

A Guide to Angling in County Wicklow, Ireland

County Wicklow, the Garden of Ireland, is renowned for its magnificent landscape, dramatic loughs, mountainous terrain and long sandy beaches. With a large range of rivers, lakes and sea fishing opportunities to choose from, your angling holiday in County Wicklow will certainly be an enjoyable one. County Wicklow has some of the best river, lake and sea fishing available in Ireland and visiting anglers are welcome to fish by becoming a member of the controlling club or by purchasing a day, week or season permit.

The County Wicklow rivers, lakes and species available are:

1. The River Dargle for salmon, sea and brown trout
2. The River Vartry for sea and brown trout
3. The Avonmore River for brown trout
4. The Aughrim River for brown trout and occasional rainbow trout
5. The Blessington lake for brown trout, pike, perch and roach
6. The Roundwood Lakes for brown trout
7. The River Derry for salmon and brown trout
8. The River Slaney for brown trout and salmon

A useful guide giving more detailed information on the rivers of Ireland is the "Trout and Salmon Rivers of Ireland, An angler's Guide", by Peter O'Reilly which is available at all good book shops.

The Waterside Code of Behaviour for Anglers.

1. Leave no litter, plastic bags, fishing line or bait bags.
2. Never cross lands that are not sign-posted and that have no fishing structures.
3. When in doubt ask permission to cross lands.
4. Do not drive cars into fields.
5. Do not cross meadows. Always walk along the waterside.
6. Close all gates and light no fires.
7. Respect the landowner's property.
8. Do not fish near overhead electricity wires.
9. In the interest of disease prevention, visiting anglers are advised to disinfect their nets, waders etc. before using them on Irish waters.

Permits (Tickets)

Visiting anglers are welcome to enjoy the excellent angling facilities in County Wicklow, known as "The Garden of Ireland". However, most of the rivers in the County are controlled by local angling clubs and therefore anyone wishing to fish must first become an associate member of the club or purchase in advance a day, week or season permit. Permits are also called "tickets" and are available from local fishing tackle shops. Permits are also required for those wanting to fish on the Blessington and Roundwood Lakes. Permits are not required for sea angling.

Licences

A state licence is required for salmon and sea trout angling only. Licences can be obtained from:

| Location | Address | Telephone | Distance from Glenmalure Lodge by car |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Frankie Sports | The Mall, Wicklow Town | +353 404 69351 | 25 minutes |
| Bray Sports Centre | 8 Main Street, Bray, County Wicklow | +353 +353 1 286 3046 | 35 minutes |

| | | | |
|----------------------------|---|-----------------|------------|
| Viking Tackle Shop | 79 Castle Street, Bray, County Wicklow | +353 1 286 9215 | 35 minutes |
| Rory's Fishing Tackle Shop | 17a Temple Bar, Dublin 2 | 353 1 877 2351 | 90 minutes |

The salmon/sea trout angler needs a state licence AND a Permit (Ticket) for fishing.

Licence fees are as follows:

| Adult/Juvenile | Period | District | Price [Eur] |
|---------------------|--------|-----------------|-------------|
| Adult | Season | All Districts | 55.00 |
| Adult | Season | Single District | 25.00 |
| Juvenile (under 18) | Season | All Districts | 10.00 |
| Adult | 21 day | All Districts | 20.00 |
| Adult | 1 day | All Districts | 10.00 |

Maps

Ordinance Survey maps covering all fishing areas in County Wicklow are provided in Glenmalure Lodge.

Tackle Shops

| Town | Shop | Address | Telephone | Distance by Car from Glenmalure Lodge |
|--------------|--|---|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Aughrim | Michael and Bridget Morris (Newsagents), | Main Street, Aughrim, County Wicklow. | +353 402 36234 | 15 minutes |
| Wicklow Town | Frankie Sports | The Mall, Wicklow Town. | +353 404 69351 | 25 minutes |
| Wicklow Town | Wicklow Sports Centre | Fitzwilliam Square, Wicklow Town. | +353 404 67578 | 25 minutes |
| Arklow | Bolands | 22 Main Street, Arklow, County Wicklow. | +353 402 32201 | 30 minutes |
| Arklow | Power Sound | 12 Main Street, Arklow, County Wicklow. | +353 402 33966 | 30 minutes |
| Bray | Bray Sports Centre | 8 Main Street, Bray, County Wicklow | +353 +353 1 286 3046 | 35 minutes |
| Bray | Viking Tackle Shop | 79 Castle Street, Bray, County Wicklow | +353 1 286 9215 | 35 minutes |
| Blessington | Charles Camping | Main Street, Blessington | +353 45 865 351 | 40 minutes |

Game Angling

The Avonmore River (10 minutes by car from Glenmalure Lodge)

Fishing Available: Brown Trout

The Avonmore River is a lovely wide river with deep pools, which flows through the stunning Vale of Clara, one of the most beautiful wooded valleys in Ireland. The river holds large stocks of Brown Trout. The lower reaches of the Avonmore from Clara Bridge to the Meeting of the Waters are club-controlled by the Rathdrum Anglers Club.

