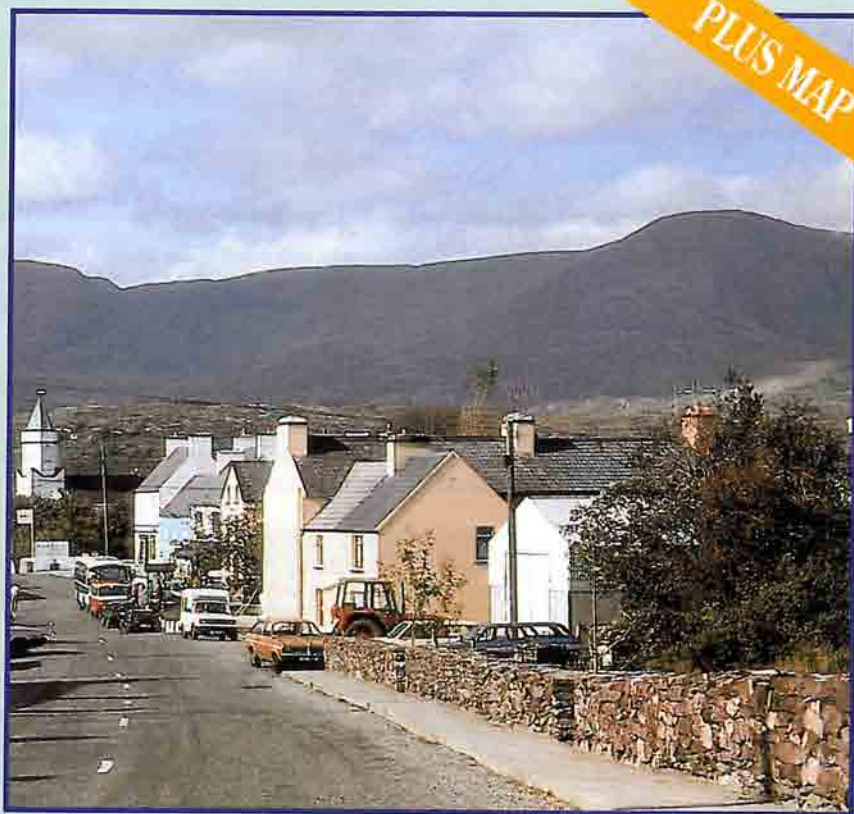


# THE RING OF KERRY — AREA GUIDE —

PLUS MAP



*The Town of Sneem, on  
the Ring of Kerry.*



**CORK KERRY TOURISM**

# RING OF KERRY AREA GUIDE

The Ring of Kerry area takes in that part of South Kerry which is enclosed by or adjacent to the famous Ring of Kerry. The Ring of Kerry affords a panoramic drive through some of Kerry's most outstanding scenery around the Iveragh peninsula. The Ring is a continuous delight, varying a hundred times in a hundred miles.

The Ring of Kerry route travels through Killorglin by the banks of the River Laune, Caragh Lake and on to Glenbeigh where one gets the first glimpse of the Atlantic at Rossbeigh. It then moves along the southern shores of Dingle Bay to Kells, and south to Cahersiveen where Valentia Island comes into view, where the Skellig Experience Centre is located and Ballinskelligs is not far away.

Onwards then to Waterville, and along the coast via the Coomakista Pass and Derrynane to Sneem. From there, driving along the northern shore of Kenmare Bay we come to Kenmare town. Our route next takes us to Killarney via Moll's Gap and Ladies View, with breathtaking views of the famous and spectacular Lakes of Killarney. You can of course join the Ring of Kerry at any point. The area covered by this Area Guide is one of spectacular natural beauty.



*The busy town of Kenmare.*

## **KILLORGLIN** (*Cill Orglan - Orgla's Church*)

A gateway to the beautiful Iveragh Peninsula situated on a hill overlooking the wide and graceful River Laune, a river offering salmon and trout angling. Dominating the landscape to the south are the MacGillycuddy's Reeks. This is a good holiday base for touring, and Killorglin is the location of the famous "Puck Fair" festival - Ireland's largest and the world's oldest business event (see under festivals and events).

## **Glencar**

High above Caragh Lake is the naturally beautiful district of Glencar. The rugged beauty of this district is greatly enhanced by the delightful forest at Lickeen. The upper Caragh River flowing through Glencar has always attracted the keenest of anglers, and is also a delight for the hill walker, mountain climber and nature lover.

## **Caragh Lake**

This is a paradise for the fisherman and the lover of fine scenery. The lake itself is 9km long and 1.5km wide, except at its southern end.

## **GLENBEIGH** (*Gleann Beithe - Valley of the Beech Trees*)

A popular holiday base nestled at the foot of a well wooded mountain and close to the head of Dingle Bay.



For a closer view of the magnificent amphitheatre of mountains known as the "Glenbeigh Horseshoe", one should follow the Glen of the River Behy up to the Tarn from which the river takes its origin. On the Killorglin Road prior to reaching Glenbeigh, the Bog Village Visitor Attraction is worth a visit.

## **ROSSBEIGH**

1.5km from the village of Glenbeigh is the magnificent 6.5km stretch of golden sand at Rossbeigh.

## **KELLS**

A small picturesque seaside area halfway between Glenbeigh and Cahersiveen (off N20). Travelling from mountain stage to Kells Post Office one has a panoramic view of Dingle Bay, the Blasket Islands and Kells Bay. You will pass the tunnels at Drung hill and the Gleensk Viaduct, a relic of the Great Southern and Western Railway Line, which ran from Cahersiveen to Farranfore Junction.

