

Explore Wexford wetlands, rare habitats and species. wild food and agriculture, crafts, music and art in small groups. Take group specific challenge and report back on your most special species.

**Group 1 to 4 Bannow Bay:** leave Hotel at 7.40 sharp, to catch low tide .

**Group 1: Bannow Island** - lead [Gerad Woolly Coastwatch](#) and [Norein Cummins](#) Wexford Co Council. History of an Island attached to a peninsula; open sea and bay habitats across the 'neck'. Sea level rise and rare plant survival, visitor pressure and law enforcement. Challenge: Cross the bay with [St Kieran's rowing club](#) support, past aquaculture. Join group 2 for coffee (*fit, good walkers/swimmers*)

**Group 2: Inner Bay** Lead: [Jack and Marian Rowe Coastwatch](#). Sediments and habitats including the tiniest lagoon, salinity matters. Land and sea use. Issues: Climate change, sea level rise man and biota move up shore, Glasswort common and rare. Challenge: Catch lunch (*shrimps ...*) Coffee in leader house and guided walk in organic garden. Bus to Tintern Abbey.

**Group 3: St Kieran's Bannow Bay** – lead: [Karin Dubsky Coastwatch](#), Intertidal peat, mud and sands, with sand mason and lugworm, range of shellfish and seaweeds. Atlantic and Mediterranean saltmarsh with fish in tidal channels. Challenge: What is sustainable collection from the wild and how do you manage it in a protected site (Chose species).

**Group 4: Birds of Bannow Bay and what they feed on** lead [Liam Ryan](#) BirdWatch/Coastwatch. Start Saltmills bridge opposite the lost sand spit. to find wintering bird 'heaven' eelgrass (Zostera) bed. See large perennial Salicornia sites and hear from farmers on whose land is grows. Challenge: Walk along the river to Tintern Abbey

**Groups 5 and 6 Hook Head and Waterford estuary - travel together.**

**Group 5 Waterford estuary** Find the site where the millstone used in the EU Biodiversity monument was cut out of the wave cut platform and largest known Sabellaria reef and range of rock formations and species. (pending confirmation of farmer permission to cross land and weather).

**Group 6: Hook Head** fossils and limestone caves, large cetacean hang out, Hook Head light house for coffee. Walk to Slade harbor. Lobster boats and catch

**1 pm** – The 6 groups converge on **Tintern Abbey** by boat, foot and minibus, light lunch and exchange fieldtrip notes and coastal management in other countries

**2 pm** - Painting with artist [Katrin O Shea](#), Tintern Abbey tour or river and floodplain exploration.

**Group 7 Lagoon Group:** Lady's Island lake, protected priority habitat lead by [Jim Hurley](#) naturalist. Lagoon habitat and specialist species, threats. Tern nesting colony protection ([Dave Daly](#)) Invited for coffee to the [Skrine family](#) in [Butlerstown castle](#), interesting habitats and species including bats, bees, swallows. Travel on to meet groups 8 for lunch. *Suitable for wheelchair and pram.*

**Group 8 River Slaney and Wexford Harbour By kayak** leave ~ 9 am from Wexford Boat club to paddle up the protected Slaney estuary. Challenge: Good canoeists find select species, rest have the challenge to reach 'The Deeps' for Nature and art with artists [Peter and Phil Pearson](#).

**1 00 pm Lunch Group 7 and 8:** Music performance for 2 or 3 fresh water species –eg fresh water Crayfish, salmon, pear mussel, toad, beard lichen outside in grounds or bad weather inside Health status of species: scientific assessment **Afternoon:** paddle back to Wexford – swap boats with group 8 - take photos and observe shore of protected site .

**7.00 pm** A Toast to all Fieldwork Groups and a task: Each group enters one record of findings into the Irish national biological databank - guidance and laptops to hand.

**7.30 pm Summer School Dinner** Wexford Opera House.

**9.00 pm -1.00 am** Wexford Opera House: Party with Nature Music, sea chanteys, a Spanish juggler and your input to inspire love of Nature, action to protect, halt damage and restore biodiversity.