Club Secretary: Peter Driver, Glassanarget, Rathdrum, Tel. +353 404 46304

Season: Brown Trout - March 15th to September 30th.

Membership: Eur30 per season and this includes personal accident and public liability insurance. Contact the Secretary.

Day Tickets: One day Eur5.00, 2 days Eur8.00 and weekly Eur30.00 tickets are available. Public liability insurance is only covered by these tickets. Day tickets are available from

- The Tourist Information Centre, Main Street, Rathdrum, County Wicklow. Tel +353 404 46262.
- McNabbs Newsagents, Lower Main Street, Rathdrum, County Wicklow. Tel. +353 404 46103.
- The Meetings Bar and Lounge, Vale of Avoca, Tel. +353 402 35226.

Access: Clara Bridge on the R755 Rathdrum - Laragh Road. A forest access track parallels the river on the East side for most of the way to Rathdrum. Also access can be gained at Rathdrum (The Old Mill) on the R752 Wicklow road and at the Avondale Forest Park (car park charge). Also there is access at the Lion's Arch and the Meeting of the Waters, 6km south of Rathdrum on R752 - Arklow road.

Best Fishing: In May, June and July and usually after a flood. Some of the best fishing is situated in the Avondale Forest Park, situated 1km south of Rathdrum. Spinning and bait fishing are best in March and April. Early evening fishing is best from June to mid-August from 9.30 pm until dusk.

Club Rules: All fish under 8 inches (20cm) must be returned alive to the river with wet hands.

Average brown trout size: A 0.5lb (0.2kg) trout is considered good.

The River Derry and Derry Water River (15 minutes by car from Glenmalure Lodge)

Fishing Available: Salmon and Brown Trout

The River Derry rises near Knockannana village (11 kilometres north of Tinahely) and flows southwards through Tinahely, Shillelagh and Clonegal to meet the River Slaney near Kildavin. It holds occasional salmon and small brown trout and is an important spawning and nursery river for the River Slaney salmon. The controlling club is the Derry and District Angling Club. The Derry Water River is a separate tributary, which rises near Tinahely and flows north-eastwards to form the Auhgrim River west of Auhgrim village. For further information write to the club secretary.

Club Secretary: Stephen Kavanagh, Carnew, County Wicklow.

Best Fishing: In May to July, a mile upstream of Aughrim village.

Annamoe Leisure Park and Trout Farm (15 minutes by car from Glenmalure Lodge)

This leisure park is set in a 9 acre scenic woodland area on the banks of the Avonmore River and is situated on the R755 road to Glendalough from Roundwood. Features include a shallow 1m deep lake with canoes and rafts, adventure play areas and a separate lake for fishing, which is stocked so you are guaranteed a catch. Fishing rods and bait supplied. The Leisure Park and Trout Farm is open daily from 10.30am to 6.30pm from June to August and at weekends in May and September. Tel. +353 404 45470.

The Aughrim River (15 minutes by car from Glenmalure Lodge)

Fishing Available: Brown Trout

The Aughrim River is approximately 8km long and it flows south-eastwards to meet the Avoca River at Woodenbridge. It is one of the few rivers, which flow over limestone in County Wicklow, and brown trout thrive in such waters. The Aughrim River is controlled by the Aughrim and District Trout Angling Club.

Club Secretary: Mr. Dudley Byrne, Main Street, Aughrim, County Wicklow. Tel. +353 402 36161.

Season: Brown Trout - March 15th to September 30th.

Permits (Tickets): Eur6.35 per day, Eur12.70 per week available from

- Michael and Bridget Morris, Main Street, Aughrim, County Wicklow, Tel. +353 402 36234.
- Lawless's Hotel, Aughrim, County Wicklow, Tel. +353 402 36146.
- The Woodenbridge Hotel, Vale of Avoca, Arklow, County Wicklow, Tel. +353 402 35146.

Access: The Woodenbridge - Aughrim Road (R747) closely parallels the river, crossing it at Coate's Bridge.

