

Wild Nephin National Park

Camping Policy

The definition of a National Park is:

A natural area of land and/or sea designated to protect the ecological integrity of one or more ecosystems for present and future generations, exclude exploitation or occupation inimical to the purposes of designation of the area and to provide a foundation for spiritual, scientific, educational, recreational, and visitor opportunities, all of which must be environmentally and culturally compatible.

The provision of visitor accommodation is a matter for the communities who live close to the Park. No accommodation services are provided within the Park itself. However, it is recognised that some visitors, seeking a wilderness experience may want to experience “**wilderness camping***” in remote areas. Such camping is permitted within the Park, but only in designated campsites. Camping in this context includes bivouacking without a tent. The code is outlined overleaf.

*** Only wild camping is permitted in the National Park.
Please see the camping code on page two of this policy.**

Background to Camping Code

This Code has been developed in an attempt to reconcile the conservation of natural and other qualities of the National Park and keep all visitors safe while visiting.

Please contact our Visitor Centre, 098 49888 if you need assistance interpreting any aspect of this code. Comments from members of the public are very welcome.

If you wish to comment:

Please write to:
The Park Manager
Wild Nephin National Park
National Parks and Wildlife Service
Lagduff More
Ballycroy
Westport
Co. Mayo

Or email us at:
ballycroyvisitorcentre@housing.gov.ie



This policy will be subject to review.



**Páirceanna Náisiúnta
National Parks**



**An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage**

Camping Code

1. Camping within the Wild Nephin National Park is only permitted through our online registration system. See www.campingwildnephin.com
2. Camping is strictly prohibited at Wild Nephin National Park during Condition Orange/Red Fire Risk Danger Notices.
3. Camping is permitted in designated campsites only*.
4. Campsites must be left as found, or better. Dispose of waste properly. Please take out all litter, yours and others, including all food waste and litter, whether or not it is biodegradable. Buried waste would be exposed by foraging animals or by erosion.
5. Latrine Protocol**; catholes for disposal of human waste should be located at least 30m away from watercourses and 50m from walking routes. Human waste should be buried or carried out of the site. No evidence of latrine use should remain visible. All toilet paper and hygiene products must be carried out.
6. Campfires (including disposable bbqs) are only permitted at fire pits in designated campsites. Use only sticks from the ground that can be broken by hand for fuel, do not cut growing vegetation. Accelerants should not be used when lighting campfires.
7. Be sure to keep you campfire small and under control. Burn all wood & coals to ash.
8. Put out campfires completely. Campfires should always be fully extinguished, including all glowing embers, on the decommissioning of the campsite.
9. Campers to bring their own fire retardant, in the event of an emergency at campfire.
10. Soap and toothpaste must be kept at least 30m away from watercourses.
11. Dish and utensil washing will be conducted at least 30m from water bodies. All wastewater should be strained and scattered. In no circumstances should wastewater used in washing be poured into lakes, streams or rivers.
12. Campers are required to conduct themselves in a quiet manner, disturbing neither the local community, wildlife nor other visitors.
13. Campsites must be kept visually unobtrusive.
14. All campers should bring their own First Aid Kit, in the event of an emergency.
15. Failure to comply with this code will result in withdrawal of permission to camp. In such cases National Park Staff will demand that the visitors break camp.

***Please see map showing designated campsites**

**** For more information on sanitation in the outdoors read "Where to go in the outdoors leaflet" available from the National Park Visitor Centre and the Mountaineering Council of Ireland (MCI).**

Practising a Leave No Trace ethic is very simple: Make it hard for others to see or hear you and LEAVE NO TRACE of your visit.



Important contact numbers

National Park Visitor Centre +353 (0)98 49888

National Park Headquarters +353 (0)98 49996

In case of emergency phone 112 or 999

