



Hillwalk Guides – Hiking in Wicklow

Crone Wood to Djouce (Info Booklet)

Dear fellow hiker!

We trust that you are looking forward to a wonderful walk in Wicklow, the Garden of Ireland. This fantastic hike to the top of Djouce Mountain offers great views of Deerpark and Powerscourt Waterfall and into the heart of the Wicklow Mountains.

In this document, we have put together some information that will help you to maximise the enjoyment of your walk. Please consider the environment when printing this booklet, route notes and map (supplied separately).

- Important Information for your walk
- What to Wear & What to Bring
- The Wicklow Mountains
- The Wicklow Way
- Local Attractions
- Where to Eat
- Safety Information
- Emergency Procedure
- Leave No Trace & Countryside Code
- More from Hillwalk Tours

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR YOUR WALK

PARKING: Your walk begins from the car park at Crone Woods (GPS Coordinates: 53.1651, -6.2172). We recommend that you plan to start your walk early in order to guarantee parking. While walkers and cars are generally safe in Wicklow, we advise that you do not leave anything of value in your car.

WEATHER: Check the weather forecast before hillwalking and do not do so during any known weather event. Conditions locally can vary, even in the absence of weather warnings, so always consider your own stamina, confidence and comfort level when deciding if you will go ahead with any walk. Weather can change unexpectedly, especially on higher ground, so always be prepared for this. See the what to wear, what to bring and safety information sections for more details.

BRINGING YOUR DOG: This walk is almost entirely within the lands of Coillte and the Wicklow Mountains National Park and dogs are allowed in these areas if they are kept on a lead at all times. However, out of consideration for other visitors, wildlife and farm animals, walkers are asked not to bring their dogs on the trails at busy times (10am to 5pm).

COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS & FEEDBACK: Hillwalk Tours take great care in the preparation of all our material. However, we rely on comments and suggestions from walkers to continue to provide the best experience possible. We consider all feedback, make improvements where possible and reply individually to every walker. Send your thoughts to feedback@hillwalktours.com – thanks!

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What to Wear

BASE LAYER - This is what you wear against your skin and the best options are breathable and wicking fabrics instead of cotton t-shirts. They will move moisture away from the skin so that you feel more comfortable when you are walking.

FLEECE – Will keep you warm in the cooler months and on top of the hills, and it will allow you to shed layers when you are working hard in the summer.

LIGHT AND COMFORTABLE TROUSERS - Make sure you choose trousers that are stretchy or allow enough space to move your legs freely and choose fabrics that repel water or dry quickly. Jeans / Denims are not suitable for hill walking.

WATERPROOF JACKET AND OVER-TROUSERS - You never know when you will need protection from wind and rain so make sure you pack a breathable, waterproof jacket and over-trousers.

WICKING SOCKS - Choose non-cotton socks that fit well and will move moisture away from your feet to stop them feeling sweaty. Some people wear two pairs: a sock liner against the skin and wool or wool-blend socks over that. This will help to reduce the likelihood of blisters.

Our tip: Apply a little Vaseline or a similar anti-blister ointment and then put on your socks, this reduces rubbing and helps to prevent blisters.

FOOTWEAR – We recommend you bring comfortable, waterproof, lightweight shoes or boots, that provide good ankle support and offer good grip on rock, grass and mud. Remember that the trails can become quite wet and muddy, after periods of rain.

WARM HAT & GLOVES – Essential, even in summer, at higher altitudes and on exposed places.

CHANGE OF CLOTHES: We advise bringing a change of clothes (which can be left in your car, if preferred) in case you get wet during your hike, ensuring a more comfortable journey home.

What to Bring

MOBILE PHONE – The most important safety item on the trails is a fully charged mobile phone as it will allow you to call for help in an emergency. If you are planning on using our GPS tracks as a navigational aid or referring to this booklet on your phone during your hike you may need to pack a power-bank to supplement your phone battery.

BACKPACK / RUCKSACK (*with Waterproof Cover or Liner*) - To store all your essentials including extra layers of clothing, your waterproofs, first aid kit, camera and your lunch, snacks and drink

WATER - Don't forget how important it is to stay hydrated and bring at least 1 - 2 litres of water per person, and more depending on the weather!

