

Social Story Guide

A Visit to Glendalough



Glendalough is a 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 can be 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 video about Early Irish Saints and Monasteries.



I arrive:

I arrive at the Glendalough Visitor Centre Carpark.

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 might see the ground staff working in the grounds. 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 below 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 difficult for me, the adult with me can show the Visitor Centre staff my Autism I.D. Card and we can go inside without waiting.

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

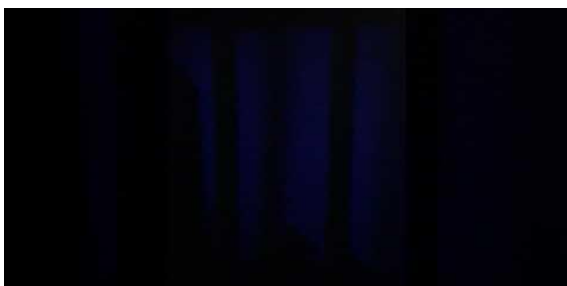
The Exhibition

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 see a photograph of the Upper Lake. 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 are other people there when I arrive, I wait until they leave the story corner, then I can go in.

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 it is a bit dark. 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. I can spend some more time in the exhibition or I can go for a walk outside.

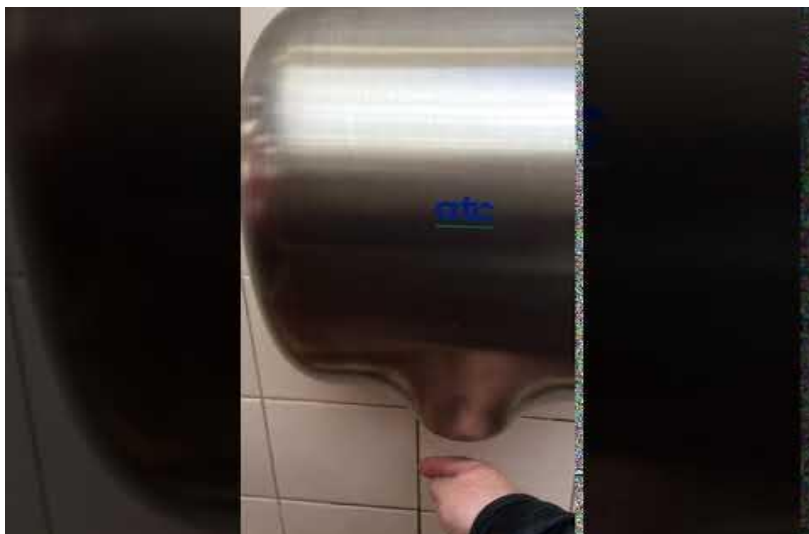


Toilets

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



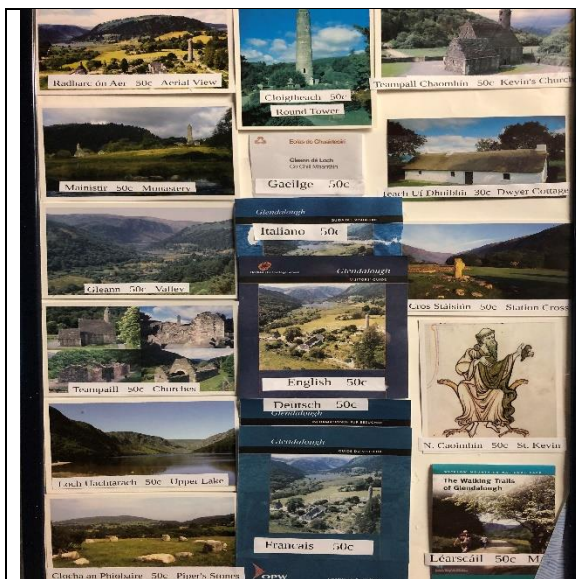
The hand dryers are noisy. Here is a video clip of the hand dryers.



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



This sign tells me that I cannot eat or drink in the Visitor Centre

FROM SOLITUDE
TO COMMUNITY
→
AONARACHT
IS COMHLUADAR

This sign directs me into the exhibition



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



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.

National Park information Office

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!