

Towns & Villages  
Visitor Attractions  
Wicklow Town Map

**ACTIVITIES**

Beaches  
Touring Routes  
Heritage & Culture  
Adventure & Watersports  
Walking  
Cycling  
Equestrian  
Golf  
Angling  
Gardens  
Food & Dining  
Sporting Events  
Family Fun  
Festivals & Events  
Travel Options  
Practical Information  
Regional Map

