



BEARA

RING OF BEARA

AND THE BEARA PENINSULA



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The Ring of Beara is a scenic driving coastal route where visitors in the Beara peninsula can start their journey of discovery.

The finger like peninsula that projects into the Atlantic sea encompasses picturesque villages and towns, enchanting islands, unspoilt and unique scenery and historical antiquities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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ADRIGOLE HARBOUR

1 ADRIGOLE
Adrigole is the gateway to the Ring of Beara. The scenic mountain road between Adrigole and Lauragh is called the Healy Pass: cutting through the high Cahra Mountains, it rises 334 metres above sea level and passes between two of the highest peaks of the Cahra range. This is one of the finest mountain roads in Ireland and is named after Tim Healy, the first governor-General of the Irish Free State, who was born in nearby Bantry. At Trafrask is a plaque commemorating the five Sullivan brothers who were killed when the US Navy ship on which they were stationed was torpedoed; the brothers' grandparents came from the area.



CASTLETOWNBERE PORT

2 CASTLETOWNBERE
Castletownbere is the peninsula's principle town, and the largest fishing port in Ireland. The natural harbour of Berehaven is the second largest in the world; it provides safe anchorage for yachts and is ideal for all water sports, from sea angling to windsurfing. Just outside the town is Berehaven Golf Club. Fresh seafood is served in many restaurants all over the peninsula.



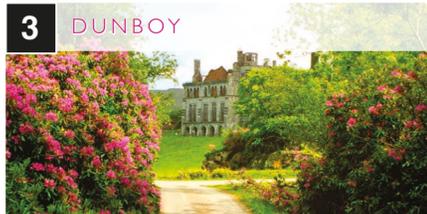
DERREEN GARDENS

9 TUOSIST/LAURAGH
Derreen Gardens, beside Kilmakillige Harbour in Lauragh, were planted 100 years ago by the fifth Lord Lansdowne. The woodland gardens contain many azaleas and rhododendrons. There is also a grove of New Zealand tree ferns. Cloonee Loughs are very popular for salmon and white trout fishing. Travelling to the top of the Healy Pass, which looks down on Glanmore Lake and woodland, one can see an area that has been compared to the Lake District of England.



BONANE VALLEY STONE CIRCLE

10 BONANE
Bonane Valley and Heritage Park is open to the public all year round. In the park you can see wedge tombs, standing stones, a stone circle, ringforts and fulachta fiadh.



DUNBOY

3 DUNBOY
The Puxley Mansion at Dunboy sits beside the remains of the older O'Sullivan Beare Castle, destroyed in a siege in 1602. The 19th century mansion was built in a bewildering mixture of styles, including French chateau and Italian villas. It was home to the Puxley family, local landlords until 1921, who made their fortune from the copper mines in Allihies. The castle was destroyed by fire in 1921 and lay in ruins for many years. The English novelist, Daphne du Maurier, based her novel Hungry Hill on the history of the Puxley family and the copper mines at Allihies. Dunboy Woods are open to the public, with picnic areas and scenic walks.



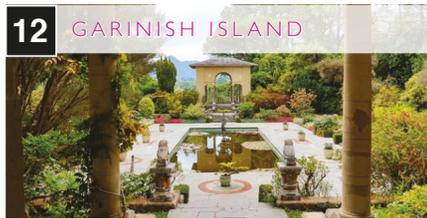
BERE ISLAND

4 BERE ISLAND
There are two regular ferries to Bere Island. Scattered throughout the island are numerous remains, including two intact six-inch guns at Lonehart Fort. These are remnants of the vast Victorian military fortifications which Britain built to protect its naval base in Berehaven Harbour and maintained up until 1938. On the Berehaven harbour side of the island a French Armada longboat landed in the 1796 invasion of Cuan Baoi, which is now called Bantry Bay.