## **CAHERSIVEEN** (*Cathair Saidhbhin - Little Saidhbh's Stone Fort*)

Cahersiveen is the capital town of the Iveragh peninsula, situated at the head of Valentia Harbour on the Fertha River. The town is the main shopping centre for the western end of the Ring of Kerry and is an ideal location for exploring the rugged south west coast. It is also an ideal base for exploring the ancient and early Christian heritage of the area. A Heritage Centre has been developed in the old Barracks building in Bridge Street which gives the history of the town and the surrounding area. Cahersiveen has a new marina with 93 fully-serviced berths.

## **PORTMAGEE** (*Port Mhig Aoidh - Magee's Harbour*)

A picturesque fishing village at the south west tip of Valentia Harbour. It has a fine natural harbour and modern pier. From Portmagee a modern bridge now crosses the channel to connect Valentia Island with the mainland.

## **VALENTIA ISLAND** (*Beal Inse - The mouth of the Rivers*)

Valentia is an island of unique scenic beauty, tropical vegetation, breathtaking cliffs and magnificent seascapes. The island is an excellent centre for sea angling and diving in unpolluted waters. The bridge was built at Portmagee in 1970. The island, about 11 km long by 3 km wide is one of the most westerly points of Europe. The surface is bold and rocky, two prominent features being Geokaun Mountain 268 metres on the north and Bray Head 180 metres on the south, both are splendid vantage points for the sightseer. The Skellig Experience Centre is located here. This is where the story of the Skelligs is told. The themes include the monastic settlement, the lighthouse, the bird and underwater life.



*The Skellig Experience Visitor Centre,  
Valentia Island, Ring of Kerry.*

## **THE GLEN/BALLINSKELLIGS** (*Baile an Sceilig*)

This Irish speaking area with its miles of golden beach, lies on the attractive bay facing the larger resort of Waterville across the water. To the south west of the village is Bolus Head, overlooking Saint Finan's Bay and the Skelligs. The area has its own Irish College, where children come in summer to learn the Irish language. The roads circling the bay to Hog's Head are noted for their scenery.

## **THE SKELLIGS**

From this area on a clear day you will get a fine view of the Skellig Rocks - Skellig Michael and Little Skellig. The Little Skellig is a breeding ground for Gannets, which is of major importance. Skellig Michael has twin peaks rising to 220 metres and 200 metres out of the Atlantic. The remains of the early Christian settlement high up on a series of rock terraces is of special archaeological significance. The story of the Skelligs is told at the Skellig Experience Centre, which is located on Valentia Island.

## **WATERVILLE** (*An Coirean - The Little Whirlpool*)

Waterville nestles between Lough Currane and the Atlantic. This is a world famous game angling resort. The area has superb scenery, and there are many fine beaches in the vicinity. The artist, archaeologist, antiquarian, botanist and the general holiday maker will find numerous attractions to delight them. For the

sportsman, angling and shooting are available locally. Waterville is known worldwide for its 18 hole championship golf course.

### **CAHERDANIEL** (*Cathair Donail/Donal's Stone Fort*)

This pretty village stands on the shore of Derrynane Bay and is an excellent location for angling, swimming and diving. 1.5km west of Caherdaniel off the N70 is Derrynane House and National Park, once the home of Daniel O'Connell "The Liberator", who lived and worked there during his political life. The house, now excellently restored, contains a museum with period furnishings and personal relics. The park itself covers 131 hectares (320 acres).

### **CASTLECOVE** (*An Siopa Dubh - The Black Shop*)

This is a small resort with fine sandy beaches nearby, on a bay in the picturesque Kenmare River. Nearby are the imposing ruins of Staigue Fort, one of Ireland's finest archaeological remains.

### **SNEEM** (*An tSnaidhm - The Knot*)

Sneem village in its beautiful location is situated on the estuary of the Ardsheelaun River. The village derives its importance from the proximity to some fine mountain and river scenery, and is only a 24 km drive from a beach. The peace and quiet of the area makes it an ideal location for those who wish to get away from the hustle and bustle of city life and it is an ideal holiday centre. Sneem is also a previous winner of the Bord Fáilte (Irish Tourist Board) National Tidy Towns Competition.

### **PARKNASILLA** (*Pairc na Saileach - The Willow Field*)

Beautifully situated, the charming scenery of Parknasilla, with its combination of sea, wood and mountain, makes for a relaxing and peaceful holiday. It nestles between the sea, studded with islands and Knockanamadane Hill 273 metres, on the magnificent coastline of the Kenmare River. Because of the effects of the Gulf Stream and its sheltered situation, the area has a genial climate and subtropical plants and vegetation flourishes.

### **TAHILLA**

Tahilla a picturesque cove on an inlet of the Kenmare River. Along this coastal area are numerous islands, the largest being Rossdohan and Sherky with Garinish Island further along the Bay towards Sneem.

### **KENMARE** (*Neidin - The Little Nest*)

A Bord Fáilte Heritage Town, Kenmare is magnificently situated at the point where the River Roughy opens into the estuary of the Kenmare River. The town was founded in 1670 by Sir William Petty on land assigned to him by the English Government. Quite apart from the beauty of its own setting, Kenmare is also an ideal centre for exploring the beauties of the south west of Ireland. The Kenmare Heritage Centre, telling the story of Kenmare's heritage is located in the Square, Kenmare and forms part of the Tourist Office (Entry is free). This deals with many aspects of the history of Kenmare and also includes a Heritage Trail of the historic sites within walking distance of the town. (Kenmare was the National Tidy Towns winner in the year 2000).

### **KILLARNEY** (*Cill Áime - Church of the Sloe*)

One of Ireland's main tourist centres and scenic areas. Its scenery is unparalleled in Ireland - some say the world - and its attractions include the famous lakes, mountains, wide panoramas, monastic settlements, and the magnificent and unspoiled National Park. It is a haven for the sportsman offering angling, shooting, horseriding, pony trekking, golf, tennis, boating, mountaineering, walking, bicycling, etc. (See Killarney Area Guide).