PICNIC LUNCH: Even on shorter walks it is essential to bring some food with you. Traveling to the start point, weather/trail conditions on the day as well as wanting to capture that perfect photo can all add time to your walk and make breakfast seem like a distant memory! Even for the most experienced hiker, being adequately fuelled throughout a walk will add to your overall enjoyment.

Our tip: Choose a sheltered spot to enjoy your picnic (and optional flask of tea or coffee!). Even on a warm day, we recommend putting on an extra layer while taking your break as the body can cool quickly once at rest.

FIRST AID KIT – It is a good idea to have a small, basic first aid kit to deal with little injuries such as sprains, scrapes, cuts and blisters. Good things to bring are plasters, wound dressings, blister plasters, sterile cleansing wipes, pain killers, tweezers (for splinters & ticks), bandages, zinc oxide tape (for blisters or sprains). Many hikers also bring a foil rescue blanket or small bivvy bag, which keeps you dry and warm (or cool) in case of an accident.

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WHISTLE & TORCH – In the very unlikely event you need to signal for help (whistle/torch) or if your walk takes longer than expected (torch).

CASH – Remember that ATM & card services may be limited in more rural locations.

Additional Suggestions

SUN CREAM, SUNGLASSES AND SUNHAT – Let's hope you'll need those ☺

MIDGE/TICK/INSECT REPELLENT – A good idea, especially if you are prone to get bitten

CAMERA – Vital for capturing photos of the stunning scenery

WALKING POLES – Assist forward movement and balance, reduce impact on your knees, and help with balance in difficult terrain. A pair is best, but many hikers also just use one.

GAITERS – By covering your upper boot and lower leg these help to keep your feet and trousers dry in wet grass and boggy terrain.

SIT MAT – A small, foldable mat that provides comfort when sitting on the ground during breaks.

COMPASS – A compass (and the ability to use it), although useful, is not an absolute requirement.

The Wicklow Mountains

The Wicklow Mountains, just south of Dublin, form the largest area of continuous hills and mountains in Ireland with more than 500 km² above 300 metres. They stretch for almost 70km from Dublin, in the north, to the border with the counties of Wexford and Carlow in the south. The highest peak, Lugnaquilla (925m), is the highest Irish mountain outside of County Kerry, and there are a total of 39 peaks over 600 metres in Wicklow.

Most of the scenery you are walking on is formed by four main types of very old rocks: granite, quartzite, schist and slate. Those rocks, and the Wicklow Mountains, were created 400 million years ago when, what was later to become North America ploughed slowly into the continent of Europe. This pushed molten rock up through layers of sedimentary rocks that had been formed when Wicklow lay at the bottom of a deep sea.

The core of this upheaval formed into granite rock, with crystals of quartzite embedded in it. The conical Sugarloaf Mountain near Enniskerry, is a prominent quartzite landmark. The sedimentary rocks around the edges formed into two other types of rock, depending on how hot they were: schist (hotter) and slate (cooler).

However, the mountains owe their current shape largely to the effects of the last number of ice ages when glaciers smoothed the shapes of the mountains, deepened the valleys and created the many lakes. Much of the higher ground today consists of bog, heather and upland grassland while the valleys are mostly a mixture of coniferous and deciduous woodland.

Wicklow is known as 'The Garden of Ireland', due to its large areas of undeveloped mountains, valleys, forests and woodlands and the Wicklow Mountains are a major destination for tourism and recreation. The entire upland area is protected by law and the Wicklow Mountains National Park is Ireland's largest national park.

The Wicklow Way

Your walk follows parts of the Wicklow Way which is maintained by the Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Committee who ensures that the route is managed in a sustainable way. If you encounter sections on any of those trails that you feel require attention please contact the National Trails Office: nto@sportireland.ie

J.B. Malone was a legendary figure in Irish hill walking and he first published a scheme for a circular Wicklow Way walking route in 1966. His original idea was changed to a linear walk and the first section from Dublin to Luggala, near Roundwood, opened in 1980. This was extended to Clonegal in 1982 and it became Ireland's first and best-known waymarked trail. You can find a memorial to J.B. Malone at a prominent location overlooking Lough Tay, marking his favourite spot on the trail.

