

NICS RAMBLERS POP-UP WALK

SATURDAY 21 NOVEMBER 20

CASTLEROCK & DOWNHILL

This is a chance to join one of our infrequent trips to the North Coast. The walk begins at Castlerock Railway Station (At 11.51am) and takes in the Black Glen, Mussenden Temple, the ruined Episcopal Palace (now in the care of the National Trust) and Downhill Forest. From the Mussenden Temple there are panoramic views over Benone Strand, the wild Atlantic Ocean and, in the distance, Donegal. The walk is approximately six miles long, easy going with very few climbs.

GETTING THERE. If you elect to go by car there is a good carpark on the Promenade near the beach beside a block of toilets. Park there and make your way up to the Railway Station which is only five minutes away. If you decide to go by train there is one which leaves Great Victoria Street at 10.10am, calling at Botanic at 10.15am, Belfast Lanyon at 10.18am and Ballymoney at 11.30am. It is due to arrive in Castlerock at 11.51am. You will need to wear a mask on board the train and you should, if possible, occupy a window seat on your own.

We would aim to finish the walk in time for the return train from Castlerock at 3.08pm, or the next one which is at 4.08pm.

LUNCH etc. There are picnic tables in the grounds of the demesne so you will need a lunch and a drink. On a recent visit to Castlerock there was a Coffee Dock open in the Main Street and another one at the picnic site in the demesne.

FINALLY, if you decide to come on the walk please let me know by text to Ivan Baxter 07*****, dress for the weather and whilst there is unlikely to be an admission charge bring your NT Membership card if you have one and/or your NICSSA card.

COVID 19

Future club walks will follow the Covid 19 guidance which can be found on the Ulster Federation of Ramblers website and which we all become familiar with recently. These precautions include:

- social distancing before and during walks
- using hand sanitiser when going over stiles or through gates
- avoid touching other walkers' poles, maps etc.
- compliance with Government guidance on car sharing