## **SUGGESTED TOURS**

### **MOTORING/BUS AND COACH TOURS**

For the visitor holidaying in the Ring of Kerry Area there are numerous interesting leisurely day trips which can be undertaken by using your own transport or tour bus. Contact Killarney Tourist Office to book your bus tour.

### **SUGGESTED MOTORING TRIPS**

**Ring of Kerry** - To obtain a really panoramic view of Kerry's most outstanding scenery, this tour which can be started at any point, is a must. It extends for 179km (112 miles) and is usually done in an anti-clockwise direction. It follows the coastline of the Iveragh Peninsula along the banks of the River Laune, to Killorglin,



via Glenbeigh, along the southern shores of Dingle Bay to Kells and Cahersiveen where Valentia Island now comes into view. The tour continues to Waterville and along the coast via Coomakista Pass and Derrynane and on to Sneem. From Sneem the Ring of Kerry route travels to Kenmare and up the mountain road to Moll's Gap then via Ladies View to Killarney. An interesting detour on this trip is to turn off the main road after Cahersiveen and to visit the "Skellig Experience", on Valentia Island.

**Dingle Peninsula** - Now for a trip to the heart of the Gaeltacht, the Dingle Peninsula, the most northerly of the hilly promontories of County Kerry. Take the road to Dingle town along the southern shores of the Peninsula, via Milltown, Castlemaine, Inch and Annascaul. From Dingle continue via Slea Head, Dunquin, Ballyferrier and back into Dingle. You now take the northern route via the beautiful Conor Pass, to Stradbally, Camp and Tralee. The Western end of the peninsula offers magnificent coastal scenery. (see the Dingle Peninsula Area Guide).

**Loo Valley and Glengarriff** - Follow the main Cork road along the banks of the River Flesk, passing, on the way, Killaha Castle, stronghold of the Irish Chieftain "The O'Donoghue" of Glenflesk. Pass beneath the rugged cliffs of the Robbers Glen, through Loo Valley and on to Kilgarvan and then through the Borlin Valley to Glengarriff. Boats operate from Glengarriff from March to October to Garinish Island. 14.5 hectares (36 acres), laid out in Italian gardens with rare and beautiful subtropical plants. The return journey is over the mountains through the Healy Pass to Kenmare and via Moll's Gap and the Upper Lake and on to Killarney.

**Beara Peninsula** - The Beara Peninsula is shared by Cork and Kerry and this fine coastline has some of the most outstanding beauty spots of the South West. Follow the road to Kenmare via Moll's Gap, continue on to Tuosist, Lauragh, Ardgroom, Eyeries, Allihies and return along the southern shore of the Peninsula via Castletownbere, Adrigole, Glengarriff and back to Kenmare.

**The Scenic Skellig Ring** - Starting at the picturesque village of Portmagee, continue on to Valentia Island; from there back into Portmagee and on to the Glen and Ballinskelligs, where one can still hear the native Irish language spoken. (*Brochure available*).

## COACH TOURS

**There are Coach Tours daily from Killarney to:**

Ring of Kerry; Dingle Peninsula; Glengarriff and the Loo Valley; Cork and Blarney; Beara Peninsula; Killarney Local Circuit; Gap of Dunloe Tour; Bookings for all tours can be arranged at Killarney Tourist Information Office, Beech Road. Tel: (064) 31633. There are also daily coach tours from Kenmare.

## CYCLE TOURS

**The Ring of Kerry Cycle Route is a sign-posted route (136 miles/217km). Map of route available.**

### Tours from Kenmare

- (1) Kenmare - Templenoe - Parknasilla (28 miles/44km). Coastal scenery, Dromore Castle.
- (2) Kenmare - Kilgarvan - Headford (18 miles/28km). Flesk Valley, rock/cliff scenery.
- (3) Kenmare - Sheen Falls (4 miles/6km).
- (4) Kenmare - Clonee Lakes (16 miles/25km). Lake/coastal scenery.

### Tours from Cahersiveen

- (1) Cahersiveen - St. Finan's Bay - Ballinskelligs Bay (24 miles/38km).
- (2) Cahersiveen - Inny Bridge - Waterville (20 miles/32km). Waterville Lake.
- (3) Cahersiveen - Waterville - Derrynane (38 miles/60km). Coastal scenery.
- (4) Cahersiveen - Glenbeigh (34 miles/54km).
- (5) Killorglin - Caragh Lake - Glencar district (20 miles/32km). Mountain scenery.
- (6) Killorglin - Cromane - Dooks - Glenbeigh - Rossbeigh (24 miles/38km). Hill and coastal scenery.
- (7) Killorglin - Gap of Dunloe - Beaufort (26 miles/41km). Hill pasture land and mountain scenery.
- (8) Cahersiveen - Portmagee - Knightstown (Valentia Island) (35 miles/56km). Valentia Island, Valentia slate quarry.



*Rossbeigh, Ring of Kerry.*

### Tours from Killarney

- (1) Killarney - Muckross - Dinis - Torc Waterfall (15 miles/24km). Muckross House and Abbey. Meeting of the Waters, lake scenery/Torc waterfall.
- (2) Killarney - Aghadoe - Ross Castle (6 miles/10km).
- (3) Killarney - Gap of Dunloe (via Moll's Gap) - Ladies View - Torc Waterfall - Muckross Abbey (32 miles/51km). Kate Kearney's Cottage, scenic route.
- (4) Killarney - Ross Castle (via Western Demesne) (4 miles/6km).
- (5) Killarney - Killorglin - Glenbeigh (40 miles/64km). Coastal scenery.

# WALKS AND TRAILS

There are a number of scenic and interesting walks/trails throughout the Ring of Kerry.

