

## IRELAND – THE DINGLE PENINSULA

8-day / 7-night **SELF-GUIDED** inn-to-inn coastal walks from Tralee to Annascaul



The Dingle Way is a fantastic scenic walk along Ireland's rugged west coast, the setting of many films, including *Ryan's Daughter* and *Far and Away*. The Dingle Way long distance hiking trail is 180 kilometres in total, around one of the most magnificently scenic regions of Ireland. Because of its remote location and lack of specialised agriculture, it is steeped in ancient Irish history and spectacularly shaped by the ravages of the Atlantic Ocean.

This 8-day (7-night) independent inn-to-inn walking holiday takes you on just over 100 kilometres of this long-distance trail from Tralee town as far west as land will take you to Dunquin before crossing through the heart of the peninsula to finish back in Annascaul. Walk to the fishing port of Dingle through one of the last strongholds of the Gaelic language, taking in spectacular mountain scenery and pristine Atlantic beaches, and soaking up the atmosphere surrounding archaeological sites, ancient ogham stones and ruined Stone Age and Iron Age forts.

The average walking time ranges from 5 to 7 hours per day, at a leisurely pace with opportunities to stop at places of interest along the way. The terrain is undulating on varied surfaces including rocky and grassy mountain paths, some boggy stretches, gravel roads, walking on quiet country roads. Good, well worn-in walking boots are essential. Your luggage is transferred for you, so all you need to carry is a small pack with the day's supplies. Start each day with a full cooked Irish breakfast and always strong hot tea, to fuel the day's walking.

**Departs:** Daily on demand 1 March to 31 October

**Cost from:** \$1725 per person twin-share. Single and Solo Traveller supplements are on request.

**Includes:** 7 nights' twin-share accommodation carefully selected lodging with ensuite bathrooms or private facilities; Irish breakfasts each day; transfers as per itinerary; luggage transfers; telephone welcome briefing; route notes; GPS navigation app; 24-hour emergency telephone assistance.

**Not included:** Other meals, drinks, personal expenses, travel to / from the start/end of the tour.

Getting to the Dingle Peninsula can be from Kerry, Dublin, Cork or Shannon Airports with bus and/or train connections available to Tralee all year round. Extra nights or rest days can be added at extra cost – ask when making your booking.

**Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations**



## Suggested itinerary:

### Day 1 Arrive in Tralee

Plan to arrive around mid-afternoon at your first hotel in Tralee, the administrative capital of County Kerry. Tralee is connected to many locations in Ireland, including Cork, Galway and Dublin.

### Day 2 Tralee to Camp

**walking @ 17km**

Begin your walk beside an old canal and take back country roads along the Dingle Way and Kerry Camino walking routes. Continue west through the foothills of the Slieve Mish Mountains before joining what was once an old road to Dingle. Pass an interesting 12<sup>th</sup> century oratory and continue to the village of Camp, where you stay overnight. This section is often wet with several small stream crossings so waterproof footwear is essential.

### Day 3 Camp to Annascaul

**walking @ 17km**

Continuing along the Dingle Way and Kerry Camino walking routes you pass a peat bog where many people still come to cut their winter fuel. Walk across the centre of the peninsula to reach the southern shores at the picturesque Inch Beach. There is time to enjoy the scenery, have a swim, or perhaps a "cuppa", before continuing inland to reach the pretty village of Annascaul, home of Tom Crean, the Antarctic explorer who accompanied both Shackleton & Scott on their adventures. Overnight in Annascaul.

### Day 4 Annascaul to Dingle

**walking @ 22km**

Continue along a medieval road, past the 16<sup>th</sup> century castle at Minard and nearby Holy Well, along narrow country lanes with views of the Iveragh peninsula and mountain ranges inland, past lonely beaches and green paddocks. You then join an old military road below the Connor Pass before ending your day in the fishing village of Dingle which is steeped in Irish culture and music and part of the *Gaeltacht*, where locals still speak the native (Gaelic) tongue as their primary language. You stay in Dingle for the next two nights.

### Day 5 Dingle to Dunquin

**walking @ 18km**

Take in the spectacular scenery as you walk via Ventry Beach and follow the Dingle Way along the slopes of Mount Eagle to Sleah Head. This stretch is famous for its concentration of archaeological sites, including a Neolithic fort and drystone 'beehive huts' or *clochan* of somewhat mysterious origin. There are also far-reaching views across the sea to the Blasket Islands. End the walk in Dunquin before a transfer back to Dingle.

### Day 6 Cuas to Cloghane

**walking @ 18km**

Transfer to Cuas to begin the walk along an old military road to the eastern side of the Brandon range, then down to Brandon Bay. This is an historic walk through a scenic, remote area only accessible on foot. Good visibility and navigating ability is required for this section. End with a night in Cloghane.

### Day 7 Cloghane to Annascaul

**walking @ 15km**

Cross the centre of the Dingle Peninsula from north to south, following a spectacular old farmer's track. Hike over a plateau, between mountains, passing a deserted famine village and descending to beautiful Annascaul Lake. From here, you continue on small 'boreens' to reach the village of Annascaul for your overnight stay.

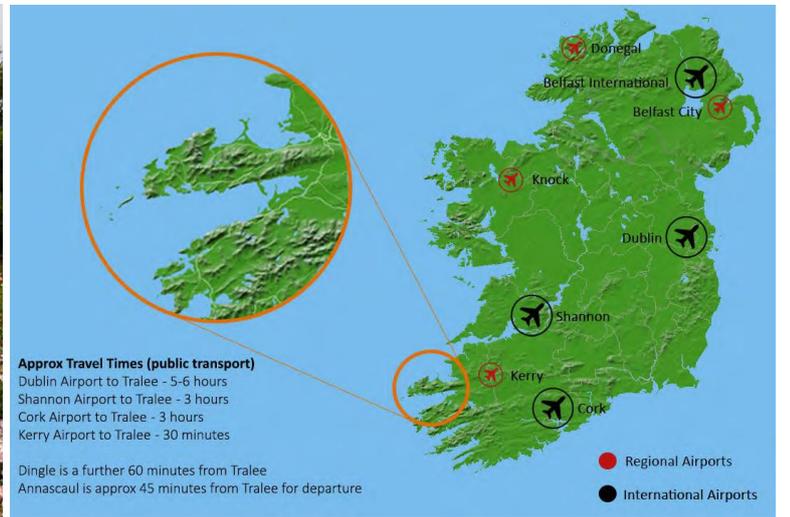
### Day 8 Depart from Annascaul

Tour ends after breakfast.

There is a bus service back to Tralee. Private transfers are available at extra cost; ask for details when booking.

## Contact Outdoor Travel direct for more details and reservations:

- Call Toll free 1800 331 582 or (03) 57551743 or Fax (03) 57501020
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