



# Dublin & Wicklow

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Rambling around the surprisingly unspoiled coastline of the **Howth Peninsula** (p43)
- Enjoying three days of consecutive scenic walking along the **Wicklow Way** (p49)
- Exploring Glendalough's awesome cliffs and lakes on the ascent to **Camaderry** (p59)
- Discovering the high-hanging valley on the climb to the top of mighty **Lugnaquilla** (p62)

**Highest peak in the region: Lugnaquilla, Wicklow Mountains, 925m**

Standing amid the urban bustle of O'Connell St on a busy afternoon, the idea of Dublin as a walking destination might seem ludicrous. Yet the truth is that Dubliners are blessed with a wide variety of walks within easy reach. For a flavour of the city itself, there's no better way to explore the capital's historic buildings, cultural sites and countless pubs than on foot. But if you prefer to escape the streets, you'll find green spaces and wild terrain are surprisingly close by. At the heart of the metropolis lies Phoenix Park, the largest urban park in Europe, where you can lose yourself for hours on end. To the north is Howth Peninsula with its scenic cliff walk, while to the south there's more rugged coastline between Bray and Greystones.

And then there are the Wicklow Mountains, which extend south from Dublin's fringes. Here you'll find 39 summits above 600m, culminating at the region's highest peak of Lugnaquilla (925m). Given the quality of the landscape and its proximity to the capital, it's not surprising that this is one of the most popular walking destinations in the country. With numerous mountain routes and the famous Wicklow Way, here's a perfect excuse for venturing beyond the city limits.

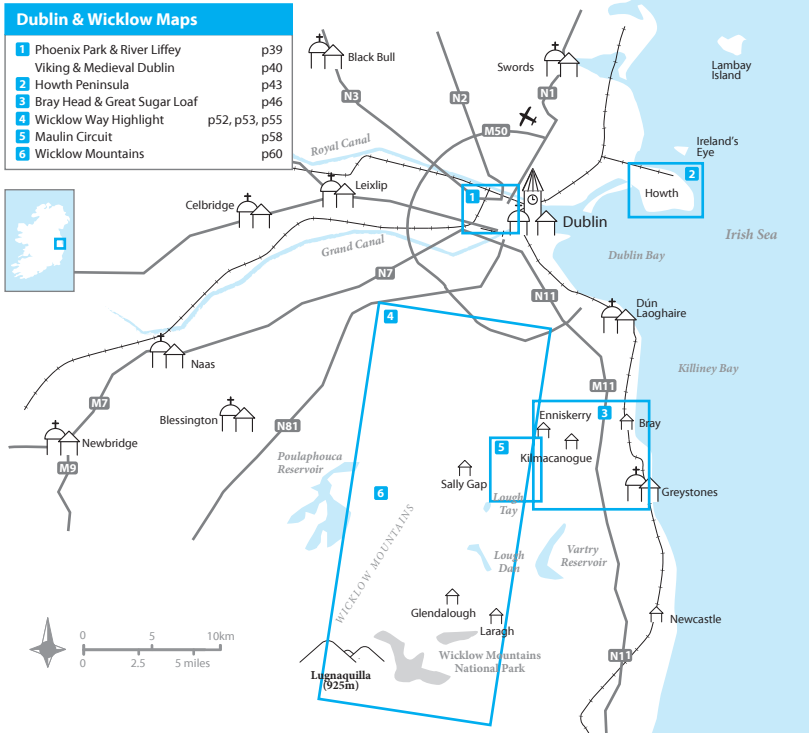
If time is short and you are restricted to a day trip, any of the walks described in this chapter are feasible from Dublin. Ideally, of course, your visit to Wicklow would last significantly longer, and you would base yourself closer to the mountains while exploring that area. Access is generally easy too – the remote valley of Glenmalure in the southern Wicklow Mountains is the only part of the region that's beyond the reach of public transport.



## DUBLIN & WICKLOW

### Dublin & Wicklow Maps

- |                                       |               |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>1</b> Phoenix Park & River Liffey  | p39           |
| Viking & Medieval Dublin              | p40           |
| <b>2</b> Howth Peninsula              | p43           |
| <b>3</b> Bray Head & Great Sugar Loaf | p46           |
| <b>4</b> Wicklow Way Highlight        | p52, p53, p55 |
| <b>5</b> Maulin Circuit               | p58           |
| <b>6</b> Wicklow Mountains            | p60           |



## PLANNING Maps & Books

The OSI 1:250,000 Holiday map *East* is best for general planning. Details of larger scale topographical maps are included in each walk description.

*New Irish Walk Guides: East of Ireland*, by Jean Boydell, David Herman and Miriam Joyce McCarthy, describes 67 walks and has interesting background information on the region.

## GATEWAY

See Dublin (p65).

## DUBLIN AREA

Though the city of Dublin is as busy and densely populated as any modern capital, it also benefits from close proximity to a

number of natural assets. The reason a settlement was established here in the first place was, of course, that this is where a major river flows into the sea, making it a perfect location for a port of trade. The same features that have allowed the city to thrive down the centuries are also those that make it attractive to today's walkers; namely the existence of the River Liffey and the surrounding coastline. With fine coastal paths to the north and south, a huge river-side park right at the heart of things, and talismanic peaks such as Great Sugar Loaf on the southern boundaries, this is a capital with surprisingly wild enclaves within easy reach of the city centre.

## PLANNING Maps & Books

The OSI 1:50,000 *Dublin City & Environs Motoring Map* is invaluable for navigating the road maze.