

**19: AVOCA HANDWEAVERS, The Old Mill at Avoca Village. Tel 0402 35105/35284.** Don't miss visiting Ireland's oldest mill dating from 1723 at Avoca Handweavers. Enjoy the free guided tour of the Weavers and sample the delicious food in the restaurant. Browse through the stunning range of clothing, knitwear, crafts and gifts. Open all year 7 days 9.30 am - 6 pm.

**20: BALLYKISSANGEL.** Avoca Village is the location of the very popular BBC TV Series "Ballykissangel". The village set includes the Church of Sts. Mary and Patrick, built in 1862 and 'Fitzgeralds', the local watering hole. The old court house has been refurbished, it is the epicentre of the village. Tourists can get information on the best sites to visit, send an email and check websites. A brochure called "Visitors Guide to the Vale of Avoca , Home of Ballykissangel " can be obtained from tourist Offices around the County. Public transport: Bus Eireann (133) .

**21: BRITTAS BAY BEACH.** Brittas Bay is one of the finest beaches on the east coast. For a number of years Brittas Bay has been awarded the Blue Flag for Beaches Award. This is the international emblem for the highest quality beach areas in Europe. Brittas has a 2 mile stretch of powdery sand and a sand dune system which is a designated area of scientific interest. The dunes are home to many interesting wildlife species and plants including a number of rare species. Public transport: Bus Eireann (002) to Jack White's Cross (1/2 miles).

**22: CLOGGA BEACH.** Clogga Beach is situated about 4 miles (by road) south of Arklow Town. This popular sandy beach is protected from winds coming from the north and west by steep cliffs and by the Arklow rock headland. No public transport.

**23: ANGLING FOR ALL. Aughrim. Tel 0402 36552.** Situated alongside the river in the picturesque village of Aughrim, this angling facility is a 4 acre lake stocked with trout and surrounded by an attractive wildlife area. Car parking and toilet facilities (wheelchair accessible). Coaching in angling is available for beginners and equipment can be hired. Fishing charges apply. The facility is licensed for year round fishing and opening hours are: summer 9 am to 8 pm, winter 9 am to 5 pm. No public transport.

**24: THE DWYER McALLISTER COTTAGE. Tel 045 404781** - is situated in the Glen of Imaal on the Knockanarrigan/Rathdangan road. The cottage nestles in the shade of Kaedeen Mountain at the top of the grassy lane leading up from the road. It is a fine example of a vernacular thatched cottage built with local stone and whitewashed inside and out. It was from this cottage, in the winter of 1799, that the famed rebel, Michael Dwyer, fought the encircling British troops and finally made good his escape over the snow covered mountains. The cottage was burned by the British during the battle but was repaired and continued to be inhabited until the turn of the century when it became unoccupied and fell into ruin. It was restored to its original form as a monument in 1946 and again extensively repaired and reroofed in 1992. Open daily from mid-June to mid-September, 2 to 6 pm. No public transport.

**25: BALTINGLASS ABBEY** - is situated on the east bank of the River Slaney on the north side of Baltinglass town. The Abbey was founded in 1148 by Dermot McMurrough, King of Leinster for the Cistercian Order or Monks. In 1228 it is recorded that there were 36 monks and 50 lay brothers living there. The Abbey ceased to function in the mid-sixteenth century but fragments of the church and traces of the cloister survive. The nave is aisled with alternative square and cylindrical piers, the bases and capitals of which are decorated with a range of unusual designs. The bases of two Romanesque doorways and the well preserved sedilia in the presbytery are also of interest. The tower was erected in the Middle Ages but replaced by a narrow neo-Gothic one during the 19th century. Adjoining the Abbey is a great pyramid style granite mausoleum, built in 1832 as a tomb for the Stratford family who were powerful estate owners in the area. Public transport: Bus Eireann (055, 132,391).

**26. THE BLESSINGTON LAKES.** Serenely set in the foothills of the Wicklow Mountains, the Blessington Lakes cover 5,000 acres of tranquil clean water. The lakes were formed 50 years ago by the building of the Poulaphouca Dam and the hydro-electric power station and today serve a dual purpose of providing a power and water supply to the Dublin region. Many amenities can be enjoyed in the Lakes area. These include angling, cycling and land and water based activities provided at the Blessington adventure Centre. Public Transport: Dublin Bus (65) and Bus Eireann (005, 132,391).

**27. THE BLESSINGTON LAKES ADVENTURE CENTRE. Tel 045 865092.** Offers a complete range of outdoor activities - pony trekking, hill walking, canoeing, tennis and much more.

**28. COUNTRY MARKETS** are held every weekend at several locations in County Wicklow. They are ideal for browsing around and buying local handicrafts, plants, homemade jams, bread and cakes. ARKLOW: Masonic Hall, Saturday 10.30 am to 12 noon. AVOCA: Parish Hall, Sunday (July/August) 2.30 to 5 pm. BLESSINGTON: Saturday 2.30 to 4.30 pm. GREYSTONES: Saturday 11 am to 12 noon. ROUNDWOOD: Parish Hall, Sunday 2 to 5 pm. There is also an open air market on Mondays at Arklow Rugby Football Club on the N11 (this used to be held at Ashford).

### **Things to do and see on Wet Days**

**29: SWIMMING POOLS (INDOOR):** Wicklow Swimming Pool, Presentation College (Bray); New Arklow Sports & Leisure Centre - 0402 23328/ 23329; Avonbrae (Rathdrum - 0404-46198); Corna Bay Club (Brittas Bay. 0404-47228).

