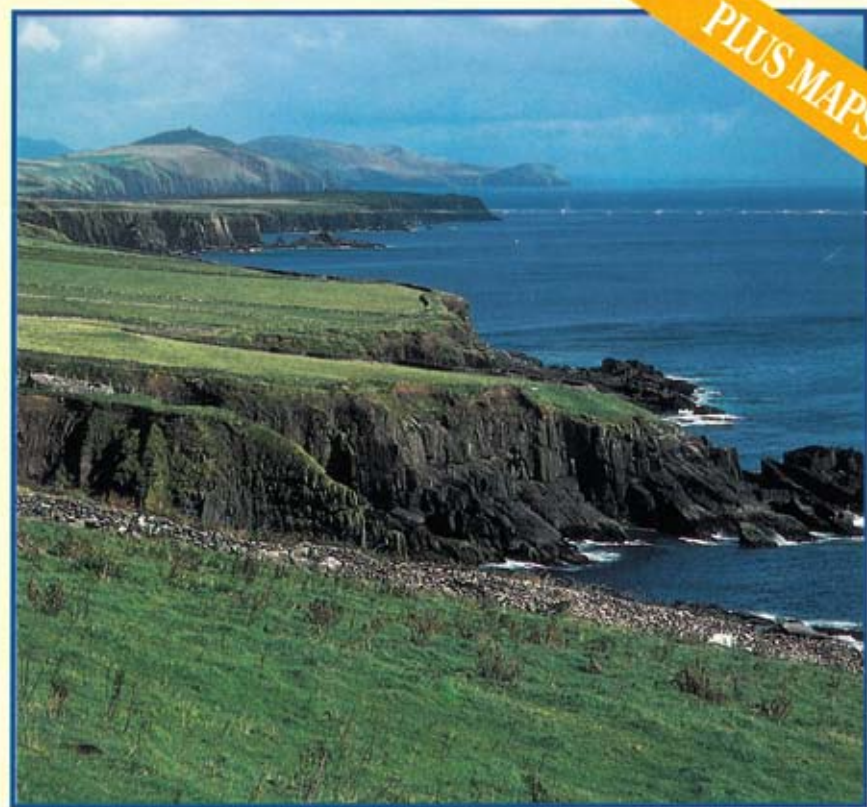


# DINGLE PENINSULA

## — AREA GUIDE —

# CORCA DHUIBHNE



*The Dingle Peninsula.*



**CORK KERRY TOURISM**

# DINGLE PENINSULA CORCA DHUIBHNE

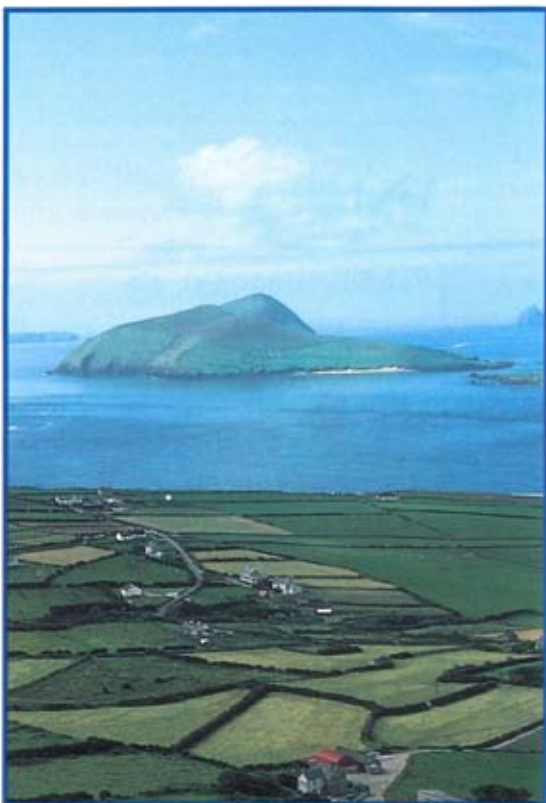
## THE GAELTACHT

The Gaeltacht is a name given to several areas of Ireland, some large and some small, where Irish is the spoken language and where, by co-ordinated effort, Ireland's social, cultural and linguistic traditions are zealously safeguarded and eagerly promoted.

Ireland was an Irish-speaking nation in the 16th century, but, with the establishment of the English system of land tenure, an English-speaking upper class emerged. Eventually, in many cases, the Irish turned to the English language to improve their socio-economic position. The survival of the language emerged as an integral facet of State policy in 1921, and in 1925 the Gaeltacht Commission was appointed to study conditions in Irish-speaking areas. It was clear then that the survival of the language depended on the survival of the Gaeltacht. Although Irish is the spoken language, most of the Gaeltacht communities are bilingual, English being the second language.

The West Kerry Gaeltacht is an area covering the part of the Dingle Peninsula known as Corca Dhuibhne. There the language is still spoken daily. During the summer season students participate in Irish language schools in that area. Whilst there is no residential college, students are taught in local schools and are kept in private homes. *Roinn na Gaeltachta* issue a list of houses which

cater for these students. Information on courses and Irish language activities may also be got from *Comharchumann Forbartha Chorca Dhuibhne* which is based at Baile an Fheirtéaraigh, Tel. Ballyferrier 066-56100. The area also produced well-known literary figures such as Peig Sayers, Tomás Ó Criomhthain and M. Ó Súilleabháin.



