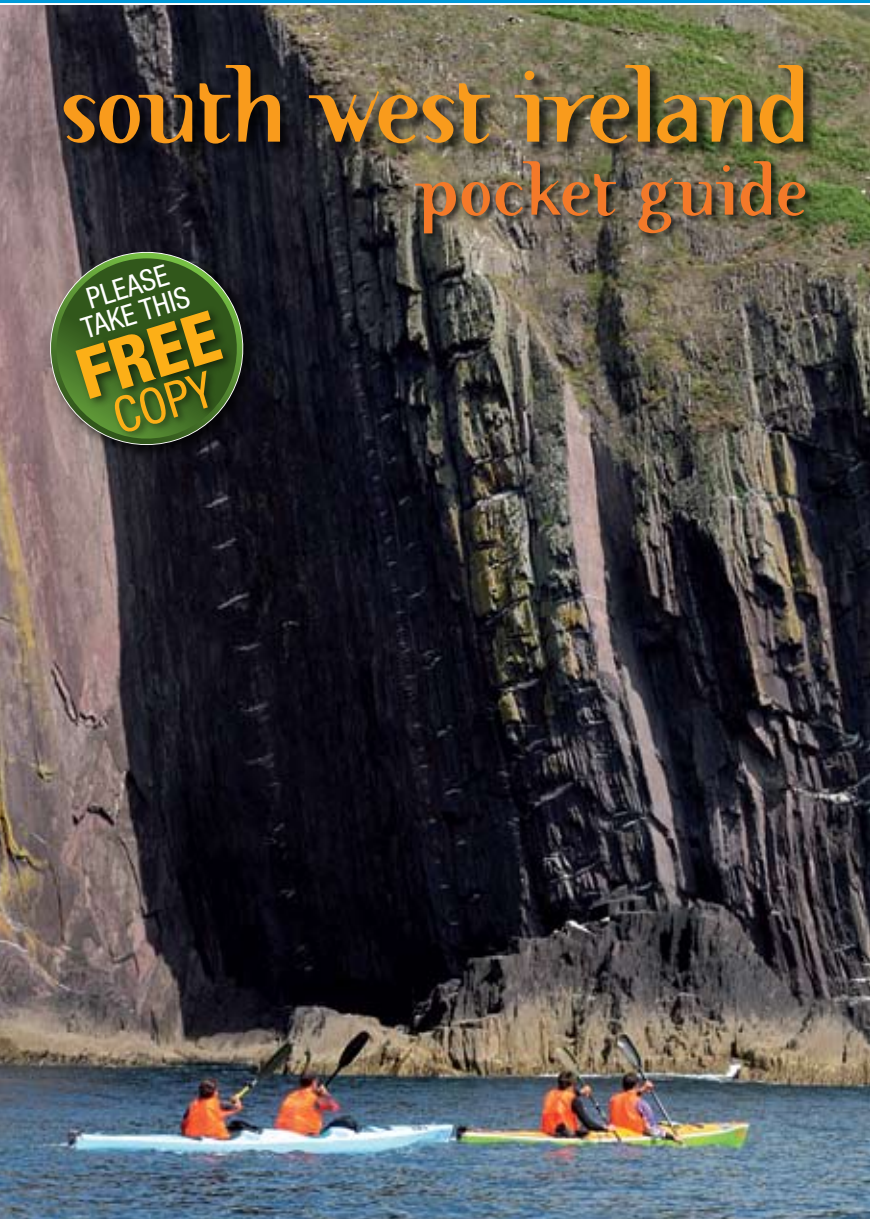


south west ireland pocket guide



Things
to do

Places
to see

Places
to stay

Events
& Maps

And lots
MORE...



WELCOME

Thank you for selecting this guide as your source of visitor information for this region.

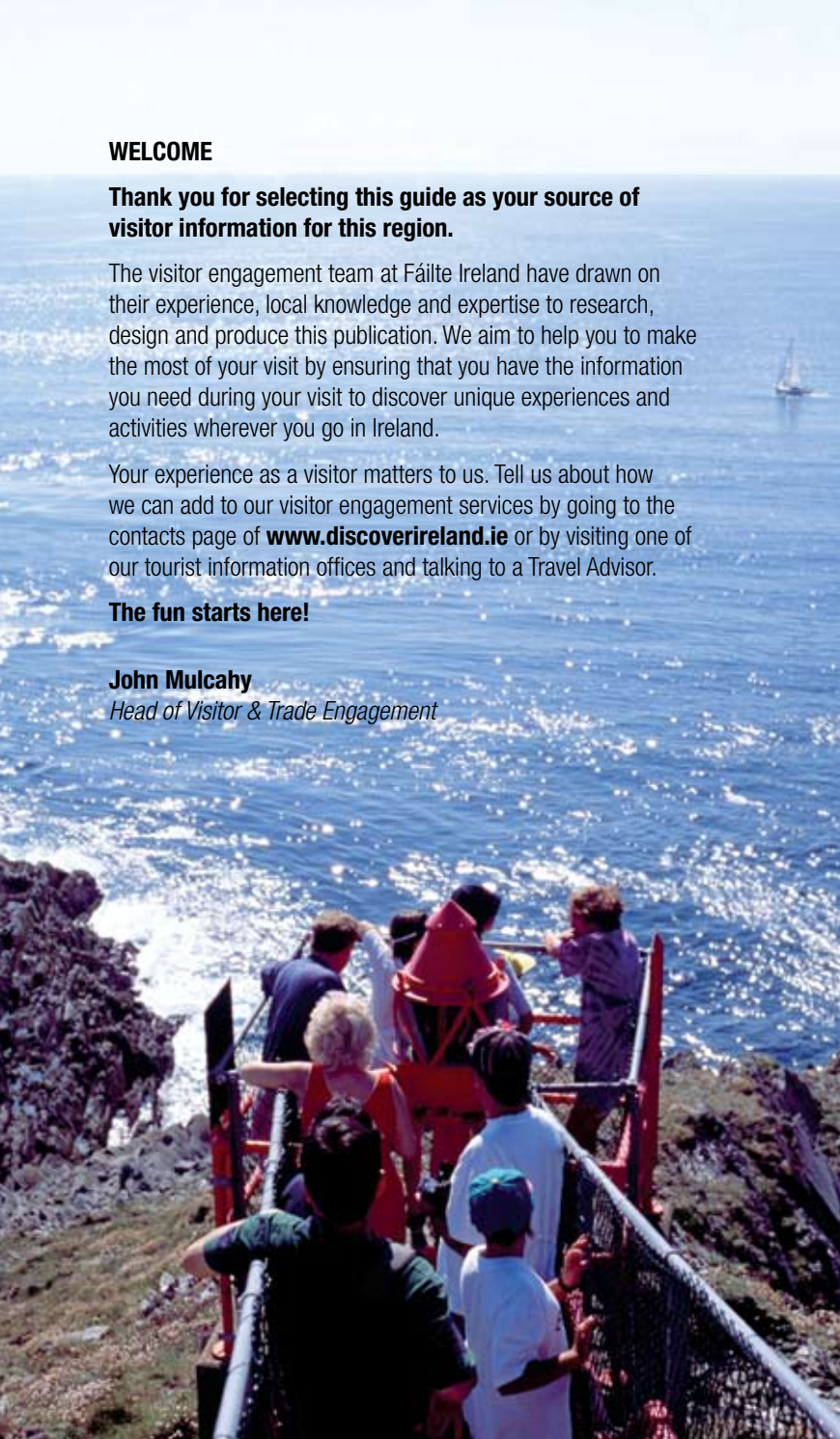
The visitor engagement team at Fáilte Ireland have drawn on their experience, local knowledge and expertise to research, design and produce this publication. We aim to help you to make the most of your visit by ensuring that you have the information you need during your visit to discover unique experiences and activities wherever you go in Ireland.

Your experience as a visitor matters to us. Tell us about how we can add to our visitor engagement services by going to the contacts page of **www.discoverireland.ie** or by visiting one of our tourist information offices and talking to a Travel Advisor.

The fun starts here!

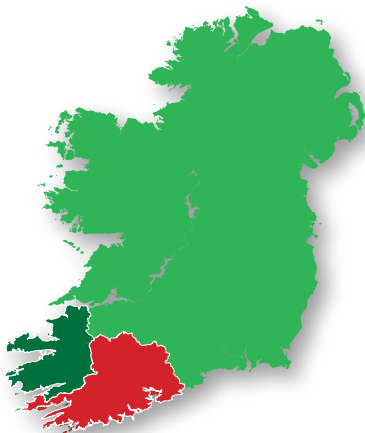
John Mulcahy

Head of Visitor & Trade Engagement



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Family Friendly: This symbol denotes attractions that have special appeal for family groups and/or facilities catering for families.



Map References: Each attraction has a map reference to identify its position on the regional map e.g. Cork City will be found at F5.



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Fáilte Ireland
National Tourism Development Authority

Every care has been taken in the compilation of this guidebook to ensure accuracy at the time of publication. The publishers cannot accept responsibility for printed errors or omissions, or alterations occurring after the guidebook has been published.



4

GREAT BLASKET

Welcome to the South West Region

The South West Region is a land of extremes, from rich rolling fields, brooding, isolated mountains to wild seascapes and craggy shorelines. It is a subtle mix of many ingredients, of influences of other countries, of landscape and weather, of history and optimism.

You can find a flavour of these influences in the festivals, activities and businesses throughout the region. Whether it's the old traditions handed down through the unique language, music, song and dance or the local artists or even among the ancient treasures scattered liberally



across the inlets and fields of the region. Or taste the modern flavours and the influences of the outside world in our vibrant cities and towns.

Let the road guide you from the modern city of Cork or towns such as Killarney or Tralee to the quieter towns of West Cork or the Dingle Peninsula. Wherever you go you will find welcoming places to stay where the food is delicious and made from the best of local produce.

There is a multitude of things to do in the South West from well marked walking trails across the lowlands or higher mountain passes, around heritage towns or glorious gardens. The coastline offers every opportunity to learn a new skill or take up a new sport. Test your surfing techniques on some of the best waves in Europe. Or take to a boat and visit spectacular islands and watch whales, sharks or dolphins frolic in the warm waters. Try your hand at catching some of the best salmon and trout on the Loughs and lakes inland.

Take a moment out and savour the variety and subtlety of the South West, it's so good even the locals keep coming back.



PATRICK STREET, CORK CITY

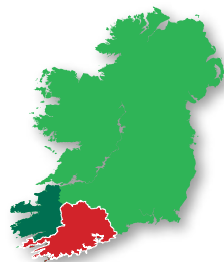
Cork City

Rich in history and tradition yet increasingly urbane and sophisticated, the ever evolving city of Cork is a vibrant place with a unique blend of contemporary style and old world charm.

Pedestrian laneways and narrow streets, small boutiques, gourmet food shops and a host of interesting pubs and clubs fan out across the city. Cork is renowned for its culinary flair and vibrant cultural scene and was winner of the European Capital of Culture in 2005. It was listed by the Lonely Planet Guide as one of their top ten cities for 'Best in Travel in 2010'. A strong festival programme attracts the best of film, jazz, folk, literary and musical talent year round. You certainly won't be short of things to do!

As Cork City is surrounded by water, the area is awash with activities such as cruising, whale watching and sailing. If the pastime of people watching appeals, a host of waterfront cafés and bars afford the perfect vantage point. And should you be in the mood for a little pampering, most hotels offer revitalising spa and beauty treatments or perhaps you'd prefer to tee off at one of the famous parkland or links golf courses in the area.

After dark, the range of attractions in Cork never dims. Greyhound racing, a night of theatre, a relaxed dinner in one of the city's superb restaurants followed by a traditional music session are just some of the options on offer to make the perfect end to your perfect day.



Cork Attractions



Blackrock Castle Observatory

F5 

Tel: 021 4357917

Email: info@bco.ie www.bco.ie

Blackrock Castle was originally built on the Lee in 1582 by the citizens of Cork as a watch tower and fort to guard the river entrance against

pirates and other invaders.

In an exciting collaboration between Cork City Council and the Cork Institute of Technology, Blackrock Castle has opened as Blackrock Castle Observatory, Space for Science. Cosmos at the Castle is an international award-winning interactive astronomy exhibit in the Castle.

Visitors enjoy local and Italian cuisine at the Castle Bar and Trattoria in the fine surrounds of our riverside courtyard.



Cork Butter Museum

F5 

O'Connell Square, Shandon.

Tel: 021 4300600

info@corkbutter.museum

www.corkbutter.museum

Once the largest butter market in the world, this museum tells the story of the Cork butter trade and the historic

and modern dairy culture in Ireland through a series of exhibitions looking at folk culture, the traditional butter-making craft and the modern international success of the industry.



Cork City Gaol

F5

Convent Avenue, Sunday's Well.

Tel: 021 4305022

Email: corkgaol@indigo.ie www.corkcitygaol.com

This imposing former jail houses an engaging exhibition focusing on life in and outside the prison in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Furnished cells, sounds effects, lifelike figures and exhibition boards show what life was like for both prisoner and jailer. The former Governor's House is now home to the "Radio Museum Experience" exploring the early days of radio broadcasting.



Cork Vision Centre

F5

St. Peters, North Main Street.

Tel: 021 4279925

Email: visioncentre@eircom.net

www.corkvisioncentre.com

Located in the heart of the historic city centre, the Vision Centre offers visitors an opportunity to understand conservation in action and to explore the evolution of Cork city. Exhibitions look at past, present and future developments and their impact on the city. The centre also hosts changing exhibitions throughout the year.

Cork Attractions



Crawford Art Gallery

F5

Emmet Place.

Tel: 021 4907855

Email: crawfordinfo@eircom.net

www.crawfordartgallery.com

Cork's city art museum has a permanent collection of over 2000 works ranging from 18th-century Irish and European painting and sculpture to contemporary video installations. The collection is particularly strong on Irish art of the 19th and early 20th centuries and has a wonderful selection of Greek and Roman sculpture casts. Changing temporary exhibitions feature work by major and emerging artists. The Gallery also has a Café that serves breakfast and lunch open 9.30 – 16.00.



Lewis Glucksman Gallery

F5

University College Cork, Western Road.

Tel: 021 4901844

Email: info@glucksmans.org

www.glucksman.org

Set in an award-winning building at UCC, the Lewis Glucksman Gallery is a cultural and educational hub promoting research, creation and exploration of the visual arts. In addition three floors of exhibition space, the centre hosts art workshops, film screenings, seminars and lectures and has a riverside restaurant and gallery shop.



English Market

F5

Between Grand Parade and Patrick Street.

Cork's beloved English Market a gourmet hub selling fresh produce, organic meats, baked delicacies and speciality cheeses.

The enclosed market has entrances off Grand Parade, Patrick Street, Oliver Plunkett Street and Princes Street. The

origin of the English Market may be traced back to James 1st in 1610 but the present building dates from 1786. Long recognised by locals as a place to meet, eat and shop, visitors can savour the atmosphere and choose from the wide range of goods that the traders have to offer in this unique market.



Lifetime Lab

F5

Lee Road.

Tel: 021 4941500

Email: lifetimelab@corkcity.ie

www.lifetimelab.ie

The Lifetime Lab is a visitor centre and interactive exhibition space in Cork's beautifully restored Victorian waterworks.

The centre offers a fun way to learn about water, waste and renewable energy with 100-year-old engines and boilers on display, as well as a science-themed playground and sensory garden. Coffee shop on site.

Cork Attractions



Shandon Church & Bells

F5

Shandon.

Tel: 021 4505906

Email: info@shandonbells.org

www.shandonbells.org

St. Anne's Church looks down over the city centre from its hillside perch and is famous for its chiming bells and red and white colour scheme. Built in the 18th century in Italianate style, the church's combined use of red sandstone and limestone has become a symbol of the city.

You can climb the tower to ring the famous bells.



Saint Fin Barres Cathedral

F5

Dean Street.

Tel: 021 4963387

Email: cathedral@cork.anglican.org

www.cathedral.cork.anglican.org

Said to be located on the site of Saint Fin Barre's 7th-century school, this beautiful cathedral was designed in glorious French-Gothic style by William Burges at the end of the 19th century. It features elaborate spires and rich sculpture as well as some wonderful stained glass and mosaic work.



University College Cork

F5

UCC Visitor Centre, Western Road.

Tel: 021 4901876

Email: visitorscentre@ucc.ie

<http://experience.ucc.ie>

Founded in 1845, visitors to the university can see the Gothic Revival Quadrangle, Ogham stones, Aula Maxima (great hall),

Honan Chapel and the Lewis Glucksman Gallery. Located in the heart of the UCC's main campus, this visitor centre is the main information point and starting point for regular walking tours of the university tracing its history and culture. Tours run from May to October at 15.00 on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays (depending on numbers)



Bishop Lucey Park

F5

Grand Parade.

This little park in the heart of the city was opened in 1985 in celebration of the 800th anniversary of Cork's Norman charter. The entrance arch was originally the entrance to the City Corn Market and just inside it are portions of the city's

original 13th-century walls. Contemporary sculptures by Cork artists can be seen throughout the park.

Cork Attractions



City Hall

F5

Anglesea Street.
Tel: 0214966222

Cork's impressive City Hall was designed by architects Jones and Kelly and opened in 1936 by President Eamonn De Valera. Its striking façade features six limestone Tuscan pillars and a copper-domed clock tower. The building is home to the city administration and also houses a large concert hall. Take a peek inside the foyer to see the impressive main staircase made from Connemara marble.



Triskel Arts Centre

F5

Caroline Street.
Tel: 021 4272022
Email: foh@triskelartscentre.ie
www.triskelartscentre.ie

This innovative arts centre offers a dynamic forum for performances, exhibitions and workshops featuring music, literature, visual art, drama and education. It provides an important platform for art and artists in the city.



Fitzgerald's Park

F5

Mardyke Walk.

Fitzgerald Park was the original site of the 1902 International Exhibition in Cork. An ornamental fountain and pavilion remain from this time and today the gardens play host to Cork Museum, a playground and a variety of sculptures. The park was named after Lord Mayor, Edward Fitzgerald, who initiated the staging of the international exhibition.



Cork Opera House

F5

Emmet Place.

Tel: 021 4270022

Email: info@corkoperahouse.ie

www.corkoperahouse.ie

Half Moon Theatre

F5

Half Moon Street.

Tel: 021 427 0022

Email: info@halfmoontheatre.ie

www.halfmoontheatre.ie

Sat Nav Coordinates: 51.900177 – 8.471596

Cork's municipal theatre is the only purpose-built opera house in Ireland and offers audiences a varied programme of local, national and international performances of drama, opera, dance, comedy and concerts. The main auditorium seats 1000 while to the rear the more intimate Half Moon Theatre seats just 150 and showcases more experimental projects.



Everyman Palace Theatre

F5

MacCurtain Street.

Tel: 021 4501673

Email: info@everymanpalace.com

www.everymanpalace.com

The glorious Victorian architecture and intimate atmosphere of Cork's Everyman Palace Theatre makes it a wonderful

location for drama, comedy, concerts and opera as well as home-grown productions. Chaplin, Laurel and Hardy, Ed Harris and Stephan Berkoff have all treaded the floorboards here. The theatre hosts a programme of acclaimed Irish productions during the summer months.



CHURCHES AND SETTLEMENTS

South Chapel Dunbar Street Cork City, Tel: 021 4255100.

(Cork Tourist Information Office). Built in 1776. Under the high altar is the delicate sculpture of the 'Dead Christ' which is the work of Ireland's most distinguished sculptor of the 19th century, John Hogan (1800-1858). The marble for this piece comes from the same Carrara Quarries used by Michelangelo.

Cathedral of Saint Mary and Saint Anne Roman Street, Cork City.

Telephone: 021 4304325. www.corkcathedral.ie

The Cathedral is the Mother Church of the Catholic Dioceses of Cork and Ross, known locally as the North Cathedral. It was dedicated in 1808. The building is a combination of sandstone and limestone dressings, and is of early neo gothic revivalist style.

Elizabeth Fort Off Barrack Street. Tel: 021 4255100.

(Cork Tourist Information Office). The imposing 17th-century Elizabeth Fort perches on a limestone outcrop overlooking the city and affords excellent views of the town below. Used as an army base, prison, staging post and barracks over the years, the star-shaped fort was destroyed and rebuilt on several occasions. Much of what can be seen today dates from the 17th century. **Open:** year round, daylight hours.

Red Abbey Abbey Street. Tel: 021 4255100. (Cork Tourist Information Office). Cork's oldest surviving structure, the late medieval Red Abbey tower is the sole survivor of an Augustinian friary founded in the 13th century. The abbey flourished until the mid-17th century but much of the structure was destroyed in a fire in 1799. The remaining square limestone tower has been restored and is an imposing feature in the area.

Open: year round daylight hours.

CRAFT STUDIOS & WORKSHOPS

National Sculpture Factory Albert Road. Tel: 021 4314353.

www.nationalsculpturefactory.com. The National Sculpture Factory is an organisation dedicated to promoting and encouraging contemporary arts practice by supporting and facilitating ideas, strengthening support networks for professional artists and acting as a public art resource centre. **Open:** contact centre in advance.

Fenton Gallery Wandesford Quay. Tel: 021 4315294.

Email: nualafenton@eircom.net. www.artireland.net. One of Cork's most dynamic exhibition spaces for contemporary visual art.

Cork Arts Theatre 7 Knapps Quay. Tel: 021 4505624

Email: cats7@email.com. www.corkartstheatre.com

The Cork Arts Theatre is an intimate, purpose-built auditorium with a reputation for staging cutting edge theatre and music. **Open:** year round.

MUSEUMS & TOURS

Cork Public Museum Fitzgerald's Park, Mardyke Walk. Tel: 021 4270679.



The Cork Public Museum looks at the history of the city and surrounding area from the Mesolithic period to the present and has fine collections of locally-made silver, glass and needlepoint lace, as well as a comprehensive section on the trades and crafts of the 19th and 20th centuries. Admission: Free.

THE CORK CITY PASS

With the **Discover Cork City Pass** you can avail of some of Cork City's key attractions and activities at reduced rates. The Discover Cork City Pass is free and is available at the Cork City Tourist Office, participating venues or available to download from www.discoverireland.ie/Southwest/Features/Brochures.aspx

Cork City Tour Bus Tel: 021 4309090. Take an open-top bus tour of Cork on the hop-on hop-off service. Tickets are valid all day. Open: Mar – Oct.

CORK IWALKS

Two iWalks are available for the visitor to explore Cork City. They are easily accessible and can be downloaded at www.discoverireland.ie/cork

CORK HISTORIC WALKING TOURS

Cork Historic Walking Tours offer the visitor an opportunity to explore Cork's fascinating and varied history through a series of walks tracing the era of the monks and Vikings. Tel: 085 1007300. www.walkcork.ie

CORK SEA SAFARI HARBOUR TOURS

Join Cork Sea Safari for an unforgettable experience in Cork Harbour. Mob: 086 8208565. Tel within Ireland: 1890 719 944. www.safari.ie

CORK CITY KAYAKING TOURS

Half day and full day trips are available. A half day trip is a tour of the city and out to Blackrock Castle Observatory, a full day tour includes the above and Cobh. Tel: 028 21 058. Email: info@atlanticseakayaking.com

HOVERLINK

Enjoy the thrill and excitement of a trip around Cork Harbour with Ireland's only hovercraft service, onboard the M.V. Irish Breeze. Tel: 021 4661671. www.hoverlink.net

BUS ÉIREANN DAY TOURS

Bus Éireann offers a selection of tours from Cork, including a tour of Cork City and Blarney in an open-top bus. Tel: 021 4508188. www.buseireann.ie

EASYTOURS CORK

Excursions from Cork City with friendly and informed guides on a choice of Routes. Tel: 021 4545328. www.easytours cork.com. www.discoverireland.ie

WALKING TOURS

Rigsdale, Ballinhassig. Tel: 021 4885405. Email: olgacork@eircom.net. Cork's Official Local Guiding Association (OLGA) provides experienced and specialised guides for City tours.



Cork City Centre





COBH BANDSTAND

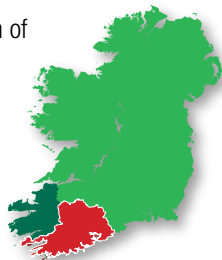
Cork City Surroundings

Apart from the myriad of historical and cultural attractions within the city itself, Cork, Ireland's largest county offers a rich array of must-see scenic delights.

Kiss the stone at Blarney Castle and acquire the Gift of the Irish Gab! To the east venture as far as Youghal, one of the last walled cities of Ireland, visit Ballycotton, one of the most picturesque fishing ports in the area, and wander along the nearby scenic cliff walk. Stop for lunch or afternoon tea in nearby Ballymaloe House. Watch how one of Ireland's most famous brands of whiskey, Jameson, is made in Midleton and maybe even taste a "wee drop". Visit Barrycourt's Castle overlooking Carrigrohilly which dates to the 13th century.

Take a trip to the picturesque town of Cobh & visit St Colman's Cathedral with its beautiful stained glass windows and admire the view of the town from its hilltop setting overlooking the famous harbour. Stay for lunch & take a tour of the Queenstown Story Heritage Centre and follow the Titanic Trail walking tour. Pay a visit to see the Cheetahs and Giraffes at Fota Wildlife Park or bring a picnic and spend a day in the gardens at Fota House just relaxing with family or friends. Spend an afternoon sailing around Cork harbour or alternatively admire the view from the cafés and restaurants on the quayside of Crosshaven or any of the little towns and villages situated along its shore.

Wander around the picture postcard seaside town of Kinsale, the Gourmet Capital of Ireland, just south of Cork city, with its quaint, narrow streets and excellent restaurants. Explore traditional bars, beautiful buildings, shops, galleries and lots of activities on land and sea.





Cork towns and villages

Ballycotton The picturesque angling village of Ballycotton has a long maritime history, and it was off Ballycotton in 1837 that the famous steam ship the "Sirius" was lost. She had previously been the first passenger steam ship to cross the Atlantic. Just off the coast, Ballycotton Island has a 19th century lighthouse.

Blarney Blarney, known as "the biggest little village in Ireland", is one of Ireland's most picturesque villages. Steeped in history and magical charm, Blarney offers the visitor a host of wonderful things to do and places to discover. Some great sights to visit include the legendary Blarney Stone at Blarney Castle.

Castletownroche This is a beautifully kept village with the gardens at Annes Grove nearby which are open to the public.

Cloyne Cloyne, a small and ancient cathedral town, is especially well known through its strong associations with Bishop Berkeley the famous 18th century philosopher, born in Kilkenny. He was Bishop of Cloyne from 1734 to 1753. The origin of Cloyne can be traced back to St. Colman in the 6th century who founded the See of Cloyne. An interesting feature at Cloyne is one of the few surviving Round Towers in Ireland.

Cobh Cobh town is best known, as the country's main emigration port following the great Famine of 1846-1848. Cobh's maritime history is recalled in The Queenstown Story - a major Heritage Centre in the town. Dominated by the majestic spire of St. Colman's Cathedral, the charming town of Cobh continues to be an important port of call for trans-Atlantic liners. On the quay side there is a memorial to the victims of the 'Lusitania', many of whom are buried in the old church cemetery.

Crosshaven East of Carrigaline lies Crosshaven where the Owenboy River enters Cork Harbour, and is one of the major international sailing centres in Ireland. Here you will find the headquarters of the Royal Cork Yacht Club with the charter of the oldest Yacht Club in the world. There are beaches, secluded coves and cliff walks in the Crosshaven area.

Doneraile Doneraile once formed part of the poet Edmund Spenser's great estate, until his son sold it to the St. Leger family in 1627. Doneraile House is currently being restored and the Doneraile Demesne is now a public Forest Park with a herd of Red Deer and other wildlife.



Garryvoe Garryvoe boasts a fine “Blue Flag” beach and is a popular holiday destination for families.

Kinsale The very attractive town of Kinsale has many popular attractions which include heritage, gourmet restaurants, sailing, deep sea angling and golf. Even the casual visitor to Kinsale will be captivated by its beautiful setting, with the long waterfront, narrow winding streets, and Compass Hill rising sharply behind the town. The old fortifications of Charles Fort and James Fort guard the narrow entrance to Kinsale from the sea. Garrettstown and Garrylucas, two nearby blue flag beaches add to the attraction of Kinsale.

