

Red Squirrel Walk – 1.4 miles Mount Stewart, County Down

 THE NATIONAL TRUST

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A 1.4ml (2.3km) walk with exceptional views, beautiful gardens, and beech, mixed and exotic woodland. The mixture of formal and informal gardens provides the perfect sanctuary for one of the few remaining red squirrel populations in the whole of Ireland.

Getting there:

Road: 15ml south-east of Belfast on Newtownards-Portaferry Rd, A20, 5ml southeast of Newtownards

Car parks: From entrance to property, turn left for main car park

Bus: Ulsterbus 10 Belfast-Portaferry, bus stop at gates

Rail: Bangor 10ml

For public transport information visit www.traveline.org.uk

Maps and start grid ref: OS 1:50,000 sheet 15, gr J 553 701

Facilities available: Toilet, car park, restaurant, shop, plant sales, babychanging facilities

Terrain: Easy to moderate walking conditions

Distance: 1.4ml (2.3km)

Accessibility: All areas accessible

Points of interest: Start the walk at point 1, looking out for the following features:

1. Exceptionally beautiful formal gardens
2. Informal gardens including Lilywood and Tir Na'n Og
3. Dramatic views of Strangford Lough and the Mourne Mountains
- 4/5. Several different paths can be taken from here, to extend your walk around the lake, into the Broadleys woodland and along Rhododendron Hill

Harry Hutchman, Property Manager at Mount Stewart, says:

'Mount Stewart is a horticultural gem, famous for its rare and exotic plant collection. The mixture of formal and informal gardens provides the perfect sanctuary for one of the few remaining red squirrel populations in the whole of Ireland.'

Property contact details: Tel 028 4278 8387

National Trust properties nearby: Castle Ward, Patterson's Spade Mill and Rowallane Garden