*Blasket Islands from Mount Eagle on the Dingle Peninsula.*

# THE DINGLE PENINSULA

The Dingle Peninsula, stretching for some 48km (thirty miles) westward from Tralee, is the most northerly of the hilly promontories of County Kerry. Within its small compass it has more interesting antiquities, historic sites, and varied mountain scenery than any other part of Ireland. A *Fíor-Gaeltacht* - Irish speaking district, it attracts every year large numbers of people wishing to learn the language. Like the language, folk customs, crafts and lore are still very much alive in the Dingle Peninsula. These features, added to the conventional holiday attractions, make the area of more than ordinary interest.



*Currach being brought ashore, Dingle Peninsula.*

## CASTLEMAINE

*Caisleán na Mainge* - The castle of the River Maing. Three miles further on from Milltown on the main Tralee Road in the Village of Castlemaine. It is here that the famous Australian outlaw 'The Wild Colonial Boy' was born. Standing just beyond the head of Castlemaine Harbour the village is pleasantly situated against the background of the Slieve Mish mountains to the north-west. The silting up of the River Maing has robbed the town of its sea-borne trade, which at one time was extensive.

## INCH

Inch (*An Inse*) - the holm - lies near the base of the Inch Peninsula. Dingle Bay sweeps in affording bathing and presenting a beautiful picture of blue waters with softly tinted mountains on either side. Inch is a particularly convenient centre for motor and cycling tours. The fine strand is backed by sandhills of archaeological interest.

## ANNASCAUL

From Inch the main road to Dingle can be rejoined at Lougher and thence to Annascaul, or the coast road can be followed westward from Inch, via Red Cliff, to reach Annascaul after a journey of 8km (5 miles). The mountains here will tempt many to make a long stay, and for the walker there is a particularly good route via Annascaul Lake over the hills of the Beenoskee group to Stradbally and Castlegregory. This is the birthplace of Jerome Connor, the famous sculptor and Tom Crean, the Antarctic explorer.

## DAINGEAN (DINGLE)

Dingle, the most westerly town in Europe is the chief town of the peninsula and an excellent centre for the visitor. Lying partly at the foot of a steep slope on the north side of Dingle Harbour, it is bounded on three sides by hills which, towards the north, culminate to Mount Brandon (950 m/3,127 ft). Through the progressive town, it still retains much of its old-world atmosphere. North of Dingle town is the mighty rampart of Brandon and on its western side lies a coastal plain, studded with typical Irish hamlets and villages. This western end of the peninsula offers magnificent coastal scenery. The new Dingle Sea Life Centre - *Mara Beo Teo*, displays the sealife of the peninsula and further afield.

## VENTRY

The scene in which the ancient romantic tale 'Cath Fionntrágha' (Battle of Ventry Strand) is laid. The tale, as told in a 15th century manuscript, now in the Bodleian Library, Oxford, is obviously intended for recitation, with its vivid descriptions and long rows of alliterative adjectives. It describes how Daire Donn, King of the World, and his vassal monarchs landed at Ventry in an attempt to invade Ireland, and how they were defeated on the beachhead by the Fianna under Fionn Mac Cumhaill. Many topographical features are introduced into this tale, and it is thought that the writer must have been a native of the area.

## SLEA HEAD

Viewing points at Sleah Head afford an excellent view of the Blasket Islands.

## DÚN CHAOIN (DUNQUIN)

Dunquin is a small village situated in the Gaeltacht area west of Dingle. Clogher Head lies to the north and Dunmore Head to the south. Dunmore Head is the most westerly point on the mainland. Dunquin is overlooked by Mount Eagle (516m/1,659ft) which rises to the north of Sleah Head.

## BAILE AN FHEIRTÉARAIGH (BALLYFERRITER)

Ballyferriter lies in the extreme westerly quarter of the Dingle Peninsula, near Smerwick Harbour and amid fine scenery. An Irish language school is held here during the summer months. Some places of interest: Ferriter's Cove; Ferriter's Castle - (3km/2 miles) - north west of Ballyferriter village are the remains of this castle.

Dún an Óir - North of Ballyferriter is the broad inlet of Smerwick Harbour, where on a rock promontory is the old fortress of Dún an Óir, (Fort del Oro/The Golden Fort). The infamous massacre of Smerwick Harbour took place here in 1580, when over six hundred Spanish, Italian and Irish soldiers, after three days siege, surrendered only to be butchered by Lord Grey's troops.

**Riasc** - near Ballyferriter is the Riasc stone and the recently excavated early monastic site.

## BAILE NA NGALL (BALLYDAVID)

A quiet fishing village on the shores of Smerwick Harbour with views of Mount Brandon to the east and the Three Sisters and Dún an Óir to the west. The village retains much of its traditional character and is within easy reach of Gallarus Oratory and Cill Mhaelcéadair, two of the best known archaeological sites in the area.

Radio na Gaeltachta, the Irish language station is situated just outside the village on Bothar na Léinsi.



Dingle Harbour.

## AN BOTHAR BUÍ (CARRAIG)

Between Ballydavid and Feothanach the striking Teach Siamsa building is located on the edge of the village and is a centre of cultural activity at all times of the year.