Liscarroll This was a very early Anglo-Norman settlement, and the ruins of Liscarroll Castle dating from approximately 1280 survive. Nearby there is a Donkey Sanctuary which can be visited.

Mallow Mallow is located on the banks of the River Blackwater and is one of the main towns of the valley and the North Cork area. Mallow is a significant coarse and game angling centre, and the Racecourse has been re-developed.

Midleton The location of Midleton on rich agricultural land resulted in the development of related industrial activity - the distilling of Irish whiskey. Now a major visitor centre in the town traces the history of Irish whiskey back to 1825. Midleton is also a busy shopping centre with a great variety of shops and the diversion of heavy traffic away from the town centre some years ago has added greatly to the ambiance of the town.

Shanagarry Shanagarry, overlooking Ballycotton Bay, is the home to Ballymaloe, a major international Cookery School and also to a pottery and craft centre.

Youghal Youghal - pronounced Yawl - is a designated Irish Heritage Town, and one of the few towns in Ireland where the mediaeval town walls still survive. The walled town is located where the great River Blackwater meets the sea. The town enjoys a seaside location with 5km of excellent sandy beach. The town has a heritage centre, town trail and local guided tours. Deep Sea Angling is an important visitor activity here as is shore angling and other waterbased activities.

Visitor Attractions



Blarney Castle

F4 ↑↑↑

Blarney.

Tel: 021 4385252

www.blarneycastle.ie

Built more than 600 years ago, the castle has been a focus of attention, good and bad for centuries. More recently it has been visited by millions from all over the world to kiss the blarney stone, the Stone of Eloquence. The castle stands in the Rock Close and Gardens, a beautiful refuge from the world.



Fota Wildlife Park

G5 ♿ ↑↑↑ ♿ ↑↑↑

Carrigtwohill.

Tel: 021 4812678.

www.fotawildlife.ie

An open park of 70 ha where up to 70 species of animals from around the world can roam free, from giraffes to lemurs, pelicans to cheetahs and not forgetting

the seals and penguins. With activity playgrounds and lots to see Fota Wildlife Park is a great day out for all the family.



The Jameson Experience

G5 

Midleton.

Tel: 021 4613594

www.jamesonwhiskey.com

The Jameson Experience housed in The Old Distillery traces the history of whiskey making in Ireland following a guided tour through the historic buildings including

mills, maltings, corn stores, stillhouse, kilns and the largest Pot Still in the world with a capacity of 32,000 gallons. As the tour ends a tasting session occurs giving you the opportunity to qualify as an Irish Whiskey Taster with a diploma to prove it.



The Queenstown Story

G5 

Cobh.

Tel: 021 4813591

www.cobhheritage.com

Retrace the steps of the 2.5 million adults and children who emigrated from Ireland via Cobh through a dramatic exhibition of the origins, history and legacy of Cobh,

a unique Irish port town. Discover Cobh's special connections with the ill-fated Titanic and the story of Anne Moore who became the first emigrant processed at Ellis Island.

Visitor Attractions



Fota House, Arboretum & Gardens

G5

Carrigtwohill.
Tel: 021 4815543
www.fotahouse.com

Located in the sheltered harbour of Cork, Immerse yourself in the splendour of Regency period architecture and superb neoclassical interiors. A guided tour takes you through two floors of this extensive country house, including formal rooms and servants quarters, the restored original kitchen and game larder. The house contains one of the most important collections of Irish art and furniture in Ireland. The world renowned arboretum and gardens, with its beautiful orangery, formal walled gardens, and 12 acres of parkland was begun in the mid 19th century, and today boasts one of the finest collections of rare and tender trees and shrubs grown outdoors in Ireland and Britain. Our Café and shop, situated in the long gallery of the house, serves a selection of hot & cold meals, cakes and tea and coffee.



Ballymaloe Cookery School Gardens

G5

Shanagarry, Midleton.
Tel: 021 4646785
www.cookingisfun.ie

The gardens at Ballymaloe have been cultivated for 200 years and now refurbished by the Allen family support both the kitchen and cookery school with herbs, fruit and vegetables but also furnish plants and flowers for the hotel With herbaceous borders, water features and a Celtic maze the gardens are a serene place to spend a welcome few hours.



Barryscourt Castle

G5

Carrigtwohill.
Tel: 021 4882218
www.heritageireland.ie

Barryscourt castle is a 13th century courtyard castle with three corner towers

and more recent additions in the 15th and 16th century. On the ground floor of the castle an exhibition on the history of the Barry family and the castle itself is housed. Restaurant, craftshop available.



Doneraile Wildlife Park

F3

Doneraile.
Tel: 087 2515965/022 24771
Email: donerailepark@opw.ie

With parkland of 160 ha, mature groves of specimen trees, restored water features

and wandering herds of deer all modelled on the work of Capability Brown, this park is of interest to landscapers, tree enthusiasts and gardeners of all levels.



Fox's Lane Museum

H4

North Cross Lane, Youghal.
Tel: 024 91145

A fascinating display of 600 beautifully restored domestic gadgets and appliances from 1850s-1950s, which includes:

laundry equipment, the Edison Phonograph and early Gramophones, rare telephones and typewriters and much more. You can also step into a traditional Irish kitchen of 100 yrs ago.

Visitor Attractions



The Donkey Sanctuary

E3

Liscarroll. Tel: 022 48398
www.thedonkeysanctuary.ie

The Donkey Sanctuary have taken in about 2400 donkeys rescued from all parts of Ireland with many abandoned after many hard years of work for their owner. Visitor centre with tea/coffee, disabled access, picnic area and toilet.



Millstreet Country Park

E4

Millstreet, County Cork
 Tel: 029 70810
 Email: info@millstreetcountrypark.com
www.millstreetcountrypark.com

Sat Nav: 52.01170. North. 8.995460 West.

The South's leading Cultural, Educational and Eco-Tourism destination. In an environment which boasts an abundance of native wonders and spectacular breathtaking views, this beautiful 500 acre estate features miles of exhilarating walks, historical and archaeological features, themed gardens, red deer, wildlife and more. The spectacular "Mont des Arts" is truly a world class feature and is a must see for all visitors to the region. Facilities on site. Include a Café/Restaurant recently accredited Good Food Ireland.



Leahy's Open Farm

G4

Dungourney, Midleton. Tel: 021 4668461, Email: info@leahysopenfarm.ie
www.leahysopenfarm.ie

Leahy's Open Farm is bursting with fun activities for all age groups, from boat rides, mazes, pedal go karting, playgrounds, crazy golf, climbing frames, adventure trails, animals to pet, there's so much to do. Coffee shop and gift shop also on site. Go karting and large variety of farm and rare animals and birds.



St. Colman's Cathedral

G5

5 Cathedral Terrace, Cobh.

Tel: 021 4813222

Come and listen to the bells of St Colman's Cathedral, a Gothic Revival building

(1868 – 1915), with a recital every Sunday afternoon in summer. The spire is 100m high and its tower houses a carillon of 47 bells – the largest in Ireland. The interior of the Cathedral is highly decorated with carved panels of Bath stone, and displays some beautiful stained glass.



Charles Fort, Kinsale

F5

Tel: 021 4772263

www.heritageireland.ie

Charles Fort is one of the best surviving examples of a 17th century star-shaped fort

in both Ireland and the United Kingdom. Built between 1677 and 1682 during the reign of King Charles II the fort was designed to protect the town and harbour of Kinsale and has been associated with some of the most momentous moments in Irish history.



The Dinosaur Exhibition

F3

Dino Café, Castletownroche.

Tel: 022 26970

www.dinocafe.com

The Dino cafe was created by Arran Studios, a company that specialises in

dynamic, realistic sculptures, models and animatronic figures for films, television and exhibitions. The gallery displays fine examples of the work of these artists and allows the visitor to see the ways in which the models are constructed. Full restaurant and bar service available.

CHURCHES AND SETTLEMENTS

Bridgetown Augustinian Priory Castletownroche. Bridgetown Priory was founded by Alexander Fitz Hugh Roche in the early 13th century. Its buildings are placed around the usual quadrangle. The church is on the north side, and is divided into two parts, with the eastern section having 13th century lancet windows and a good 15th century tomb niche.

Cloyne Round Tower Cloyne. This is one of the few surviving round towers in Cork. The tower is one of the few surviving aspects of the old monastic foundation at Cloyne. It was struck by lightning in 1748 - 1749 and the original conical roof was destroyed. The tower was subjected to some alterations after this.

Castlelyons Dominican Friary Castlelyons. Castlelyons Dominican Friary was founded in 1307 by John de Barry for the Carmelite Friars. The present ruins probably date from the 15th century and consist of a nave and chancel church and the eastern and western portions of the domestic buildings.

Telephone: 021 4255100 (Cork Tourist Information Office for above)

St. Mary's Collegiate Church Youghal. Telephone: 024 92350.

www.youghal.cork.anglican.org. St. Mary's Collegiate Church (Anglican/Episcopalian) was founded as a religious site by followers of St. Declan some time in the 7th century. St. Mary's is a national monument of Ireland and is the oldest church in continuous use since its foundation in Ireland. The extensive graveyard is surrounded by the original town walls, complete with walkways, canons and viewing points and they are thought to be the best preserved medieval town walls in Ireland.

Saint Multose Church Kinsale. Tel: 021 4772220. Saint Multose Church, one of the two important medieval buildings in Kinsale, was built in 1190, but has been changed since then, though many of the original features survive. Some of these interesting features include the black letter inscriptions in Norman French, the Easter sepulchre, the Baptismal font, the carved memorials, and the reredos from the Galway Chapel.

CASTLES & HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Annes Grove Miniature Castle Castletownroche. Telephone: 01 6704733.

www.irishlandmark.com. Situated in picturesque surroundings in County Cork, this medieval miniature castle at Annes Grove was designed by Benjamin Woodward of the distinguished firm of architects, Dean and Woodward, in 1853.

Desmond Castle Kinsale. Tel: 021 4774855. www.heritageireland.ie.

Desmond Castle was built by the Earl of Desmond in the 16th century and is a good example of an urban tower house.

MUSEUMS & TOURS

Cobh Museum Old Scots Church, High Road, Cobh Tel: 021 4814204.

www.cobhmuseum.com. Housed in a former Presbyterian church in which the main interior features have survived, the exhibition reflects the maritime and cultural history of the town.

Kinsale Regional Museum Kinsale. Tel: 021 4772154/021 4777930.

www.kinsale.ie. It was in this building that the inquest to the sinking of the Lusitania (1915) was held, the German Kaiser was accused of 'wilful murder'.

Youghal Heritage Centre Youghal. Tel: 024 20170/024 92447.

Email: tourism@youghalchamber.ie. See and read of the history of Youghal and its people and the life of this illustrious town that was built by the Fitzgeralds in 1220.

Titanic Trail Carrignafoy, Cobh. Tel: 021 4815211. www.titanic.ie.



South Coast Tours Ballyorban, Monkstown. Tel: 087 2597855.
www.southcoastmarine.ie/tours.html

Kinsale Road Train Castlepark Marina, Kinsale. Tel: 087 7502737.
www.kinsaleroadtrain.com

Whale of a Time Ballydavid, Cloyne. Tel: 086 3283250. www.whaleofatime.ie

Blackwater Valley Heritage Trail Tel: 025 33411.

Blackwater Cruises Ardmore, Youghal. Tel: 087 9889076.

Olde Youghal Walking Tour Market Square, Youghal. Tel: 024 20170.

Dermot Ryan's Heritage Town Walks Tel: 021 4772729.
www.kinsaleheritage.com. Mob: 086 8267656.

Don & Barry's Historic Stroll in old Kinsale. Tel: 021 477 2873.
www.historicstrollkinsale.com. Mob: 087 2500731.

Kinsale Ghost Tours Tel: 087 9480910/087 8555043.

JJ Hurley's Historical Walk Tel: 086 3621013.

Kinsale Harbour Cruises Tel: 021 4778946. www.kinsaleharbourcruises.com
Mob: 086 2505456.

CRAFT STUDIOS & WORKSHOPS

Kinsale Pottery and Arts Centre Kinsale, Co. Cork. Tel: 021 4777758.
087 9696901. www.kinsaleceramics.com. Kinsale Pottery and Arts Centre provides arts and crafts, drama and creative writing courses for adults and children

Dancing Through the Ages The Mall House, Youghal. Tel: 024 92571.
www.dancingthrutheages.com. Discover the magic and beauty of Ireland's colourful culture in a fresh and exciting show that will take you on a journey through the history of Irish dance, music and song.

The Courtyard Gallery Midleton. Tel: 021 4634644.
www.thecourtyardmidleton.com. A contemporary arts and craft exhibition gallery just off the main street of the town.

Sirius Arts Centre Cobh. Tel: 021 4813790. www.siriusartscentre.ie
Sirius Arts Centre is open all year round and is a local focus for arts and cultural programming. It is located in the historic and recent restored Old Yacht Club Building.



Around Cork City





CASTLETOWNBERE LIFEBOAT

West Cork

West Cork is almost a separate region in its own right. It begins at Kinsale, resort of sailors and gourmet capital of Ireland and runs in a westerly direction to Dursley Head at the tip of the Beara Peninsula.

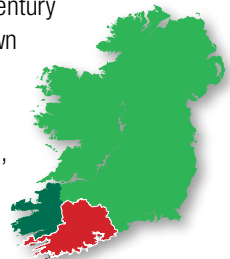
Both landscape and coastline become more complex and rugged as you proceed westwards, rising towards the crags and moorlands, to the Pass of Keimaneigh and Gougane Barra's silent lake locked in its encircling cliffs.

But it is to the coast that most people become addicted, this is a really good sailing area. It is festooned with little ports, bays, inlets and harbours and boats of every type and design are there, fishing, sailing and cruising.

Take Courtmacsherry and Castletownshend well known as dropping points for pirates and smugglers but now more likely to be anchor points for sailing yachts and explorers of the Irish coastline. Or think of the great fishing fleets that come to deliver their catch to the factory and awaiting trucks in places like Union Hall.

Roaringwater Bay with Carbery's Hundred Isles including The Gaeltacht island of Oiléan Chléire and the islands out to the last landfall and the lighthouse at Mizen Head. Oiléan Chléire is Ireland's southern most inhabited island. It is a rugged place with antiquities ranging from megalithic standing stones to medieval castles, excellent bird-watching and frequent visits by whales, turtles and sharks, While on nearby Sherkin Island can be found the ruins of a 15th century abbey. The nearby Fastnet Rock will be well known to sailors as an important navigational mark.

West Cork is a world apart, an area seemingly remote from the noisy world of commercialisation, yet discreetly offering quiet luxury or simple homeliness, which ever you like to choose.





West Cork towns and villages

Allihies Allihies was once the base for the thriving copper mines in the area, which reached the peak of production in the last century. Do take special care in the area of the old mine workings as there are many old mine shafts which are dangerous. The attractive village of Allihies looks out on Ballydonegan Bay from which the copper ore was exported by sea.

Baltimore is a very attractive village, harbour and sailing base. The village is 13km south-west of Skibbereen. A ferry service for Sherkin and Cape Clear islands departs from here. In 1631 the town was raided by a band of Algerian pirates. Some of the local inhabitants were killed and many were taken off as slaves to North Africa.

Bantry This is a major town at the head of Bantry Bay and is the principal coastal town in this part of West Cork. It is delightfully situated with a spectacular backdrop of mountains. This is an old town with many historical connections. Chief amongst these is that Bantry was the destination of two French Invasions - 1689 and 1796. At the edge of the town stands the ancient Kilnaruane Stone which dates from early Christian times.

Castletownbere Set in a large and dramatic harbour, Castletownbere is one of the largest white fishing ports in Ireland and is host to many European fleets. This is an excellent centre for the exploration of the south-western end of the Beara Peninsula. Nearby is Bere Island, and a visit to this island makes an interesting day trip.

Clonakilty is a town which has an excellent sense of what is best in terms of environmental presentation. It is noted for the excellence of many of its shop fronts which use traditional materials. The nearby blue flag beach area of Inchydoney is extremely popular with visitors. Michael Collins, one of the great heroes of the 1916-1922 period, was born at Woodfield near here.

Dunmanway This town is located in the centre of West Cork and is a 17th century planned town; the original two triangular squares still survive. Sam Maguire, the man who gave his name to the All Ireland Senior Football trophy was born here.



Durrus The very pleasant village of Durrus is located at the head of Dunmanus Bay on what is called the 'Friendly Cove', on one of the loveliest and most unspoilt coasts in Ireland. From here you have the choice of two intriguing peninsulas to explore.

Glandore Just 6.5km west of Rosscarbery the village of Glandore has a beautiful location overlooking Glandore Harbour. Nearby is the famous Drombeg Stone Circle which has been dated to 150 BC following archaeological excavation in the late 1950's.

Glengarriff This is one of Ireland's most beautifully situated villages and an area which is of special interest to botanists, because of the mild climate which the area enjoys. Glengarriff is one of the few areas in Ireland which still has some of the original oak forest which totally covered the country.

Goleen The village of Goleen is attractively located towards the south-western end of the Mizen Peninsula, in West Cork, and is an attractive base for exploring the beautiful coastline of this part of West Cork.

A visitor centre is located in the Irish Lights signal station at Mizen Head.

Schull This is a delightful seaside market town and a popular visitor base. It is protected from the north by Mount Gabriel, once the site of a prehistoric mining operation. It is a good place to search out your ceramic sculpture or batik wall-hanging. You will be most welcome to visit the Planetarium, where Star Shows are given during the visitor season. This important water sports centre looks out across Schull Harbour to the many islands of Roaringwater Bay. Local ferries operate during the summer giving access to Cape Clear Island, Carbery's Hundred Isles and a closer look at the famous Fastnet Rock.

Skibbereen Skibbereen with a population of approximately 2,000 people is the capital of the Carberies and is a most progressive town. This town was one of many in Ireland which suffered very badly during the period of the Irish Famine in the 1840's. The Famine plot survives today in the Abbey Cemetery west of the town. 5kms south west of Skibbereen lies Lough Hyne, Ireland's first Marine Nature Reserve.

For more information on Cork's towns and villages, visit our website

www.discoverireland.ie/southwest

Visitor Attractions



Bantry House & Gardens, Bantry

D6 

Tel: 027 50047

www.bantryhouse.com

Originally built in 1690, the house has a collection of tapestries, furniture and art treasures which the Earl mainly collected during his travels through Europe in the

1800s. The Gardens have been restored and are home to sub tropical plants and shrubs. Tea rooms also on site.



Garinish Island, Glengarriff

C5 

Tel: 027 63040

www.heritageireland.ie

Located in the sheltered harbour of Glengarriff in Bantry Bay Inacullin, or Garinish Island, is a small island of 15 hectares known to horticulturalists and lovers of trees and shrubs all around the

world as an island garden of rare beauty. Access to the island is by ferryboat. Limited access for visitors with disabilities. Boat charges to and from island not included in entrance price.



Skibbereen Heritage Centre, Skibbereen

D6 

Tel: 028 40900

www.skibbheritage.com

Enjoy a visit to the award winning beautifully restored Old Gasworks building. The Great Famine Commemoration Exhibition shows the

story of the area, one of the worst affected areas in Ireland, as seen in the mass graves in Abbeystrewery where almost 10,000 are buried. Genealogical, archaeological and wildlife information is also available alongside the Lough Hyne Visitor Centre.



Mizen Head Visitor Centre, Mizen Head

B7 

Tel: 028 35115; 028 35225

www.mizenhead.net

www.mizenhead.ie

Mizen Head Visitor Centre is located at the most south westerly point of Ireland. Keepers' Quarters, Navigational Aids

Simulator, Fastnet Light Model, Marconi, Whales, Bridge Reconstruction Progress reports, Geology, Fastnet Tide Clock and much more. Mizen Cafe and Gift Shop. Well worth a visit. Bridge and Signal Station reopening 2011.

Visitor Attractions



West Cork Model Railway Village, Clonakilty

E6

Tel: 023 8833224

www.modelvillage.ie

Located just outside Clonakilty the Model Railway Village depicts in miniature what

life was like in this area in the 1940s. A model of Clonakilty town and other towns are on display built with great detail at a scale of 1:24. Guided tour around Clonakilty and local area also available on the "Tschu Tschu" road train.



Schull Planetarium, Schull

C6

Tel: 028 28315

www.schullcommunitycollege.com

Schull Planetarium is beautifully situated beside Schull Harbour in the shadow of Mount Gabriel. Star shows are approximately 45 minutes long.



Dún na Séad Castle, Baltimore

D6

Tel: 028 20735

The thirteenth century Dún na Séad castle in Baltimore has recently been restored and is now occupied by the McCarthy

family. During the summer months the castle is open to visitors, who stroll through the Great Hall and discover the history of the building and its inhabitants. A walk onto the battlements gives a panoramic view of the beautiful harbour of Baltimore.



Glebe Gardens, Baltimore

D6 

Tel: 028 20232

www.glebegardens.com

This Good Food Ireland Award winning restaurant is surrounded by 5 acres of beautiful peaceful gardens. From a courtyard to an organic potager, from a flower and herb garden to our meadows

going down to the shore side, there is something here for everyone. In our café we serve homegrown, local and organic produce, home baked breads, cakes and pastries linking our gardens. Events such as live music and theatre are also held here on summer evenings.



Allihies Copper Mine Museum

B6 

Tel: 027 73218

www.acmm.ie

Allihies Copper Mine Museum (ACMM) is located on the picturesque Beara Peninsula. Allihies Copper Mine Museum sees its role as one of education,

enlightenment and entertainment telling the story of the industrial revolution arriving in one of the most remote corners of Ireland. It is an exciting and inspiring adventure catering for all of the community. The adjoining Copper Café opens for the summer season and at other times serves coffee and cakes.

Visitor Attractions



Glengarriff Bamboo Park, Glengarriff

C5 

Tel: 027 63007; 027 63975

(Ticket Office in season)

www.bamboo-park.com

This park is unique in Ireland with 30 different species of palm trees and bamboo. Explore the superb coastal

headland walks on 13 acres of parkland with unique views of Glengarriff harbour and bay. Dogs welcome.



Glengarriff Woods Nature Reserve, Glengarriff

C5 

Main Gate Lodge, Glengarriff Woods
Nature Reserve, Glengarriff, Co. Cork.

Tel: 027 63636

Email: clare.herdman@environ.ie

www.glengarriffnaturereserve.ie

Sat. Nav: V921 568

Glengarriff Woods Nature Reserve is situated in a deep rough glacial valley. The nature reserve was once part of the Bantry Demesne and features extensive old oak woodland along with rare species such as Kerry slug and lesser horseshoe bat. Both the Canrooska River and the Glengarriff River flow through the woods. Glengarriff Woods has a range of way-marked trails, including Lady Bantry's Lookout which features fantastic views over the mountains and Bantry Bay.



Kilravock Gardens, Kilravock, Durrus C6

Tel: 027 61111
www.kilravockgardens.com

A 2 acre garden full of surprises with many different 'rooms' which feature a Mediterranean garden, oriental garden, woodland garden with stream, indoor and

outdoor ferneries, southern hemisphere walk, sorbus walk and grove.



Gougane Barra Forest Park, Gougane Barra D5

Tel: 026 20270
www.coillte.ie

Gougane Barra Forest Park is located in the Shehy mountains and extends from the sheer slopes of Cuain Rua through Green Valley Desmond to the shores of

Gougane Barra lake. It contains approximately 20 different tree species as well as a wide variety of grasses, sedges and herbaceous plants. Wildlife is abundant in the park. The river Lee flows from its source within the park to Gougane Lake. Facilities provided include 5km of motor trail, 10km of hill walks, vista points and a nature trail. The park is open at all times, except when tree harvesting is in progress. There is parking, picnic areas, guided tours by arrangement. Orienteering and special events by permit.

Visitor Attractions



Michael Collins Centre

E6

Castleview, Clonakilty, County Cork.

Tel: 023 8846107

Email: info@michaelcollincentre.com

www.michaelcollinscentre.com

A photography and militaria exhibition are housed in the centre with an ambush trail outside with a one hundred meter section of road designed to look like a War of Independence/Civil War ambush site complete with a replica Crossley Tender Troop Truck and replica armoured car. Audio visual presentation also live presentations by expert guides.



Prince August Toy Soldier Factory

E5

Kilnamartyra, Macroom.

Tel: 026 40222

Email: info@princeaugust.ie

www.toysoldierfactory.ie

Sat. Nav. Long 9.0826 Last 51.9006

There is no fake machinery or actors – it's the REAL working factory, the REAL workers and the Real process. Our Demos give first hand learning experience that includes visual methods that's sure to impress children and adults alike. One of the only places in the world to see Tin Soldiers being cast the same way that they have been since the 17th Century. Watch closely as a Tin Soldier is cast right before your eyes! It's not just a factory but also a visitor centre that allows the child inside each person unleash its creative spirit. Painting classes and workshops for children and adults in all aspects of model making are available. A visit is a must!



Gougane Barra

D5 ↑↑↑

Just off the Macroom –
Glengarriff road (R584).

There is a tiny island in the lake at Gougane Barra connected to the shore by a causeway. It was here that St. Finbarre, patron saint of Cork founded his early Christian monastery in the 6th century. It is now marked by a replica early Irish chapel.



Lisselan Gardens

E6 ♿ ↑↑↑

Lisselan, Clonakilty.

Tel: 023 8833249

www.lisselan.com

You can take a leisurely stroll in our 12 hectares of Gardens and woodland walks that flourish in our mild Gulf Stream enhanced climate.



Timoleague Abbey

E6 ↑↑↑

Timoleague.

Tel: 023 8833226

(Clonakilty Tourist Office)

Timoleague Abbey was founded by the Franciscan order in 1240 and was built on the site of a monastic settlement founded by St. Molaga in the 6th century. In its day it was one of the largest and most important of the religious houses in Ireland.



CHURCHES AND SETTLEMENTS

Abbeystewry Abbey Skibbereen.

Located 1.5km west of Skibbereen town on the N71, Abbeystewry Abbey is also the site of the Famine Burial Plot.

St. Barrahanes Church Castletownshend.

Lovely church with beautiful Stained Glass Windows by Harry Clarke, in one of the most unique parts of West Cork.

St. Fachtna's Cathedral Rosscarbery.

Tel: 023 8833226 Clonakilty Tourist Information Office.

The present Cathedral of St. Fachtna dates from 1612, and was rebuilt in the aftermath of the 1641 rebellion.

St. Patrick's Cathedral Skibbereen.

This is built in the Grecian style and dates from 1826.

CASTLES & HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Ballinacarriga Castle Dunmanway.

East of Dunmanway, Ballinacarriga Castle was built in 1585 by the Hurleys. It is a fine example of an Irish tower house of the period.

Carriganass Castle Kealkill. www.carriganass.com

The castle, built by an O'Sullivan Beare chieftain around 1540, is the best surviving structure of the clan and comprises an imposing tower and walled courtyard built on the north bank of the Ouvane River.

FERRY SERVICES & MARINE TOURS

Bere Island Ferries Ferry Lodge, Bere Island.

Tel: 027 75009. www.bereislandferries.com

Blue Pool Ferry Blue Pool, Glengarriff.

Tel: 027 63333. www.bluepoolferry.com

Cailin Oir Ferry & Cruise Service Baltimore.

Tel: 028 39159; 028 41923 086 3465110. www.cailinoir.com

Ferry Service to Long Island

Tel: 028 22001; 086 8887799. www.heirislandferries.com

Harbour Queen Ferry Boats Glengarriff.

Tel: 027 63116. www.harbourqueenferry.com

**Karycraft Schull.**

Tel: 028 28278; 086 2379302. www.capeclearferries.com

Murphy's Ferry Service Lawrence Cove, Bere Island.

Tel: 027 75014; 087 2386095. www.murphysferry.com

MV Thresher Ferry Heir (Hare) Island and Cunnamore Pier.

Tel: 086 8092447; 028 38511. www.heirislandsailingschool.com

Sherkin Island Ferry Baltimore.

