

# **GET IN GEAR**

### **MOUNTAIN BIKING**

The Dublin Mountains are a mecca for mountain bikers, with challenging trails to suits all levels depending on your skill, fitness and courage!

### TICKNOCK MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS 1

Ticknock's 16km of fast and fun trails will keep the most experienced bikers on the edge of their seat. Bike hire facilities, lessons and guided tours available. Contact: + 353 (0) 83 417 3899, +353 (0)83 414 7627, www.biking.ie

## GLENCULLEN ADVENTURE PARK 2

The GAP offers 13 action-packed trails of winds and bends, smoothed paths and dramatic ledges, and obstacles courses with roots and rocks. Bike hire and uplift facilities. Contact: +353 (0)1 294 2782, www.thegap.ie

### BIKE HIRE

HilltopTreks Bikes: Guided and self-guided tours of the Dublin Mountains on electric bikes, with collections from city centre. +353(0) 87 7849 599, www.hilltoptreks.ie

Biking.ie: Specialist mountain bike rental by the half-day and day. + 353 (0) 83 417 3899, +353 (0)83 414 7627, www.biking.ie Bleeper Bikes: Hire a bike using your smartphone. Visit www.bleeperbike.com for locations.

# HIT THE HEIGHTS

### SKIING 3

Get into winter at the dry ski slope near Kilternan. There's group ski and snowboarding lessons from September to April, or just head out for a practice session on your own. Ski and boot hire is included in the price. Contact: +353 (0)1 295 5658, www.skiclub.ie

# PAINTBALLING 4

Work out your anger issues or simply relive your childhood in a safe but competitive game of paintballing at Skirmish Paintball near Kilternan. Contact: +353 (0) 87 336 9107, www.skirmish.ie

### ZIPLINING 5

Take to the treetops, swing into cargo nets, ride a bmx across a bridge, and go zipping down any number of ziplines at the Zipit high-wire adventure park in Tibradden Wood Contact: +353 (0) 51 858 008, www.zipit.ie

**MORE INFORMATION AND ROUTE MAPS** 

Coillte - www.coillte.ie

Dublin Mountains Partnership – www.dublinmountains.ie

# REFUELLING

## **TOWNS & VILLAGES**

There are charming stop-off points in the Dublin Mountains where you can fuel your sporting

This village is on the route of the Wicklow Way. Stop off for a pint and bite to eat at the iconic Johnnie Fox's Pub, said to be the highest pub in Ireland.

### KILTERNAN

There's an excellent Country Market on Saturday mornings, the ruins of Kilternan Abbey close to the Golden Ball pub, and a dry ski slope just a couple of kilometres down the road.

# SHANKILL

The starting (or finishing) point of the Dublin Mountains Way, Shankill village has an excellent selection of shops, cafés, restaurants, and pubs if you're looking for a pre- or post-hike bite.

### STEPASIDE

With several shops and restaurants, this is the perfect staging post to grab a bite to eat or stock up on supplies for your hike!

# WALKING TOURS

Several companies operate walking tours in the Dublin Mountains using expert local guides, while the Dublin Mountains Partnership also provides free guided walks. Here are a few favourites...

## THE FULL MOON WALK

This cracking night walk to the Ballycorus Lead Mines offers stunning views of Dublin City and the coast. Check for a clear night! www.hilltoptreks.ie

## **DUBLIN MOUNTAINS PARTNERSHIP**

The Dublin Mountains Partnership run regular free guided walks along different routes throughout the mountains — often incorporating themes such as dog walking, map-reading and photography. Visit www.dublinmountains.ie for more information.

## **DUBLIN MOUNTAINS PUB TOUR**

Not so much a walk but a terrific opportunity to savour the mountain views while sampling great hospitality at iconic pubs including The Blue Light, the Merry Ploughboy and Johnnie Fox's.

+353 (0) 1 410 0700

Trails and Tales: www.trailsandtales.ie,

Hiking Ireland: www.hikingireland.ie,

+353 (0) 87 9324036

www.dublinmountains.ie

# SADDLE UP & RIDE OUT

with a pony trek or riding lesson.

### GEt IN TOUCH

Carrickmines Riding Stables: +353 (0)1 295 5990, www.carrickminesequestrian.ie 6 Killegar Riding Stables: +353 (0)1 2860919, www.killegarstables.com 🕡

The Paddocks Riding Centre: +353 (0)1 295 4278, www.paddocks.ie 8 Kellystown Riding School: +353 1 495 4004,

If you prefer a flutter on the horses then there's no better bet than a day at **Leopardstown Racecourse**.

## **GET IN THE SWING**

**PITCH & PUTT GOLF Glencullen Pitch & Putt:** +353 (01) 295 4231 11 **Stepaside Golf Centre & Driving** Range: +353 (0) 1 295 3326, www.stepasidegolfcentre.ie 🔱 The Burrow Par 3 Golf Course, Stepaside: +353 (0)87 202 5620 13 Rainforest Adventure Mini Golf,

**Dundrum Town Centre:** +353 (0)1 296 4588, www.rainforestadventuregolf.ie 114

# Dublin

# **GETTING HERE**

### **CITY CENTRE TO THE MOUNTAINS IN 30 MINUTES**

The Dublin Mountains rise just 10km from Dublin city centre and offer the perfect escape from the hustle and bustle of urban life!