## FEOTHANACH (FEOHANAGH)

Under the shadow of Mount Brandon, the surrounding countryside is ideal for the hillwalker. The coastline in the vicinity is of much geological interest and nearby is Brandon Creek from which St. Brendan is reputed to have set sail on his voyage of discovery and which Tim Severin used as his starting point when he retraced St. Brendan's route in 1976. Nearby the area's traditional fishing boats, known as Naomhógs or Currachs are still made in the traditional manner.

## CONOR PASS

The visitor returns to Dingle town and takes the northern drive over the Conor Pass towards Castlegregory and Tralee.

## **CLOGHANE AND BRANDON**

Cloghane is situated at the south-western extremity of Brandon Bay, below the eastern slopes of the lofty Brandon Mountains. It is an excellent base for climbing the Brandon peaks and ridge. The village has a fine beach about 400m (1/4 ml) long.

Brandon, 5km (3 miles) north of Cloghane, is a small coastal village. From here the magnificent coastal scenery between Brandon Point and Brandon Head may be conveniently explored. This area has won the 'Beatha' Environmental Quality Mark. This is an EU recognised quality mark for areas being managed in a sustainable way.

## **CASTLEGREGORY**

Castlegregory is situated at the base of the long sandy peninsula which separates Brandon and Tralee bays. Beyond the northern tip of the peninsula are the Magharee Islands. West of the town is Lough Gill. To the south is an imposing rampart of mountains, the central group of the Dingle peninsula, culminating in Beenoskee (825m/2,713 ft). The village takes its name from the 16th century chief known as Gregory Hoare. The surrounding country has much to interest and attract the visitor.

## **GLEANN TÍ AN EASAIGH (GLENTEENASSIG) FOREST PARK**

Hidden away in the mountain side is the beautiful Forest Park of Gleann Tí an Easaigh, with its streams and little lakes.

## **CAMP**

A golden sandy beach on Tralee Bay, at the seaward end of Glen Fas. A stone promontory fort on the mountain slopes at the height of 625 m (2,050 ft) and is the highest fortification on the western fringe of Europe. Apart from the archaeological interest the fort is well worth a visit for the magnificent, extensive view of the Dingle peninsula. In the Irish legends the fort is known as Cathair Chonroi.

## **BLENNERVILLE**

Near Tralee, it is known as the gateway to the Dingle peninsula. From here in famine times many people left for America on the emigrant ships that sailed from the pier adjacent to the windmill. There is now a steam train running between Blennerville and Tralee.

# WALKS AND TRAILS

## SLÍ CHORCA DHUIBHNE/DINGLE WAY WALKING ROUTE

Sli Chorca Dhuibhne/Dingle Way Walking Route encompasses the whole Dingle Peninsula. This route stretches from Tralee right around the peninsula and returns to Tralee. Other walks include the Pilgrims Route.



*Dingle Coastline.*

# DAY TRIPS FROM DINGLE

## RING OF KERRY

From Dingle via Annascaul/Castlemaine/Milltown/Killorglin/Glenbeigh/Cahersiveen/Waterville/Sneem/Kenmare/Killarney and return to Dingle.

To obtain a panoramic view of Kerry's most outstanding scenery this trip is a must!  
(See *Ring of Kerry Guide* or *Kerry Guide*).

## DINGLE PENINSULA

From Dingle via Ventry/Slea Head/Dunquin/Ballyferriter/Ballydavid/Murreagh/Feoghanagh/Brandon Creek and South to Dingle continuing from Dingle over the Conor Pass taking in Cloghane/Brandon/Castlegregory/The Magharees/Camp and returning to Dingle via Annascaul and Lispole.

The western end of the Peninsula offers magnificent coastal scenery. The Conor Pass, the highest mountain pass in Ireland, links the northern and southern sides of the Dingle Peninsula.

## NORTH KERRY

From Dingle via Conor Pass/Castlegregory/Camp/Tralee/Spa/Fenit/Ardfert/Ballyheigue/Kerry Head/Ballybunion/Tarbert/Listowel/Tralee/Castlemaine/Inch/Annascaul and returning to Dingle.  
(See *Kerry Guide*).

## KILLARNEY LAKE DISTRICT

From Dingle via Annascaul/Inch/Castlemaine/Milltown/Killarney and returning to Dingle via Tralee/Camp/Castlegregory/Conor Pass.

Taking in a short comprehensive tour of the Lake District of Killarney. Leaving Killarney town on the main Killarney/Kenmare road take the first turn on the right to Ross Castle, return to the main road and continue for approx. 4 km (2 1/2 miles) to the entrance of Muckross Abbey, next continue for a further approx. 1.5 km (1 mile) to the entrance of Muckross House, returning to the main road

drive on a further 1.5 km (1 mile) to Torc Waterfall. Continuing on the main road Ladies View is 11 km (7 miles) from Torc. It is then necessary to return to Killarney and take the main Killarney/Killorglin road for 6.5 km (4 miles) and take a left turn for Kate Kearney's cottage and the Gap of Dunloe. Returning from here to the Killarney Road take the first turn on the left for Aghadoo 2.5 km (1 1/2 miles) further on and then return to Dingle via Tralee (see *Killarney Area Guide*). These tours are all leisurely day trips which can be undertaken by visitors using their own transport.

### **BUS AND COACH TOURS**

Information available from Dingle/Killarney Tourist Office. Full day tours available from both Killarney and Tralee.

## **ENTERTAINMENT**

### **CABARET**

Many top class artistes perform in Cabaret throughout the season. Further information available from local newspapers and/or the Dingle Tourist Office

### **CINEMA**

Nightly in Dingle town.