Best Fishing: April to July and evenings in August to September.

Average Trout Size: 1lb - 0.75lb (0.5kg - 0.35kg)

Club Rules: Fish less than 8 inches (20cm) must not be taken. Salmon and sea-trout fishing are not allowed.

The National Disabled Angling Facility, Aughrim - angling for all

(15 minutes by car from Glenmalure Lodge)

Fishing Available: Rainbow Trout

A superb new 4 acre artificial lake within an 8 acre riverside park has been constructed at the picturesque village of Aughrim, which is fed by the adjacent Aughrim river and provides the put-and-take rainbow trout fishing. Visiting anglers are welcome to fish the facility. Hourly and daily permits are available. The park and facilities have been specially designed to cater for disabled anglers and it is Ireland's first purpose-built and all year round angling facility. Pathways enable the disabled angler to get within 18 inches (45cm) of the lakeside. An on-site car-park, pavilion with toilets, canteen and veranda are provided to cater for all anglers needs. Angling tuition is provided for beginners by appointment.

Fishing charges range from Eur5 for 1 hour to Eur26 per day with bag limits of up to 4 fish for a day's fishing. Additional fish caught may be kept for Eur3.00 per fish or released.

The facility is licensed for year round fishing and opening hours are Summer 8.00am to 8.00pm. Winter 9.00am - 5.00pm.

For further information telephone +353 402 36552.

A list of accommodation suitable for those with disabilities is available from The National Rehabilitation Board, 25 Clyde Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4. Tel. +353 1 668 4181.

The Vartry River and Ashtown Reservoir (20 minutes by car from Glenmalure Lodge)

Fishing Available: Sea Trout and Brown Trout

The Vartry River is in a very picturesque setting flowing as it does past one of Ireland's oldest coaching inns, Hunter's Hotel, Newrath Bridge, Rathnew, County Wicklow. The lower reaches of the Vartry River, downstream of Ashford Bridge are club controlled by the Vartry Angling Club and day tickets are available from the Secretary. Also, the club has developed a beautiful rainbow trout fishery, the Ashtown Reservoir, near Wicklow Town, which is well stocked with trout up to 5 lbs (2kgs) in weight.

Day tickets are available at Eur12 per day from the Bridge Tavern, Wicklow Town Tel: +353 404 67718.

Club Secretary: Paul McDevitt, 22 St. Manntan's Park, Wicklow Town. Tel +353 404 69683

Sea Trout Season: February 1st to October 12th

Brown Trout Season: March 15th to September 30th

Access: At Hunter's Hotel, Newrath Bridge on the Greystones-Rathnew Road

Best Fishing: Sea Trout from August to October 12th with night fishing more productive

Average Sea Trout Size: 1lb (0.5kg)

Hazards: The lower reaches have several deep holes and it is recommended that visiting anglers be accompanied by club members.

The Roundwood Lakes, Vartry Reservoir (20 minutes by car from Glenmalure Lodge)

Fishing Available: Brown Trout, by artificial fly (bait) only on the lower reservoir.

The Roundwood Reservoirs are set in the most spectacular scenery in County Wicklow and are adjacent to the highest village in Ireland, Roundwood. They are managed by Dublin City Council and angling is restricted to the lower reservoir. The upper reservoir is at present closed to shore angling. Dublin City Council regulate all angling and day (Eur1.50), week (Eur4.00) and season (Eur12.00) permits can be obtained from the waterworks office, Monday to Friday, Tel. +353 1 281 8368. This is located under the lower reservoir dam, 3km from Roundwood on the R764 Wicklow road. At weekends, permits may be available at the nearby Vartry Lodge at the east end of the dam by prior arrangement with the office. Permits are valid only for shore angling on the

lower reservoir. Artificial fly fishing is permitted only with a minimum catch of 10 inches (25cm). The brown trout season is from March 1st to September 30th.

Access: At the Waters Bridge on the R765 Roundwood - Newtownmountkennedy road and at the west end of the dam on the R764 Roundwood - Wicklow road. Also, access can be gained at the east end of the dam on the R764 road and at an unclassified road linking the R764 road and the R765 road on the east side of the lower reservoir.

Best Fishing: April, May, August, September (day-time), June and July (evenings). High water levels and bankside vegetation can be problematic in early season.

Average trout size: 0.5lb-0.75lb (0.2kg-0.3kg)

The Upper River Liffey (30 minutes by car from Glenmalure Lodge)

The upper River Liffey rises near the Sally Gap and flows north westwards into the Blessington Lake. Most of the angling rights on this river are controlled by the Kilbride Angling Club, Hon. Secretary Mr. Desmond Johnston, 54 Avondale Park, Dublin 5. Tel. +353 1 831 8786.