GLENGARRIFF HARBOUR

11 GLENGARRIFF
The Blue Pool is a magical harbour hidden in this beautiful area of seaside woodland set in the heart of Glengarriff village. There are many trails and walkways through an idyllic forested area with views of the harbour that are well worth exploring. If you pass beyond the Blue Pool you reach an area referred to as the Point where there is a diving board and a beautiful sun trapped bathing area as well as a pontoon from which to swim off. Glengarriff Nature Reserve is an extensive old oak woodland nestled in a rugged glen. The woods were once part of the Bantry Estate but have been in State ownership since the 1950s. The woods encompass a range of walking trails, from a gentle riverside walk to steeper climbs with fantastic views from Lady Bantry's Lookout.



GARINISH ISLAND ITALIAN GARDEN

12 GARINISH ISLAND
Garinish Island has delightful grounds, a charming Italian garden and pool, a Miniature Temple and a Martello Tower, yet is only a short boat trip across the bay; a boat leaves every five or ten minutes. The island was a barren rock until early in the 20th century, when one Annan Bryce engaged the eminent architect and landscape artist Harold Peto to design the layout and plant it as a rare garden. Bryce House on Garinish Island has undergone an extensive refurbishment. The cottage, which was built to the north east of the walled garden in 1912, has been restored to its original Edwardian picturesque style. Further works have been

Lonehart Battery, built by the British to protect Berehaven in the First World War, is under refurbishment and has wheelchair access to parts of the site.



DURSEY ISLAND

5 DURSEY ISLAND
Dursey Island, further west, is linked to the mainland by cable car, the only one of its kind in the country. This area is remarkable for the variety of migrant birds that frequent it. There are two sandy beaches in the Garnish area. Lehanmore Community Centre on the road to Dursey is a stopping off point for information on Dursey and the Garnish area.



ALLIHIES

6 ALLIHIES
Allihies was once the site of extensive copper mines. Ballydonegan beach, below the village, was created by crushed stones from the mines. The chapel as you enter the village was built in 1845 for the Cornish miners and their families who came to the area, and the adjoining cemetery contains some Cornish memorials. Allihies is now home to many of the famous artists who live on the Beara Peninsula. Leaving Allihies by the Reentrisck road, there is rugged scenery. Dzogchen Beara is a Tibetan Buddhist Retreat centre which overlooks the Atlantic ocean with fantastic views of the Beara coastline.

undertaken to facilitate visitors by making the cottage universally accessible. Now that the restoration is complete visitors can enjoy the cottage along with the wonderful gardens and picturesque views overlooking Glengarriff Bay.

The house was the home of the Bryce family from 1910 until the death in 1953 of its last owner, Roland L'Estrange Bryce, who gifted the 37-acre island with its world-famous gardens to the Irish people. The Bryce House was retained for the use of the family until 1998, when the last occupant passed away.



KENMARE BAY

13 KENMARE
Kenmare is an example of one of Ireland's few planned towns. It was built by Sir William Petty, on the instructions of the first Marquis of Lansdowne. The limestone facades and ornate plasterwork of some of the buildings pay tribute to the craftsmen of a bygone age. Kenmare is known in Irish as Neidin (little nest), and was so called because of its fine setting, nestling as it does between the mountains of Cork and Kerry.

SAILING & WATERSPORTS

Beara is the perfect place for all kinds of sailing and watersports. The Wild Atlantic Wildlife Sailing Centre in Adrigole offers various courses by qualified instructors for all ages and abilities, as well as skippered cruises. The Sea Safari and angling trips can be arranged from Castletownbere, or you can rent kayaks and canoes to enjoy exploring the area by yourself.



EYERIES

7 EYERIES
The village of Eyeries overlooks the Atlantic. It has beautifully painted houses and a flower display on nearly every window. The French film Un Taxi Mauve/The Purple Taxi was shot here in 1976, as was the television series Falling for a Dancer in 1997. Eyeries is also the home of the international award-winning Milleens cheese. Shore angling is very popular along the Eyeries coastline, and boat angling is also available locally.



