

CO. KERRY

VISITOR GUIDE

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'The Kingdom'

2024 | 2025



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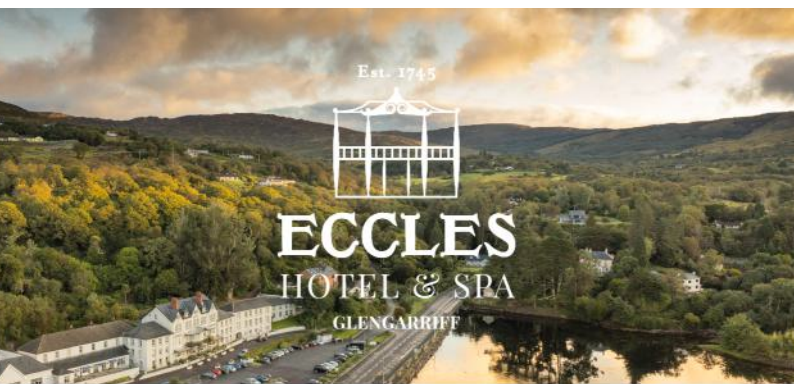
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Welcome! We will take you on a journey of **The Kindom of Kerry**, from Glengarriff, clockwise round each peninsula, visiting villages and towns on the way. Cast your votes for your Favourite Things to do and Places to Go throughout the guide.

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Enjoy your trip!



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A Taste of Summer at the Eccles

Situated on the waterfront in picturesque Glengarriff village, Eccles Hotel & Spa, the only 4* hotel in Glengarriff, commands panoramic views of Bantry Bay.

Under the direction of Award Winning Chef Eddie Attwell, the hotel has established a reputation for its excellent food, with most of it's produce freshly picked daily from the hotel garden and polytunnels, foraged locally or supplied by the best of West Cork's artisan food and drink suppliers.

Eccles Hotel offers a range of dining options to suit all your needs, explore more at www.eccleshotel.com



The Ring of Beara 137km - loop drive

Beara Way – loop walk/cycle

Glengarriff 220km / Kenmare | Walking 9 days (2 in Co Kerry, 7 in Co Cork)

Relatively strenuous | ***fitness - No Dogs

Sleep

Eccles Hotel: 027 63003 | www.eccleshotel.com 

Harbour, Reenmeen East, Glengarriff, Co. Cork. | **Hotel**

Hungry Hill Lodge & Camping: 083 119 6659 | www.hungryhilllodgeandcampsite.com

Adrigole, Beara Peninsula | **Lodge & Camping** 

Eyeries Glamping Pods: 087 775 4535 | Facebook: Eyeries Glamping Pods 

Pallas Strand, Eyeries, Beara Peninsula | **Glamping** 

Creveen Lodge Camping: 064 668 3131 | www.creevenlodge.com

Healy Pass Road, Lauragh | **Camping** 

Do

Beara Gallery: 083 129 2571 | www.thebearagallery.com

Coolounig, Lauragh | **Art Gallery, Crafts & Supplies** 

Helen's Bar: 064 668 3104 | Facebook: Helens Bar Killmackogue 

Killmackogue, Lauragh, Beara Peninsula | **Bar** 

The Ring of Kerry 179km – loop drive

The Kerry Way - loop walk/cycle

Stage 1 Killarney Flesk Bridge 214km | Walking 9 days

Physically demanding with steep climbs and rough ground

****fitness - No dogs

Sleep

Glamping: 087 991 1555 | www.southkerryglamping.com

Cahersiveen V23 AW77 | Self Catering 🏠

Black Valley Hostel: 064 663 4712 | www.blackvalleyhostel.com

Killarney V93 ENN8 | Self Catering 🍀

Do

Cill Rialaig: 066 947 9277 | www.cillrialaigartcentre.com

Dun Ceagan, Ballinskelligs | Art Centre and Residency 🏠

Eat

FiveSpice Asian Restaurant: 0857316567 | Socials:  

Top Cross, Waterville, V23 HX44 | Restaurant 🌶️

Dingle Way – loop

Kerry County Museum 179km

Walking 8 days - Moderate to Strenuous | ***fitness | No Dogs

Sleep

Glamping: 087 254 4001 | www.dinglewayglamping.ie

Derrygorman, Annascaul | Glamping 🏠

Brook Manor Lodge: 066 712 0406 | www.brookmanorlodge.com

Tralee V92 YX21 | Bed & Breakfast 🏠

Tralee Town Centre Apartments: 066 712 3456 | www.ttca.ie

Maine St, Balloonagh, Tralee | Holiday Rentals 🏠

Shop

Sweet Pea, Dingle: +353 (0) 66 915 0600 | www.sweetpeadingle.com

Green Street, Dingle | Gift Shop 🛍️

North Kerry Way – linear

Tralee to Ballyheigue 48km

Walking 3 days | **fitness | Dogs allowed

Eat

The Village Pantry: 066 915 0600 | thevillagepantryardfert@gmail.com

The Village, Ardfert | Café ☕





Beara Peninsula

The magnificent, mountainous, craggy Beara Peninsula route straddles two counties, Cork and Kerry and is one of the most scenic drives I've ever taken. Vehicle passengers benefit from a clockwise direction to take in the views, and you will discover many towns and villages along the way.

Beara is a place steeped in its own history, connection to a pagan ancestry is palpable in the megalithic monuments that litter the landscape. Eyeries church's stained glass celebrates our ancients, and nearby stone spirit, The Cailleach Beara's fossilised remains overlook Coulagh bay awaiting the return of her husband, sea god Manannan.



Evidence suggests that Christianity was in Beara long before St. Patrick; a cleric named Caitighearn was brought from France in the 3rd century by Beara sea traders Na Luingseachain (now Lynches). Mass Rocks were sites where mass was said in whispers during the Penal Times of the late 17th century, a time when Catholicism was forbidden. Feel the trepidation that must have accompanied the worshipers at this isolated Mass Rock where they gathered for their clandestine masses

Beara Peninsula



Coorleary

Levis Art Studio

Glengarriff | P8

Bamboo Park

Two Green Shoots

Eccles Hotel and Spa

Quills

The Black Cat Café & Fuel

Adrigole | P11

Hungry Hill Lodge & Camping

Castletown-Berehaven | P9

Berehaven Golf Club & Camper Park

The Chef's Table

Bere Island | P11

Murphy's Ferry

Bere Island Lodge

Martello View B&B

Wild Atlantic Glamping

Allihies | P12

Allihies Copper Mine Museum & Café

Beara BAOI Tours

Eyeries | P13

Eyeries Glamping Pods

Eyeries Motorhome Park

Coolowning

Beara Gallery

Lauragh | P16

Creveen Lodge

Helen's Bar

Skellig Tours

Glengarriff

Glengarriff has been famous as a holiday destination since the 1700s. The Bamboo Park can be seen just before you enter the town itself, with wonderful walks down to the waters edge.

The magnificent Eccles Hotel & Spa dominates, but also belongs to the woodland it nestles into.



The Blue Pool, Glengarriff

Evidence of human occupation of Glengarriff dates 3,500 years ago, right back to the Bronze Age and you can see traces of this fascinating past all around the village. Glengarriff Tidy Towns created a fairy walk in a woodland area between the Blue Pool and Glengarriff Pier.



You'll find many festival dates at www.visitglengarriff.ie

Apart from the well kept shops, hotels, restaurants, cafés and bars, there is also the fabulous Blue Pool, where you can see herons and relax at the cool water.

Car Parking for the ferry to World Famous Garinish island can be found near the Blue Pool at Quills Famous Irish Woollen Gift shop, where, in the summer, there is a huge cosmopolitan mixture of market stalls producing all types of lunches and reputedly the "Best Coffee in West Cork!"

You can also find public toilets here, which can be a handy pit-stop! The Black Cat is a local Café, which serves really tasty locally sourced fresh fish and fresh coffee to eat in or take away.

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Castletownbere

There is a market square in Castletownbere which holds a traditional and spacious market, held every Thursday with a selection of top quality food and bric-a-brac and on the first Thursday of each month there is a larger market, which is really worth a look! Castletownbere has one of the best harbours in Ireland, sheltered by Bere Island and the two mountains, Caha and Slieve Miskish.



Any time you visit, you will see huge fishing trawlers dwarfing smaller creel boats, bobbing gently at the harbour wall.

There is a car park on the left as you enter the town, which is handy to walk from, to the pier and shops. The Bere Island ferry leaves from near here, just a 15 minute ferry crossing.



Wander along the main street, local shops are varied and quaint, with amazing fresh food available from various restaurants and delis. There are several side streets and many nooks and crannies to explore.

Castletownbere Festival of the Sea is a week long festival full of fun & entertainment.

It takes place the week of August Bank Holiday each year.

www.facebook.com/CastletownbereFestivaloftheSea

We are a family run campsite and next to camping pitches, we have self-catering rooms and glamping accommodation available.

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+353 (0)83 119 6659

Open: 01 March till

30 November



Adrigole, Beara Peninsula, Co. Cork, P75 CY62, Ireland

Derreenies are about 2 inches tall but are much rarer than fairies as they have only ever been seen on the Derreen Estate. The last sighting of a Derreeny was in 1855. In 2012 some clearing was done



along the walks and 20 very small houses were discovered. All the houses are vacant but look like they have recently been lived in. Children in the garden have reported hearing movements in the rhododendrons as they walk along the paths.



Gardens



Derreen Garden: Lauragh, Beara Peninsula
Tel: 064 668 3103 | www.derreengarden.com

Derrynane National History Park: Caherdaniel
www.derrynanehouse.ie

Dhu Varren Garden: Knockreigh, Milltown
Tel: 066 976 7770 | www.dhuvarrengarden.com

Dunloe Castle Gardens: Beaufort | www.thedunloe.com

Garden of Europe: Listowel - Tel: 068 50900

Garden of the Senses: Tralee

Glanleam Gardens: Glanleam Estate, Valentia Island
Tel: 066 9476176

Kells Bay Gardens: Kells House, Kells | www.kellsbay.ie

Knockreer House and Gardens: Killarney National Park, Killarney
Tel: 064 6631633

Muckross House, Gardens and Traditional Farms:
Killarney National Park, Killarney - Tel: 064 6670144

The Way The Fairies Went, Sneem:
Also referred to as "The Pyramids".



Adrigole

Looming over Adrigole is Hungry Hill, the highest of the Caha range. The beautiful Caha mountains offer fantastic hill-walking, discovery of the hidden lakes and the fabulous Mares Tail Waterfall, the highest in Ireland. Other nearby attractions include the Tim Healy Pass that meanders over the mountains into South Kerry. With lodges and a campsite at Hungry Hill, it is the perfect place to stay in Adrigole.

TO SLEEP

Hungry Hill

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info@hungryhilllodgeandcampsite.com | +353 (0)83 119 6659

Bere Island



Bere Island lies at the entrance to the magnificent Bantry Bay and guards the deep water harbour of Berehaven. It has a strong and vibrant community who continually strive to protect their island's heritage, landscape and island way of life.

Despite its proximity to the mainland, Bere Island retains that distinct, easy charm of rural places distant from cities and crowds. It's a quiet paradise, of a size that is manageable for walkers and cyclists. Bird watchers and plant lovers will delight at the many species to be found on land and at the water's edge.