Tel: 028 20218; 087 2447828; 087 9117377. www.sherkinferry.com

Whiddy Island Ferry Bantry.

Tel: 086 8626734. www.whiddyislandferry.com

West Cork Marine Tours Whale & Dolphin Watching.

Tel: 086 3273226. www.whales-dolphins-ireland.com

Whale Watch West Cork Whale & Dolphin Watching

Tel: 028 33357. www.whalewatchwestcork.com

Baltimore Sea Safari Boat Trips. Tel: 028 20753. www.baltimoreseasafari.ie**CRAFT STUDIOS & WORKSHOPS****Adrigole Arts** Adrigole, Tel: 027 60234. www.hungryhillgallery.com**Catherine Hammond Gallery** Glengarriff. Tel: 027 63812. www.hammondgallery.com**Jem Creations** Glengarriff, Tel: 027 63113.**Mill Cove Gallery** Castletownbere. Tel: 027 70393. www.millcovegallery.com**The Barn Gallery** Drimoleague. Tel 028 31677. www.barngalleryireland.com**The Doswell Gallery** Rosscarbery. Tel: 023 8848137; 087 7478713.

www.doswellgallery.com

The Wildlife Film School Baltimore and Union Hall. Tel: 086 153 1663.

www.thewildlifefilmschool.com

West Cork Arts Centre North St, Skibbereen. Tel: 028 22090.

www.westcorkartscentre.com

West Cork Craft and Design Guild West Cork. Tel: 028 21890.

www.westcorkcraft.org

West Cork Watercolour Castletownshend, Skibbereen. Tel: 028 36828.

www.westcorkwatercolour.ie

Hands on West Cork Tel: 021 4777758. www.handsonwestcork.com



West Cork



F

G

H



VALENTIA ISLAND

County Kerry

Many refer to Kerry as Ireland's natural Adventure "Playground".

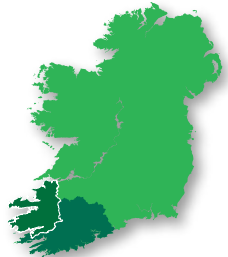
Whether climbing Ireland's highest peaks, Carruntuohill or Mount Brandon, or navigating the challenging sounds of our offshore islands, The Skellig (Sceilig) and Blasket Islands, adventure here is complimented by the majesty of our surroundings, craggy mountain ranges rolling down to the dramatic cliffs and shores of three magnificent peninsulas, The Ring of Kerry (Iveragh), Dingle and Beara peninsulas.

Killarney, the main population centre, is alive with a wide selection of shops, restaurants and bars and is a constant hive of activity. It is surrounded by magnificent lakes and mountains in every direction much of it a National Park at the centre of which is Muckross House and Abbey.

Any visit to Kerry should include a trip to the Dingle Peninsula, a walk on Inch strand or an evening in the vibrant town of Dingle. Travel via Annascaul and drop into the "South Pole Inn" named by its former proprietor Tom Crean, a fellow traveller with Scott of the Antarctic. Dingle, a big fishing town, is an attractive brightly coloured place full of craft shops, bars and restaurants.

From here take a boat trip to the Blasket Islands or travel round Sleat Head alongside magnificent views of the coastline and at the other side of the Peninsula to Cloghane and Castlegregory and the wonderful views of Mount Brandon and the Slieve Mish mountains.

Tralee, not only famous for the "Rose of Tralee" competition, is the county town and a gateway to the region. The Aqua Dome, the Steam Railway, horse and greyhound racing, historic buildings as well as good shopping and a range of first-class pubs and cafes are just some of the attractions in this thriving town.





Killarney

Nestled in a mountain valley on the edge of a glorious lake, Killarney is renowned for its natural beauty and has been a favourite tourist destination since the 17th century.

Today Killarney town blends quaint tradition with contemporary style and service. The jaunting cars still carry visitors around the scenic highlights and the picturesque cobbled laneways are as bright and colourful as ever, but the bustling streets are now lined with independent craft shops, small galleries, traditional pubs, fine restaurants and plenty of accommodation options, making the town a great base to explore the region's lush landscape and stunning vistas.

Killarney is the gateway to the Killarney National Park, one of the country's best-loved parks, with its magnificent scenery, famous lakes and numerous historical and archaeological remains. You can visit the stunning Victorian Muckross House, the atmospheric ruins of Muckross Abbey, medieval Ross Castle or the tranquil ruined monastery on Innisfallen. Elsewhere picturesque waterfalls cascade between the rocks making their way down the slopes to the stunning lakes at the heart of the park.

West of the Killarney valley the dramatic MacGillicuddy's Reeks, Ireland's highest mountain range, form a backdrop to the park and offer fantastic outdoor opportunities for hikers and climbers. The area also offers ample choice for golfing, fishing; horse-riding, canoeing, cycling and swimming, letting you choose how best to experience the natural highlights of the area.

Take a leisurely lake cruise, explore the dramatic Gap of Dunloe or enjoy the ethereal mists at Ladies View and soon you will understand why this area has been an inspiration to poets, writers, artists and musicians for many centuries.



Visitor Attractions



Killarney National Park

C4 

Tel: (0)64 6631440, (0)64 6631947

Email: killarneynationalpark@ealga.ie

www.npws.ie

www.heritageireland.ie/en/South-West/KillarneyNationalPark

Internationally renowned for its scenic beauty and scientific interest Killarney National Park, 10,000 ha (25,000 acres) in extent, encompasses the three Lakes of Killarney and mountains and woods which surround them. The National Park protects the most extensive area of natural oak woodland remaining in Ireland as well as characteristic plants, such as the Arbutus. On the mountain slopes roam the only herd of red deer which have been here since the end of the last Ice Age.

At the heart of the National Park is the Muckross Demesne, centred on Muckross House and Gardens, and Muckross Traditional Farms. Many exotic trees and shrubs flourish in Muckross Gardens in the mild climate and sheltered location. Throughout the park the rich forest drips with moss and fern, the mild climate here supporting a diverse range of plant species and playing host to a series of sub-tropical gardens unique to this part of Ireland. Exotic species such as rhododendron and azalea thrive here adding a blaze of colour to the picture postcard views at every turn. Elsewhere picturesque waterfalls cascade between the rocks making their way down the slopes to the stunning lakes at the heart of the park.

Bicycles are a convenient form of transport, particularly within the Demesne areas of the Park, while the most traditional form of transport is the jaunting car. Walkers may visit many parts of the National Park not accessible in other ways.

Limited wheelchair accessibility.



Muckross House, Gardens & Traditional Farms

C4 

National Park, Killarney.

Tel: 064 6631440

Email: mucros@iol.ie

www.muckross-house.ie

Set in spectacular surroundings, Muckross House is a magnificent Victorian mansion with elegantly furnished rooms offering a glimpse into the life of the landed gentry. The landscaped grounds feature exotic trees and shrubs around well-tended lawns and are home to a craft centre and traditional farm depicting Kerry working life as it was in the early 20th century.

Visitor Attractions



Ross Castle

C4 ↑↑↑

Killarney.

Tel: 064 6635851

www.heritageireland.ie

A typical example of the stronghold of an Irish chieftain in the Middle Ages, this 15th-century tower house was built by the O'Donoghue Ross clan and occupies

a beautiful position overlooking Lough Leane. The castle has been restored and furnished with period oak furniture and is surrounded by a fortified bawn, curtain wall and two circular flanking towers.



Muckross Abbey

C4 ↑↑↑

Tel: (0)64 6670144

Email: info@heritageireland.ie

www.muckross-house.ie

www.heritageireland.ie/en/South-West/MuckrossFriary

Muckross Abbey is a major ecclesiastical site situated in Killarney National Park. It

was founded in 1448 as a Franciscan friary for the Observantine Franciscans by Donal McCarthy Mor and is in a remarkable state of preservation. The tower was added after the church was built and is the only Franciscan tower in Ireland which is as wide as the church. It has had a violent history and has been damaged and reconstructed many times. The friars were often persecuted and subjected to raids by marauding groups. Today the abbey is largely roofless although, apart from this, is generally quite well preserved. Its most striking feature is a central courtyard, which contains a large yew tree and is surrounded by a vaulted cloister. The monks were finally driven out by the Cromwellians in 1652 and in the 17th and 18th centuries, it became the burial place for prominent County Kerry poets O'Donoghue, O'Rathaille and O'Suilleabhain.



Dinis Cottage

C4 ↑↑↑

Tel: (0)64 6631633

Killarney Tourist Information Office

The historical cottage dates back to the 1700s and was once a hunting lodge. It has operated as a tea rooms for more than 200 years. It has seating for 33 people, both inside and outdoors, and it

is a tempting stop-off for many visitors walking the popular Muckcross and Dinis route through the National Park.

Dinis Cottage was built by the Herberts and boasts a wonderful Victorian magic and charm. It is located in the heart of Killarney National Park close to the Old Weir Bridge and the Meeting of the Waters. Some of the graffiti etched on the windows of Dinis Cottage dates back to the 1820s. There was a tradition for newly engaged couples to carve their names, for luck, on the glass windows with their new diamond.



Innisfallen Island

C4 ↑↑↑

Tel: (0)64 6631633

Killarney Tourist Information Office

An interesting visit may be made to Innisfallen – an island of 8.5 hectares (21 acres) near the northern end of Lough Leane and about 1.5km (1 mile) from the shore off Ross Castle. Evergreens flourish all over the island and the holly is particularly luxuriant.

Near the landing stage are the ruins of Innisfallen Abbey, founded about AD 600 by Saint Faithlean (fallen) and also

associated with Saint Finian the leper. The Annals of Innisfallen, a chronicle of world and Irish history in Irish and Latin (now in the Bodleian Library, Oxford), were compiled here at intervals to 1320, by a succession of 39 monastic scribes. Boats and boatmen can be hired at Ross Castle to get to the island and abbey.

Visitor Attractions

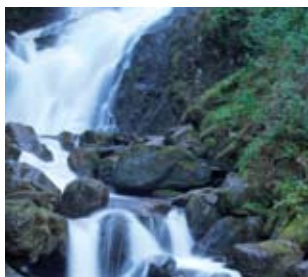


Coolwood Wildlife Park

C4 ♿ 🧑🧒🧓

Coolcasslagh, Killarney.
Tel: 064 6636288
www.coolwoodwildlifepark.com

This Wildlife Park and sanctuary offers a unique opportunity to see rare and exotic animals up close. Pets corner, playground and coffee shop on site.



Torc Waterfall

C4 🧑🧒🧓

Killarney Tourist Information Office.
Tel: (0)64 6631633

The Owengarriff River cascades through the wooded Friar's Glen into Muckcross Lake. A pretty path winds up to the top of this 18m high waterfall, revealing views of Torc Mountain.



Kennedys All-Weather Pet Farm & Playgrounds

D4 ♿ 🧑🧒🧓

Brewsterfield, Glenflesk, Killarney,
Co Kerry.
Tel: 064 7754054; 086 1953204.
Email: kennedysfarm@eircom.net
www.killarneypetfarm.com

Sat. Nav: 52.111945-10.396194.

Come & meet Pets from Fur to Feather indoors and outdoors, ready to be held & cuddled. Deer, pigs, calves, sheep, cuddly puppies, guinea pigs, ducks, ducklings, geese, goslings & mother hen brooding over her fluffy chicks while Prince the Peacock struts about. Unique indoor & outdoor playgrounds provide added activities. Rain or shine you will have a great time!



Kerry Crafted Glass

C4

Knockatgaggle More, Kilcummin, Killarney.

Tel: 064 6643295

Email: kerrycraftedglass@eircom.net

www.irishkerryglass.com

This traditional glassworks is the only one of its kind in Ireland, with each piece blown and finished by hand using traditional tools. The unique designs use 100% recycled glass and are inspired by the beautiful Killarney surroundings.



Frank Lewis Gallery

C4

6 Bridewell Lane (off New Street),
Killarney, Co Kerry.

Tel: 064 6631108

Email: info@franklewisgallery.com

www.franklewisgallery.com

The Frank Lewis Gallery hosts changing solo and group exhibitions of paintings and sculpture by some of Ireland's leading artists as well as emerging names in the Irish arts scene.

CHURCHES AND SETTLEMENTS

Saint Mary's Cathedral Killarney. Tel: 064 6631014

St Mary's Cathedral is the Cathedral of the Catholic Diocese of Kerry, the successor cathedral to that of St Brendan's at Ardfert, to the north-west of Tralee. The cathedral was designed by Augustus Pugin and constructed in the gothic style. The overall plan was for a rugged exterior and a smooth light filled interior. He came up with a number of basic designs and the Cathedral of Salisbury and the ruins of Ardfert would seem to have been of influence. He died before the work was completed but according to his son, Edward, of all the churches he designed, Killarney was the one nearest to his heart. It was consecrated in 1855 and extensively renovated in the 1970s.

TOURS

Corcorans Tours 8 College Street, Killarney. Tel: 064 6636666.

Email: corcorantours@eircom.net. www.corcorantours.com.

Corcorans Tours offers fully-guided day tours around the Ring of Kerry, Gap of Dunloe, Dingle and Sleah Head, and Killarney. Luxury vehicles with qualified driver-guides are available for private hire for tours throughout Ireland. Airport transfers organised.

Deros Coach Tours 22 Main Street, Killarney. Tel: 064 6631251.

Email: deroscoachtours@eircom.net. www.derostours.com.

Deros offers daily coach tours to the Ring of Kerry, Dingle and Sleah Head and the Gap of Dunloe as well as a Killarney highlights tour and golf tours. Advance booking advised in the summer months.

Gap of Dunloe Tours 7 High Street, Killarney. Tel: 064 6630200, 087 2672821.

Email: info@gapofdunloetours.com. www.gapofdunloetours.com.

Gap of Dunloe Tours offers a combination of bus, jaunting car and open boat tours to the famous Gap of Dunloe, as well as offering options to walk, cycle or ride the most scenic sections. The company also runs lake cruises around the Lakes of Killarney and offers guided fishing trips.

Killarney Guided Walks Currach, Aghadoe, Killarney. Tel: 064 6633471.

Email: info@killarneyguidedwalks.com. www.killarneyguidedwalks.com.

Discover Killarney National Park on a guided two-hour walk to gain an introduction to the history, sights and flora and fauna of this wonderful park. Highlights include Ross Castle, Innisfallen Abbey and the old copper mines. Longer walks can be arranged on request including mountain walks to Carrauntoohil, Ireland's highest peak.

Killarney Jaunting Cars/Tangney Tours 10B Muckcross Close, Killarney. Tel: 064 6633358. Email: info@killarneyjauntingcars.com. www.killarneyjauntingcars.com.

These traditional tours are operated by jaunting cars and watercoach and take in Muckcross House and Gardens, Killarney National Park and Ross Castle, the Gap of Dunloe and a lake cruise.

Lily of Killarney Watercoach Old Weir Lodge, Muckcross Road, Killarney.

Tel: 064 6631068. Email: info@killarneydaytour.com.

This day tour takes you through the spectacular mountain, lake and woodland scenery of the Killarney area using a combination of coach, pony & trap and boat. The MV Lily of Killarney transports you from Lord Brandon's Cottage through the Killarney lakes on a guided tour rich in legend, archaeology, history and folklore.



O'Connor Autotours Ross Road, Killarney. Tel: 064 6631052.

Email: oconnorautotour@eircom.net.

Year round day tours of the Ring of Kerry, Dingle's Sleá Head, Gap of Dunloe and Lakes of Killarney are available from O'Connors.

O'Donoghue Brothers Boating Tours Old Weir Lodge, Muckcross Road, Killarney.

Tel: 064 6631068. Email: info@killarneydaytour.com. www.killarneydaytour.com.

The Killarney day tour takes you by coach to Kate Kearney's Cottage, from where you'll take a pony and trap through the Gap of Dunloe to Lord Brandon's Cottage. From here an open boat will take you along Killarney's lakes towards the historic Ross Castle.

Scenic Lake Cruises N.V. Pride of the Lakes, c/o Destination Killarney. Tel: 064

6632638. Email: destinationkillarney@eircom.net.

Take a one-hour tour of Lough Leane, the largest of Killarney's three famous lakes, with an experienced guide and skipper offering an insight into the spectacular scenery, flora, fauna and historical sights of the area. Open: cruises five times a day subject to weather conditions.

CRAFT STUDIOS & WORKSHOPS

Killarney Art Gallery 5 Plunkett Street, Killarney. Tel: (0)64 6634628, (0)87

2767999. Email: art@irishartcollector.com. www.irishartcollector.com.

The Killarney Art Gallery was established in 1990 by Declan Mulvany. His family have been in the art business in Ireland since 1885. The gallery represents many of the country's leading contemporary artists and up and coming artists.

The McBride Gallery 25 New Street, Killarney. Tel: (0)64 6671483.

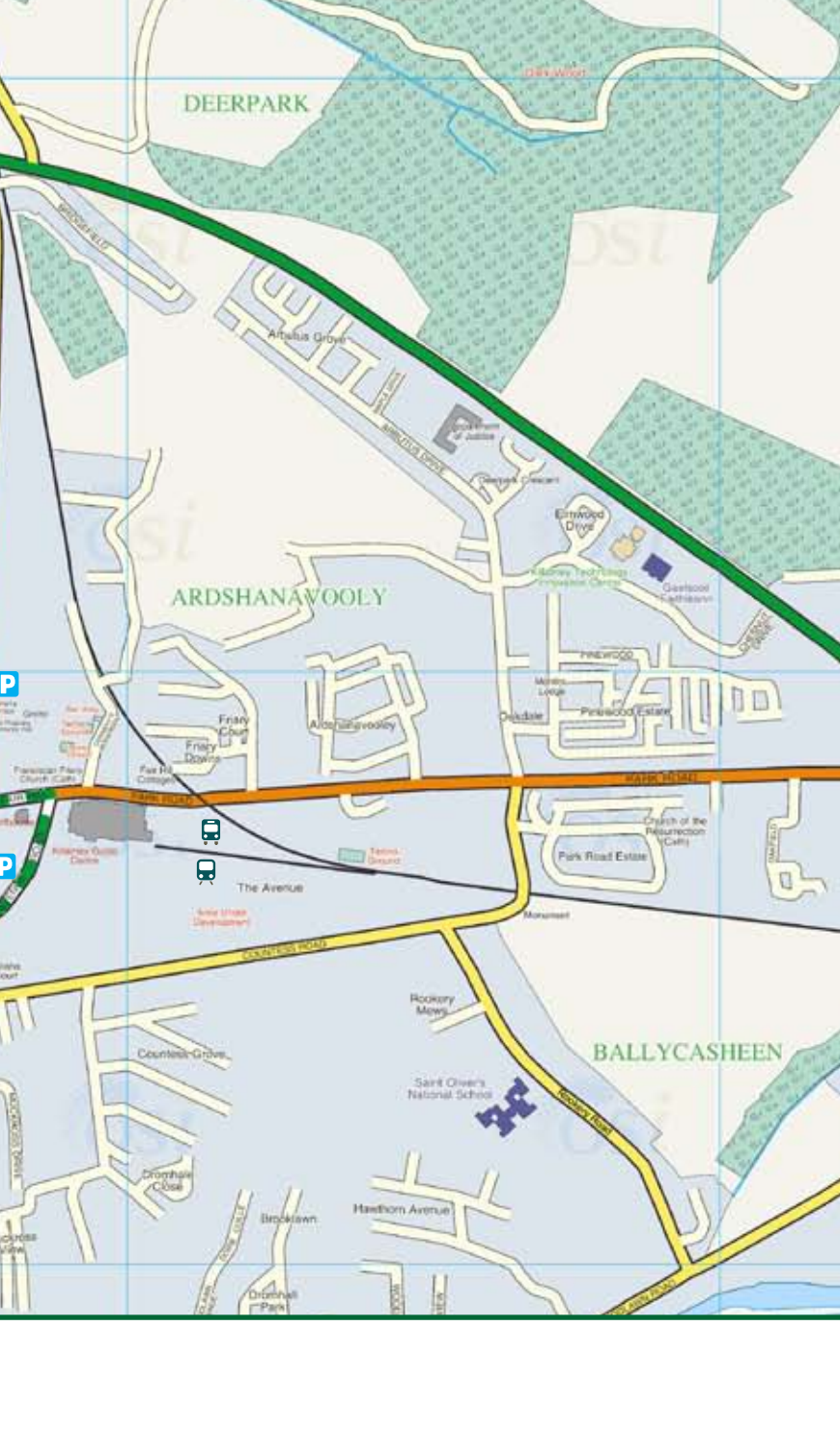
Email: info@mcbrideartgallery.com. www.mcbrideartgallery.com.

The McBride Gallery exhibits Irish artists who have achieved innovation and excellence, such as formal education, exhibitions in noted high-art spaces, critical acclaim from collectors, critics and their peers.

The Blue Pool Art Gallery Muckcross Road, Killarney. Tel: 064-66 29049.



Killarney



DEERPARK

DEERWOOD

Alphus Grove

ARDSHANAVOOLY

Erinwood Drive

Alphusgrovely

Deirdale

PENWOOD

Penwood Estate

WATERLOO

WATERLOO

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P



The Avenue

Area Street Development

Church of the Resurrection (Cath)

Monument

BALLYCASHEEN

Rookery Mews

St. Oliver's National School



Countess Grove

Drogheda Close

Brocklawn

Heathorn Avenue

Drogheda Park

CLAN RIVER

CLAN RIVER

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CAHERSIVEEN

Ring of Kerry

The Ring of Kerry is one of Ireland's most scenic drives; it is a trail of about 180 kilometres with dramatic scenery, coastlines, colourful towns and villages as well as ancient archaeological remains.

From Killarney travel to Killorglin; continue southwest to the picturesque village of Glenbeigh. Travelling to Kells Post Office one has a panoramic view of Dingle Bay, the Blasket Islands and Kells Bay. You will also pass the Gleesk Viaduct which is a relic of the Great Southern and Western Railway Line, which ran from Cahersiveen to Farranfore Junction. The cliff section of the road offers spectacular views of the Blasket Islands and the Dingle Peninsula. Cahersiveen is home to the Old Barracks Heritage Centre, also take time to visit the spectacular Cahergal and Leacanabuaile Stone Forts.

Continue to the village of Waterville, home to the world famous golf links. Along the road you will pass Valentia Island, home of the first Atlantic telegraphic connection and the setting out point for a visit to the Skellig Islands. From Waterville continue southeast towards the village of Caherdaniel. From the Coomakista Pass, you can take in the spectacular views over the Kenmare River, Scariff and Deenish Islands.

Visit Derrynane House, the home of Daniel O'Connell and Derrynane National Park. Visit Staigue Fort in Castlecove, which is one of the largest and finest examples of a circular stone fort in Ireland. Stop at the colourful village of Sneem, home to the Sculpture Park and Garden of the Senses. Continue east to the Heritage Town of Kenmare, travel north to Killarney via Moll's Gap and Ladies View, with breathtaking views of the spectacular Lakes of Killarney.



Ring of Kerry towns and villages

Ballinskelligs Sitting on the attractive Ballinskelligs Bay, Baile an Sceilge is an Irish-speaking area with a unique history and culture. Once the land base for the monks of Skellig Mhichil, the surrounding area has numerous pre-historic and early Christian ruins along its shores. Miles of golden, sandy beach and turquoise water attract holidaymakers with safe swimming and excellent opportunities for water sports and sea angling.

Cahersiveen Situated halfway around the Ring of Kerry, Cahersiveen is the main shopping centre of the Iveragh peninsula and lies at the foot of Beentee Mountain on the Fertha River overlooking Valentia Harbour. For the active person there is a huge range of sporting activities on offer including mountaineering, windsurfing, water-skiing, sailing, yachting marina, walking, cycling, horse riding, golf and deep sea angling. The area also boasts a large number of sandy coves and beaches, such as the White Strand, one of the regions' Blue Flag Beaches. Cahersiveen is one of the few towns in Ireland that still holds traditional fair days or market days where people from the surrounding countryside come to shop and socialise.

Caherdaniel This pretty village stands on the shore of Derrynane Bay, the terrain varies from rugged shore lines to gently rolling mountains, there is a magnificent blue flag beach in the area. Activities include, kayaking, canoeing, horse-riding, diving and walking.

Castlecove This is a small resort with fine sandy beaches nearby, on a bay in the picturesque Kenmare River. The coast has created natural rock pools and there are exquisite sandy coves dotted underneath the cliffs. Nearby are the imposing ruins of Staigue Fort, one of Ireland's finest archaeological remains.

Glenbeigh The picturesque village of Glenbeigh is nestled at the foot of a well wooded mountain and close to the head of Dingle Bay. The area is a popular destination for families due to this superb blue flag beach at Rossbeigh which is located 1.5km from Glenbeigh.

Kells Kells is an old fishing village and still continues in the fishing tradition to this day. The tranquil atmosphere and crystal clear water of the sheltered blue flag beach at Kells Bay has made it a family favourite for years during the summer months. Scenic walks from the village offer panoramic viewing points.



Kenmare A Fáilte Ireland Heritage Town, Kenmare is magnificently situated at the point where the River Roughty opens into the estuary of the Kenmare River. Quite apart from the beauty of its own setting, Kenmare is also an ideal centre for exploring the beauties of the South West of Ireland.

Killorglin Killorglin is a gateway to the beautiful Iveragh Peninsula situated on a hill overlooking the wide and graceful River Laune, a river offering salmon and trout angling. Dominating the landscape to the south are the MacGillycuddy's Reeks. Killorglin is the location of the famous "Puck Fair" festival - Ireland's largest and the world's oldest business event dating back to pre-Christian times.

Parknasilla Beautifully situated, the charming scenery of Parknasilla, with its combination of sea, wood and mountain, makes for a relaxing and peaceful holiday. It nestles between the sea, studded with islands and Knockanamadane Hill 273 metres, on the magnificent coastline of the Kenmare River

Portmagee Brightly painted houses line the streets of the small fishing village of Portmagee, the village is South West Kerry's main fishing centre, close to the village is the safe and secluded Reencaheragh Strand. Portmagee is the main departure point for boat trips to the Skelligs UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Sneem Sneem village is situated on the estuary of the Ardsheelaun River, the village boasts beautifully manicured squares and gardens and is the winner of several National Tidy Towns Awards. Gaily painted houses and shops surround the beautiful landscaped greens. From Sneem village North Square one can explore Kerry's Geopark by taking the Fermoyle loop walk.

St. Finan's Bay/the Glen South of Portmagee the scenic drive along Coomanaspig Pass offers stunning views over St. Finan's Bay and out to the Skellig Rocks. The pier at St. Finan's Bay is a popular launch pad for divers exploring the underwater treasures of this area.

Waterville is a picturesque coastal village and is famous throughout the world for its superb golf courses, its sea trout and salmon angling and its long sandy beaches. Its angling is so good that the area has been designated as a 'centre of excellence' for angling.

Visitor Attractions



Kerry Bog Village Museum

B4 ♿ ↑ ↑ ↑

Glenbeigh. Tel: 066 9769184
Email: info@kerrybogvillage.ie
www.kerrybogvillage.ie

This award-winning thatched village offers an insight into how people lived and worked in Ireland in the 18th Century. You can visit an old blacksmith's forge, a turf-cutter's house, a thatcher's home, stable dwelling and dairy house. Next door is the Red Fox Inn Bar & Restaurant famous for its fine food and excellent Irish coffee.



The Old Barracks

A4 ♿ ↑ ↑ ↑

Bridge Street, Cahersiveen.
Tel: 066 9472777
Email: info@skdp.net
www.southkerry.ie

Situated in the imposing former Royal Irish Constabulary Barracks overlooking the river and Cahersiveen Marina, the Old Barracks Heritage Centre features exhibits on local history, archaeology, flora and fauna, the Fenian Rising and on local hero Daniel O'Connell.



The Skellig Experience

A4 ♿ ↑ ↑ ↑

Valentia Island. Tel: 066 9476306
Email: info@skelligexperience.com
www.skelligexperience.com

This heritage centre tells the story of the Skellig Rocks, their history and archaeology. Exhibits look at Skellig Michael's Early Christian monastery, the seabirds that make the rugged rocks their home, the lighthouses and the underwater world around the islands. You can also enjoy a cruise around the islands. Gift shop and refreshment area on site.