### **DANCING**

Available during the season with many top class showbands and groups, to suit one's taste.

### **DISCOTHEQUES**

On offer during the season.

### **DRAMA**

Occasionally during the season; further information from local tourist office.

### **SINGING PUBS**

There are many premises which provide entertainment during the season. These range from more smaller, intimate type pubs to larger entertainment lounges. The type of music ranges from Traditional Irish entertainment to Country and Western and popular music. The atmosphere is friendly and the entertainment often spontaneous.

See *Tourist Pubs Guide*, a *Cork/Kerry Tourism Publication*.

### **TEACH SIAMSA**

At Carraig, located on the edge of the village, this is a centre of cultural activity. Open all year round.

## **EXHIBITIONS/ATTRACTIONS**

### **DINGLE SEA LIFE CENTRE - MARA BEO TEO**

This new state of the art facility is a purpose built Sealife Centre which gives excellent viewing opportunities to see the sealife of the Dingle Peninsula and also more exotic sealife species from other parts of the world.

### **DINGLE PENINSULA HERITAGE EXHIBITION (OIDHREACTH CHORCA DHUIBHNE)**

In Ballyferrier Heritage Centre, open all year round. This is a display of the archaeology, history and literature of the area. Other exhibitions also on show.

11.00a.m. - 6.00p.m. JUNE TO SEPT. REST OF YEAR ON REQUEST.

### **HISTORICAL EXHIBITION OF DINGLE**

At the Old Presbytery, Main St. Dingle, open 10.00a.m. - 6.00p.m. Mon. to Sat. during the season.



*Gallarus Oratory*



# SEA ANGLING

## 5 MAP INDEX

### 1. CARRAHANE SANDS

Bass (spinning and bottom fishing), flatfish.

### 2. BARROW HARBOUR

Bass (spinning and bottom fishing), flatfish, occasional tope.

### 3. FENIT PIER

Skate, rays, tope, monkfish, mullet, bass, conger, dogfish, etc. Boats for hire for inshore and deep sea angling.

### 4. BLENNERVILLE

Bass and flatfish in channel.

### 5. TRALEE BAY

Bass, flatfish (surf fishing) in this area, especially near Derrymore, at Camp, Aughacarla and where streams empty on to the shore.

### 6. MOUTH OF LOUGH GILL

Bass (spinning and bottom fishing), flatfish. Top of tide best.

### 7. MAGHAREES (Kilshannig Point)

Bass (spinning and bottom fishing), flatfish.

### 8. MAGHAREES (Scraggane Bay)

Bass, flatfish (surf fishing).

### 9. BRANDON BAY

Bass, flatfish, occasional tope (surf fishing) all along this beach especially at Fermoyle, Kilcummin, Stradbally and on Magharee Peninsula behind Grotto.

### 10. BLACK ROCK

Bass (spinning), low water. Bass, flatfish (surf fishing) on beach.

### 11. CLOGHANE (estuary)

Bass (spinning) in channel; late ebb to early flood.

### 12. CLOGHANE (estuary)

Bass, sea trout (spinning) from Island into channel. Flatfish (bottom fishing). Bass, flatfish, (bottom fishing) on strand at parking lot at high water.

### 13. BRANDON

Bass, flatfish, occasional tope (surf fishing) on north-facing beach.

### 14. TRAGHBAWN

Bass, flatfish, occasional tope in calm conditions. Access difficult.

### 15. BALLYDAVID

Deep sea fishing.

### 16. SMERWICK HARBOUR

Three beaches. Bass, flatfish (surf fishing). Bass (spinning) from rocks in centre.

### 17. FERRITER'S COVE

Bass, flatfish, (surf fishing).

### 18. VENTRY HARBOUR

Bass, flatfish, dogfish (surf fishing).

### 19. DINGLE PIER

Mullet, flounder. Inshore and deep sea angling. Boats and tackle for hire.

### 20. BENBANE AND REENBEG

Bass (spinning).

### 21. TRABEG

Bass (spinning) in channel; late ebb to early flood. Flounder.

### 22. ANNASCAUL AND INCH

Bass (spinning) from rocks.

### 23. INCH STRAND

Bass, flatfish (surf fishing). Occasional tope at point.

### 24. BALLYCASANE PIER

Bass (spinning and bottom fishing); flounder.

### 25. CROMANE POINT

Bass (spinning and bottom fishing); flounder. Inshore boat fishing, for tope, rays and dogfish.

### 26. ROSSBEHY CREEK

Bass (spinning and bottom fishing); flatfish.

*For more detailed information, enquire at your nearest tourist office.*

# FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

## REGATTAS

A number of Regattas are held throughout the Dingle Peninsula during the season, featuring Currach races.

Check locally for details.

## FEILE NA BEALTAINE

Takes place in April/May and includes music, poetry, art, literature and theatre.

## DINGLE RACES

Two day event held on a Saturday and Sunday in August. This is an event

for all the family, with a carnival atmosphere.

## INTERNATIONAL ROSE OF TRALEE FESTIVAL

Held annually late August/early September. This is a week of gaiety, pageantry, fun and informality, sport, music and song, that bids farewell to summer. Centrepiece of a memorable week of free entertainment is the crowning of the Rose of Tralee.

