

WICKLOW
40 THINGS
TO DO and SEE

County Wicklow

The Garden of Ireland

Some suggestions for your enjoyment from
County Wicklow's many tourist attractions and activities



1: POWERSCOURT GARDENS AND HOUSE EXHIBITION (near Enniskerry).

Tel: 01 204 6000. email: gardens@powerscourt.ie. website: www.powerscourt.ie. One of the world's Great Gardens, Powerscourt is situated 12 miles south of Dublin in the foothills of the Wicklow Mountains. It is a sublime blend of formal gardens, sweeping terraces, statuary and ornamental lakes together with secret hollows, rambling walks, walled gardens and over 200 variations of trees and shrubs. The 18th century Palladian House now incorporates an innovative shopping experience, terrace cafe and house exhibitions. Facilities include 10 themed retail areas, 18 hole golf course, garden centre, play area and riverside picnic spots. The House & Garden are open March 1 - October 31 9.30 am - 5.30 pm, November 1 - February 28 9.30 am - dusk. Closed 25th & 26th December. During peak season there is a 'Hail & Ride' bus service from Bray and Enniskerry. Public transport: Dublin Bus (44 from City; 185 from Bray DART Station).

2: AVOCA HANDWEAVERS, POWERSCOURT HOUSE, SHOP & TERRACE CAFE. Tel 01 2046066. This unique Avoca store and terrace cafe overlooks the formal gardens and is individual in style reflecting its stately origins. Don't miss the wonderful array of clothing, Waterford Crystal and gifts for adults, children, the home and garden. Open all year, 7 days 9.30 am - 6 pm.

3: POWERSCOURT WATERFALL (4 miles south of Enniskerry). A popular picnic area with the highest Waterfall in Ireland. Tumbling from a height of 120m, the Dargle river crashes spectacularly down and runs through the beautiful glen. The Waterfall is open daily 9.30 am - 7.00 pm (summer) and 10.30 am - dusk (winter). Closed 2 weeks prior to Christmas. Admission charge. During peak season there is a 'Hail & Ride' bus service from Bray and Enniskerry. No nearby public transport.

4: KILLRUDDERY HOUSE AND GARDENS. Tel 01 2863405/2862777. Is situated at the southern cross route. Close to the roundabout on the Bray/Greystones road. The property of Killruddery was granted to Sir Wilham Brabazon, who was created Earl of Meath in 1627. The original house was destroyed in the Civil War of 1645 and there is no pictorial record of it. The family have retained Killruddery as their home ever since. The house was drastically altered in the 1820s and remodelled by the Morrisons for the 10th Earl. Killruddery is unique in having the most extensive early formal gardens, still in their original style, surviving in Ireland, largely laid out in the 17th century and added to in the 19th century. They are among the most important gardens of their type in these islands. Gardens open 1 April to 30 September 13.00 - 17.00 daily. House open May, June & September 13.00 - 17.00 daily. Also at other times and dates for groups by arrangement. Admission charge. Public transport: 84,181 and private bus from Dart station to Southern Cross Route.

5: NATIONAL GARDENS EXHIBITION CENTRE, Kilquade. Tel 01 281 9890 - is situated near the N 11 route about 2 miles south of the Glen O' the Downs. The centre features 18 gardens laid out by some of the best designers and contractors and aims to create the maximum amount of diversity and contrast between gardens large and small. Pagoda tea rooms serving light lunches and snacks. Open Monday to Saturday 10 am - 6 pm. Sunday' 1 - 6 pm. Public transport: Bus Eireann (133) / Dublin Bus (184) to Kilpedder Inn 10.8 miles).

6. GLENROE (Kilcoole Village near Greystones) and GLENROE OPEN FARM. Tel 01 2872288. Visit the Molly Malone - the most televised pub in Ireland with its interior matching that of the programme set. Visit Miley's Farm shop and Teasy's take-away (open from 5 pm). The actual farm where Ireland's famous TV soap opera 'Glenroe', is filmed is now open daily to visitors. Attractions include Dinny's cottage, farm animals, exhibition area and a souvenir/home produce shop. Open April/September Monday-Friday 10 am - 5 pm, Saturday/Sunday/Bank Holiday 10 am - 6 pm. March and October: Weekends only. Closed: November-February. Public transport: Dublin Bus (84). Also closed while filming.

7. MOUNT USHER GARDENS, Ashford Village (on N11 route). Tel 0404 40116/40205. Open daily March 15th to October 31st from 10.30 am - 6 pm. These lovely gardens are laid out along the banks of the Vartry River. They measure 20 acres and contain approx. 5,000 different species of plants and trees. including many Rhododendrons, Magnolias, Camellias, Eucryphia and Azaleas. Water forms an essential part of the scenery with cascades and suspension bridges. Mount Usher is a wild Robinsonian garden dating from approx. 1860. There is a spacious tearoom as well as a shopping courtyard with many craft and other selective shops. Public transport: Bus Eireann (133,002).

8: THE ROUNDWOOD RESERVOIRS are one of the main water supply sources for Dublin City. Ideal for walking, experience wild deer, foxes, owls etc.; or go angling for brown trout (10 inches min.) by artificial fly only is permitted from the shores of the Lower (south) Reservoir during the season (March 15th to September 30th). Anglers must be in possession of a day/week or season permit obtainable from the Waterworks Office on the R764 Roundwood-Wicklow Road. If you want to enjoy a lakeside walk 5 minutes away, at reception turn left towards Roundwood Village, take next left (200 yards) and walk for until you reach lakes (1000 yards), entrance to walks on either side of road, enjoy a pleasant walk.