Bere Island is a 2 hour drive from Cork City and is only accessible by a ferry ride. The island is served by two car ferry services.

Please note that you cannot book the ferry in advance.

Both ferries operate a first come first served policy and you might have to queue at peak times. However you won't be left behind, if the ferry is full, they will come back for you!

Murphy's Ferry leaves The Pontoon, which is 29 miles from Glengarriff on the left (30' ferry journey). Bere Island Ferries is in Castletownbere on the left at the entrance to the town (15' ferry journey).



In 1798, the British authorities were worried that Napoleon was planning a major offensive via Ireland after the attempted invasion of Bantry Bay, so gave it protection by erecting four Martello Towers on Bere Island, two of which remain, on Cloughland and Ardach hills.

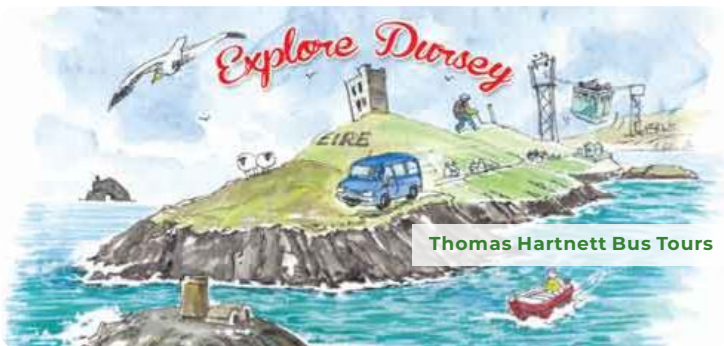
Dursey Island

The island is 6.5 km long and 1.5 km wide, separated from the mainland by a narrow stretch of water called the Dursey Sound which has a very strong tidal race, with a reef of rocks in the centre of the channel which is submerged at high tides.

You can reach the island by cable car (open in March 2023). This was originally opened in 1969 and is Ireland's only cable car, and the only one in Europe to cross open seawater.



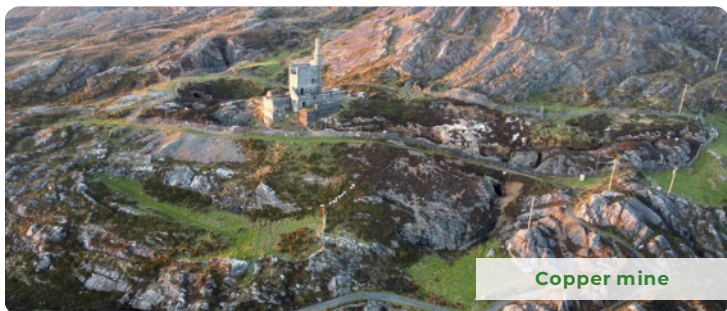
**Dursey Island
Discs, listen here!**



Allihies

Bronze Age people already knew that Beara's crystal bedrock held precious copper ore but in 1812 mining began on an industrial scale. Allihies' post-industrial landscape shows some of the best evidence of 19th century mining in the world today.

The remains of mine related buildings litter the landscape; discover disused mines, a gun powder house, dressing floors and man made reservoirs. The engine houses that tower over the landscape once housed giant steam engines that pumped water from the mines, drove winding gear and lowered the miners far below sea level.



Eyeries

A colourful gem of a village, with a Family Festival on the 3rd weekend of July with stalls and music. Steeped in history, Eyeries has an Eco walk, a looped walk, St Kentigerns church with exceptional stained-glass windows, a childrens playground and a Sensory Garden.

2024 Eyeries Family Festival | 19th-21st July.



From great music to great food, the Windows of Eyeries Art Trail, from best dressed dogs to digger trials, boat trips and guided walks. Great stalls, cookery demonstrations, dog show, variety show, target road bowling. Musicians, singers and dancers - from big names to great local talent.

Great activities for kids and the whole family - games, activities, races, competitions, face painting, refreshments.

TO SLEEP

Eyeries Glamping Pods - Pallas Strand, Eyeries

Tel: +353 (0) 87 775 4535 | Facebook: Eyeries Glamping Pods

Beara BAOI Tours

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Bull, Cow, Calf & Heifer



These imposing rocks stand majestically out of the sea just off the Beara Peninsula. So named because of the Cow's (also known as the Elephant Rock) shape, as her trunk dips into the water at certain angles as you approach.



On the Bull rock, stands a lighthouse, first lit in 1901 and was then powered by gas. The gas was obtained from the long low building on the rock by burning anthracite coal, which was winched from ships from far below

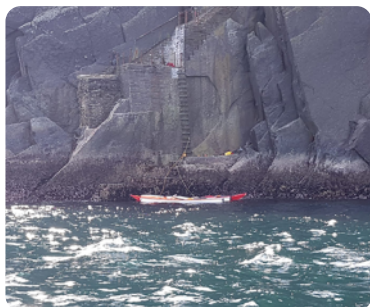
at the tunnel, which goes completely through the rock. This light had a 340 degree beam, you couldn't see it between Ballinskelligs to Castle

Cove. Ten years ago LED replaced this magnificent light but at least now it can be seen 360 degrees! There are still steps leading from the tunnel up to the buildings, but they are almost just pegs, very steep and almost impossible to climb back down!! You can see the lighthouse in the second photo.

The first lighthouse was built on

Calf Rock, you can still see the remaining rusty structure.

In the late 1800s, during a huge storm, part of the structure was destroyed – leaving three poor lighthouse keepers stranded on the rock for three weeks! British ships tried and failed to rescue them but finally, a boat from Dursey Island managed to take them off the rock.



Immediately, a temporary light was built in a timber tower on Dursey Island until the one was built on Bull rock. You can still see the wall built round this to protect it from seas and animals.



Pet Friendly Kerry



When we go away, whether it be for one night or a week, those of us with furry friends worry about where to stay with them, where to eat and where to walk them. I know I always have to double/ treble check that they will be welcome when booking online.

Then there is safety for them. If they suddenly decide they smell a rabbit when walking them do you have your phone number on their tag? I've seen so many missing dogs on social media lately, it's heartbreaking.



Cleo Gallery

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What walks welcome dogs, which beaches?

The following are just a few walks that may suit you and your dogs.

Short walks are Ballydavid Cliff Walk at Dingle/ Derrynane House / Lickeen Woods, Glencar / Glanteenassig Forest Loop / Glenbeigh Fairy Trail (see page 43) / Waterville, great beach walks.

A more challenging, and with many steps, route is Torc Mountain, so only for the energetic dogs and humans.

Muckross Lake loop with Reenadonna Woods – leads on all the way but is a beautiful lush wood.

A great 5km loop walk (take your lead as there are some horses and cattle on the way) is at Glenageenty, Ballymacelligott, with a varied terrain, picnic spots, streams and superb views.

The North Kerry Way, from Tralee to Ballyheigue. Banna beach is an absolute must at 10km long!



When a place say they are pet friendly, there are still some ground rules, and if pet owners stick to these, they will always be welcomed back. They seem obvious, but so many people I have spoken to are put off welcoming pets, as their owners let them on the furniture, let them chew and worse!

Lauragh

Lauragh is a mostly forested area on the north side of the Beara Peninsula between the beautiful Glanmore Lake and Kilmackilloge harbour. You see it spread out before you as you come over the Healy Pass entering the Kerry side. An enchanting area enticing those who like to walk and take pictures of mountains and water.

Bespoke Local Crafts & Art Gallery featuring Nigel Overton and guest artists. An extensive range of Fine Art Products by Wallace Seymour

THE BEARA GALLERY

www.thebearagallery.com



Coolounig,
Lauragh,
Ring of Beara

P. 083 129 2571
info@bearagallery.com



Healy Pass has an elevation of 334 metres, and offers a unique experience along its winding track from beginning to end. Travelling through quiet countryside, it lays just off the beaten track, so is rarely crowded.



The Healy Pass

TO DO

Helen's Bar - Killmackogue, Lauragh

Tel: +353 (0) 64 668 3104 | Facebook: Helens Bar Killmackogue

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Lauragh, Ring of Beara, Co Kerry



Right in the heart of the Ring of Beara, by the Healy Pass, overlooking Kenmare Bay, a perfect place to stop and unwind at our personally supervised campsite

“The Druid” looks across the valley from Molly Gallivan’s car park, to the highest peak “Barra-Bui”, where a Cairn on the summit marks the resting- place of an ancient Chieftain. This imposing figure represents the first settlers in the Sheen Valley more than 6000 years ago. These people had a great devotion to their Gods and their dead. They had an advanced knowledge of astronomy which is evident from the vast legacy of burial and ritual sites that they have left us. One such site is a Neolithic Stone Row which you can visit on Molly’s farm, consisting of two large flag stones that are arranged to align with the sunrise position on the Summer Solstice.



The Druid



Ring of Kerry

People come here from far and wide to see the rolling hills and glistening lakes, sheep and cows grazing in patchwork fields of green. Pristine golden beaches giving way to awesome cliffs. This scene-stealing route around the Iveragh Peninsula, beginning and ending in Killarney, takes in Moll’s Gap, Torc Waterfall and the Gap of Dunloe. From lakes, rivers and waterfalls to grand houses and castles, the Ring of Kerry cycling, walking and driving routes are some of Ireland’s most famous, you will enjoy wonderful fresh sea air as you tour.



Kenmare

An amazing way to experience Kerry is, of course, from the water and there is no better company to help you discover the joys of the coastline than Emerald Outdoors. Emerald Outdoors offer guided tours of the magnificent Kenmare Bay by kayak; but if you don't like the idea of kayaking on the Atlantic Ocean there is no need to worry.

This trip is a little bit different...

The first thing that sets Emerald Outdoors apart is the equipment that they use, believe it or not there is no need for wetsuits during this water-based exploration of the Bay. Instead Emerald Outdoors provides every guest with excellent water proof equipment to wear over your regular clothes and, unusually in the kayaking world, they promise to keep you dry with their sea specific tandem kayaks. You don't need any experience to join one of their tours either, they specialise in complete beginners and each tour takes in the marine biology of the bay, the history of the area and some close encounters with wildlife including birds, seals and more.



Emerald Outdoors offer 3 kayak tours each day - morning, afternoon and night time trips!

Every tour includes all the equipment as well as low ratio guiding from an expert and qualified kayak guide. If you thought that you misread that sentence you didn't, they do in fact offer night time kayaking trips that start before sunset and finish under the light of the stars and moon. One of the many highlights of this trip is the chance to experience magical flashes of natural bioluminescence that makes the waters glitter with mystical blue light when disturbed by either your hand or paddle. It truly has to be seen to be believed.

When booking with Emerald Outdoors you can rest assured that you are in capable hands.

The company founders, Jamie and Colin, met whilst working as freestyle whitewater kayak instructors on the White Nile in Uganda. The pair have amassed over 30 years of experience between them working on rivers and bodies of water across 5 continents.

Colin brought Jamie over to Ireland 7 years ago when he happened upon the Greenane islands in Kenmare Bay and saw the potential to introduce people to this incredible place by kayak.

