

# Wicklow Mountains National Park

# Events 2012

## Wicklow Mountains National Park

Wicklow Mountains National Park covers approximately 20,000 hectares of the Wicklow Mountains. It is managed by the National Parks & Wildlife Service, under the auspices of the Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht. The Park was established in 1991.



### Contact Us

Education Centre: 0404 45656  
Information Office: 0404 45425  
Park Headquarters: 0404 45800  
Email: [wmpn@environ.ie](mailto:wmpn@environ.ie)

[www.wicklowmountainsnationalpark.ie](http://www.wicklowmountainsnationalpark.ie)

[www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie)

## Calendar

24 March	Grouse Hike
28 April	Bumblebee Workshop
20 May	Dawn Chorus
?? June	Falcon Watch
13 June	Bat Walk
10 July	Family Fun: Flowers
11 July	Bat Walk
12 July	Family Fun: Flowers
14 July	Butterfly Workshop
17 July	Family Fun: Birds
18 July	Bug Walks
19 July	Family Fun: Birds
24 July	Family Fun: Bugs
25 July	Bug Walks
26 July	Family Fun: Bugs
28 July	Bog Day
31 July	Family Fun: Mammals
2 August	Family Fun: Mammals
7 August	Family Fun: Trees
8 August	Bug Walks
9 August	Family Fun: Trees
14 August	Family Fun: Bats
15 Aug	Family Bat Talk & Bat Walk
16 August	Family Fun: Bats
21 August:	Family Fun: Habitats
23 August	Family Fun: Habitats
7 October	National Trails Day
13 October	Rut Watch
20 October	Rut Watch

More events will be added if resources allow.  
Please check our website.



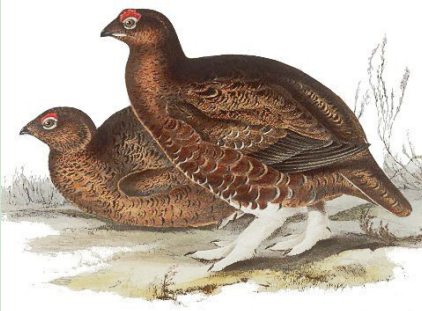
An Roinn  
Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta  
Department of  
Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

# Wicklow Mountains National Park

## Bird Events

### Grouse Hike

10 a.m. Saturday 24 March

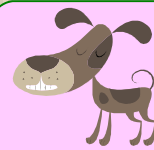


The Red Grouse is an iconic bird of heather moorland. Sadly, its numbers are declining. Join us on this slow hike of 4 to 5 hours across open mountain, where we will discuss the ecology and management of the species. If we are lucky we may also see some grouse, but sightings cannot be guaranteed.

**Location:** We shall be meeting opposite Ballinastoe Golf Club near Roundwood. Participants will need their own transport to get there.

**Practicalities:** This hike is for adults only. Please bring a packed lunch and be equipped for hiking in bad weather—hiking boots & rain gear are essential. No dogs please. This event is free of charge.

**Bookings:** Booking is essential. Places are limited. To book, please phone 0404 45656 (Mon to Fri) or 0404 45425 (Sat & Sun). Bookings taken from Sat 10 March.



Sorry,  
No Dogs on  
our Events



### Dawn Chorus

with Birdwatch Ireland

5.00 a.m. Sunday 20 May

Sunday 20th May is Dawn Chorus Day, and all over Ireland people will be getting up incredibly early to join a guided walk to listen to and learn the birds' songs. The National Park is delighted to once again welcome the staff of Birdwatch Ireland to host this walk. There is an optional Birdsong Workshop in the Education Centre after the walk.

**Location:** The Information Office, by the Upper Lake, Glendalough.

**Practicalities:** Adults & children welcome. No dogs. This event is free of charge, but please be aware that the Upper Lake car park (Wicklow Co. Council) has a €4 charge.