## CARLSBERG MUSIC FESTIVAL

Takes place in September, with traditional, folk, jazz and blues music.

FOR OTHER FESTIVALS AND EVENTS, CONTACT THE TOURIST OFFICE.

# HISTORICAL/ARCHAEOLOGICAL

## MINARD CASTLE

5 km (3 miles), south-west of Annascaul, is said to have been built by the Knight of Kerry and is the largest fortress in the peninsula. On the rising ground opposite the east side of the castle is an ancient circular stone fort.

## STORM BEACH

Sandstone boulders formed by the sea on the beach near the castle are of unique geological interest.

## PÚCÍN AN CHAIRN

This is an exceptionally well preserved megalithic grave with some of the stones which covered the grave still in place. The mound of earth which usually covered the whole site has, of course, been eroded. These graves were made by those of the upper stratum of the society as it then existed. They were called wedge graves since they were made in the shape of a wedge. One end of the grave is wider than the other. The head of the wedge is also higher than its foot. Here also in the nearby townland of Ardmore is found the Ardmore Cross slab, a recently discovered 8th century cross inscribed pillar. It is one of the finest examples of a cross slab.

## ÁTH AN CHARBAIL

Now and again, stones are found with cups and circles incised on them. One such stone bearing this form of Bronze Age rock art may be seen in a field, a short distance from the road in Áth an Charbail in Kinard parish.

## PRIEST'S STONE

This Ogham Stone was discovered in the 18th century by the Welsh antiquarian, Edward Lloyd, and at the time stood upright in a field. It was removed by cousins of Lord Ventry to Chute Hall, near Tralee, in the mid-nineteenth century, but because of threats from the emergent Nationalists against the absentee landlord, was later returned. The inscription reads: *Brusccos Maqqi*

*Calliacias Maqqi Mucoi*. Up to the word Calliacias the writing is clear but remaining words have been mutilated. It was the first identified Ogham stone in Ireland.

## GARFINNY BRIDGE

Is a medieval bridge which has been recently restored and is the only bridge to be declared a national monument of Ireland.

## BALLINTAGGART OGHAM STONES

This is an ancient burial site surrounded by a stone and earth enclosure. There are nine Ogham stones some with crosses, suggesting a transitional phase from pagan to early Christian. The stones themselves probably came from the Minard Strand which is about 9.6 km (6 miles) away and has a superfluity of such stones. It is the largest Ogham stone collection in Kerry.

## DINGLE LIGHTHOUSE

The lighthouse itself is maintained by Dingle Harbour Commissioners and was built in 1885 for a total cost of £589. Its purpose is to guide boats to the seaward of the Crow Rock which may be seen off Eask Tower to the west.

## EASK TOWER/HILL

This is the shapely hill with the prominent tower on its summit which stands on the south side of Dingle Harbour. It can be reached by branching left from the Ventry Road at Ballymore, 4 km (2 1/2 miles) west of Dingle. It is crowned with the 19th century mariner's beacon and a World War 2 look-out post. The beacon, erected during the great Famine, is a solid tower of masonry, 35ft high, from which a wooden fingerpost points to the harbour entrance.

## GATES OF GLORY

Beyond Milltown Bridge 1.5 km (1 mile) west of Dingle town on the road to Sleah Head, are two standing stones, and in the same field is a large boulder bearing cup and

circle carvings. Nearby is the giant standing stone called the Milestone.

### **GALLÁN NA CILLE BRÍCE**

It lies inside the road fence at the crest of Milltown Height about a mile from the town of Dingle, also known as the Milestone, and is an example of a Gallán or Pillarstone firmly set in the ground. Some of these pillar stones are of considerable girth and weight. Many of these stones have been destroyed in the intervening years and so it is difficult to determine today the precise function of standing stones. Some may have had a ceremonial significance. Others mark burial places, serving the purpose of the headstone today. There is also a theory that some were erected to define ancient boundaries, or ancient highways and to indicate famous sites in the dawn of history.

### **COLÁISTE ÍDE (BURNHAM HOUSE)**

At the south-western end of Dingle Harbour are the wooded grounds of Coláiste Íde, formerly a school of the Mercy Order. Originally this was Burnham House, the residence of Lord Ventry. A group of six Ogham Stones may be seen on the driveway up to the college.

### **RATHANÁIN**

In Ventry Parish. This Ringfort has two defensive banks and a ditch; although the outside bank is in poor structural condition the inner bank is still in excellent shape, unbroken except for the gap where once the gateway stood. The bank is over twenty feet high in some places. The extent of the site leads one to conclude that it must have been the residence of one of the most distinguished chieftains of Corca Dhuibhne. When the Normans came to the area, one of their families, later known as the Knights of Kerry, took possession of the Fort and lived there for a considerable number of years, in the now ruined tower house.

### **VENTRY HARBOUR**

The scene in which the ancient romantic tale 'Cath Fionntrágha' (battle of Ventry strand) is laid. The tale, as told in the 15th century manuscript now in the Bodleian Library, Oxford, is obviously intended for recitation, with its vivid descriptions and long rows of alliterative adjectives. It describes how Daire Donn, king of the world, and his vassal monarchs landed at Ventry in an attempt to invade Ireland, and how they were defeated on the beachhead by the Fianna under Fionn Mac Cumhaill. Many topographical features are introduced into this tale, and it is thought that the writer must have been a native of the area.

