

## Ireland: Cork, Killarney & Dingle

### Air Package Itinerary

Join us on a walking tour of Ireland that takes you along the scenic west coast, revealing its wild beauty, endearing towns, and friendly locals. You'll follow parts of Ireland's scenic walking route, the Kerry Way, tracing historic footpaths and coach roads. Enter the Gap of Dunloe on foot, or by horse-drawn cart, to explore this narrow glacial valley with stunning lakes and waterfalls. Discuss rural life over fresh-made scones at a local home, or reminisce with friends at a cozy pub. This tour imparts the spirited personality and natural splendor of Ireland, taking you to coastal villages, national parks, and cultural treasures.



### Highlights

Share a pint of local brews over conversations about the Irish way of life

Relax at the gorgeous Derrynane Dunes, cooling your toes in the clear water or strolling barefoot through more than a mile of golden sand

Meet with an Irish storyteller for a personalized tour of his childhood home

Stop for tea and scones in true Irish fashion

On a jaunty horse-drawn cart (or by foot if you prefer), enter the narrow Gap of Dunloe – a rugged mountain pass with beautiful scenery

Beneath the ever-changing skies of Killarney National Park, view elegant mountains and stunning lakes as you walk along the scenic Kerry Way

Embark on a cruise to Ross Castle while learning of Ireland's most well-known visitors

## On all Guided Adventures you can count on ...



Expert local guides to introduce you to the best of your destination.



Gracious accommodations that are a clean, comfortable home away from home.



Off-the-beaten-path places you'd never find on your own.



Experts to handle all the details.



A maximum of 18 fun-loving fellow travelers to share the journey.



Flight + Tour Combos include plane tickets, airport car service, and pre- and post-tour accommodations.



Delicious, authentic multi-course meals—virtually all are included.

## Activity Level

This tour is one of our Guided - Flex Walking Adventures and features a combination of paved roads and easy terrain, mixed with moderate hills, moorland and uneven footpaths. Due to Ireland's climate, the footpaths can often be wet and muddy. Ideal for enthusiastic beginners and experienced walkers. Several of the walks require a transfer from our hotel to the start of the walk. Our Trip Leaders often use this time in the van for our morning route review, so we can enjoy a more leisurely morning at breakfast. Please note you will need to climb over a variety of pasture gates and stiles. As one of our Guided - Flex tours, some days offer options for self-exploration, cultural visits, or free time to relax on your own.

## DAY 1

### Overnight Flight from USA to Cork, Ireland

Begin your adventure by departing from a convenient gateway city in the United States or Canada. Spend the first night aloft.

## DAY 2

### Arrive in Cork, Ireland

Upon arrival at Cork's airport, a representative holding a Country Walkers sign meets you as you exit the baggage-claim area. A complimentary small-group transfer is provided to your city center hotel approximately 20 minutes away. The remainder of the day is at your leisure (no meals included).

If you are going to be delayed meeting our transfer representative for more than 15 minutes due to delayed or lost luggage, please contact Allianz Global Assistance to advise of your delay and they will contact our transfer service on your behalf. Our drivers are generally able to wait for up to 45 minutes from the time your flight lands, after which you would be responsible for your own transfer.

Please note: If you arrive early, and your hotel room is not available prior to the designated check-in time, you may store your luggage with the reception desk.

Country Walkers provides you with City Information that includes recommendations on what to see and do in Cork during your stay.

Accommodation: Imperial Hotel

Included Meals: Breakfast

## DAY 3

### Join your *Ireland: Cork, Killarney & Kenmare* tour

Muckross park gate to Muckross House; 2miles, easy, Muckross House to Old Weir Bridge; 4 miles, easy

Meet one of your Country Walkers guides in the hotel lobby at 9:00 a.m.

After a short introductory meeting, transfer via private bus from Cork to Killarney (a journey of approximately 90 minutes, depending on traffic). Your first destination is Killarney National Park. Ensure you are prepared for a day of walking, as the bus will continue with your luggage to your hotel after leaving you at the park entrance. Here you meet your second Country Walkers guide and see stunning vistas of the Killarney Lakes and their impressive mountain backdrop. You'll walk through a lush meadow, along a river and through the woodlands to reach the lakeshore. Across the waters, admire the tree-covered slopes of Tomies Wood, stretching upwards towards the peaks of the Shehy and Tomies mountains. Continue along the shoreline through a delightful woodland glade until you come across the magnificent manor, Muckross House.