**Booking:** Booking is not necessary. For more information, please phone 0404 45425.

### Falcon Watch

Date to be confirmed



If we can find a suitable nest, we hope to host a Falcon Watch, with telescopes trained on a Peregrine falcon nest as the chicks are about to fledge. However, the event is totally dependent on the birds themselves – will they nest successfully, and if they do, will it be in a suitable site for our Falcon Watch? Please check our website

throughout June, and details will be announced as soon as the event can be confirmed.

**Location:** Glendalough.

**Practicalities:** All welcome. Stop by our telescopes any time between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Bring binoculars if you have them. Free of charge, but please be aware that the Upper Lake car park (Wicklow Co. Council) has a €4 charge.

**Booking:** Booking is not necessary.

For more information, please phone 0404 45425.

# Wicklow Mountains National Park

## Bat Events



### Bat Walks

9.30 p.m. Wednesday 13 June  
9.30 p.m. Wednesday 11 July  
8.30 p.m. Wednesday 15 August

Due to popular demand, we are scheduling three Bat Walks this year. Each walk starts at dusk as we watch the bats emerge from their maternity roost in the Information Office. We shall then head off on a stroll to see some other species. All ages are welcome. The August walk has an earlier start time and is particularly suitable for families with small children.

**Location:** The Information Office, Upper Lake, Glendalough.

**Practicalities:** All welcome. No dogs. Participants are advised to bring insect repellent and a torch. This event is free of charge, but please be aware that the Upper Lake car park (Wicklow Co. Council) has a €4 charge.

**Booking:** Booking is not required.

### Family Bat Talk

7.30 p.m. Wednesday 15 August

Join us for a Bat Talk in the Education Centre at 7.30 p.m. before the Bat Walk at 8.30p.m. Aimed at both children and adults, this talk aims to dispel some of the myths about bats, and to entertain you with the true facts.

**Location:** The Education Centre, by the Upper Lake, Glendalough.

**Practicalities:** All welcome. No dogs. Participants are advised to bring insect repellent and a torch. This event is free of charge, but please be aware that the Upper Lake car park (Wicklow Co. Council) has a €4 charge.

**Booking:** Booking is not required.

For more information, please phone 0404 45425.



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## Bug Walks



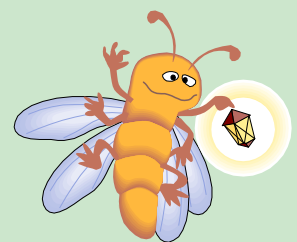
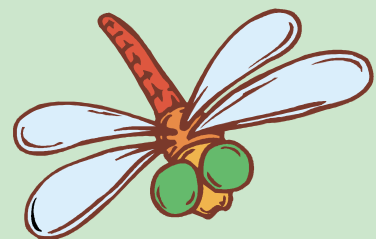
11 a.m. Wednesday 18 July  
2 p.m. Wednesday 18 July  
11 a.m. Wednesday 25 July  
2 p.m. Wednesday 25 July  
11 a.m. Wednesday 8 August  
2 p.m. Wednesday 8 August

Our bug safaris have always proven hugely popular with both adults and children. Get up close and personal with beautiful butterflies, ferocious dragonflies, cute little ladybirds, and love 'em or loath 'em spiders! Due to popular demand, we are offering several Bug Walks this year.

**Location:** The Information Office, by the Upper Lake, Glendalough.

**Practicalities:** Adults and children welcome. Family friendly, although not suitable for buggies. No dogs. Participants should bring a jar with a lid to help examine the bugs. This event is free of charge, but please be aware that the Upper Lake car park (Wicklow Co. Council) has a €4 charge.