ARDGROOM STONE CIRCLE

8 ARDGROOM
Four miles east of Eyeries is the picturesque village of Ardgroom. This has two lakes, Glenbeg and Derryvegal, both of which provide good trout fishing. Beyond the village there is a perfect example of a stone circle.



ART, CRAFT & GALLERIES

The Beara Peninsula is home to numerous well-known artists. The untouched beauty and wildness of the landscape is without any doubt a source of inspiration for all their different styles; from paintings, prints, drawings, sculpture, pottery, ceramics and bronzes to hand-crafted jewellery, photography and textiles, there is something for all tastes and pockets. All can be purchased from the local galleries.

REFRESHING TASTES OF BEARA

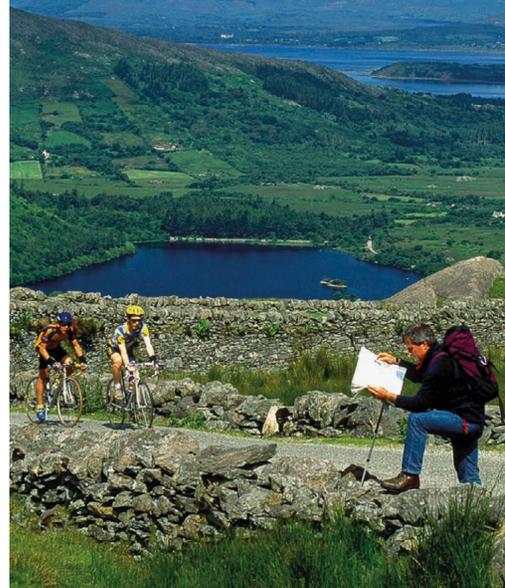
The fish landed daily in the harbours and coves along the peninsula enhance the fresh food served in local restaurants.



The aforementioned Milleens cheese, produced in Eyeries, is made from the milk of Friesian cows grazing the mountains and pastures of Beara, and is celebrated for its complex and delicate flavour. Milleens is the longest established Irish farmhouse cheese. Another delicacy produced locally by the Laughing Oyster Company is seaweed seasonings. The seasonings are sustainably harvested and dried, using a variety of Irish seaweeds gathered by traditional means from the pristine Irish waters of Bere Island. And if after long days sight-seeing you fancy some refreshment, the Beara Distillery produces Beara Ocean Gin, a hand crafted small batch gin infused with wild Atlantic sea water and Ventry Harbour Sugar Kelp. Hand-picked fuschia, the iconic flower of West Cork, is combined with traditional gin botanicals to create a well-balanced easy drinking gin. Atlantic Sea Salt is pure and natural gourmet sea salt flakes. The production process ensures that the Sea Salt is in its most natural and purest form.

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The Beara peninsula is home to a thriving community of fishermen, farmers, food producers and artists. Castletownbere, its largest town, is the busiest fishing port in the country, and the peninsula has become synonymous with its wonderful seafood, along with its award-winning cheese, sea salt and ocean gin.

Throughout the summer, the peninsula hosts a string of community and arts festivals, in Castletownbere, Allihies, Eyeries, Lehanmore, Glengarriff and Bere Island, and there are lively music sessions in the many public houses throughout the year. The villages of Beara are noted for their colourful houses and quirky character, and each boasts its own cafés and visitor facilities.

The peninsula is perfect for outdoor activities, with sign-posted routes on the Beara Way Walking Route, the Beara Way Cycling Route and Ireland's first ever horse trail, the Beara Bridle Way. As befits a maritime community, there are countless opportunities for fishing, sailing and watersports. And no visit to Beara is complete without a journey on Ireland's only cable-car, which connects Dursey Island to the mainland at the very tip of the peninsula.

