

## IRELAND – KERRY & CORK

8-day / 7-night one-hotel GUIDED walking tour in southwest Ireland based at Kenmare Bay



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:**                    **\$3240** per person twin share                    Single room supplement from \$495

**Departs:**                    31 May, 7, 14, 21, 28 June, 23, 30 August, 6, 13 September, 2025

**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, local transport to/from the walks, entrance fees as per itinerary.

**Not included:**            Meals and drinks not mentioned, personal expenses, transport and/or excursions on your free day. Airport transfers from/to Cork airport at set times can be pre-booked at extra cost, please ask for details when booking.

**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 ensuite. 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. *On occasion we may use a different property of similar standard and location.*



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**Trip Grading:** Easy to moderate walking with some short steep ascents and some sections on quiet country lanes. Easier walks of 7-11km with up to 450m ascent and 600m descent in a day. Harder walks of 11-15km with up to 540m ascent and some rough terrain.

A typical European centre-based walking holiday offers a choice of up to two guided walks each day. You choose the walk that best suits your ability and fitness. Walks leaders make the final decision on which routes are offered; each evening they will brief you about the walks for the next day and answer questions you may have.

**Suggested itinerary (Routes are determined by the walk leaders each day and are subject to change):**

**Day 1: Arrival day**

Plan to arrive at the hotel by mid-afternoon. Ask about transfers from Cork airport (at extra cost).

**Day 2: Lomanagh Loop**

The Lomanagh Loop walk starts at the beautiful village of Sneem, nestled between wild mountains and rugged coast, and takes 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: Derrynane and the Kerry Way**

We walk along the Kerry Way with spectacular coastal views then drop to sea level before arriving at Derrynane House where we can relax with a cuppa or explore the grounds. The longer route today follows the old road which used to carry Kerry butter to Cork then crosses the pass and descends to the little harbour at Bealtra before following the rocky coastline and visiting the ruins of Ahamore Abbey.

**Day 4: Free day**

No walks are organised. You may like to travel the Ring of Kerry, take a cruise around the Skellig Islands (home to an 8<sup>th</sup> Century hermitage as well as large colonies of puffins and gannets), or simply relax at the hotel.

**Day 5: 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 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 we descend into Glengarriff and board a boat for Garinish Island, where we can explore the renowned gardens. The more challenging walk follows 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**

We 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 Muckross House, where we have time to explore the gardens and visit the café.

**Day 8: Departure Day**

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**, 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.

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

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