In the 7 years since, the business has grown and now has a core team of local guides who are ready to make a kayak tour of Kenmare Bay the absolute highlight of your visit to the Kingdom, don't delay, just book it and experience it for yourself. Emerald Outdoors is open from April until November and bookings for any of their trips can be made via their website;

www.emeraldoutdoors.ie



DAY TOURS | PADDLEBOARDING

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Kenmare is a haven of tranquillity, gourmet food, superb accommodation, and breath-taking scenery in one of the most natural, unspoilt environments in Europe. Cradled in the heart of Kenmare Bay, the picturesque town of Kenmare is the perfect location from which to discover the South West of Ireland, linking the rugged Ring of Beara with the famous Ring of Kerry. The unique charm and inherent beauty of the town remains unchanged. It is officially recognised as Kerry's first Heritage Town.

TO DO

Kenmare Antiques & Collectables

14 Henry Street, Kenmare, Co. Kerry, Ireland | +353 (0)64 664-2788



Scene on the Green 2024

This live music Summer Festival event in Kenmare is family friendly with free and paid activities, live music events and exhibitions. Date to be confirmed.

The Carnegie Arts Centre

The Carnegie Arts Centre was established in 2008 and takes its name from the same philanthropist who funded New York's Carnegie Hall.

Andrew Carnegie was the Scottish-American benefactor of libraries throughout Ireland. Between 1897 and 1913, Carnegie promised over £170,000 to pay for the building of some 80 libraries in Ireland, of which 62 survive to the present day, including Kenmare which had a Carnegie Hall attached.

The library and community hall were opened in 1916. However it was taken over and occupied by the British Army for a period of seven months in 1921, and later was burned down during the Civil War in September 1922.

£3,000 was awarded for its refurbishment and it was reconstructed in 1924. By 1926, the Carnegie had returned to its original purpose, supporting the cultural life of the area.

However, the Carnegie began to fade as a social venue and the hall slowly deteriorated. In the late nineties, seeing the need for a theatre and associated art facilities in the Kenmare area, a small group of local visionaries formed a committee with a view to supporting and promoting all aspects of Irish art, culture, and tradition with the aim to offer world class music, song, dance, art and drama on the site of the Carnegie Hall.

Today the Carnegie Arts Centre is a multi-purpose arts centre which has a 140-seat theatre, a full-size cinema screen, a performance area and a gallery space for art exhibitions.

The Kenmare Butter Market

Originally constructed in the mid-1800s as the Kenmare Butter Market, this iconic building underwent a transformation in the 1960s, evolving into a vibrant dance hall. Now it has become much more than just a relic of the past; it's a thriving hub of cultural activity in the heart of Kenmare town.

Steeped in history and brimming with character, the Butter Market stands as a testament to the rich heritage of Ireland. Its storied past adds depth and charm to its modern-day incarnation as one of the country's premier exhibition spaces. The Butter Market has transformed into an exceptional art gallery, showcasing a diverse range of works from local and international artists alike.

But the Butter Market isn't just about visual arts; it's also a dynamic music venue that offers something for every taste. With its spacious layout and versatile design, it has the capacity to host an array of musical events, from intimate acoustic performances to electrifying rock concerts. The Butter Market has become a sought-after destination for music lovers of all genres, from classical and folk to jazz and beyond.

The Butter Market continues to be a cultural cornerstone of Kenmare, serving as a gathering place for the community and a platform for artistic expression. Its legacy as a symbol of creativity and innovation is sure to endure for generations to come.

Kenmare Butter Market houses contemporary art exhibitions and many events such as concerts and live acts.



See here for upcoming happenings!

**PIZZA
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Collection Hours

Monday - Sunday
4pm - 11pm

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The largest stone circle in the southwest of Ireland can be found in Kenmare, measuring over 17metres x almost 16metres and has an unusual egg shape made up of 13 standing stones and 2 lying prostrate.

A burial boulder with a capstone of 2metres is in the centre. It would have needed at least 30 men to move this stone as it weighs around 7 tonnes.

You can find the stone on Maps here:, there is a small gate and sign leading to it: 51.8791961,-9.586121

BONANE
HERITAGE PARK



 **Listen!**

Bonane Heritage Park boasts one of the most significant archaeological sites in Ireland as well as making the perfect setting for amateur and professional photographers and walkers.

Whether you're interested in history and heritage or just looking to embrace all that makes Ireland truly special, a visit won't disappoint. Nestled at the point where the Ring of Beara meets the Ring of Kerry, it's the perfect place to start your exploration of the area.

Set between Kenmare and Killarney is the small village of Kilgarvan on the bank of the Roughty river which boasts riding stables, Ireland's highest pub and ancient headstones in old burial grounds.

In the village follow the river Slaheny down towards Kilgarvan Motor Museum. It is packed full of vintage vehicles and memorabilia, with a coffee shop too! On the right, you can find MacCarthy's grave - Donal, chieftan of the McCarthy Fineens, who liberated the Kingdom of South Munster in 1261, a pretty, moss covered stone walled epitaph.



Kilgarvan Motor Museum

www.kilgarvanmotormuseum.ie

The museum with a difference features many vintage and classic cars, tractors, motorbikes and motoring memorabilia from the 1920's to the 1980's. It is a family run museum that started off as a hobby in the 1970s and became a lifetimes passion. The museum also has a coffee shop and gift shop.

Opening hours:

Tuesday to Saturday: 9.30am - 12.45 / 1.45 - 5.30
Sunday and Monday by appointment.
November to March by appointment.

Kilgarvan, Co Kerry V93PW28

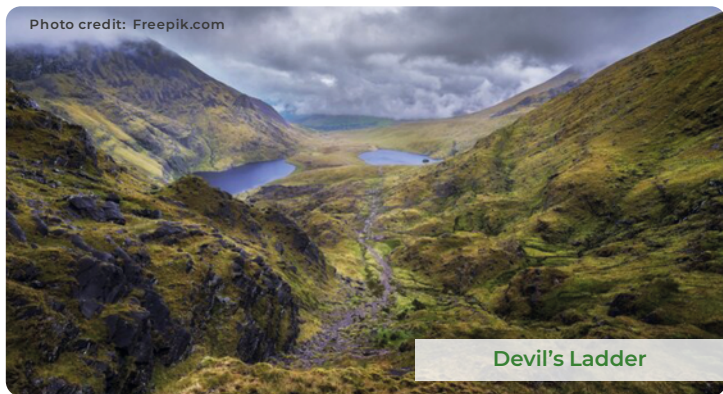
email: kilgarvanmotormuseum@gmail.com | phone: +353 (0) 64 6685346

Iveragh Peninsula

The Iveragh Peninsula in Gaelic, Uíbh Ráthach, which is roughly translated to among the descendants of Ráthach, is the largest peninsula in southwestern Ireland.

The MacGillycuddy mountain range lies in the centre of the peninsula. Carrauntoohil, its highest mountain, is also the highest peak in Ireland.

Photo credit: Freepik.com



Devil's Ladder

Dromquinna

Dromquinna Manor Estate, set on 46 acres of parkland planted in the 1800s offers facilities for weddings and events, with Kenmare's only waterfront restaurant set on the grounds.

Further west of Drumquinna is the village of Templenoe, home to the Ring of Kerry golf club, traditional fish and chips, an old burial ground, an art gallery and some accommodation. There's a lovely wide beach here, Coss Strand. After a sharp inlet at Blackwater, you'll see the 2km long Rossmore island, connected to the mainland by a road. Then the craggy, rocky outcrop of Brackcross.

Parknasilla resort and golf club is next, with woodland villas, motorized kayaking and a treasure trail.

Sneem is home to a campervan park, seaweed baths and just outside the town is a digital hub.

The Pyramids (or 'The Way The Fairies Went') are conical shaped



stone pillars created by sculptor James Scanlon with local stoneworkers in 1987, winning the National Tidy Towns competition. There are several other sculptures, dedicated to Sneem from Egypt, the statue of Isis and from China the Peaceful Panda. South square has the statue of Steve 'Crusher' Casey, the green holds the John Egan and Charles de Gaulle Memorials. The salmon weathervane can be seen on the church. The Millenium seat and the Steel Tree at North

Square.

Passing the Scottish garden, is the sandy Killeen beach with rock pools then Castlecove which also has a beach. Westcove has a couple of 'almost' islands, accessible by foot. There is a large camping park after this, set on a large sandy beach.

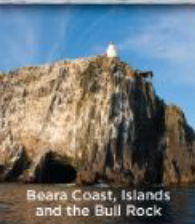
Before you get to Derrynane GAA club, take Lambs Head Road to your left, which takes you right out to the head of the peninsula, Bunavalla and Ballyvohane, where you'll find a spectacular outlook

Skellig Coast

· DISCOVERY ·



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Beara Coast, Islands
and the Bull Rock



Derrynane, the Islands
and Kenmare Bay



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Des O'Shea, Wavecrest, Glanbeg,
Caherdaniel, Co Kerry

www.skelligcoastdiscovery.com



Caherdaniel

You may miss all Caherdaniel has to offer, as not much can be seen from the road. The area is steeped in history, with evidence of copper mining from 4000 years ago!

You can walk over to Caherdaniel fort 600AD, which is very visible still, take the first road on the left after the school, park out of the way of traffic just 20m on, and you will probably be able to see it, it has large, well preserved stone walls .

Viewed from the sea, on a Skellig Coast Discovery tour, as well as the awesome Bull, Cow and Calf, whales and dolphins, you may be lucky to see puffins too!

Based at Derrynane on the Ring of Kerry, Atlantic Irish Seaweed has been running Coastal Food Tours for over a decade.

On a leisurely stroll along the beach visitors learn how to find, identify and sustainably harvest a range of delicious seaweeds and taste them fresh from the rocks. Some edible coastal plants will also be sampled. We will visit a "Shell Midden" which could date back up to 10,000 years. Guests will explore the rich history of seaweed use; from the ancient monks to the viking invaders, from gunpowder to ice-cream! We discover the amazing health benefits that earn seaweeds their "Superfood " status.

"Come Graze the Wild Atlantic Way"

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Derrynane

Turning left in the village of Caherdaniel brings you to Derrynane, with a wide sweeping beach, watersports, swimming and with huge expanses of sand where it has encroached on the land.

You can go horse riding on the beach from the equestrian centre in Caherdaniel.

Photo credit: Roaring Water Journal



[View to Derrynane](#)

Abbey Island, where numerous ancient treasures can be found, such as the ruins of a former monastery and cemetery, lies on the western edge of beautiful Derrynane Bay, which is reached by walking across the beach. Derrynane House, a former mansion surrounded by diverse gardens, is the other direction, where Daniel O'Connell, a politician who fought for equal rights for the oppressed Catholics in the 19th century, grew up.

The Derrynane Seashore Nature trail was conceived, created, developed, written, photographed and filmed by Vincent Hyland of Wild Derrynane. This also included the development of a smart phone app for exploring the trail.

This comprehensive natural heritage looped walk is Ireland's first Seashore Nature Trail. It concentrates on the biodiversity of the site and introduces the visitor to the highlights of the wildlife calendar year.



Visit this trail here:



Watch the video:

Or download the App.