Beara is rich in sites of historical interest, from the remains of Dunboy Castle, the ancestral home of the O'Sullivans Bere, to the museum and various buildings associated with the Allihies Mines, which flourished in the 19th century. There are a number of Napoleonic era signal towers, from Dursey Island to Blackball Head to Bere Island, where there are also two Martello towers and the remains of a British military garrison. Scattered throughout the peninsula are archaeological wonders, from ancient church sites to 1,000-year-old wedge tombs, stone circles, alignments and ogham stones.



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DRIVING



The **Ring of Beara** is a scenic driving coastal route that is a must for any visitor. The finger-like peninsula projects into the Atlantic Ocean, stretching from Glengarriff to Dursey Sound and back to Kenmare, encompassing picturesque villages and towns, enchanting islands, unspoilt and unique scenery and historical antiquities.



WALKING

Beara-Breifne Way Sli Bhéara-Breifne

The **Beara Breifne Way** follows the fourteen-day march taken by Dónal Cam O'Sullivan Beare and 1,000 of his supporters in 1603. The Way, the longest in Ireland, runs almost the length of the country. The project has been developed by Beara Tourism and over 60 community groups along the route. Walkers can get their walking passport book stamped in each town and village along the trail. Please check out Beara Tourism's website for further information.



The **Beara Way Walking Route** is a long-distance trail of 208km that winds its way through the peninsula. Using tracks, old roads and mountain paths, it takes in some of the most breathtaking scenery in Ireland. It has no official beginning or end, and one can walk sections by following the easily recognised marking posts or a map. It provides a delightful and easy way to discover and explore the peninsula. The Beara Way booklet and walking passport book is available to purchase.



If you have any suggestions or wish to donate for upgrading the Beara Way, please contact Beara Tourism - email: bearatours@eircom.net
For visitors that walk the Beara Way or visit Beara, please stay on the peninsula overnight and contribute to the Beara economy.

CYCLING



The **Beara Way Cycling Route** is a National Cycling Route and for most parts is on country roads. The route travels along the entire Beara Peninsula, passing through all the towns and villages along the way. The entire route is 138 kms. There is no start or finish so you can join the route in any town and village on the peninsula. The route is sign-posted with a logo and a bicycle symbol.

HORSE RIDING



The **Beara Bridle Way** is Ireland's first ever horse trail. The main trail hugs the flanks of the mountains, overlooking 17 kilometres of rugged scenery, stunning seascapes and dazzling island views. It includes some optional but highly recommended detours that climb to access even better vistas from elevated viewing points. The Bridle Way links Clonglaskin townland several kilometres west of Castletownbere with the colourful village of Allihies and the coastal townland of Urhan near picturesque Eyeries village. Despite the wildness of the scenery, the terrain has something for all experience levels and can be undertaken at any pace.



MAP KEY AND LEGEND

-  Ring of Beara Scenic Drive
-  Beara Way/ Beara-Breifne Way Walking Routes
-  Beara Way Cycling Route
-  Beara Bridle Way
-  Loop Walks
-  National Road
-  Regional Road

-  Wooded Area
-  Heights
-  750 metres
-  600 metres
-  450 metres
-  300 metres
-  180 metres
-  60 metres

-  Ferry
-  Mooring Buoy
-  Wreck
-  Marina Facilities
-  Sea Fishing
-  Inland Angling
-  Picnic Site
-  Scenic Views
-  Hostel
-  Gardens
-  Shopping
-  Golf Course
-  Tourist Info Point
-  Tourist Office
-  Caravan & Camping
-  Canoeing
-  Horse Riding
-  Swimming
-  Art Gallery
-  Chemist
-  Bamboo Park
-  Bar Food
-  Tea & Coffee
-  Accommodation
-  Restaurants
-  Banking
-  Parking
-  Post Office
-  Telephone
-  Petrol
-  Archaeological Sites
-  Beach
-  Sailing Centre

