

Social Story Guide

A Visit to Glendalough



Glendalough is a beautiful Valley with two lakes situated in the Wicklow Mountains National Park. Glendalough has a very old monastery that was founded by St. Kevin in the 6th century. The buildings that I will see in Glendalough today are the remains of churches that date to between the 10th and 12th centuries and a very well preserved Round Tower. Glendalough is a very busy place with a lot of visitors.

Glendalough Visitor Centre

The Visitor Centre has an exhibition that will tell me all about St Kevin and Glendalough. It also has a very good video about Early Irish Monasteries.



I arrive:

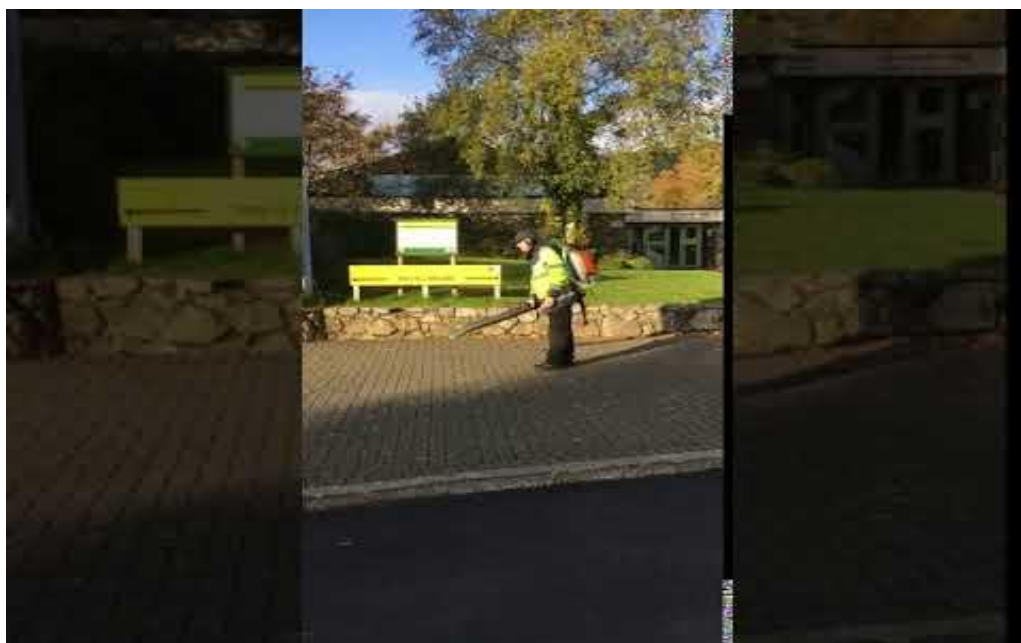
I arrive at the Glendalough Visitor Centre Carpark. There is a €4.00 parking fee and the car park attendants will issue us a parking ticket. Remember to get the adult with you to bring this parking ticket to reception as we can get a discount on admission with this ticket.

I walk across the path in the middle of the roundabout towards the Visitor Centre. I have to be careful to look out for traffic as I cross the road. I can already see that Glendalough is a very beautiful place with a lot of woodland. I can hear the birds sing. St. Kevin loved nature. There is a legend that tells us that he was so gentle with animals that the birds wanted to build their nests in his hands.



St Kevin and the Blackbird

Sometimes there are other sounds in the carpark that are not what I expect to hear in Glendalough. The leaf blower and lawnmower can be noisy but the ground staff want to make sure that Glendalough is kept clean and tidy. This is a video clip of this sound in case the ground staff are using the leaf blower today



My visit to the Glendalough Visitor Centre

I finish my food and drinks before I enter the Visitor Centre. There may be a queue into the Visitor Centre. If waiting in line is too hard for me, the adult with me can show the Visitor Centre staff my Autism I.D. Card and we can go inside without waiting.

The Visitor Centre Staff will ask everyone to wear a face mask before entering the Visitor Centre. If wearing a mask is uncomfortable for me, that is okay and I don't have to wear one. The adult with me can download a letter (<https://asiam.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Face-mask-letter.pdf>) and show it to the Visitor Centre Staff. The letter explains that I can't wear a face mask and this is okay.

When I enter the Visitor Centre I will have to sanitise my hands. There will be hand sanitiser available at the reception area or I can bring my own.

Reception Area/Ticket Desk



I will see the reception/ticket desk on the left. This is where we collect our tickets before we enter the exhibition area.