Derrynane House

B5

Derrynane.

Tel: 066 9475113

Email: derrynanehouse@opw.ie

www.heritageireland.ie

The ancestral home of Daniel O'Connell, Derrynane House contains memorabilia from the life and career of the lawyer,

politician and statesman. Surrounded by 120 acres of land, the Derrynane National Historic Park is an excellent spot for leisurely walking through the 18th-century gardens.



Kenmare Heritage Centre

C5

Kenmare.

Tel: 064 6641233

Email: kenmaretio@eircom.net

This heritage centre examines Kenmare's history as a planned estate town, its landlords and the effects of the famine as well as its famous visitors and residents,

its historical sites, and its tradition of lace making. The centre also provides a Heritage Trail map guiding you around the town's most important sights.

Visitor Attractions



Adopt a Sheep

C4 ↑↑↑

Kissane Sheep Farm, Molls Gap, Kenmare.

Tel: 064 6634791

Email: info@adoptasheep.ie

www.adoptasheep.ie

This working mountain farm allows visitors to experience the life of traditional sheep farmers in the Kerry hills. Feed the

pet lambs, watch sheepdog demonstrations, try your hand at sheep shearing (in season), follow the treasure trail or hike one of the marked trails offering stunning views of the surroundings. You can also adopt a sheep to help preserve this traditional way of life.



Bonane Heritage Park

C5 ↑↑↑

Bonane, Kenmare.

Tel: 064 6640714

Email: bonanecommunity@eircom.net

www.bonane.com

The 3km-circular walk around the Bonane Heritage Park offers an insight into the life and times of Ireland's first settlers. Rich

in archaeological monuments including a stone circle, ring fort, standing stone and ruin of a famine house, the trail guides you through various periods of history while providing stunning views of the lush Bonane Valley.



Glanleam Gardens

A4

Glanleam Estate, Valentia Island.

Tel: 066 9476176

Email: info@glanleam.com

www.glanleam.com

Home of the Knights of Kerry, the 40 acres of subtropical gardens surrounding Glanleam House were laid out by Sir

Peter Fitzgerald, the 19th Knight who recognised the area's special climate. Famous for their thriving southern hemisphere & Asian plants, the gardens are an enchanting place with jungle, rainforest and exotic species interspersed with indigenous plants.



Geokaun Mountain and Fogher Cliffs

A4

Geokaun Mountain & Fogher Cliffs.

Tel: 087 649 3728, www.geokaun.com

The best views on Valentia Island are from Geokaun - the Island's highest point. Walk or drive to the peak, which has 360 degree views as far as the Blaskets, the

Skelligs, the McGillycuddy Reeks and Dingle Peninsula. A viewing deck stands on the edge of the spectacular Fogher Cliffs. Read about the women who brought turf through cliffs in baskets, the O'Callaghan family's tragedy at the Skellig Lighthouse, the Knight of Kerry, the legend of "Oscar's Casy" and much more on information panels.

Guided heritage tours available on request.

Visitor Attractions



Molly Gallivan's Visitor Centre

C5 ↑↑↑

Bonane, Kenmare.

Tel: 064 6640714

Email: mollygallivan@eircom.net

www.mollygallivans.com

Molly Gallivan's Cottage & Traditional Farm allows you to step back in time

to the simple lifestyle of rural Ireland in the days before electricity and modern conveniences. Visit Molly's 200-year-old cottage, see her farm animals and machinery, and discover the ghostly remains of a famine dwelling and a Neolithic stone row part of a rare ancient sun calendar. We also provide cottage and farm demonstrations on request which must be pre booked.



Kells Bay Gardens

B4 ↑↑↑

Tel: 087 7776666

Email: info@kellsgardens.ie

www.kellsgardens.ie

Kells Bay Gardens is open to visitors since the autumn of 2006 is one of Ireland's foremost Victorian gardens. The gardens contain one of the foremost collections of

Southern Hemisphere plants in Europe, assembled from Australia originally but more recently from New Zealand and South America.



Sneem Sculpture Park & Garden of the Senses

B5 ♿ 👤 👤 👤

Sneem.

Visit the unique outdoor display of international sculptures in the square within the village. The exhibits include the Peaceful Panda (China), Arbor Chalybeia Immaculata (Israel) and the Goddess Isis (Egypt). The nearby garden of the senses offers spectacular walks along the riverside with interesting interpretative panels on the wildlife in the area. There is also a dedicated barbeque and picnic area located within the park.



Staigue Fort

B5 👤 👤 👤

Castlecove.

This is a superb example of a circular stone fort and is more than 2,500 years old. It is 27 metres in diameter with thick walls almost 4 metres thick at the base and 6 metres high. It has a square-headed doorway and there are two small chambers inside. The fort holds a dominant place in the folk culture of the Iveragh Peninsula.

CHURCHES AND SETTLEMENTS

Dromavala Church Killorglin. On the east side of the river Laune are the remains of Dromavala Church. This was originally dedicated to Saint Lawrence, after which the parish is called (Cill Lorgan).

O'Connell Memorial Church Cahersiveen. Designed by G.C Ashling of Dublin, and built of Newry Granite and local black limestone in 1888, it is one of the few Catholic Churches in the world dedicated to a layman. This building was approved in Rome by Pope Leo XIII who sent a marble slab from the catacombs to be its corner stone. The porch of the church contains interesting relics of its stormy birth i.e. historical references. The first Mass at this church was celebrated by Cannon Brosnan on August 5th, 1900.

Leacanabuaile & Cahergal Stone Forts Cahersiveen. These are two of the most spectacular examples of round stone forts in Ireland. The forts date to the 8th or 9th century. The walls are approximately 10 feet thick and 4 feet high on the inside. Inside are stone beehive houses, stone stairs and a souterrain which is believed to link Leacanabuaile Fort to the 15th century Ballycarbery Castle.

CASTLES & HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Ballycarbery Castle Cahersiveen, Co. Kerry. Tel: (0)64 6631633 Killarney Tourist Information Office. This is the ruin of what was once a magnificent 15th century Castle of MacCarty Mor. It was subsequently held by the O'Connells, ascendants of the Liberator, until it was taken by the Cromwellians in 1652.

CRAFT STUDIOS & WORKSHOPS

Anam Cré Studio Kenmare Pottery, Rusheen, Kenmare. Tel: (0)64 6641849, (0)64 6641673. Email: info@kenmare-pottery.com. www.kenmare-pottery.com. Anam Cré gives the visitor hands on experience of working with clay.

Brushwood Studio Sneem - An tSnaidhm. Tel: (0)64 6645108. All works on display at Brushwood Studios have been painted by the resident artists, who hang beside old and modern masters in some of the world's greatest collections.

Derrynane.ie Art & Craft Gallery Location: Caherdaniel - Cathair Dónall. Tel: (0)872772525. Come and see award winning artist, filmmaker and photographer Vincent Hyland's unique collection of paintings, prints, images and underwater film.

Fuchsia Cottage Pottery Cahersiveen, Co. Kerry, Ireland. Tel: (0)66 9473456. Mixed media paintings and prints of paintings are available from Fuchsia Cottage.

Kenmare Art Gallery Kenmare, Neidín, Tel: (0)64 6642999. This innovative gallery focuses on contemporary Irish art and, in particular, on the artists of the Beara Peninsula.

Kerry Woollen Mills Beaufort, Killarney. Tel: 064 6644122. Email: sales@kerrywoollenmills.ie. www.kerrywoollenmills.ie. Kerry's 17th-century woollen mills have been producing fine fabrics and yarn for over 300 years. Originally established to alleviate local poverty, they are one of the last surviving traditional woollen mills in the country.

Siopa Cill Rialaig Ballinskelligs (Baile an Sceilge). Tel: 066 947 9277. Email: cillrialaig@esatclear.ie. Visit the unique thatched building which is home to a world renowned gallery, café, workshop and retail area.



Skelligs Chocolate Factory The Glen, Baile an Sceilge.

Tel: 066 947 9119. Email: info@skelligschocolate.com.

www.skelligschocolate.com.

Visit the artisan producer of handmade chocolates at their factory in the Glen, Baile an Sceilge (Ballinskelligs).

The Old Oratory Art Gallery Cahersiveen - Cathair Saidhbhín.

Tel: +353(0)669472043.

The Old Oratory is an old Church beautifully restored into an Art Gallery, Craft Shop, Book Shop and Restaurant.

PARKS & TOURS

Gleninchaquin Park Tuosist, Kenmare, Co. Kerry.

Tel: (0)64 668 4235. www.gleninchaquin.com

Gleninchaquin Park provides breath-taking landscapes and scenery, a spectacular 140 metre high waterfall, woodlands and Kenmare Bay, all framed by the Killarney McGillicuddy Reeks along the horizon. This idyllic valley is perfectly suited for day outings with the entire family. Ample parking facilities are provided close to the waterfall and picnic areas.

Skelligs Boat Trips Tel: 066 947 6306.

Email: skelligcentre@eircom.net. www.skelligexperience.com.

Numerous local boat owners operate boat trips to the spectacular Skelligs UNESCO World Heritage Site. See first hand one of the world's finest early Christian monastic settlements which dates from the 6th or 7th century. Boat trips around Valentia Harbour and Portmagee are also available. The main departure points are Portmagee, Knightstown, Valentia Island, Baile an Sceilge (Ballinskelligs) and Caherdaniel.

Seafari Eco Cruises The Pier, Kenmare. Tel: 064 6683171.

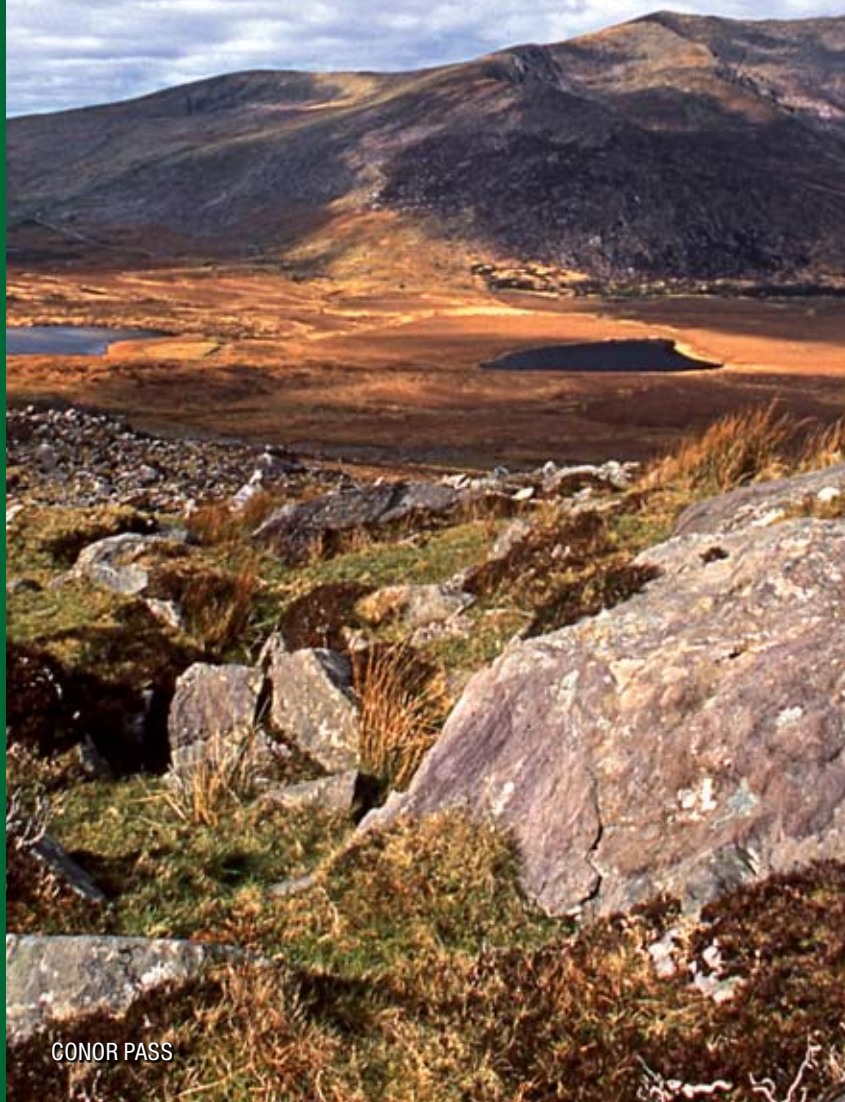
Email: seafari@eircom.net. www.seafariireland.com.

Enjoy the dramatic scenery and spectacular wildlife of Kenmare Bay on a guided cruise exploring the history and ecology of the area.



Ring of Kerry





CONOR PASS

Dingle

The Dingle Peninsula - Corca Dhuibhne

The Irish-speaking Dingle Peninsula or Corca Dhuibhne in Irish, literally lies at the end of Europe, as Ireland's most westerly point. Peace and tranquility are synonymous with the Dingle Peninsula. Life moves at an unhurried pace, but the local people are quick to offer you the opportunity to share their unique culture and heritage.

Descending from the incredible Conor Pass, Ireland's highest mountain pass, you'll arrive at the bustling cosmopolitan town of Dingle, the peninsula's main hub. This colourful fishing town, set around a busy fishing port and marina, is packed with eclectic eateries and traditional pubs where you're bound to catch a lively traditional music session. Gaily painted houses and busy streets lead you to the harbour, where you can meet Fungi, a playful bottle-nosed dolphin who cavorts for the enjoyment of everyone. Children will love taking boat trips to visit Fungi or a visit to the town's well-stocked aquarium.

The land west of An Daingean (Dingle) is a Gaeltacht, or Irish speaking area, where the traditional language, folk customs, crafts and lore are very much alive today. The Blaskets are the most westerly islands in Europe located off the coast. Ionad an Bhlascaoid Mhóir – The wonderful heritage centre at Dún Chaoin celebrates the lives of the Islanders and the Irish language and culture.

The Dingle Peninsula has the greatest concentration of archaeological sites in Ireland. Step back in time as you visit such treasures as the Kilmalkedar Church, The Dún an Óir Fort or Fort of Gold, and the Gallarus Oratory. With over 5,000 years of history, mystery and legend swirling about the Dingle Peninsula, you'll never be left wondering what to do. Shop for exquisite Celtic jewellery and unique crafts, stroll the lovely beach at Inch, enjoy a few pints while listening to a traditional music session, and take tranquility to a whole new level.





Dingle towns and villages

Annascaul is the birthplace of Jerome Connor, the famous sculptor and Tom Crean, the Antarctic explorer. The mountains here will tempt many to make a long stay, and for the walker there is a particularly good route via Annascaul Lake over the hills of the Beenoskee group to Stradbally and Castlegregory.

Ballydavid (Baile na nGall) is a quiet fishing village on the shores of Smerwick Harbour with views of Mount Brandon to the east and the Three Sisters and Dún an Óir to the west. Tradition is strong in this Irish Speaking area. The unique currach used for generations by fishermen on the western seaboard is still built here.

Ballyferriter - Baile an Fheirtéaraigh lies on the extreme west of the peninsula, near Smerwick Harbour and hosts a celebrated Irish Language school during the Summer. Between the village and Cuan Ard na Caithe is Dún an Óir (the Fort of Gold), an Iron Age promontory fort, which was the location of a bloody massacre, the Siege of Smerwick, in 1580.

Brandon On the northern tip of the peninsula set beneath the imposing Mount Brandon, the remote village of Brandon, with its gorgeous views over Brandon Point and Brandon Head, acts as a great base for walkers and naturalists. The area, rich in coastal plant and wildlife, has been awarded a 'beatha', EU environmental quality award for its contribution to sustainable living. An ancient Celtic harvest festival Feile Lughnasa, evoking pagan celebrations of the harvest, which in modern times means storytelling, sand art competitions, treasure hunts and nightly music, is held here the last weekend in July.

Camp The village is dominated by its golden sandy beach on Tralee Bay, at the seaward end of Glen Fas. A stone promontory fort on the mountain slopes at the height of 625m (2,050ft) and is the highest fortification on the western fringe of Europe. Apart from the archaeological interest the fort is well worth a visit for the magnificent, extensive view of the Dingle peninsula.

Castlemaine Caisleán na Mainge - The castle of the River Maine. It is here that the famous Australian outlaw 'The Wild Colonial Boy' was born. Standing just beyond the head of Castlemaine Harbour the village is pleasantly situated against the background of the Slieve Mish mountains to the north-west.



Castlegregory On the northern stretch of the peninsula in an area called the Maharees, lies the charming village of Castlegregory. Flanked on either side by the large bays, Tralee Bay and Brandon Bay, the area has an abundance of well-serviced beaches to enjoy. Brandon Bay is popular with windsurfers while the Maharees area, with its blue flag beach, is perfect for shore angling. You can swim water-sail or horse-ride on Ireland's longest beach which stretches 12 miles from the Maharees through Castlegregory to Cloghane.

Cloghane - An Clochán The colourful village of Cloghane, just east of Brandon, hosts the Féile Lughnasa festival with Brandon. The village, with its lively pubs and scenic hinterland is also a good starting point for Mount Brandon hikes and there are numerous picturesque walks and cycle routes in the area. The distinctive red sand beach Ballyquin, a great spot for fishing dogfish and bass, is close by.

Dunquin, in the heart of the gaeltacht (Irish-speaking) area, is a traditional village at the foot of Mount Eagle (516m) overlooking the Blasket Sound and the spectacular jagged peaks of the Blasket Islands. The 1970 film *Ryan's Daughter* was shot here and featured the dramatic cliff-flanked Coumeenoole Beach. Boat trips to the Blaskets are available from Dunquin pier.

Feohanagh Under the shadow of Mount Brandon, Feohanagh and the surrounding countryside is ideal for the hill walker. The coastline in the vicinity is of much geological interest and nearby is Brandon Creek from which St. Brendan is reputed to have set sail on his voyage of discovery and which Tim Severin used as his starting point when he retraced St. Brendan's route in 1976.

Inch (An Inse) lies near the base of the Inch Peninsula. Inch Beach is Blue Flag Status and is backed by sandhills of archaeological interest.

Ventry - Ceann Trá The little village of Ventry, which sits at the centre of Ventry Harbour, lies on the stunning coastal Sleah Head drive. A beautiful sandy horseshoe-bay that stretches 5km provides a safe swimming area that's also popular with windsurfers and horse-riders. There are plenty of local walks that span out from the village including the renowned Dingle Way.

For more information on Dingle's towns and villages, visit our website www.discoverireland.ie/southwest

Visitor Attractions



Dingle Oceanworld

A3

The Seafront, Dingle.

Tel: (0)66 9152111

Email: marabeo@iol.ie

www.dingle-oceanworld.ie

Experience the enchanted underwater world at Dingle Oceanworld Aquarium.

The Amazing Amazon displays include pacu, catfish, deadly piranha and much more. One of the main attractions is the shark tank where you will come face to face with the most feared creatures of the sea... sharks. Hold a starfish and stroke the rays at the touch pool. Freshwater native tank includes arctic char, trout, pike and carp. Walk through the 9m underwater tunnel tank where you can gaze in awe as a multitude of fish swim overhead. Seahorses, Molly the turtle, Nemo the clownfish and much much more. Authentic culture pearl jewellery. Browse through the gift shop and relax in the coffee shop overlooking Dingle Harbour.



The Blasket Centre (Ionad An Bhlascaoid Mhoir)

A3

Dunquin Tralee.

Tel: (0)66 9156444/(0)66 9156371

Email: blascaod@opw.ie

micheal.demordha@opw.ie

www.heritageireland.com/en/South-West/IonadAnBhlascaoidMhoir-TheBlascaoidCentre/

The Great Blasket Centre on the mainland in Dún Chaoin, on the tip of the Dingle Peninsula, is an interpretative centre/museum honouring the unique community who once lived on the Great Blasket Island. This community produced an extraordinary amount of literature, referred to as The Blasket Library, which includes classics such as *The Islandman*, *Twenty Years A Growing* and *Peig*.

The centre, which is operated by the Office of Public Works, was opened in 1993 and overlooks the panorama of the Great Blasket and its family of surrounding islands.



Músaem Chorca Dhuibhne/ Corca Dhuibhne Regional Museum

A3

Baile an Fheirtéaraigh
(Ballyferriter, Co. Kerry.)

Tel: 066-9156333

Email: info@westkerrymuseum.com

www.westkerrymuseum.com

Situated in the West Kerry Gaeltacht (where Irish is people's first language), this is the ideal place to find out about the archaeology, history as well as more recent happenings in the Dingle Peninsula before you go out to explore the wonderful monuments and spectacular features of the area. Artefacts on display include some on loan from the National Museum of Ireland, such as Ogham stones, cross slabs and finds from the excavation of the nearby monastic site at Riasc. Café, bookshop, information centre, worksheets for children.



The Dunbeg Fort Visitor Centre

A3

Fahna Ventry Dingle.

Tel: (0)66 9159755

Email: info@dunbegfort.com

www.dunbegfort.com

Dunbeg Fort is a component part of the Fahan group of Beehive huts. This small but impressive fort is located on a sheer cliff promontory which projects south into Dingle Bay at the base of Mount Eagle. The defences consist of four lines of banks, five fosses and an inner drystore rampart with a complex entrance flanked by two guardchambers. A souterrain extends under the causeway from this entrance and in the interior is a single beehive. The fort dates back to 500 BC.

Visitor Attractions



Gallarus Oratory

A3 ↑↑↑

Ballydavid, Dingle.
Tel: (0)66 9156444, (0)66 9156371
Email: micheal.demordha@opw.ie
www.heritageireland.ie

Of the many heritage sites on the peninsula Gallarus is unique in its setting and mystique. Gallarus is situated in natural farmland overlooking Smerwick Harbour and exposed to the winds and Atlantic weather for over 1200 years. This historic Christian church is a perfect example of a dry stone building style. The oratory is in the shape of an inverted boat and it still retains its weatherproofing after more than 1,000 years. From the inside you experience the feeling of time gone by.



Celtic & Prehistoric Museum

A3 ♿ ↑↑↑

Kilvicadownig, Ventry, Dingle.
Tel: 066 915 9191/087 7703280
Email: celticmuseum@hotmail.com
www.celticmuseum.com

This local archeological museum contains over 500 artefacts from the Stone, Bronze and Celtic Iron Ages as well as Viking, Roman and Saxon objects, also included are the largest fossil woolly mammoth skull and tusks in the world, the only fossil cave bear skeleton, fossil baby dinosaur, and dinosaur egg nest in Ireland.



Louis Mulcahy Pottery and Visitor Centre

A3 ↑↑↑

Clogher Strand, Dingle.
Tel: 066 9156229
Email: dingle@louismulcahy.com
www.louismulcahy.com

Visit the workshop of one of Ireland's most renowned potters, Louis Mulcahy.



An Díséart

A3 ↑↑↑

Green St, Dingle.
Tel: 066 915 2476
Fax: 066 915 2481
Email: info@diseart.ie; www.diseart.ie

Diseart, Ireland's Cultural and Spiritual home, promoting Native and Celtic Culture, and a wonderful series of Harry Clarke Stained Glass Windows.



Play at Height Climbing Wall

A3 ↑↑↑

Ballinaboula, Dingle.
Tel: (0)66 9152822
Email: info@playatheight.com
www.playatheight.com

Family Fun with a twist.

Total fun and of course sheer excitement. Your kids and teenagers will love Play at Height and so will you! The team will look after the small ones but don't forget to have a go at some real adventure yourself too, after all you can't let your seven-year-old show you up on the high-wire!

Play at Height is the ultimate family fun experience. Why? Well to put it simply, everyone can try everything. And with a team of instructors on hand to help you and your kids get to grips with all aspects of going up, staying up and coming down, you can be sure that none of your crew will be left high and dry! Have a fun packed day with the climbing wall, high ropes course and amazing outdoor freefall.

Fun for all ages, there is something for all thrill seeking tastes, and all in a fun environment where safety comes first. Family-passes, birthday and other parties are all available.



CHURCHES AND SETTLEMENTS

Cathair Deargain Ballydavid, Dingle. Cathair Deargain stone fort lies beside the road that links Cill Mhaolceadair with Baile na nAth. It has a single defence wall and the ruins of some Clochans are also visible. It typifies the homesteads of the people in ancient times.

Dún An Óir Ballyferriter, Tralee. Fort del Oro, The Golden Fort - North of Ballyferriter is the broad inlet of Smerwick Harbour. Here on a rock promontory is the old fortress of Dún an Óir (Fort of Gold). The infamous massacre of Smerwick Harbour took place here in 1580.

Dunquin Graveyard Dunquin, Dingle. Dunquin Graveyard is where the famous writer, Peig Sayers, is buried.

Gates of Glory Milltown, Dingle. Beyond Milltown Bridge, 1.5km west of Dingle town on the road to Slea Head, are standing stones and in the same field is a large boulder bearing cup and circle carvings.

Kilmalkedar Church Ballydavid, Dingle. This is a fine 12th century Hiberno-Romanesque church with an Alphabet Stone (close to the Chancel door), Ogham stone, Sundial stone, and 7th or 8th century stone cross.

Riasc Monastic Settlement Ballyferriter, Tralee. Near Ballyferriter are the Riasc Stone and the excavated site of the ancient monastery of Riasc.

Tel: (0)66 9151188 Dingle Tourist Information Office for all of above.

CRAFT STUDIOS & WORKSHOPS

An Gailearaí Beag Tel: 066 9152967. Email: info@gailearaibeag.com
www.gailearaibeag.com. A showcase of West Kerry Crafts Guilds.

Beehive Theatre Company The Studio Cúilin Dingle Co Kerry.
Tel: 066 9152924. Email: info@beehivetheatre.com. www.beehivetheatre.com.

Dingle Artworks Tel: 066 9152220. Email: junemc@dingleartworks.com
www.dingleartworks.com. On going exhibition of paintings by local artists

Faoilean Pottery Ballyferriter West, Dingle. Tel: 066 9156294/086 1579392.
Email: faoileanpottery@eircom.net. Children will love the opportunity to paint their own pottery from any one of the hand thrown pots in store.

Greenlane Gallery Holy Ground, Dingle. Tel: 066 9152018.
Email: info@greenlanegallery.com. www.greenlanegallery.com. Established in 1992 by Dingle native Susan Callery, this ambitious gallery showcases contemporary paintings and sculpture by Irish artists.

It must be Dingle Tel: 066 9150121. Email: theoldbarngallery@yahoo.co.uk www.martinemoriarty.com. Glasswork, Photography Handcarved Sheep oils and watercolours.

The Irish Art Man Gallery Tel: 066 9150950. Paintings and sculptures.
Email: james@irishartman.ie. www.irishartman.ie

Dillon Gallery Dingle. Display of local artwork.
Tel: 066 9154805. www.thedillongallery.com

Brian de Staic Dingle. Locally crafted jewellery. Tel: 066 9151298.
www.briandestaic.com

Lisbeth Mulcahy Dingle Weaver. Tel: 066 9151688.
www.lisbethmulcahy.com

John Weldon Celtic jewellery made in Dingle. Tel: 066 9152522.
www.johnweldonjewellers.com

Kathleen McAuliffe Dingle. Locally-designed hats. Tel: 066 9150644.
www.kathleenmcauliffe.com

Dingle Crystal handcrafted locally by Sean Daly. Tel: 066 9151550.
www.dinglecrystal.ie

Hedi O'Neill Dingle. Locally handcrafted pottery. Tel: 066 9159097.
http://dinglepottery.net/

NU Goldsmith Dingle. Handcrafted jewellery. Tel: 066 9152217.
www.nugoldsmith.com

TOURS & BOAT TRIPS

Dingle Activities Centre Gallarus, Ballydavid, Dingle. Is a family run business offering specialist walking tours, cycling, fishing, beach combing, swimming, horse riding, boat trips and more. Tel: 066 9155143/
086 8191942. Email: tp@iol.ie & info@dingleactivities.com
www.dingleactivities.com

Buaitin Tours an Daingean. Tel 086 325 2996. www.dingletours.com

Coastline Tours an Daingean. Tel 087 998 2230.