**Booking:** Booking is essential. To book, please phone 0404 45425. Bookings taken from 2 weeks before each walk.

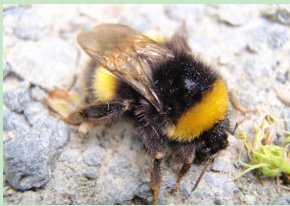


# Wicklow Mountains National Park

## Workshops

### Bumblebee Workshop

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Saturday 28 April



At least a third of Ireland's 18 bumblebee species are threatened with extinction. Join us to learn about them and how to identify them. The workshop consists of a lecture inside followed by an identification walk.

**Location:** The Education Centre, Upper Lake, Glendalough.

**Practicalities:** Adults only. No dogs. This event is free of charge, but please be aware that the Upper Lake car park (Wicklow Co. Council) has a €4 charge.

**Booking:** Booking is essential. To book, please phone 0404 45656 (Monday to Friday) or 0404 45425 (weekends). Bookings will be taken from Sat 14 April.



### Butterfly Workshop

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Saturday 14 July

Did you know that Ireland has 33 species of butterfly? Unlike many of our invertebrate species, butterflies are easy to identify and with a little bit of

effort, anyone can become competent at telling their Peacocks from their Tortoiseshells. This workshop shall start with a lecture to learn about Ireland's butterflies, and shall be followed by a walk to net and examine the butterflies in the field.

**Location:** The Education Centre, by the Upper Lake, Glendalough.

**Practicalities:** Adults only. No dogs. This event is free of charge, but please be aware that the Upper Lake car park (Wicklow Co. Council) has a €4 charge.

**Booking:** Booking is essential. To book, please phone 0404 45425. Bookings will be taken from Sat 30 June.

## Rut Watches

11 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Saturday 13 October  
Saturday 20 October

Wicklow is home to a large population of wild deer. They are particularly impressive in autumn when they 'rut'. National Park staff shall have telescopes set up on the Spinc walking trail between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. Anyone walking on this route is welcome to stop by, view the deer through the telescopes and discuss the deer and their ecology with our staff.



**Location:** The Spinc walking trail (white arrows), Glendalough. Participants are advised to visit to the Information Office (Upper Lake, Glendalough) to get directions to the telescopes before setting out.

**Practicalities:** The Spinc trail takes 3 hours. All are welcome, although the hike may be too long for young children. Please note, that participants will not be escorted on the hike. Hiking boots and rain gear are recommended. Bring binoculars if you have them. All dogs must be kept on leads. This event is free of charge, but please be aware that the Upper Lake car park (Wicklow Co. Co.) has a €4 charge.

**Booking:** Booking is not necessary. For more information, please phone 0404 45656 (Monday to Friday) or 0404 45425 (weekends).

# Wicklow Mountains National Park

## Bog Day

11 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Saturday 28 July

Ireland's bogs are incredibly special places. Plants and animals need to be very special just to survive in this challenging landscape. Join us to explore a small area of bog by the Wicklow Gap. We shall have various activities—pond dipping, plant identification, telescopes, and a scavenger hunt. Please drop by any time during 11a.m. and 4p.m. All ages are welcome— we shall have something to interest everyone.



**Location:** The Wicklow Gap. Park in either the Wicklow Gap car park or the Turlough Hill car park.

**Practicalities:** All welcome, but please leave your dogs at home. Participants are welcome to drop by any time between 11a.m. and 4p.m. and to stay as long or as short as you wish. The area is quite exposed, so please wear warm clothes. Wellies or hiking boots are recommended. This event is free of charge.