**The Kerry Way** (Sli Uibh Rathach), Iveragh, is the Region's second low level long distance path. The first stage from Killarney National Park to Glenbeigh is approximately 60km. It is intended that the Kerry Way will provide a circuit of the Iveragh Peninsula, stretching from Killarney to Glenbeigh, to Mountain Stage, Foilmore, Mastergeehy, Glenmore, Coad, Catherdaniel, Sneem, Blackwater Bridge, Kenmare and back to Killarney. The route consists wherever possible of paths and green roads (unsurfaced) with some linking stretches along surfaced roads. Spur routes are being provided to Waterville and Cahersiveen.

In using old Droving Paths, Butter Roads and routes between early Christian Settlements, a walk along the Kerry Way is in effect a journey back in time through the ancient Baronies of Magunihy, Dunkerron north and south and Iveragh. As the Way is at slightly higher level than present day roads, it improves on what is already spectacular viewing.

## NATURE TRAILS

There are a number of signposted nature trails within the Killarney National Park, Killarney and also within Derrynane National Park, Derrynane, Caherdaniel.

**Killarney Tourist Trail** - This Tourist Trail is a signposted walking tour through the most interesting part of the town and it takes about two hours of leisurely walking to complete. The emphasis is very much on the historical aspect of the area and gives a valuable insight into the town as it is today.



*Walking on the Kerry Way.*



# PLACES OF INTEREST

## KILLORGLIN

**Castle Conway alias Killorglin Castle** - This ruined 12th century castle was an advance post of the Earl of Desmond.

**Dromavala Church** - On the east side of the river are the remains of Dromavala Church, originally dedicated to St. Lawrence after which the parish is called (Cill Lorgan).

**Folnagower Ring Fort** - which has a souterrain is situated nearby Dromavala Church.

**Blennerhassett Monument** - Opposite the Roman Catholic Church, this monument was erected to commemorate Townsend Blennerhassett, a member of the Kerry Militia, who was drowned on the 20th June, 1867, while attempting to rescue a colleague.

**Stone Bridge** - This eight arched stone bridge was erected in 1885, and the contractor was R.W. Johnstone.

**Railway Station** - The first train came to Killorglin over the metal bridge on the 15th January 1885, and this line was continued to Valentia and opened on the 12th September, 1893. One of the great features of the Southern and Western Railway was the viaduct over the River Laune known locally as the metal bridge which still stands today. The line was closed on the 30th January 1960.

**The Pipers Stone** - Situated on Courauree Hill, a great stone projects from the ground affording an ideal lookout post over the valley. This stone was associated with the great piper, Sean O'Duighin, and tales of fairy music (hence the name).

**Ballykissane Monument** - 1.6km (1 mile) from the town on



*Puck Fair at Killorglin.*

the Ballykissane road. This monument was erected to commemorate the death of the first three volunteers in the 1916 Easter Rising who were drowned when their car plunged into the sea, after taking a wrong turning while travelling to Valentia to take over radio equipment for the purposes of signalling a German arms ship and Sir Roger Casement.

**Mount Laune** (Cnocan Ard Dearg) - Ancient tales connect this high red hillock with the Fianna and Fionn Mac Cool. It is composed of red earth and the area all around has black soil which suggests that this hill was artificially constructed as does the regularity of its cone shaped form.

## GLENBEIGH

**Cool Naharragill** - Stone with concentric circles and other scribbings.

**Kerry Bog Village Museum** - a unique development including theme cottages, old Forge equipped with all utensils, a stone hen house, vegetable garden and a bog.

**Wynn's Folly** - Situated 1km from Glenbeigh on the road to Kells is the ruin of Wynn's Folly, a

castellated mansion built by Lord Wynn in 1867.

## GLENCAR

**Iron Smelting Works** - The ruins of an iron smelting works developed by Petty under the Cromwellian conquest can be seen today in the foothills of Glencar.

## ROSSBEIGH

**Stone Tower** - At the north end of Rossbeigh Strand is a stone tower built in the nineteenth century as a guide mark for ships entering Castlemaine Harbour.

## MOUNTAIN STAGE

**Drung Hill/Gleensk Viaduct** - A magnificent viaduct of fine stonework, a relic of the Great Southern and Western Railway line which ran from Cahersiveen to Farranfore, now disused.

## KELLS

A small exhibition is open to visitors at Caitin Baiters, which deals with local history - thatched Crannóg.

## CAHERSIVEEN

**Carhan House** - Approaching Cahersiveen one can see to the left, in the field, the ruins of Carhan House, where Daniel O'Connell, "The Liberator", was born in 1775. He went to school



in France and then to London to qualify as a very successful lawyer. He was perhaps the greatest of all Irishmen, a father of Irish democracy and he achieved the final civic freedom for Irish Catholics in 1829.

**"The Barracks", Cahersiveen Heritage Centre** - A unique building giving an insight into the life and times of Cahersiveen. The Barracks provides a focal point for tourism information and activity in the far west of the Iveragh Peninsula.

**Leacanabuaile Fort** - 5km (3 miles) north west of the town, off the N70. The interior of the fort is one of the best examples of its kind in Ireland. This is a round stone fort, the wall of which is about 10ft. thick and has been reconstructed to a height of about 4ft. Inside are three stone beehive houses, the square house in the middle is apparently of a later date. Note the souterrain, originally an escape area and a place of refuge and storage. There is also the remains of a rotatory quern for grinding corn.

Leacanabuaile is one of very few of these forts to have been excavated, it was in fact excavated in 1939/40. The objects found then include iron, bone, bronze, lead and stones. It is not possible to give an accurate closing date, but the items found suggest the 9th or 10th century.

**Ahacovra Holy Well** - At the foot of Knocknadubar is Ahacovra Holy Well, and pilgrim bath with stations of the cross.

**O'Connell Memorial Church** - In the main street this church was built to the memory of Daniel O'Connell "The Liberator" in 1888. Newry granite, with dressing of local black limestone was used in the construction. It is one of the few Catholic churches in the town dedicated to a lay man.

**Valentia Weather Observatory** - This complex is almost 1.5km (1 mile) west of the town, on the

main Waterville road. It is one of the most important weather stations on the western seaboard of Europe.

