

# carlow autumn walking festival 2019

friday 4th – sunday 6th october



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- choice of walks for beginner, experienced or advanced walkers
- themed walks including flora and fauna with rté's éanna ní lamhna, history and heritage, bird watching, mindfulness and photographic walks
- evening talk with environmentalist and tv personality duncan stewart
- family friendly walks
- guided tours of borris house, part of carlow's big houses and gardens festival
- canoeing and cycling along the river barrow daily

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[www.carlowtourism.com/walkingfestival](http://www.carlowtourism.com/walkingfestival)



this festival is organised by carlow tourism with the support of carlow county council, fáilte ireland, tullow mountaineering club, the blackstairs rammers and carlow sports partnership

## introduction

If you're a serious Rambler or just like to stretch your legs and enjoy the view, then the Carlow Autumn Walking Festival is for you!



## guidelines for walkers – choose the walk that best suits your level of fitness

**A Walk – very experienced hillwalkers**

**B Walk – experienced hillwalkers**

**C Walk – leisure / regular walkers**

Walkers should be satisfied that they are fully capable of undertaking their chosen walk. If in doubt please consult the guides or organisers present. Attendees should consult the list of guidelines on [www.carlowtourism.com/walkingfestival](http://www.carlowtourism.com/walkingfestival) prior to arrival.

## registration and admission

Registration for all walks takes place in the Town Hall, Borris, Co. Carlow from 9 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Registration for Friday evening's walk is from 5.30 p.m., also in Borris Town Hall (transport to/from start/finish of each walk is provided). Registration times and locations for all other walks as featured on the brochure. All walks are individually priced, however walkers can buy a two-day walking pass for €30 or a three-day walking pass for €40.

To register online please visit [www.carlowtourism.com/walkingfestival](http://www.carlowtourism.com/walkingfestival) or e-mail [edeane@carlowtourism.com](mailto:edeane@carlowtourism.com)

## each walk features:

An experienced local guide, maps of each route, transport to/from start/finish of the walk if required, light refreshments and musical entertainment in O'Shea's Pub, Main Street, Borris on Saturday October 5th at 9.30 p.m. All A and B walkers will receive a FREE copy of the *Blackstairs, Mount Leinster and Barrow Valley* by Eastwest Mapping (R.R.P. €9.95).

Please note that several walks are popular and places fill up quickly. While we will endeavour to accommodate walkers at short notice, we ask that you firstly register at [www.carlowtourism.com/walkingfestival](http://www.carlowtourism.com/walkingfestival) or phone 087-3553698.

## description of routes

### friday 4th october

#### b walk – walk 1 night hike

€20

**description:** The night hike route is weather dependent and is decided on the night, a torch is essential


**time:** 6.30 p.m. **walking time:** approx. 3 hours

**start and finish:** The Town Hall, Borris

A great opportunity to experience the magic of walking in the mountains at night time. Spectacular views of County Carlow and surrounding counties as seen through the autumn darkness. Experienced guides from local clubs who have regular night walks all year round will accompany the walk.

saturday 5th october

<b>a walk – walk 2</b>	<b>€20</b>
start and finish: Scullogue Gap	
distance:	approx. 15 - 17 km    max height: 581 metres
walking time:	7 hours approx.
An ideal location for a bracing hike, this walk takes in most of the higher peaks of the Blackstairs Mountains including Mount Leinster and Blackrock.	

<b>b walk – walk 3</b>	<b>€15</b>	
mount leinster and slievebawn with éanna ní lamhna		
start point:	Corrabut Gap	finish point: Nine Stones
distance:	13.2 km	max height: 604 metres
Starting at Corrabut Gap, one of the most picturesque points on the Blackstairs Mountains, this walk crosses the River Burren before taking in Slievebawn and Tomduff Ridge. The walk, led by well known biologist and RTÉ personality Éanna Ní Lamhna finishes at the Nine Stones. Approx. 5 hours.		

<b>b walk – walk 4</b>	<b>€15</b>
walk through time – history and heritage of the blackstairs mountains	
start & finish: Town Hall, Borris at 9 a.m. (transport to start of walk)	
The Blackstairs Mountains has a fascinating historical heritage. This four – five hour mountain walk explores its history with a focus on standing stones, ancient rock art, raths, dolmens, old settlements, a World War II bombing and a 1941 aircraft crash site. While still a mountain walk, time will be taken to look and talk about sites of historical interest and the overall history of the area. Normal hill walking gear is required.	