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Local Attractions

POWERSCOURT WATERFALL, Enniskerry - Ireland's Highest Waterfall

Powerscourt Waterfall is one of Ireland's highest at 121m (398ft.) and is located 6km from the Main Powerscourt Estate. It is set in one of Ireland's most beautiful parklands at the foothills of the Wicklow Mountains. A kiosk serves snacks, refreshments and of course ice cream.

Note Your walk passes above Powerscourt Waterfall and you will usually be able to see the waterfall from the trail. For opening times, prices and more information please go to www.powerscourt.com/waterfall

POWERSCOURT ESTATE, HOUSE & GARDENS, Enniskerry – World famous house and gardens

According to National Geographic Powerscourt is one of the world's greatest gardens. It offers a beautiful mix of formal gardens, beautiful terraces, statues and ornamental lakes with secret hollows, rambling walks, walled gardens and over 200 variations of trees and shrubs. Highlights include the Italian and Japanese Gardens. The 18th century house incorporates a cafe, speciality shops, garden pavilion, Interiors Gallery (offering furniture, soft furnishings and accessories) and an exhibition on the history of the Powerscourt Estate. The estate now includes a golf course, a 5-star hotel - and a whiskey distillery, which offers guided tours.

The estate is 2 km west of Enniskerry Village on the Bray Road. For opening times, prices and more information please visit these websites: www.powerscourt.com and www.powerscourtdistillery.com

COOLAKAY AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM - A rural history of Irish farm life

The farm museum shows the evolution of Irish farms from the early 18th century up to the present day. On display are implements and machinery dating back as far as the 1700's all the way up to beautifully restored tractors from 1947 to the present day.

For opening times, prices and more information please go to www.coolakayhouse.ie/museum/

JOHNNY FOX'S PUB, Glencullen – Famous traditional pub and one of the highest pubs in Ireland

Established in 1798, Johnnie Fox's is one of Ireland's oldest and most famous traditional Irish pubs. There is traditional Irish music every night, plus on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Storytellers, sitting by the open turf fires in the pub, are also known to entertain visitors during cold winter days and evenings.

Johnny Foxes Pub is in Glencullen Village, 8.5km north of Enniskerry. The pub also features an award-winning seafood kitchen. For opening times and more information please go to www.johnniefoxs.com

Where to Eat

Below is a selection of evening meal suggestions near the end point of your walk, put together based on the recommendations of previous walkers and on the advice of members of the local community. For lighter bites, there is also a selection of lovely cafes in Enniskerry village.

The Enniskerry Inn, Church Road, Enniskerry Village: Good food in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere with friendly efficient service. Tel: 01 2868333

Powerscourt Arms Restaurant, Enniskerry Village: Offering delicious food from a varied menu in a relaxed setting. Tel: 01 2828903

Emilia's Ristorante, Clock Tower, Enniskerry Village: A 1st-floor restaurant to satisfy even the most ardent craving for thin-crust pizzas. Emilia's does everything else just right too, from the organic soups to the perfect steaks down to the gorgeous meringue desserts. Tel: +353 1 2761834 (closed on Mondays)

McGills Bar, Powerscourt Hotel Resort & Spa, Enniskerry: As well as a fine selection of whiskeys, beers and stouts, McGills offers a tasty menu of wholesome, traditional dishes, prepared and served with imagination and style. Located at the 5-star Powerscourt Hotel, the food is a little pricier but gets excellent reports. Tel: 01 274 8888

Johnnie Fox's Pub, Glencullen: This iconic pub with its great atmosphere is a favourite of hill walkers and tourists alike. Live traditional Irish music every night of the week. Good pub-grub menu. Tel: 01 2955647

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Safety Information

Even on the best of days there is the possibility that something can go wrong. All it takes is an accidental slip and a badly sprained ankle. In order to know what to do in those circumstances and how to prevent them, if possible, we have provided the following information.

General Advice

- We recommend that, if possible, you **stay on the trail** during your hike.
- Take particular **care on the descent** and/or when you are tired, as this is when most accidents occur.
- Be careful when walking near cliffs and stay clear of the edge.
- Hills and mountains **create their own weather systems**. Allow for it to get 1° cooler for every 100m climbed, and for 2 – 3 times stronger wind conditions than in the valleys.
- Remember, the general rule for **walking on roads** in Ireland is to walk on the right-hand side (facing oncoming traffic). However, if the road is turning to the right, cross over to the left-hand side for better visibility of oncoming traffic.
- Note that the provided walking times do *not* account for breaks taken for lunch/rest/photos/etc. Always ensure that you still have plenty of time to reach the end of your hike before darkness falls.