### **DUNBEG FORT**

In the Fahan Group. Consists of a fortified stone wall cutting off a triangular promontory. The landward side is protected by an elaborate system of earthen ramparts and trenches. The cliff edge inside the fort shows remains of stone walling. There is a ruined circular building within the enclosure. The great wall (6.5m/22ft thick) has a remarkable doorway and elaborate souterrain.

### **FAHAN GROUP**

On Ventry/Slea Head Road, are the Clocháns or Beehive Huts, (unmortared beehive shaped cells or huts), nineteen Souterrains, eighteen Standing and Inscribed Stones, two Sculptured Crosses, seven Earthen Ring-Forts, two fortified headlands. The Clocháns or Beehive Huts which are so characteristic of the area owe their shape to the ancient method of construction known as drystone corbelling in which the circular walls are constructed of overlapping stones and curve gradually inwards until they can be covered with a capstone at the top. The technique has a long pedigree in Ireland going back as far as the burial chamber in the great stone tomb at Newgrange, Co. Meath which was built about 5,000 years ago.

### **BLASKET ISLANDS**

The Blaskets, The Western Islands, come into full view at Slea Head, great humps of old red sandstone sprawled in the Atlantic, two miles beyond the westernmost tip of the peninsula. There are four big islands, Inishmore, the Great Blasket, Inishvickillane, Inishtooskert and Inish na Bró. Three smaller ones: Beginish, Young's Island and Illaunboy. A great sea rock, the Tearaght, 19 ha (47 acres) in extent and 602 feet high, and a multitude of lesser rocks and reefs may also be seen. The ruined hermitages and forts which exist on several of the islands show that they were occupied in early historic times. The marauding Vikings were undoubtedly familiar with the Blaskets and may even have had bases in the area in the 9th and 10th centuries.

### **DUNMORE HEAD**

At the tip of the Head one can view directly below, the place in the Blasket Sound where the Armada ships, *The Santa Maria de la Rosa* and *San Juan* perished in 1588. On the highest point of the headland is an Ogham stone, unusual in that it indicates the pagan ancestry of the commemorated. It reads: *Erc Maqu Ercias Mu Dovia.* The last Mu should have read *Maqi Mucoi* (descended from) but was abbreviated to conceal its meaning from a possible christianiser. The ancestor, Dovia, is supposed to give her name to the Dingle Peninsula. Dunmore Head is the most westerly point on the mainland facing the Atlantic Ocean. It is also the most westerly point in Europe.

### **DUNQUIN GRAVEYARD**

Here the well known writer Peig Sayers is buried.

### **DUNQUIN PIER**

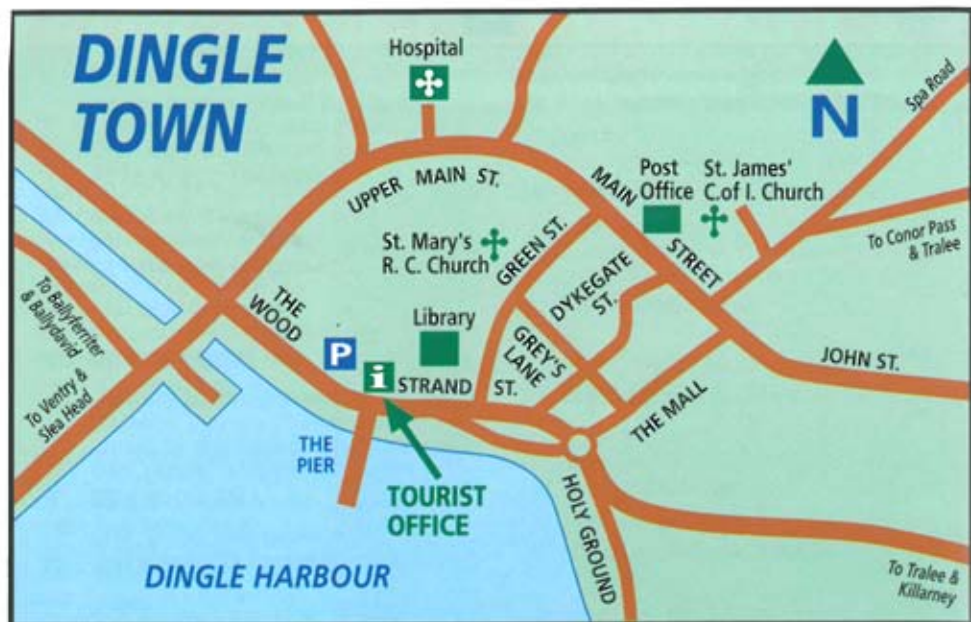
Tradition departure point for the Great Blasket Island.

### **FERRITER'S COVE**

Recently excavated and found to contain the earliest dated settlement in Kerry. Circa 4,000 BC.

### **FERRITER'S CASTLE**

3 km (2 miles) north-west of Ballyferriter Village are the remains of this Castle, the birthplace of the soldier-poet, Pierce Ferriter, who was one of the last Irish chiefs to hold out against Cromwell's army in the 17th century.



### SYBIL HEAD/TOWER

The Tower was built just before 1880 as a consequence of fear of an imminent Napoleonic invasion of England, using Ireland as a back door. It was 40 feet high and 50 feet square. One can still see that it was within communication distance of sister towers on the Great Blasket and Ballydauid Head (north side of Smerwick Harbour). The cliff here has a sheer drop of nearly 700 feet and is very dangerous.