## **PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

Plan your journey using a smart combination of Dublin Bus, Luas tram and DART train routes at www. hittheroad.ie. and enjoy the cheapest fares with the Leap Visitor Card. See www.leapcard.ie for more.



Dublin Bus operates extensive services into the mountains. Visit www.dublinbus.ie to plan your trip.



The Luas green line provides great access points to the Dublin Mountains. Visit www.luas.ie.



Many great walks can be accessed by train from Dublin city centre. Visit www.dart.ie.

## **PRIVATE TRANSPORT**

There's convenient free parking for drivers throughout the Dublin Mountains, while many activity operators offer collection services. Use their contact information in this guide, or visit www.dlrtourism.ie.



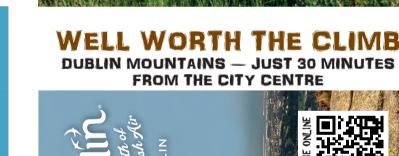
## HORSE RIDING

Savour some spectacular views from the saddle

www.kellystownridingschool.com

Visit www.leopardstown.com for more. 10





**GARDEN & PARKS** 

super activities and for all the family.

AIRFIELD 15

MARLAY PARK 17

Home to an historic

Saturday farmer's

par-3 golf course,

model railway,

trails, and much

more.

market, playground,

running and walking

FERNHILL GARDENS 18

make this a delightful stop-off.

stately home,

There are many beautiful gardens and parks offering

Don't miss the agri-gardens and vintage car museum

at this urban farm. You can also step back in time

CABINTEELY HOUSE AND GARDENS 16

café. +353 (0) 1 969 6666, www.airfield.ie

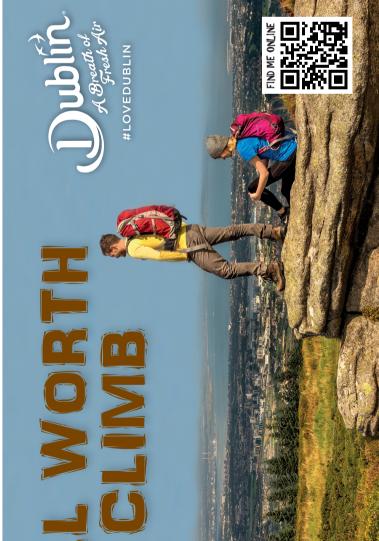
in the stately home and grab a bite in the excellent

Fascinating history and stunning gardens with views

over Dublin Bay. There's also lovely food in the café.

Stunning and rare collections of plants, trees and

shrubs, including rhododendrons and magnolias,





# WALK THIS WAY

The Dublin Mountains are a walker's paradise, with marked routes to suit all levels and unbeatable views over Dublin City.

## **TOP WALK & VIEWS** THE DUBLIN MOUNTAINS WAY P .

This marked trail runs 43km from Shankill village across the mountains. It's a strenuous full day's hike of around 12.5 hours, although individual stages can be walked in an hour or two. Here are some of the best:

## SHANKILL TO SCALP LOOP P

This moderate 12km loop hike takes 3-4 hours. From Brady's pub in Shankill, follow the marked trail through Rathmichael Wood and Carrickgollogan, past the Lead Mine to Barnaslingan Wood and the stunning 'Scalp' viewing point.

FAIRY CASTLE LOOP P The 5.5km, 1 ¾ hours Fairy Castle Loop on Ticknock Hill is of moderate difficulty. Savour fantastic views over Dublin and go searching for fairies at the romantic Fairy Castle ruins – a cairn which marks the highest point of the Dublin Mountains.

HELLFIRE CLUB Allow 1.5 hours for this relatively easy, 5.5km walk through Massy's Estate takes in the notorious Hellfire Club – a remote 'hunting lodge' lodge built in 1725 which is said to have once been used for satanic rituals!

# TIBRADDEN WOOD P

This beautiful trail starts in a forest with Scots pine, Japanese larch, European larch, Sitka spruce, oak and beech trees. When you emerge from the wood, there is an open cairn and Cist burial site, which is a great place to take in the views. Moderate, 2.5km/2hours.

# KILLINEY HILL P

A popular destination for walkers because of spectacular views which stretch north as far as Ulster, east across the Irish Sea to Wales, and south and west to the Dublin and Wicklow Mountains.

Don't let the name fool you, this iconic mountain walk starts in Dublin. Stage one runs 12km from Marlay Park to Glencullen village. wonderful views and the prospect of a great meal at the finish!

# THE WICKLOW WAY P

It takes 4 hours and boasts

www.ruraltours.ie

## WALKING TOUR OPERATORS Hilltop Treks: www.hilltoptreks.ie,

+353(0) 87 7849 599 Extreme Ireland: www.extremeireland.ie,

+353 (0) 87 121 3360 Mountain Trails: www.mountaintrails.ie

+353 (0) 86 603 0482 Rural Tours: www.ruraltours.ie, +353 (0) 1 4958111,

**Dublin Mountains Partnership:** 



