IRELAND – DINGLE PENINSULA INDEPENDENT CYCLING 2008

Ireland has a maze of blissfully quiet country lanes, each of which has a story to tell. There are tiny fishing villages, early Christian ruins, Ireland's highest mountains (don't worry you cycle around them!) and islands along the wild Atlantic coastline. Our cycling holidays cover the best Ireland has to offer on two wheels. We have chosen beautiful guesthouses with character in a variety of locations to give a true flavour of Ireland. We are only ever a local call away offering 24 hour emergency support throughout. These cycling tours are suitable for all ages and abilities – you do not have to be super fit. The average daily distance is an easy 25-30 miles (40-48 km) at your leisure, with longer routes available each day.

The Dingle peninsula is a spectacular landmass jutting out into the sea and is the most westerly point of Europe. The area is renowned for its rugged beauty and is a place rich in tradition. The Gaelic speaking area has more antiquities, historic sites and mountain scenery than any other part of Ireland. You will enjoy the lively town of Dingle with its many pubs, craft shops and restaurants.

Dingle Peninsula Self Guided Cycling: **$1195** per person (twin share). **$370** Single supplement
Departs: **Every Saturday, year round** (min 2 people) Starts & Ends in Killarney

Includes: *7 nights in Irish Tourist Board approved guesthouse with en-suite facilities, 7 Full Irish Breakfasts, Luggage transfers each day, 21 speed touring bike (2007 models), carrier, mud guards and pannier bag, Detailed notes and maps of the route, Return airport transfers from Kerry airport from May until September, (please see below), Telephone back-up and 24 hour emergency support throughout.* ***Note:*** *We recommend clients bring their own helmets & raingear for comfort/ hygiene purposes.*

Day 1 Arrival in Killarney Overnight in Killarney

Day 2 Killarney to Killorglin Total distance 42kms/26 miles.
Cycle through the wonderland of Killarney National Park with visits to Muckross Friary (15th C) and Muckross House (19th C). Continue onto Killorglin, home of Puck Fair where you overnight (1 night).

Day 3 Killorglin-Dingle Total distance 54kms/33 miles.
Go for a swim at Inch Beach and cycle onwards along the wild Atlantic coastline of Dingle Bay to the colourful fishing port of Dingle with it's 50 pubs, craft shops, restaurants and Fungi the Dolphin. Stay in Dingle for 3 nights.

Day 4 Dingle – Slea Head Circuit Distance 45km/28 miles
To-day's cycle takes you around the renowned Slea Head in Dunquin, "the nearest parish to America". Archaeological remains abound and there are spectacular views of the coast and the Blasket Islands. This is one of the few remaining areas where the Gaelic (Irish) language is spoken still in the home.

Day 5 Rest Day/Option cycles. Optional cycle or take a boat ride to see Fungi, Dingle's own dolphin, visit the Blasket Islands or simply enjoy the numerous craft shops, restaurants and pubs in Dingle.

Day 6 Dingle – Castlegregory Distance 24km/15 miles or 37km/23 miles
Today's cycle takes you over the highest road pass in Ireland, the Conor Pass and over the spine of the peninsula to reach the beaches of the Maharees Peninsula. Overnight in Castlegregory.

Day 7 Castlegregory-Killarney Distance 48kms/30 miles
Today's cycle is 48km/30miles, once more starting with a mountain pass, again over the spine of the peninsula along less-travelled backroads before lunch. The final leg takes us along the inner end of Dingle Bay and back to Killarney.

Day 8 Departure Day

Standard airport transfers (Min of 2 people -only available May – September).
Shannon to Kerry at 12.00 on Saturdays from the information point in the arrivals hall. Return transfer arrives at Shannon airport at 11.00 on Saturdays. There is a charge of ~AU$65 each way per person from Shannon to Kerry.
Kerry airport to accommodation, between 08.00 and 18.00 Hrs. Return transfer arrives at Kerry airport between 08.00 and 18.00 Hrs on Saturdays. Clients who cannot make these transfer times should make their own way to the accommodation. Arrangements can be made for taxi transfers, at the client's own expense.

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