

carlow autumn walking festival 2014

friday 3rd october - sunday 5th october



Walking the Blackstairs Mountains during Carlow's Autumn Walking Festival



Walking along the River Barrow



Highlights for 2014

Choice of walks for beginner, experienced or advanced walkers
Canoeing tours along the River Barrow daily 4th - 5th October
Walk with Éanna Ní Lamhna from RTÉ Saturday 4th October
Bike and Hike along the River Barrow daily 3rd - 5th October
Family friendly walks, history and heritage walks

carlow tourism, college street, carlow

t: +353 (0)59 913 0411

e: info@carlowtourism.com

www.carlowtourism.com/walkingfestival

organised by carlow tourism with the support of tullow mountaineering club, the blackstairs rambles and myshall muintir na tíre

introduction

The Carlow Autumn Walking Festival is a great opportunity for beginner, experienced or advanced walkers to enjoy the challenge of Carlow's mountain treks or the peace of its woodland and forest parks. A beautiful and varied landscape, knowledgeable local guides and excellent accommodation all combine to ensure you enjoy a relaxing Autumn break.

guidelines for walkers - choosing the correct walk

A walk - very experienced hillwalkers

B walk - experienced hillwalkers

C walk - leisure/regular walkers

Walkers should be satisfied that they are fully capable of undertaking their chosen walk. If in doubt please consult the guides or organisers present. Attendees should also consult the list of participation rules on www.carlowtourism.com/walkingfestival prior to arrival.

Registration for all A and B walks takes place in the Village Hall, Main Street, Borris, Co. Carlow at 9 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday (transport to/from start/finish of walk is provided).

description of routes

friday, 3rd october

B walk - Walk 1

Description: Night Hike

Time: 6.30 p.m.

Walking time: approx. 2 to 3 hours. Route will depend on weather and will be decided on the night. Torch essential.

Registration: The Village Hall, Main Street, Borris

A great opportunity to experience the magic of walking in the mountains at night time. Experienced guides from local clubs who have regular night walks all year round will accompany the walk.

saturday, 4th october

A walk - Walk 2

start point: Nine Stones, Mount Leinster

actual distance: 17.4 km max height: 795 metres

walking time: 7 hours approx finish point: Knockmulgurry

Starting from the Nine Stones you ascend Mount Leinster in a southerly direction. From the TV mast you proceed southwards ascending onto Knockroe before descending into Scullogue Gap. From there the walk again ascends onto the Blackstairs Mountain with stunning views over Carlow and Wexford. Descending via Caher Roe's Den and Carrigalaghan Gap the walk finishes in Knockmulgurry.

saturday, 4th october

A++ walk - Walk 3

start point: Knockmulgurry

actual distance: 33 km max height: 734 metres

walking time: 8 hours approx finish point: Myshall

A comprehensive and very hard fast walk through the Blackstairs suitable for extremely fit walkers. Features Knockmulgurry, Cloroge Mór and Beg, Blackrock Mountain and John's Hill before finishing in Myshall.

A walk - Walk 4

start point: Near the village of Glynn, south of Borris

actual distance: 14.2 km max height: 732 metres

walking time: 6 hours approx finish point: Scullogue Gap

This walk commences near the South Blackstairs Ridge before travelling north to Carrigalachan Gap, over the Blackstairs and down to the Scullogue Gap. Also features a longer option via Knockroe.

B+ walk - Walk 5 Blackstairs Mountain Circuit

start point: Near Rathnure, Co. Wexford

actual distance: 15.5 km max height: 735 metres

walking time: 5 hours approx

finish point: Near Rathnure, Co. Wexford

This Blackstairs Mountain circuit starts from the east side of Blackstairs Mountain and includes the Blackstairs itself, Slievebawn, Cullentragh and Caher Roe's Den before returning to the start of the walk.

B walk - Walk 6

start point: Brandon Hill, near Graiguenamanagh

actual distance: 12 km max height: 520 metres

walking time: 4-5 hours approx finish point: Brandon Hill

This walk features forest tracks along open mountain offering fabulous views of the Barrow Valley. Includes a number of archaeological sites.

B walk - Walk 7

start point: Rathanna Village

actual distance: 10.2 km max height: 795 metres

walking time: 4 - 5 hours approx finish point: Tomduff

From near Rathanna Village this walk heads up a north eastern ridge to reach Mount Leinster before descending to the Nine Stones. From here it ascends once again to Slievebawn before finishing at Tomduff.