O Connors Sleah Head Tours Tel 087 248 0008. www.dingletoursskerry.com

Sciúird Archeological Tours Holyground, Dingle. Tel: 066 9151606
Email: archeo@eircom.net

Sciúird Archeological Tours offer a unique insight into 6000 years of human habitation on the Dingle Peninsula, it is advisable to pre book tours.

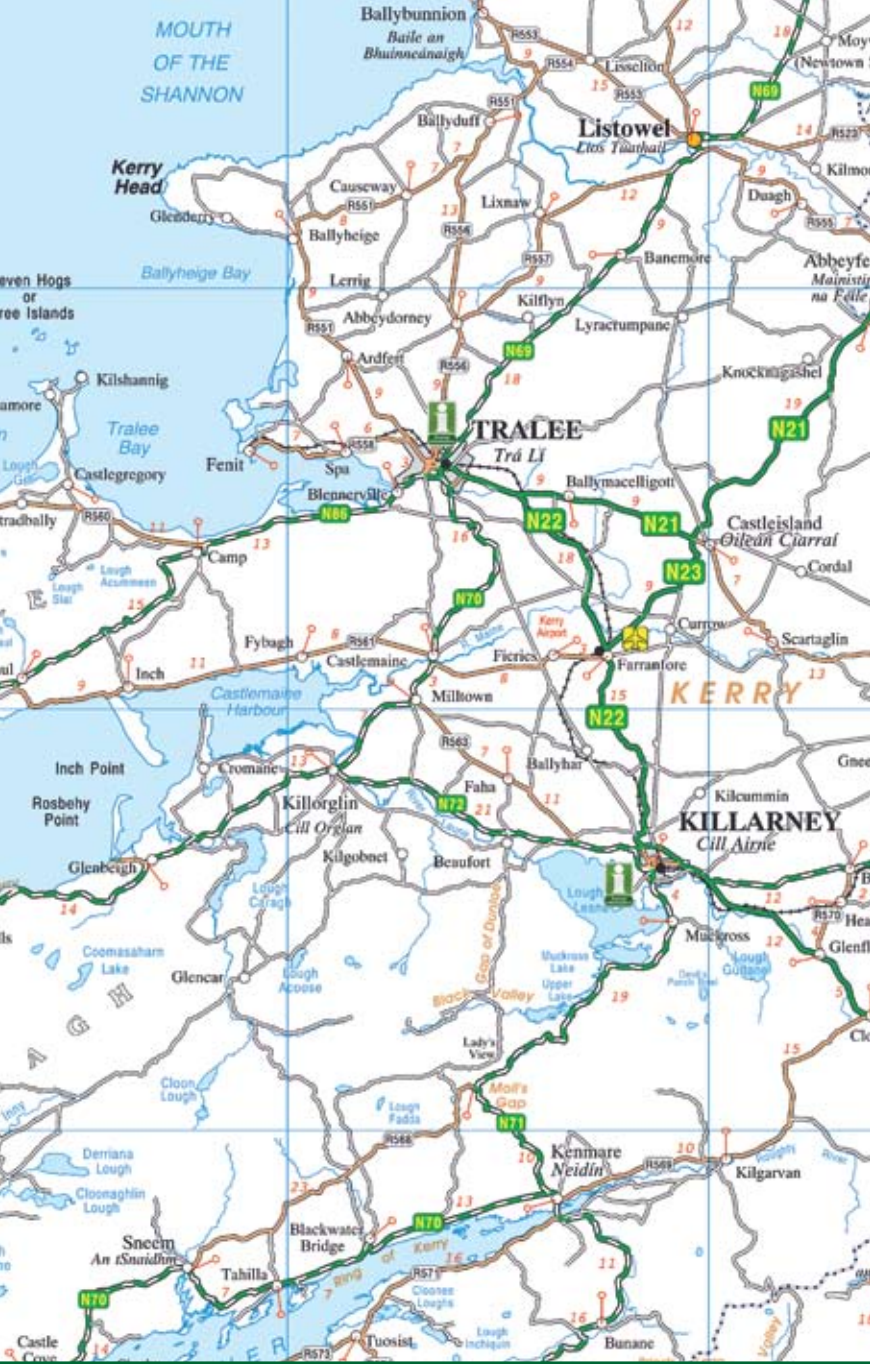
Dingle Bay Charters Dingle Bay Tours. Tel: 066 9151344; 087 6726100
www.dinglebaycharters.com

Dingle Boatmen's Association comprises 8 passenger boats (fully licensed by the Department of the Marine and manned by experienced and qualified crews). Trip to see Fungie. Tel: 066 9152626. www.dingledolphin.com

Blasket Islands Ferry Tel: 066 9154864. www.blasketislands.ie
Bádóirí an Bhlascaoid Teo. Blasket Island Ferries/Eco-Ventures
Tel: 066 9156422; 066 9151344. www.blasketisland.com



Dingle





Tralee & North Kerry

From its rolling green countryside, sandy beaches, spectacular golf courses, to engaging historical monuments and a life on stage that combines songs and tales of Ireland's rural past, North Kerry is the hidden treasure of the beautiful South West.

Genius in literature, being the birthplace of some of Ireland's most famous writers with poetry, music, art and theatre, it is not a wonder that its towns and villages are home to a dazzling array of visitor attractions, festivals including Féile na mBláth and the International Rose of Tralee Festival.

Tralee is the capital town of County Kerry and has all the facilities of a county capital, superb accommodation at affordable prices, excellent shopping, historic buildings, outdoor pursuits, public parks, a vibrant nightlife, quality pubs and restaurants. It is home to Siamsa Tíre, Ireland's National Folk Theatre, Kerry County Museum "the 2009/2010 Irish Museum of the Year", and the Kingdom Greyhound Racing Stadium. Its industrial heritage is reflected in Blennerville Windmill and the Tralee Blennerville Steam Railway.

North Kerry has reserved a warm place in its heart for children and boasts some of the most engaging, entertaining events and attractions in Ireland. Sunshine or rain outside, the younger visitor has a broad variety of all weather attractions they can enjoy such as the Aqua Dome Waterworld, Toby World and Bowling Buddies in Tralee.

Uncover North Kerry and feel at home amongst the people, as every visitor has a special role to play. All you have to do is cheer, laugh, whistle and tap your shoes in keeping time with the tune to the heart of rural Ireland's beat!





92 JOHN B KEANE STATUE

Tralee & North Kerry towns and villages

Ardfert The once ecclesial capital of Kerry has a long history of association with medieval churches. Brendan the Navigator founded a monastery in Ard Fhearta (Ardfert) in the 6th century and it later became the headquarters of the Anglo-Norman Church in Kerry.

Ballybunion The town is most famous for the Ballybunion Golf Links, 2 links courses, overlooking the magnificent beach and dramatic cliff scenery of the area. Take a drive along the coast road north of Kilconly Point or visit Cnoc an Oir to truly appreciate this marvellous seascape. The town is a destination with a wide sandy beach popular among swimmers and surfers due to its warm Atlantic waters and has traditional seaweed baths fuelled with seawater and local kelp. Visit the Tintean Theatre, Arts and Cultural Centre, a performance space for the best in contemporary Traditional Irish Dance, Irish Music and literature.

Ballyduff This local village nestled in the heart of rural North Kerry between the seaside resorts of Ballybunion and Ballyheigue is home to the Ratoo Round Tower, one of Ireland's finest examples of round towers dating from the 10th century.

Ballyheigue A wide blue flag beach in Ballyheigue with extraordinary views of the mountains of Dingle Peninsula is worth a visit as is the Ballyheigue Castle, a backdrop for the Ballyheigue Golf Course. Horse racing during the summer can also be seen on the beach. Water sports including wind surfing and kite surfing are popular with nearby beaches also popular with surfers. It is also the final stop on the long distance way marked North Kerry Way at Kerry Head.

Ballylongford is the location of the recently refurbished Carrigafoyle castle, open to the public during the summer months. An annual oyster festival, childrens sailing courses, regular horse racing meets as well as golfing are just a few of the activities occurring in this vibrant town.

Blennerville Blennerville was the main port of emigration from County Kerry during the Great Famine (1845-1848) and the visitor centre houses a detailed display on Irish Emigration including models of the infamous 'coffin ships'.



Castleisland is a busy town situated on the main Killarney to Limerick road is seen as the gateway to Kerry. The remains of the town castle lie in ruins in a field south of the town. Close to the town is Crag Cave, one of the largest cave systems in the country and were only discovered in 1983. 3.8kms of cave have been explored running right under the town with about 400m open to the visitors.

Fenit is a sheltered harbour cupped inside Tralee Bay which is the trading and fishing centre of North Kerry, succulent oysters which bedded down in the area established the rich reputation for fresh seafood for the restaurants and bars of the area. The end of Fenit Pier hosts the imposing monument to St. Brendan and its heritage story, alongside stunning views of Tralee Bay.

Listowel Its magnificent 15th century castle, a past stronghold of the Fitzmaurice family, the Earls of Kerry now open to the public during summer, dominates the town of Listowel. Listowel is famous for its cultural links through the international Listowel Writers Week attracting well-known authors from around the world in early June each year. The St Johns Literary, Arts and Cultural centre, the Seanchai Literary and Cultural Centre, the Lartique Monorailway and the "Gardens of Europe" in Childers Park reflect the rich cultural history of North Kerry. The Listowel races and Harvest Festival is held annually in late September.

Lyreacrompane is where the late John B Keane spent the summers of his youth and it was home to many of the characters who later inspired his plays and stories. One of those characters was Dan Paddy Andy O'Sullivan, the last of the great Irish Matchmakers and it is Dan who is commemorated here annually in a four day festival of music, song, dance and storytelling - The Dan Paddy Andy Festival.

Tarbert Home to Tarbert/Killmer Car ferry, the shortest route between Kerry and Clare the town is also the location of the 1690's residence of the Leslie family, Tarbert House, famous for the range of important guests who visited including Daniel O'Connell, Benjamin Franklin, Dean Jonathan Swift, Charlotte Bronte, Lord Kitchener and Winston Churchill. Also in the town is the old Tarbert Bridewell Courthouse and Jail that has been restored as a visitor centre illustrating law enforcement and jail conditions in the 1830s.

For more information on Tralee & North Kerry's towns and villages, visit our website www.discoverireland.ie/southwest

Visitor Attractions



Kerry County Museum

C3

Ashe Memorial Hall, Denny Street, Tralee.

Tel: 066 7127777

Email: info@kerrymuseum.ie

Kerry County Museum is the ideal starting point for tours of Kerry. Priceless treasures are on display in the Museum, illustrating the rich heritage of the county. Travel back

600 years in the Geraldine Experience and you will see, hear and smell medieval Tralee. Kerry in Colour takes you on a panoramic visual tour, showing you the people and places of the Kingdom of Kerry.

Irish Museum of the Year 2009/2010



Blennerville Windmill

C3

Windmill Street, Blennerville, Tralee.

Tel: 066 7121064

Email: blennervilemill@gmail.com

It is the largest working windmill of its kind in Ireland with guided tours of the flour making process provided by the millers. The Blennerville Visitor Centre

features an audiovisual display of the town's history as one of the main ports of emigration in County Kerry during the great famine and houses the Jeanie Johnson Quilt which depicts the story of the voyage to the New World. The Windmill Courtyard has a restaurant, craft shop, traditional pottery, enamel and metalwork craft units.



Crag Cave

D3

Castleisland.
Tel: 066 7141244
www.cragcave.com

Crag Cave is a natural limestone showcave discovered in 1983 and thought to be over 1 million years old. It is a magical wonderland of stalagmites

and stalactites. Take a guided tour of the cave and explore a world older than mankind.



Siamsa Tire

C3

Town Park, Tralee.
Tel: 066 7123055
www.siamsatire.com

Ireland's National Folk Theatre was founded in 1974 to reflect Ireland's great repertoire of music, dance and folklore on stage and to develop this tradition.

Siamsa Tire presents shows throughout the year using full time and community based performers as well as providing training in all areas. Check the calendar of activities for shows or performances.

Visitor Attractions



Aqua Dome & Aqua Golf

C3

Tralee.

Tel: 066 7128899

www.aquadome.ie

The Aqua Dome is the largest waterworld in the west of Ireland featuring high slides, rapids, rivers and waves, a fun filled paradise for all the family. It is also

a haven of tranquillity for stressed out adults in its adult only health suite. A great day out for all the family.

Aqua Golf is an 18 hole miniature golf course which sits alongside the Aqua Dome. The 18 holes feature bunkers and rough and are great fun for all the family. Putters and balls are provided. Alongside the Golf is a remote control area featuring trucks and boats.



Toby World

C3

Mileheight Retail Park, Tralee, Co. Kerry.

Tel: 066 7192469

www.tobyworld.ie

Toby World is one of Ireland's largest children's indoor entertainment centres.

The Play Centre includes 3 play-frames, a four lane astra slide, spiral slides and

indoor sports court. The baby and toddler area for under 4's has its own spiral slide, ball-pond and pedal cars. Quazar (Lazer-Tag) Zone and Café facilities.



The Lartigue Monorailway

C2

Listowel.

Tel: 068 24393

Be part of history and experience a unique mode of transport at the Lartigue Monorailway in Listowel, the first monorail

in the world. The reconstructed engine and carriages will take you on a trip back in time to an era which no longer exists. Witness its amazing engineering features as the engine is manually turned on the turntables for your return journey.



St John's Theatre and Exhibition Gallery

C2

The Square, Listowel.

Tel: 068 22566

www.stjohnstheatrelistowel.com

A programme of theatre, music/dance, film and exhibitions. Also arts education programme. Group rates negotiable, different programme each month. Open all year round.



Tinteán Theatre

C2

Main St., Ballybunion.

Tel: 068 28003

www.tintean.com

The Tinteán Theatre is a purpose built performance venue for contemporary Traditional Irish Dance, Irish Music and literature The Theatre is intended to act as a catalyst for the Arts and general theatrical entertainment and is a major element of the "Arts and Cultural Ring of Kerry". It also houses an exhibition area with full bar facilities.

Visitor Attractions



Seanchai - Kerry Literary & Cultural Centre

C2

24 The Square, Listowel.

Tel: 068 22212

www.seanchai-klcc.com

Named after Eamon Kelly, a nationally renowned story teller, the Seanchai celebrates the art of storytelling, the oldest form of entertainment. The centre contains three performance spaces, a Writers Museum, Archives, gift shop and café so be sure to check out upcoming events in this unique venue.



Tralee Steam Railway

C3

Tralee.

Tel: 066 712 1064

The Tralee and Dingle light railway (1891-1953) was one of the world's most famous narrow gauge lines. Now the

Tralee – Blennerville section has been restored and vintage diesel trains operate daily during the summer season, between Ballyard Station and the windmill. Operating from June onwards, please ring to confirm timetable.



Listowel Castle

C2

The Square, Listowel.

Tel: 01 647 6593/068 22212.

The present castle, overlooking the River Feale, is said to have been built in the 13th century. Listowel Castle is famous

for being the birthplace of Earl Kitchener of Khartoum.



Ardfert Cathedral and Monastic Site

C3 

Ardfert, Co. Kerry.

Location: 10km from Tralee town on the R551 in Ardfert Village.

Ardfert, the once ecclesiastical capital of Kerry, has a long history of association with medieval churches. Brendan the Navigator founded a monastery in Ard Fhearta in the 6th century and it later became the headquarters of the Anglo Norman Church in Kerry. There are three medieval churches, an ogham stone and a number of early Christian and medieval grave slabs on the site today. The earliest building here is the cathedral with dates from the 12th to 17th centuries. It has a fine Romanesque west doorway, a magnificent 13th century east window and a spectacular row of nine lancets in the south wall. The pre 12th century block of masonry is clearly visible in the north wall. One of the two smaller churches is a fine example of the late Romanesque and the other is a plain 15th century structure with an interesting carving of a wyvern on one of the windows. In the graveyard on this site, there are a number of ancient tombs and a 5th century stone carved with ogham characters.



Tarbert Bridewell Visitor Centre

D2 

Tarbert.

Tel: 068 36500

Built in 1831, Tarbert Bridewell has served as a courthouse and jail for more

than 100 years. Its exhibitions bring history back to life as visitors follow the life of wretched Thomas Dillon. Courtroom drama and genuine settings make for a real experience.

Coffee Shop, Gift shop and exhibition



CHURCHES AND SETTLEMENTS

Kyrie Eleisen Abbey Abbeydorney, Co. Kerry. The ruins of this 12th century abbey, from which Abbeydorney Village gets its name, was founded by O Torna, the local chieftain of the area prior to the Norman invasion. This was the only Cistercian foundation in Medieval Kerry and has some of the finest examples of Celtic crosses in the area. The Cistercians called the abbey, Kyrie after the name of the territory it was situated in "Ciarrai" Kerry.

Lislaughlin Abbey Ballylongford. Lislaughlin Abbey was twice engulfed in unholy violence during the turbulent 16th Century. When English forces moved vengefully through this area in 1580, it was the death-nell of this beautiful Franciscan Abbey as a place of worship. The Abbey was built by John O'Connor, a powerful chief of Carrigafoyle in 1470. The fine east window remains intact. The beautiful Lislaughtin Cross is now in the National Museum.

Ratass Church Tralee, Co. Kerry. Ratass, Church in Tralee which is now in ruins in the cemetery is one of the town's oldest buildings. The nave of this church is the oldest part, and the chancel was added in the 12th century. The church was much restored around 1700. Within is an Ogam stone and cross slab.

St. John's RC Church Castle Street, Tralee. The Church of St. John the Baptist, designed by JJ McCarthy and built over the period 1854-70, is one of the finest Gothic Revival churches in Ireland with its 60 m spire visible from all approaches to the town. The church possesses a superb collection of stained glass, paintings and sculptures.

Ratoo Round Tower Ballyduff. The Ratoo Round Tower is one of Ireland's finest examples of round towers, dating from the 10th century. The tower is complete and still retains its conical stone roof. *Access: Please be advised that the round tower is on a private property and should only be viewed from the car park area.*

CASTLES & HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Fitzmaurice Castle Ballybunion Co. Kerry. The striking 30 foot wall of this 16th century castle stands proudly in the enclosure of a promontory fort, the Castle Green and has a prime location with magnificent views of the main beach, cliffs and Atlantic Ocean in its home of Ballybunion. Some spectacular views can be had from the ruin as far as Loop Head and Dingle on a clear day.

Carrigafoyle Castle Ballylongford, Co. Kerry. Home to the chieftains of the time, the O'Connor Kerry, the present castle located in peaceful scenic settings of Carrigafoyle, stands at 90 feet high. The Castle has been recently partially restored and is one of the finest examples in the Southwest of a fortress built in the troubled times of the 1500s.

Ballyheigue Castle Ballyheigue. Much of the town's history centres on the great castle overlooking the village. Built by Colonel James Crosbie in 1810, it has been burned on two occasions, first in 1840 and again in 1921. It is now the centrepiece of the surrounding Ballyheigue golf course. Tel: 066 7121288 Tralee Tourist Office for information on all of above.

TOURS

Jackie Power Tours 2 Lower Rock Street, Tralee, Co. Kerry. Tel 066 7129444 or 7136300. Email: jackiepower@eircom.net

Tralee Heritage Trail Tralee Tourist Office. Tel: 066 7121288. Starting at Tralee Tourist Office and linking sites of archaeological, ecological and historical importance, bronze plaque on the ground marks each site. Allow 2hours.

Kingdom Coaches Tralee. Contact: John O'Shea. Tel: 066-7180123 & 087-2557974. www.kindgomcoaches.com

Hibernia Adventures Tralee. Tel: 066-7136300 & 087-1525035. www.hiberniaadventures.com

CRAFT STUDIOS & WORKSHOPS

Samhlaiocht Chiarrai The Old Presbytery, 20 Castle Street, Tralee
Tel: 066 7129934/1720925. www.samhlaiocht.com

Bin Ban Gallery Beech Lodge, The Kerries, Tralee.
Tel: 066 7122520. www.binbanart.com

The Jane Hilliard Gallery Tralee Shopping Centre, Tralee.
Tel: 066 7180055.

John Hurley Art Gallery
4 Denny St, Tralee. Tel: 066 7117277. www.hurleyart.com

Wellspring Art Gallery 16 Denny Street, Tralee. Tel: 066 7121218.

Eden Art Studio & Gallery Caherweesheen, Ballyard, Tralee. Tel:066 7121824.
www.dolorescjohnson.com

Banna Mountain Art Studio Cul tra, Banna Mountain, Ardfert. Tel: 066 7134047.

Liam & Marie Brennan The Cottage Studio/Gallery, Ballybunion.
Tel: 086 0664435.

Olive Stack Gallery 4 Main St. Listowel. Tel: 068 23843. www.olivestack.com

Ivyleaf Theatre & Art Centre Castleisland. Tel: 066 7141135.
Promoting amateur performances.

Ogham Ceramics Studio Knocknagoshel Village. Tel: 068 46244.
www.oghamceramics.com. Ogham Ceramics Studio/Workshop.



Tralee & North Kerry





Islands of the South West Region

The islands dotted along the coastline of Ireland's southwest are as diverse as they are abundant. Rugged and untamed, yet beautiful at the same time, many are steeped in their own unique history.

Beginish Island: Beginish Island is a beautiful deserted island in Valentia Harbour. With a ruined watch tower at its peak and some important archeological remains, the island makes a fascinating place for a wander. A ruined monastery can be found on the eastern part of the island and circular stone huts and buildings on the island are remnants of a once vibrant maritime and religious community dating back to the Middle Ages.

Bere Island: Bere Island is rich in natural and cultural heritage and has a range of visitor sites to enjoy from archaeological sites of the Bronze Age to Nineteenth and Twentieth Century military installation.

Situated at the entrance of the deepest harbour in Europe, the island offers breathtaking scenery organised activities and great hospitality. Berehaven Harbour and Lawrence Cove are very safe and sheltered harbours for large and small boats and the marina has full facilities for visiting sailors.

Blasket Islands –Na Blascaodaí: Some 6 km beyond the most westerly tip of the Dingle Peninsula in County Kerry, large humps of sandstone with awesome cliffs rise from the Atlantic Ocean. Surrounded by smaller rocks and reefs, these are Na Blascaodaí.

The largest of the nine islands An Blascaod Mór was finally abandoned in 1953 when the last twenty two people living on the island were moved to the mainland. The island's population, which once boasted one hundred and seventy five residents, had steadily declined through emigration. No other island community of this size has yielded such a literary wealth, producing world renowned writers who documented island life in their beloved Irish language and whose work have been translated into many languages.



An Blascaod Mór remains uninhabited today but the island is open to visitors.

Oileán Chléire: Cape Clear Island. This Gaeltacht Island is Ireland's southernmost inhabited island and is a paradise of solitude and inspiration. Its wild romantic scenery, its sparkling harbours, cliffs and bogs and scenic pebble beaches all contribute to the island's unspoilt charm. Heather, gorse and wild flowers cover the rugged hills between dry stone walls. Megalithic standing stones, a 5000 year old passage grave, a 12th Century church ruin and a 14th Century castle are testament to the island's rich cultural heritage. You'll be steeped in wildlife on the island: rare migratory birds, whale, leather-back turtles, sun fish and shark are spotted every year, as well as regular visitors, the dolphins. Its hilly landscape featuring magnificent high cliffs and lonely sheltered coves are a delight to explore on foot or from the bow of a sailing boat.

Dursey Island: The most westerly of West Cork's inhabited islands; Dursey lies across a narrow sound and is a great getaway from the fray of modern living. This rugged island is accessed via Ireland's only cable-car, which runs about 250m above the sea and takes six people or one large animal at a time! The island is part of the Beara Way walking trail and having no shops, pubs or restaurants offers the day visitor a unique experience of calm with spectacular views of the Beara peninsula. It is also a bird watcher's paradise with rare birds from Siberia and America being spotted there.

Garinish Island: Located in the sheltered harbour of Glengarriff in Bantry Bay, Garinish is a small island of 15 hectares known to horticulturists and lovers of trees and shrubs all around the world as an island garden of rare beauty. The gardens of Innacullin owe their existence to the creative partnership, some eighty years ago, of Anna Bryce, then owner of the island and Harold Peto, architect and garden designer.

Access to the Island is by small ferry boats and licensed 60 seater water buses.

Please note there is an admission charge to the island.



Heir (Hare) Island: Heir (Hare) Island is one of Carbery's Hundred Isles that lie scattered throughout Roaringwater Bay. The island is beautifully located, surrounded by a panorama of Sherkin Island, Cape Clear, the Calf Islands, the East and West Skeams, and Mount Gabriel to the North

The island is easily walked and cycled and there are lots of safe sandy beaches ideal for sailing, windsurfing, swimming and diving. The centre of the island has an extensive marsh with a vibrant reed bed where you'll find many unusual birds as well as over 200 varieties of wild flowers.

Long Island: Only ten minutes by small boat from the shore, Long Island offers a gentle escape from the buzz and pace of cosmopolitan Schull. Here you'll find some fine walks, shingle beaches, wild flora and fauna and ultimately, the chance to kick back and enjoy some beautiful nature and scenery. Most of the houses built in early the 1900s have now been restored, but some still lie in ruin, adding to the island's wonderful sense of isolation from modern life.

Sherkin Island: One of Carbery's Hundred Isles, in Roaring Water Bay, Sherkin is the ancestral home of the O'Driscoll clan whose castle lies just above the pier. Nearby, you can also see the ruins of a 15th century Franciscan abbey.

Sherkin buzzes with activity during the summer months and locals are renowned for their warmth and hospitality. Come to hear great live traditional music or enjoy the activities of the Sherkin Family Regatta, a big splash in the island's social calendar.

Sherkin's three sandy beaches make great secluded swimming areas and walking along the shore you may see seals, otters, schools of dolphins or the porpoises which gave the island its name.

Skellig Islands - Na Scealga: Thirteen kilometres off the coast of the South Kerry lies a group of three rock islands, like floating pyramids of sandstone. The most spectacular of these islands, Sceilig Mhichil - Skellig Michael - is a peaceful spiritual idyll and a designated UNESCO World Heritage site.

Over five hundred steps up a 1000 year-old stone stairway leads you to one of the most magnificent monastic sites in Europe. Stone beehive huts where monks lived and prayed centuries ago cling to cliff edges alongside oratories, a cemetery, stone crosses, holy wells and the Church of St. Michael. Enduring several Viking raids,



the monks eventually left the island in the thirteenth century and it subsequently became a place of pilgrimage. An Sceilg Bheag is a seabird sanctuary and one of the world's greatest gannetries. It is home to more than 30,000 pairs of gannets among many other seabirds.

Take a boat trip to Na Scealga to experience these magnificent natural monuments first-hand, but if you want to stay on dry land visit the Skellig Experience Centre on the waterfront beside the Valentia Island bridge.

Valentia Island: Valentia, one of the largest islands off the South West coast of Kerry, is joined to the mainland by bridge via the Portmagee Channel. The island is one of great beauty and contrast. The western part of the island is dominated by the barren, dramatic cliffs of Bray Head which command spectacular views of the Kerry coastline while the mild effect of the Gulf Stream results in Valentia's balmy climate and lush, colourful vegetation.

The island's main village, Knightstown, associated with the Norman Fitzgerald family, is reminiscent of an Anglo-Irish Village with its many stately buildings and refined ambience.

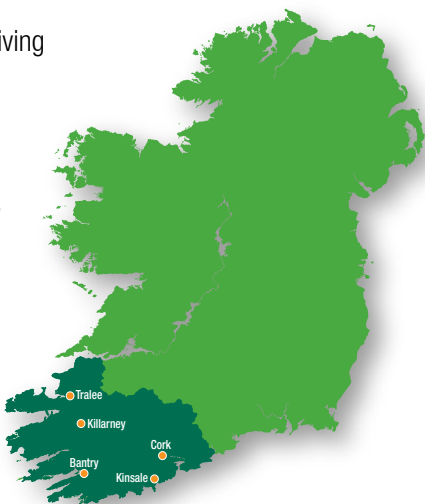
But the island's historical lineage goes back much further than that. Tetra pod footprints were found on the northern part of the island. These magnificent imprints of history are thought to date from Devonian times between some 350 to 370 million years ago.

