

Southeast

HIGHLIGHTS

- Watching for otters along the peaceful and verdant **River Barrow** (p72)
- Admiring spectacular waterfalls and glacial lakes in the **Comeragh Mountains** (p75)
- Scaling five peaks in a single day in the **Eastern Knockmealdowns** (p82)
- Standing tall atop the 900m-plus summit of **Galtymore** (p86)

Highest peak in the region: Galtymore, Galtee Mountains, 919m

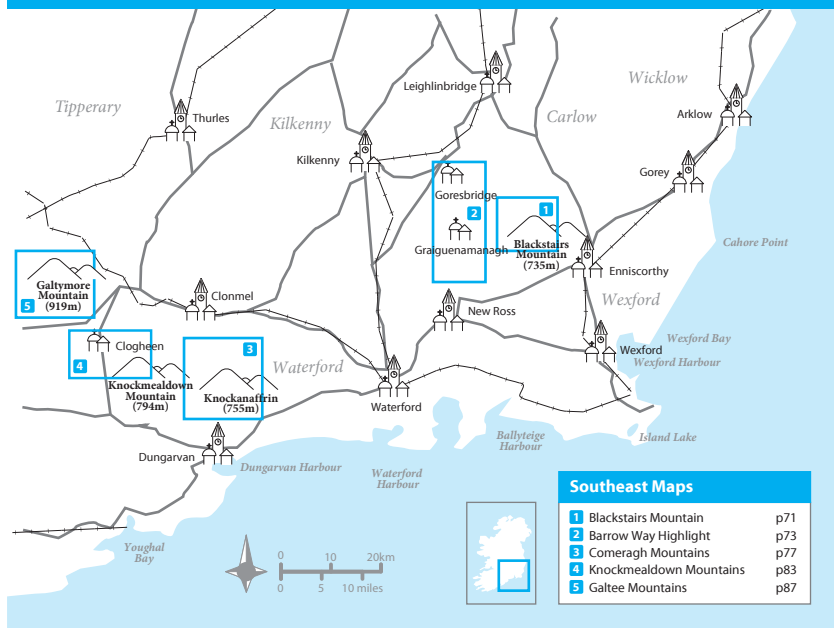
If you're someone who appreciates the relaxed atmosphere of rural Ireland and enjoys a variety of walking terrain, odds are you'll love Ireland's southeastern corner. The region may lack the rugged grandeur and wildness of the west, but its patchwork of farmland, villages and woodland – not to mention several fine mountain ranges – exude a captivating charm. If you enjoy mountain climbing you'll have the opportunity to discover some of the country's better-kept secrets, or if lowland routes are more your style, there's a gem or two on offer.

The mountains in these parts – the Comeragh, Knockmealdown, Galtee and Blackstairs ranges – rear abruptly skyward from pastoral surrounds. They tend to be just a single ridge wide, geological anomalies that provide fantastically scenic viewpoints over the surrounding landscape. Here you can escape the crowds that gather round Ireland's more popular peaks, then soak up the atmosphere of a quiet village pub in the evening.

The only disadvantage of the rural setting is a lack of public transport, and though the routes are all easily accessible by road, you'll appreciate having your own vehicle to reach them at your convenience.



SOUTHEAST



Southeast Maps

1	Blackstairs Mountain	p71
2	Barrow Way Highlight	p73
3	Comeragh Mountains	p77
4	Knockmealdown Mountains	p83
5	Galtee Mountains	p87

PLANNING

Maps

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.

Information Sources

The official tourist office for the region is **Fáilte Ireland South East** (☎ 051-875 823; www.discoverireland.ie/southeast; 41 The Quay, Waterford). It's worth visiting their website to get a general overview of the area, as well as checking practical information such as accommodation listings. The site features a section on special offers where discounts on travel and accommodation, activity-based packages and a range of seasonal deals in the area are listed. It's also a good source of information on various local festivals and events, and on traditional and historic attractions.

GATEWAY

See Kilkenny (p92).

BLACKSTAIRS & BARROW

Blackstairs Mountain and the River Barrow are a marriage of opposites – a rugged peak that rises high above a tranquil river. The mountain forms the eastern boundary of the river's catchment area, and provides an impressive backdrop to the patchwork of woodlands, fields and villages on the broad valley floor. Cutting through the heart of it all, the River Barrow once thronged with boats carrying cargo and people between Dublin and the south coast, but is now the preserve of fishermen and walkers. The small, historic town of Graiguenamanagh is a perfect base from which to explore the area – and don't overlook Brandon Hill (p73), just south of the town, from where you can contemplate both mountain and river and their beautiful setting.

ACCESS TOWN

See Graiguenamanagh (p92).