B walk - Walk 8

start point: Scratoes Bridge

actual distance: 13.7 km max height: 449 metres

walking time: 5 hours approx finish point: Myshall

Well known biologist Éanna Ní Lamhna leads this pleasant walk which includes a variety of habitats to John's Hill, the windmills at Greenoge, passing Croaghaun and Rosacurra before finishing in Myshall Village.



saturday, 4th october

B walk - Walk 9

start point:	Rathnageeragh Castle, near Myshall Village	
actual distance:	11.1km	max height: 522 metres
walking time:	5 hours approx	finish point: Nine Stones

This walk commences at Rathnageeragh Castle (in ruins) before ascending Slievebawn and then descending into Tomduff. From there the walk passes over the Nine Stones through Raheenkyle and Raheendarragh before ascending once again to finish at the Nine Stones vantage point.

B walk - Walk 10

start point:	Ballycrystal	
actual distance:	9.8 km	max height: 600 metres
walking time:	5 hours approx	finish point: Kilbrannish

Travelling from Ballycrystal the walker ascends Black Rock Mountain to reach the Turf Cutters Hut, used as a storage hut for turf before and during World War II. From there the route descends through the rugged beauty of the Clody Valley before finishing in Kilbrannish.

C walk - Walk 11

registration:	Village Hall, Main Street Borris at 2 p.m.	
start point:	Bus transport to Clashganny Viewing Point, 5km south of Borris	
actual distance:	6km	walking time: 1.5 hours approx
finish point:	Main Street, Borris Village	

Enjoy a stroll along the Barrow Way from Clashganny Lock to Borris Village looking at the trees, plants and insect life on this walking route in the company of Una Halpin from Wildways Adventures. This is a great opportunity to view and experience the Borris House Estate, ancestral home of the ancient Kings of Leinster, the MacMurrough Kavanaghs.

C walk - Walk 12

registration:	Village Hall, Myshall at 12 p.m.	
start point:	Bus transport to Corrabut Gap & return to Myshall	
actual distance:	3.5km	walking time: 3 hours approx
finish point:	Scratoe Bridge	max height: 522 metres

Starting from the Corrabut Gap, the walk ascends to the summit of Croaghaun where the walker will be rewarded with a fine view northwards over the plains of Carlow. From there the walk descends to Rossacurra before finishing at Scratoe Bridge.

C walk - Walk 13

registration:	Village Hall, Myshall at 3 p.m.	
start point:	Myshall Village	
walking time:	1 - 1.5 hours approx	Finish Point: Myshall Village

A leisurely, historic walk around Myshall Village, taking in numerous sites of interest including St. Finian's Church ruins, Myshall National School, the Village Pump and the Adelaide Memorial Church.

sunday, 5th october

A walk - Walk 14

start point:	Near Rathanna Village	
actual distance:	19.8 km	max height: 793 metres
walking time:	7 hours approx	finish point: Kilbrannish

Commences near Rathanna Village before ascending Knockroe, Cloroge Mór, Cloroge Beg, Black Rock Mountain and Mount Leinster. From there the walker descends through the picturesque woodlands of Kilbrannish South to the end of the walk.

A walk - Walk 15

start point:	Scullogue Gap (Ballycrystal Circuit)	
actual distance:	20 km	max height: 795 metres
walking time:	7 hours approx	finish point: Scullogue Gap

Departs from Scullogue Gap via woodland to Cloroge Mór and Cloroge Beg before ascending Black Rock Mountain and Mount Leinster and returning to finish at Scullogue Gap.

B walk - Walk 16

Introduction to Hillwalking

start point: Village Hall, Borris at 9.00am transport to start of walk

This mountain walk provides an insight into the skills required for hillwalking and coping with difficult situations. Areas covered include first aid, navigation, emergencies, gear requirements, the environment and Mountain Rescue and when to call it. Normal hill walking gear will be required. Note: this is not a formal course.

B walk - Walk 17

start point:	Knockmulgurry	
actual distance:	11.7 km	max height: 734 metres
walking time:	5 hours approx	finish point: Ballymurphy

The walk passes Carriagalachan Gap and Caher Roe's Den to the Blackstairs Mountain before ending near the village of Ballymurphy.

B walk - Walk 18

start point:	Near the village of Glynn, south of Borris	
actual distance:	10.9 km	max height: 505 metres
walking time:	5 hours approx	finish point: Knockmulgurry

Starting at the southern end of the Blackstairs Range the walk continues northwards to Carrigalachan Gap and then downwards to Knockmulgurry, near the village of Ballymurphy. Fabulous views of the south Blackstairs area.

