

COUNTIES KILKENNY AND WATERFORD

On to the rich lands of Kilkenny and Waterford! **Rothe House & Garden** is in Kilkenny City. This is the only known medieval garden left on the island, a long slim "burrage plot" now faithfully reconstructed as a 17th century garden with the same trees and plants as would have grown there originally. Some 17kms south of Kilkenny, a romantic landscape- **Kilfane Glen and Waterfall** -was developed in the 1790s within the demesne of Kilfane House. The very picturesque glen is made up of multiple paths through the ancient woods leading down to an artificial waterfall which plunges into a winding stream with little rustic bridges. The romantic idyl is completed by a restored cottage orne.

Some 45 mins on down, southwest of Waterford city is the famous **Mount Congreve Gardens** in a new exciting phase of renewal. 70 acres of meandering paths through stunning woodland planted with magnolias, camellias , azaleas and rhododendrons, a walled garden under enthusiastic renovation and a visitor centre with cafe and shop. Just southeast of Waterford City is **Springhill** garden. Above the River Suir, this lovely 6 acre garden within a 29 acre site is largely Robinsonian in style with a host of mature trees, wonderfully varied wildlife and vistas over the countryside. There is a maze and more formal planting complete with a pond closer to the house.

Still in Co Waterford, but heading west towards Cork Is **Tourin House &Gardens** on the banks of the River Blackwater near Cappoquin. The superb gardens first laid out in the 1840s cover over 15 acres including the main garden. A fine Broad Walk leads to the colourful more informal Pleasure Garden and thence to the walled garden with its ornamental and productive planting, and finally down to the banks of the Blackwater River. Standing dramatically above the river, some 3 miles south of Cappoquin **Dromana House&Garden**, is in the same family ownership for 800 years with its fascinating history, superb woodland walks, extensive acid loving planting and stunning views.