An important quarry on the northern part of the island which opened in 1816 still flourishes today. The famous Valentia Slate has been used in many prominent buildings including the British House of Commons in London.

Whiddy Island: Whiddy Island lies in beautiful Bantry Bay, just a short ferry crossing from Bantry town making it a popular spot for day trippers. The island's climate, like other parts of South West Cork, is influenced by the Gulf Stream creating a unique ecology and wealth of wildlife. Beautiful red and purple fuchsia is abundant on the island throughout the summer and autumn and the common Butterwort is also found here - one of the few 'insect eating' plants found in Ireland.

Touring Routes

We have chosen some great driving routes which will introduce you to many of the region's most famous sights and attractions and also to lesser known gems. Wherever you choose to go, the journey promises to be as enjoyable as the destinations themselves.



EAST CORK DRIVE

Route 1: Cork » Fota » Cobh » Midleton » Cloyne » Shanagarry » Youghal » Cork

From **Cork City** take the N25 road east and then the R624 towards Cobh. On this route you can visit **Fota House, Gardens & Wildlife Park**. In **Cobh** visit The Queenstown Story, St. Colmans Cathedral or go on the Titanic Trail walking Tour.

Return to the N25 and continue to **Midleton**, home to the Jameson Heritage Centre, on route you will pass Barryscourt Castle which stands just south of Carrigtwohill.

From N25 Midleton roundabout take the road southwards (R630). Follow the signposts to **Cloyne** (R629), where St. Colman founded a monastery, and was home to Cork's hurling star Christy Ring.

Continue eastwards – the internationally famous Ballymaloe House is on the left. Continue to **Shanagarry** – birthplace of William Penn founder of Pennsylvania.



The remains of Penn Castle can be seen here. In the grounds of the Castle is the Shanagarry Design Centre, part of the Kilkenny Group. Nearby, you will discover the famous Ballymaloe Cookery School and Gardens, Kionoith Gardens.

From Shanagarry drive east on the R632 to Garryvoe which has a "Blue Flag Beach", then on to the pretty village of Ladysbridge to rejoin the N25 at Castlemartyr. Continue east on the N25 through Killeagh to Youghal.

Youghal is a scenic walled port town on the mouth of Munsters majestic River Blackwater, with 5 miles of sandy beaches. Visit the original walls of the old town, the Clock Gate, St. Mary's Collegiate and see Myrtle Grove which was once home to Sir Walter Raleigh.

BANTRY » BEARA PENINSULA » BANTRY

Route 2: Bantry » Glengarriff » Adrigole » Castletownbere » Allihies » Eyeries » Ardroom » Lauragh » Healy Pass » Glengarriff » Bantry



Start off from **Bantry** which pre-sides over its beautiful Bay facing Whiddy Island with the backdrop of the Caha Mountains. Bantry House and Gardens are steeped in history and are open to the public. Proceed along the N71 for **Glengarriff** which sits in the shelter of Bantry Bay, enjoying the basking warmth of the Gulf Stream.

Garinish Island has exquisitely laid out gardens and nearby Oak forests provide a wealth of beautiful walks and trails. Leave Glengarriff via **Adrigole** along the R572 for the major fishing port of **Castletownbere** with the Sugarloaf Mountain and Hungry Hill as a backdrop and Bere Island running along the bay.

The wild seascapes are enjoyed at their best by continuing to the village of **Allihies**. Dursey Island is located at the extreme south westerly tip of the Beara Peninsula and access is by way of cable car.

Proceed along the R575 to **Eyeries**, and then the R571 to **Ardroom** and **Lauragh** and return to Adrigole via the **Healy Pass** (R574) which winds its way through the Caha Mountains, the backbone of the Beara Peninsula. Then back to **Bantry** via **Glengarriff**.

KINSALE > BALTIMORE > KINSALE

Kinsale » Timoleague/
 Courtmacsherry » Clonakilty
 » Rosscarbery » Glandore »
 Union Hall » Castletownshend
 » Skibbereen » Baltimore »
 Skibbereen » Leap » Bandon »
 Innishannon » Kinsale



Leave the charming town of **Kinsale** where the old fortifications of Charles Fort and James Fort guard the harbour along the R600 for **Timoleague** with its ruined Franciscan Abbey. Here too is beautiful **Courtmacsherry** on the Seven Heads Peninsula, typical of the colourful villages that bead the southern coast.

Travel onwards to **Clonakilty** with many tempting beaches in the vicinity such as Inchydoney and Owenahincha. From Clonakilty take N71 for **Rosscarbery**. Leaving Rosscarbery take the coastal route (R597) passing Drombeg Stone Circle to **Glandore** which sits high above the harbour with magnificent views. Across the harbour lies **Union Hall**, a coastal fishing village surrounded by extensive woodland. Visit **Castletownshend** closeby.

From Castletownshend take the R596 to **Skibbereen** on the banks of the River Ilen. Then onward along R595, stopping off at the majestic sea water lake of Lough Hyne to picturesque **Baltimore** overlooking Carbery's Hundred Isles.

Return to **Kinsale** via N71, passing through the riverside town **Bandon** and then onto the R605 from wooded **Innishannon**.

RING OF KERRY

**Killarney » Killorglin »
Glenbeigh » Cahersiveen »
Waterville » Caherdaniel »
Castlecove » Sneem »
Kenmare » Killarney**

The Ring of Kerry is undoubtedly Ireland's most popular scenic drive. It is a circular route, therefore any of the towns and villages along the route can be used as a starting point. Take time to explore the spectacular ancient and early Christian heritage of the area, in particular the 6th century Skelligs UNESCO World Heritage site.

From **Killarney** take the N70 to **Killorglin** along the banks of the River Laune. Continue southwest to the picturesque village of **Glenbeigh**, a popular holiday destination for families. Next to **Cahersiveen**. The cliff section of the road offers spectacular views of the Blasket Islands and the Dingle Peninsula. Cahersiveen is home to the Old Barracks Heritage Centre, which is superbly located in the former Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC) Barracks. Also take time to visit the spectacular Cahergal and Leacanabuaile Stone Forts.

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From here continue to the village of **Waterville**, home to the world famous golf links. From Waterville continue southeast towards the village of **Caherdaniel**. The next point of interest is Coomakesta Pass, where you can take in the spectacular views over the Kenmare River, Scariff and Deenish Islands.

Next visit Derrynane House, the home of Daniel O'Connell and Derrynane National Park, a paradise for botanists and ornithologists, which includes various nature trails and one of Ireland's most outstanding beaches. Another must see is the Staigue Fort at **Castlecove**, which is one of the largest and finest examples of a circular stone fort in Ireland. Next stop is the colourful village of **Sneem**, home to the Sculpture Park and garden of the senses. Continue east to the Heritage Town of **Kenmare** and walk along Henry Street, with its interesting shop fronts and archways. From Kenmare, travel north to Killarney via Moll's Gap and Ladies View, with breathtaking views of the spectacular Lakes of Killarney. Stop at the spectacular 60ft Torc Waterfall before returning to **Killarney**.



THE HIGH WAYS AND BY WAYS OF NORTH KERRY

R551 Tralee » Ardfert » Banna » Ballyheigue » Causeway » Ballyduff » Ballybunion » Beal » Asdee » Ballylongford » Tarbert N69 » Listowel » R558 Tralee to Fenit, N21 Tralee to Castleisland



From **Tralee** take the R551 road to the village of **Ardfert**, famous for its cathedral. Proceed straight to **Banna**, famous for its strand and association with Roger Casement a prominent figure in early 20th century Irish History. The village of **Ballyheigue** offers an extensive beach as well as an interesting Castle. The village is reputed to have the driest weather in Kerry annually.

A circular drive around the nearby Kerry Head Peninsula is highly recommended with scenic panoramas overlooking the Dingle Peninsula and Clare Coast.

Drive back to the R551 through the village of **Causeway** and on to **Ballyduff** which has a prime example of a perfectly preserved round tower at Rattoo. Crossing the River Cashen the very well known seaside resort of **Ballybunion** is reached, the town boasts magnificent beaches and is equally famous for its championship Golf Links. There are numerous amenities for the holiday maker and the views across the estuary to the Loop Head Peninsula in County Clare are spectacular.

From here it is recommended to take the coast road to Ballylongford via **Beal**. Along this route the Clare coast looks very near across the Estuary and at Knockanore Hill (Hill of the Slaughter) views can be had on clear days as far north to the Cliffs of Moher in County Clare and Killarney to the South. **Ballylongford** Village boasts the interesting Carrigafoyle Castle on the Shannon Estuary. It is also the birthplace of one of the finest modern day Irish Poets Brendan Kennelly. The village of **Tarbert** is shaped like a T.

From here join the **N69** road back to the town of **Listowel** which is pleasantly situated on the banks of the river Feale. The town and surrounding areas are synonymous with the wealth of Writers, that have come from here. Names like John B.Keane, Bryan Mc Mahon, George Fitzmaurice are forever associated with this area. Listowel Writer's Week takes place at the end of every May.

Tralee is the county town of Kerry and is the administrative centre of the County. Every August it hosts the International Festival "The Rose of Tralee". Visitor attractions in the town include the Kerry County Museum in the Ashe Memorial Hall, the Aquadome, the Blennerville Windmill and Steam Train as well as Siamsa Tire, the National Folk Theatre of Ireland. The fishing port of Fenit with its extensive marina is located 13km west of the town and is well worth a visit. The town of Castleisland with its wide streets is located 19km to the east of Tralee. It is home to Crag Cave which is a striking example of the underground limestone nature of the surrounding countryside.

THE MAGIC OF THE DINGLE PENINSULA

**N86 » Tralee » Camp » Annascaul or...
 » N72/R563/R561 Killarney » Milltown » Castlemaine » Inch » Annascaul » Lispole » Dingle » Ventry » Dunquin » Ballyferriter » Ballydavid » Dingle » Conor Pass » Cloghane » Brandon » Castlegregory » Camp » Tralee**



The Dingle Peninsula can be accessed from either the **N86** route from **Tralee** or the **N72/R563/R561** route from **Killarney**. From Tralee take the N86 route westwards to Camp taking in the Blennerville Windmill and Old Steam Train. Between Camp and Annascaul you will pass through Gleann na Gealt (Glen of the madmen) before reaching the important junction at **Annascaul** which is also associated with the Antarctic Explorer Tom Crean.

Visitors routing from **Killarney** will initially take the N72 route to **Milltown/Castlemaine** and then join the R561 to **Inch**, famous for its splendid beach and its location for the David Lean 1970's film Ryan's Daughter.

From **Annascaul** proceed into the fishing port of Dingle which is the principal town on the peninsula. Here the visitor can enjoy boat trips to see Fungi "The Dingle Dolphin" as well as enjoy a vast array of traditional Irish pubs and restaurants in the town. Route R559 will take the visitor westwards into the heart of the Irish Speaking "Gaeltacht" areas.

At **Ventry** there is a crescent shaped beach which is ideal for watersports. Sleah Head at the tip of the peninsula offers a memorable panorama of the offshore Blasket Islands. At nearby **Dunquin** (Dun Chaoin), the Blasket Centre offers a unique perspective of the history of the much adorned Blasket Islands which are steeped in Irish Literary tradition.

Ballyferriter is situated in the heart of the Gaeltacht (Irish Speaking Area) and has some spectacular coastal scenery surrounding it. **Ballydavid** is a quiet fishing village located on the shores of Smerwick harbour and has the important archaeological sites of Gallarus Oratory and Kilmalkedar church close by.

At **Dingle** the visitor can choose to return to Killarney via Inch or back along the N86 to Tralee. However the scenic route back to Tralee can be taken if one proceeds north east of Dingle on the R560 to the **Conor Pass**, the highest mountain pass in Ireland.

Proceeding north to the villages of **Brandon** and **Cloghane** the countryside becomes more barren and these stopping points offer the visitor the peace and quiet of the countryside. At **Castlegregory** are some of the finest beaches in Ireland and the area is very popular with windsurfers and other enthusiasts of water sports. The offshore Maharee Islands to the north of the peninsula are of much interest to the Nature Lover and the Archaeologist. At the quiet mountain side village of **Camp** join the N86 road back to **Tralee**.



Family Fun

The South West region offers plenty of choice when it comes to entertaining the family and boasts a fantastic array of activities from coastal adventures to action-packed festivals and award-winning museums.

The long undulating coastline along the South West shore is home to a host of sandy beaches and sheltered coves, many with Blue Flag status. Safe, fun, swimming conditions can easily be found and many beaches are popular for kayaking, windsurfing, horse-riding, sailing and diving.

Younger visitors will enjoy a selection of family-oriented farms to visit where you can even adopt a sheep. See rescued donkeys at the Donkey Sanctuary, explore the treasures of the deep sea at Dingle Oceanworld or discover the excitement of wild animals and big game at Fota Wildlife Park.

Explore life in pre-historic times at the Dinosaur Exhibition, take a look at Victorian engineering at the Lifetime Lab, get an insight into the life of 19th-century prisoners at Cork City Gaol, or glimpse the heavens at the Schull Planetarium. Alternatively Blackrock Castle Observatory with its high-tech exhibits and interactive displays will indulge armchair astronauts of all ages. You can enjoy the parades, fireworks and free entertainment at the many regional festivals or just take it easy in a city park as the children enjoy the playgrounds. For thrill seekers you can hone your driving skills at Kart World, take to the hills on a quad bike, explore the subterranean world of Crag Caves, splash around at the Aqua Dome or enjoy the regions many indoor play areas. Whatever your interests you can sit back, relax and plan your trip knowing that the South West region offers something for every member of the family.



FAMILY FUN IN IRELAND'S SOUTH WEST

	Name	Location	Telephone	Web Site
CORK	Bridgefield Buggies	Castlemartyr	021 4667533	www.quadbikesafari.ie
	Cape Clear Bird Observatory	Skibbereen	028 39181	www.birdwatchireland.ie
	Chuckies Playzone	Sarsfield Road	021 4344112	www.chuckies.ie
	Cork Butter Museum	Shandon	021 4300600	www.corkbutter.museum
	Cork City Gaol & Radio Museum Experience	Sunday's Well	021 4305022	www.corkcitygaol.com
	Cork Vision Centre	North Main Street	021 4279925	www.corkvisioncentre.com
	Fota Wildlife Park	Carrigtwohill	021 4812678	www.fotawildlife.ie
	Kartworld	Watergrasshill	021 4889477	www.kartworld.ie
	Leahy's Fun Farm	Dungourney	021 4668461	www.leahyopenfarm.ie
	LeisurePlex	1 MacCurtain St.	021 4505155	www.leisureplex.ie
	Lifetime Lab	Lee Road	021 4941500	www.lifetimelab.ie
	Millstreet Country Park	Millstreet	029 70810	www.millstreetcountrypark.com
	Monkey Maze	Glanmire	021 4820674	www.monkeymaze.ie
	Perks Entertainment Centre	Youghal	024 92438	www.perksfunfair.com
	Perks Entertainment Centre & Superbowl	Youghal	024 92438	www.perksfunfair.com
	Planet Entertainment Centre	Old Mallow Road	021 4300700	www.planetleisure.ie
	Queenstown Story Heritage Centre	Cobh	021 4813591	www.cobhheritage.com
	Rebel Aventures	Bandon	087 1233117	www.rebeladventures.com
	Schull Planetarium	Schull	028 28315	www.discoverireland/southwest.ie
	The Dinosaur Exhibition	Mallow	022 26970	www.dinocafe.com
The Donkey Sanctuary	Liscarrol	022 48398	www.thedonkeysanctuary.ie	
Trabolgan Holiday Village	Whitegate	021 4661551	www.trabolgan.com	
West Cork Model Railway Village	Clonakilty	023 8833224	www.modelvillage.ie	
KERRY	Aqua Dome	Tralee	066 7129150	www.aquadome.ie
	Aura Sports & Leisure Centre	Killarney	064 6636554	www.aurealsurecentres.ie
	Blasket Centre	Dingle	066 915644	www.heritageireland.ie
	Blennerville Windmill	Tralee	066 7121064	www.discoverireland/southwest.ie
	Bowling Buddies	Tralee	066 7197007	www.bowlingbuddies.ie
	Buddies	Killarney	64 6639080	www.buddies.ie
	Burkes Activity Centre	Ring of Kerry	066 9768872	www.burkesactivitycentre.ie
	Coolwood Park	Killarney	064 6636288	www.coolwoodwildlifepark.com
	Crag Cave	Castleisland	066 7141244	www.cragcave.com
	Derrynane House	Ring of Kerry	066 9475113	www.heritageireland.ie
	Dingle Aquarium	Dingle	066 9152111	www.dingle-oceanworld.ie
	Dingle World of Leisure	Dingle	066 9150660	www.dwol.eu
	Fungi Dolphin Trips	Dingle	066 9152626	www.discoverireland/southwest.ie
	Kennedy's Pet Farm	Killarney	064 6654054	www.killarneypetfarm.com
	Kerry Bog Village	Ring of Kerry	066 9769184	www.kerrybogvillage.com
	Kerry Museum	Tralee	066 7141244	www.kerrycountymuseum.com
	Killarney Riding Stables	Killarney	064 6631686	www.killarney-reeks-trail.com
	Lartique Monorail	Listowel	068 24393	www.discoverireland/southwest.ie
	Muckross Riding Stables	Killarney	064 6632238	www.muckross-stables.com
	Muckross Traditional Farms	Killarney	064 6631440	www.muckross-house.ie
	Ocean World	Dingle	066 9152111	www.dingleworldofleisure.com
	Ross Castle	Killarney	064 6635851	www.heritageireland.ie
	Scanlon's Pet Farm	Dingle	066 9155135	Email: scanlonspetfarmdingle@eircom.net
Seafari	Kenmare	064 6642059	www.seafariireland.com	
Skellig Experience	Ring of Kerry	066 9476306	www.skelligexperience.com	
Steam Railway	Tralee	066 7121064	www.discoverireland/southwest.ie	
Toby World	Tralee	066 7192469	www.tobyworld.ie	



Adventure & Water Sports

With one of the longest, most varied coastlines in the country as well as rivers and lakes throughout the region the South West area provides some of the best facilities for adventure and water based activities.

Top that off with national parks, mountains and a network of rivers, mountaineering and climbing trails second to none and you have a great choice of activities all within easy reach.

Try your hand at quad biking across hilly terrain, or paintballing or explore the caves and the wonders of rock formations deep underground. Mountaineering, either guided or self guided, is a growing activity in the region with courses in rock climbing, mountain navigation and scrambling available. Prepare for alpine adventures or trips to the Antarctic with experienced trainers using specific terrain and skills to build your expertise.

There are a number of dive centres around the coast that can take you to the Blaskets or Skelligs for some fascinating diving experiences off the islands and rocks. Tuition from experienced divers can help even the most inexperienced get started and most centres supply all the safety and diving equipment you will need.

Sailing in every type of craft from dinghies or keelboats to catamarans is a popular pastime for locals and visitors alike. Visit places such as Kinsale, Dingle Bay, Fenit, Courtmacsherry, Baltimore or Bantry and you will find sailing schools and clubs willing and able to get you out on the water exploring the many facets of the local coastline. Why not try sea kayaking or inland water canoeing.

If it is surfing that lights your fire try some of the best conditions in Europe with big rollers in autumn and spring along dramatic coastline.

ADVENTURE & WATER SPORTS IN IRELAND'S SOUTH WEST

	Name	Description	Telephone	Telephone & Web
KERRY	Ballybunion Surf School	Surfing School	087 7443732	www.ballybunionsurf.com
	Beara Outdoor Adventures	Hillwalking/Rockclimbing/ Canoeing/Cycling/Jeep Tours	087 6678678	www.boa-ireland.com
	Cahersiveen Marina & Wateractivity Centre	Marina & Water Activities	066 9472777	www.cahersiveenmarina.ie
	Cappanalea Outdoor Education Centre	Training in Adventure Sporting Activities	066 9769244	www.cappanalea.ie
	Derrynane Sea Sports	Windsurfing/ Sailing/ Waterskiing/ Canoeing	087 9081208	www.derrynaneseasports.com
	Dingle Marina Dive Centre	Courses & Diving Trips	066 9152789	www.divingdingle.ie
	Hidden Ireland Tours	Mountaineering, Hiking, Climbing	087 4190318	www.irishadventures.net
	Irish Adventures	Kayaking, Rockclimbing, Mountaineering, Biking	087 4190318	www.irishadventures.net
	Jamie Knox Watersports	Windsurfing & Surfing	066 7139411	www.jamieknox.com
	Outdoors Ireland	Mountaineering/ Rock Climbing/ Kayaking/ Hiking	086 8604563	www.outdoorsireland.com
	Play at Height	Play at height Climbing wall	066 9152822	www.playatheight.com
	Skelligs Watersports	Surfing/Windsurfing/ Sea Kayaking	087 9178808	www.skelligsurf.com
	Star Outdoors Kenmare	Kayaking/Canoeing/ Sailing/ Marina/Boat Cruisers/ Waterpark, Archery	064 6641222	www.staroutdoor.ie



ADVENTURE & WATER SPORTS IN IRELAND'S SOUTH WEST

	Name	Description	Telephone	Telephone & Web
KERRY	Tralee Bay Sailing School	Sailing	087 7606795	www.traleebaysailingschool.com
	Venture Ireland	Adventure holidays	087 2355293	www.ventureireland.com
	Waterworld Castlegregory	Dive Centre/Watersports	087 2778236	www.waterworld.ie
CORK	Actionpak Paintball	Paintball	086 0760952	www.actionpak.ie
	Aquaventures Dive Centre	Scuba Diving	028 20511	www.aquaventures.ie
	Atlantic Sea Kayaking	Sea Kayaking	028 21058	www.atlanticseakayaking.com
	Baltimore Diving Centre	Diving	028 20300	www.baltimorediving.com
	Bridgefield Buggies	Quad Biking	021 4667533	www.quadbikesafari.ie
	Carrig Water Ski & Wakeboard Club	Water Ski	086 0757180	www.carrigwaterski.com
	Cork Powerboat & Waterski Club	Water Ski & Wakeboard	021 7334605	www.waterskiireland.com
	Courtmacsherry Watersports Centre	Courses Land Yachting/ Sailing/Powerboating/ Kayaking	023 8844464	www.courtmacsherrywatersports.com
	Edge Adventures	Kayaking, River Kayaking, Rock Climbing	027 50453	www.edgeadventure.com
	Glenans Irish Sailing Club	Sailing Courses	028 20630	www.gisc.ie
	Kartworld Adventure Centre	Karting/Paintball/ Archery/Lazer Pigeon Shooting/Lazer Combat	021 4889477	www.kartworld.ie
	Kayak Cork Harbour	Kayaking, Corporate, Kids Clubs	086 3469078	www.kayakcorkharbour.ie
	Kinsale Outdoor Education Centre	Sailing/Powerboating/ Kayaking/Canoeing/ Body Boarding/ Dinghy	021 4772896	www.kinsaleoutdoors.com
	Rebel Adventures	Lazer Tag War Games/ Lazer Clay Shooting/ Archery/Watersports	087 1233117	www.rebeladventures.com
	Sail Cork	Sailing/Powerboating	021 4811237	www.sailcork.com
	The Oysterhaven Centre	Sailing & Windsurfing Courses/Kayaking	021 4770738	www.oysterhaven.com
	West Cork Sailing & Powerboating Centre	Sailing/Kayaking/Sailing School/Dinghy/Canoeing/ PowerBoat Training	027 60132	www.westcorksailing.com
	Irish Watersports at Inishbeg	Powerboating/Rib hire	028 21745	www.irishwatersports.ie
	Heir Island Sailing	Sailing/Kayaking	028 38511	www.heirislandsailingschool.com
	West Cork Quad	Quad Trekking	028 36937	www.westcorkquadadventures.ie
	8 Degrees West	Powerboat School	086 3816340	www.8west.ie
H2O Sea Kayaking	Sea Kayaking	087 8768549	http://h2oseakayaking.com/	
Gtown Surf School	Surf School	087 8768549	www.surfgtown.com	
Sovereign Sailing	Sailing	087 6172555	www.sovereignsailing.com	
Schull & Fitbones	Outdoor Adventure	086 2404709	www.fitbones.ie	
Russagh Mill	Adventure Centre	028 22451	www.russaghmillhostel.com	
West Cork Surf School	Surfing Lessons	086 8695396	www.westcorksurfing.com	



Walking & Cycling

Cork and Kerry boast Ireland's most mountainous landscape. Over millennia the crumpled and folded land has been carved by ice ages, wind and rain to create a vista of airy peaks, dizzying ridges, brooding corrie lakes and narrow gullies.

Opportunities for mountainous highs also abound on the region's peninsulas. But you'll need to be an experienced mountain climber to go it alone on these peaks. If you're not au fait with compass, map reading and ropes, it's wise to travel with a guide who'll pick the best routes for your ability, teach you skills along the way and inspire you with tidbits of history and folklore.

Strewn with the ancient burial sites, rock art, standing stones, stone circles, forts and Christian artefacts, they include the 90km Sheep's Head Way, the 179km Dingle Way, the 48km North Kerry Way; the 188km Blackwater Way; the 215km Kerry Way on the Iveragh Peninsula, and the 197km Beara Way.

Other good alternatives for stretching your legs are the region's loop walks that range from 4km for a stroll to 16km for the more energetic. These include the Lighthouse and Poet's Way loops on Sheep's Head, Ardnakinna Lighthouse loop on Bere Island, and Muckcross Lake and Torc Waterfall Loops in Killarney National Park.

Maps and guidebooks are available at local tourist offices to help you make the most of these routes which are perfect for groups of mixed ages and ability.

Whatever your choice of walk, from sandy shores to tussocky hillside, you'll feel the energy of nature reinvigorate... Your soul.

Walking

The raw natural beauty, rugged mountains, lush hills and wild coastline make the South West region a dream destination for walkers and cyclists. Tranquil, way-marked trails criss cross the region taking in quiet roads, laneways, rugged tracks and gentle paths, offering access to the best scenery the area has to offer.

Waymarked Ways

These walking trails, signposted with way markers, are suitable for walkers of all ages and abilities. The trails can be walked from beginning to end, or in sections.

- > **The Beara Way:** The route uses minor roads, tracks and paths, passing a number of small towns and delightful villages, with history and heritage often to the fore.
- > **The Sheep's Head Way** is one of the most recently created waymarked walks in Ireland. The route combines low, rugged hills and a splendid cliff coastline with quieter roads, paths and tracks to make a complete circuit around the Sheep's Head Peninsula.
- > **The Blackwater Way** is a 168km, long-distance walking trail. It is divided here into 15 sections each representing a half days walking. The trail starts in Clogheen, Co. Tipperary and ends in Shrone, Co. Kerry.
- > **The Dingle Way** is a 153km, circular walking trail. It is divided into 15 sections each representing a half day walking. The trail both starts and ends in Tralee.



