



Making Memories Magical

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The Mournes

1 Day Coach Tour

'Where the Mountains of Mourne, sweep down to the sea,' words made famous by Percy French and Don McLean.

The Mournes include the highest mountains in Ulster, with **Slieve Donard** reaching 850m (2790ft). These mountains are designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The Mourne Wall is a 35km (22miles) dry stone wall up to 2m in height, extending over fifteen mountain summits, to define the boundaries of the 36 sq km, (8,900 acres) catchment area of land purchased by the Belfast Water Commissioners in the late 1800's.

The area is partly owned by the National Trust and attracts many thousands of walkers all year round.



Tollymore Forest Park will enchant you with both its man-made follies and natural features, including a barn designed in the shape of a church, stone cones over gate pillars and gothic-style gate arches, which all combine to give it a very romantic setting.

Tollymore was the first state forest park in Northern Ireland established in 1955.



They show the influence and style of its designer, Thomas Wright of Durham (1711–1786), a friend of Lord Clanbrassil (Earl of Roden), the owner of Tollymore at the time.

Walks along the **Shimna River** are a delight with its rocky outcrops, bridges, grottos and caves.

The arboretum includes exotic trees such as Monkey Puzzle Trees, different varieties of Eucalyptus, Giant Redwoods and Monterey Pines. Oak timber from Tollymore was the preferred material for the interiors of the White Star liners including the Titanic.

The original tree of the slow-growing spruce, *Picea Abies* 'Clanbrassiliana', which originated nearby in about 1750, remains and is the oldest tree of any arboretum in Ireland. The avenue of Deodar Cedars is a striking feature along the entrance road.

For wildlife lovers, it is also home to some of our favourites such as the red squirrel, kingfishers and great spotted woodpeckers, all of which are regularly seen by visitors.

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Annalong is a seaside village at the foot of the Mourne Mountains. The current harbour dates back to the early 19th century which was enlarged in later years to receive ships transporting Mourne granite to English cities and to import materials used to build the nearby dam at the Silent Valley.

The village is now a fishing and holiday resort.



Annalong Cornmill was built in the 19th century and operated until the 1960s and until fairly recent years was one of the last working watermills in Northern Ireland. It contains a grain drying kiln and three pairs of millstones.

The **Silent Valley Reservoir** was built to gather water from the Mourne Mountains and is the main water supply source for most of County Down and a large part of Belfast.

Ringed by mountains, 'The Valley', is located within the Mourne Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

It attracts around 50,000 visitors per year, who come to enjoy the peace and solitude of this mountain area with its unique landscapes and varied wildlife.



Cost includes:

- Modern Coach with friendly, experienced driver
- Specialist local guide with live commentary throughout the tour,

There is ample time for photographs and some shopping.

Please refer to our price list online or contact us. We offer a range of additional options for you to choose from including Music and entertainment by local Traditional musicians with a meal in a local hostelry.

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