

# FIELD TRIPS



## Field Trips on 30 May 2026



An tSeirbhís Páirceanna Náisiúnta  
agus Fiadhúlra  
National Parks and Wildlife Service



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A day of Field Trips to places of wildlife interest in Co. Mayo is very kindly being hosted and supported by the National Parks and Wildlife Service through the Senior Divisional Manager, Denis Strong.

The Field Trips will involve a journey on a coach (maximum 35 seater) and will include a packed lunch. Each coach will have at least one person to guide and provide information throughout the day.

Each delegate can choose to go on one of the following five trips listed below.

At the time of registration for the conference you will be asked to confirm:

- a) Do you wish to go on a Field Trip?
- b) If you do then select your 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> preference.

The list below outlines the general itinerary for each trip to help you make your selection. The exact route for each trip will be decided once we know how many people will be going to each destination.

### Trip 1: Belmullet & The Mullet Peninsula

#### **5 FEBRUARY 2026 – THIS TRIP IS NOW FULLY BOOKED**

The destination is Belmullet and the Mullet Peninsula in the Barony of Erris on the north west coast of Mayo to visit the Corncrake LIFE Project <https://www.corncrakelife.ie> and Termoncarragh Lake <https://birdwatchireland.ie/our-work/nature-reserves/nature-reserves-termoncarragh-lake/> and Annagh Marsh where there are usually breeding Lapwing and Redshank <https://birdwatchireland.ie/our-work/nature-reserves/nature-reserves-annagh-marsh/>

There is the chance of hearing Corncrakes, seeing Irish Hares, hearing and seeing Skylarks, Choughs and possibly the rare Red-necked Phalarope.

### Trip 2: Wild Atlantic Nature LIFE Project

The destination is Wild Nephin National Park and the Kiltane Blanket Bog Restoration Project at Bellaveeney in the Nephin complex. <https://www.wildatlanticnature.ie>  
The visit would also incorporate a visit to the Wild Nephin National Park visitor centre at Ballycroy <https://www.discoverireland.ie/mayo/ballycroy-visitor-centre-wild-nephin-national-park>

This is an opportunity to learn about conservation in action, forest to bog restoration <https://www.wildatlanticnature.ie/projects/forest-to-bog-restoration/> and to see some interesting botany and possibly see Golden Plover which come to the area to breed.

## Trip 3: Wild Nephin National Park

### **5 FEBRUARY 2026 - THIS FIELD TRIP IS NO-LONGER AVAILABLE**

If you'd like to go on a walk in the Wild Nephin National Park this field trip will take you into the park and there will be a guided walk to Jamesie's Well <https://www.nationalparks.ie/wild-nephin/things-to-do/>

There will also be the opportunity to visit McCann's cottage bothy, the former home of the McCann family who died during the Great Famine, which has been renovated by the National Parks and Wildlife Service to provide a shelter for visitors.

<https://www.alltrails.com/en-gb/trail/ireland/county-mayo/jamesie-s-well-and-leana-loop>

There are broadleaf and conifers in this part of the park and there is good bird life, including Jays, Sand Martins and sometimes Swifts.

## Trip 4: Céide Fields and Downpatrick Head

The Céide Fields are the oldest surviving field systems, preserved under the north Mayo blanket bogs, and have been described as the world's most extensive Stone Age monument. The visitor centre is managed by the Office of Public Works (OPW), Heritage Ireland, <https://heritageireland.ie/places-to-visit/ceide-fields-neolithic-site-visitor-centre/> and is located on a stunning coastal site with dramatic cliffs which provide good views of various breeding seabirds and Peregrine falcon and passing cetaceans.

The trip will also visit the nearby Downpatrick Head and the impressive sea stack of Dún Bríste <https://www.discoverireland.ie/mayo/downpatrick-head> which is a significant site for cliff-nesting seabirds including Kittiwake, Guillemot, Razorbill, and Fulmar.

## Trip 5: South Mayo Coast – Roonagh Machair LIFE Project

This trip visits the Machair site of Roonagh on the South Mayo coast. Machair grassland is a complex landscape which has a rich diversity of plant species and is noted for breeding waders and pollinators.

<https://www.lifeonmachair.ie/project-areas/roonagh-complex/>

This trip will also visit Old Head Atlantic Oak woodland nature reserve

<https://www.npws.ie/nature-reserves/mayo/oldhead-wood-nature-reserve-0>