

## IRELAND – CELTIC KERRY

8-day / 7-nights – Ring of Kerry small group guided easy walking with traditional activities & sightseeing



**Departs Saturdays:** 14<sup>th</sup> April, 12<sup>th</sup> May, 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 7<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> July, 11<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> August, 15<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2012

**Price per person sharing:** April, May, June & September      \$ 1850  
July or August      \$ 1940

Accommodation is in twin-share rooms with a private bathroom. A single room is available - supplement \$340

**Highlights includes a host of traditional Irish activities & guided walks:**

- Based in Killarney a well-known, scenic, vibrant town in the heart of the Killarney National Park & in Caherciveen, a traditional market town.
- Visit to 19<sup>th</sup> century Muckross House, gardens, traditional farms and abbey
- Visit to Ross Castle (15<sup>th</sup> century) & scenic Rossbeigh Beach
- Boat trip through the three Lakes of Killarney
- Killarney National Park – lakes, oak woods, waterfalls, bogland, native Irish red deer
- Walk through Derrynane Beach and National Park
- Learn to play the Bodhrán (a traditional Irish drum) & Irish music and dance throughout
- An evening walk and magical musical evening in a prehistoric Ring Fort
- Discover the UNESCO world heritage listed Skellig Islands & also Valentia Island “The Treasure Island”
- Spectacular coastal and inland walks with a ‘sub-tropical’ & unique flora, folklore, archaeology
- Transfers to and from walks each day & experienced local guide throughout itinerary
- 7-nights in Irish Tourist Board approved hotel (4-nights) & guesthouse (3-nights)
- 7-full Irish breakfasts, 5 packed lunches & 6 dinners

**Suggested Itinerary:**

### Day 1 Arrival

Optional airport transfer from Shannon or Kerry airports (at extra cost) followed by dinner and welcome briefing with your tour guide at our guesthouse in Killarney.

### Day 2 Killarney National Park (Distance: 10km Ascent: None)

A gentle walk through Killarney National Park allows you to experience the stunning lake and mountain scenery as well as the historical aspect of the Park, with a visit of 19th century Muckross House, the gardens, the traditional farms - where guests walk back in time to a working 1930's farm – and 15<sup>th</sup> century Muckross Abbey. Off to a traditional Irish pub for a celebration of Irish Music!

### Day 3 Ring of Kerry, Torc Waterfall

A short morning walk through Killarney National Park to Torc Waterfall. Transfer along the Ring of Kerry route to the coastal village of Caherdaniel. Visit Derrynane national park & Irish political leader Daniel O’Connell’s beach house. Walk the ‘*mass path*’ with beautiful views of the beaches; visit a 12<sup>th</sup> century abbey on Abbey Island. Walk the blue flag Derrynane beach or a swim in the Atlantic Ocean with a picnic lunch on the beach.

**Contact Outdoor Travel for more itinerary details and reservations**

#### **Day 4 The Skellig Islands and a prehistoric Ring Fort**

Day: Distance: 1.6 km - Ascent: 180m      Evening Walk: Easy - Ascent: None

Today we take a boat trip to a unique and quite wonderful UNESCO World Heritage Site, the monastic island of Sceilg Mhichil (Great Skellig Island), habited in the 8th century by Irish monks. We pass the world's largest Gannet colony on Little Skellig Island, also home to puffins and a host of other sea birds.

After dinner, we invite you to a magical evening walk – walk in the stillness of late evening to a prehistoric Ring Fort. To those legends of Celtic battles and lost loves, we add one final extraordinary note – an Irish harp. Your walk will be recompensed with the magical sounds of an Irish harpist waiting for you in the stillness of the Ring Fort (weather permitting). Simply unforgettable...

#### **Day 5 Treasure Island, Irish Chocolates, Art and Music**

Distance: 5km - Ascent: 12m

Visit Valentia Island, rich in wild and marine life, with its standing stones, sub-tropical flora & also the location of the first transatlantic cable. Visit Knightstown & Valentia grotto in the Slate quarry. Discover the ancient Ogham standing stones dotted around the island.

In the afternoon, visit an Irish chocolate factory! Then learn to play the ancient Irish drum - the Bodhrán - in a friendly and informal session with our Master Bohdran player. After dinner in your guesthouse, back to the pub where we invite you to meet the locals, join in (or just clap along) to a traditional set dancing session – and maybe practice beating those Bodhráns!

#### **Day 6 Atlantic Beach walk, Sheep Dog Trials and Free time for you**

Transfer along the Ring to Kerry to Killarney where you will stay for your last two nights. See real live sheep dog trials in Kells en-route. Completely rejuvenate your spirit as you walk along the award winning blue flag beach of Rossbeigh. Enjoy a free afternoon discovering Killarneys craft, book & coffee shops, visit a spa or walk in the National Park, adjacent to the town.

#### **Day 7 Boat Trip through the Lakes of Killarney**

Departing from Ross Castle enjoy one of Ireland's best day trips on an open top boat through the three Lakes of Killarney. Finish your day by either taking a wonderful walk through the Gap Of Dunloe and an Irish coffee at Kate Kearney's Cottage. Non-walkers have the option of hopping on a horse drawn jaunting car (supplement of €20-30 per person). A farewell dinner where you can celebrate and reflect on the wonderful walks, sights, sound and tastes of Ireland you have experienced throughout the week.

#### **Day 8 Departure**

Tour ends after a hot cooked 'traditional' Irish breakfast. Check if the airport transfers to Kerry (closest airport) or Shannon airport suit your travel plans (please see below).

**Transfers:** These must be requested at time of booking - all transfers are at your own expense; please ask for a detailed quote. Clients who cannot make the following transfer times should make their own way to the accommodation (we can also arrange private taxi transfers from the airport at extra cost – ask for details):

**Shannon Airport to accommodation** - Arrival Transfer departs Shannon at 12.00pm on Saturdays from the information point in the arrivals hall. Return transfer arrives at Shannon airport at 11.00am on Saturdays. The standard transfer cost is ~\$75 one-way.

**Kerry airport to accommodation**, Return transfer to Kerry airport available between 07.00 and 6.00pm on Saturdays. The standard transfer cost is approximately \$30 one-way.

**Outdoor Travel** offer many other small group guided or self-guided walking or cycling holidays in Ireland – including Galway, County Mayo, Dingle and the Wicklow Way and boating holidays on the River Shannon. We also offer similar walking or cycling holidays in France, Italy, England, Scotland & most other areas of Europe – see our website or ask for details:

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

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