TOWNS, VILLAGES & ISLANDS

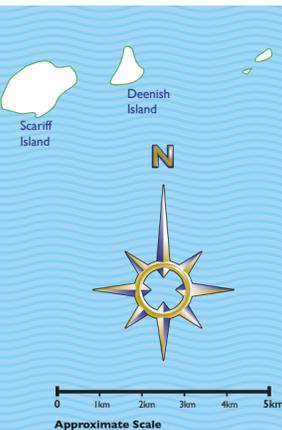
- Adrigole (1)
- Castletownbere (2)
- Cahermore
- Garnish
- Allihies (6)
- Urhan
- Eyeries (7)
- Ardgroom (8)
- Lauragh (9)
- Tuosist
- Kenmare (13)
- Bonane (10)
- Glengarriff (11)
- Trafask
- Bere Island (4)
- Dursey Island (5)
- Garinish Island (12)

PONY TREKKING

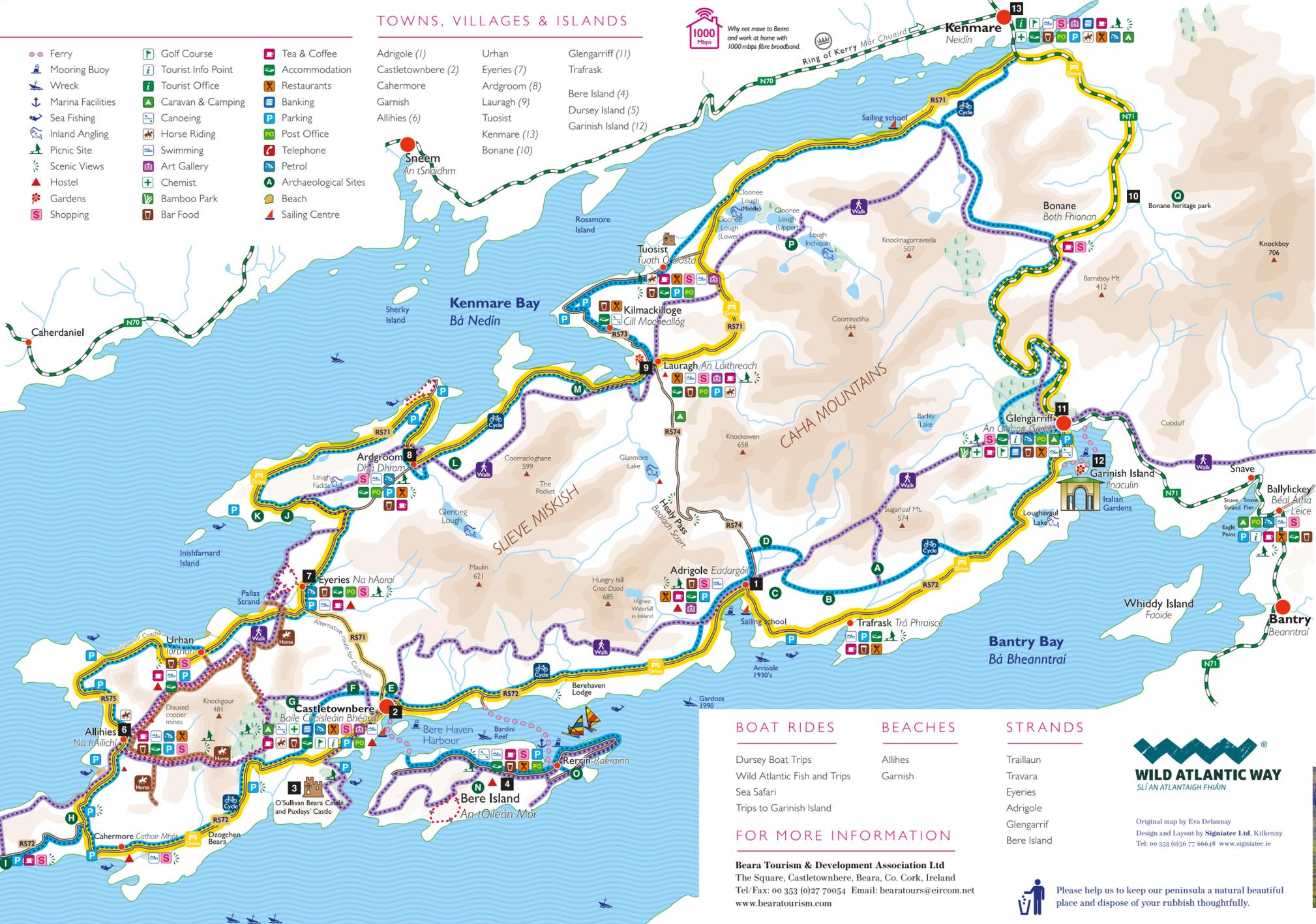
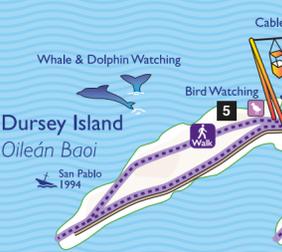
Lios Lara Riding Stables (Castletownbere)