**30: THE NATIONAL SEA-LIFE CENTRE (Bray. Tel 01 286 6939).** The Sea-Life Centre is a state of the art, high-tech marine experience displaying 70 different sea and freshwater species. Everything from Sea horses to sharks and stingrays makes an unforgettable experience. Opening times: April-September 11 am - 5 pm. Please ring for winter opening times and group bookings.

**31: INTERNATIONAL LEISURE BOWL (Bray. Tel 01 286 4455, Fax 01 2864460).** For indoor bowling, snooker, pool, sports shop and restaurant, also has children's play area, amusement arcade and megazone.

**32: AVOCA HANDWEAVERS. Tel 01 2867466.** Kilmacanogue (2.5 miles from Bray on N11 route). For a memorable experience, stop at Avoca Handweavers. Set in the beautiful gardens of an old estate, the family run shop is reputed to be the finest design craft company in Ireland. Browse through the outstanding selection of gifts and crafts and eat the delicious home cooking at the famous terrace cafe. Open all year, 7 days 9.20 am . 6 pm.

**33: WICKLOW'S HISTORIC GAOL. Tel 0404 61599.** Experience 200 years of prison life in this wonderfully restored 18th century gaol located in Wicklow Town. See, smell and hear a story of crime, cruelty, exile and misery. Fun family experience. Open March to October daily. Opening times 10 am - 6 pm..

**34: WICKLOW VALE POTTERY. Tel 040239442, Fax 0402 31065,** Email [ittga@indigo.ie](mailto:ittga@indigo.ie). Nestling in the fisheries. the oldest part of Arklow is Wick low Vale Pottery. Built in 1860 as an infant school, it is now home to the showrooms for the Wicklow Vale earthenware collection and Avoca Blue Hand Painted Giftware . both of which are produced in the factory behind the showrooms. Ann's Pantry Restaurant is upstairs over the shop and in addition to the pottery, there is a wonderful collection of Cara Crystal, Eamon Glass and other gift ideas. Cash back service, Bureau du Change & Tourist Information are also available. Groups are welcome and the Pottery is open every day all year round except Christmas Day.

**35: ARKLOW MARITIME MUSEUM. Tel/Fax 0402 32868** - is located in the former Vocational School on St. Mary's Road (the road to the railway station). The museum deals extensively with the maritime history of Arklow, particularly its boat building, lifeboat and fishing traditions. On display are some interesting photographs of the port, dating back to the mid 19th century as well as models of vessels built in Arklow. These include Sir Francis Chichester's 'Gypsy Moth 111'. Of particular interest to children is an operational model of the wheelhouse of a trawler. Open: Summer, Monday to Saturday 10 am to 1 pm and 2 to 5 pm. Public transport: Bus Eireann (002, 133) Irish Rail.

**36: TINAHELY COURTHOUSE CENTRE. Tel 040238529.** Tinahely's refurbished 1843 Courthouse is now a centre for arts, culture and heritage, with exhibitions, concerts, theatre, lectures and readings throughout the year. Drop in hours are 10 am - 5 pm Tuesday to Friday and 2 pm . 6 pm (noon - 4 pm during the winter) on Sundays during exhibitions. Telephone for details.

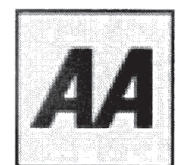
**37: RATHWOOD Home and Garden Gift and Craft Centre, Rath, Tullow. Tel 0503 56285.** Situated on the Shillelagh/Tullow road, this craft centre has a large selection of beautiful Irish pottery, hand made patchwork and lace products and houses an art centre and restaurant where delicious home cooking is served. Open Monday to Saturday from 9 am .6 pm. Sunday 12 pm - 6 pm.

**38: RUSBOROUGH HOUSE. Tel 045 865239** - is situated about 2 miles south of Blessington on the N81 Baltinglass/Wexford Road. The house is the home of the Beit Collection of paintings. It is beautifully maintained and furnished with fine displays of silver, bronzes and porcelain. Open: April from Easter Sunday. Sundays & Bank Holidays 10.30 am - 5.30 pm. Open every day from May to September. October Sundays & Bank Holidays. Public Transport: Dublin Bus (65 - Ballymore or Donard services) and Bus Eireann (132,391).

**39: BRAY HERITAGE CENTRE AND TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICE, Old Court House, Main Street, Bray. Tel 01 2866796/2867128.** It was erected in 1841 and opened as a Heritage Centre in 1992. The downstairs area contains a permanent exhibition of the 'History of Bray' and upstairs you will find an ongoing presentation honouring William Dargan (1799-1867), a Folklore Room and an exhibition gallery. Opening times: June-August Monday/Friday 9 am - 5 pm, Saturday 10 am - 4 pm. Lunch 1-2 pm. Rest 0 year, Monday/Friday 9.30 am - 4.30 pm, Saturday 10 am. 4 pm. Lunch 1-2 pm.

**40: CINEMAS.** Arklow, Wicklow, Bray. Details in Local Papers-Wicklow People. Video hire shop in Roundwood village.

## **A very warm welcome to Roundwood 4Star Caravan & Camping Park Roundwood Co Wicklow**



**[www.dublinwicklowcamping.com](http://www.dublinwicklowcamping.com)  
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