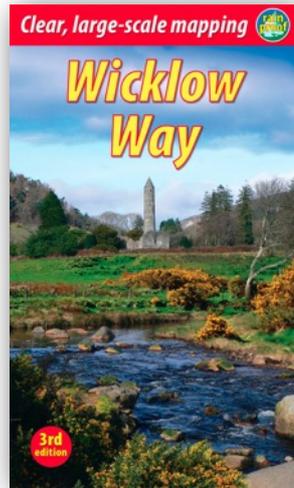


Wicklow Way (3rd ed, 2019)

Directions for walking south to north www.rucsacs.com/books/wlw

The directions below cover the 81 miles (130 km) from Clonegal to Marlay Park (Dublin). They are intended for users of our 2019 guidebook and won't work without it. All references are to page numbers and cumulative km from Marlay Park as shown on our mapping. If you plan to start instead at Tinahely, skip to page 2.



For summaries of terrain, grade, food & drink and side-trips, see the following pages in the guidebook: 63, 59, 56, 52, 47, 41, 34. Consult also our detailed online route map, linked from www.rucsacs.com/books/wlw.

3.7 Clonegal to Tinahely map pages 67, 65, 64, 62

33.2 km (20.6 miles): possible break overnight at Shillelagh

Start from the junction at Clonegal's northern end and head NE for 3 km to Wicklow Bridge. Turn left to head north for over 2 km.

Decide first whether to take the unofficial shortcut via Spratt's Lane at km 125.4: see final bullet on page 66. At the end of Spratt's Lane, turn right to descend to New Bridge and turn left to rejoin the route within 1.1 km: turn sharp right along the Way at km 117.1.

If ignoring the shortcut, follow waymarkers carefully as the Way digresses around Urelands Hill with many zigzags between km 124.6 and 120.3 where it rejoins the road. Turn right along the road for 1.1 km.

At km 119.2 turn sharp right up a road and follow it for 1.4 km to a T-junction (km 117.8). Turn right and after 630 m bear left along a farm road where the road continues as the shortcut road via New Bridge.

Within 400 m, turn left up a grassy boreen which winds its way up the shoulder of Aghowle Upper to meet a forest road at km 116.2, where you turn right. The Way now levels out, but after only 200 m look for the right turn downhill.

Over the next 3 km the Way meanders generally SE down to Raheenakit, following three sides of a rectangle before making a left turn, a right-left dogleg and another left turn to emerge at the public road: see map page 64.

If heading for accommodation in Shillelagh, turn right at this road and reach Ballard Crossroads within 700 m: turn left there for the village (a further 2.2 km).

Otherwise turn left to follow the public road, narrow and overgrown in places, for 2.2 km to a T-junction at km 111: turn left.

Follow this minor road for 1.3 km and turn right to descend steeply to the R725, which you cross in a right-left dogleg.

Follow the road for 1.3 km as it climbs gently to the sharp right turn at a road junction (km 108). The road then undulates around the lower slopes of Cronelea Hill for nearly 4 km, descending steeply to the Dying Cow (km 104.4).

Turn sharp left at Stranakelly Crossroads for 1.5 km, then it's right and right at Mullinacuff to cross the main road, and after 280 m turn left. Follow a straight road that climbs gently.

After 850 m of road, turn right (km 101.6) up a lane that climbs more steeply for 750 m. Turn left to follow a wide gorse-lined boreen that contours the shoulder of Muskeagh Hill before descending.

After 2.1 km of boreen, follow a left-right dogleg to meet a minor road at km 97.7. Turn right for just 320 m of road before turning left down a long flight of steps to the R747.

Cross the busy road with great care, aiming for a lay-by about 20 m to your left. Tinahely lies 2 km to the SE but many B&B hosts will collect from this lay-by.

If walking to the village, it is safer to continue on the Way to km 93.5: refer to page 60 bullet 7.

3.6 Tinahely to Iron Bridge

map pages 62, 61, 57

19.8 km (12.3 miles)

To continue the Way from the R747, cross the Derry River by a road bridge and walk uphill on a rough lane. After 300 m turn sharp right (km 96.8) and follow Coolafunshoge Lane through several gates for 2 km.

At km 94.6 turn left and go through a gate into Mangan's Wood, where the Way turns right twice before bearing left to contour Garryhoe on a boreen. Follow signs carefully to head north. At km 90.3 turn left to bypass an old ford: see page 61.

Within 200 m turn right, and follow the very minor road as it winds its way N and NE for 2.2 km. At km 87.2 turn right to cross the river and head uphill to reach a larger road: turn sharp left.

Within 230 m, bear right up a lane and after a further 650 m turn left to follow a minor road for 3.3 km

At km 82.9 turn right offroad to climb a zigzag path around the shoulder of Sheilstown Hill. From about km 81 it starts to descend on a forest track for 1.6 km to join a very minor road.

