

Glendalough County Wicklow

Glendalough is one of the must see tourist destinations in county Wicklow. This is an area of stunning landscapes, ancient historical ruins, and two beautiful lakes. It is also part of Irelands Ancient east driving route.

There are several walks on offer for you in wonderful Wicklow national park. The Wicklow way weaves its way through this mountainous area. We have maps to show you all the walks that hill walkers want and well as walks for the novice.

Glendalough (Gleann da loch) meaning glen of the two lakes can be found in the centre of Wicklow and it is part of the Wicklow National park. St Kevin came to this remote and beautiful place, where over a period of time followers joined him until the settlement grew and he founded a monastery here. The following can still be seen to day

The Gateway

This unique monument can be found at the entrance to Glendalough and is one of the most important monuments in Ireland. It was originally two-storied



with two granite arches. The paving of the causeway in the monastic city is still preserved in part but very little remains of the walls to day.

The Round Tower

This round tower is built of granite stone and is 30 meters high, with its entrance 3.5 meters from the base. The tower originally had six floors. The tower served as a refuge in the times of attack.

The Cathedral

The cathedral is the largest of the churches in Glendalough and dates back to the 12th and early 13th centuries. The windows to the east are very beautifully decorated. The entrance is also finely decorated.

The priest house

This building gets its name for the practice of interring priests in the 18th and 19th century. The design of the small building is Romanesque in style.

St Kevin's Church

St Kevin's church is also known as St Kevin's kitchen. This beautiful building has a stone roof, the steep roof formed of overlapping stones is supported internally by a semi circular vault. The

stone belfry with its conical cap and 4 small windows rises from the west end of the roof in the form of a miniature round tower.

St Kieran's church

The remains of this nave and chancel church were uncovered in 1875. the church commemorates St Kieran the founder of clonmacnoise, a monastic settlement that had strong associations with Glendalough during the 10th century.

St. Mary's church

St. Mary's church is also known as our lady's church. One of the best constructed and earliest churches in the monastery. St Mary's church consists of a nave and a chancel. Its granite stone west doorway, with an architrave, has inclined jams and a massive lintel. The under side of the lintel is inscribed unusual saltier (x shaped) cross.

Trinity church

A simple nave and a chancel church, with a fine chancel arch, trinity church is beside the main road. A square headed doorway in the west gable leads into a later annexe possible a sacristy. The doorway inserted in the south wall of the nave also dates from this period.

St Saviours Church

The most recent of the 7 churches in Glendalough, St Saviours was built in the 12th century, probably at the time of St Laurence O'Toole. The Romanesque chancel arch has 3 orders, with highly ornamented capitals. The east window has two round headed lights. Its decorated features include a serpent, a lion and two birds's holding a human head between their beaks.

Reefert Church

This church can be found in a grove of trees, this nave and chancel church dates from around 1100. The name comes from “high fearta” the burial place of the kings. The church, built in a simple style has a granite doorway with sloping jambs and a flat lintel and a granite chancel arch.

Temple-na-Skellig Church

This small rectangular church on the southern shore of the upper lake is accessible only by boat. The church, partly rebuilt in the 12th century, has a granite doorway with inclined jambs. At the east gable is an inscribed Latin cross together with several plain grave slabs and 3 small crosses.

Laragh

Laragh is a small picturesque village in county Wicklow one mile from Glendalough. It lies at a junction of 3 roads through the Wicklow mountains, Sally gap and Glenmacnass waterfall are to the north, to the west is Glendalough and the Wicklow gap and to the south is Glenmalure valley