Impassable & Hazardous Trail

(e.g. due to snow, fog, floodwaters, etc.)

- **Do not take any risks!** If you are not confident at navigating, stick to the trail, or, if necessary, make your way safely to the nearest road where you will come across locals who will help you.
- Rivers and streams may be flooded after heavy rain, particularly in hills and mountains. **Do not take risks by trying to cross flooded rivers** – seek an alternative route on your map *only* if you are confident at navigating. If not, do not take any risks, but make your way back along the trail to the nearest road.
- Hills and mountains are often covered by a low cloud base. If you notice fog descending:
 - Try to take note of as many large physical features around you while you still have visibility, and to locate yourself on your map.
 - If you are not knowledgeable in using a compass and map to navigate safely off the mountain, stay where you are for 10-15 minutes, as this is sometimes enough time for the fog to clear.
 - If the fog does not clear, and you are confident that you are able to navigate back the way you came, do so, until you reach clear ground again.
 - If you are not confident enough to navigate forwards or backwards, and the weather does not clear, it might become necessary to contact Emergency Services to take you off the trail, particularly on mountains.

Encountering Animals

DOGS may occasionally be encountered while on the trail. If you are fearful, or the dog is threatening, the general rule is to try to get out of the situation calmly and quickly without making the dog any more upset.

- Try to stay calm and don't yell at the dog or scream. Don't throw anything at the dog or pick up a stick as a weapon. Many dogs are simply afraid of you and this will only make their fear worse.
- Never run from a dog as it will outrun you easily. Running triggers a dog's instinct to chase you. Avoid sudden movement.
- Speak to any harassing dog in a firm, calm voice. Don't smile or speak in a pleading voice. When using vocal commands, deepen your voice as much as possible.

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CATTLE are a common feature on some of our walks where the hiking trails cross private land. Cattle may look intimidating but are generally quite timid. Here are some tips for dealing with cattle on your hike:

- If possible, walk around cattle not through the middle of them and don't walk between cows and their calves.
- Calves and young bullocks are very curious and may even run towards you. Continue walking normally. Don't run away. If you do this, the cattle will simply follow you. If they get too close for comfort, don't worry. Simply stand your ground, jump up and shout and they will run away again.

MIDGES can become a real nuisance as they often appear in great numbers and their bite can leave an itchy rash. Midges don't like direct sun and prefer calm, humid weather. They are most active in the early morning and late evening. Midges only attack bare skin and can't bite through cloth. In general, you will not be pestered by midges while walking. Nevertheless, it can be a good idea to bring an insect and tick repellent on your walk.

TICKS are tiny (1mm), spider-like blood sucking creatures which feed on many different types of animals, including humans. They are frequently found in moorland and other grassy areas, usually close to the ground, especially in moist, shaded places. Once attached ticks feed for several days and then simply drop off. Through their bite ticks can, **very rarely**, transmit a bacterial infection called Lyme disease or Borreliosis. *For information on prevention of tick bites and what to do if bitten, see www.ticktalkireland.org.*

EMERGENCY PROCEDURE

- **In case of an emergency, try to stay calm. Try to work out your exact location on the map and decide if you can help yourself out of the situation.**
- **In a genuine emergency call 112 or 999 free of charge.** The operator may ask you which service you require. For example, ambulance (*if you are near a road*), mountain rescue (*for inaccessible places*), coast guard (*near the sea*), etc.
 - You can call emergency services using any mobile/cell phone - even if does not have call credit or is locked. Simply type 112 instead of the unlock code.
 - If you do not have a phone signal it may still be possible to contact emergency services. Emergency calls can be made on *any* available mobile phone network. If no networks have signal, you will be told that there is no reception and you cannot make emergency calls. You will have to move to another location to place the call, if possible.
 - Please keep in mind that if your phone does not have network coverage on your own network **others will not be able to call you back. So, do not hang up unless directed to do so!**
- You can also signal for help using your whistle or torch. The International distress signal is six blasts on your whistle or six flashes with your torch. If your whistles are heard, you should hear three whistles in reply. Keep repeating the whistle blasts so that your location can be determined.
- Try to keep everyone safe, warm and comfortable while waiting for help, particularly **if you have an injured person**. Move to a sheltered area if possible. Ensure everyone puts on any spare layers of clothing that they are carrying. Insulate everyone from the ground by placing backpacks underneath them (if it is safe to move them). You may loosen the laces on your boots, but *do not* remove them, even in the case of swelling. Try to keep everyone well hydrated, but only drink bottled water.
- If there is no signal to phone emergency services, and you are not capable of moving to an area where there is signal, do not panic. Someone will always know to look for you, or someone will find you e.g. other walkers using the trail.