9: VICTOR'S WAY. Tel 01 281 8505. 1 mile north of Roundwood on the Enniskerry Sallygap road. Open May to September. It is a recreation space for adults including seven hand carved black granite sculptors from India. A meditation path on 22 acres of serene Wicklow countryside. Website: <http://homepage.tinet.ie/~victors way>.

10: NATIONAL OUTDOOR TRAINING CENTRE, Tiglin. Tel 040440169, Fax 0404 40701, email: mail@tiglin.ie. 7 km from Ashford, offers weekend and week long courses in hill walking, rock climbing, mountaineering, canoeing, kayaking and orienteering. Open all year, courses are open to individuals and groups. Private courses created to suit.

11: ANNAMOE LEISURE PARKS & TROUT FARM. Tel 0404 45470 - is situated on the R755 road to Glendalough between Roundwood and Laragh. Open daily 10.30 am - 6 pm during June, July and August, and at weekends in May and September. The 9 acre leisure park is set in a scenic woodland area on the banks of the Avonmore River and features play areas and a shallow (1 m deep) lake with canoes and rafts for water play. There is a separate stocked fishing lake where you are guaranteed a catch. Public transport: St. Kevin's bus service all year. Depart from Mansion House, Dawson Street, Dublin.

12: GLEN DALOUGH. Famed for its beautiful scenery and historic monuments, has been a centre for pilgrims and visitors from the time of the founding of its monastery by St. Kevin in the 6th century. The monastic settlement expanded and flourished for many centuries before being suppressed in the 16th century. The present remains tell only a small part of the monastic story. The buildings which survive probably date between the 18th and 12th centuries, the most notable being a superb Round Tower, Cathedral and stone churches and decorated crosses. Public transport: St. Kevin's bus service all year. Depart from Mansion House, Dawson Street, Dublin.

13: GLEN DALOUGH VISITOR CENTRE. Tel 040445325/45352. Open daily - Summer from 9.30 am - 6.00 pm, Winter from 9.30 am - 5 pm. The visitor Centre provides informative guided tours of the monastic site as well as several exhibitions and a colourful audio-visual entitled "Ireland of the Monasteries". Admission charge. Public transport: St. Kevin's Bus service all year. Depart from Mansion House, Dawson Street, Dublin.

14: AVONDALE HOUSE & FOREST PARK. Tel 0404 46111. Open daily March-October 11 am - 6 pm. Last admission one hour before closing. Grounds open daily. Admission charge. Situated one mile south of Rathdrum Town. Avondale House is set in an estate of 500 acres of forest and parklands along the west bank of the Avonmore River. In 1846 Charles Stewart Parnell, one of the greatest political leaders of modern Irish history, was born at Avondale. The house is now a museum to his memory, and a major refurbishment programme has restored much of the house to its decor of 1850. Visitors are introduced to Avondale by way of a video presentation on the life of Parnell. Restaurant open serving morning coffee, lunch and afternoon tea. Groups welcome. The forest park contains miles of woodland paths and offers an endless variety to the walker. Public transport: Bus Eireann (133) 1 mile / Irish Rail 1/2 miles) / Wicklow Tours Minibus (June-September).

15: PARNELL NATIONAL MEMORIAL PARK, Rathdrum Town. This recently created town park, containing walks, ponds and streams, is a restful haven from the everyday bustle of the town. Public transport: Bus Eireann (133) 1 mile / Irish Rail/Wicklow Tours Minibus (June-September).

16: CLARA LARA FUN PARK, Vale of Clara. Tel 040446161. The 100 acre fun park is situated about 3 miles from Laragh on the R755 Rathdrum Road astride the Avonmore River. Here in spectacular surroundings of oak trees and water are assault courses, water slides, boating lakes, kiddie karts and woodland playgrounds. Public transport: Wicklow Tours Ltd. Minibus (June-September).

17: GREENAN FARM MUSEUMS & MAZE (near Rathdrum). Tel 0404 46000, fax 0402 36308. Signposted from Rathdrum & Aughrim. The farm museums present exhibits going back over 100 years when traditional hill-farming used only the horse and ass. The maze was planted in 1988 and a stream flows through it to a pond in the circular centre, which is surprisingly difficult to find. There are tea rooms in the traditional cottage Nature Walk, farm animals. Craft shop specialises in Irish hand made products. Open: May/June Tues.-Sun. 10 am - 6 pm, July/August daily 10 am - 6 pm. Also Bank Holiday Mondays. Open Sundays in September. Open other times by appointment.

18: THE MEETING OF THE WATERS. The meeting point of the rivers Avonmore and Avonbeg was immortalised almost 200 years ago by the poet Thomas Moore. Here on a rustic seat, formed from the root of a tree, Moore is said to have written the words of the Irish Melody 'The Meeting of the Waters'. The adjacent pub, the Meetings, Tel 0402 35226 Fax 0402 35558 is a famous social landmark, renowned for outdoor traditional music and ballad sessions. Public transport: Bus Eireann (133).