<b>b walk – walk 5</b>	<b>€15</b>	
start point:	Rathnageeragh Castle	finish point: Nine Stones
distance:	11.1 km	max height: 502 metres
This walk commences at Rathnageeragh Castle (in ruins) before ascending Slievebawn and then descending into Tomduff. From there the walk passes through Raheenkyle and Raheendarragh before ascending once again to finish at the Nine Stones vantage point. Approx. five hours.		

<b>b walk – walk 6</b>	<b>€15</b>	
start point:	Coonogue, Ballymurphy	
distance:	10 - 12 km	max height: 600 metres
walking time:	5 hours approx.	finish point: Knockmulgurry
A good introduction to the landscape of Blackstair Mountain offering fabulous views of the surrounding countryside, from some of its main peaks.		

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## c walk – walk 7 photography walk €10

start point: Kilbrannish North Forest Recreation Area 12 noon

bus transport: Leaves Borris Town Hall 11 a.m. or meet at start

distance: 3 km walking time: 2 hours approx.

finish point: Kilbrannish North Forest Recreation Area or return bus transport to Borris

Ever wondered how to capture stunning pictures of bird, plant and wildlife? This informative walk led by Carlow Photographic Society introduces you to the key principles of photography in the wild. Bring along your camera and enjoy the wonderful views northwards over the plains of Carlow, along this well surfaced forest path.

## c walk – walk 8 mindfulness walk €5

start point: Car Park, Clogrennane Wood 2 p.m.

bus transport: Leaves Hadden's Car Park, Carlow Town 1.40 p.m.

distance: 3.5 km walking time: 1.5 hours approx.

finish point: Car Park, Clogrennane Wood with return transport to Carlow Town

Sinead Tynan of Carlow Mental Health Association, leads a mindfulness walk through the beautiful Clogrennane Wood with magnificent views of Carlow and the River Barrow. Gain practical tips on positive mental attitude while appreciating the beautiful surroundings.

## c walk – walk 9 trail kids (min. age 6 years) €10



start and finish: Clashganny Forest, Clashganny 3 p.m.

bus transport: Leaves Borris Town Hall 2.30 p.m. or meet at start

distance: 3 km walking time: 2 hours approx.

Introduce kids to the basic skills of trail running in the company of friends and family. Throughout the session, kids will develop confidence in their ability by learning to assess the trail for slope and direction and adapting to hazards.

## borris house tour **NEW FOR 2019** €10

start and finish: Borris House, Borris tour: 1 hour approx. at 5 p.m.

registration: [www.carlowtourism/walkingfestival](http://www.carlowtourism/walkingfestival)

This tour of Borris House is being held in conjunction with the Carlow Big Houses and Gardens Festival. Borris House is the ancestral home of the McMorrough Kavanaghs, former Celtic Kings of Leinster. The tour covers all aspects of the house, from the original 15th century castle, through its many subsequent changes and alterations, right up to the present day.

## evening talk with duncan stewart

venue: O'Shea's Pub, Main Street, Borris, Co. Carlow

date: Saturday, 5th October at 7.30 p.m. Admission: FREE

Duncan Stewart is an award-winning architect, environmentalist and television producer. Duncan has been a leading Irish advocate for the protection of the environment and Ireland's unique bio-diversity, as well as enjoying walking in the Irish countryside. Join Duncan to hear his fascinating insights and experiences. Enjoy a locally produced platter of Carlow food on the night – fee applies.

## sunday 6th october

<b>a walk – walk 10</b>		<b>€20</b>
start point:	Nine Stones, Mount Leinster	
distance:	17.4 km	max height: 795 metres
walking time:	7 hours approx.	finish point: Knockmulgurry
Starting from the Nine Stones you ascend Mount Leinster in a southerly direction. From the TV mast you proceed onto Knockroe before descending into Scullogue Gap. From there the walk again ascends onto the Blackstairs Mountains with stunning views over Carlow and Wexford.		

<b>b walk – walk 11</b>		<b>€15</b>
start and finish:	near Glynn, St. Mullins	
distance:	13 km approx.	
This pleasant four to five hour walk takes in the stunning natural features of the south Blackstairs Mountains and the historic south Carlow area.		

