

IRELAND – KERRY WAY & WEST COAST HIGHLIGHTS

8-days / 7-nights small group GUIDED walking based at Glenbeigh, Caherdaniel & Killarney



This walking holiday is based in the southwest of Ireland in County Kerry, affectionately known to Kerry people as “*The Kingdom*” and one of the most beautiful walking areas in Europe. This popular holiday offers the convenience of three accommodation bases (no packing and unpacking every single day) but with a walking itinerary that joins several legs of the Kerry Way, giving you a real sense of completing a journey. The intense natural beauty of the area combines with history, culture and legends for an unforgettable holiday.

The Kerry Way is Ireland’s premier walking trail and we have chosen four stages of the way which allow us to explore a wide variety of habitats and landscapes. Discover the glens, mountains and valleys of Mid Kerry and the sweeping beaches, dramatic coastline and rugged islands of Dingle Bay and the North Atlantic Ocean. Visit Killarney National Park, with its three lakes, oak forests, waterfalls, bog land and native Irish Red Deer – a highlight for many is the scenic boat trip in a traditional open-topped wooden boat across the lakes of Killarney. Relax and unwind with superb views, a landscape imbued with folklore, and unique ‘sub-tropical’ flora growing in a climate warmed by Gulf Stream currents. Join in the *craic* (fun) and enjoy traditional Irish music in local pubs.

We stay two nights in Glenbeigh, a picturesque, vibrant village tucked between the Seefin Mountains and Castlemaine Harbour. Glenbeigh is situated directly on the Kerry Way so on some days we can walk directly from our hotel. Rossbeigh Beach, a six-mile-long stretch of beach, is nearby, offering the opportunity for peaceful strolls or a refreshing swim. There are then three nights in the village of Caherdaniel, spectacularly located on the southwest side of the Iveragh peninsula facing onto Derrynane Bay with its lovely ocean views.

We spend our final two nights in a boutique hotel in Killarney, a bustling town with excellent shops, restaurants and traditional pubs. We explore the spectacular lakeside gardens in the grounds of 19th Century Muckross House and pass by the ruins of the 15th Century abbey.

Departs: 16th May; 20th June; 4th July; 22nd August; 12th September, 2020

Cost from: \$3060 per person, twin-share
Single room supplement from \$750 – on request, limited availability

Inclusions: 2 nights in 4-star boutique hotel and 5 nights in 3-star hotels, all with en-suite bathroom facilities; full Irish breakfast on seven days, five packed lunches, one lunch in Lord Brandon’s Cottage, six dinners; transfers to and from walks each day; arrival transfer from Killarney to Glenbeigh; boat trip on the lakes of Killarney; experienced local guide throughout.

Not included: Meals not mentioned, entry fees, personal expenses.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations



Suggested itinerary: *The actual route and distances each day is at the complete discretion of the tour guide.*

Day 1 Arrive Killarney and transfer to Glenbeigh

Arrive in Killarney for the 4.00pm transfer to your 3-star hotel in Glenbeigh. That evening meet at 6.30pm for a welcome dinner and briefing with your tour guide. Killarney is well-connected by bus or train to Cork and Dublin.

Day 2 Glenbeigh to Glencar via Windy Gap

walking @ 14km (ascent @ 440m)

We walk from the seaside village of Glenbeigh, ascend gradually to circle Seefin Mountain then stroll downwards into the lush valley of the Caragh River in Glencar. We are entertained on our walk by tales of Fianna warrior bands and the story of Oisín and Niamh's ill-fated romance. Finish at The Climbers Inn for a well-earned drink, before being transferred back to Glenbeigh for another night stay.

Day 3 Glenbeigh to Kells

walking @ 17km (ascent @ 300m)

Our first walk on the Kerry Way takes us on an early Christian route and medieval coaching road, with detours to see archaeological artefacts and 4,000-year-old rock art. Weather permitting we may take a swim in the Atlantic, and we see the wave at the end of Rossbeigh Beach, from where characters of Irish myth and legend made their way to *Tír na nÓg*, the 'land of youth' and of the pagan gods of Ireland, the *Tuatha Dé Danann*. We then transfer further along the Ring of Kerry to Caherdaniel and your 3-star hotel stay for the next three nights.

Day 4 Waterville to Caherdaniel

walking @ 12km (ascent @ 365m)

After breakfast there is a transfer to the start of the walk, which follows a route from one seaside village to the next, connecting Waterville to Caherdaniel. This section of the Kerry Way is on an old coaching road and offers wonderful views of bay, sea, islands and archaeological sites.

Day 5 Caherdaniel to Sneem

walking @ 17km (ascent @ 520m)

The Kerry Way continues mainly on the old coach road between the two settlements, in use for droving cattle up to the 1930s, which traces the track above the main Ring of Kerry road. Pass through peat beds and close to the famous 2,000-year-old Staigue Fort, one of the largest ring forts found in Ireland. Arrive at the picturesque village of Sneem for a well-earned rest then transfer back to Caherdaniel for a last night there.

Day 6 Old Kenmare Road - 'The Most Westerly Road in the World'

walking @ 15km (ascent @ 230m)

This morning's walk takes us from Derrycunihy Church into Killarney National Park, along The Old Kenmare Road (once deemed the Most Westerly Road in the World). Walk through ancient oak woods and bog/moorland, with a descent beside the impressive Torc Cascade into the gardens of Muckross House (19th Century mansion), with its welcoming tearoom. It is not far from there to Killarney and a 2 night stay in a 4-star hotel.

Day 7 The Lakes of Killarney and the Gap of Dunloe

walking @ 11km (ascent @ 200m)

After a short transfer, take a scenic boat trip in a traditional open-topped timber boat through the Lakes of Killarney, from Ross Castle to Lord Brandon's Cottage. After lunch walk through the dramatic Gap of Dunloe, a narrow mountain pass carved by glaciers. We finish a wonderful week's walking in Kate Kearney's Cottage.

Day 8 Depart Killarney.

Tour ends after breakfast.

Outdoor Travel offer small group guided walking or cycling holidays in Ireland, including **Galway, County Mayo, Dingle** and the **Wicklow Way**, and self-skipped or hotel barge boating holidays on the **River Shannon**. We offer guided or self-guided European walking holidays including the **Camino de Santiago** in France and Spain, Wainwright's **Coast to Coast** in England, and walks in other areas of Europe, Japan or New Zealand.

Contact Outdoor Travel for details and reservations:

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