

IRELAND – KERRY & THE DINGLE PENINSULA

8-days / 7-nights Independent inn-to-inn cycling but within a small group



Our most popular cycling holiday in Ireland, this tour offers arguably the most spectacular land and seascapes and views across to Ireland's highest mountain range. Starting and finishing at Killarney, shadowing the magnificent and colourful MacGilllicuddy Reeks and adjacent to the famous Muckross National Park, the route heads deep into the Iveragh Peninsula along quiet roads to the picturesque villages of Sneem and Glenbeigh.

Gaelic culture is alive here and the Gaelic language is still spoken in the homes at the western end of the Dingle Peninsula. Our cycling route offers an interesting choice of terrain be it the hills that make up the spine of the peninsula or the coastal rides past the many bays, inlets and sandy beaches. Our tour guide does not cycle with you as a tour leader but instead follows with a support vehicle, ready to assist those looking for a break from cycling. You can travel at your own pace to explore the tranquil rural countryside with all the time in the world to stop, take a photograph, a coffee or a detour.

Departs: 15th June, 27th July, 17th August, 2019

Cost from: \$1620 per person, twin share Single supplement: \$550 on request – limited availability

Includes: 7 nights' twin share accommodation in hotels and guesthouses with ensuite bathrooms; 7 breakfasts, 1 dinner; hire of multi-geared bicycle with pannier; tour guide driving the support van; maps and route notes; luggage transfers, 24hour telephone assistance.

Not included: Lunches, dinners (apart from one), drinks, optional sightseeing and transport and any personal expenses. Bike helmets are supplied but we strongly recommend you bring or buy your own bicycle helmet.

To avoid the main roads on what is a busy and very popular tourist driving routes on the Ring of Kerry we have sought out some beautiful cycling quiet lanes that intersect the Iveragh and Dingle Peninsulas. There are several hills on this cycling route and much of the ride can be described as 'undulating'. But you can take as long as you need to cycle the route and the support van is always there should you have any problems. To further ease the cycling a limited number of E-Bikes are available at extra cost. Please ask for details.

You will be provided with a more comprehensive route description and maps at the start of the tour. There is an option each day for a variety of longer routes should you wish to ride further than the suggested distances. With the exception of the roads in and out of Killarney, the traffic on the route should be quite light. You should however cycle carefully at all times, especially when going downhill or during any occasional rain showers.

If these group supported dates do not suit, there is also the option to do this tour route on a self-guided and unsupported basis (minimum of 2 people) starting daily from late April to September: please ask for more details.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

Suggested itinerary:

Day 1: Saturday **Arrive Killarney**

We meet at 6:30pm at the bar of a local hotel in central Killarney. After an introductory briefing an evening meal is served in the hotel, whilst your luggage is transported to our nearby guesthouse. If you arrive in Killarney early you can leave your luggage with the hotel reception and explore the town including Ross Castle, a wonderful restored 16th Century tower overlooking Lough Leane. You can even hire a boat from here and row out to a 6th Century monastic site located on one of the nearby islands. Ross Castle is about 3km from the town.

Day 2: Sunday **Killarney to Sneem** **cycling @ 47km**

We begin by following a cycle track into the beautiful grounds of Muckross House. Located on the grounds is a Franciscan Abbey founded in the 15th Century. It is now in ruins but is beautifully situated with a large yew tree rising up through the cloisters. After a stroll around the celebrated Muckross gardens there follows a wonderful ride along a quiet cycle path between two of the Killarney lakes before we return to the main road. A steady climb follows to our lunch stop at Molls Gap where we are rewarded with delicious food in the restaurant with its beautiful views of the surrounding mountains. In the afternoon we cycle to Sneem with far-reaching views of the mountains and rugged coastline.

Day 3: Monday **Sneem to Glenbeigh** **cycling @ 51km**

Avoiding the main Ring of Kerry road we cycle across the peninsula. Passing along quiet country roads with stunning mountain views, we climb up to the beautiful Gap of Ballaghbearna and descend the other side into another valley overlooking Carrauntoohil, Ireland's highest mountain. After lunch there is a wonderful cycle through quiet fields and over old stone bridges before coming to Caragh Lake. Following the lakeside we then head west to the seaside village of Glenbeigh and spend the night in a comfortable hotel.

Day 4: Tuesday **Glenbeigh to Dingle** **cycling @ 47km**

We start the day with a short coach trip to Dingle where we are based for two nights. After getting back on the bikes we then follow the Sleah Head Route around the tip of the Dingle peninsula. This is one of the highlights of the tour with a wide variety of archaeological sites to visit along the route and some of the most breathtaking coastal scenery in the country.

Day 5: Wednesday **Dingle - Rest Day** **no cycling**

A variety of activities can be organised from the town. You can join an archaeological bus tour of the peninsula or you can swap your bike saddle for a horse saddle and go horse riding. There are boat trips to the largest of the Blasket Islands with its wonderful walking trails offering the most magnificent views of Dingle Bay. You can also take a boat trip to see "Fungi", the Dingle Dolphin, or simply potter around the town with its many shops and aquarium. Finally for those with stiff limbs there is also a massage centre in which to pamper yourself.

Day 6: Thursday **Dingle to Killorglin** **cycling @ 69km**

The morning starts with a long steady climb up to the Connor Pass with its stunning views of Mount Brandon and the coastline in the distance. There follows a wonderful descent and then a nice flat cycle along the coast to the village of Camp where we stop for lunch. In the afternoon we head straight into the mountains and traverse the peninsula heading up over one side of the mountains to magnificent views of the other side of the peninsula with Dingle Bay and Ireland's highest mountain range stretching out in front of you. We then descend down the other side and cycle the final stretch to our night stop in Killorglin.

Day 7: Friday **Killorglin to Killarney** **cycling @ 64km**

In the morning we cycle on quiet back roads to Kate Kearney's Cottage where we can stop for a cup of tea. Then to the final highlight of the tour, the Gap of Dunloe, a place you will never forget. Coming out of the gap you have an incredible view looking down the Black Valley and follow a small quiet route through a peaceful valley surrounded by green fields and grazing sheep. We climb out of the valley to return to Molls Gap for lunch. After lunch there is a wonderful freewheel back down to Killarney for our final farewell night on the town.

Day 8: Saturday **Tour ends in Killarney**

Tour ends in Killarney after breakfast.

Outdoor Travel offers a range of walking or cycling holidays in Ireland and the UK including the **Wicklow Way**, the English **Coast to Coast** or **South Downs Way**. Cycling holidays are offered in France, Italy, Spain, Germany, Austria, Czech Republic, Switzerland, Poland, in Romania and in New Zealand, USA and Australia.

Contact Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations:

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