



Páirc Náisiúnta Ghleann Bheatha
Glenveagh National Park



NPWS

An tSeirbhís Páircanna,
Náisiúnta agus Fiadhóla
National Parks and Wildlife Service

National Biodiversity Week New Annual Festival 16 – 24 May 2025

Le Chéile don Dúlra *Together for Nature*

Celebrating Glenveagh's biodiversity through
creativity, conversation and community

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16 – 24 May 2025

Celebrating Glenveagh's biodiversity through creativity, conversation and community.

Join us in our festival of events to highlight the landscape, its history, people, nature and conservation, with a special emphasis on the arts. The park will act as a venue to bring together professionals working for nature, artists, facilitators, musicians and film makers along with our own staff. Everyone visiting the park during the festival will experience a special atmosphere and meaningful encounter with what it means to be in a National Park, part of the Natura 2000 Network – the largest nature protection network in the world!

Glenveagh is serviced by the Local Link Route No. 971 between Burtonport and Letterkenny several times a day. Why not leave the car at home and join us in thinking sustainably during the week.

Visit the festival webpage/booking address for more information
<https://www.nationalparks.ie/glenveagh/things-to-do/events/>



**All events are subject to weather and some require minimum attendance. All events are wheelchair accessible unless otherwise stated. Book online via our website. Where payment is required this is on the day. By booking online you consent to us holding your contact details for the purposes of event communications only during the period leading up to and during the festival.*



Running All Week

Biodiversity Market Place

Visitor Centre | 9am – 5pm

Never before have there been so many organisations, people & projects working for nature. Call into our Visitor Centre to see our amazing biodiversity display and to find out who's who, what's happening near you and how you can get involved.

Nadur 'In The Wild'

Pop up Shop

Marquee | Friday 16 10-7pm, Sat 17 12-7pm, Sun 18 – Sat 24 10-5pm

Nadur Nature will be offering a unique range of products celebrating nature, biodiversity and local creativity in the marquee.

Nature Games Area

An Foscadh Mór | Free Open Event

Try your hand at our fun handcrafted challenges and puzzles created from fallen wood and natural materials. Come and see designs from local woodwork students & enthusiasts taking part in our competition.

Marvellous Moss

Log Cabin | 10am-4.30pm |

Free Open Event

Fuzzy, fluffy and every shade of green, moss is like nature's carpet. Help us create our new display through textiles and recycled fabric art and learn about the weird and wonderful world of a much overlooked part of the park's landscape. Bring along any green fabric, wool and string and head to the Log Cabin on the Derrylahan Trail.

National College of Art & Design Partnership

Marquee & Throughout the Park

Head to the Marquee to find Karen Browett & Melissa O'Brien our first Biodiversity Week Artists in Residence. The Post Graduate Diploma in Art and Ecology (NCAD, Creative Futures Academy) introduces learners to the contemporary and historical field of art and expanded ecologies through situated environmental learning. Glenveagh are proud to announce a new partnership with this course, its staff and students going forward. Enjoy more information about Karen and Melissa on our festival web page and meet Lecturer Seoidín O'Sullivan, an artist, educator and interdisciplinary researcher who joins us on Thursday 22 May.

Glebe Gallery Partnership

Marquee & Throughout the Park

Supported by the Glebe Gallery, artist and also a fellow NCAD graduate Claire McLaughlin will be sharing the festival with us, following her recent residency with the Derek Hill Foundation. Find out more about Claire on our festival web page.

Nature Book Nook

(excl Wed 21 May) | Marquee |

10am-4.30pm | Free Open Event

Drop in to our library and chill out corner in the marquee – enjoy our books, meet the staff and catch up with family and friends. This area has been specially designed by the children of Gartan National School.

Opening Night Celebration: Voices for Nature

Supported by Creative Ireland

**Friday 16 May | Visitor Centre | 7pm |
Free Event | Booking Required**

All around Glenveagh and Donegal, children and young adults are inspired by the landscape here through writing, music and creativity. Join us in a celebration through what they have to say, share and show. Hosted by artist Roisin Doherty, music groups An Crann Óg and Sáile plus local schools. Nellie's Restaurant Open 5pm -7pm for those attending.

