

How to reach Donard From Dublin

Take the N81 national road where it branches off the M50 marked North. Proceed through Tallagh, Brittas and Blessington. 19.8 kilometres after Blessington see the Toll House Pub and the Donard direction-sign. Turn left. Proceed into the village, turn right at the Moat Farm sign and report at Reception.

From East Wicklow

Take the Wicklow Gap (R756) to Hollywood. Proceed through Hollywood to join the N81 and turn left along the N81 to the Toll House Pub / Donard turnoff. Turn left.

From Carlow

Take the R726 to Rathvilly and join the N81. Proceed through Baltinglass and reach the Donard turnoff. Turn right.

From West Wicklow

Proceed eastwards through Dunlavin. Although you will see a marker for Donard once out of the village, take the safer R412, turning left when you reach the N81. Follow the direction sign marked Blessington until the Donard turnoff to the right.



Donard was settled in Neolithic times

Donard – gateway to the glens

Historic Donard is a pretty village nestled in the foothills of the West Wicklow Mountains and is one of the gateways to the majestic Glen of Imaal hinterland. Ceremonial stone circles provide evidence of Neolithic settlement between 2,600 and 1,800BC.

Evidence of the Celts' arrival and settling there at the end of the Bronze Age also abounds.

An Ogham stone marked with letters from the earliest Irish alphabet from the 6th century stands in the middle of the village.

The region is also associated with Michael Dwyer and the cottage is not far away where he fought encircling British troops during the uprising in 1798. He evaded certain death by making his escape over the snow-covered Wicklow Mountains.

There are two pubs – Toomey's and Moynihan's – a charming village shop and post office – John O'Keefe's Country Store – B&Bs, a school, the usual brace of churches and a full-facility caravan park.

The village is the focal point of the annual National Long-Distance Equestrian Race which attracts riders and mounts from Europe, Britain, the United States and the United Arab Emirates – as well as a full complement of riders from the island of Ireland.

Donard is the scene of a ride-out on the last Sunday of every month in aid of selected charities.

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HOW TO BOOK

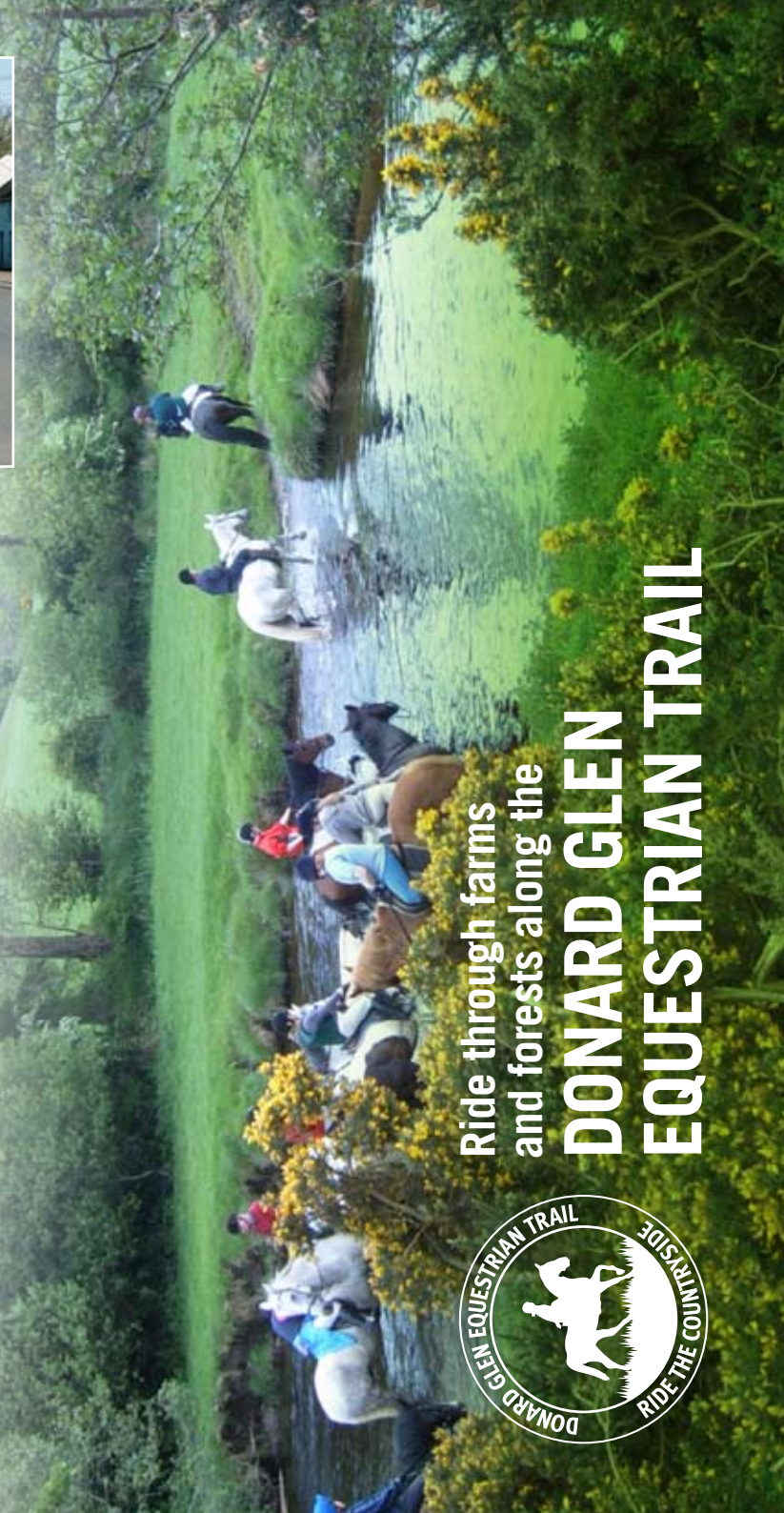
Payment for one day rides can be made upon arrival, but call in advance Edward Allen on 087 8777580 or Pat O'Reilly on 086 8968756.

Our email address is info@donardglen.ie

Take a look at our website on www.donardglen.ie



Ride through farms
and forests along the
**DONARD GLEN
EQUESTRIAN TRAIL**



You are free to roam along the well marked route

You can ride all day, at your own pace, through West Wicklow's beautiful countryside within sight of Lugnaquilla, Wicklow's highest mountain.

The full circuit through farms, forests, country roads and tracks is about 35 kilometres, but it's your choice to make the ride as long or as short as you like. You will discover the rolling heartland and peaceful forests of West Wicklow on private land out of reach of the general public.

How it works

- 1 The assembly point of riders and their horses is Moat Farm, Donard – the village being 3 kilometres north-east of the N81 national road branching from the M50 highway and Dublin.
- 2 On payment, you receive arm bands to wear (for easy identification by farmers) and a well marked, large scale map of the route.
- 3 There are numbered markers along the route, corresponding to the numbers on the map.



A detailed map of the route on payment



No dismounting



Go at your own pace

RIDER-FRIENDLY GATES

There's no dismounting, unless you want to, as all farm gates have been designed with levers long enough for easy access by the rider.

STAY FOR THE DAY OR OVERNIGHT

Many riders bring their horses for the day. Others stay in local B&Bs for several days, with stabling provided.

COST

It's just €20 per head for the day. Overnight stays can be arranged.