The research of site biodiversity, geology and coastal ecology took Vincent 3 years to complete. In 2015 he approached the Office of Public Works with a view to creating a new nature trail. Together they worked on a plan with Vincent designing and producing signage, a booklet and a smart phone app with the OPW undertaking environmental impact studies, installing signage and markers along the trail. Completed in 2015 the Derrynane Seashore Nature Trail was featured on RTE's Tracks and Trails TV
<https://www.vincenthylandartist.com/seashoreapp>

The Best of Kerry Awards 2023

Best Sleep

Congratulations to...

1st place:

Aghadoe Heights Hotel, Killarney

2nd place:

Gleneagles Hotel, Killarney

3rd place:

Sheen Falls, Kenmare

Best Glamping Site

Congratulations to...

1st place:

Oaklane Glamping Cabins, Kenmare

2nd place:

Killarney Glamping at the Grove

3rd place:

South Kerry Glamping

See page 47 on how to vote

Waterville

After staying in the wonderfully hosted Thidwick B&B, Caherdaniel, stopping of course at Com an Chiste, Ring of Kerry lookout and car park to wonder at the vast expanse of Kerry coast stretched out before you, you reach Waterville, which is the only seafront village on the Ring of Kerry.

Watch the sunsets on the water from a comfortable seat while dining (weather permitting, al fresco!) in one of the many eateries. Walking along the seafront or beach, you will see the Mike Dwyer statue (a Waterville football player and coach), the famous Charlie Chaplin statue, the incredible Ártach Dána Sculpture & Sundial and the Dr Thomas George Millerick monument.

Waterville is a picturesque little village overlooking stunning Ballinskelligs Bay and nestled on the beautiful Lake Currane which has some of the best salmon & sea trout angling in Europe.

It has some of the most spectacular scenery, with friendly bars, cafes, restaurants, giftshops, golf courses, accommodation and a Village Market. The beach is rocky at high tide but sandy at low tide. You can book a guided walk along the beach with Sea Synergy, the

local
Awarenes
Research,
Activity

Marine
s,
and
Centre.



Charlie Chaplin Statue, Waterville



Sea Synergy Marine Awareness and Activity Centre

Southwest Ireland is one of the best places to experience Ireland's marine life, from crabs and starfish to whales and sharks and everything in between.

Join us at Sea Synergy and immerse yourself in the world that lies beneath the Wild Atlantic Way.



Scan me!



Our outdoor adventures, led by marine biologists and local specialists, aim to provide you with wonderful sea-tastic experiences for all the family from snorkelling to kayaking to seashore safaris for the kids! All our experiences are tailored to your group's needs and ability and showcase the rich diversity of Kerry's wildlife and cultural heritage in a fun and memorable way.



SEA SYNERGY MARINE AWARENESS & ACTIVITY CENTRE

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We have something for everyone!

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- Kayak & Paddleboard Adventures
- Guided Snorkel Tours
- Guided Coastal Walks



seasynergy.org info@seasynergy.org

Waterville and Cahersiveen

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Co. Kerry

Ballinskelligs

Home of the famous Skellig Monks, when they settled in the area and turned it into the spiritual centre of early Christian Ireland. A beautiful Blue flag beach nestled at the western edge of a gorgeous, sheltered bay, right at the centre of the Kerry Dark-sky Reserve.

A beloved haven for artists and regular craft fairs.

Part of the Wild Atlantic Way, the longest coastal driving/walking route in Europe, McCarthy Moll Tower, The famous "Castle on the Beach" and the 12th Century Abbey are just two of Ballinskellig's iconic sights to visit in this area's steeped in heritage.

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| COFFEE | LUNCH |
| PIZZA | WINE |
| LIVE MUSIC | EVENTS |
| ART | SIOPA |



CILL RIALAIG ARTS CENTRE

Cill Rialaig Arts Centre is the coolest art gallery you'll find. Located in beautiful Ballinskelligs it's easy to find if only by its circular thatched roof. And when you do find it you'll be surprised to see the works of artists not only from Co Kerry and Ireland but paintings and sculptures by artists from all over the world.



Related to the very famous but somewhat hidden Cill Rialaig Artist Village the arts centre features the best of ceramics (some just out of 'the oven' or kiln) as well as glass sculptures and all by artists who have been awarded rent free residencies by the CILL RIALAIG Project.

There is always an exhibition of paintings in one of the rooms. There's a Cafe there and a room which acts as a special attraction for youngsters who are directed by artists as they learn how to paint or how to use their own imagination to create colourful pictures to bring home for hanging.

Regarded as the best place to shop for beautiful glass and ceramic this is where you can find that wedding or birthday gift all made specially by artists visiting the retreat for their residency.

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CAN YOU FIND ALL THESE WORDS IN OUR WORDSEARCH?

ADRIGOLE | ARDFERT | ARDGROOM | BAOI | BEARA-WAY | BLACK-VALLEY-HOSTEL |
 BLUE POOL | BOAT-TRIPS | BONANE | BRANDON | BULL COW CALF | CAHA | CAHERDANIEL |
 CAMPING | CASEYS-CYCLES | CREVEEN-LODGE | CRUISES | CYLE | DEER | DERRYNANE |
 DINGLE | DRIVE | DUNQUIN | EASK TOWER | ECLIPSE-IRELAND | EYERIES | FENIT | FIVE-SPICE
 | FUNGIE | GLENEAGLE HOTEL | GLENGARIFF | HALF-DOOR | HELENS-BAR | HILLS |
 INCH BEACH | IVERAGH | KATE BROWNES | KAYAK | KELLS | KENMARE | KERRY | KILGARVAN |
 KILLORGLIN | KINGDOM | LADIES-VIEW | LAKES | LAURAGH | | LOUGH-LEANE |
 NATIONAL-PARK | PIZZA ROMA | PORTMAGEE | QUILLS | RATTOO TOWER | SEA | SHANNON |
 SNEEM | SUP | SWEET-PEA | TARBERT | THE-HEALY-PASS | TRALEE | TUOSIST | VENTRY |
 VIEWS | WALKING | WATER | WESTCOVE

SMART SUDOKU

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FIND THE DOLPHINS

How many
Dolphins like this



can you find in
this Visitor Guide?

The Skelligs

Between the 6th and 11th century, a group of extraordinary monks inhabited Skellig Michael, with all the difficulties this entailed. Can you imagine how they sailed and rowed across turbulent seas either 7 miles to Bolus Head or 8 miles to Glen Pier in their

Currachs for any supplies they might need! They had a very good vegetable garden and they would have eaten fish, birds and eggs for protein, but were they the pioneers of sushi?

...as they had no means of cooking, there is no timber on this windswept isle and they would hardly have had enough room for

wood on their small boats. The beautifully constructed bee hive stone huts made from stone from the island were their living quarters and they even had one as a lavatory to the north east – you can see way down to the water if you look into it now – a primitive but effective system to keep the island clean!



Photo courtesy of Skellig Tours & Fishing trips - see back page

They also had a church, an oratory. The monks had three different paths leading up from landings to the north, south and east, you can still see traces of these today. They would have had to pull their small crafts a long way up to keep them from the wild Atlantic weather which could bring waves 150ft above sea level! A few years ago, one such wave caught the guide's hut, a portacabin, and almost swept it away apart from the fact that it got wedged lower down.

Irish Light brought stone from nearby Valentia Island and made a large path from Blind Man's Cove up along the south and west sides of the islands.



The Skellig Islands are home to a wide variety of birdlife. Skellig Beag, or little Skellig, is home to over 23,000 pairs of Gannets, making it the largest colony in Ireland. Arriving in late spring, the Puffin occupies Skellig Michael until the end of July.

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Valentia Island

The first underwater transatlantic telegraph cables operated from Valentia Island for one hundred years from Foilhommerum Bay to Newfoundland, Canada, laid in 1866. You can view a plaque giving the information just above the bay. Visit the Valentia Island Cable Station at The Promenade, Knightstown.



Photo credit: Stephen Power

Valentia Island Lighthouse is home to the most westerly harbour light on the island of Ireland, guiding vessels through the northern entrance to Valentia Harbour.

Explore the 17th century artillery fort located at Cromwell Point and the 19th century lighthouse building, soaking up the stories and science against a background of dramatic scenery of the Skellig Coast on the Wild Atlantic Way

The Best of Kerry Awards 2023

Best Pub

Congratulations to...

1st place:

Foxy John's, Dingle

2nd place:

The South Pole Inn, Annascaul

3rd place:

Celtic Whiskey Bar & Larder, Killarney

Best Fish

Congratulations to...

1st place:

Reel Dingle Fish, Dingle

2nd place:

QC's Seafood Restaurant, Cahersiveen

3rd place:

Spa Seafoods, Tralee

See page 47 on how to vote

EXPERIENCE KILLARNEY...

ITS BEAUTY, ITS PEOPLE, ITS CULTURE, ITS HEART



The name Valentia doesn't originate from the Spanish city of the same name. Cuan Bhéil Inse is the Irish name for Valentia Island, meaning Harbour-mouth of the island. This was anglicised as 'Bealinche' then Ballentia, before becoming Valentia.

There is a seasonal ferry operating from April to October, running a continuous shuttle service throughout the day from near Cahirciveen to Knightstown on Valentia Island. The crossing takes less than 5 minutes.



Photo credit: Stephen Power

Car Ferry, Knightstown Valentia

In 1993 fossilised tetrapod trackways, which are footprints preserved in Devonian rocks, were discovered on the north coast at Dohilla. 385 million years ago, this vertebrate passed by the river basin (now southwest Ireland!) and left its prints in the sand. Preserved by silt and sand, they were converted to rock over time.

These are among the oldest signs of life on land.

There aren't many town-planned places in Ireland but Knightstown was laid out by Alexander Nimmo in 1830/31 and built in the 1840s after they had expanded the quarry. It was planned in a grid and houses were built for the slate workers.

The hotel was built around this time, as were the Coffee Shop, built in 1888, St John the Baptist Church, The Watch House and Boston's Bar.



