

Case study

Blackstairs Eco Trails, Ireland



Blackstairs eco trails is an eco-tourism business about sharing a passion for the environment with guests and developing a sustainable business in the heart of the Blackstairs Mountains, Wicklow.

Mary White is a linguist, walking guide, forager, and flora and fauna specialist. She speaks to a wide public on Deep Ecology, Eco-Tourism, Climate Change, Sustainability and other green issues. She also runs Blackstairs Eco-trails, an award-winning Eco-tourism business in the Blackstairs Mountains and the Barrow Valley, with her husband Robert and daughter Dorothy-Ellen.

Mary is a well-known conference speaker on green issues. She has written a walking guide to these hills – Walking in the Blackstairs.

<https://blackstairsecotrails.ie/about/#>

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[Ecotourism Principles](#)



[Ecotourism Policy](#)



[Environmentally Sustainable Practices](#)



[Environmental Policy](#)

Book a Shepards Hut



Blackstairs Eco-trails have 4 beautiful Shepard huts in the gardens of their old rectory. Decorated in rustic style, contains a double bed with the provision of a state-of-the-art Eco Centre, kitchen and bathrooms for washing and cooking. They were selected as one of the 100 best places to stay in Ireland (Irish Times Magazine June 3rd 2017). Gold-accredited Eco Centre, certified to G.S.T.C. standard (Global Sustainable Tourism Council). In 2019, selected as one of the Fabulous 50 Best Places to Stay in Ireland by the Irish Independent.

<https://blackstairsecotrails.ie/shepherds-huts/>

Book a Foraging Experience



Learn how to cook food and find food as if in a supermarket. Blackstairs offer a relaxing hands-on workshop, spending time in the woods, fields and hedgerows looking for wild safe foods. Suitable for all the family. Learn how to make Beech Leaf liqueur, Sorrel Tabbouleh and find wild greens for salads. They find plants to give great new seasonings using seed heads, leaves and roots.

<https://blackstairsecotrails.ie/foraging/>

Book a Celtic Tree Trail



The Celtic Tree Trail is where guests see the world of Celts and where they lived in the trees. Visit Nobel Trees that tell the uses and mythology dating back thousands of years when Ireland was one of the most forested countries in Europe. Hear stories of mystery, folklore, tradition and history. Complete with afternoon tea and Celtic Tree movie.

<https://blackstairsecotrails.ie/celtic-tree-trail/>

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Book a Fungi Workshop



The Wild Fungi Workshops are one of our most popular experiences. A day spent in the woods looking for different types of wild mushrooms; mushrooms of all shapes, sizes and colours. Some edible some not. Ireland has a surprising number of wild mushrooms, something in the region of 4,000 species. There so there is a lot to get to know in the woods. The day will start with Tea and Coffee and a brief introductory talk, then a three-course organic lunch.

<https://blackstairsecotrails.ie/fungi/>

Book a Civil Marriage



Celebrate your Civil Marriage at The Barn, The Old Rectory, Killedmond, Borris, Co. Carlow in a restored 1831 Barn. Our Barn is fully renovated to the highest conservation standards. It is also an award-winning Eco Centre. The venue is completely private for your Civil Marriage with ample parking and is set on its own magnificent grounds. <https://blackstairsecotrails.ie/civil-marriage-venue/>

Parties



Cater for parties such as Hens that take place in the old Barn at the Old Rectory with comfy interiors. People arrive and get pampered with a deluxe organic brunch with lots of bubbles. Followed by a foraging expedition for leaves, flowers, petals, berries, nuts and seeds. Lunch is wild treats and mouth-watering pesto and salads. Everything that is made or cooked is taken home by the Hen and her Flock.

<https://blackstairsecotrails.ie/foraging-hen-experience/>

Book the Barn



The Barn at Blackstairs Eco trails are located in a beautiful setting and looks out on a small stream running through a classical old rose garden. It is certified as eco-friendly and sustainable and perfect for your event. A three-course organic lunch can be supplied if required.

<https://blackstairsecotrails.ie/book-the-barn/>

Book Company Days Out



The Barn at Blackstairs Eco trails is a small, Eco-friendly, sustainable, private venue. It is an ideal location to hold private meetings or Company training days. At the heart of a Company Day Out is relaxation; time spent away from screens, tablets and phones. Time-out from checking emails, sitting in meetings or watching interminable PowerPoint presentations.

<https://blackstairsecotrails.ie/company-days-out/>

Stargazing Natural Detox



The Blackstairs is perfect for stargazing. There is no light pollution here. Guests who stay with us in our Shepherds Huts have a clear view of the sky— just like our ancestors had. A calendar of the night sky is provided, and guests can sit back and watch the stars, wrapped in comfy rugs, sipping hot chocolate. They provide marshmallows too!

<https://blackstairsecotrails.ie/star-gazing/>