Dawn Chorus Walk & Breakfast

*Supported by Donegal County Council
and The Heritage Council*

**Saturday 17 May & Sunday 18 May |
Car Park | 4.30am | Booking Required**

Adult €14 pp (children €8)
Payment on the day

An opportunity to experience Glenveagh at a spectacular time of day, enjoying nature's symphony of bird song, hearing and identifying birds as they wake and announce their presence on a stroll with Aengus Kennedy. Followed by a hearty breakfast in Nellie's Restaurant.

Bee a Biodiversity Explorer

*Supported by Donegal County Council
and The Heritage Council*

**Saturday 17 May | An Foscadh Mór |
12pm - 3pm**

Become a citizen scientist and join Biodiversity Officer Julie Corry to learn about and identify butterflies and bees. Supported by Donegal County Council, The Heritage Council and National Parks & Wildlife Service through the Local Biodiversity Action Fund.

Picnic in the Park and Community Planting

**Saturday 17 May & Sunday 18 May |
An Foscadh Mór | 12-3pm | Free Event**

Enjoy the new views of the valley from a whole new perspective. Bring your lunch and head to the An Foscadh Mór for chats, tunes and pop up nature displays. Ahead of its official opening on Monday 19th, we're inviting local families to come and help put the finishing touches to this special new area in the park by planting native trees from our nursery. Bring your picnic and some gloves. Children must be supervised at all times.

Nature Scrapbooking with Robert Vaughan

*Supported by Donegal County Council
and Local Biodiversity Action Fund*

**Saturday 17 May | Meet at Visitor
Centre | 11am – 1pm | Free Event |
Booking Required**

A short and relaxed walk observing and noting the abundant biodiversity close to the visitor centre. Using mixed media, we will begin to work on our own nature scrapbook, recording our observations. Participants will be encouraged to continue to work on after the event. All materials will be supplied free of charge. Suitable for children 4-12yrs & parents. *Robert will host an exhibition of his work at The Bridge House from 2pm-4pm*

Pop Up Plein Air Workshop – Presented by The Glebe Gallery

**Saturday 17 May | Meet at Visitor
Centre 11.45 | 12pm - 4pm | Free Event**

Come and join artist Cornelius Browne for an afternoon of painting in beautiful Glenveagh and let him guide you through the process of painting outdoors. Please bring your own materials and easel. Dress for the weather.

Through The Lens: Stories and Adventures from Filmmakers in Glenveagh

Saturday 17 May | Visitor Centre |
7.30pm | Booking Required

Price: €20pp - Payment on the night

The landscape of Glenveagh has featured in many productions in the past and continues to inspire new narratives and filming collaborations for the future. Featuring live music from Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh and an exclusive preview of our new Children's film, join us for conversations with Crossing The Line Films and Paper Owl Films along with park staff and friends. Refreshments included & drinks available to purchase.

Sunset Sessions

Saturday 17 May | Marquee | 9pm

Bring a tune, a story, enjoy the view and the vibes. Open music and story-telling session where conversations from the film evening can flow on and we'll take an evening stroll at dusk weather permitting.

Wildlife Watercolour Illustration, Demonstration & Workshop with Robert Vaughan

*Supported by DCC and Local Biodiversity
Action Fund*

Sunday 18 May | The Bridge House |
11am – 1pm | Free Event |
Booking Required

A 2 hour work shop, beginning with a sketching and watercolour demonstration followed by a practical and engaging project. Some materials will be provided, but it is recommended that you bring your own paints, brushes and paper if you have them. Suitable for 12 yrs and up. *Robert will host an exhibition of his work at The Bridge House from 2pm-4pm*

A Walk on the Wild side

Sunday 18 May & Saturday 24 May |
Bus departs from main car park |
11.30am | Free Event |
Booking Required

Explore Landscape Restoration in Glenveagh National Park with the Nature Conservation Team, with a hike along the Upper Glen Trail. Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy with some special treats in the old deer stalkers hut. Spaces limited. Booking required. Suitable clothing required.