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The Countryside Code

While out walking in the countryside, remember you are walking in areas where people live and work. And we also share the countryside with much wildlife.

The following are a number of important recommendations to abide by when out walking:

- **Be safe - plan ahead and follow signs**
- **Leave gates and property as you find them**
- **Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home**
- **Where you are permitted to bring them, keep dogs on a lead**
- **Consider other people**

Leave No Trace

Hillwalk Tours is a proud supporter of **Leave No Trace** – an Outdoor Ethics Programme designed to promote and inspire responsible outdoor recreation through education, research, and partnerships. An ethic can be defined as knowing what the right thing to do is, and doing it, even if there is no one about to see you do it. Leave No Trace depends more on attitude and awareness than on rules and regulations.

Practising a Leave No Trace ethic is very simple: Make it hard for others to see or hear you and LEAVE NO TRACE of your visit. See <https://www.leavenotraceireland.org> for more information.

Toilets: If you need to answer 'the call of nature' and there are no facilities nearby, please take care to find a discreet spot away from the trail and any water sources. Ensure that you *Leave No Trace* of your visit, i.e. bury your waste and 'pack out' your toilet paper by bringing it with you inside a double zip-lock bag or similar. You can find more info on this at www.trailspace.com/articles/backcountry-waste-disposal.html

More from Hillwalk Tours

Did you enjoy your self-guided walk? Consider one of our walking holidays!

Hillwalk Tours was founded by Kilkenny man, James Byrne, and is based in Galway. We have been organising self-guided hillwalking tours in Wicklow and other parts of Ireland, the UK and Spain for over 10 years, providing thousands of happy hiking experiences to our many loyal walkers. This walk is a perfect introduction to our other offerings that include overnight accommodation, luggage and walker transfers if required. We take care of everything so all you need to do is put one foot in front of the other along some of the most beautiful landscapes in the world!

We have over 200 walks across 20+ different trails with options to suit everyone from the part-time hiker to those with more experience.

Explore our catalogs to learn more about our exciting walking holidays. Discover the diverse range of experiences that await you on each adventure by [clicking here](#).

See our website www.hillwalktours.com for more or contact us at info@hillwalktours.com and one of our team will personally advise you.