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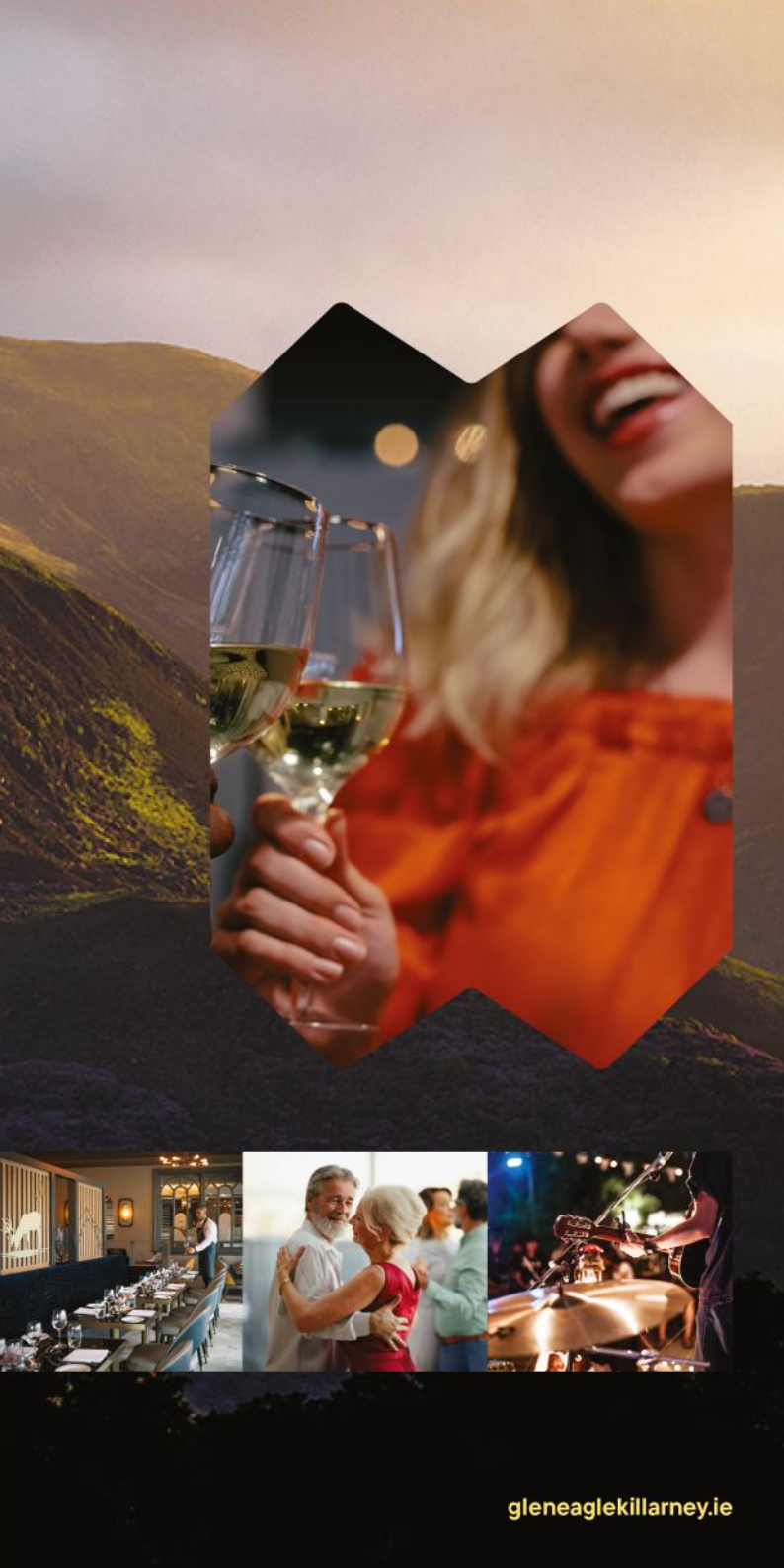
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Glengarriff, Allihies, Eyeries, Lauragh... See Beara peninsula map



Kenmare | P18
Emerald Outdoors



Kenmare Butter Market



Pizza Roma



Kenmare cont...
Cleo Gallery



Kenmare Antiques



Kilgarvin | P23
Kilgarvin Motor Museum



EMERALD OUTDOORS



Waterville | P28



Sea Synergy

Ballinskelligs | P30



The Force Awakens, Skellig Michael Boat Tours



Cill Rialaig



Café Cois Trá



Casey's Cycles



Sea Synergy



Waggy Pooch Pet Tags



Glenbeigh | P45

Kerry Bog Village

Killarney | P48



Gleneagle Hotel & INEC Arena



Black Valley Hostel

Farranfore | P54



Kerry Airport

Castleisland | P54



Castleisland Market town

Dingle | P55



Dingle Artworks



Dingle Crystal



Half Door Restaurant



Dingle Darkroom



Dingle Chocolates

Gallarus | P60



Gallarus Oratory

Tralee | P62



Sandy Feet Farm



Tralee Town Centre Apartments



Brook Manor Lodge



Siamsa Tire



Blennerville Windmill

Fenit | P66



Fenit Sea Safari

Ardfert | P67



Kate Browne's Pub & Restaurant



The Village Pantry

Caherdaniel | P25



Skellig Coast Discovery



Atlantic Irish Seaweed



Dromquinna | P24

Dromquinna Stables



Bealtra | Back page

Skellig Tours & Fishing Trips

Photographing Kerry's Beautiful Landscapes

County Kerry is a photographer's paradise. Many thousands of photographs will be taken this summer by visitors and locals wishing to capture the beauty of the landscape.

Professional photographer Stephen Power, of Skellig Ring Photography workshops, offers advice, below, on how to make the most of any smartphone or camera to capture stunning images of beautiful County Kerry.

Wait for the Light

Light is the most important aspect of landscape photography. Dull light will not do justice to a stunning scene. Be aware of the quality and direction of the light falling on the scene and, if possible, go back to a scene when the light improves.

Some of the best natural light images are produced during the "Golden hours" just after the sun has risen or just before it sets.

The light is naturally warm and produces long shadows that can add impact.

Consider Your Composition

Place an object in the foreground, middle distance, and background of the scene, to give a sense of depth. Photographs with only sky and sea or land can look flat and two-dimensional. Use the 'Rule of Thirds' for good composition. Imagine two vertical and two horizontal lines dividing your shot into a grid. Place the main focus of your picture on one of the four points where the lines intersect. Other elements, like the side of a building or the horizon line, can be placed along one of the imaginary lines.

Get the Basics Right

Keep the camera steady, either by holding it very firmly with two hands and your elbows tucked in, or by attaching it to a tripod. A tripod, also helps you to consider the best angle for the photo, avoiding snapping wildly at everything in sight.

The biggest landscape photography error is the tilted horizon line. Make sure that you always keep it straight and level.

Stephen Power is available for commercial photography and teaching on a half-day or daily basis for photographers of all abilities from beginner to more advanced levels of skill. He is based in beautiful Portmagee and close to Valentia Island, County Kerry.

Telephone or email for more information and to book a workshop.

tel: 086-0258166 | email: stepowerphotos@gmail.com

Website: stephenpower1.myportfolio.com

Cahersiveen

Cahersiveen, or Caherciveen as it is also spelled, is the capital of the Iveragh Peninsula. Cahersiveen town lies at the foot of Benetee mountain, on the river Fertha overlooking Valentia Harbour.

It is full of things to do, places to visit, stay and eat.

There is an awful lot packed into this vibrant town!

The Best of Kerry Awards 2023

Best Boat Trip

Congratulations to...

1st place:

Skellig Tours, Cahersiveen

2nd place:

Dingle Sea Safari, Dingle

3rd place:

Cruise Tour on Kenmare Bay, Kenmare

Best Castle

Congratulations to...

1st place:

Ross Castle, Killarney

2nd place:

Listowel Castle, Listowel

3rd place:

Puxley Castle, Dunboy, Castletownbere

See page 47 on how to vote

Photo credit: Patrick
Comerford, 2018



Daniel O'Connell Memorial Church

The Daniel O'Connell Memorial Church in Cahersiveen was designed by George Coppinger.



Sea life in the Kingdom

Southwest Ireland is one of the best places to experience marine life like dolphins, whales and even sharks!



Did you know that Ireland has the second largest shark in the world?

Basking sharks visit the coastal waters of Kerry and Cork in Spring and early Summer, feeding on the abundant plankton blooms. You can take a boat trip to see this amazing life or get a guided snorkel in the safety

of the sheltered bays.

Immerse yourself in another world amongst kelp forests and seagrass beds, to view the weird and the wonderful creatures from cuckoo wrasse to crabs who call these places home.

Don your wellies and stay dry exploring the beach rockpools to see what lives along the coastline, like prawns and anemones and if it's raining you can visit one of the marine centres in Kerry, where you can discover more about what lives beneath the Wild Atlantic Way!

Cuas Crom Harbour is a sheltered cove for those who love swimming. It is a wonderful place to get into the water, about five miles from Cahersiveen, across the bridge, past the old cemetery, then past the two old ring Forts and a right turn takes you to the small, quiet harbour.

It is a stony beach, and you have to pick your way across the rocks to reach the water. You will not be disappointed when you get in, as it is

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For full details and to book www.bikehirekerry.com

Electric bicycles (E-bikes) are not entirely a modern development.

As far back as the 1890s an American inventor was granted a patent for a battery-powered bicycle, with a hub motor mounted on the back wheel! A couple of years later a Boston inventor used a double electric motor within the hub of the crankset axle (a hundred years later, this was re-invented and imitated) Again in the 1890s, a rear-wheel drive electric bicycle used a driving belt along the outside edge of the wheel, another using rear-wheel friction. In 1969 this was expanded using four fractional horsepower motors connected through gears.

Nowadays, the E-bike can assist the rider by adding throttle. The rider may still pedal, so they are not classed as motorbikes but allow access to hillier rides for those who wouldn't consider steeper terrain by bike normally. They use rechargeable batteries and can travel at around 30km/hr.

Discover the beauty of South Kerry by bike, hired from Casey Cycles, quality bike hire for over 40 years and E-Bike specialists, with top quality Giant and Gazelle models. All their bikes are maintained and serviced on a regular basis by their mechanics. They have daily and weekly rates to enjoy breathtaking scenic routes to suit all level of riders with route maps provided.



Kells Bay Gardens, Cahersiveen

Winner of a Chelsea Flower Show Gold medal 2023, **Kells Bay House & Gardens** is Ireland's premier sub-tropical botanical gardens covering 20 hectares in a short V-shaped valley, situated overlooking Dingle Bay. The gardens are renowned for their collection of exotic plants and tree-ferns that thrive in the microclimate created by the Gulf Stream in the Peninsula. It is also home to Ireland's longest rope-bridge "The SkyWalk".

The Stone Forts of Cahergal & Leacanabuaile are located in an area known as 'over the water' by the locals of Cahersiveen, located down by the water's edge, with the barracks on your right-hand side, continue over the bridge immediately ahead.

At the next crossroads, take a left and follow the signpost for the Forts, they are located approximately two miles on the left - head in the direction of Ballycarbery castle, which is also well worth a

Photo credit: Stephen Powers



Glenbeigh

Nearby to the Glenbeigh Hotel, is a Fairy Trail through the forest, with toadstools, fairy houses and colourful stones. It is just so unique, there are lots of options to branch off and a new little house greets you at every turn. It is updated each year, so you can revisit and spy a new build every time! It takes about half an hour, with great views when past the trees.



The trail is free to walk. Take the road from Glenbeigh Village along the R564 Rossbeigh road to the Picnic Area at Faha Wood. At the Picnic area follow the path leading upwards into Faha Wood and turn left for the Fairy Forest. Most importantly everyone must be very gentle around the houses – it's taken the fairies a long time to build them, so please respect their hard work, they will be nearby, maybe even overhead!

Glenbeigh has wonderful mountain scenery and walks. There is a circuit of hills called the Glenbeigh Horseshoe, which is part of the greater Kerry Way. There is also the spectacular Rossbeigh loop hill walk, quite a long one at 10km, about four and a half hours, but for the stunning views over the beach and ocean, it is really worth it. If hill walking is too strenuous, there's horse trekking, fishing, golf, birdwatching or just relaxing.