Fishing Available: Trout Fishing.

Permits: Day tickets are available for Eur10 (limited supply) from the Hon. Secretary.

The River Slaney (45 minutes by car from Glenmalure Lodge)

Fishing Available: Brown Trout, Salmon

The River Slaney is one of the foremost salmon fishing rivers in Ireland. Salmon angling is available downstream from Tullow town in County Carlow and this stretch is club-controlled by the Tullow Salmon and Trout Angling Club. In the County Wicklow stretch of the Slaney north of Tullow, brown trout is the dominant species. Fishing for brown trout in these waters is by fly-fishing only and is free but in all such cases it is advisable to check with the local riparian owners.

Club Secretary: Richard Burgess, The Lodge, Tullow, County Carlow. Tel. +353 503 51282.

Permits: Salmon Eur30 per day, Brown Trout Eur10 per day or Eur14 per week from Mr. Joey O'Neill, Hon Treasurer, O'Neill's Garage, Carlow Road, Tullow, County Carlow, Tel. +353 503 51288. Only 4 permits per day are available to visiting anglers.

Access: North of Baltinglass; the Dublin-Baltinglass (N81) road closely parallels the river for a few kilometres. Tullow is the focal point and maps are available.

The Dargle River (35 minutes by car from Glenmalure Lodge)

Fishing Available: Sea Trout, Salmon and Brown Trout

The Dargle River is one of Ireland's premier sea-trout rivers producing plenty of 2lb-4lb (1kg-2kg) fish between May and September. Salmon fishing can also be good in April/May and in August/September for grilse. Fishing rights to the lower reaches are controlled by the Dargle Anglers Club.

These are:

1. In the Dargle Glen from the bottom of the Tinnehinch Fishery to Kilcronee, near the junction of the N11, Dublin-Wexford and R117, Enniskerry roads.
2. In Bray town from the West end of the People's Park (Lower Dargle Road) to the sea. Fishing is strictly Fly Only from Bray Bridge to Bray Harbour.

Club Secretary: Mr. A. Grehan, 45 The Drive, Boden Park, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16.

Season: Salmon - February 1st to September 30th. Sea Trout - February 1st to October 12th. Brown Trout - March 1st to September 30th.

Permits: Visiting anglers may need detailed maps and directions for each of the club controlled stretches. These are essential for the Dargle Glen as there are dangerous stretches and some of the deep holding pools are inaccessible.

Tinnehinch Fishery (35 minutes by car from Glenmalure Lodge)

The Tinnehinch Fishery is a private fishery on the Dargle River, which extends from the Tinnehinch Bridge on the R760 road near the Powerscourt Estate downstream for 1.5 km, to the top of the gorge in the Dargle Glen. It is a sea-trout and occasional salmon fishery and only fly-fishing is allowed. Fly-casting instruction is available at Eur30 per lesson and night (dusk to midnight) tickets at Eur30 each are available to visiting anglers. These can be obtained from Mr. Hugh Duff, Tinnehinch House, Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow. Tel. +353 1 286 8652.

The Avoca River (15 minutes by car from Glenmalure Lodge)

This is a very beautiful river famous for its wonderful setting in the Vale of Avoca, immortalised in Thomas Moore's poem, "The Meeting of the Waters". It flows by one of the most scenic villages in Wicklow, Avoca, which was the setting for the very popular BBC series "Ballykissangel". However, due to the pollution from the old copper mines, the Avoca River, south of the Meeting of the Waters, is to a large extent unsuitable for angling.

Lough Dan and Lough Tay (30 minutes by car from Glenmalure Lodge)

Lough Dan is the largest and most spectacular natural lough in County Wicklow and is situated to the West of Roundwood village in the rugged Wicklow mountains. Fishing rights to Lough Dan and the neighbouring Lough Tay are held exclusively by the Guinness Estate and other local landowners. There are no facilities for visiting anglers on these loughs.

Coarse Angling

Blessington Lake, Poulaphuca Reservoir (60 minutes by car from Glenmalure Lodge)

The Poulphuca Reservoir is owned by the Electricity Supply Board and is of renowned beauty. Coarse angling is available with abundant stocks of roach, perch and specimen pike being caught up to 9 kg. There is also brown trout angling. Fishing on the lakes is regulated by the ESB Fisheries Conservation, Hydro Group, Ardnacrusha, Limerick. Tel. +353 161 345589.