Cross Ballyteige Bridge and after 200 m bear right off the road to follow another forest track for 650 m. At the road, turn sharp right and follow it for 180 m to cross the River Ow and reach the Iron Bridge parking area where many B&B hosts pick up their guests.

3.5 Iron Bridge to Glenmalure

map pages 57, 53, 48

12.9 km (8 miles)

Turn right for just 70 m along the road, then go left up a forest road that at first runs parallel to Mucklagh Brook but soon veers away and turns sharp left at km 75.6.

Ascend gently towards Mucklagh Hut (km 74) where you turn right (east) and climb steeply on a boardwalk to a height of 480 m below the summit of Carrickashane (508 m).

From this high point, descend on a forest track for 650 m, bearing left at any junctions to descend to the Military Road at mile 72.6.

Follow the Military Road for a further 660 m, then turn left up a forest track that zigzags steeply up to the shoulder of Slieve Maan.

At km 71.1 turn sharp right on a good forest road, now heading NNE and high above the Military Road. After 1.8 km, bear right at a junction, now descending steeply on a spur of Slieve Maan.

At km 68.1 look out for the left-right dogleg and continue to descend the spur on a narrow path for a further 800 m.

At km 67.4 turn sharp left (east) and climb to cross Clohernagh Brook. For the next 2 km the Way descends steeply on clearly waymarked zigzags to the Halfway Obelisk: see photo page 56.

Cross the Clohernagh Brook again to meet join the Military Road at km 64.4: turn left. Pass Drumgoff Barracks to reach Glenmalure Hotel on the main road at km 64.

3.4 Glenmalure to Glendalough

map pages 53, 48

14.1 km (8.8 miles)

From the hotel, head north on the Military Road for 280 m, then bear left up a forest road.

After 320 m turn sharp left to follow this road as it swings right and heads NW for 2.5 km; after a short zigzag it reaches Mullacor Hut (km 60.6).

The Way now climbs to the saddle between Mullacor and Lugduff, at first on forest road. At km 59 turn right off the road, up some giant stone steps that lead to a rough path, climbing steeply at first.

At km 58.2 turn right for the final ascent to the saddle, with some stretches of boardwalk and, if it's clear, wonderful views over Fraughan Rock Glen and the Lug.

The long descent follows a generally ENE direction with a southward loop around km 56.5.

Make a sharp right turn at km 55.1 and follow the forest track as it snakes left and left again to descend the shoulder of Derrybawn mountain.

At km 53.2 meet a good forest road and turn sharp left for 650 m. Reach two footbridges and cross Lugduff Brook with Poulanass waterfall.

Descend beside Lugduff Brook on a mixture of timber steps and steep path to reach the Green Road between Glendalough's two lakes: turn right.

After 1.4 km you reach the entrance to the Monastic City, and 180 m later turn left to reach the car park and Visitor Centre: see page 19.

3.3 Glendalough to Oldbridge

map pages 48, 49

9.4 km (5.8 miles)

After passing the Visitor Centre, turn left towards the Glendalough Hotel, then right up a short breen to reach the R756.

Cross straight over the road with care and enter Brockagh Forest by two stiles. Follow signs carefully as the path zigzags uphill to meet a forest track at km 49.6.

Turn right to follow the Way over a mixture of rocky path and forest road to pass a turning circle and cross another track, reaching a sharp bend at km 48.

Follow the forest road as it hairpins right and doglegs in a final descent to cross the Glenmacnass River by timber footbridge at km 47.3.

Beyond the river, a short stretch of twisting path takes you up to the R115: cross straight over, heading ENE.

The Way zigzags at first, climbing steeply in places, to reach a high point on the shoulder of Paddock Hill close to Brusher Gap Hut (km 44.5).

Within 500 m of the hut, reach Brusher Gate and turn right across two stiles. Within 600 m, after a farm, keep right at a junction and descend on a rough track to the public road.

Follow the L1059 as it undulates for 2.3 km to reach the junction of many signs (shown on page 47) at km 40.8. Lough Dan House is 2 km NNE from this junction.

3.2 Oldbridge to Glenree River

map pages 45, 43

18.7 km (11.6 miles)

Stay on the road as it crosses the Avonmore River and climbs to a crossroads at km 39.3. (Roundwood is about 3 km east of this point.)

Turn left at the crossroads on a private lane and look for the ladder stile on your right at km 39. Head uphill to reach a kissing-gate within 400 m.

Turn left up a field edge to reach another ladder stile after 300 m. Continue uphill on a narrow path through forestry which soon makes a right-left dogleg and after 430 m joins a forest road.