The Visitor Centre Staff



I will meet the Visitor Centre Staff at Reception, the Ticket Desk and on the Monastic Site. The Staff can answer questions I have about the Monastery's history and they are here to help me. If I am overwhelmed and need to go to the quiet space, I can ask one of the Guides/Staff to bring me there. The Guides/Staff now wear face masks or face shields. They don't have a uniform but wear dark colours, usually black & navy. The Guides wear badges and wear yellow high vis vests outside or a jacket with the word GUIDE



The Exhibition

As I enter the exhibition area I notice that it is dark. The screens light up as I walk past them. The exhibition was designed this way to save energy and to help to protect the environment.



The first part of the exhibition is supposed to be a like a walk through the woods of Glendalough and at the end of the walk I arrive at the Upper Lake. It is a photograph of the Upper Lake and it looks like a very beautiful place. Behind the photograph of the Upper Lake there is a story corner. I see a large toadstool with flashing lights and if nobody else is there I can enter the story corner, sit on a tree stump, press the buttons as they light up and listen to all the stories about St Kevin and the animals. If there is somebody else there before me, I will wait until it is my turn.

Here is a video clip of the Story Corner below:



The Exhibition in Glendalough Visitor Centre explains about how life was in a Monastery. It has a model in the centre of the exhibition and when I press the button the model tells me all about life in the monastery. Here is a video clip of the model below.



Audio Visual Presentation

When I am finished looking at the exhibition I can look at the Audio Visual Presentation. This is a like a cinema so the lights go down. It also has some faces that I might find scary. This is a video clip of the scary faces. If I do not want to see this video that is okay.

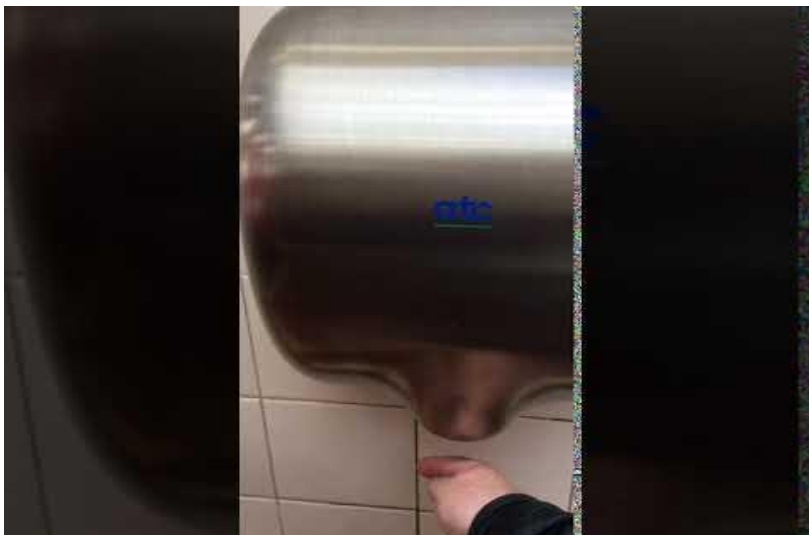


Toilets

There are toilets outside the Visitor Centre that I can use before I walk to the monastery.



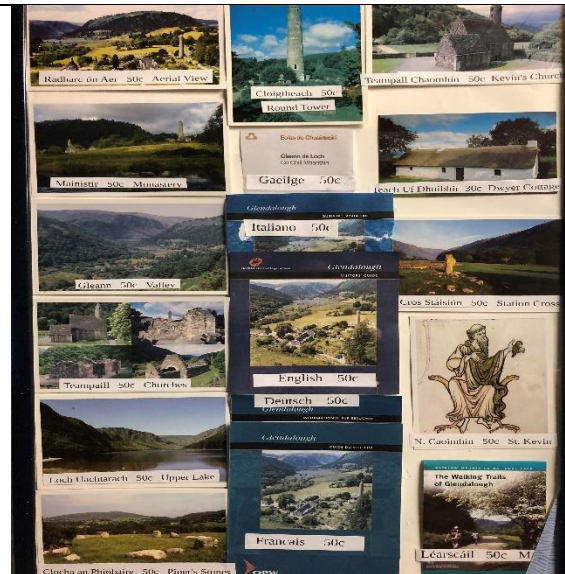
The hand dryers are noisy. Here is a video clip of the hand dryers.



If I don't like the noise made by the hand dryers the adult with me can ask the staff to turn them off while I am in the toilet.

Signs

I will see a lot of different signs on my visit to Glendalough. I can ask the Guides/Staff if I do not understand a sign.



This is a sign with all the leaflets and postcards that I can purchase at reception.



