

Trip itinerary

Day 1: Arrive in Dublin and travel to Killiney for a seaside hike.

Arrive at the Dublin, Ireland airport by 8:30am today and transfer independently to our hotel in Killiney for an orientation at 11am. This afternoon your guides will take you on a walking tour to explore the picturesque Heritage town of Dalkey, Dublin's principle port in medieval times. We'll walk scenic byways in this colorful seaside town and ascend Killiney Hill for panoramic views of Dublin city, Dublin Bay and the Wicklow Mountains. Considered one of the finest urban seaside walks in Europe, it is a perfect introduction to the outstanding coastal, cliffside and mountain scenery that awaits you in the days to come. Alternatively, return to Dublin city for your own self-guided tour, or while away the afternoon amidst Dalkey's many shops, cafes and pubs. Dinner included.

Hiking: 4-6 miles, 2-3 hours; Terrain: Coastal laneways, parkland pathways. Alternate is city streets in Dublin. Example: Dalkey & Killiney Hill walk is 4 miles, 880' ascent.

Day 2: Explore the Wicklow Mountains and the monastic "city" at Glendalough.

We begin our day with an interpretive tour of the monastic 'city' at Glendalough. Founded by St. Kevin in the 6th century, Glendalough is an exquisite medieval Irish monastery and remarkable reminder of a uniquely Irish way of life. Next we hike along the Wicklow Way and into Glenlo Valley to experience the beauty and solitude that St. Kevin sought there. At the conclusion of our hike we leave behind the austerity of Kevin's hermitage and return to our lodgings in Killiney. All meals included.

Hiking: 7-9 miles, 4-6 hours; Terrain: Green roads, hilly trails, and boardwalk; Example: Glendalough & The Spinc is 8 miles, 1774' ascent. Driving: 1.5 hours.

Day 3: Discover Cahir Castle and hike the Glengarriff Woods.

Cahir Castle is one of Ireland's oldest, largest and best-preserved castles. Built over 800 years ago on a rocky island in middle of the River Suir, the castle's history includes the Norman invasion and capture by the Earl of Essex in 1599. After exploring the castle we make our way to the outskirts of Cork City for lunch before continuing on to Glengarriff on the rugged Beara Peninsula. We hike in the spectacular Glengarriff Woods Nature Reserve, nestled in the sheltered glen between the Caha Mountains and Bantry Bay. Afterwards we journey to Castletownbere, a small, colorful town that is the largest whitefish port in Ireland thanks to its location overlooking Berehaven Harbour. All meals included.

Walking: 2.5 miles, 1+ hour. Terrain: Forest paths and coastal trails with 200' ascent.

Driving: 5 hours.

Day 4: Traverse the Beara Peninsula and explore Castletownbere.

The Beara Peninsula offers a variety of headland walks that include some of the most remote stretches of the Beara Way. One route option takes us to the very tip of the mainland and is a prime spot for whale and dolphin watching. Another brings us into the far-flung village of Allihies, the village furthest from Dublin in all of Ireland and a former 19th century copper-mining boomtown. All walks are sure to yield breathtaking views of cliff and coastal scenery, idyllic Irish farmsteads, and a host of historical sites. When storms threaten, other Beara walks that are more protected but are still awash in history and grand seascapes are chosen. Overnight in Castletownbere. All meals included.

Hiking: 7-10 miles, 6-7 hours; Terrain: Waymarked hills and headlands – open hiking over exposed heath land; rolling hills with some steep sections; minimal road walking; Example: Garinish Loop and Crow Head is 10 miles, 1708' ascent.

Day 5: Hike some of the most remote and lovely sections of the Beara Way.

Our hikes on the Beara Way feature incredible panoramas, ancient stone circles, and old oak woodlands. Today's lunch is off the beaten path at a restaurant located in a spectacular setting deep within the Glanmore Valley. This afternoon we hike the Beara Way to the nearby Gleninchiquin Valley to marvel at the magnificent Uragh Stone Circle, an age-old monument set in the midst of the valley with views over Lough Inchiquin. Dinner is at a lively Irish country pub overlooking Kenmare Bay. We overnight in Kenmare, one of Ireland's most friendly and decorated "Tidy Towns." All meals included.

Hiking: 5-8 miles, 3-5 hours; Terrain: Waymarked walks over rough, rolling hills which can be boggy; some quiet road walking.

