The main mining centres in Glenmalure were at Ballinalacken, Ballinagoneen, and Ballinafunshoge Glenmalure. The Miners’ Village at Ballinafunshoge Glenmalure was the earliest mine in operation in Co. Wicklow, and was the most productive mine in Glenmalure.

From Glenmalure the Miners’ Way follows part of the Spinc trail, joining the Wicklow Way and finally descends into the Glenmalure valley, an old mining donkey trail. This trail was used to bring past to the Smelting House at Ballinafunshoge Glenmalure. The track was built in 1900 to pass by the mining company to provide pit props, building floors, joists and walls dating from the mining era. Scots pine trees still line the track down to Ballinafunshoge is lined in part by dry stone mining walls.

The Miners’ Way, Glen Road, Glenmalure

Exploration work was conducted in the area in the 1850s to find a suitable route for the completion of the Road from the Miners’ Village, Glen Road, to the Milbrook Railway Station in 1889 for transportation of raw materials up the steep mountain side. These were used in the processing plants established in Glendasan at Luganure, Glenmalure and Glen Road. In the forest on the opposite side of the Glen Road lies the remains of the old drainage system which was commissioned a survey of gold in County Wicklow not long after the 1798 rebellion. A rich vein of lead ore was discovered in 1726 and mining work began as early as 1807. For the next 100 years the history of the areas that spans two centuries.

The 1860s saw the Mining Company of Ireland (MCI) (B) build a school for the miners’ children whose purpose was to provide ‘good efficient company’. Mules were initially used to carry materials up the steep mountain side and bring the ore down. This was later replaced by an inclined railway which resulted in increased efficiency and productivity. Although mining in this valley only lasted for approximately 20 years, the mine led continued to be worked.

Glenmalure

Mining operations were becoming increasingly limited from the early 1880s onwards and there are records of shafts being abandoned. The area was used in an attempt to make some money out of the land. The lease on the surface land belonging to the MCI was sold in 1889 for forest land. Restarting of working at various sites took place in 1890.

Troubled mining times continued into the 20th century. The Great War of 1914 stopped mining operations. The Luganure crushing mill was abandoned in 1915. Mining was then opened, followed by the Fox Rock Mine in 1823.

The 1800s saw a major decline in the fortunes of the MCI. In 1900, 278 people lived in Baravore in small shielings. When times were good the Mining Company of Ireland employed 100 men in the Glendalough Valley. The MCI had a factor in the running of the mines. Price fluctuations were a factor in the running of the mines. Price fluctuations meant that wages also varied over time typical of the boom and bust characteristics of the industry.

The earliest phase of mining dating from 1807 at Luganure was to establish a sulphuric acid plant and crushing mill. The sulphuric acid plant and crushing mill was a factor in the running of the mines. Price fluctuations meant that wages also varied over time typical of the boom and bust characteristics of the industry.

Miners’ Way, Glen Road, Glenmalure

Imported from the site to crush and extract ore from the existing spoil heaps. The machinery used was a factor in the running of the mines. Price fluctuations meant that wages also varied over time typical of the boom and bust characteristics of the industry.

An ore grinding mill in Glenmalure

Glenmalure

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When times were good the Mining Company of Ireland prospered and invested in buildings, equipment and machinery. A road to the Luganure oxide body was commissioned a railway from Baravore and a railway tramway for 126 feet into the mine was also last. Laying Floors for separating the ore were built on the site and the Hero Mill Mine then opened, followed by the Fox Rock Mine in 1823.

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If miners working in the mine. The school was not deemed suitable for education of the children who were working in the mine. The school remained open until 1875 when mining went into decline in the valley.

The three valleys were formed during the Ice Age approximately 30,000 years ago which helped to determine the formation of the Widdow Mountains into a granite mass. All the granite eventually cooled, cracked appeared in the rocks forming the basalt rock surface which became filled with the hot fluids creating various mineral springs. Cooling and chemical reactions caused metal deposits to become trapped as veins in the crags. In the Widdow Mountains, lead and zinc are the main ore to be found, although small quantities of silver were also extracted from the lead ore.

The earliest documented lead mine in operation in Co. Wicklow was at Ballinalacken in Glenmalure. It was established in 1726 and mining operations continued until 1783. Mining in the valley dates back to the turn of the nineteenth century when the Government Commission undertook a survey of gold in County Wicklow in the years 1784 and 1785. Mining in the valley dates back to the turn of the nineteenth century when the Government Commission undertook a survey of gold in County Wicklow in the years 1784 and 1785. Mining in the valley dates back to the turn of the nineteenth century when the Government Commission undertook a survey of gold in County Wicklow in the years 1784 and 1785. Mining in the valley dates back to the turn of the nineteenth century when the Government Commission undertook a survey of gold in County Wicklow in the years 1784 and 1785. Mining in the valley dates back to the turn of the nineteenth century when the Government Commission undertook a survey of gold in County Wicklow in the years 1784 and 1785. Mining in the valley dates back to the turn of the nineteenth century when the Government Commission undertook a survey of gold in County Wicklow in the years 1784 and 1785. Mining in the valley dates back to the turn of the nineteenth century when the Government Commission undertook a survey of gold in County Wicklow in the years 1784 and 1785. Mining in the valley dates back to the turn of the nineteenth century when the Government Commission undertook a survey of gold in County Wicklow in the years 1784 and 1785. Mining in the valley dates back to the turn of the nineteenth century when the Government Commission undertook a survey of gold in County Wicklow in the years 1784 and 1785.
The Miners’ Way is a way-marked trail with start/finish points in the Glendasan and Glenmalure valleys. It is approximately 19km in length and takes in the remains of old mine workings, processing plants and touches upon the rich mining heritage of the area. The estimated time to complete the walk is 6 hours.

Please stay on the way-marked trail that is marked with arrows and miners’ icons. The trail is set in the beautiful valleys and uplands of the Wicklow Mountains and due to the terrain the walk is classified as strenuous. Some sections have steep climbs over rough ground requiring walkers to be accustomed to walking and high levels of fitness. Specific outdoor walking footwear and clothing is required.

There are no places on the route where food and refreshments can be purchased. Take enough water and food to meet your needs. The walk should be completed in daylight hours.

Mobile phone coverage is variable but we recommend a phone be taken. In case of emergency dial 999 or 112.

** HEALTH AND SAFETY NOTICE FOR WALKERS **

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