### DÚN AN ÓIR

Fort del Oro. The Golden Fort- north of Ballyferriter is the broad inlet of Smerwick Harbour, here on a rock promontory is the old fortress of Dún an Óir (Fort of Gold). The infamous massacre of Smerwick Harbour took place here in 1580, when over 600 Spanish and Irish soldiers, after three days siege, surrendered, only to be butchered by Lord Grey's troops.

### RIASC

Near Ballyferriter is the Riasc Stone and recently excavated site of the ancient monastery of Riasc.

### GALLARUS ORATORY

3 km (2 miles) south of Kilmalkedar, is one of the best preserved early Christian church buildings in Ireland. Built of unmortared stone, it is still watertight after more than a thousand years.

### GALLARUS CASTLE

Built in the 16th century, it has four storeys and has recently been 'stabilised', by the Office of Public Works. There is no record of its having been destroyed in war but was most certainly used in Cromwellian times and for

garrisoning troops during the siege of Dún an Óir (1580).

### CATHAIR DEARGÁIN

This stone fort lies beside the road that links Cill Mhaolcéadair with Baile na Math. It has a single defence wall and the ruins of some Clocháns are also visible. It typifies the homesteads of the people in ancient times. Often there exists not merely one but two or three walls for the purpose of defence. These were also used for the purpose of penning farm animals so as to prevent them from straying during the night. Such remains today are generally termed Lios, Rath or Cathair. The Cathair is a stone fortress.

### ST. BRENDAN'S ORATORY

This building is under the protection of the O.P.W. (Office of Public Works), and is similar to Gallarus probably built at an earlier date, it is very likely to have been the original foundation of St. Malcador.

### KILMALKEDAR CHURCH

This is a fine 12th century Hiberno-Romanesque Church with an Alphabet Stone (close to Chancel door), Ogham stone, Sundial stone and 7th or 8th century stone cross. Nearby is St. Brendan's house dating from the 14th or 15th century.

### BAILE DHÁITH (BALLYDAVID) TOWER

Built about 1801 as a signal tower against a possible French invasion, it had fallen into disuse by the middle of the century and was briefly reoccupied during the First World War. It was a three storey building and the remains of the garrison house as well as the tower itself can still be seen.

## BRANDON CREEK

It is believed that St. Brendan the Navigator sailed from here on his voyage of discovery into the western ocean. Legend has it that St. Brendan discovered the North American continent in the 6th century. In 1976 the explorer Tim Severin also sailed from Brandon Creek in a vessel similar to the type used by St. Brendan and reached Newfoundland in June 1977 proving that such a voyage in such a vessel was possible. The vessel used is on display at Craggaunowen, Co. Clare.

## CONOR PASS

The visitor returns to Dingle town and takes the northern drive over the Conor pass toward Castlegregory and Tralee. The Conor Pass is the highest mountain pass in Ireland, the road climbs along the Brandon Range for 7 km (4 1/2 miles) to a height of 457 m (1,500 feet). From the summit of the pass Brandon and Tralee Bays are seen below to the north, with the sandy Castlegregory peninsula separating them; to the south is Dingle Bay; in the deep valley below are a number of lakes. The road winds downwards at the base of great cliffs and the valley underneath is a boulder strewn wilderness. About a mile down, the road curves over a deep gorge and one hundred feet above is Pedlar's Lake (Lough Doon).

## ILLAUNTANNIG

Is an Island of the group known as The Seven Hogs, situated beyond Rough Point, to the north of Castlegregory. It contains the ruins of a small monastic establishment surrounded by a strong wall comprising two oratories and three Clocháns or stone huts.

## GLENTREENASSIG

Forest Park hidden away in the mountain side with its streams and little lakes, near Castlegregory.

## GRAVE OF FAS

An old tradition tells that the first battle between the Milesians and the original settlers was fought in the east of Corca Dhuibhne in the neighbourhood of Slieve Mish. Fas, wife of one of the Milesian chieftains was killed in

this battle; she is buried in the 'Grave of Fas' which lies a short distance from the road and a quarter of a mile from the village of Camp in the Parish of Kilgobban. Marking the grave is a great shaft of stone with neat inscription in Ogham.

## CATHAIR CHONROÍ

Although it is called a Cathair or Stone Fort. It is in fact a Dún. It stands on a mountain top (almost 2,000 feet high) in Beithineach near Camp. It comprises a triangular area of land with high steep cliffs on two sides of it. On the third side there is a gentle declivity to the plain below. On this side there is also a protecting wall of stone, 14 feet wide and 350 feet long. There were once steps on the inside of the wall so as to afford an advantage to the defenders. It is one of the oldest named places in Irish literature.

## BLENNERVILLE WINDMILL

Blennerville Windmill lies just south of Tralee at the gateway to the Dingle Peninsula. Its architectural merit and unique location make it one of the most interesting windmills in western Europe. It was built about 1780 by Sir Rowland Blennerhasset. Restoration of the windmill to full working order commenced in June, 1984. As one of Europe's largest traditional windmills, it stands 21.3 metres (70 feet) high. There is a steam train which runs between Tralee and Blennerville.