B walk - Walk 19

start point:	Shannon's Lane	
actual distance:	11.6 km	max height: 581 metres
walking time:	5 hours approx	finish point: Shannon's Lane

This walk departs from Shannon's Lane at Scullogue Gap before crossing Cloroge Mór, the Ridge and returning to Shannon's Lane. View a number of interesting historic sites including the 1941 bombing of the Shannon family home by a German war plane.

B walk - Walk 20

Walk through time - history & heritage of the Blackstairs Mountains

start point: Village Hall, Borris at 9.00am transport to start of walk

This 4 – 5 hour mountain walk will explore the history and archaeology of the Blackstairs Mountain area. Artefacts on display include standing stones, ancient rock art, dolmens, old settlements and aircraft crash sites.

C walk - Walk 21

registration: Blackstairs Eco Trails, Killedmond, Borris at 2 p.m.

start point: Bus to Kilbrannish Wood and back

actual distance: 7.5 km walking time: 2 hours approx

finish point: Blackstairs Eco Trails, Killedmond, Borris

A Walk on the Wild Side with Mary White environmentalist and walking enthusiast. Visitors on this walk will forage for delicious edible greens and fungi. Learn about the native trees and mammals of the Mount Leinster area. Listen to bird song, identify wild herbs, watch out for beautiful butterflies and check out the flora and fauna of Kilbrannish Woods.

C walk - Walk 22 and 23 Myshall Village

Same walks in Myshall Village as per Saturday October 4th. Same registration point and times.

each walk features:

Experienced local guides, maps of each route, transport to/from start of the walk if required, sandwiches/refreshments upon completion of the route, musical entertainment Saturday 4th October at 9.30 p.m. in O' Shea's Pub, Main Street, Borris.

new 2014



Walking Centre at Blackstairs Eco Trails, Killedmond, Borris, Co. Carlow

Explore Mount Leinster and the River Barrow area throughout the year in a series of guided hikes, wild herbal workshops, foraging parties and wild mushroom hunts with local company Blackstairs Eco Trails. The new walking centre is truly environmentally friendly with state of the art eco insulation, green cement, organic paint, recycled stone and ethically sourced equipment used in it's renovation.

For more information t: 059 977 3184 m: 087 270 7189
e: blackstairsecotrails@gmail.com w: www.blackstairsecotrails.ie

upcoming events



Autumn Bilingual Festival 2nd - 9th October 2014

Féile an Fhómhair is a festival full of fun bilingual events for adults and children including music, drama, dance, workshops, storytelling, choral events, concerts and much more taking place in Carlow Town.

Also features Follow Me Up to Carlow Step-Dancing weekend from October 3rd - 5th.

A full festival programme will be available in September and for further information contact Glór Cheatharlach on T: 059 915 8105
M: 085 134 0047, 087 285 7048 or log onto www.glorcheatharlach.ie

complementary outdoor activities 3rd - 5th october

Safari Trail on the River Barrow



Three very special canoeing events with local company Go-With-The-Flow River Adventures on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Trails are designed with complete beginners in mind and will be led by qualified instructors who have years of adventure experience to call on. Along the way you will get to experience the river from a completely different perspective. There is usually plenty of wildlife including otters and kingfishers and you will learn all about the 220 year old navigation that was used to transport Ireland's favourite tippie Guinness around the South-East. Age is not a barrier or experience. All you need is a little sense of adventure

Cost: €35, Under 16's €25, Family of four €99

Meet in Borris at 10.30 a.m. Finish mid-afternoon in Graiguenamanagh.

For more information contact Charlie Horan T: 087 252 9700

E: info@gowiththeflow.ie W: www.gowiththeflow.ie

Bike Rental and Bike Tours

Location: Waterside Bike & Hike, Waterside Guesthouse, The Quay, Graiguenamanagh, Co. Kilkenny m: 086 408 4008 w: bike&hike@watersideguesthouse.com



Enjoy the Barrow Way from a different perspective. Bike and Hike offers bike rental and tours based in Graiguenamanagh in the beautiful River Barrow Valley. Perfect for groups, families or couples to explore the river towpath and discover wildlife, scenery and peace, hidden away along a traffic free greenway.