## PORTMAGEE

**Coomanaspig Pass** - 5km (5 miles) south of the village is Coomanaspig Pass, 335m (1000ft.), one of the very highest places in Ireland accessible by car. From here a spectacular view of mountain, harbour and peninsula ranging from Dingle to the Beara Peninsula, can be had.

## VALENTIA ISLAND

### Glanleam Sub-tropical Gardens

Situated on the north-east edge of Valentia Island is Glanleam House surrounded by its extensive sub-tropical gardens. Created over 150 years ago by the Knight of Kerry, these grounds are long famous for a unique collection of rare and tender southern hemisphere plants. Towering woodlands sweep down to the sea, overlooking the spectacular scenery of Valentia Harbour and the distant Kerry Mountains.

Broad walks weave through jungle-like plantings of South American palms, Australian tree ferns, bananas, giant groves of bamboo and rust coloured myrtles from Chile. Spring brings acres of bluebells beneath ancient Cypress and Japanese cedars. Tea rooms open daily, April - October.

**The Skellig Experience** - "The Skellig Experience" is an exciting new visitor project which opened

in April, 1992 on Valentia Island, Co. Kerry, 11.5 km (7 miles) off the Ring of Kerry route. (Turn off main road between Cahersiveen and Waterville). The site is located directly opposite the village of Portmagee. There are two aspects to the overall project: A Visitor Centre of approx. 460 sq. metres. This centre interprets in a lively and non-academic way - The life of the early Christian Irish monks on the Island monasteries off the west and south west coast of Ireland. The monastery of Skellig Michael - 13 km (8 miles) - off the Kerry coast is the highlight of this aspect of the Visitor Centre. The history of the Light houses and Light Keepers of Skellig Michael from 1820 to 1960. The sea birds of coastal south west Kerry, Little Skellig and Skellig Michael. The Plant life of Skellig Michael. Personal Sound Tour available in 5 languages. A 12-15 minute Audio Visual programme will bring the visitor on a personal guided tour of the monastery on Skellig Michael.

**Slate Quarry** - Now disused, this provided the roof for many famous buildings including the British Houses of Parliament. The abandoned quarry has been converted into a striking religious grotto, with an exceptionally beautiful view over Glenleam, Valentia Harbour, Dingle Bay and the Blasket Islands.

**Western Union Radio Station** - The first telegraph cable now



*The pretty town of Waterville, on the Ring of Kerry.*

superseded, across the Atlantic from the United States came to Valentia in 1858. The first commercial transatlantic message to be signalled was on the 28th July, 1868. The cable is no longer used and the station, which is near Knightstown was closed in 1966.

**Bray Head Tower** - The tower on Bray Head and Foilhomurum Cliffs, where the first Atlantic telegraph was made in 1866 is well worth a visit.

**Altazimuth** - Located at Knightstown, this instrument was used to determine the longitude of Valentia Island in 1862. The great European arc of longitude was measured from here to a point in the Ural mountains in Russia. Astronomical observations were made at both points, and the arc was measured by triangulation. This measurement helped to determine the exact size of the earth.

## THE GLEN

**Éisc an Alfrinn** - This is a Mass Rock located in Aghort townland, used in penal times.

**Killabuonia Oratory** - A most interesting early Christian site which pilgrims still visit. There is a Gallarus type Oratory with clochans, crosses, graves. To the west of the settlement is a well, dedicated to St. Buonia.

In Cloghanecanuig townland, **Dun Canuig Promontory Fort** is located.

## BALLINSKELLIGS

**McCarthy Castle and Abbey** - A little west of the village are the ruins of the ancient castle of the McCarthy's, and an ancient Abbey. The castle was built on the isthmus to defend the place from pirates.

**Kilreilig** - The ruins of this early Christian monastic settlement are located beside the road to Bolus Head. The remains include an Oratory, two inscribed stones

and traces of Beehive huts.

**Kildreelig Alignment** - An alignment of four standing stones which is the reputed burial place of the milesian leader Ernann, allegedly matching and in line with the alignment at Eightercua across the Bay, but it is not.

**Wedge Grave** - Situated at Coom, Ballinskelligs. This site was excavated many years ago.

**Killemlagh Church** - The Church was built on the site of St. Finan's original settlement. The old church here was a 12/13 century Irish romanesque structure; attached to it is a latter parish church. South of the church is the "Pagan's Grave", an unusual enclosure of standing stones, 18ft by 11ft. Killemlagh church has more recently been replaced by the little church of Glen.

## WATERVILLE

**Church Island** - Is located in the northern part of Lough Currane, and is the most easily reached from Tarmons (off the main Cahersiveen road). On the Island are the ruins of an Oratory of St. Finan, dated from the 6th century. Circular outside and quadrangular inside, the Church has a primitive doorway on the north side. Near the Island's landing place are the remains of a 12th century church, in the Hiberno-Romanesque style, dedicated to St. Finan. There are several interesting inscribed slabs in the adjoining graveyard.

**Submerged Castle** - Near the southern shore of Lough Currane, this can be seen from the road leading to Tooreens during periods of low water level, and is a result of a rise in the level in the lake.

**Standing Stones** - A fine example is to be found a short distance outside Waterville on the Kenmare Road.

**Basicon Dolmen** - 2km (1.25 miles) south of Waterville, off the Kenmare road. Legend has it that

this marks the grave of Fial, daughter of Milesius, prehistoric invader of Ireland.

**Beenbane Fort and Beehive Huts** - On the western shore of Lough Currane. This is a fine fort, shaped like a horseshoe which opens on to Lough Currane. To the right of the path, before reaching the fort, there are beehive huts which have walls 2 metres in width.

**Coomakista Viewing Point** - From Waterville to Caherdaniel the road rises and crosses the Pass of Coomakista, 215 metres (700ft) above the sea, affording spectacular views.