DOG WALKING LOCATIONS

Glengarriff Woods
Dunboy Woods



This map is for reference purposes only and should not be used as a navigational aid.
As, historically, there is often more than one version of some placenames, spellings used on this map may differ from those found on O.S. maps, literature and even some road signs.



BIODIVERSITY OF BEARA

Beara is rich in biodiversity, with a wide range of habitats including islands, mountains, woodlands, bogs and lakes. Special to Beara are the Lusitanian species which only occur in south-west Ireland and northern Iberia. These include the distinctive black and white spotted Kerry Slug, Irish Spurge, the insectivorous Large-flowered Butterwort and St Patrick's Cabbage.



The bays contain some of the best populations of harbour seal in the country, with Glengarriff Harbour being a particularly good place for close encounters. Dolphins and whales are also frequently spotted from some of the peninsula's headlands. Other mammals found on Beara include red squirrels, pine marten and lesser horseshoe bats.

Seabirds such as diving gannets, fulmar and terns are a feature of the coast. Also look out for crows, with their curved red bills and red legs. A new addition to Beara is the White-tailed Sea Eagle. This species had been extinct for over 100 years but was reintroduced, and several pairs now breed in the area.

HISTORICAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES OF INTEREST

The Beara Peninsula has numerous sites of historical and archaeological interest. In fact Beara probably has more than any other area of comparable size in Ireland or Europe. These sites, some of which date from 2500BC, include single standing stones, stone circles, cairns, souterrains, megalithic tombs, burial grounds, forts, castles, signal towers etc.

- A** Ballynahowen Wedge Grave
- B** Leitrim Standing Stones
- C** Massmount Church
- D** Kilcaskin Church & Ogham Stone
- E** Clountreem Wedge Grave
- F** Derrcenataggart Stone Circle
- G** Teernahilane Ring Fort
- H** Killough Wedge Grave
- I** Lehanmore Ring Fort
- J** Hag of Beara
- K** Kilcatherine Church
- L** Ardgroom Stone Circle
- M** Cashelkeely Stone Circle
- N** Standing Stone
- O** Rerrin Wedge Grave
- P** Uragh Standing Stone & Stone Circle
- Q** Bonane Heritage Park

BOAT RIDES

- Dursey Boat Trips
- Wild Atlantic Fish and Trips
- Sea Safari
- Trips to Garinish Island

BEACHES

- Allihies
- Garnish

STRANDS

- Traillaun
- Travara
- Eyeries
- Adrigole
- Glengarriff
- Bere Island

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Please help us to keep our peninsula a natural beautiful place and dispose of your rubbish thoughtfully.



URAGH STANDING STONE