

Once the old police barracks on the estate at the time of the Castle being built, The Bridge House is now a specially dedicated space for learning.



The house and garden have been lovingly restored to act as a base for the Education Team who provide services to schools and other groups. Through creative and professionally written programmes they teach all ages about biodiversity and conservation. Families are also welcome to visit the centre for special events and a series of nature based talks, walks and teacher training courses are also scheduled throughout the year.

The Bridge House is an accredited Discover Primary Science and Maths Centre and we include aspects of STEM in each field trip or visit. The centre is also a Leave No Trace training facility and can offer courses and activities linked to this outdoor ethics education programme.

National Parks are leaders in Conservation Education. Our aim is to help all our visitors to get to know, care for and protect our landscape and biodiversity. We believe that by offering outdoor learning programmes and experiences, people of all ages can leave with greater awareness of the value of the natural world on which we all depend.

We want to inspire you to love nature as much as we do...

Our National Parks and Nature Reserves offer opportunities for learning and exploring, enjoying the great outdoors and a chance to spend time in unique and pristine natural environments. A visit to a one of these protected sites opens the door to understanding that we can all learn and choose to protect nature.



Who We Work With

- Pre-school Groups
- Primary Schools
- Secondary Schools
- Colleges/ Universities
- Clubs/ Scouts/ Guides
- Local Businesses and other partners involved in nature & outdoor provision
- Youth & Community Groups
- General Visitors & Families
- Overseas & International Exchange Groups



How to Book

Our activity days and outreach programme fill up fast so book in early to avoid disappointment. Booking enquiries are taken via email only.

EMAIL: glenveagh-education@npws.gov.ie

ADDRESS: Glenveagh National Park, The Bridge House Education Centre, Church Hill, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal, F92Y7R2

PHONE: +353 (1) 539 3450

WEBSITE: www.nationalparks.ie

Download "A Teachers Guide: Arranging an Educational Visit" from our website for full information.

Glenveagh National Park
A Place to Learn

Learning & Education Services



Our Programmes

We're passionate about teaching children and young people to know about and care for our natural world. Our Team of Education Guides can support your school in experiencing the National Park and making connections with subjects right across the curriculum for when you return to the classroom. Learning through the landscape together, we explore the past, present and future for this special place and how we can all play a part in protecting nature.



Working Together

Our education programme provides a diverse range of other courses and experiences, tailored to meet a group's needs and covering a wide range of relevant subjects. We believe nature is best promoted and protected through flexible programmes and working together with other organisations who share the same aims. Talk to us about your groups needs and we will do all we can to support you.



The Education Centre is also available for meetings and courses.

- Wellbeing walks and community events
- Talks on the role of tourism, its impacts and sustainability in protected sites
- Workshops on nature, art and creativity in the outdoors
- Accredited Teacher Training sessions & workshops
- 'Leave No Trace' awareness courses
- Conservation awareness with our rangers and other nature projects & partners

Primary Schools

We provide a choice of themed days where children learn about the National Park, protecting nature and our environment. This brings school learning into a practical outdoor setting through nature exploration and interactive learning. Themes teachers can choose from include:

Take a look at our Learning Module Fact Sheets for a full overview of each day.



- Protect Nature Activity Day
- Woodland Discovery
- Life in Our Bogs
- Glenveagh: Past, Present & Future
- Discover Primary Science & Maths Certificate
- Little Nature Explorers

Secondary Schools

ECOLOGY & CONSERVATION FIELD TRIP (JUNIOR & LEAVING CERT.)

We can offer a field studies day tailored to the 'Habitat and Ecosystem' sections of the curriculum. Students will take part in hands on activities using scientific ecological methods and will record their findings in a useful workbook which can be used for revision at a later date. The aim of this day is to bring definitions of terms to life through real life examples of conservation work and science in the national park through the use of ecological surveys in the real world, and the work of ecologists and conservation rangers.

We hope that students will leave with a greater understanding of the interactions between different living things in a habitat and a sound understanding of why this type of work is important across a range of disciplines and careers.



RIVER STUDIES TRIP FOR GEOGRAPHY

We can provide a River Studies Day which involves a walk down the Glen path (7km) and a closer look at the work of rivers. Students will take part in interactive exercises, comparing the three stages of a river and will complete a workbook with their findings. This route offers some excellent examples of features such as waterfalls, meanders and ox bow lakes. We will explore the work of erosion and deposition, and examine the river load at various points. Map work is included in this day, as well as general discussion on the importance of freshwater habitats and conservation of important species present in them. Contact us for more information.

TRANSITION YEAR: PROTECT NATURE PROJECT & CERT.

This is a unique learning experience for Transition Year students which aims to inspire change in values and attitudes towards the environment, sustainability, and outdoor recreation. It incorporates a school based project, an outreach visit to the classroom from Glenveagh's Education Team and a guided visit to the National Park. This programme raises awareness of nature conservation work carried out by the National Park while also delivering the core messages of the Leave No Trace Outdoor Ethics Education Programme. Students participating in the programme receive a certificate of completion.

Download the full Guide and programme from our website.

Community Outreach Programme

National Parks and Nature Reserves are important parts of the communities in which they are located. Learning about nature and how to conserve and protect it works best when people come together in their own areas and take positive action. We want to build strong relationships with the areas surrounding Glenveagh and our Nature Reserves, so can offer outreach visits to help support this.

In our zero-emissions Education Outreach Car, we travel to meet with local schools, communities and youth groups to facilitate conservation education, biodiversity awareness, and to promote the conservation work carried out by the National Parks and Wildlife Service. We also host special family nature events in our nature reserves throughout the year.



Leading Your Own Educational Visit

We are more than happy to work with schools and other groups planning to lead their own Educational Visit to the National Park or one of our Nature Reserve sites.

See the downloadable Teachers Guide: Planning Your own Visit to the National Park on our website and talk to us about how we can help.