Follow the fairly level forest road for 300 m, then turn right (NE) at km 37.8 up a rocky path, steep in places. Follow it for 430 m to meet another forest road where you turn left (km 37.4).

Follow the forest road as it rises gently to the shoulder of Ballinafunshoge before dropping to the saddle between two hills at km 35.8.

Continue on the slopes of Sleamaine, turning left after 600 m. From here, the route undulates for 1 km to emerge through a barrier on the R759 road at km 34.

Turn left along the road, walking with care on the right side of the road to face oncoming traffic (no pavement).

After 300 m of R759, turn sharp right up a fire-break. After 140 m turn sharp left to head north through dense forest, partly on boardwalk.

The path swings left (km 33.2) and continues roughly parallel to the main road, punctuated by viewing platforms, to reach the J B Malone Memorial at km 31.8.

For the next 3 km you climb to the summit of White Hill, mostly on boardwalk: in high winds or if heavily laden, keeping your balance can be challenging.

From White Hill, descend slightly before reaching the optional detour (km 29.7) to Djouce's summit – described on page 43. Otherwise continue generally NW to descend the path to a timber stile at km 27.4.

Turn left over the stile for 280 m, then veer right to descend to the Watergates footbridge over the River Dargle (km 26.4).

Beyond the river, the trail climbs steeply for 260 m. Turn right and follow the clifftop above the valley with a rocky outcrop and handrails in places. There are some fine views over Powerscourt waterfall.

After the zigzagging descent to Ride Rock (km 24.9), the trail turns NW, descending gently into Crone Woods on a footpath that broadens into a forest road.

Follows signs carefully until a sharp right turn brings you to Crone car park and you emerge at the public road (L1013): turn left.

Follow the road for 270 m, then turn right down a forest track that becomes a path leading to the footbridge across the Glenree River at km 22.2.

For details of how to reach Coolakay House, see page 41 bullet 5, and for Enniskerry or Knockree Hostel see page 40, bullets 1 and 3.

3.1 Glencree River to Marlay Park map pages 39, 37

21.9 km (13.6 miles)

Once across the river, turn sharp left to head upstream for 1.4 km on a tree-lined path.

At km 20.7 turn sharp right away from the river, climbing gently for over 800 m to reach the minor road. Knockree Hostel is to the right (east), but the Way crosses the road (km 19.7).

Continue on a narrow path through dense forest, heading roughly north for about 250 m, then turn left (west).

After 150 m, the path joins a forest road which keeps veering right as it contours Knockree.

After 1.1 km of forest road, descend to a barrier and emerge at a lay-by where you rejoin the minor road (km 18.3).

Follow the minor road for 750 m to reach the L1011 road, which you follow briefly.

After 210 m of L1011, turn left into Curtlestown Wood. Look carefully for signs, some only informal paint splashes, marking the trail as it climbs, swinging right, right, then sharp left, right and left again to reach a junction at km 15.7.

Keep right at this junction and head NE for 500 m to another junction at km 15.2 where you bear left and the Way finally levels out. Within 700 m you pass the watershed between Counties Wicklow and Dublin.

From here it's downhill all the way into Glen Cullen, generally heading NNW and after 1.7 km descending on zigzags to ease the gradient.

Eventually the trail emerges from Glencullen Forest at a barrier and the tarmac lane descends to cross Glencullen River on a stone bridge (km 10.9).

Follow Boranaralty Lane uphill for 700 m to reach the R116 main road: turn sharp left. Walk beside the busy road with care.

After 1.7 km of R116, turn sharp right up a steep path through Tibbradden Forest, ignoring a DMW-signed path bearing left that goes up Tibbradden.

After 900 m, the Way turns right, climbing more gently, and within 1 km reaches the access for a short detour up Two Rock: see page 36 bullet 4.

From here, the trail turns left (north) and begins its descent of the slopes of Two Rock, at first on a good

path, then at km 5.9 turn right down a narrow stony path.

At the bottom of the path, descend a bank to reach a forest road: turn left. Follow the forest road for 2.5 km, with a steep section relieved by zigzags roughly halfway.

Exit Kilmashogue Wood at the barrier and turn right along Kilmashogue Lane. Follow this access lane for 1 km to a roundabout at the R113.

Follow waymarkers that take you right under the M50 motorway underpass and turn right on its far side,

Follow the walled path beside the M50 for 400 m to the entrance to Marlay Park. Turn left into the park, then immediately right to follow its perimeter path.

After 600 m, turn left (north) and follow waymarkers carefully through mature woodland to a lake. About 750 m after the left turn, the Way turns right, away from the lake.

Within 400 m you reach the stone wall and information board that mark the Way's official terminus.

Congratulations on completing the Wicklow Way!