



MOUNTAINEERING
IRELAND

Mountain Environment Weekend 2025

Glendalough, Co. Wicklow, 13-15th June 2025



Ollscoil
Technoilíochta
an Ailleanaigh
Atlantic
Technological
University



NPWS

An tSeirbhís Páircanna
Náisiúnta agus Fiadhlíra
National Parks and Wildlife
Service

ABOUT THIS EVENT

The overall aim of the Mountain Environment weekend is to celebrate what makes Ireland's mountains special, by sharing knowledge of the mountain environment, through illustrated talks and time spent in the mountains, learning about habitats and species, and considering our role in helping to care for the mountain environment.

Mountaineering Ireland's Mountain Environment Weekend 2025 will be based out of the Glendalough International Hostel, at the heart of the Wicklow Mountains. The main focus of our outdoor activities will be around the Glendalough Valley and nearby Tonelagee Mountain. The event is delivered in partnership with Wicklow Mountains National Park (WMNP), with input from others including the Wicklow Uplands Council (WUC).

By involving people from different disciplines such as ecology, ornithology, geology, heritage and habitat management our learning and discussion about the mountain environment will be holistic. There will be a particular focus at this year's event on how we can balance the increased demand for recreation experiences with protecting the special qualities of Ireland's mountains and upland areas.

This event is intended for: Environmental Officers within Mountaineering Ireland clubs; Mountain Training Board Ireland providers; Mountain Leader trainees; hillwalking club leaders; walking guides; and other Mountaineering Ireland members with an interest in learning about the mountain environment and sharing that knowledge with others. To ensure that as many people as possible have the opportunity to benefit from the learning that will flow from this event it would be preferable not to have more than two people from any one club.

Accommodation and Food

We have reserved accommodation is available at the Glendalough International Hostel, in rooms with 4 – 6 bunk beds. Accommodation must be booked at time of registration. Our booking in the hostel is self-catering, please bring your own breakfast, lunch etc (McCoy's shop in Laragh, 2km from the hostel is open 7am – 8pm and does sandwiches etc). We have made a group booking in the [Wicklow Heather Restaurant](#) for 7.30pm on Saturday evening; dinner is not included in the registration cost.

As Glendalough is close to where many Mountaineering Ireland members live, this year we are offering the opportunity for people to participate in one day rather than the full weekend.

We are encouraging participants to use public transport if possible and to facilitate other participants by car-pooling during the weekend.

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Friday 13th June

6.30- 7.15pm **Event registration** and check-in at Glendalough International Hostel

7.30pm **Introductory talks at Glendalough International Hostel**

Welcome (Helen Lawless, Mountaineering Ireland)

Introduction to Wicklow Mountains National Park (Ann Fitzpatrick, District Conservation Officer, District Conservation Officer and Deputy Park Manager for WMNP)

Birds of Prey and current bird monitoring projects in the WMNP (Andrew Butler, Conservation Ranger, NPWS)

Saturday 14th June

7.00am – Optional moth trap session

Get an insight into the Glendalough valley nightlife as John Cromie shows us the contents of a moth trap placed near the hostel. Based on previous events this will be worth getting up for!

8.00am – Breakfast (remember, bring your own)

9.00am – Briefing for the day, followed by an introduction to the Wicklow Uplands Council, an NGO working for the sustainable use and enjoyment of the Wicklow Mountains (Lorna Kelly, Coordinator, Wicklow Uplands Council)

10.00am – 5.00pm – Wicklow's Mountain Environment – Day 1

A day of day of hiking, learning and discussion with a choice of two activities:

- 1. Tonelagee and Barnacullian ridge** – we will learn about different habitats and species, discuss the impact of social media on the mountains and see some of WMNP's peatland restoration work on the Barnacullian ridge, which Mountaineering Ireland volunteers are contributing to).
- 2. Glendalough Valley – Derrybawn / Mullacor** - focus on geology, learning about habitat condition and discuss how we can minimise the impact of hiking activities in the mountain environment.

6.15 – 7.15pm - Sharing information on current access issues (Helen Lawless)

7.30pm – Dinner at Wicklow Heather Restaurant (not included in registration fee)

Sunday 15th June

7.00am – Optional visit to Glendalough's Monastic sites with local guide

8.00am – Breakfast

8.45am – Photos from Saturday and winners of photographic competition, briefing for the day

9.30am – 4.30pm – Wicklow’s Mountain Environment - Day 2

A day of day of hiking, learning and discussion with a choice of two activities:

- 1. Tonelagee and Barnacullian ridge** – learn about different upland habitats and species, discuss the impact of social media on the mountains and see some of WMNP’s peatland restoration work on the Barnacullian ridge, which Mountaineering Ireland volunteers are contributing to (with Hugh McLindon on Saturday / Andrea Webb on Sunday)
- 2. Glendalough Valley – Glendasan / Camaderry** – hike through a diversity of habitats, learn about Wicklow’s mining heritage, and discuss how we can minimise the impact of hiking activities in the mountain environment.

4.30pm – Event closes

BOOKING

The fee for the Mountain Environment weekend is €150. This covers field trips, talks, two nights’ dormitory-style accommodation (Friday and Saturday),

A reduced fee of €70 is available for local members who do not require accommodation, this covers the talks, and field trips.

The fee to join for one day (either Saturday or Sunday) is €40.

Places are limited; tickets should be booked through Eventbrite at

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ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR PARTICIPANTS

- As we will be outdoors for two days, and traversing some steep, and rugged terrain, participants should bring hillwalking gear, including suitable footwear, raingear, sunscreen, insect repellent, plus a lunchbox and water bottle.
- Binoculars, camera, a notebook and field guides (if you have them) will all be useful.
- Participants may find it useful to have a copy of the detailed 1:25,000 EastWest Lugnaquilla & Glendalough Map (which can be purchased [here](#) or in McCoy’s shop in Laragh), or the Discovery Series 1:50,000, sheet 56.
- To minimise impact and enable all participants to hear what is said while we’re outdoors, group size will be limited.
- Dogs are not permitted on this event, to avoid disturbance to wildlife and because not all people are comfortable around dogs.
- Plans for the field trips may be adjusted on the day depending on weather conditions or the needs and interests of the group.

Public Transport Options

We are encouraging the use of public transport to travel to this year's Mountain Environment Weekend. Below are some transport options that may be suitable for participants:

Buses, or a combination of bus and train, can be used to travel to Glendalough.

The [TFI Journey Planner](#) / [TFI Live App](#) can be used to plan a route to the event.

Routes that service the Laragh/Glendalough area:

- **Route 183 (Arklow – Sallins)**
 - Runs four times a day, in both directions ([Timetable](#)).
 - This service can be used to link Sallins train station to Glendalough; [Sallins info & routes serviced](#).
- **Route 181/St. Kevin's Bus Service (Stephen's Green – Glendalough)**
 - Summer timetable can be viewed below or at this [link](#).

We can also collect people from Rathdrum Train Station if arranged in advance.

PHOTO COMPETITION

Photographs provide an excellent medium to celebrate what is special about Ireland's natural environment and to increase awareness of the mountain environment across the wider community.

To encourage participants to record and share photographs during the Mountain Environment Weekend, we're having a photographic competition with prizes in the following categories:

- People engaging with the mountain environment
- Flora and fauna
- Landscape and geology

Photographs taken on Saturday should be emailed to christina@mountaineering.ie for submission by 9pm on Saturday 14th June. **Maximum of 5 photographs per person.**

The winning photographs will be shown on Sunday morning. Photos submitted may be used on Mountaineering Ireland's website, social media, and other publications.