**Eightercua Stone Alignment (Waterville)** - As you leave Waterville (Kenmare Road) on the skyline to the left, is an alignment of four stones - Ast Eightercua, the reputed burial place of Scene, wife of one of the eight leaders of the Milesians in the last, and greatest of the legendary invasions of Ireland.

## CAHERDANIEL

**Derrynane House and National Park** - 1.5km (1 mile) from Caherdaniel on the Derrynane road. The house was the home of the Great 'Liberator' Daniel O'Connell, who lived here during his political life. The park is open all year round as an O'Connell museum. It has been restored and contains an interesting collection of The Liberator's personal possessions and the furnishings that were there at the time. The park itself covers an area of some 130 hectares (320 acres) and includes some exceptional coastal scenery, a nature trail and over 1.5km (1 mile) of shoreline.

**Derrynane Ogham Stone** - This ancient artifact was taken from below the water line of the nearby coast and erected in its present position 1.2km from Castlecove on the Derrynane Road.



## CASTLECOVE

**Staigue Fort** - 4km (2.5 miles) from Castlecove on an unclassified road off the main Kenmare road. This is probably the finest example of a stone fort in Ireland and is about 2500 years old. It is built of stone common to this district and is almost circular, 27 metres in diameter. The wall almost 4 metres (13ft) thick at the base and 2 metres (7ft) thick at the top. The north side is still perfect with some of the old coping stones, 90cm (3ft) long, still in position. The wall is 5.5 metres (18ft) high on the north and west sides. It has a square-headed doorway and inside are two small chambers. One on the west side and the other on the north. The stairways, which are probably the most interesting feature of the fort, run inside the wall almost to the full height of the wall, and these stairs lead to narrow platforms on which the fort's defenders stood.

**SNEEM** (Winner, Irish Tourist Board National Tidy Towns Competition in 1987).

**St. Michael's Church R.C.** - Built in 1865, this church contains the grave of Father Michael Walshe, parish priest of Sneem from 1828 to 1866, who was the original Father O'Flynn of the celebrated song.

**Church of the Transfiguration C. of I.** - This church was built in 1810 and displays a salmon as a weather cock above its tower-like exterior.

**Sneem Cemetery** - Burial place of one of the former Presidents of Ireland - Cearbhaill O'Dálaigh.

**Cearbhaill O'Dálaigh Memorial** - A national monument erected in 1983, in memory of Cearbhaill O'Dálaigh, former President of Ireland. This monument is situated in the South Square.

**The Peaceful Panda** - White Marble Panda, situated on a rock in a small walled enclosure at the corner of the Quay Road, erected in 1986. A small symbol of the friendship and understanding between the people of Ireland and China, which our former President, Cearbhaill O'Dálaigh

encouraged and helped to promote.

**Metal Tree** - Arbor Chalybeia Immaculata - A stainless steel tree sculpture, presented by President Herzog of Israel on the 19th June, 1985, at the North Square. A tribute from the President of Israel to the memory of a former President of State.

**Sculpture Park** - A Sculpture Park beside St. Michael's R. C. Church, known locally as the "pyramids", inspired by the beehive huts of Skellig and the Stone Fort at Staigue Fort, Co. Kerry.

## TAHILLA

**Dromore scenic car park** - Between Blackwater Bridge and Templenoe, this car park is on the main Kenmare Road.

## KENMARE

**Lace Making** - This is a notable industry in Kenmare. Point lace and many other varieties produced here have been world famous for many years.

**Dunkerron Castle** - 3km (2 miles) west of the town, on the Sneem Road. The castle (1596) standing on a huge rock was for centuries a stronghold of the O'Sullivans.

**Early Christian Church** - 1.5km (1 mile) from the town on the Sheen Falls road. This ruin associated with St. Finan, is at Kenmare old church, now Kenmare cemetery.

**Holy Well** - 1.2km from the town, off the main Killarney Road. Our Lady's Well and shrine at Gortamullen is still much visited; the waters from the well are reputed to have healing powers.

**Druid's Circle** - 1.2km south west of the town, off Market Street. This circle which is a very interesting relic of prehistoric times, consists of 15 standing stones forming a ring about 15 metres (49ft) in diameter. In the centre stands a large dolmen.

**Cromwell's Bridge** - 1.2km from the town, off the main Killarney road. An interesting bridge, just outside the town, not as the name suggests, connected with Cromwell, but with a once

flourishing Franciscan Friary which it linked with the mainland across the Finnihiy River.

**Reenagross Park** - 1km on Kenmare/Glengarriff road, landscaped, woodland walks planned throughout the park.

**Kenmare Heritage Centre (The Story of Kenmare) and Heritage Trail** - Kenmare was designated a Heritage town by Bord Fáilte (The Irish Tourist Board) under the theme a "Planned Estate Town".

It is located in the heart of Kenmare town, with an entrance via Kenmare Tourist Office.

Themes covered include lace making, famous visitors to Kenmare, the nun of Kenmare, the history of Kenmare. Personal sound tours are available in three languages (English, French and German).

The Kenmare Lace and Design Centre is located above the Heritage Centre. Here lace can be purchased and lace making is demonstrated.

A Heritage Trail which includes many of the historic sites in the town is available - all within walking distance of the Centre.

## THINGS TO DO

### ADVENTURE CENTRES

**Cappanalea Outdoor Education Centre** - situated 11km (7 miles) south west of Killorglin with Caragh Lake directly to the north, provides courses in all areas of outdoor educational pursuits. These include activities ranging from field trips, in history and geography and science subjects to the more physically demanding activities like rock climbing, canoeing, hill walking, camping, orienteering, abseiling, angling, surfing and sailing. The centre also welcomes day visitors.

### Angling

Game, sea and shore angling is available in a number of centres throughout the Ring of Kerry. (See Angling section of this guide for more detailed information).



