

WALKING FESTIVAL 2019

Mon 1st July - Grade B - 8km - 2 hours

ABBEYLEIX, KILLAMUCK BOG

This Fáilte Ireland approved loop features old bog tracks and peaceful wooded lanes.

Meet: Manor Hotel carpark. Grid Ref: S435841. 7.30pm

Tues 2nd July - Grade B - 8km - 2 hours

DUNMORE WOOD, DURROW

Along woodland paths returning by the banks of the river Nore.

Meet: Dunmore Wood carpark. Grid Ref: S412787. 7.30pm

Wed 3rd July - Grade A - 12km - 3½ hours

FOSSEY MOUNTAIN, TIMAHOE

This demanding walk goes up Fossey Mountain and back into the historic village of Timahoe.

Meet: The Goose Green, Timahoe. Grid Ref: S536906. 7.30pm

Thurs 4th July - Grade B - 8km - 2 hours

EMO COURT DEMESNE

A circuit of Emo Court Demesne (second largest walled park in Europe) passing forest plantations, fields and Emo Court gardens itself.

Meet: Community Centre, GAA carpark. Grid Ref: N530056. 7.30pm

Sat 6th July - Grade B - 10km - 2½ hours

ROCK OF DUNAMAISE, PORTLAOISE

Take in the wonderful views from the Rock of Dunamais and stroll along the woodland paths of Dysart Wood.

Meet: Dysart Wood carpark. Grid Ref: S532976. 2.30pm

Sun 7th July - Grade A - 12km - 3 hours

The Ballagh, Durrow

Country lanes and roads, with views of Mount Leinster and Blackstairs Mountains. Walk along part of the old Bianconi Coach Road.

Meet: St Fintan's Church carpark. Grid Ref: S409770. 2.30pm

Mon 8th July - Grade B - 12 km - 3 hours

RICKETTS ROCKS, CLONASLEE

A mix of minor roads, sandy roadways and forestry tracks up into the Slieve Bloom passing Ricketts Rocks waterfall.

Meet: The Heritage Centre. Grid Ref: N319109. 7.30pm

Tues 9th July - Grade C - 8km - 2½ hours

BALLACOLLA FAMILY WALK

Starting from the village of Ballacolla, take in the rolling countryside of South Laois along quiet country roads and green lanes.

Meet: Hayes' Shop, Ballacolla. Grid Ref: S372814. 7.30pm

Wed 10th July - Grade B - 10km - 2½ hours

ROSSMORE, KILLESHEIN

This walk is a must for the wonderful views of the Barrow valley, Dublin and Wicklow Mountains.

Meet: Oisín Park. Grid Ref: S349950. 7.30pm

Thurs 11th July - Grade A - 10km - 2½ hours

CULLAHILL

Stunning panoramic views across several counties, taking you along old country lanes, forest tracks and open countryside.

Meet: Community Centre at 7.15. Grid Ref: S353742. 7.30pm

Sat 13th July - Grade A - 12km - 3½ hours

RIDGE OF CAPARD, ROSENALLIS

Enjoy a walk through Ireland's state-owned nature reserve as you watch for the Hen Harrier, a rare bird of prey.

Meet: Ridge of Capard carpark. Grid Ref: N363065. 2.30pm

Sun 14th July - Grade A - 12 km - 3 hours

Portarlinton Bog Walk

The Derryounce walk is a community owned walk around the picturesque Derryounce Lakes and bogland.

Meet: Hawthorn Inn. Grid Ref: N534124. 2.30pm

Mon 15th July - Grade B - 10km - 2 hours

WOLFHILL

The 'hill of the howling wolves' on the Slieve Margy Ridge offers spectacular views of Slieve Margy and The Swan area.

Meet: Church carpark. Grid Ref: S585839. 7.30pm

Tues 16th July - Grade C - 8km - 2 hours

GRANTSTOWN FAMILY WALK

Quiet roads, laneways, Grantstown lake and countryside views.

Meet: Gates of the lake. Grid Ref: S338795. 7.30pm

Wed 17th July - Grade A - 10km - 2½ hours

SPINK

A challenging walk traversing the hills of the 16th century Cooper Estate with spectacular views of Laois, Carlow, Waterford, Kildare and Tipperary.

Meet: Knock Church, Spink. Grid Ref: S516836. 7.30pm

Thurs 18th July - Grade A - 10 km - 3 hours

GATTABAWN

Stroll along the Gattabawn loop which uses old farm lanes, open countryside and forest paths.

Meet: Mackey's Pub, Gattabawn. Grid Ref: S356685. 7.30pm

Sat 20th July - Grade B - 10km - 3 hours

MONCİKNEW MOUNTAIN WALK, MOUNTRATH

Experience the natural views and the beauty of the Slieve Bloom mountains as you ramble along its woodlands paths.