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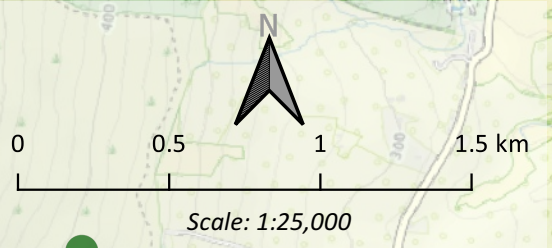
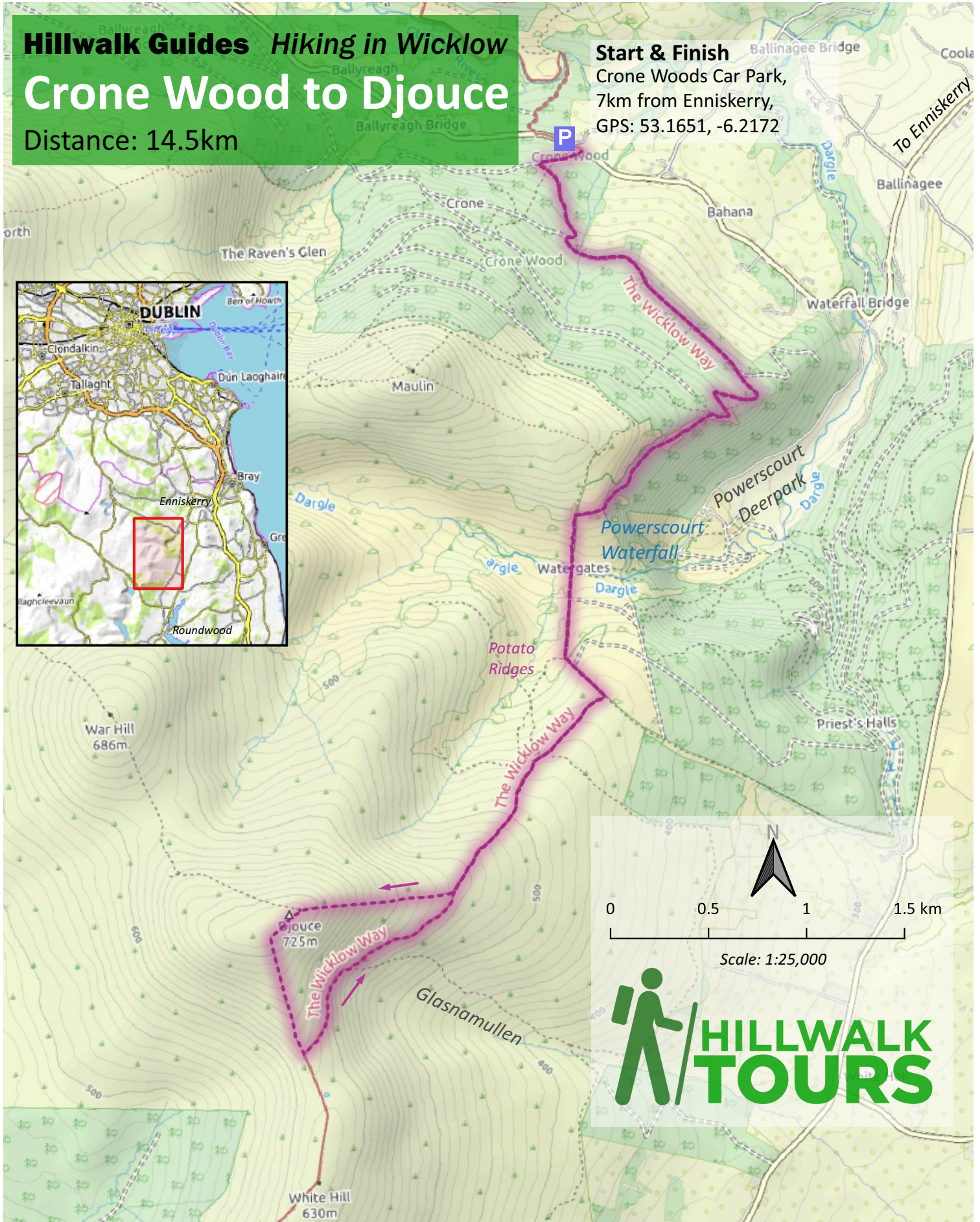
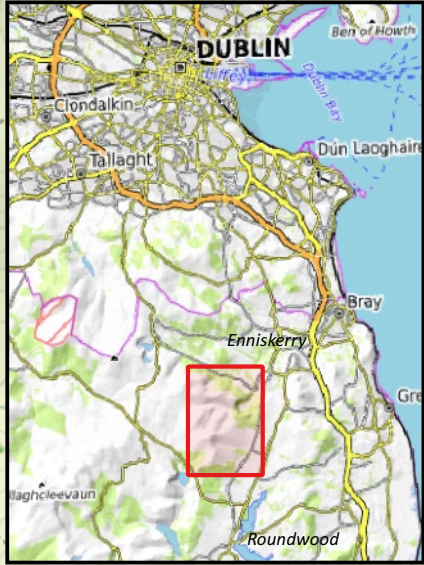
Hillwalk Guides *Hiking in Wicklow*

Crone Wood to Djouce

Distance: 14.5km

Start & Finish

Crone Woods Car Park,
7km from Enniskerry,
GPS: 53.1651, -6.2172



Elevation Profile - Djouce from Crone Woods



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Hillwalk Guides – Hiking in Wicklow

Crone Wood to Djouce (Route Notes)

Please Note:

- Sections of the route go through areas of forestry. This means that the landscape along those sections is often changing as trees grow, reach maturity, get felled and are replanted within the cycle of commercial forestry.
- Changes to the route may occur of which we are unaware, i.e. due to forestry. This can include changes to the path surface or the surroundings.
- The approximate '**Walking Time**' is based on a moderate walking speed of 4km per hour and does not include any breaks.
- The '**Ascent**' is the cumulative elevation gain or climb over the entire distance of the walk.

