

IRELAND – KERRY & CORK

8-day / 7-night classic centre-based - one-hotel guided walking in magical southwest Ireland



The Ring of Kerry in the southwest corner of Ireland is brimming with rural and coastal scenery and Irish tradition and character. The colourful, vibrant counties of Kerry and Cork are as close as you will come to your romantic visions of green and misty Eire.

On this centre-based guided walking holiday, we explore the rugged countryside and dramatic coastlines of Kerry and Cork, walk stretches of the iconic Beara Way and visit Killarney National Park. We soak up the atmosphere of the picturesque, characterful fishing village of Kenmare, enjoy warm Irish hospitality at our hotel and in welcoming traditional pubs, and savor the gastronomic delights of Kerry's fabulous fresh produce.

Cost from: \$2230 per person twin share Single room supplement from \$295

Departs: 23rd, 30th June; 7th, 14th July; 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd September

Tour includes: 7 nights in comfortable hotel room with ensuite bathrooms, 7 buffet breakfasts, 7 evening meals (on some evenings these will be in local restaurants), experienced walks leader, 5 guided walks, evening activities, local transport to/from the walks.

Not included: Meals and drinks not mentioned, personal expenses, transport and/or excursions on your free day. Airport transfers from Cork, Kerry, or Shannon airport are not included but these can be pre-booked at extra cost, please ask for details when you make your reservation.

Accommodation: The 3-star **Kenmare Bay Hotel** sits on the edge of the village, facing the hills of the Kerry Way. The hotel boasts a pleasant restaurant, cosy bar with outdoor seating, and a large outdoor swimming pool with sauna and spa pool, to soothe those tired muscles after a day of walking. The hotel has 127 bright and spacious rooms with en suite. You may choose a full Irish breakfast from the breakfast buffet, including local favourites black and white pudding and soda bread. Evening meals have a focus on local Kerry produce.



Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

Footpath and walking information:



Easier Walks: 7 to 11km with some short steep ascents and some sections on quiet country lanes. Up to 450m of ascent in a day.



Harder Walks: 11 to 14km with some rough terrain and some short sections on country lanes. Up to 550m of ascent in a day.

Please note this suggested program will give you a good idea for the walks offered on this holiday however this provisional itinerary is subject to change. The final walk selection each day rests with your walk leaders.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Arrival day – plan to arrive at the hotel by mid-afternoon. Ask about transfers from Shannon, Cork or Kerry airports (at extra cost).

Day 2: Loops from Sneem – Both the Lomanagh and Fermoy Loop walks start at the beautiful village of Sneem, nestled between wild mountains and rugged coast, and then take you past old ruined cottages and bogs, through woods and farmland, with fine views across the valley to the Kerry Mountains, Beara Peninsula and Kenmare Bay. Circle back to Sneem and sample some Irish hospitality.

Day 3: Gleninchaquinn Park – Our walks meander through the rolling hills of the Gleninchaquinn Park, offering great views over the Kenmare River. Along the way we discover one of the many stone circles scattered around this area of Ireland as we follow part of the famous long distance path, the Beara Way, back towards Kenmare.

Day 4: Beara Peninsula – We start our coastal walk at the tip of the Beara peninsula which offers views of the whole of the coastline, then walk via fishing villages and beaches to the old copper mining town of Allihies where we stop for a well-earned drink. Alternatively we walk via Ballaghboy along the high ridgeline, with panoramic views the beautiful Irish coastline including lofty sea cliffs.

Day 5: Free day – No walks are organized. You may like to travel the Ring of Kerry, take a cruise around the Skellig Islands (home to an 8th Century hermitage as well as large colonies of puffins and gannets), or simply relax at the hotel.

Day 6: Glengarriff – The easier walk climbs to Lady Bantry's lookout over Glengarriff Nature Reserve, for views of the rugged glen of oak woodlands and open meadows. Then descend into Glengarriff and board a boat for Garinish Island, where you can explore the renowned gardens. Or, you may prefer the more challenging walk, following the Beara Way from Adrigole, and heading up Sugar Loaf Mountain for breathtaking views of Bantry Bay and the peninsula.

Day 7: Killarney National Park – Head north of Kenmare to Killarney National Park and the many lakes of Killarney amidst the surrounds of the abbey, castle and magnificent Victorian mansion of Muckross House. Gain views of Muckross Lake to the west and the looming Torc Mountain straight ahead, with an option to ascend to the summit of Torc Mountain, and gradually pass through copses of trees and lush, green pastures to Lord Brandon's Cottage, a 19th Century hunting lodge.

Day 8: Tour ends after breakfast - departure transfer available at extra cost

Outdoor Travel offers guided walking holidays in small groups or self-guided with inn-to-inn luggage transfers and meals in many parts of the United Kingdom, Ireland and across Europe. These include Wainwright's spectacular **Coast-to-Coast**, the **West Highland Way** in Scotland; walks in the **Yorkshire Dales**, **Dartmoor**, **Cornwall** or in the **English Lake District**, Ireland's **Wicklow Way**, the **Dordogne** or **Provence** in France, along **the Danube** in Germany and Austria, **Andalucia** and **Catalunya** in Spain or the **Cinque Terre**, **Amalfi Coast** or **Tuscany** in Italy. For those looking for longer walking consider the **Way of St James** – the **Camino de Santiago** - from Le Puy in France to Santiago in Spain or the **Via Francigena** – the pilgrims' Road to Rome.

Luxury hotel barge holidays or **self-skipped motor cruise hire** are also available on the beautiful River Shannon in Ireland through Outdoor Travel:

Contact OUTDOOR TRAVEL for more details and reservations:

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