<b>b walk – walk 12</b>		<b>€15</b>
Please see walk 4 on Saturday 5th October for details		

<b>b walk – walk 13 columban way</b>		<b>€15</b>
start point:	Nine Stones, Mount Leinster	
distance:	12 km	walking time: 5 hours approx.
finish point:	Myshall Village	
The birthplace of Saint Columbanus, Ireland's first great European, can be traced to Mount Leinster and Myshall Village. Follow his journey taken during the 5th and early 6th century on his way to begin religious studies in Bangor, Co. Down. At the age of 48, Saint Columbanus travelled to Europe, founding monasteries in France, Germany and Austria before settling in Bobbio, Italy. Hear about the legacy of Saint Columbanus on our everyday lives.		

<b>c walk – walk 14 forest walk</b>		<b>€5</b>
registration and start point:	Rath Wood, Rath, Tullow 10 a.m.	
distance:	6km	walking time: 1.5 hours approx.
finish point:	Rath Wood	
The Fox's Walk in Rath Wood Forest is an easy trail suitable for walkers of all ages and abilities. See a rich variety of native trees and flora as well as wildlife including deer, mink, rabbits, foxes, pheasants and dragonflies.		

<b>c walk – walk 15 wildlife walk</b>		<b>NEW FOR 2019 €10</b>
registration/start/finish:	Borris House and Gardens, Borris 11 a.m.	
distance:	5km	walking time: 2 hours approx.
Led by knowledgeable members of the Carlow branch of Birdwatch Ireland and noted tree surgeon Aubrey Fennell, this walk will introduce and identify a variety of tree and wildlife on the Borris House Estate including birds, insects and wild flowers. Enjoy the stunning views of this stretch of the Barrow Valley.		

c walk – walk 16 as part of féile an fhómhair **FREE**

registration: Hadden's car park 2 p.m. transport to Maganey Bridge

start: Maganey Bridge finish: Seven Oaks Hotel, Carlow

walking time: 1.5 hours approx.

Once a thriving commercial river this walk brings its past history to life with an interesting account of the canal system, its cargoes, lock gates and lock houses. A leisurely riverside walk along the banks of the lovely Barrow.

## activities to complement the weekend 4th – 6th October

### valley of the monks half and full day self-guided canoe trail

For more information contact Charlie Horan  
m: 087 252 9700 e: [info@gowiththeflow.ie](mailto:info@gowiththeflow.ie)  
w: [gowiththeflow.ie](http://gowiththeflow.ie)

Cost: €25 pp half day/€40 pp full day.  
Duration half day hire: approx. 4 hours,  
full day hire: approx. 8 hours.



### bike rentals and bike tours

Location: Graiguenamanagh Bike Hire  
Waterside Guesthouse, The Quay,  
Graiguenamanagh, Co. Kilkenny m: 086 408 4008  
e: [bike&hike@watersideguesthouse.com](mailto:bike&hike@watersideguesthouse.com)

Cost: adults €20 per day, €15 per half day.  
Children: €15 per day, €10 per half day.



### explore the barrow by canoe or kayak

For more information contact  
Patrick McCormack m: 087 226 5550  
e: [info@pureadventure.ie](mailto:info@pureadventure.ie)  
w: [www.pureadventure.ie](http://www.pureadventure.ie)

Cost: adults €49, under 18s €39



### paddle your own canoe

For more information contact Nathan Horan  
m: 087 414 0461  
e: [info@paddleyourowncanoe.ie](mailto:info@paddleyourowncanoe.ie)  
w: [www.paddleyourowncanoe.ie](http://www.paddleyourowncanoe.ie)

Cost: €35 pp per day – transport to/from the start/  
finish of each tour, canoes and all safety gear, dry  
bags and barrels, tents and other camping needs.



### boattrips.ie

m: 087 206 1999  
e: [boattrips.ie@gmail.com](mailto:boattrips.ie@gmail.com)  
w: [www.boattrips.ie](http://www.boattrips.ie)

Open boat trips on the beautiful River Barrow.  
Cost: €15 per adult, €10 per child. 1 hour trip.



Special accommodation packages available at  
[www.carlowtourism.com/walking festival](http://www.carlowtourism.com/walking festival)