*Not wheelchair accessible.

Nature's Notes

Supported by Creative Ireland

Sunday 18 May | Marquee | 3.30pm |
Open event but space limited

Down through history and the world over, nature in all its forms has inspired musicians and songwriters. From well-known classical to local folk and traditional pieces, landscapes and living things have touched our hearts and minds through music. We invite you to a very special performance with pianist Aoife Lynch and cellist Laura McFadden. Together, they will perform works that reflect these influences of nature on music throughout the ages from some of the most world-renowned composers, including Grieg, Dvorak and Chopin, amongst others. This exciting duo look forward to coming together with the aim of encapsulating the beautiful surroundings of Glenveagh through their choice of programme, for a concert that is not to be missed.

Landscape Reflections: Nature Inspired Yoga accompanied by live Cello

Monday 19 May | An Foscadh Mór |
7am & 11am | Booking Required

€10pp - Payment on the day

A unique opportunity to tap into Glenveagh's value for mindfulness and wellbeing, through a quiet hour of sensory engagement and gentle physical movement, led by Victoria Toye, whilst Laura McFadden provides the soundtrack on cello, allowing for the perfect way to start your day. The class will be mixed level, suitable for all including beginners. Dress in comfortable clothes you can stretch in, bring a layer or blanket if you like for relaxation and breath work.

Wild Verses of Glenveagh

Supported by Creative Ireland

Monday 19 May | The Bridge House |
10am – 12 & 12.30 – 2.30pm | Small
school groups only | Booking required

Step into the wild wonders of Glenveagh and let nature spark your imagination. Led by singer-songwriter Maria McCormack, this magical workshop invites children to create their own songs inspired by shimmering lakes, misty mountains, and hidden forest creatures. Through playful storytelling, melody-making, and creative games, young songwriters will bring the spirit of Glenveagh to life—no experience needed, just a sense of adventure. Most suited to 4th class upwards.

Official Opening of An Foscadh Mór (The Shelter)

Monday 19 May | An Foscadh Mór |
3.30pm

We'll be celebrating this wonderful new outdoor event space in the park with special guests and our local communities. Music & Refreshments.

Woodland Flora Botanical Art Workshop

Tuesday 20 May or Thursday 22 May |
The Orangery | 10am – 1pm |
Booking Required

€50pp - Payment on the day

Join artist Sarah Lewtas and Head Gardener Sean O'Gaoithín for an immersive experience exploring the native plants of Glenveagh. Learn classical watercolour botanical illustration techniques while appreciating the intricate beauty of closely observed plants. Sarah will also exhibit some of her pieces for the public to enjoy. Participants will be contacted with what to bring and have the option afterwards to continue working in this special area of the gardens. Synge & Byrne Tea Rooms available for lunch.

Natures Tales - Special Interactive story time for school groups

Supported by Creative Ireland

Tuesday 20 May & Thursday 22 May |
Marquee | 10am, 11.15am, 12.30 &
2pm | Free | Booking Required

Through the medium of storytelling, children will be offered insights and secrets of 3 native plants and their value for nature and people. The children are invited to make a heather posie to take home to remember the tales told with Maura Logue from Dark Daughter Productions. 40 minute sessions suitable for 2nd class upwards and groups of no more than 20 pupils. *School groups will be welcome to visit and enjoy other things taking place in the park on these days at their leisure.*

Natura 2000 Day

Just how much Nature does Glenveagh have? Natura 2000 Bioblitz

Wednesday 21 May | Visitor Centre |
All Day

Call by the Visitor Centre to see how many different living things we can record in the National Park and the Special Area of Conservation we are part of. Competing against lots of other European protected areas, our rangers and park staff will be recording as many species as possible during a 24 hour period. Talk to our staff if you'd like to help.