- > **The Kerry Way** is a 214km, circular walking trail. It is divided here into 21 sections each representing a half day walking. The trail both starts and ends in Killarney.
- > **The North Kerry Way** is a 48km, long-distance walking trail. It is divided into 6 sections each representing a half day walking. The trail starts in Tralee and ends in Ballyheigue.

www.irishtrails.ie

LOOPED WALKS IN IRELAND'S SOUTH WEST

	Name	Location	Category	Time (hrs)	Difficulty
CORK	Sheep's Head	Lighthouse Loop	Coastal	2	Moderate
		Poets way Loop	Coastal	4	Hard
	Blackgate Trail Head	Cahergal Loop	Coastal	3	Hard
		Cahir Loop	Coastal	2	Moderate
	Bere Island	Ardnakinna Loop	Island	3	Moderate
	Ardgroom	Pulleen Loop	Coastal	1.5	Easy
	Eyerias	Creha Quay Loop	Coastal	1.5	Easy
		Coastguard Station Loop	Coastal	3	Moderate
	Clogheen	Knocknaclugga Loop	Mountain	3	Moderate
	Dursey	Island Loop	Island	3	Hard
	Mullaghareirk	Banane Loop	Nature	1	Easy
		Rowls-Langford Loop	Nature	1.5	Easy
	Killavullen	Killavullen Loop	Mountain	3	Moderate
	Duhallow	Doctor's Hill Loop	Nature	1	Easy
		Black Water Loop	Mountain	3	Moderate
	Mount Hillary	Knightsfield Loop	Nature	1	Easy
		Father Murphy's Loop	Nature	1.5	Easy
		Mt Hillary Loop	Mountain	3	Moderate
	Drimoleague	Drimoleague Loop	Nature	1.5-2	Moderate
	Bere Island	Rerrin Loop	Island	1.5-2	Easy
	Castletownbere	Dunboy Woods Loop	Coastal	1	Easy
		Bullig Bay Loop	Coastal	1-1.5	Easy
	Garinish	Garinish Loop	Coastal	1.5-2	Moderate
Sheeps Head	Baran Loop	Mountain	2.5-3	Moderate	
	Seefin Loop	Mountain	4-4.5	Hard	
	Glanlough Loop	Mountain	5-6	Hard	
Millstreet	Claragh Loop	Mountain	2.5-3	Moderate	
KERRY	Killarney	Mucross Lake Loop	Nature	2	Easy
		Torc Waterfall Loop	Nature	2	Moderate
	Caherciveen	Beentee Loop	Mountain	3	Hard
	Bonane	Druid's Loop	Nature	1.5-2	Easy
		Fionn MacCool Loop	Nature	1.5-2	Easy
		Cailleach Beara Loop	Mountain	4-5	Hard
	Glanageenty	Glanageenty Loop	Nature	1.5	Moderate
		Bernard Brothers Loop	Nature	2.5-3	Hard

For further information & downloadable maps go to www.discoverireland.ie/walking

WALKING OPERATORS IN IRELAND'S SOUTH WEST

	Name	Telephone	Web Site
CORK	Edge Adventures	087 7924841	www.edgeadventure.com
	Hillside Walks	027 61226	www.sheepshead.ie
	Lee Valley Walking	026 45642	www.leevalleywalking.com
	Munster Mountaineering	087 6143796	www.munstermountaineering.com
	Myguidelreland experience	021 4655500	www.myguideireland.com/ walkingtours
	Trailways Hikes & Treks	021 4632049	www.trailwayswalks.com
	Walking Boots Tours	087 9972270	www.walkingbootstours.com
	Wanderlust	087 4181001	www.wanderlust.ie
KERRY	Cappanalea Outdoor Education Centre	066 9769244	www.cappanalea.ie
	Go Ireland	066 9762094	www.govisitireland.com
	Hidden Ireland Tours	087 2214002	www.hiddenirelandadventures.com
	Irish Cycle Tours	066 7128733	www.irishcycletours.com
	Kerry Experience Tours	064 6689679	www.kerryexperiencetours.ie
	Kingfisher Walks	064 6637131	www.kingfisherlodgekillarney.com
	Murtagh Dineen	086 6621721	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	Pat Falvey Irish and Worldwide Adventures	064 6644181	www.patfalvey.com
	South West Walks Ireland	066 7128733	www.southwestwalksireland.com
	Star Outdoors Adventure Centre	064 6641222	www.staroutdoors.ie
	Tailor - Made Tours Ltd.	066 9766007	www.tailor-madetours.com
	Tour Dingle	066 7139712	www.tourdingle.com



CLOGHAN & MT BRANDON

Useful National Websites

The Mountaineering Council of Ireland; www.mountaineering.ie

Coillte

Coillte, Ireland's leading forestry company has a range of recreation opportunities at sites across the country. Visit www.coillteoutdoors.ie

Ordnance Survey Ireland

For quality mapping and geographic information. Visit: www.osi.ie

NPWS

The National Parks & Wildlife Service operates Ireland's National Parks. Visit www.npws.ie

Irish Heart Foundation

The Irish Heart Foundation runs Slí na Sláinte, is a health initiative aimed at encouraging people of all ages and abilities to walk for pleasure and good health. Visit: www.irisheart.ie

We are delighted to provide detailed information on the various routes and facilities along the way and additional comprehensive Map Guides are available on line or at our Tourist Information Offices.

www.discoverireland.ie/southwest

Not only can you experience walks in rural locations, but many urban areas such as Cork City, Kinsale, Cobh and Killarney offer guided walking tours. Alternatively follow the signed walking trails in many towns throughout the region such as Listowel and Youghal. Cork City has the Flavours of Cork and Creative Cork iWalks which can be downloaded from www.discoverireland.ie/cork to your iPhone or iPod.



Cycling

Cycling is enjoyed by visitors of all ages to the region, with many uncrowded and scenic routes passing along the coast and through the countryside. A list of cycling operators that provide guided tours and bicycle hire is featured in this section.

Most cycles are supported by maps and guidebooks available at local tourist offices, while quality bike hire is available in most major towns.

CYCLING ROUTES IN IRELAND'S SOUTH WEST

	Name	Telephone	Web Site
CORK	Beara Way Cycling Route	028 21766	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	Sheep's Head Cycle Route	027 61052	www.thesheepshead.com
	Skibbereen Cycle Hub	028 21766	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	The Blackwater Valley Cycle Route	021 4255100	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	The Cork City – Gougane Barra - Beara Cycle Route	021 4255100	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	The Duhallow Trail Cycle Route	021 4255100	www.corkkerry.ie
	The East Cork – Cork City to Youghal Cycle Route	021 4255100	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
KERRY	3 Cycling Trails of Ballybunion	066 7121288	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	Fenit Cycleway	066 7121288	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	Gap of Dunloe Cycle Route	064 6631633	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	Killarney Cycling Trail	064 6631633	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	The Blackwater Valley Cycle Route	021 4255100	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	The Dingle Peninsula Cycle Route	066 9151188	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	The Kerry Head Cycleway	066 7121288	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	The Mysteries of Dingle	066 9151188	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	The Ring of Kerry Cycle Route	066 9151188	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest

CYCLING OPERATORS IN IRELAND'S SOUTH WEST

	Name	Telephone	Web Site
KERRY	Cappanalea Outdoor Education Centre	066 9769244	www.cappanalea.ie
	Go Ireland	066 9762094	www.govisitireland.com
	Hidden Ireland Tours	086 1030444	www.hiddenirelandadventures.com
	Irish Adventures	087 4190318	www.irishadventures.net
	Irish Cycle Tours	066 7128733	www.irishcycletours.com
	Kerry Experience Tours	064 6689679	www.kerryexperiencetours.ie



SHEEPS HEAD WAY



NESS & TIGLIN



Equestrian

Imagine galloping along a golden sandy beach with the Atlantic waters lapping at your horse's feet or a trek through the mountains and valleys of stunning peninsulas jutting defiantly out in to the great Atlantic Ocean or even a leisurely jaunt up through a glacial valley, tens of thousands of years old. This is just a sample of the equestrian adventures awaiting you!

With its miles of sandy beaches, forest trails and national parks the South West region is a wonderful place to ride to a horse. Stroll along country lanes, canter across a wide-open beach or simply ride cross country over ditches, hedges and stone walls to your heart's content.

There are 40 approved AIRE riding centres in the region with facilities to suit all levels from beginner to advanced rider. Both indoor and outdoor arenas are available and are the training grounds for riders of all ages and abilities. Trekking is available at most centres giving you a wide choice from one to three hour treks or lessons through to all day trails. Go in a small group or join a party for a day's outing. Learning to ride is made enjoyable for all ages and experienced instructors take special care of nervous riders.

Racing is also a preoccupation of many with day meetings in Killarney, Dingle, Listowel and Cork. For more informal horse racing why not attend the Ballyheigue Festival with horse racing on the beach during the summer months or the Inch International Polo festival or traditional "Point to Point" meetings across the South West region. Great fun for those involved as well as on-lookers as the horses thunder across the sands chasing a small ball or just racing each other.

HORSE RIDING IN IRELAND'S SOUTH WEST

	Name	Location	Telephone	Web Site
CORK	Ballybrack Equestrian Centre	Glenville	087 2519405	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	Ballywilliam Riding Centre	Cobh	086 1966127	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	Castlemore Riding School	Farnanes	086 4013001	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	Castlewhite Riding Centre	Waterfall	021 4870684	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	Churchtown Riding School	Mallow	022 48417	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	Clonakilty Equestrian Centre	Clonakilty	023 8833533	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	Dunbeacon Equestrian Centre	Bantry	027 61532	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	Dunsfort Equestrian Centre	Midleton	021 4631851	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	East Cork Equestrian	Midleton	087 6464309	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	Eden Hill	Mallow	022 21143	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	Fermoy Equestrian Centre	Fermoy	087 2941043	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	Follyfoot Riding Farm	Riverstick	021 4771324	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	Glen Aire Stables	Mallow	087 2280747	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	Hawthorn Villa Stud	Innishannon	021 4775145	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	Hitchmough's Riding School	Monkstown	021 4371267	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	Hop Island Equestrian Centre	Rochestown	021 4361277	www.hopisland.com
	Ivy Bridge Equestrian Centre	Mallow	086 8110217	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	Kingstons Riding School	Clonakilty	023 8833793	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	Skevanish Equestrian Centre	Innishannon	021 4775476	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	The Bristestown Towers Equestrian Centre	Glenville	087 9627302	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	Tower Stud	Glanmire	087 7828172	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	Tulligmore Equestrian Centre	Ballinhassig	021 4885468	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	Valley View Equestrian Centre	Newmarket	029 68185	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
West Cork Equine Centre	Killbrittain	023 8849433	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest	
KERRY	Blackwater Stables	Killarney	064 6682076	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	Burkes Activity Centre	Glenbeigh	066 9768386	www.burkesactivitycentre.ie
	Dingle Horse Riding	Dingle	066 9152199	www.dinglehorseriding.com
	Eagle Rock Equestrian Centre	Caherdaniel	066 9475145	www.eaglerockcentre.com
	Eclipse Ireland	Killarney	064 6682965	www.eclipseireland.com
	Heatherhill Stables	Ballinskelligs	066 9479318	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	Killarney Riding Stables	Killarney	064 6631686	www.horseridingireland.net
	Listowel Equestrian Centre	Listowel	068 23734	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	Long's Horse Riding	Tralee	066 9159034	www.longsridding.com
	Mucross Riding Establishment	Killarney	064 6638975	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	Ring of Kerry Equestrian Centre	Waterville	086 6089856	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	River Valley Stables	Kilgarvan	064 6685360	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	Tralee Equestrian Centre	Tralee	066 7117800	www.traleeequestriancentre.com

Visit www.aire.ie for an up-to-date list of Aire approved riding centres.

HORSE RACING IN IRELAND'S SOUTH WEST

Name	Location	Telephone	Web Site
Cork Racecourse	Mallow, Co. Cork	022 50207	www.corkracecourse.ie
Killarney Racecourse	Killarney, Co. Kerry	064 6631125	www.goracing.ie
Listowel Racecourse	Listowel, Co. Kerry	068 21144	www.listowelraces.ie

Horse Racing Ireland. Tel . 045 842800 or visit www.goracing.ie



Fishing

Home to some of the best angling in Ireland the South West region boasts a wide range of terrains and types of fishing ranging from some of the best lake and river fishing through to adventurous and challenging shore and deep sea angling. Cobh and Waterville are two well known centres in the Southwest for angling.

With many different ports offering deep sea angling charters and boat hire you can be guaranteed an exciting adventure catching pollock, shark, wrasse, mackerel, ling, conger and numerous other species off the South West coast.

Helped by the warm waters of the Gulf Stream the greatest variety of fish in Europe is available off the Cork/Kerry coastline. Cahersiveen in Kerry has hosted both the European and World Boat Angling Championships. Castletownbere is another example with several species of shark being caught in these waters up to weights of 218 lbs and 72 lbs conger.

Cobh hosts a deep sea angling festival each year and Cork harbour is popular for shark, coalfish and cod that abound over offshore wrecks and reefs outside the confine of the harbour.

In Waterville, the premium sea trout fishery in the area is on Lough Currane and is famous for its spring salmon and large sea trout. Further inland is Lough Leane situated within the Killarney National Park with an excellent stock of brown trout.

The River Blackwater and the Lee are the main source of coarse river fishing in the region. Try Inniscarra Lake, in County Cork, where up to 100 lbs of bream can be caught in a day or Inchigeelagh Lake near Macroom, another excellent site for coarse fishing.

FISHING IN IRELAND'S SOUTH WEST

	Name	Description	Location	Telephone	Web Site
CORK	Angling Bandon River	Angling	Bandon	023 8841674	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	Angling Charters	Angling	Cobh	021 4812435	www.seafishing.irf.com
	Argideen Fishing Lodge	Game Angling	Timoleague	023 8846127	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	Baitwell	Fishing Bait	Cornmarket St.	021 4275455	www.baitfrompaintwell.com
	Ballycotton Angling	Sea Angling	Ballycotton	021 4646002	www.ballycottonangling.com
	Ballyhass Lakes	Fly Fishing/ Game Angling	Mallow	022 27773	www.ballyhasslakes.ie
	Bandon Anglers Association	Game Angling	Bandon	023 8841674	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	Barry Twomey Sea Fishing	Sea Angling	Crosshaven	021 4831843	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	Blue Thunder Charters	Sea Angling	Schull	086 3862876	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	Clontackle & Leisure	Sea Angling	Clonakilty	023 8835580	www.clontackle.com
	Cobh Angling Centre	Sea Angling	Cobh	021 4813417	www.seafishing.irf.com
	Cork Harbour Boats	Sea Angling	Passage West	021 4841348	www.corkharbourboats.com
	Courtmacsherry Angling Centre	Sea Angling	Courtmacsherry	023 8846427	courtmacsherryangling.ie
	Deora De Deep Sea Angling	Sea Angling	Cobh	021 4863445	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	East Cork Angling Centre	Sea Angling	Midleton	021 4631952	www.loughcarrig.com
	Fly Casting	Sea Angling	Carrignavar	087 2353885	www.flyfishingireland.net
	Geary Angling Services	Sea Angling	Cobh	021 4812167	www.seafishingirl.com
	Gerald O'Neill	Sea Angling	Leap	028 33510	www.oneillangling.com
	Ghillie Cottage & Blackwater	Fly Fishing	Fermoy	025 32720	www.flyfish-ireland.com



FISHING IN IRELAND'S SOUTH WEST

	Name	Description	Location	Telephone	Web Site
CORK	Angling Kinsale	Sea Angling	Kinsale	086 1036905	www.anglingkinsale.com
	Inches House & Boat Angling	Sea Angling	Castletownbere	027 74494	www.irelandseaangling.com
	Inniscarra Lake Coarse Angling	Coarse Angling	Inniscarra	021 7334023	www.swrfb.com
	Jeffersport	Licence & Permit Contacts	Bandon	023 8841420	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	Kinsale Angling	Sea Angling	Kinsale	021 4774946	www.kinsaleangling.com
	Kinsale Deep Sea Angling	Sea Angling	Kinsale	021 4778944	www.solcon.nl/kinsale
	Landers Outdoor World	Tackle Supplies	Tralee	066 7126644	www.landere.ie
	Ocean Quests Ltd	Sea Angling	Valentia Island	066 9476214	www.skelligrock.com
	Richard & Kevin O'Leary	Sea Angling	Valentia Island	066 9476407	www.ccangling.com
	River Funcheon	Game Angling	Fermoy	022 25497	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	River Ilen Anglers Club	Game Angling	Skibbereen	028 33635	www.riverilen.com
	Riversedge Tackle	Permits/ Tackle Supplies	Inniscarra Road	021 4871771	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	Sea Fishing John O'Mahony	Sea Angling	Kinsale	021 4772737	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	Sea Fishing Peter Manning	Sea Angling	Ballycotton	021 4646773	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	South Coast Charter Angling	Sea Angling	Youghal	087 2657177	www.charterangling.ie
	T.W Murray & Co.	Permits/ Tackle Supplies	Patrick Street	021 4271089	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	The Tackle Shop	Permits/ Tackle Supplies	Lavitts Quay	021 4272842	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	Wet & Wild Angling	Sea Angling	Crookhaven	086 2591206	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
WK Flyfishing	Fly Fishing Guide	Cathedral Road	021 4676170	www.wkflyfishing.com	
Youghal Deep Sea Angling	Sea Angling	Youghal	024 90437	www.youghaldeepsaangling.com	

South Western Regional Fisheries Board, Macroom, Co. Cork.

Tel. 026 41222 www.swrfb.com



FISHING IN IRELAND'S SOUTH WEST

	Name	Description	Location	Telephone	Web Site
KERRY	Angling/Freshwater/Ghillie	Angling	Ring of Kerry	087 2213835	www.safix.com
	Angling Guide/Ghillie	Angling	Killarney	087 1229352	fishingrod@eircom.net
	Angling Trips	Sea Angling	Waterville	087 1209924	www.skelligstrips.com
	Angling/Shark Fishing	Sea Angling	Caherdaniel	087 6898431	johnoshea33@hotmail.com
	Bob Moss	Angling Guide/Ghillie	Ballydavid	066 9155158	www.iol.ie/bobmoss
	Castlecove Angling	Sea Angling	Killarney	066 9475305	www.fishingatireland.com
	Celtic Sea Angling	Sea Angling	Fenit	066 7124288	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	Dingle Bay Charters	Sea Angling	Dingle	066 9151344	www.dinglebaycharters.com
	Eureka Lodge	Sea Angling	Waterville	066 9475248	www.salmonandseatrout.com
	Fishing Tackle Shop	Permits /Tackle Supplies	Killarney	064 6631970	www.swrfb.com
	Frank Donnelly	Fishing Guide	Waterville	066 9474303	www.lakelandshouse.com
	Garvey's Sports & Lesiure	Tackle & frozen Bait	County Kerry	066 9151248	www.garveygroup.ie
	Halpins Fishing Tackle	Fishing Tackle	Listowel	068 22392	www.halpins.net
	Joe Roddy & Sons	Sea Angling	Portmagee	087 1209924	www.skelligstrips.com
	John Deady	Sea Angling	Tralee	066 7124524	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	John Griffin	Fishing Guide	Waterville	066 9474370	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	John Murphy	Fishing Guide	Caherdaniel	066 9475257	www.fishingkerry.com
	John O'Shea	Sea Angling	Caherdaniel	066 9475129	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	Kenmare Angling	Sea Angling	Kenmare	087 2592209	www.kenmareanglingandsightseeing.com
	Kerry Sea Angling	Sea Angling	Killorglin	087 2312366	www.kerryseafishing.com
	Killarney Lakeland Boat Trips	Sea Angling	Killarney	087 2789335	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	Salmon & Trout Fishing Guide	Fishing Guide	Waterville	087 2051515	dominicmcgillcuddy@gmail.com
	Salmon & Trout Fishing Guide	Fishing Guide	Cahersiveen	066 947421	www.thatchcottageireland.co.uk
	Sea Fishing Michael Moriarty	Sea Angling	Fenit	066 7136303	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	Sea Fishing Sean O'Shea	Sea Angling	Derrynane	066 9475129	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	Sheen Falls River	Permits	Kenmare	064 6641600	www.swrfb.com
	Shore Angling & Fishing Guide	Sea Angling	Waterville	066 9474942	www.kbfishingireland.com
Skellig Ferry, Diving and Angling	Sea Angling	Ballinskelligs	066 9479182	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest	
Tadhg O'Sullivan	Permits/Tackle Supplies	Waterville	066 9474433	www.swrfb.com	
Tim Moore	Angling Guide/Ghillie	Sneem	064 6675911	www.swrfb.com	
Unkybuck's Angling Adventures	Fly Fishing & Sea Angling	Tralee	087 2519764	www.unkybucks.com	
Val & Roger Baker	Angling Guide/Ghillie)	Waterville	066 9478009	www.cloghvolla.com	
Valentia Fishing	Sea Angling	Valentia Island	066 9476420	www.valentiafishing.com	
Valentia Island Sea Angling	Sea Angling	Valentia Island	066 9476300	www.valentiaislandseaangling.com	
Waterville Boats	Sea Angling	Waterville	066 9474800	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest	

South Western Regional Fisheries Board, Macroom, Co. Cork.

Tel. 026 41222 www.swrfb.com



Golf

The spectacular backdrops, unspoilt landscapes, mild climate and imaginative courses of the South West region have given it an unsurpassed reputation as a world class golfing destination.

For experienced golfers the magnificent scenery and formidable conditions of the 18-hole Waterville Golf Links on the Ring of Kerry and the 36-hole Ballybunion Golf Club in North Kerry are a must, both are consistently rated among the Top 10 courses in the world. Tralee has a sensational Arnold Palmer designed links course alongside a beautiful rugged coastline, the magnificent links course at Dingle Golf Club is the most westerly golf course in Europe.

Test your skills on Killarney's three superb championship courses overlooking the majestic lakes. Kerry has also hosted the Irish Open Championship on many occasions with its return again to Killarney Golf & Country Club for 2010.

Plum for the old fashioned features and pure design of the superb parkland course on Fota Island or test out the challenging parkland conditions of the Lee Valley Golf & Country Club. Old Head Golf Links in Kinsale is a remarkably dramatic course, protruding over two miles into the Atlantic Ocean.

If you're planning to really get stuck in, it's worth investigating the exceptional value golf passes available across the region. A choice of six different passes can be purchased offering holders a reduced-price round of golf at each of the participating courses.

Wherever you choose to golf you'll find a warm welcome, friendly post-game banter at the 19th hole and on the top courses the lure of a soothing massage to ease those aching muscles.

For more information on golf courses and golf passes in the region check out our website on www.discoverireland.ie/southwest

GOLF IN IRELAND'S SOUTH WEST

	Name	Location	Holes	Telephone	Web Site
CORK	Ballinamona Golf Course	Mallow	18	022 29314	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	Bandon Golf Club	Bandon	18	023 8841111	www.bandongolfclub.com
	Bantry Bay Golf Club	Bantry	18	027 50579	www.bantrygolf.com
	Berehaven Golf Club	Castletownbere	9	027 70700	www.berehavengolf.com
	Blarney Golf Resort	Blarney	18	021 4384477	www.blarneygolfresort.com
	Charleville Golf Club	Charleville	18	063 81257	www.charlevillegolf.com
	Cobh Golf Club	Cobh	18	021 4812399	www.cobhgolfclub.ie
	Cork Golf Club	Little Island	18	021 4353451	www.corkgolfclub.ie
	Castlemartyr Resort Golf Club	Castlemartyr	18	021 4219000	www.castlemartyrresort.ie
	Doneraile Golf Club	Doneraile	9	022 24137	www.donerailegolfclub.com
	Douglas Golf Club	Douglas	18	021 4895297	www.douglasgolfclub.ie
	Dunmore Golf Club	Clonakilty	9	023 8834644	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	East Cork Golf Club	Midleton	18	021 4631687	www.eastcorkgolfclub.com
	Fermoy Golf Club	Fermoy	18	025 31472	www.fermoygolfclub.ie
	Fernhill Golf & Country Club	Carrigaline	18	021 4372226	www.fernhillcountryclub.com
	Fota Island Resort	Carrigtwohill	18	021 4883700	www.fotaisland.ie
	Frankfield Golf Club	Douglas	9	021 4361199	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	Glengarriff Golf Club	Glengarriff	9	027 63150	www.glengarriffgolfclub.com
	Harbour Point Golf Club	Little Island	18	021 4353094	www.harbourpoint.ie
	Kanturk Golf Club	Kanturk	18	029 50534	www.kanturkgolf.com
	Kinsale Golf Course	Kinsale	18	021 4774722	www.kinsalegolf.com
	Lee Valley Golf & Country Club	Ovens	18	021 7331721	www.leevalleygcc.ie
	Lisselan Estate Golf Club	Clonakilty	9	023 8833249	www.lisselan.com
	Macroom Golf Club	Macroom	18	026 41072	www.macroomgolfclub.com
	Mahon Golf Course	Blackrock	18	021 4292212	www.corkcity.ie
	Mallow Golf Club	Mallow	18	022 21145	www.mallowgolfclub.net
	Mitchelstown Golf Club	Mitchelstown	18	025 24072	www.mitchelstown-golf.com
	Monkstown Golf Club	Monkstown	18	021 4841376	www.monkstowngolfclub.com
	Muskerry Golf Club	Carrigrohane	18	021 4385297	www.muskerrygolfclub.ie
	Old Head Golf Links	Kinsale	18	021 4778444	www.oldhead.com
Rafeen Creek Golf Club	Ringaskiddy	9	021 4378430	www.raffeencreekgolfclub.com	
Skibbereen & West Carbery GC	Skibbereen	18	028 21227	www.skibbgolf.com	
Trabolgan Holiday Centre	Midleton	9	021 4661551	www.trabolgan.com	
Water Rock Golf Course	Midleton	18	021 4613499	www.waterrockgolfcourse.com	
Youghal Golf Club	Youghal	18	024 92787	www.youghalgolf.com	

GOLF IN IRELAND'S SOUTH WEST

	Name	Location	Holes	Telephone	Web Site
KERRY	Ardfert Golf Club	Ardfert	9	066 7134744	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	Ballybunion	Ballybunion	18	068 27146	www.ballybuniongolfclub.ie
	Ballyheigue Castle GC	Ballyheigue	9	066 7133555	www.ballyheiguecastlegolfclub.com
	Beaufort Golf Club	Killarney	18	064 6644440	www.beaufortgolfclub.com
	Castlegregory Golf & Fishing Club	Dingle	18	066 7139444	www.castlegregorygolflinks.com
	Castleisland Golf Club	Castleisland	18	066 7141709	www.castleislandgolfclub.com
	Castlerosse Golf Course	Killarney	9	064 6631144	www.castlerossegolf.com
	Ceann Sibeal/Dingle Golf Links	Tralee	18	066 9156255	www.dinglelinks.com
	Dooks Golf Club	Glenbeigh	18	066 9768205	www.dooks.com
	Dunloe Golf Course	Killarney	9	064 6644578	www.dunloegc.com
	Kenmare Golf Club	Kenmare	18	064 6641291	www.kenmaregolfclub.com
	Killarney Golf & Fishing Club	Killarney	18	064 6631034	www.killarney-golf.com
	Killorglin Golf Club	Killorglin	18	066 9761979	www.killorglingolf.ie
	Parknasilla Golf Club	Sneem	18	064 6645122	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	Listowel Golf Club	Listowel	9	068 21592	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	Ring of Kerry Golf & Country Club	Kenmare	18	064 6642000	www.ringofkerrygolf.com
	Ross Golf Club	Killarney	9	064 6631125	www.rossgolfclub.com
	Skellig Bay Golf Club	Waterville	18	066 9474133	www.skelligbay.com
	Tralee Golf Club	Tralee	18	066 7136379	www.traleegolfclub.com
Waterville Golf Links	Waterville	18	066 9474102	www.watervillegolflinks.ie	

For Pitch & Putt Listings in the South West Region log on to the Pitch and Putt Union of Ireland website on www.ppu.ie





Gardens

There's something about a summer afternoon spent wandering among flowers, hedgerows and woodland that ignites the senses, conjuring up a long-forgotten childhood summer in simpler times.

The South West offers a great variety of designs and styles of gardens for the enthusiast and for those that simply appreciate good gardens and want to enjoy the natural environment.

Gardening and gardens are now one of the foremost hobbies in Ireland and internationally. Many gardens in the region offer guided tours which help to give a better and more informed insight into the plants and varieties being viewed. What better way to spend a summer afternoon or two than taking a stroll through some of the most beautiful gardens that the South West has to offer?

For the dedicated gardener there are Garden Trail Guides available, these guides give more details on each of the gardens and are available free of charge from Tourist Offices in the South West.

Enjoy your visit to the wonderful gardens of the South West, where you will be sure to see the fuchsia *Deora Dé* in Irish, which translates as God's Tears, a plant that is synonymous with West Cork and Kerry.

Please note that many of the gardens are strictly by appointment so it is advisable to make contact with the Garden before making your visit.