Meet: Monciknew Recreational carpark. Grid Ref: N307015. 2.30pm

Sun 21st July - Grade B - 12km - 3 hours

CAPPONELLAN WOODS, DURROW

Woodland walk through part of the Castle Durrow estate once owned by Lord Ashbrooke.

Meet: Capponellan Woods carpark. Grid Ref: S386764. 2.30pm

Mon 22nd July - Grade B - 10km - 2½ hours

LUGGACURREN

This walk includes quiet winding country roads with great countryside views.

Meet: Community Centre. Grid Ref: S586888. 7.30pm

Tues 23rd July - Grade A - 13km - 3 hours

GRAND CANAL, FISHERSTOWN

Walk along the Grand Canal down the Barrow valley passing moored boats and grain stores to the village of Vicarstown.

Meet: Fisherstown Inn. Grid Ref: S467890. 7.30pm

Wed 24th July - Grade C - 8km - 1½ hours

BALLINAKILL-HEYWOOD FAMILY WALK

This walk starts from the historic gardens and skirts the Masslough, passing the Heywood Estate.

Meet: Heywood Demesne entrance carpark. Grid Ref: S465812. 7.30pm

Thurs 25th July - Grade B - 8km - 2½ hours

BALLYKILCAVAN, STRADBALLY

Beautiful walk through one of Irelands oldest preserved Heritage woodlands, farm fields, oak avenues, a hidden part of undiscovered Laois.

Meet: Farm entrance. **Grid Ref:** S593965.

7.30pm

Sat 27th July - Grade B - 9km - 2½ hours

ERRILL BOG WALK

A lovely walk through taking in Monamonra Bog with panoramic views of the Devil's Bit.

Meet: The Green, Errill. **Grid Ref:** S218788.

2.30pm

Sun 28th July - Grade A - 10km - 2½ hours

OAKVALE WOODS, STRADBALLY

Explore the forest on the 'Cobbler's Walk', passing a Mass Rock, lime kilns and the gate of the Cobbler's Castle folly.

Meet: Oakvale Wood carpark, Stradbally. **Grid Ref:** S585951.

2.30pm

Mon 29th July - Grade B - 9km - 2 hours

THE DERRIS BALLYBRITTAS

This walk through woodland by the lake following gentle forest tracks starting opposite Derries Church.

Meet: Forestry entrance at Derries Wood. **Grid Ref:** N585064.

7.30pm

Tues 30th July - Grade C - 7km - 1½ hours

MOUNTMELICK FAMILY WALK

Enjoy a gentle stroll around quiet roads and streets of Mountmellick suitable for buggies and wheelchairs.

Meet: MDA Museum. **Grid Ref:** N449073.

7.30pm

Wed 31st July - Grade A - 10 km - 3 hours

DURROW LEAFY LOOP WALK

The Leafy Loop brings you through woodland, farmland & riverbanks with a delightfully rich abundance of flora & fauna.

Meet: The Square, Durrow. **Grid Ref:** S412787.

7.30pm

GRADES OF WALKS:

A = Strenuous

B = Difficult

C = Moderate

Grade C walks are suitable for families

**"Get Ireland Walking"
- Active Community Walking Programme**

Walking is the easiest way to get moving, get active and get happy. Get Ireland Walking is here to help you get started. We've got tips and advice for anybody who wants to start walking to feel better, and we have all the information you need to start a walking group - so you can get fit with friends. For further information on this programme please contact Laois Sports Partnership (057) 867 1248 or email info@laoissports.ie

WALKERS PLEASE NOTE

REGISTRATION: takes place half an hour prior to each walk. €3 per walk or €30 Festival Ticket.

- Wear comfortable walking boots / shoes
- Bring rain gear
- We walk as a group, please stay with Walk Leaders
- Walk routes may vary slightly to those listed due to weather conditions or walker numbers
- Bring sufficient food and water for the duration of the walk

COUNTRYSIDE CODE:

- Leave no trace
- No dogs allowed
- On country roads walk in single file on the right hand side
- Respect private property, farmland, wildlife and the rural environment.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

On family Walks & Laois Walks Festival, please contact
Dominic Hartnet | Group Leader at 087 313 0504
Susan Lawlor | Festival Co-ordinator at 087 257 4477
Laois Partnership at (057) 866 1900

info@laoispartnership.ie

www.laoispartnership.ie/laois-walks-festival

Peter Maher | Rural Recreation Officer at 085 174 2217

petermaher@laoispartnership.ie

Laois Tourism

www.laoistourism.ie

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Members of Laois Walks Committee, Community Groups, the Local Development Associations, Coillte, National Parks and Wildlife Service and Landowners

www.laoispartnership.ie



1st - 31st July 2019



27 Walks 27 Locations