Rossbeigh Beach is a sandy strand, 7km long and is awarded the Blue Flag for cleanliness. It is part of the Castlemaine Harbour Special Area of Conservation, which protects local flora and fauna. There is no hang gliding club here but those who practice this will find a track suitable for a 4x4 nearby to travel up the hill.

Surfing is popular here too, with a steady SW wind and no tidal effects to surfing. Kite surfing and buggying are popular as well, as the stretch of sand is smooth and long. Kayaking is also popular from the beach.

Of course, just bring your togs or roll up your trews and paddle too! An all year playground will entertain the young ones and there's plenty of parking at the south end of the beach. Toilets are by the promenade and parking for larger vehicles can be found at the north end of the beach.

Kerry Bog Village

The Kerry Bog Village is a restored 19th Century village, set on The Ring of Kerry, located at the foot of the Macgillycuddyreeks. On display are period thatched cottages, authentic antiques and farm equipment from the day and inside is an abundance of history and information points, brought to life with mannequins and audios. They also have two rare Irish breeds of animal, the Irish wolfhound and the Kerry Bog Pony, Europe's rarest breed of Pony. A comprehensive brochure is available in many languages, which



will guide you round the Museum. Tickets are available from the entrance. Gift shop and toilets inside. I asked the Kerry Bog Village owners some questions that I think may interest you...

• **When was the Kerry Bog Village built and how many houses would typically be in a village?**

The original cottages would be built around 250 years ago and would have altered over the years such as modernisation to having windows and better structures.

Obviously thatch has a life span and so would have changed every 20 years or so. The amount of housing varied but from a handful up to 20 and more clustered. Often with a small Church nearby.

• **Are these type of houses built elsewhere in Ireland?**

Yes these types of cottages were common place all over Ireland and had variations such as styling.

• **Were they built specifically for families to dig for peat or did the families harvest the peat because it was there.**

The little Villages would have been built strategically for resources such as near the sea, lakes or bogland in this instance for cutting peat. The Kerry Bog Village is situated near peatland, lakes and sea, making it ideal.

• **Typically, how many people would live in a house?**

Often times people lived in large families with double digit numbers of children and sometimes with Uncles, Aunts etc. Crowding for such small cottages was common.

• **What did they have in the houses?**

The cottages were furnished with only what was necessary with little to no items of luxury. Fire place, tools and bedding items with religious features were the norm. Storage for food and in some cases livestock.



Scan me!

Dooks

Dooks is best known for its superb golf course, founded in 1889 by members of the Royal Horse Artillery who were billeted at Glenbeigh. In 1895 a rail stop was established to accommodate the increasing number of golfers visiting the course. In 2006, the course had a complete overhaul, and was voted Ireland's Most Scenic Golf Course 2020.

Lough Caragh is a lake formed by the damming of the Caragh River. Caragh Lake railway station was on the Great Southern and Western Railway line which ran from Farranfore to Valentia Harbour. There are wonderful spots for wild swimming on the lake, which has a surface area of almost 5 km². Caragh Lake is considered so important, that in 1932, it was the first land to be in the protected environment of Killarney National Park.



Apparently, the rare Kerry Slug was discovered here in the 19th century!!



The Best of Kerry Awards 2023

Best Attraction

Congratulations to...

1st place:

Tralee Bay Wetlands, Tralee

2nd place:

Sandy Feet Farm, Camp, Tralee

3rd place:

Kerry Bog Village, Glenbeigh

Best Eco Friendly Business

Congratulations to...

1st place:

Inch Beach House, Dingle

2nd place:

Killarney Park Hotel, Killarney

3rd place:

Ode to Earth, Kilcummin, Killarney

See page 47 on how to vote

Killorglin

Killorglin is located on the river Laune, which has a rowing club and boathouse. The population of Killorglin is around 2085 although this expands considerably during Puck Fair due to visitors and returning emigrants. The town hall is said to have been built with the help of Andrew Carnegie.

There are 15 places in Killorglin to find a good Irish beer. Check out McCaffrey Crafts – 5th Generation blackthorn walking sticks makers.

The Best of Kerry Awards 2023



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How to Vote:

Agree wholeheartedly or disagree with the results?
Keep/put your favourites at the top!

Scan the QR code on the left and click the VOTE
NOW button on the menu bar on our website.
It's free, anonymous and will take just a minute.

Killarney

Killarney (Cill Airne in Irish) promotes itself as the gateway to the Ring of Kerry and has been Ireland's top town for tourism for many years.

The town, although attractive, is outshone by the surrounding countryside with its mountains, lakes, woods, and overall beauty which attracts visitors worldwide.

The name Jaunting Car describes the pleasure trip, 'off on a jaunt' and these became popular in the 1860s. You can hire a jaunting car to see the sights in Killarney or take one along with a guided boat and bus tour with lunch included.



Jaunting Car

KILLARNEY NATIONAL PARK

South and west of the town of Killarney in Co. Kerry is an expanse of rugged mountainous countryside. This includes the McGillycuddy's Reeks, the highest mountain range in Ireland. Here where the mountains sweep down to the lake shores, their lower slopes covered in woodlands, lies the Killarney National Park.

The distinctive combination of mountains, lakes, woods and waterfalls under ever changing skies gives the area a special scenic beauty.

Killarney National Park contains many features of national and international importance such as the native oakwoods and yew woods together with an abundance of evergreen trees and shrubs and a profusion of bryophytes and lichens which thrive in the mild Killarney climate. The native red deer are unique in Ireland with a presence in the country since the last Ice Age.



KILLARNEY NATIONAL PARK

The Gleneagle Hotel & Apartments

Gleneagle is one of Ireland's best-known holiday destinations – renowned for live entertainment, fantastic leisure facilities, friendly hospitality and a great atmosphere.

This four-star hotel overlooks Killarney National Park and is located at the gateway of touring routes including the Wild Atlantic Way, Ring of Kerry and Dingle and Slea Head.

It offers a selection of room types from doubles, twins and triples to family rooms, balcony rooms, suites and self-catering apartments. Accessible guestrooms and apartments are available on request. For something a little different check out Hotel67 – Gleneagle's "hotel within a hotel".



Gleneagle is renowned for live entertainment and has three venues onsite – Gleneagle Arena, Gleneagle Club and Gleneagle Ballroom. There's a choice of dining and bar options and its leisure facilities include swimming pools, tennis, squash, pitch and putt, a gym and kids clubs during school holidays. It also has free parking and a daily shuttle bus service. Additional services include a newsagent and gift shop, beauty salon and ATM.

+353 (0)64 667 1550 | info@gleneaglegroup.ie
gleneaglekillarney.ie

Events and Festivals in Kerry

2024 to 2025

2024

- Thu 21st March - Sat 30th** | Dingle International Film Festival
- Fri 19th Apr - Sun 21st** | Dingle Distillery International Film Festival
- Sat 27th Apr** | Ride Dingle Cycle
- Fri 26th Apr - Sun 5th May** | Rally of the Lakes, Killarney
- Fri 3rd May 9am - Sun, 5th 6pm** | Kerry Camino Walking Festival, Tralee
- Fri 3rd May - Sun 5th** | Killarney Bike Fest
- Mon 6th May - Tue 7th** | Kingdom County Fair, Kenmare
- Fri 24th May 7pm - Sat 25th 11:55pm** | Duagh Sports & Leisure Complex
- Sat 25th May** | Ring of Beara Cycle
- Wed 29th May - Tue 2nd June** | Listowel Writers Week
- Fri 31st May - Mon 3rd June** | K-Fest Arts Festival, Killorglin
- Thu 4th July** | 4th July Festival, Killarney
- Wed 17th July - Sun 21st** | Sneem Summer Festival
- Fri 2nd Aug - Mon 5th** | Sean McCarthy Ballad & Story Telling Festival, Finuge, Listowel
- Thu 8th Aug - Sun 18th** | Puck Fair, Killorglin
- Wed 14th Aug - Tue 27th** | Rose of Tralee
- Thu 15th Aug** | Kenmare Traditional Fair
- Sat 7th Sept** | Dingle Marathons
- Sun 22nd Sept - Sat 28th** | Listowel Festival
- Fri 27th Sept - Sun 6th Oct** | Dingle Food and Wine Festival
- Thu 7th Nov - Sun 10th** | Listowel Food Fair
- Sat 28th Dec** | Portmagee New Year Festival



Kenmare Annual Offshore Regatta DTBA

INEC Killarney: Scott Bradlee's Post Modern Juke Box; Sean Keane; Seven Drunken Nights; Christy Moore; Ceol; The Blarneys; The Undertones; The Druids and masses of Tribute stars every week! See middle pages for details.

Siamsa Tíre Tralee: Sister Act; Psychic Sally; Ronan Collins; The Speks; Irish National Opera's Vivaldi's L'Olimpiade; Onóir and several Tribute bands. See p.63 for details

Kenmare Butter Market: Mikel Murphy; Classical Guitar Duo; Alice Through the Looking Glass; Classical Concert. See p.21 for details

March 2025 | Wander Wild Killarney

*All date are provisional and should be checked before you make arrangements!



Molly's Cottage is a famous abandoned house, tucked into the Black Valley near Lough Reagh. Head north from the Lough along the stream, until the path divides into two.

Take the right hand fork and it is less than 1km further on. It is quite difficult to find, but you should try, as it attracts visitors from everywhere, thanks to its presence on media platforms.

Navigating the lovely winding roads, seeing the nearby waterfall and just relaxing in this place from bygone days is a must do. Pop 51.975336, -9.714495 into Google Maps to pinpoint where to find it.



Killarney has a trails walk of 40 to 50 minutes round the town, incorporating the Old Town Hall, St Mary's Cathedral, the Town Hall, Bishop's Palace, Deenagh Cottage, the Friary and the Golden Gates of Killarney House. All well worth seeing, walking from Kenmare Place along Mission road, turning right at the cathedral and right again at the top, then right again onto Main street.

Muckross House and Gardens is a 19th century Victorian mansion with beautiful gardens overlooking Muckross lake. Guided tours are available of the sixty-five room building.

Coffee is available in their in-house café which you can sip and enjoy the beautiful surroundings.

Travel on to Torc Waterfall – known locally as Cardiac Hill!

This uphill track is well worth the energy, if you have the stamina, with fabulous views from the top.

You can cycle, run or walk around the National Park, or Stand Up Paddle Board on the lake or rivers and sunset kayak on the lake. Hire bikes in town and cycle on to Ross Castle to meet the boats that will transport you through the lakes to Lord Brandon's cottage, take a picnic and make a day of it.



The Gap of Dunloe

Situated between the MacGillycuddy Reeks and Purple Mountain, the end point is Lord Brandon's cottage, the start-point is Kate Kearney's Cottage 12km west of Killarney town and there is ample parking here if you are walking. It gets incredibly busy in the summer if you are driving, so it is recommended to start early in the morning!



Gap of Dunloe, Killarney

The Gap of Dunloe was created naturally about 25,000 years ago during the last ice age. A glacier broke off into the Head of the Gap, slowly pushing northward which eventually resulted in a carved out U-shaped valley.