For further information check our website www.discoverireland.ie/southwest

GARDENS IN IRELAND'S SOUTH WEST

	Name	Address	Telephone	Web Site
CORK	Annes Grove Gardens	Castletownroche	022 26145	www.annesgrovegardens.com
	Ardnavaha House	Ballinascarthy, Clonakilty	023 8839499	www.ardnavaha.ie
	Aultaghreagh Cottage Garden	Aultaghreagh, Dunmanway	023 8855307	www.aultaghreaghcottagegarden.com
	Ballymaloe Cookery School Garden	Shanagarry, Middleton	021 4646785	www.cookingsfun.ie
	Ballyvolane House & Garden	Castletelyons, Co. Cork	025 36349	www.ballyvolanehouse.ie
	Bantry House And Garden	Bantry	027 50047	www.bantryhouse.com
	Blackwater Castle	Castletownroche	022 26333	www.blackwatercastle.com
	Blarney Castle Gardens	Blarney	021 4385252	www.blarneycastle.ie
	Blarney House & Gardens	Blarney	021 4385252	www.blarneycastle.ie
	Carraig Abhainn Gardens	Durrus Village, Bantry	027 61070	www.carraigabhainngardens.com
	Clanaboy	Woodleigh Park, Model Farm Road, Cork City	021 4541560	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	Conna Gardens	Carnival Cottage, Conna	058 59184	www.gardensopen.ie
	Coosheen	15 Johnstown Park, Glounthaune	021 4353855	www.hesterfordegarden.com
	Doneraile Wildlife Park	Turnpike Road, Doneraile	022 24244	www.heritageireland.ie
	Dromboy Gardens	Carrignavar	021 4884555	www.gardensopen.ie
Dunsland Gardens	Dunkettle, Glanmire	021 4354949	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest	
Ewe Gallery & Sculpture Garden	Kenmare Road, Glengarriff	027 63840	www.theewe.com	
Fota Arboretum & Gardens	Fota Estate, Carrigtwohill	021 4812728	www.heritageireland.ie	



GARDENS IN IRELAND'S SOUTH WEST

	Name	Address	Telephone	Web Site
CORK	Foxcovert	Lackenroe, Glounthaune	021 4821747	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	Glengarriff Bamboo Park	Glengarriff	027 63975	www.bamboo-park.com
	Glebe Gardens	Baltimore	028 20232	www.glebegardens.com
	Glenview Gardens	Desert, Enniskeneane	023 8847230	www.gardensopen.ie
	Hillside	Annmount, Glounthaune	021 4353119	www.hillsidegardens.ie
	Ilnacullin	Garinish Island, Glengarriff	027 63060	www.heritageireland.ie
	Inish Beg Gardens	Baltimore	028 21745	www.inishbeg.com/garden-design.html
	Kilcolman Garden	Kilcolman Rectory, Kilcolman, Enniskeneane	028 8822913	www.kilcolmanrectory.com
	Kilravock Gardens	Kilravock, Durrus	027 61111	www.kilravockgardens.com
	Kilroan	Glanmire	021 4821097	www.gardensopen.ie
	Kinoith House Gardens	Shanagarry	021 4646785	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	Lag Bridge Garden	Rath, Baltimore	028 20148	www.beacondesignsknit.com/garden.htm
	Lakemount Garden	Lakemount, Barnavara Hill, Glanmire	021 4821052	www.lakemountgarden.com
	Lassanroe Garden	Lassanroe, Skibbereen	028 22563	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	Longueville House Gardens	Mallow	022 47156	www.longuevillehouse.ie
	Liss Ard Gardens	Liss Ard Estate, Skibbereen	028 40000	www.lissardresort.com
	Lisselan Gardens	Lisselan, Clonakilty	023 8833249	www.lisselan.com
	Midleton House Gardens	Midleton	021 4613702	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	Millstreet Country Park	Millstreet	029 70810	www.millstreetcountrypark.com
	O'Keeffe's Garden	Grange, Killavullen	025 39112	www.gardensopen.ie
Paradise Gardens	Mallow	022 50973	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest	
River House Garden	Old Baltimore Road, Skibbereen	028 37498	www.gardensopen.ie	
Rodeen Country House Gardens	Rodeen, Castletownbere	027 70158	www.rodeencountryhouse.com	
Stepside Garden	Ahaliskey, BallinacCarthy, Clonakilty	086 8625132	www.gardensopen.ie	
The Grove	Compass Hill, Kinsale	021 4777094	www.gardensopen.ie	
The Manor Gardens	Knockane, Dunmanway	023 8845725	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest	
The Old Deanery	Kilboy, Cloyne	021 4652204	www.gardensopen.ie	
KERRY	Derreen Gardens	Lauragh	064 6683103	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	Derrynane House, National Historic Park	Caherdaniel	066 9475113	www.heritageireland.ie/en/HistoricSites/South
	Garden of Europe	Listowel	068 50900	pierfitz@iol.ie
	Garden of the Senses	Tralee	066 7121288	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest
	Glanleam Subtropical Gardens	Glanleam Estate, Valentia Island	066 9476176	www.glanleam.com
	Hotel Dunloe Castle Gardens	Beaufort, Killarney	064 6644111	www.killarneyhotels.ie
	Kells Bay Gardens	Kells House, Kells	087 7776666	www.kellsgardens.ie
	Knockreer House And Gardens	Killarney National Park, Killarney	064 6631633	homepage.eircom.net/~knp/educ/index.htm
Muckross House Gardens	Killarney National Park, Killarney	064 6670144	www.muckross-house.ie	

Please note that some Gardens are open only by appointment.



Food & Dining

Food is a big part of everyone's holiday and whether you're on a budget or willing to splurge, the South West region of the country has some of the best options for feeding a family.

From friendly pub grub, family-owned restaurants and cafes all the way up to award-winning eateries you'll find the very best in fine dining, organic home made cooking and the freshest local produce.

A visit to the English Market in Cork City is a must for any food lover. Here you can sample the wares of the many local artisan food producers, and appreciate the skills of the market's traditional butchers and fishmongers. There are also numerous farmers' markets which take place throughout the region. There is a friendly, cosmopolitan atmosphere at the markets, whether in winter or summer – a pleasant mingling of locals, food producers and visitors.

The quality and variety of the South West coast's seafood and shellfish is renowned near and far. Some of the finest smoked salmon and mussels come from here and much of the cuisine reflects a Mediterranean style, inherited long ago from Spanish fishing boats visiting the local harbours. If you so much as try sizzling prawns, crab claws in garlic and olive oil, or a monkfish stew, you'll never want to go home.

So whether you are eating a simple bar food lunch, or a formal five course dinner, you will find the food in the South West is fresh, wholesome and flavoursome, and served in pleasant surroundings with flair and generosity. Look out for The Fuchsia Brand and other local food brands.

Also look out for Cork's coastal food trail brochure in the local tourist office which highlights the food of the area.

www.discoverireland.ie/southwest



FOOD FESTIVALS

Ballydehob Wine and Food Fair

Treat yourself to an extraordinary weekend of West Cork food and world-class German wines. www.ballydehobwineandfood.com

Dingle Food and Wine Festival

The Festival includes food trails, cookery demonstrations, seminars, special menus in restaurants and markets. www.dinglefood.com

Kinsale International Gourmet Festival

This is the oldest food festival in Ireland and was born out of an end of season party for staff and local suppliers. Ranging from seafood to steak houses and everything in between laid on by a myriad of local suppliers from oysters to spiced beef. www.kinsalerestaurants.com/autumn.php

Listowel Food Fair

Food lovers from around the country gather to enjoy this celebration of local food. www.listowelfoodfair.com

Midleton Food & Drink Festival

A celebration of local and international food with stalls, markets, demos, crafts and much more. www.midletonfoodfestival.ie

Mitchelstown Food Festival

Traditionally and affectionately known as 'the home of good food', the festival is a celebration of locally produced food. www.mitchelstownfoodfestival.com

Shandon Street Festival and Food Fair

A free family-fun event, held under the Bells of Shandon. Face painting, puppet & magic shows, street entertainment, live bands & good food. Email: marketing@cathedralcu.ie

Taste of West Cork Food Festival

A unique mix of food markets and demos, competitions, special dinners, banquets & food tastings. www.atasteofwestcork.com

Valentia Island King Scallop Festival

A three day event comprising of culinary delights starring the famous Valentia King Scallops. Telephone: 087 7934663; 087 2890536.



COOKERY SCHOOLS:

Enhance your South West holiday by learning a new skill or improving an old one - find out what our cookery schools have to offer the budding chef. Many are located in idyllic locations using the produce from their kitchen gardens to create dishes.

Roll up your sleeves, don the apron and while away a morning, afternoon or evening creating that perfect dish, whether it be baking Irish soda bread or sushi made simple.

Ballymaloe Cookery School Shanagarry, Co. Cork.

Tel: 021 4646785. www.cookingisfun.ie

The world renowned Ballymaloe Cookery School is situated in the picturesque East Cork countryside in the middle of a 100 acre organic farm, just two miles from Ballymaloe House.

The Good Things Cafe Cookery School Ahakista Road, Durrus, West Cork.

Tel: 027 61426. www.thegoodthingscafe.com

Small classes, fantastic ingredients, personal tuition, a great location and competitive prices – the cookery school that has it all.

Rory O'Connell Cookery School Snugboro, Ballybraher, Ballycotton,

Co Cork. Tel: 086 851 6917. www.rgoconnell.com

Chef and Teacher Rory O'Connell trained at Ballymaloe House with Myrtle Allen, the grand-dame of Irish country house cooking.

Island Cottage Cookery School Heir Island, Skibbereen, Co Cork.

Tel: 028 38102. www.islandcottage.com

Probably the smallest Cookery School in the world. Specializing in 2 Day Cookery Courses for two people.

Just Cooking Killahane, Firies, Killarney, Co. Kerry.

Tel: 066 9793660. www.justcooking.ie

This small cookery school caters for up to 10-12 people at a session, so classes are small and friendly.

Lettercollum Kitchen Project Lettercollum, Timoleague, Co. Cork.

Tel: 023 8846251. www.lettercollum.ie

A small team of chefs run a series of cooking classes in their garden and kitchen at Lettercollum.

FARMERS' MARKETS:

Farmers' Markets are a great opportunity to take in the atmosphere of cities, towns and villages in the South West. You can buy delicious local, organic and artisan foods, many of which you can snack on there and then making for an original lunch or brunch!

COUNTY CORK

Baltimore Farmers' Market Casey's Hotel Car Park.
Sunday (Easter to September) 11.30am – 3.30pm.

Clonakilty Farmers' Market Behind O'Donovan's Hotel.
Thursday & Friday: 10am – 2pm.

Cloyne Farmers' Market Chapel Street, Cloyne.
Friday: 10am – 3pm.

Cobh Farmers' Market Sea Front Promenade, Cobh.
Friday: 10am – 1pm.

Duhallow Farmers' Market Kanturk.
Thursday & Saturday: 10.30am – 1.30pm.

English Market Princes Street, Cork City.
Monday – Saturday: 9am – 5.30pm.

Kanturk Food Market: Behind Super Valu, Kanturk.
Thursday & Saturday: 10.30am – 1pm.

Kinsale Farmers' Market Short Quay, Kinsale.
Tuesday: 9am – 3pm.

Mahon Point Farmers' Market Mahon Point Shopping Centre.
Thursday: 10am – 3pm.

Macroon Farmers' Market The Square, Macroon.
Tuesday: 9am – 3pm.

Mallow Farmers' Market 4 Home Car Park, Mallow.
Friday: 10am – 2pm.

Midleton Farmers' Market Hospital Road, Midleton.
Saturday: 10am – 2pm.

Michelstown Farmers' Market Main Square, Michelstown.
Saturday: 9.30am – 1pm.

Skibbereen Farmers' Market Fairfield, off Bridge St., Skibbereen.
Saturday: 9.30am – 1.30pm.

Schull Market Pier Road Car Park, Schull.
Sunday (Easter-Christmas): 9.30am – 2pm.

COUNTY KERRY

Ardfert Farmers' Market Community Centre, Ardfert.

Sunday: 11am – 2pm.

Blennerville Farmers' Market Windmill Car Park.

Sunday: 11am – 3pm

Castlegregory Farmers' Market GAA Club, Castlegregory.

Sunday: 10am – 1pm.

Dingle Farmers' & Craft Market Holy Ground, Dingle.

Friday: (April – Sept.) 10am – 2pm.

Kenmare Farmers' Market Market Square, Kenmare.

Wednesday: 10 am – 4pm.

Killarney Farmers' Market: Gleneagle Hotel, Killarney.

Sunday: 12.30pm – 4.30pm.

Killorglin Farmers' Market CYMS Hall, Killorglin.

Friday: 11am – 1pm.

Listowel Farmers' Market The Square, Listowel.

Friday: 10am – 2pm.

Milltown Farmers' Market The Old Church.

Saturday: 10am – 2pm.

Sneem Farmers' Market Community Centre, Sneem.

Tuesday: 11am – 2pm.

Tralee Farmers' Market GAA Club, John Joe Sheehy Road.

Thursday: 1.30pm – 3pm.

Tralee Farmers' Market Market Square, Tralee.

Friday: 9am – 5pm.

For more information log on to www.bordbia.ie/aboutfood/farmersmarkets





Sporting Events

Sport is the heart beat of the South West, with sporting activities of all kinds played in every town, village and city throughout the region.

> **Gaelic Games** Pride of place at the top of any sporting list in this region are hurling and Gaelic football, both sports in which both the county teams of Cork and Kerry have dominated the national championships for many years.
www.gaa.ie

> **Horse Racing** Regular race meetings are held in Cork, Killarney, Tralee and Listowel, giving ample opportunity to experience the unmistakable sounds and sights of horses straining their way to the finishing line. www.hri.ie

> **Soccer** Soccer games are held across the South West region with teams competing in a range of different league competitions depending on their level of skill. Soccer is played in clubs across the region throughout the year.
www.fai.ie

> **Greyhound Racing** Greyhound racing is every bit as exciting and compelling as horse racing. Try Youghal, Tralee or Cork racetracks for a great evening's entertainment. www.igb.ie

> **Rugby** Rugby has always been greatly supported in the Munster region with many local heroes playing for regional and national teams. **The Heineken Kinsale Sevens** is the largest seven-a-side rugby competition in Europe.
www.irishrugby.ie

> **Sailing & Regattas** During the summer months the region is home to a number of maritime events such as the various regattas in the coastal towns as well as the Ocean to city race in Cork Harbour. In June the Sovereign's Cup attracts Yachts from all over Ireland as well the UK and further afield. The racing takes place in the waters off Kinsale.

For local fixtures and information, visit one of our Discover Ireland Centres or Tourist Offices (Please see the back cover of this Guide for contact details) or our website www.discoverireland.ie/southwest



Beaches in the South West Region

The South West Region with over 1000 kilometres of coastline has numerous beaches to choose from, these include 20 Blue Flag beaches.

The International Blue Flag programme is operated in Ireland by An Taisce with the support of the Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government and on behalf of the Foundation for Environmental Education. Each location meets a range of environmental and safety criteria which collectively represent a high level of environmental quality.



The Blue Flag is an international, voluntary eco-label for beaches and marinas and is awarded to beaches and marinas that meet a specific set of criteria: Environmental information & education, water quality, safety & services and environmental management.

AN GRADAM
COSTA GLAS



Green Coast Awards are awarded to beaches for their natural beauty, clean environment and water quality. These beaches may not have the necessary built infrastructure as to meet criteria set for Blue Flag status; however Green Coast Award beaches are exceptional places to visit and to enjoy our rich coastal heritage and diversity.



The following is a listing of Blue Flag Beaches in the Region:

County Cork

- Garrylucas, Ballinspittle
- Garretstown, Ballinspittle
- Garryvoe, Shanagarry
- Inchydoney
- The Warren, Rosscarbery
- Owenahincha, Rosscarbery
- Tragumna, Skibereen
- Barleycove, Crookhaven

County Kerry

- Derrynane, Caherdaniel
- Ballinskelligs
- White Strand, Caherciveen
- Kells, Caherciveen
- Rossbeigh
- Inch
- Ventry
- Fenit
- Banna, Ardfert
- Ballyheigue
- Ballybunion North
- Ballybunion South

The following is a listing of Green Coast Beaches:

County Cork

- Inch Strand
- Red Strand

For more information on the Blue Flag please contact:



An Taisce

An Taisce: Tel: 01 4002210, Email: blueflag@antaisce.org

Web: www.beachawards.ie



Places to Stay

Finding the right place to stay can make all the difference to your holiday. Whether you're looking for something cheap and cheerful in the city, a rural B&B where you can experience local life, your very own bolt-hole on the coast or a well-deserved break in a luxury hotel or spa, the West region has something for every budget and taste.

Hotels: Stately country houses, luxurious castles, intimate old-world inns and modern premises are all included in this category. Hotels are classified under the star classification five star, four star, three star, two star, one star to unclassified hotels. Each hotel has distinct character and range of facilities – for more information on hotel facilities, please contact the individual premises.

Guesthouses: Guesthouses vary from family houses, Georgian and Victorian residences to larger professionally serviced modern premises. Features include an informal atmosphere and personal attention. Restaurant facilities are available in some guesthouses. Guesthouses are classified under the star classification four star, three star, two star, one star to unclassified.

Self Catering: Self catering offers a homely base to explore the South West and is often the preferred option for groups and families. A variety of premises are available in urban and rural areas, ranging from modern bungalows, old converted houses, semi detached two storey houses to group schemes of purpose designed units.



Irish Home Bed and Breakfast: Irish Home B&B's can be a rural or urban experience and premises range from the modern bungalow or 'semi-detached' two-storey house to the larger period-style residence. B&B's are divided into the following categories: **Townhouses**, **Farmhouses** and **Country Houses**. The unique attraction of an Irish Home B&B is the opportunity to get closer to authentic Irish experiences and the opportunity to meet people in their own homes. There are four levels of classification ranging from Two stars to Five stars in the Bed & Breakfast sector. All Bed & Breakfast properties must attain the Two star minimum entry level requirements in order to be approved by Fáilte Ireland and therefore a minimum quality standard is assured in choosing an approved property. A progressively higher quality product and range of services and facilities is provided across all areas for the higher star ratings. There are also B&B operators who specialise in catering for guests with specific interests such as Outdoor Adventure, Farm Stays and Food Specialists. Some B&B's also provide evening meals.

Hostels: Hostels provide comfortable, affordable accommodation and cater for individuals, families and groups of all ages and nationalities. An Óige (Irish Youth Hostel Association) offers its members access to a range of discounts, including cheaper overnight stays and travel.

Caravan & Camping: Caravan and camping parks are categorised:

- Four star parks offer an extensive range of facilities and good management.
- Three star parks offer a good range of facilities and good management.
- Two star parks offer limited facilities and good management.
- One star parks offer the minimum facilities required for registration.

The majority are open from May to the end of September. Some are open throughout the year. www.discoverireland.ie/southwest for details and to book accommodation in the categories listed above.

Getting Here

It's never been easier to get to the South West. The region has two International Airports one in Cork City & one in Co. Kerry. The region also has a Ferry port, which is located at Ringaskiddy, south east of Cork City.



AIR

Cork International Airport

Tel: +353 21 431 3131

www.corkairport.com

Cork International Airport is situated:

- > 7.6 kms (4 miles) from Cork City
- > 795 kms (60 miles) from Killarney

Buses and taxis link the airport to Cork City Centre, and car rental is also available at the airport.

Kerry International Airport

Tel: +353 66 9764644

www.kerryairport.ie

Kerry International Airport is situated just outside of Farranfore, Co. Kerry:

- > 16 kms (10 miles) from Killarney
- > 16 kms (10 miles) from Tralee

Buses & taxis link the airport to Killarney, and car rental is also available at the airport.

Shannon International Airport

Tel: +353 61 712 000

www.shannonairport.com

Shannon International Airport is situated in Shannon, County Clare:

- > 134 kms (84 miles) from Killarney
- > 124 kms (77 miles) from Cork.

SEA

The Ferry port for the South West is situated at Ringaskiddy, Cork City:

- > 16 kms (10 miles) south east of Cork City

Tel: + 353 21 4551119

A number of Ferry Carriers link the South West with the UK and Mainland Europe. Direct connections servicing the region are as follows:

Brittany Ferries

www.brittany-ferries.ie

Tel: + 353 21 4277801

- > Roscoff, Brittany to Cork

Fastnet Line

www.fastnetline.com

Tel: +353 (0) 21 4378892

- > Swansea, Wales to Cork

In addition regular scheduled services are available via Rosslare & Dublin.

CAR HIRE

Most of the major car hire companies have desks at the airports, ferry terminals and large towns throughout the region. All drivers must have valid licences. It is advisable to book in advance, especially if you are travelling in high season or if you require an automatic car or child seats.

DRIVING

Drivers should note that they are obliged by Law to carry their driving licence at all times. When driving in the Republic of Ireland. Driving in Ireland is on the left hand side of the road. Safety belts must be worn at all times by front and back seat passengers. Motorcyclists and their passengers must wear safety helmets whilst driving.

The speed limit is 120kph on motorways, 100kph on national roads and 80kph on non-national roads. Brown signposts with white lettering provide information on visitor attractions.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Bus Éireann National Bus Company servicing all main towns and cities. A good network of bus services operate in the South West and information can be obtained from the Tourist Information Offices or by contacting the following: Tel: 01 836 6111. www.buseireann.ie

Iarnrod Éireann Irish Rail Network

Tel: 1850 366222,

Email: reservations@irishrail.ie

www.irishrail.ie

There are fast & efficient rail links to the South West region, see the rail network map on the opposite page.

TAXI SERVICES

There are many taxi companies offering services in the cities, towns and villages in the South West, contact details within Ireland is directory enquires 11811 or 11850.

LANGUAGE

Irish (Gaelic) and English are the official languages of the Republic of Ireland. Street and road signs are all bilingual. Gaeltacht is the name given to parts of Ireland where Irish (or Gaelic) can still be heard as an everyday community language.

IRISH RAIL NETWORK

- Main Station Terminal
- Regional Station
- InterCity Rail Network
- - - Translink Network
- *Passenger transfers only



Practical Information

BANKS

Banks are generally open from Monday to Friday from 10am – 4pm. Each bank has one later opening day per week. Bureau de Change facilities as well as ATM machines are available at most banks.

CLIMATE

Influenced by the Gulf Stream, Ireland has a mild climate. For regional forecasts, please consult www.met.ie

CREDIT CARDS

MasterCard, Visa and American Express credit cards are widely accepted in Ireland.

CURRENCY

The unit of currency in the Republic of Ireland is the Euro. One euro consists of 100 cents.

ELECTRICITY

The standard voltage in the Republic of Ireland is 220 volts. Plugs are 3-pin flat, therefore adapters are required for 2-pin appliances. En-suite bathroom shaving points normally have 110 and 240 volt outlets.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

In Ireland the general Emergency Telephone number is 999 or 112 – no coins required in telephone coin boxes. These numbers will alert the appropriate service – Fire, Gardaí (Police), Lifeboat, Coastal, Mountain and Cave Rescue Services.

MEDICAL & HEALTH TREATMENT

EU Citizens are entitled to free hospital treatment in a public ward and should obtain a European Health Insurance Card (which replaced the old E111 form) prior to departure. For further details see www.ehic.ie. Private medical insurance is advised for Visitors from non-EU countries.

Cork University Hospital

Tel: +353 (0)21 4922100

Bantry General Hospital

Tel: +353 (0)27 50133

Tralee General Hospital

Tel: +353 (0)66 7126222

INTERNET & EMAIL

Many libraries in the South West have internet facilities. Internet cafes that can be found across the region, including the following:

Internet Exchange

Washington St. Cork
Tel: +353 (0) 21 4254666

The Webworkhouse

8 Winthrop St. Cork
www.webworkhouse.com

Skibbereen Business Services

27A Main St., Skibbereen, Co. Cork
Tel: + 353 (0) 28 23287

Organico Café

Bantry, Co. Cork
Tel: + 353 (0) 27 51391

Leaders Internet Café

9, Beech Road, Killarney, Co. Kerry
Tel: +353 (0) 64 6639635

Ri Ra Internet Café

3, Plunkett St., Killarney, Co. Kerry
Tel: +353 (0) 64 6638729

The Old Forge Internet Café

Holy Ground, Dingle, Co. Kerry
Tel: + 353 (0) 66 9150523

Talknet

38, Bridge St., Tralee, Co. Kerry
Tel: + 353 (0) 66 7194766

LANGUAGE

Irish (Gaelic) and English are the official languages of the Republic of Ireland. Street and road signs are all bilingual. Gaeltacht is the name given to parts of Ireland where Irish (or Gaelic) can still be heard as an everyday community language.

POST

An Post is Ireland's national postal service provider. Generally, Post Offices are open from 9am to 5.30pm, Monday – Friday, and 9am – 1pm on Saturday. For more information visit www.anpost.ie

SHOPPING HOURS

Shops are generally open from 9am – 6pm, Monday – Saturday. Most large stores have a late-night shopping evening or two during the week. Some large stores are also open on Sundays, particularly in the larger towns.

TELEPHONE

Directory Enquiries:

call 11811/11850/11890.

International Enquiries: call 11818.

TIPPING

It is customary to add a gratuity of between 12 and 15 per cent to the bill in restaurants or hotels, when a service charge is not already included in your bill. Tipping is not usual in pubs, except when you are served at your table.

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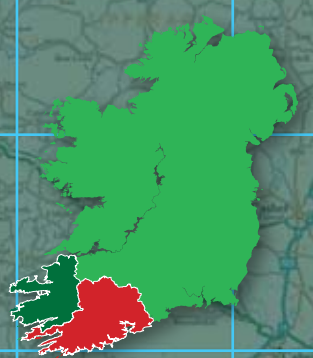
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south west ireland



SYMBOLS

- Tourist Information
- National Roads
- Secondary Roads
- Regional Roads
- Rivers
- Regional Borders

Ordnance Survey
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GET ADVICE

Information Eolas
Accommodation Ádóin
Trains Tais
Tickets Tíolt
Bookings Ábairt

Discover Ireland Centres

At your service to make your holiday even more enjoyable!



- > Local & National Information
- > Itinerary Planning
- > Guide Books, Brochures & Maps

Book your accommodation at any of our Discover Ireland Centres or on www.discoverireland.ie - we are here to serve you...

A full listing of all Abbeys, Cathedrals, Churches, Art Galleries, Open Farms, Genealogy Centres, High Crosses, Language Schools, Birds & Wildlife, Craft Studios & Workshops, Exhibitions & Museums, Field Monuments, Forest Parks, Historic Buildings, Leisure & Outdoor Pursuits, Greyhound & Horse Racing, Castles, Forts & Tower Houses are available in all of our Discover Ireland Centres.

www.discoverireland.ie/southwest

CORK CITY & COUNTY

Cork City Tourist Information Office

Aras Fáilte, Grand Parade, Cork City

T 021 4255100

F 021 4255199

E Corktio@failteireland.ie

www.discoverireland.ie/CorkTIO

Clonakilty Tourist Information Office

25 Ashe Street, Clonakilty, County Cork

T 023 8833226

E Clonakiltytio@failteireland.ie

www.discoverireland.ie/ClonakiltyTIO

Kinsale Tourist Information Office

Pier Road, Kinsale, County Cork

T 021 4772234

E Kinsaletio@failteireland.ie

www.discoverireland.ie/KinsaleTIO

Skibbereen Tourist Information Office

North Street, Skibbereen, County Cork

T 028 21766

E Skibbereentio@failteireland.ie

www.discoverireland.ie/SkibbereenTIO

COUNTY KERRY

Killarney Discover Ireland Centre

Beech Road, Killarney, County Kerry

T 064 6631633

F 064 6634506

E Killarneytio@failteireland.ie

www.discoverireland.ie/KillarneyTIO

Dingle Tourist Information Office

The Quay, Dingle, County Kerry

T 066 9151188

E Dingletio@failteireland.ie

www.discoverireland.ie/DingleTIO

Tralee Tourist Information Office

Ashe Memorial Hall, Denny Street, Tralee, County Kerry

T 066 7121288

E Traleetio@failteireland.ie

www.discoverireland.ie/TraleeTIO

HERITAGE CENTRE

Skellig Experience Centre

Valentia Island, Co. Kerry

T 066 9476306

E skelligexperience@failteireland.ie

www.skelligexperience.com