## SCOTIA'S GRAVE

The ancient writers describe how the sons of Milesius and their followers, on landing in Ireland (Anno Mundi 3500), joined in battle with the Tuatha dé Danaan, at the foot of the Slieve Mish mountains. The Milesians won the day but among their slain was Scotia (widow of Milesius and daughter of Pharaoh of Egypt and Fas, wife of Un Mac Uíge). Scotia was buried in Gleann Scoithin (Scotia's Glen) about 5 km (3 miles) south of Tralee. A large flagstone in the glen is said to mark her grave. Fas was buried in Gleann Fhaise (Glen Aish) about 16 km (10 miles) south-west of Tralee also in the Slieve Mish mountains.

# Index to Main Places of Interest

To assist you in locating places of interest we have identified the nearest Town or Village to the place. The listing operates in a clockwise fashion around the map.

## LISPOLE AREA

*Puicín an Chairm*  
*Áth an Charbail*

## DINGLE TOWN AREA

*Priest's Stone*  
*Garfinny Bridge*  
*Ballintaggart Ogham Stones*  
*Dingle Lighthouse*

## Eask Tower

*Eask Hill*  
*Gates of Glory*  
*Gallán na Cille Brice*  
*Coláiste Íde*  
*(Burnham House)*

## VENTRY AREA

*Rathanáin*  
*Ventry Harbour*

## SLEA HEAD AREA

*Fahan Group*  
*Slea Head*  
*Blasket Islands*  
*Dunmore Head*

## DUNQUIN AREA

*Dunquin Graveyard*  
*Dunquin Pier*

## BALLYFERRITER AREA

*Ferriter's Cove*  
*Ferriter's Castle*  
*Sybil Head/Tower*  
*Dún an Óir (Fort del Oro)*  
*The Golden Fort*  
*Riasc*

## BALLYDAVID AREA

*Gallarus Oratory*  
*Gallarus Castle*  
*Cathair Deargáin*

St. Brendan's Oratory  
Kilmalkedar Church

**BAILE DHÁITHE**  
Ballydauid Tower

**BRANDON AREA**  
Brandon Creek  
Conor Pass

**KILSHANNIG AREA**  
Illauntannig

**CAMP AREA**  
Glenteenassig Forest Park  
Grave of Fas  
Cathair Chonroi

**TRALEE AREA**  
Blennerville windmill  
Scotia's Grave  
Steam Train

## THINGS TO DO

### ANGLING

#### **SALMON AND TROUT ANGLING**

Available on a number of small lakes and rivers in the Dingle Peninsula.

#### **SHORE ANGLING**

A number of areas around the Dingle Peninsula coastline are suitable for shore angling. Refer to local angling map.

#### **SEA ANGLING**

There is a good variety of Sea Angling available. For further information contact the Dingle Tourist Office.

### **BATHING**

The Dingle Peninsula is dotted with many glorious beaches and coves; among them are Inch Strand, Béalbán, Wine Strand, Derrymore and Cloghane.

### **BUS & COACH TOURS**

Full and half-day tours available. Refer to 'Day trips from Dingle' and 'Bus and Coach Tours' sections.

### **CYCLING**

Cycling is an excellent way to explore and enjoy the splendour of the many beauty spots on the Dingle Peninsula.

### **GOLF**

18 hole Golf Course at Ceann Sibéil, Ballyferriter.

### **GAELIC FOOTBALL AND HURLING**

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

### **HORSE RACING**

At the Racecourse, Dingle, during the Dingle Races, held annually during August.

### **MOUNTAINEERING**

There are numerous mountains within easy reach of Dingle town suitable for climbing and hill walking.

Before you go 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 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**

The Dingle Peninsula is renowned for its scenic beauty and is indeed an artist's paradise.

### **PITCH AND PUTT/ DRIVING RANGE**

Available at Milltown, Dingle.

### **TRAIL RIDING**

Further information from Tourist Office.

### **ARCHAEOLOGY**

For the Archaeologist there is a great concentration and a wealth of archaeological remains to be found throughout the Dingle Peninsula. Organised Tours are also available.

### **ORNITHOLOGY**

There is so much to interest the Bird Watcher; Ravens, Choughs, Gannets, Auks, Sheerwaters and Gadwall duck. The Dingle Peninsula is an area of compelling interest for the ornithologist.

THE CONTENT OF THIS BROCHURE IS FOR INFORMATION, AND DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THAT THERE IS PUBLIC ACCESS TO ALL PLACES MENTIONED. AN ENTRANCE FEE MAY BE REQUIRED AT SOME SITES.



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# DINGLE AREA GUIDE



- Major Road
- Minor Road
- Walking/Scenic Trail
- Dingle Way/Pilgrim's Route (Slí Chorca Dhuibhne)
- Lake, River
- Tourist Information
- Mixed Woodland
- Mountain Peak
- Special Attraction
- Viewing Point
- Church/Abbey
- Archaeological/Historical Sites
- Castle/Ruins
- Sea/Shore Angling

Elevations in black are in metres.  
Elevations in brown are in feet.



Carrauntoohil  
▲ 1040 3414

# DINGLE PENINSULA

## — AREA GUIDE —

# CORCA DHUIBHNE

### 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) 51633 Fax: (064) 34506

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

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

#### **Dingle Tourist Office (Seasonal)**

The Quay,  
Dingle,  
Co. Kerry.  
Tel: (066) 51188/51241

*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)**

Tourist House, Grand Parade, Cork.  
Tel: (021) 273251 • Fax: (021) 273504

#### **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
- Golf 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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