YOUR WALK AT A GLANCE


Distance: 14.5km

Walking Time: 5-6 hours

Total Ascent: (↑) 700m

Terrain: Forest tracks followed by mountain paths and sections on boardwalks; occasional sections of more rugged mountain terrain. Slow and steady climb through the first half with a steeper section before the top. The summit of Djouce can be windy, so be prepared if hiking in poor weather.

Food & Drink: Enniskerry

Way Marking: The majority of this walk follows the route of the Wicklow Way, which is well marked with signs showing a yellow 'walking man' and an arrow on a black background. 

Access & Parking: The walk starts from the forest car park at Crone Woods (GPS Coordinates: 53.1651, -6.2172), near Powerscourt Waterfall and 7km from Enniskerry. The car park at Crone Woods is one of the most popular trailheads for hillwalking in the Wicklow Mountains, where you are always likely to see groups of walkers setting off or returning from their hikes. It can get busy there and we recommend that you arrive early. Please make sure that you leave no valuables in the car.

From the car park at Crone Woods (GPS Coordinates: 53.1651, -6.2172):

- Follow the track uphill into the trees. At the first track junction, turn left next to the information board. Continue uphill.
- At the next track junction, after 500m, turn left again and then follow the track as it makes its way up through the forest.
- As you emerge from the trees, the track narrows and zigzags its way up to Ride Rock – at this point you will see a wooden bench on your right where you can sit down and admire the lovely views across Deerpark to Powerscourt Waterfall.

i At 121 metres, Powerscourt Waterfall is one of the highest waterfalls in Ireland and the UK. It is part of the large Powerscourt Estate which is famous for its 18th century house and landscaped gardens. In 1860, the seventh Viscount Powerscourt established a deer park around the waterfall and introduced Japanese Sika Deer to Ireland.

Deer are common in the forests and mountains along the Wicklow Way and all deer in the Wicklow Mountains originated with the Powerscourt herd. Many are hybrids of the imported Japanese Sika and native Red deer. Sika deer are renowned for their repertoire of calls and they have a huge variety of vocalisations from groaning stags to clacking noises, barks, whistles and scream. So, you are just as likely to hear them as you are to see them.

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- Follow the path along the cliff-top with a sheer drop to the valley on your left for 800m.
- After passing under a rocky overhang, the path turns right and makes its way through a patch of young forestry for approximately 150m.
- Turn left, after crossing an old stone wall and continue steeply downhill to a footbridge over the River Dargle for 250m.

ⓘ *Due to the high annual rainfall the vegetation up here is mostly blanket bog which is very vulnerable to erosion by walkers. For this reason, boardwalks and 'bog bridges' have been constructed in many places.*

Bogland is habitat for species such as bog cotton (the little white heads dipping in the wind), bog asphodel, sedges (which contribute to the formation of peat) and bog moss. The wet bog ponds are also a habitat for frogs, pondskaters and diving beetles.

Despite the remoteness of the place people used to live and farm up here and if the light is right you can often see the remains of potato ridges on the hillside to your right.

- From the bridge continue straight on along the path, climbing uphill now. Continue until you come to a stile over the stone wall on your left (a stile is a gap or steps to help you cross a wall or fence).
- Cross the stile over the wall, then continue uphill for 300m before crossing another stile over a stone wall, this time on your right.
- Follow the well-worn path which rises fairly gently uphill and over the shoulder of Djouce Mountain on your right.
- After 1.3km, you arrive at a path junction, with the path to the right clearly heading towards the summit of Djouce.
- Turn right, off the Wicklow Way, onto the path towards the summit and follow it steeply uphill for almost 1km.
- When you reach the top, keep left and look for the summit (725m), marked by a trig point. Enjoy the extensive views which include much of north east Wicklow, the Irish Sea and nearer places such as the Great Sugar Loaf Mountain.