Day 6: Hike the Kerry Way through beautiful Killarney National Park.

We have several options for our hike and your guides will choose the most appropriate trail based on weather and other factors. One favorite section of the Kerry Way, on the Old Kenmare Road, will lead us through old oak forests, along centuries-old droving roads, past waterfalls, and into remote mountain valleys. Another Kerry Way walk leads to the ancient ruins of Muckross Abbey, down tree-covered serpentine paths beside the shores of Lough Leane and Muckross Lake, and into secluded and rare yew woodlands. Or we may choose the ascent of Torc Mountain, a hike that combines oak woodland, mountain valleys, a waterfall and an unparalleled bird's eye view of the Lakes of Killarney. All meals included.

Hiking: 4-10 miles, 4-6 hours; Terrain: Trails, gravel roads, boardwalk and paved paths with elevation from relatively flat to mountainous; Example: Kerry Way on the Old Kenmare Road is 7.3 miles, 1,596' ascent. Driving: 1.5 hours.

Day 7: On our way to Dingle, explore coastal footpaths and castle ruins.

The Dingle Peninsula is a treasure trove of ancient history and grand panoramas, and the streets of Dingle beckon with an array of unique shops, cafes and pubs. But getting there is

half the fun, so on our westward journey we take some superb walking diversions! Inch Strand is a three-mile long beach abruptly jutting out into Dingle Bay at the foot of the Slieve Mish Mountains. On the Dingle Way in the parish of Minard, we explore a ruined castle, holy well and storm beach. After arriving into Dingle town and checking into our lodgings, the remainder of the day is free for exploring on your own. Your guides will recommend the best places to eat, shop and play. For guests wishing to hike, there are scenic walks along Dingle Harbour that start right in town. We have two nights to enjoy the legendary nightlife in Dingle's many pubs, known round the world for great "Ceól agus craic"—music and merriment. Breakfast included. Lunch and dinner on your own.

Hiking: 1+ miles, 2+ hours; Terrain: Beach, harbor paths, paved roads and low coastal elevation; Example: Inch Beach is 3 miles, no ascent. Driving: 2 hours.

Day 8: Experience Dingle town and choose from a variety of exceptional hikes.

The Dingle Peninsula is a "Gaeltacht" or center of Irish-speaking culture, and a repository of antiquity, including thousands of archeological sites. We'll take an archeology tour of some of the peninsula's famous sites, including the Gallarus Oratory, a place of worship for early Christian farmers of the area. Shaped like an upside-down boat, the simple dry-stone structure has remained waterproof and in near-perfect condition since 700 AD. We'll also enjoy a series of carefully selected walks designed to showcase the Dingle's coastal headlands, beaches and mountains, all the while interweaving Dingle's lively history and folklore. All meals included.

Hiking: 3-6 miles, 3-4 hours; Terrain: Open hiking over exposed headlands, rolling hills with some steep sections. Example: Ballydavid Head is 3.3 miles, 792' ascent. Driving: 1.5 hours.

Day 9: Hike the Cliffs of Moher and overnight in the lively town of Ennis.

We make our way to Ennis and check into our lodgings before heading to the Cliffs of Moher Visitor Center to begin our spectacular hike. On a clear day, views include the Aran Islands in Galway Bay, the mountain of Connemara to the north and Loop Head lighthouse to the south. Our hike ends in the charming town of Doolin, and from here we transfer back to Ennis for a farewell dinner to celebrate Ireland and newfound friends. With its vibrant nightlife, traditional music scene, festive atmosphere and medieval heritage, this bustling market town is an ideal location to continue your explorations of Ireland. All meals included.

Hiking: 5 miles, 2-3 hours; Terrain: Waymarked clifftop paths, well protected and ancient roadways with some inclines. Example: Cliffs of Moher Visitor Center to Doolin is 5 miles, 750' ascent. Driving: 4.25 hours.

Day 10: Our Ireland Coast to Coast Hiking adventure ends today in Shannon.

After breakfast we depart Ennis for the Shannon airport, arriving around 9:30am. Departing flights can be scheduled for 11:30am or later. Breakfast included.

Note on Itinerary

Although we do our best to adhere to the schedule listed above, this itinerary is subject to change for numerous reasons beyond our control.