Tel: 064 6634712 | Email: info@blackvalleyhostel.com

Gap of Dunloe, Beaufort, Killarney, Co Kerry

www.blackvalleyhostel.com



Black Valley Hostel is a great place to stay while walking or touring round the area. With a warm welcome and clean, well appointed dormitory rooms, you can unwind after a day's hiking! It is open from April until October with a self-catering kitchen. It has been family run for over 60 years and is in a great location for walking Ireland's highest mountain, Carrauntohill.

The Black Valley was one of the last places to have electricity and telephone – in 1976!

Farranfore

Farranfore is a really important village in Co Kerry, as it is home to nearby Kerry Airport, from where you can journey to and from Europe and Dublin for links from all over the world, which is handy for visiting Kerry directly.



There is also a railway station here, just a 20 minute walk from the airport, linking travel all over Ireland.

The village itself has a Centra store for all your grocery needs, restaurant and café.

Castleisland

Castleisland has a wide main street, with plenty of parking. The Castle of Castleisland, originally referred to as 'The Island' was first constructed in 1226. In the 14th century, it was surrounded by other castles, known as tower houses.

www.castleisland.ie



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The Island fortress was described as "a high monstrous structure of many rooms, but very filthy and full of cow dung". In the 16th century it was demolished and burned but later was repaired, including a mill, stables and a kiln house.

But by 1680, the castle was abandoned and suffered from storm damage and stone from the castle was used in development of the town in the 1900s.

There is little of the original castle left today, just one tower and part of a wall. A documentary was made about the castle and shown at The Castle of the Island Festival in 2018, attended by 900 people.

Dingle Peninsula

The Dingle Peninsula stretches 48 kilometres into the Atlantic Ocean from Ireland's south-west coast. The peninsula is dominated by the range of mountains that form its spine, running from the Slieve Mish range to Mount Brandon, Ireland's second highest peak. The coastline consists of steep sea-cliffs, broken by sandy beaches, with two large sand spits at Inch in the south and the Maharees to the north.

The Basket Islands lie to the west of the peninsula. Passenger ferries operate from the mainland to the Great Basket Island during the Spring, Summer and Autumn, weather permitting.



Inch Strand, Dingle Peninsula

Inch Strand is simply massive, and its three mile stretch of flat compacted sand attracts a myriad of sporting adventurers from far and wide. Super-sleek sand yachts, and sand buggies with bulbous tyres, glide silently across its golden flats at ridiculous speeds in relentless winds. Inch Strand is a haven for surfers, anglers, and hikers too. It has crystal clear Atlantic waters, which are under the watchful eye of the Basket Islands, one of the great wonders of this rugged indented Kerry coastline.

Dingle

Dingle is a small port town on the southwest of the peninsula. A statue of long-time harbour resident Fungie the dolphin is by the waterfront. Gallarus Oratory is an ancient dry-stone church with sloping sides to the north-west. Clifftop Dún Beag is a prehistoric promontory fort to the southwest. Ferries may be boarded at the Marina in Dingle Town (a 40 minute trip) or at Dún Chaoin Pier opposite the island (6 minutes) Packed with wonderful things to do, restaurants, cafés and hotels, a stay in Dingle is a must!



Fungie the Dolphin Statue, Dingle





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Dingle Darkroom is a blend of George's lifelong interest in photography and his exploration of Ireland with his cameras since the early 1990s.

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The town itself became a popular port in the 13th century, so much so that an ordinance of King Henry III imposed taxes on the port's exports. It has been a major fishing port since the 1830s with fleets coming from the Isle of Man and Lowestoft. Rail transport arrived so the fish could be transported throughout the country.

There is a neo-Gothic church, St Mary's with the Chapel of the Sacred Heart attached to it, which has wonderful stained glass windows, both built in the 1800s.

In the 4th and 5th centuries, a large quantity of Ogham stones were laid, forming an enclosure at Ballintaggart, just before you arrive at Dingle.

Shop for gifts in the beautiful craft shops and Dingle Crystal, a family run business headed by father Sean and all five of his children. Art galleries like the very accomplished June McIntyre's Dingle Artworks, where you can purchase prints, originals and gifts.

You can book a tour to visit Dingle Distillery (over 18s only) to see how their whisky, gin and vodka are produced.

Feast on Murphy's ice cream, made from Kerry cattle milk.

Ocean World Aquarium has penguins, sand tiger sharks and a new immersive experience, the first in Ireland.



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Irish music can be heard frequently throughout the summer in the many pubs.

Dick Mack's (named after the current owner's father) is well known, stars like Sean Connery have been seen here and this family pub shares a premises with a small leather shop.

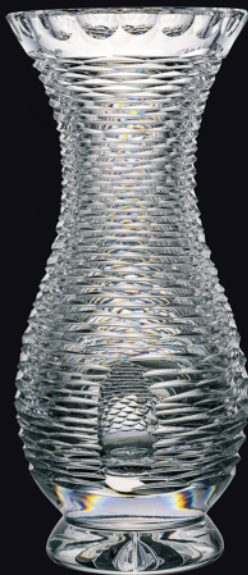
Foxy John's may give you a surprise! One half is the usual bar, Guinness on draught, but the other houses the local Dingle hardware store! Traditionally many places used to be like this, you can imagine the menfolk wouldn't need asking twice when told to go and buy a bag of nails!

The Mighty Session has loads of room for a dance and O'Flahertys is the home of traditional Irish music, with regular live sessions. O'Sullivan's Courthouse Pub, is usually packed with plenty of Craic and Ceol.

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Shop Open Times

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Sun: 10.00 to 16.00

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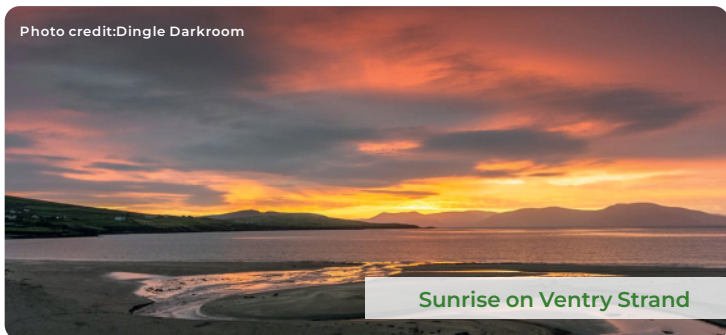
dinglecrystal.ie

About a ten minute drive away from Dingle is Eask Tower. It is at the top of a hill, the walk is up a rough road, steep at first, then zigzag after. Ask permission at the farm if you can cross their land, and pay them a couple of euros each. Please close any gates behind you as sheep graze on the land. The views are stunning once you reach the top, a 360 degree aspect over to Skellig

Ventry

Ventry, an anglicisation of Fionntrá, is a Gaeltacht village located 7km west of Dingle. The village was once the main port of the peninsula. There is a blue flag beach 3km long at Ventry, popular for water sports and swimming.

Photo credit:Dingle Darkroom



Sunrise on Ventry Strand

The village has two centres, one with a village green with post office, restaurant, café, holiday homes and shop, Ceann Trá, the next, Ard a'Bhóthair, has a pub and shop. Paidi Ó Sé, a famous footballer from Ventry has a statue here. You can walk from one end of the village to the other along the beach.

Further west you will see the **famine cottages** on your right, worth a photo. Then from the car park just before them you can walk to **Dún Beag fort**, an Iron Age Promontory Fort from 580BC, dramatically set on a sheer cliff overlooking Dingle Bay. This is a paid for site, around €3.50 each, with a visitor centre.

The Celtic and Prehistoric Museum has fascinating artefacts and information about the Stone Age, Bronze Age, Celtic Iron Age,



Anglo Saxon and Vikings. These objects come from Europe and the UK as well as Ireland. There are also many fossils, including the largest complete Woolly Mammoth skull and tusks in the world, a complete fossil dinosaur egg nest and complete juvenile dinosaur and Cave Bear skeletons.

The **Blasket Islands** are remote and uninhabited. The Great Blasket Island has over a thousand acres of mainly mountainous terrain and is about four miles long by a half mile wide. It is full of Irish history, wildlife and fauna and is a Special Area of Conservation. You can take a special trip out to the Great Isle from Dingle.

Dunquin lies at the most westerly tip of the Dingle peninsula. It has a picturesque winding road down to the pier and overlooks the Blasket Islands and you can catch a ferry over to the islands from here in the summer. A memorial stands on the cliffs for Spanish Armada ships, who sought shelter in the harbour but some were wrecked here. The scenery from here is breathtaking.

There is a 1968 film, made by Mark McCarty called *The Village*, which depicts the slow moving pace of Dunquin village in that time.

Near **Ballyferriter** is the 1.6km Clogher Head loop trail. An easy route, taking about half an hour, it is a quiet cliff walk with fabulous views across the ocean and wildflowers and country homes.

Some of Star Wars was filmed near here.

The crew arrived in Sybil Head, Ballyferriter and built beehive huts similar to the ones on Skellig Michael.



Gallarus Oratory

Gallarus Oratory which is believed to be over 1000 years old is the best preserved ancient church in Ireland. It's one of the few remaining churches of this type to survive intact today. Not only is it the most distinctive single monument on the Dingle peninsula, the oratory is one of the most beautiful ancient buildings in the whole country.

Its magnificent location overlooking Smerwick harbour and the wild Atlantic ocean to the West and Mount Brandon to the East make it one of the most magical sites in Ireland to visit.

The Visitor Centre is open from 9am to 8pm daily and also has a café and gift shop.

Onwards from the Gallarus Oratory, you find the villages of **Murreagh** which has the sandy, calm waters of Ballinrannig beach and an imposing white church, St Finian's, with a big white tower, then the tiny **Dooneen** pier, and **Feohanagh** which also has a lovely small beach for a walk.

Onwards to **Brandon Creek**, passing through many open fields of cultivated land. This inlet was said to be the starting point of the voyage of St Brendan to America, centuries before Columbus.

When on the **Slea Head Drive**, this is where you turn right to head back to Dingle town on the R549 which runs along the base of Mount Brandon, the second highest mountain in Ireland. A pilgrimage route to the mountain's summit begins near here.

A small road heads up all around the coast, with miles and miles of sandy beaches, towards **Cloghane** which has accommodation on the side of a dramatic inlet, the other side of which is **Stradbally beach** – a glorious 20km stretch of sand right up to Castlegregory then the bars and accommodation at **Candeehy**.

Ballinknockane and **Stradbally** boast accommodation, also at **Castlegregory** which is larger and has shops and bars. Beaches continue in Tralee Bay with Castlegregory beach stretching almost 5km.

Photo credit: <http://bjornfree.com/galleries.html>



Dunmore Head is one of the most westerly points in Europe. Breathe the bracing air when hiking to watch the waves roll in to the sea cliffs. Look out for the Blasket Isles in the distance. This photo was taken by <http://bjornfree.com/galleries.html> from the very tip of Dunmore Head, looking over to Slea Head.

Tralee

Established in the 13th century by the Anglo Normans, Tralee town sits beside the River Lee from which it takes its name, in Irish Trá Lí meaning 'strand of the Lee'. It is the northern access route onto the Dingle Peninsula.