Biodiversity Café & Brunch: Nature Networking Event for Natura 2000 Day

*Supported by Donegal County Council &
Local Biodiversity Action Fund*

Wednesday 21 May | Marquee |
9am – 1.30pm | Limited spaces |
Booking required

With nature inspired food from our new restaurant Nellie's, and bite sized inspirational stories & presentations, we hope this morning of conversations and knowledge exchange will grow greater collaboration in Donegal and the North West around Biodiversity. Speakers include friends and colleagues from Atlantic Technological University, Hometree, National College of Art and Design, Leave No Trace Ireland, Maynooth University, Donegal ETB, Wild & Co. & The Wilderlands Project. Donegal Artist and COP26 contributor Rosin Doherty will exhibit work during the event.

Optional afternoon programme of talks, field trips and demonstrations available on our website, along with information on our speakers.

Weaving on Eagle's Wings

Thursday 22 May | An Foscadh Mór |
10am – 3pm | Free open event

Meet the artist Brendan Farren, of Big Green Art, and help him to weave a giant Golden Eagle sculpture with willow.

Cultural History Of Birds in Donegal

Thursday 22 May | Marquee | 2.30pm
| Free Open Session

Join Lorcan O'Toole of The Golden Eagle Trust and long standing member of the Glenveagh community, for conversations about the fascinating stories and folklore of birds in Donegal.

Launch of The Birds of Donegal by Ralph Sheppard

*Supported by Donegal County Council, The
Heritage Council & Cork University Press*

Thursday 22 May | Marquee | 4pm |
Bookings/RSVP required

The Birds of County Donegal is the first complete account of the history and status of all 376 birds known to have occurred in County Donegal, their habitats, and the activities of the ornithologists and birdwatchers who study them. The book is copiously illustrated with photos, graphics and Robert Vaughan's iconic paintings. As the definitive reference on the history of birds and birdwatching in the county, it should appeal to all birdwatchers in the north-west of Ireland, to the ornithological research community throughout Ireland and beyond, and to people with a more general interest in the natural environment. Special Guest Eric Dempsey. Book available for sale on the day.

Biodiversity in the Castle Gardens

Friday 23 May | Meeting at Castle Reception | 2pm | Free event | Booking Required

The Castle Gardens are one of the most biodiverse hotspots in the National Park. Our walking tour will highlight the unique blend to be found here, with both cultured gardens and wild nature.

History, Nature & Chill

Saturday 24 May | Visitor Centre | 11am - 1pm or 2pm – 4pm | Bookings required via Eventbrite

Tickets are €10 and available through Eventbrite (Manny Man Productions)

Join Heritage in Schools specialist and YouTuber John D Ruddy as he explores all the ups and downs of Irish History in his classic tongue-in-cheek fashion. See how the story of Glenveagh National Park and its landscape fits into the whole big picture of Irish history. Tickets are €10 and available through Eventbrite. Suitable for ages 8+ (but just as suitable for adults!) Approx 2 hours.

European Day of Parks! - Community Events

The Park is Bigger Than You Think: Family Fun Day and Children's Book Launch

Supported By Donegal County Council

Saturday 24 May | Ionad Cois Locha, Dunlewey | 12 noon – Book launch 5pm | Free Event | Bus optional

Did you know that Glenveagh National Park takes in part of Errigal Mountain? Enjoy a visit to Glenveagh then catch the Local Link Bus to Dunlewey for an afternoon of nature fun and learning with Cairde na hEargaile, the Glenveagh Education Team, Nature North West and others along with special guest Éanna Ní Lamhna.

Church Hill Family Fun Day

Saturday 24 May | Church Hill Village | 2pm - 6pm

Special Biodiversity hands on fun, planting & learning in Church Hill Community Park. Organised by Church Hill Community Development Group. Planting from 2-3pm.

Cumann na Forbairt na Duchoraidh - Doochary Development;

Tidy Towns Heritage Display & Launch of new Biodiversity Display

Saturday 24 May

Enjoy the Riverwalk in Doochary, with its new photographic display on the theme of the salmon fishery. At the Children's Free Library and Doochary National School there will be a display of native mammals and bugs and a large Bug hotel, bee and bat boxes created by our Men's Shed. For more information please follow Doochary Development-Tidy Towns on Facebook.



**Together
for Nature**
EUROPEAN DAY OF PARKS 2025