

# EUROPEAN WALKING HOLIDAYS 2022

### **IRELAND – THE RING OF KERRY & WILD ATLANTIC COAST**

8-day / 7-night or 11-day / 10-night SELF-GUIDED inn-to-inn walking from Killarney ALL YEAR ROUND



This walk along the Kerry Way is the ideal way to explore the Ring of Kerry on the spectacular and scenic wild West Coast of Ireland. Warmed by the Gulf Stream sea currents it is one of Ireland's premier and most popular walking routes and offers mild – if sometimes inclement – weather all year round. Starting in the bustling market town of Killarney, our walking routes offer an interesting and varied selection of vistas including national parks, lichen-clad woodland and waterfalls, valleys, rural farmland and the dramatic, rugged Atlantic coast.

Discover too Ireland's long and storied history. Explore the ruins of the 15<sup>th</sup> Century Muckross Abbey and visit the traditional farms at Muckross House where Irish farm life in the 1930s and 1940s is recreated. Spend time at the remnants of a mysterious Iron Age stone ring settlement, Staigue Fort. Walk along ancient coach roads in the footsteps of medieval drovers, and pass by ancient churches, old graveyards and abandoned cottages.

We offer a 7 or 10-night independent inn-to-inn itinerary where we take care of accommodation and luggage transfers – you carry just a small pack with the day's essentials. Self-guided holidays are perfect for exploring the iconic landscapes of Europe. Travelling on foot gives the freedom to see more of the countryside and offers an unforgettable active holiday experience. There is the flexibility to travel at your own pace, to stop and relax or explore, secure in the knowledge that your room awaits, your bags have gone ahead and the day is your own.

The walking is moderate, with an average walking time of five to seven hours per day, at a leisurely pace with time to stop in villages and places of interest. The terrain is undulating with lots of up and downhill walking on varied surfaces including rocky and grassy mountain paths, some boggy stretches, gravel roads, walking on quiet country roads. Both the shorter and longer walks are designed for regular walkers, with several days of 20-25km. Good, well worn-in walking boots are essential.

Duration:	8-day / 7-night	11-day / 10-night
Cost from:	\$1635 per person twin share.	\$2095 per person twin share.
Single supplement from: Solo Traveller supplement from:	\$475 per person \$835 per person	\$715 per person \$1220 per person

**Departs:** Daily on demand <u>all year-round</u> – starts & ends in Killarney

**Includes:** Twin share accommodation in Irish Tourist Board approved accommodation with ensuite bathrooms or private facilities, Irish breakfasts each day, luggage transfers, welcome briefing, full route information, itinerary notes and map, GPS App if required, 24 hour telephone assistance.

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

Extra nights 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 Arrival in Killarney

Plan to arrive at your first hotel by mid-afternoon. Killarney is a major tourism centre for County Kerry and has a number of excellent restaurants and traditional pubs, many featuring live music. There are regular rail services to Killarney from Cork and Dublin, or buses from many places in Ireland, including Cork, Galway or Dublin.

#### Day 2 Killarney to Kenmare

Walk through Killarney National Park passing the ruins of Muckross Friary, Muckross House and its gardens, beside Torc Waterfall and The Old Kenmare Road to the ancient oak woods beside Killarney's Upper Lake. Walk through Esknamucky Glen with the chance to sight Ireland's native red deer on the way to the heritage town of Kenmare for your overnight stay.

#### Day 3 Templenoe to Sneem

Transfer by taxi from Kenmare to the little village of Templenoe. From there follow the Kerry Way west. This walk takes you along the shores of Kenmare Bay, with views south to the Beara Peninsula and the Caha Mountains, to the little village of Sneem with its sheltered harbour and brightly painted houses, where you spend the night.

#### Day 4 Sneem to Caherdaniel

You walk from the village of Sneem, following an old 'butter road' to the little village of Caherdaniel which was once home of the famous "Liberator", Daniel O'Connell. The views across the Beara Peninsula and out to the Atlantic Ocean are impressive. At the end of the day transfer to Waterville for your overnight stay.

#### Day 5 Caherdaniel to Waterville

After a transfer back to the village of Caherdaniel, walk above and around the coast, enjoying the scenic coastal views out towards the Skellig Islands and Ballinskelligs Bay on the way to your overnight stay in Waterville.

#### Day 6 Waterville to Caherciveen

From Waterville, there is a short transfer to Mastergeehy the starting point of today's walk. From there walk along the Kerry Way in a easterly direction to the town of Caherciveen. The route crosses the tip of the peninsula with views north over the Dingle Peninsula and south to Kenmare Bay. Overnight is in Caherciveen.

#### Day 7 Caherciveen to Glenbeigh

From the town of Caherciveen along the northern shores of the Iveragh Peninsula to the little village of Glenbeigh. This section of the Kerry Way follows an old 17th Century "Stage Coach" route and gives spectacular views across to the Dingle Peninsula. You will pass through old deserted villages which were once busy centres of activity, trading with passengers on the old stage coaches. Overnight accommodation is in Glenbeigh.

#### Day 8 Depart Glenbeigh (on the 7 night tour)

Tour ends after breakfast in Glenbeigh.

There is a public bus service from Glenbeigh back to Killarney from where there are train & bus services. (the bus from Glenbeigh usually departs at 08:05am or 12.20pm and takes 50 minutes to reach Killarney - it does NOT operate on Sundays or Public Holidays).

If required, we can arrange a private transfer for you at additional cost. Extra nights of accommodation are also available on request. Ask for more details when making your walk booking.

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#### walking @ 17km

walking @ 20km

walking @ 20km

### walking @ 16km

#### walking @ 24km

#### walking @ 24km



#### For those taking the 11-day / 10-night tour, continue on....

#### Day 8 Glenbeigh to Glencar

walking @ 21km From Glenbeigh walk west around the slopes of Seefin Mountain to the 'Windy Gap' before descending into the picturesque Caragh valley, following the Caragh River to Blackstones Bridge. Continuing through forests, the Kerry Way takes you to the little village of Glencar. Overnight in Glencar.

#### Day 9 Glencar to Black Valley

From Glencar, the route follows the shores of Lough Acoose as you walk into the foothills of the MacGillicuddy Reeks. Walk an old 'droving' road which heads over a mountain saddle & down into the Bridia Valley. Then continue over a second mountain saddle to reach the Black Valley for your overnight stay.

#### Day 10 Black Valley to Killarney

The last leg of the Kerry Way heads away from the Black Valley along the shores of Killarney's Upper Lake and follows an old 'mass path' to Derrycunnihy Church. At this point you meet the first day's walking route, which you follow in reverse to finish back in Killarney for the final overnight stay.

#### Day 11 Depart Killarney

Tour ends after breakfast – Killarney bus and train stations provide several options for you to continue onwards.

Outdoor Travel offer other small group guided walking or cycling holidays in Ireland, including the Dingle Way and the Wicklow Way, and self-skippered or hotel barge boating holidays on the River Shannon. Other guided or self-guided walking holidays include the Camino de Santiago and Wainwright's Coast to Coast walk.



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

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## walking @ 18km

#### walking @ 21km



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