This is the Admission sign where I can get information about getting a ticket

| | |
|--|--|
|  | <p>This sign tells me that I cannot eat or drink in the Visitor Centre</p> |
|  | <p>This sign directs me into the exhibition</p> |



This is a Fire Extinguishing point



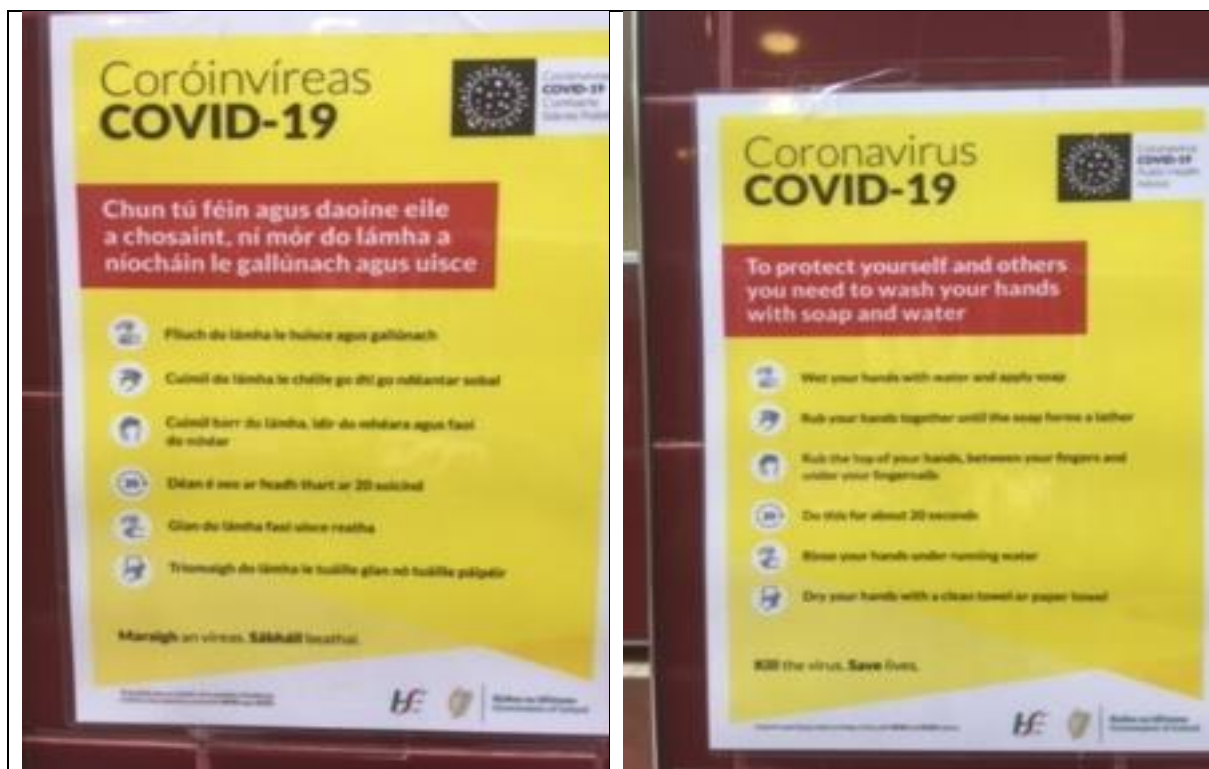
This sign tells me where the exit is



This sign tells me that I can leave through this door if there is an emergency



These signs tell me where the toilets are located



These signs near the bathroom sinks tell me how to wash my hands properly



These signs outside tell me how to keep safe during COVID 19



This sign tells me how important it is to keep 2 metres away from everyone during COVID 19



These signs are outside and they show me where to find the Monastic Site and all the trails. The trails start at the Upper Lake



This is a map of all the trails in Glendalough. This map is located at the front of the Visitor Centre and there is another map at the Upper Lake



I will find all the coloured arrows at the Upper Lake. Each colour is for a different trail. There are maps at the Visitor Centre Grounds and at the Upper Lake which will describe each walk.



The yellow arrows are for the Wicklow Way. This is a very long trail that starts in Marley Park in County Dublin and ends in Clonegal in County Carlow. It passes through the Glendalough Valley.

The Monastic Site



The Visitor Centre Staff can give me directions to the Monastic Site and to the Lakes. On the way to the lakes I will see a bridge that takes me into the Monastic Site. This is where I will find St Kevin's Church, the Cemetery, the Cathedral and the Round Tower. There will be a member of staff on the site. I can talk to them and ask them any questions that I might have about the history and any other information that I would like to know about the area. After my visit to the monastery I can return to the path and continue walking to the upper lake. It is a 30-minute walk to the Upper Lake. Just before the Upper Lake I will see a white cottage on the right. This is the National Park Information Office where there are National Park Staff and they can give me more information about the area and the other trails that I can do in Glendalough.

We hope that you enjoy your visit!