**Booking:** Booking is not required. For more information, please phone 0404 45425.



## Family Fun

### Family Fun Day Themes

Tuesday 10 July: Flowers  
Thursday 12 July: Flowers

Tuesday 17 July: Birds  
Thursday 19 July: Birds

Tuesday 24 July: Bugs  
Thursday 26 July: Bugs

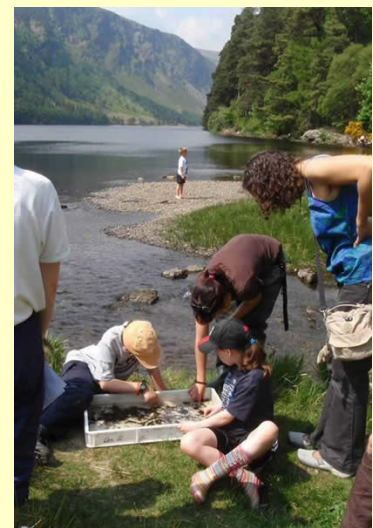
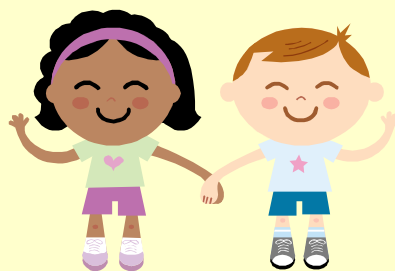
Tuesday 31 July: Mammals  
Thursday 2 August: Mammals

Tuesday 7 August: Trees  
Thursday 9 August: Trees

Tuesday 14 August: Bats  
Thursday 16 August: Bats

Tuesday 21 August: Habitats  
Thursday 23 August: Habitats

2 - 4 pm  
Tuesdays & Thursdays  
in July and August



Parents are invited to bring their children (aged 4 - 12 yrs) to a mixed afternoon of nature-based activities. Each week features a different theme. Please note that an adult must stay with the children, and be prepared to help! Due to popular demand, we now have two Family Fun sessions each week – on Tuesday and Thursday (with the same theme on both Tuesday & Thursday).

**Booking:** Booking is essential. Family Fun sessions can fill up extremely quickly. In order to make it fair for all, bookings will be taken from 9 a.m. one week prior to each Family Fun day. (For example, bookings will be taken from 9 a.m. on Tuesday for the following Tuesday, and from 9 a.m. on Thursday for the following Thursday.)

To book, please phone 0404 45656.



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## National Trails Day

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Saturday 7 October

To celebrate National Trails Day, we are giving out a free Walking Trails of Glendalough leaflet and a free Nature Trail leaflet to each family or group that stops in to our Information Office.



**Location:** The Information Office, by the Upper Lake, Glendalough.

**Practicalities:** Please note, that participants will not be escorted on their walk. Hiking boots and rain gear are recommended for some of our trails. This event is free of charge, but please be aware that the Upper Lake car park (Wicklow Co. Council) has a €4 charge.

**Booking:** Booking is not required. For more information, please phone 0404 45656 (Monday to Friday) or 0404 45425 (weekends).

## What Else Are We Doing?

### Native Species Weekend At Dublin Zoo

Saturday 19 & Sunday 20 May

Wicklow Mountains National Park shall be hosting a stand at this annual event in the zoo. Several other organisations that protect and conserve Irish species and habitats shall also be there. Why not visit us this weekend, and add an extra dimension to your Zoo trip?

**Location:** Dublin Zoo, Phoenix Park.

**Practicalities:** Adults & children welcome. There is no additional charge for the Native Species Weekend, but the usual Zoo entry fees do apply.

**Booking:** Booking is not necessary. For more information, please see the Zoo's website, [www.dublinozoo.ie](http://www.dublinozoo.ie).



### Education Centre

The National Park's Education Centre, beside the Upper Lake in Glendalough, offers a varied programme of nature awareness and fieldwork days for primary and secondary schools. We also welcome other groups including Active Retirement groups, special needs schools, third level. All our services are free of charge.

Please check our website for more details.  
[www.wicklowmountainsnationalpark.ie](http://www.wicklowmountainsnationalpark.ie)

### Information Office

The National Park's Information Office is open daily from May to September, and during school holidays at Easter and Christmas. At all other times it is open weekends only. Inside you will find information on trails, natural history, and archaeology. There are stuffed animals to pet and microscopes to explore. Walkers will find a range of maps for sale. First Aid and Lost Property facilities are also located here.

Admission is free of charge.