Permits: Dublin Trout Anglers Association and Kilbride Anglers Club for Trout. Trout day permits Eur10 or season permits Eur25. Coarse angling permits Eur10, weekly Eur15. Permits are available from

- Downshire Hotel, Main Street, Blessington, County Wicklow.
Tel. +353 45 865 199.
- Charles Camping, Main Street, Blessington, County Wicklow.
Tel. +353 45 865 351.

Access: Car parks are situated at each of the three bridges and at several lakeside locations. Fishing is allowed along the complete perimeters of the lake. Fishing permits do not authorise the holder to use a boat on the lake.

Trout Angling Regulations: Season - March 1st to September 30th. Bag limit is 6 brown trout per day.

Size Limit: Fish less than 9 inches (23cm) must not be taken.

Coarse Angling Regulations: Season is November 1st to September 30th. The lake is closed to all angling during October. Bag Limit: 1 pike per day under 6lbs (2.5kg) may be taken. The use of live bait and chandlers/maggots is prohibited. A full and proper return of all brown trout and coarse fish caught must be made to the ESB immediately after fishing.

Sea and Shore Angling

County Wicklow's 51 kilometres of coastline is extensively used for local, national and international shore fishing competitions. The World Surf Casting championship of 1996 and the European Shore Angling Championships of 1997 were held along the beaches of Wicklow producing some excellent catches.

For information on fishing competitions contact: The Irish Federation of Sea Anglers, Secretary, Mr. Hugh O'Rourke, 67 Windsor Drive, Monkstown, County Dublin. Tel. +353 1 280 6873.

Small boat fishing is becoming increasingly popular and extremely productive in County Wicklow. Small boats can be launched in both Greystones and Wicklow harbours. For the visiting angler there is a fully equipped charter boat, which operates from Dun Laoghaire for general boat fishing in Wicklow. For information contact Charles Robinson Sea Angling Charters, Tel. +353 404 68751.

Bray (40 minutes by car from Glenmalure Lodge)

The visiting shore angler has the choice of several locations in Bray. These are the harbour piers, the beach and the Bray Head rocks near the south end of the promenade. Boat fishing is also popular here.

| Location | Species |
|--------------------|---|
| Bray Head | Fishing for Rock fishing for codling, coalfish, pollack (while spinning on evening tides) and ballan wrasse |
| Bray Harbour Piers | In Summer, Bass, codling, coger, dabs, flounder, mackerel (using spinning), mullet and plaice. Small boat fishing for codling, coalfish, dogfish and flatfish |
| Bray Beach | Summer nights for dogfish, codling and flatfish |

Greystones to Wicklow Head (30 minutes by car from Glenmalure Lodge)

The 18 kilometre stretch of coastline between Greystones and Wicklow town is the most productive fishing area on Ireland's east coast. Most of the angling takes place on the sloping shingle beach running between the two towns. Access to intermediate points along this stretch is from the Kilcoole and Newcastle villages on the Greystone - Wicklow coast road. Small boat fishing is very popular with launching available in Greystones and Wicklow harbour.

| Location | Species |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Greystones South Beach | Bass, coalfish, codling, dogfish, plaice and pollack. (Evening high tides best). |
| Kilcoole | Codling, dabs, dogfish, plaice, ray (winter), whiting (winter). Fishes best on the ebb with evening and night tides best. |
| Newcastle | Codling (winter), dogfish, gurnard, plaice, occasional ray (summer). |
| Five mile point at Killoughter | Codling, dabs, dogfish, On night high tides in June/July blonde, homelyn, ray, thornback, smooth hound, spurdog and occasional conger of up to 20lbs+ (8kg+). |

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| Wicklow North Beach | Good results during daylight for codling, dab and plaice. |
| The Broadlough | Flounders (Autumn), which move up and down with the tide. |
| Wicklow Harbour Piers | Coalfish, codling, dogfish, mackeral (in season), small pollack, ray, rockling and tope. |
| Wicklow Head | Occasional bass, conger, mackeral and pollack using spinning. |

Wicklow to Arklow (30 minutes by car from Glenmalure Lodge)

| Location | Species |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Silver Strand (Early in the Year) | Bass, codling, dogfish, dab, flounder, plaice, spurdog (night) and whiting. |
| Brittas Bay and Ennereilly Beaches | Night fishing for bass, codling, dogfish, dab, flounder, plaice, ray, smoothound and whiting. |
| Arklow Harbour Piers | Bass, codling conger, dogfish and flounder. |