Cost: adults €15 per day, children €10 per day with adults bike or €15 per day otherwise.

upcoming events - saturday 11th october

Mensana Fest - Walk for Mental Health Week 2014

Walk for your Mental Health as part of Mensana Fest, Carlow Mental Health Week 2014 Organised by Carlow Mental Health Association. 10 a.m. from The Lord Bagenal, Leighlinbridge

**MENSANA
FEST**

8km looped riverside and road walk - Leave The Lord Bagenal Hotel in Leighlinbridge and walk the Barrow Way to Bagenalstown. From Bagenalstown back to Leighlinbridge on the road via Dunleckney and Green Road. There is a possibility of pick-up in Bagenalstown for those who only want to walk 3.5km. For further details contact Joanne Donohoe E: jdonohoe@carlowdevelopment.ie T: 059 972 0733

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION OFFERS

CONTACT PROPERTIES FOR BOOKINGS

Avlon House

Green Lane, Dublin Road, Carlow
t: 059 917 4222 e: info@avlonhouse.com
www.avlonhouse.com



- Stay & Save! 7% discount on stays of 2 nights & 10 % discount on stays of 3 nights or more. Book on-line or by phone.
- Light snacks available daily 4 - 8 p.m., packed lunches can be provided on request.
- Stay & Save at Avlon House B&B while visiting Carlow's gardens, rivers and walks, all year round.

Coolanowle Country House

Ballickmoyler, Co. Carlow
t: 059 862 5176 e: info@coolanowle.com
www.coolanowle.com



- 2 nights B&B, 2 evening meals & 2 packed lunches €160 pps
- 2 nights B&B, 1 evening meal & 2 packed lunches €125 pps
- 1 night B&B, 1 evening meal & 1 packed lunch €85 pps
- 2 nights B&B €90 pps only

Mulvarra House & Body Treatment Centre

St. Mullins, Co. Carlow
t: 051 424 936 e: info@mulvarra.com
www.mulvarra.com



- 2 B&B & 1 evening meal €95 pps
- B&B €35 pps per night. Dinner available €30 pp

Lorum Old Rectory

Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow
t: 059 977 5282
e: enquiry@lorum.com w: www.lorum.com



- 2 nights B&B, 2 evening meals & 2 packed lunches €240 pps
- 2 nights B&B, 1 evening meal & 2 packed lunches €200 pps
- 1 night B&B, 1 evening meal & 1 packed lunch €128 pps
- 1 nights B&B €75 pps only

Talbot Carlow

Portlaoise Road, Carlow.
t: 059 915 3000 e: sales@talbothotelcarlow.ie
www.talbotcarlow.ie



- 3 nights B&B, 2 dinners & 2 packed lunches from €179 pps
- 2 nights B&B, 1 dinner & 1 packed lunch from €139 pps
- 1 night B&B, 1 dinner & 1 packed lunch from €89 pps

The Woodford Dolmen Hotel

Kilkenny Road, Carlow
t: 059 914 2002 e: info@woodforddolmenhotel.ie
w: www.woodforddolmenhotel.ie



- Friday 3rd October: Dinner B&B and packed lunch €65 pps

NEW 2014 - ON-LINE REGISTRATION FORM

Registration can be completed on-line at www.carlowtourism.com/walkingfestival using our secure payment system or complete the application form below and return with payment to:
Carlow Tourism, College Street, Carlow

entry form

name: _____

address: _____

email: _____

telephone number: _____

entry fee: _____ enclosed _____

please indicate your preferred walking route(s)

day 1

friday, 3rd october

Walk 1: night time hike Cost: €20.00

day 2

saturday, 4th october

Walk 2 €20.00

Walk 3 €20.00

Walk 4 €20.00

Walk 5 €15.00

Walk 6 €15.00

Walk 7 €15.00

Walk 8 €15.00

Walk 9 €15.00

Walk 10 €15.00

Walk 11 €10.00

Walk 12 €10.00

Walk 13 €10.00

day 3

sunday, 5th october

Walk 14 €20.00

Walk 15 €20.00

Walk 16 €15.00

Walk 17 €15.00

Walk 18 €15.00

Walk 19 €15.00

Walk 20 €15.00

Walk 21 €10.00

Walk 22 €10.00

Walk 23 €10.00

2 day walking pass Cost: €30.00

3 day walking pass Cost: €40.00

Please complete this form and a written confirmation will be forwarded to you by return post. **Please do not arrive without having previously registered your intention to participate in the walking festival.**

If you decide to participate at short notice (from Wednesday 1st October) please contact the organisers directly to register your attendance m: 087 237 9213. **There are strict limits to the size of each walk.**

Forms should be returned with relevant payment to:
Carlow Tourism, College Street, Carlow.

Carlow Autumn Walking Festival
c/o Carlow Tourism
College Street
Carlow
Ireland



CARLOW
COUNTY COUNCIL
www.carlow.ie



Local Enterprise Office
LEO 1518, Ireland

*Some of the amazing views to be enjoyed
from the Blackstairs Mountains during the
Carlow Autumn Walking Festival.*

For design e: 1underthetreedesigns@gmail.com