Tralee can attest to some violence in the past, as when in 1580, the town was burnt for its involvement in the Desmond Rebellions against Elizabeth I, in 1798 in the uprising against British rule, the Irish War of Independence (1919 - 1921) and the Irish Civil War (1922 - 1923). The current town dates from the 19th century and is notable for some fine Georgian architecture, particularly in Denny Street. Nowadays, it is a peaceful but vibrant town, with plenty to do and see, with shops, bars and restaurants.



Tralee Town Centre APARTMENTS

Ideally located in the centre of Tralee, with a wide array of activities and locations to discover, make the Tralee Town Centre Apartments your location for your next self-catering break

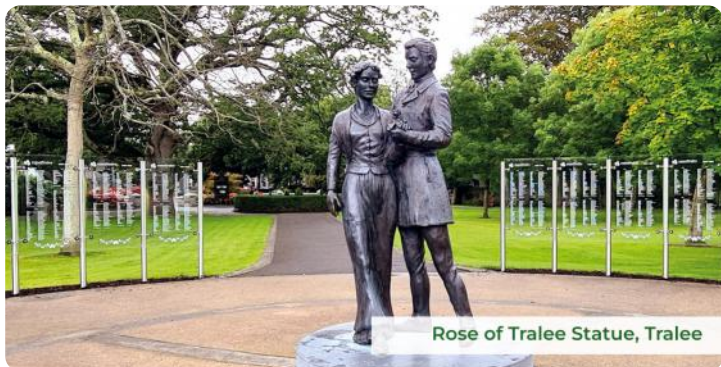
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Tralee is known for the Rose of Tralee International Festival. There is a glass wall in Tralee Town Park, which bears the names of all the contestants in the festival's beauty pageant. Kerry County Museum has galleries on local history and a re-creation of medieval Tralee. Nearby, there is a National Folk Theatre of Ireland called Siamsa Tíre, which puts on Irish music and dance performances.



Rose of Tralee Statue, Tralee

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Supported by Kerry County Council

Siamsa Tíre is an iconic theatre and arts centre on the Wild Atlantic Way in Tralee, County Kerry. It provides year-round entertainment of traditional and contemporary arts performances and hosts art exhibitions in the Siamsa Tíre Gallery.

Home to The National Folk Theatre, it was established 50 years ago to sustain, explore and develop the traditional Irish arts of music, song and dance.

The National Folk Theatre performances are unforgettable experiences, rich in colour, mesmerising music, song, storytelling, and thrilling Irish dance, immersing you in Ireland's cultural and working traditions. It also offers engaging cultural experiences with local community performers. Trained in the unique Siamsa style (dating back to the 1700s), you can enjoy guided tours with personal insights into training, performing and touring with Siamsa Tíre, and get backstage access with photo opportunities in original stage costumes.

You can also join National Folk Theatre workshops to learn Irish music, song and dance from the masters.

www.siamsatire.com

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Tralee Bay Wetlands is an interpretive and environmental learning centre, built to raise awareness of biodiversity and environment.

For fun, the activity park has water zorbing and family entertainment set on a 9 hectare site next to the beautiful Tralee Bay Nature Reserve of over 750 hectares.

Established in 1989 and state-owned, it is of international importance for waterfowl, especially the Brent geese who winter there, feeding on Eelgrass and green seaweeds. Many other birds use the wetlands, such as the Bar-tailed Godwit, Ringed and Golden Plovers and Redshank.



Tralee Bay Wetlands

- **The Kerry County Museum**, with many different galleries with 1000s of artifacts, is on Denny Street, in the Park of Tralee. "A great museum... an absolute treat"

quote by LONELY PLANET GUIDE TO IRELAND

- **The Park of Tralee**, home of Ireland's National Folk Theatre 'Siamsa Tíre', is 35 acres with 5km walkways, a wide array of tree species, a fountain, a community garden and a large playground. Open from 7am – 9pm in the summer (5pm off season)

- **The Aquadome Indoor Swimming Pool** with a large flume, relaxation in the aqua spa and try aqua golf, an 18 hole mini-golf course. It is on the N86

- It's Saturday Story Time at **Tralee Library** for the little ones at 11.30am

- 3.5km south of Tralee, across the Blennerville bridge over the river Lee, is the **Blennerville Windmill**. Fully restored and centrepiece of a large visitor experience which also includes displays on the history of milling



- **The Playdium**, Kerry's largest indoor play centre, open 10am to 6pm most days and holiday weekends

- Kingdom **Greyhound race track** stadium

- **Bowling Buddies centre** consists of 10 lanes, Skywalker High Ropes, an Arcade, activity room and cafe/restaurant

- **Omniplex Cinema Tralee** is a modern, centrally located 8-screen cinema in Tralee showing the latest movies. Features include an OmniplexMAXX screen, 3D performances, wheelchair-accessibility

- **Ballyseedy Wood**, with a 4km walk and easy 1.5km loop walk, both easy. Unfortunately not dog friendly but with parking at Ballygarry House Hotel carpark, 800m away, just off the R875 roundabout, east of Tralee, heading to Castleisland



Luxury 4* B&B in Tralee, Co. Kerry

Brook Manor Lodge is a luxury 4* B&B situated on the outskirts of Tralee on the Wild Atlantic Way.

The Slieve Mish Mountains form an impressive backdrop.

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Fenit

Located on the north side of Tralee Bay, Fenit is about 10 km west of Tralee town, just south of the Shannon Estuary. The bay is enclosed from the Atlantic by the Maharee spit which extends northwards from the Dingle peninsula and is a favourite swimming area.



Fenit Lighthouse

Fenit harbour is a mixed function seaport, where fishing, freight import and export, and a 136 berth marina are the main forms of business.

The harbour and marina cater to commercial traffic, fishing boats and leisure craft.



Our boat trip provides entertainment for all the family whether you're a thrill seeker, birdwatcher, or nature enthusiast.

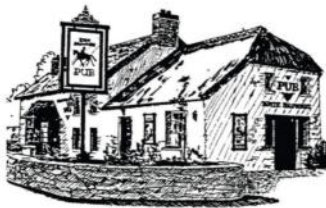
Our skipper will guide you through all the historic sites along the coastline, showing you Little Samphire Lighthouse, Barrow Harbour, Fenit Island Castle, Barrow Castle



Fenit, Kerry - We can be found in Fenit Marina where the green way meets the Blueway.

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Ardfert

Ardfert village outskirts is home to the magnificent ruins of a Franciscan Friary dating from the 13th century, founded by Thomas Fitzmaurice. There is a substantial tower, added in the 15th century, which resembles a residential tower house.

The friars were involved in a legal case with the Cathedral in 1310 over the removal and burial elsewhere of a local nobleman. The friars were evicted in 1584 and the friary taken over as a barracks.

Today the picturesque ruins are in the grounds of Ardfert House, home to the Crosbie family since 1635.

The ruins have a 13th century window, divided into 5 lights, which would have illuminated the choir. The nave, cloister and dormitory are still visible.



Ardfert Friary

The Glandore Gate is an imposing entrance, constructed in the mid-19th century and was once one of the entrances to the Crosbie mansion. It was relocated to its present position in the 1880s and is now a private dwelling.

St Brendan 'The Navigator' founded a monastery in the town way back in the 6th century, with the Cathedral, still showing pre-Romanesque masonry in its walls. Over 800 burials were discovered here, dating back to the Romans.

Today, Ardfert has several bars and restaurants, including the famous thatched roofed Kate Browne's, with dishes such as Warm Mushroom risotto and Confit of Duck leg to tempt the tastebuds!

There is an art studio which runs courses, a butchers, an exciting ladies clothing boutique, and a pottery studio with a zero waste ethos.

There are sandy beaches from Tralee golf course up to **Ballyheigue**. But travelling along the R551 from Tralee, you would miss some of this, as you arrive at **Banna**, where there are dozens and dozens of mobile homes and cabins (these are not for rental). Further on is **Ballymacquin**, which features a couple of home goods stores. **Ballyheigue** is a larger village, with plenty of dining and bars, B&Bs, also a golf course. Custom tours can be arranged from here by Scotia Ireland Tours. There are several historical sites along the way. **Causeway** is a small village founded on an ancient Celtic roadway which originated in the neighbouring parish of Ballyheigue and was reputed to have ended in Tara (county Meath) the seat of the High-Kings of Ireland. Near the village of **Ballyduff** (Black Village) with Tractor runs and Horse fairs, sits the amazing **Rattoo round tower**, built in the 11th century, the only complete one in Kerry. In the mid 19th century, it sat on a raised earth causeway in what was then a swamp, which was drained and the causeway removed so the fields could be cultivated. At 29.56 metres high, and with a base circumference of 15 metres, you can almost imagine the Brothers Grimm's Repunzel sitting at one of the windows!



Ballybunion

The beautiful seaside town of Ballybunion has for decades welcomed visitors from all over the world. Its two golden sandy beaches allow visitors time to swim, surf and relax. The natural formations such as sea stacks and sea arches adorn the coast, as wild porpoises and dolphins swim in the unpolluted water of the Ballybunion coastline. The rocks in the area are of great interest to Mineralogist and Geologist, and the cliffs are alive with sea birds, a bird watcher's dream. There are famed golf courses and gourmet restaurants in this picturesque village.



Ballybunion Beach

Listowel

In July 2000, Listowel was officially designated as one of Ireland's 'Heritage Towns' partly down to its modern environment and also its architectural heritage and historic importance.

Lartigue Monorail. The Listowel-Ballybunion Railway opened on 1st March 1888. It ran the ten miles between the two towns and was remarkable as the only railway of its type in the world. How two small towns in the south west of Ireland came to be linked by the world's first commercial passenger-carrying monorail is a fascinating story, read it here:



Scan me!

Listowel Writers' Week was founded in 1971. With getting on for 6 decades of exciting, talented and newly aspiring writers. The festival is held on the June BH weekend. The International Sean McCarthy Ballad & Story Telling Festival is held in Finuge, near Listowel on the August BH. There's a week long festival in September and the Food Fair in November. Plenty to do in Listowel!



Mid-summer Listowel (painting - Olive Stack Gallery)

Tarbert

Explore the village of Tarbert. With woodland to the south and the Shannon estuary to the north, drop by the Bridewell courthouse and relive its dramatic history in the stately 18th-century building. Learn of the village's rich heritage and make time for a stroll along the gorgeous John F. Leslie Woodland Walk with its stunning views of Tarbert Bay.



A lovely way to leave County Kerry is by ferry from Tarbert, across the picturesque Shannon estuary over to Killimer Port in County Clare.

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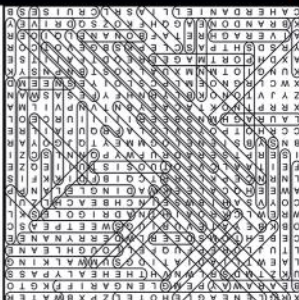
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Dolphins**



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Experience the magnitude by travelling through the tunnel!

The Skelligs

The trip to Skellig Michael takes just over an hour, then you will be dropped off on this rock to explore the monastery and hear the history of the island told by local guides, then picked up 2.5 hours later.

Tour round the two Skelligs, the smallest is home to the world's third largest population of Gannets, over 30,000 breeding pairs!

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See the amazing wildlife, watch the almost resident dolphins, perhaps see the shy Risso dolphin with its tall fin.



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