ⓘ *Trig points, or Trigonometrical points, are fixed surveying stations, often located on hilltops, that were used by surveyors and map makers. Although they are no longer required for most surveying purposes, they remain useful to hikers as navigational aids and are usually marked on maps.*

ⓘ *Just 2.5km to the south-west you find Luggala and the valley of the Cloghoge stream. Flanked by two charming lakes, Lough Tay to the North and Lough Dan at the southern end, the Cloghoge Valley is widely considered the most beautiful valley in Ireland. Luggala (pronounced lug-a-law), also called Fancy Mountain, with its steep cliff face, is the centre of the 25 km² (9.7 sq mi) Luggala Estate.*

From 1937 to 2019 Luggala was owned by the Guinness family and over the years Guinness heir Garech Browne, like his mother before him, turned luxurious Luggala Lodge, also known as 'Luggala Castle', into a haven for artists and musicians – a place where rock stars partied alongside poets, painters, actors and models. Luggala played host to many famous visitors such as Bertrand Russell, Samuel Becket, Angelica and John Huston, The Rolling Stones, John Hurt, Dennis Hopper, U2 and Michael Jackson.

Champagne was served all day when Garech Browne was in residence and guests who found their way down into the valley were often invited to stay for as long as they pleased. Close to the lake is also the resting place of one of Guinness family's most famous sons, the tragic Tara Browne, Garech's brother, who was killed in 1966 while speeding through London in a car at the age of 21. The Beatles, who knew him, immortalised him in 'A Day in the Life', a song at the heart of their Sgt Pepper's album.

Hikers are allowed to access large areas of the valley and the estate and its buildings have been used as the location for many major film and TV productions, including The Tudors, Camelot, Excalibur, King Arthur and Vikings.

HILLWALK TOURS

Escape to Nature!

- Shortly after passing the summit follow a path downhill to the left towards White Hill. After a descent of 600m you come to a path junction. Turn left and re-join the Wicklow Way.
- This brings you on a mountain path around the south-east flank of Djouce along the head of the small valley of Glasnamullen.
- Continue downhill and you eventually pass the trail towards the summit of Djouce you took earlier, on your left. Continue straight and downhill and make your way back to the bridge over the Dargle River.
- After crossing the bridge, climb steeply uphill on stone steps next to a stone wall on your right. Then turn right, through the stone wall onto a path leading through a young forest plantation area.

ⓘ *Although most of Ireland was once covered with trees, Ireland's forest cover was dramatically reduced over centuries by human activity. At the beginning of the 20th century, forests comprised only about 4% of Ireland's total land surface area - the lowest level in Europe where 40% is covered by forests. Today this figure has risen to 11%, which is the second lowest in Europe (but the highest level in Ireland for over 350 years).*

The majority of these forests are of imported conifers that have been planted in the last 50-60 years. Native woodlands (such as oak or ash) cover only a small part of the country. Most of the trees you see in Irish plantations are Sitka spruce, Douglas fir and Lodgepole pine which originally come from the north-west coast of North America.

- Follow the path above Deerpark and the waterfall below you on the right until the path turns left and leads downhill. After 130m, turn right onto a track that leads into Crone Woods.
- Keep going along this track for 1.6km until you reach a T-junction. Turn right downhill and continue for 500m to the next T-junction. Again, turn right downhill and you soon arrive back at the car park and the end of your hike.

After Your hike

*For refreshments we recommend the nearby village of **Enniskerry**. Although its proximity to Dublin has made Enniskerry a much sought-after residential location, the heart of the village retains its elegant Victorian characteristics and distinctive features. These include the distinct clock tower on the town square, dating from 1843. It was erected as a memorial to the Wingfield family, then owners of the nearby Powerscourt Estate.*

In 1859 the Earl of Powerscourt also commissioned the building of a new Church of Ireland church to the south of the village. The church is surrounded by stunning scenery and the conical shape of Sugar Loaf mountain serves as its 'back drop'. The grave of Paul Henry (1876-1958), who is regarded as Ireland's greatest landscape artist, lies in the graveyard.

Powerscourt House and Gardens are located at the southern end of the village.

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