## **Beaches**

The Ring of Kerry is dotted with many glorious beaches and coves; among them are; Rossbeigh, Kells, Waterville, Derrynane, Caherdaniel and Ballinskelligs.

## **Cycling**

An excellent way to explore and enjoy the splendour of the many beauty spots of the Ring of Kerry. Bicycles are available for hire. Information on cycle rental outlets and prices available from Tourist Information Offices.

## **Equestrian**

Available at Killarney and Kenmare.

## **Golf**

The Ring of Kerry has excellent golf facilities in Killarney, Killorglin, Waterville, Dooks, Parknasilla, and Kenmare.

## **Canoeing**

Canoeing available at Cappanalea.

## **Gaelic Football and Hurling**

There are matches on most Sunday afternoons (further information from local newspapers).

## **Mountaineering**

There are numerous mountains throughout the Ring of Kerry which are suitable for climbing and hill walking. Before going on the mountains, in the interest of safety, please tell someone nearby of your intended route, and estimated time of return, not forgetting to report in on your return. It is essential that you have proper clothing and footwear, and an adequate supply of food for the trip which you have in mind.

## **Painting**

This area is internationally renowned for its scenic beauty and is indeed an artist's paradise.

## **Leisure Centres**

A number of hotels now open

their facilities (swimming pools, gymnasiums) to the public. Please contact Killarney Tourist Office for details.

## **Walks**

The Ring of Kerry has many beautiful walking routes to attract the visitor with its many well laid out signposted trails, namely, The Kerry Way and trails within the Killarney and Derrynane National Parks. For more detailed information refer to walks/trails section of this guide.

## **Bus and Coach Tours**

Tours of the Ring of Kerry available from Killarney daily throughout the year (subject to

demand). Bookings can be arranged at the Tourist Information Office, Beech Road, Killarney. Tel: (064) 31633.

## **Sub Aqua**

Available at Valentia, Derrynane and Caherdaniel.

## **Archaeology**

For the Archaeologist, there is a great concentration and wealth of archaeological remains to be found throughout the Ring of Kerry.

## **Ornithology**

The Ring of Kerry is an area of compelling interest for the ornithologist.

# **FESTIVALS & EVENTS**

## **MARCH**

**St. Patrick's Day Parades.**  
**Torc Bridge Congress, Killarney.**

## **APRIL**

**Olde Machinery Rally, Killarney (Easter).**  
**Kenmare Walking Festival.**

## **MAY**

**International Rally of the Lakes, Killarney.**  
**Kenmare Walking Festival.**  
**South of Ireland Open Bridge Congress.**  
**Killarney Racing Festival.**

## **JUNE**

**Irish Amateur Close Golf Championship, Killarney.**  
**Killarney Summerfest.**

## **JULY**

**Killarney Summerfest.**  
**Killarney Racing Festival.**  
**Threshing Festival, Muckcross, Killarney.**

## **AUGUST**

**Puck Fair, Killorglin.**  
**Welcome Home Week, Sneem.**  
**Cahersiveen Celtic Music Festival.**  
**Chamber Music Retreats.**

## **SEPTEMBER**

**Crossroad Dancing, Muckcross, Killarney.**  
**Threshing Festival, Muckcross, Killarney.**

## **DECEMBER**

**Historic Stages Car Rally, Killarney.**

**For further information on festivals and events - refer to Bord Fáilte's Calendar of events, or visit our website: [www.corkkerry.ie](http://www.corkkerry.ie).**

# SEA, SHORE & GAME ANGLING

## SEA/SHORE ANGLING

### (1) **Ballykissane Pier, Killorglin**

Bass (bottom fishing and spinning), flounder both sides of the estuary. Best period - first hour of flood to an hour after high water and also late ebb.

### (2) **Rossbeigh Creek**

Bass (spinning at gap in old causeway, late ebb and early flood). Bass, flounder (bottom fishing) on seaward side of causeway. Lugworm.

### (3) **Glenbeigh**

Bass, flatfish (surf fishing) on beach and at point. Occasional tope and ray.

### (4) **Kells**

Rock fishing for pollack, wrasse and dogfish.

### (5) **Coonanna Harbour**

Fishing off pier - flatfish, conger.

### (6) **Cooncrome Harbour**

Rock fishing on western side - pollack, wrasse and mackerel.

### (7) **Lough Kay**

Beach fishing. Flatfish, occasional ray.

### (8) **Valentia Island**

Ray, conger, mullet.

### (9) **Reenard Point**

Flatfish, mackerel, off pier. Bass at outflow from Fish Plant (bottom and float fishing).

### (10) **Culoo**

Rock fishing - pollack, mackerel.

### (11) **Portmagee**

Dogfish, small pollack off bridge. Conger and mullet in harbour.

### (12) **St. Finan's Bay**

Bass flatfish (surf fishing). Pollack, mackerel, wrasse (rock fishing).

### (13) **Ballinskelligs Bay/Waterville**

Bass, flatfish (surf fishing).

### (14) **Hog's Head**

Pollack, mackerel, wrasse (rock fishing).

### (15) **Derrynane**

Bass, flatfish, (surf fishing).

### (16) **Lamb's Head**

Pollack, mackerel, wrasse, conger, dogfish (spinning and bottom fishing).

### (17) **Caherdaniel**

Small pollack, mackerel, wrasse (rock fishing).

### (18) **Gleesk (Sneem)**

Pollack, wrasse, conger, ray.

### (19) **Oyster Bed Pier (Sneem)**

Conger, ray, mullet.

### (20) **Tahilla Cove**

Ray (bottom fishing).

### (4) **Lough Acoose**

Brown trout.

### (5) **Cloon Lake**

Occasional Salmon (autumn), sea trout.

### (6) **Behy System**

Sea trout after summer floods. Occasional salmon, small brown trout.

### (7) **Coomasaharn Lake**

Small brown trout.

### (8) **R. Inny**

Salmon (July - August); sea trout (April onwards); brown trout. Permits from hotels.

### (9) **L. Currane**

Salmon (February - September); sea trout, brown trout free. Waterville River - Salmon.

### (10) **L. Coppal or Isknagshiny**

Some grilse, sea trout.

### (11) **Cummeragh River**

Salmon (March - September); sea trout.

### (12) **Lakes Cloonaglin and Derriana**

Sea trout. Blackwater - Salmon (summer); sea trout.

### (13) **Lough Fadda**

The Long lake (Sneem) - Rainbow Trout - Fishery Board.

### (14) **River Roughty (Kenmare)**

Salmon and Sea Trout. Permits required.

### (15) **Barfinnihy Lake**

Brown Trout - Fishery Board.

### (16) **Lough Nakirka**

Brown Trout - Fishery Board.

## GAME ANGLING

### (1) **River Laune**

Salmon (March - September), brown trout. Preserved. (Tickets from angling associations, angling tackle shops and Office of Public Works).

### (2) **Caragh Lake**

Salmon (Spring and Autumn), sea trout.

### (3) **Caragh River**

Lower: Salmon (January - April); sea trout (April onwards). Upper: Salmon (January - August); sea trout.

**For further information concerning angling, permits, etc., please contact South Western Regional Fisheries Board at Macroom, Co. Cork. Tel: (026) 41221.**



# ENTERTAINMENT

Entertainment throughout the Ring of Kerry area is varied and offers something for everybody. The range available is quite large and even the most discerning visitor will find something of interest. We list (below) briefly, what is available. Further information is available from the Killarney Tourist Office (open all year) and Kenmare Tourist Office (seasonal), or any Tourist Information Office in the Region.

## Cabaret

There are a number of premises providing excellent cabarets throughout the season. Many top class artists perform in these cabarets.

## Cinema

There are a number of centres with cinemas throughout the Ring of Kerry. For further details of films on show see local newspaper for details.

## Dancing

Available in a number of centres during the season.

## Discoteques

There are a number of well equipped discoteques on the Ring of Kerry.

## Singing Pubs

There are many bars and hotel lounges which provide excellent entertainment. These range from smaller, more intimate type pubs to larger entertainment lounges. The types of music range from traditional Irish entertainment to country and western and popular music. The atmosphere is friendly, the entertainment often spontaneous. (Please also see



*Parknasilla, where because of the genial climate, subtropical plants and vegetation flourish.*

**Recommended Tourist Pubs Guide**, a Cork Kerry Tourism publication).

## Drama

Occasionally throughout the year.

## ACCOMMODATION

There is a wide range of Visitor Accommodation throughout the area covered by this Area Guide. This includes Hotels and Guest Houses, Town Homes, Country Homes and Farmhouses, Self-Catering, Caravan and Camping Parks and Hostels. Our Tourist Information Offices will be happy to make your reservations for you. During the main visitor season advance bookings are recommended.

## AUXILIARY SERVICES

### Kerry Airport

This airport is located just outside Farranfore on the Castleisland Road. Domestic and British routes are presently served.



**CORK KERRY TOURISM**

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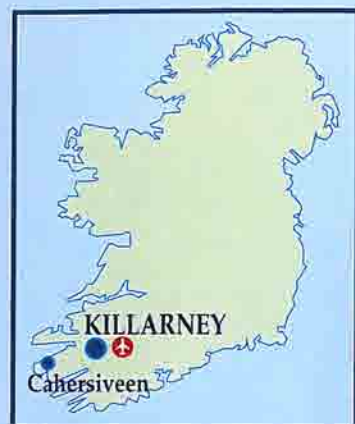
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# IRELAND'S Ring of Kerry

DINGLE BAY

It is suggested that the  
Ring of Kerry is travelled  
in an anti-clockwise direction.



ATLANTIC  
OCEAN





# THE RING OF KERRY — AREA GUIDE —

## TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICE SERVICES

To get the most out of your holiday in South Kerry, call to one of our network of Tourist Offices.

### **Killarney Tourist Office (All Year)**

Beech Road, Killarney, Co. Kerry.  
Tel: (064) 31633 Fax: (064) 34506

### **Cahersiveen Tourist Office (Seasonal)**

The Barracks, Cahersiveen, Co. Kerry.  
Tel: (066) 9472589

### **Dingle Tourist Office (All Year)**

The Quay, Dingle, Co. Kerry.  
Tel: (066) 9151188/9151241

### **Kenmare Tourist Office (Seasonal)**

The Square, Kenmare, Co. Kerry.  
Tel: (064) 41233

### **Waterville Tourist Office (Seasonal)**

Tel: (066) 9474646

*We also maintain a network of Tourist  
Information Points throughout South Kerry.*

*When you visit Cork, please also avail of our offices in Cork City and Skibbereen.*

### **CORK (All Year)**

Áras Fáilte, Grand Parade, Cork.  
Tel: (021) 4255100 • Fax: (021) 4255199

### **SKIBBEREEN (All Year)**

Oifig Fáilte, Town Hall, Skibbereen, Co. Cork.  
Tel: (028) 21766 • Fax: (028) 21353

## PUBLICATIONS

- Guest Accommodation Guide
- Self Catering Guide
- Kerry Guide
- Dingle Way Walking Map
- Kerry Way Walking Map
- Dingle Area Guide
- Killarney Area Guide
- Ring of Kerry Area Guide
- Major Visitor Attractions Guide to Cork/Kerry
- Pubs/Restaurants Guide
- Time Tables
- Posters
- Postcards and much more.

## SERVICES

- Bureau de Change
- Accommodation Reservations
- Car hire reservations
- Cabin cruiser reservations
- Booking service for coach tours, boat tours, horse riding and banquets.
- Local information on entertainment, things to do, places of interest and day trips from Killarney.

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