After an included lunch in the manor's Garden Restaurant, you have the choice of enjoying a stroll through magnificent displays of ornamental shrubs, flower beds, and wide expanses of manicured lawns; or continuing with a walk around Muckross Lake. This walk takes you through ancient woodlands, over Brickeen Bridge, and across Dinis Island to the Meeting of the Waters and the Old Weir Bridge. All the while, you are surrounded by wonderful views, small lakeside beaches, and rocky coves.

You'll then meet your bus and drive to your hotel in Killarney—your home for the next three nights—collecting non-walkers at Muckross House on the way.

After some free time to settle in, you'll get to know your fellow travelers and guides better during a welcome reception and dinner this evening.

Accommodation: Loch Lein Country House Hotel

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 4

### Discover the Gap of Dunloe. Independent exploration of Killarney

Kate Kearney's Cottage to Lord Brandon's Cottage; 7 miles, easy to moderate

After breakfast, you'll transfer to Kate Kearney's Cottage, the site where the legendary 19th-century beauty made and sold an illicit brew "very fierce and wild, requiring not less than seven times its own quantity of water to tame and subdue it." Now a popular shop and pub, it's also the starting point for today's walk, which takes you up a steady paved incline and through a spectacular glacial valley, known

as the Gap of Dunloe. Your trail parallels a mountain stream over rugged terrain lined with massive boulders, until you reach the pass between Macgillycuddy's Reeks—Ireland's tallest mountain range, at 3,414 feet—and the Purple Mountains. Then you'll descend into the Black Valley. Throughout your journey, you'll have a horse-drawn jaunting cart at the ready if you want a break.

A lakeside picnic awaits you at Lord Brandon's Cottage. From here, you'll board open boats and cruise to Ross Castle, a 15th-century tower house, as your boatmen regale you with tales of Napoleon, King Brian Boru, and others who have passed this way.

This evening, shuttle into Killarney for dinner on your own. You'll also have the opportunity to mingle with locals over a pint of Guinness in one of Killarney's lively pubs.

Accommodation: Loch Lein Country House Hotel

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

## DAY 5

### Glenbeigh and the Kerry Way

Start of walk to meet minibus; 3 miles, easy or Start of walk to Glenbeigh; 5 miles, easy to moderate.

Afternoon Glenbeigh to Curra Hill; 2 miles, easy

Today's walk brings you to the northern part of the Kerry Peninsula. After a short drive, your bus will leave you at the trailhead—a quiet, paved country road circling Seefin Mountain. As you walk, enjoy spectacular views over Lough Caragh. At the end of the road, you have the option of rejoining the minibus and meeting the group in Glenbeigh, or walking to Glenbeigh up the mountain on a footpath through Windy Gap. This path is part of the Kerry Way, a 135-mile walking route over old droving paths and coach roads.

Upon reaching Glenbeigh, enjoy free time for lunch on your own in this quaint town.

After lunch, you have two options: You can shuttle two miles to Rossbehy Creek and take a short walk along White Strand, a beautiful sandy beach on a small peninsula stretching into Dingle Bay. Or you can walk along the banks of River Behy and follow the Kerry Way through the sloped woods of Curra Hill, then shuttle down to Rossbehy Beach.

Tonight before an included dinner, you'll meet Denis Kissane, a local friend who will give a nostalgic presentation on his childhood in "The Old Bohareen."

Accommodation: Loch Lein Country House Hotel

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

## DAY 6

### **Walk through Killarney National Park into Killarney and Ross Island. Visit the home of Denis Kissane**

Castle Ross Hotel to Killarney; 2 miles, easy. Loop walk around Ross Island; 2 miles, easy

After breakfast, pack your luggage, as you will be departing Killarney today for Kenmare. First, though, you'll take a very short drive to Castle Ross Hotel for a walk in Killarney's beautiful parklands. You can stop at Killarney Cathedral, then venture into town for shopping, or join your guides for a walk around Ross Island. More of a peninsula than an island, Ross Island is heavily wooded with a network of paths leading to attractive viewpoints overlooking Lough Leane. Also visible are remains of former copper mines, some dating back 4,000 years to the prehistoric Bronze Age, and others from the 19th century.

After free time for lunch in Killarney, you'll visit your newfound friend, Denis Kissane, who has invited you to see both his childhood home (featured in his talk yesterday evening) and his current home, where he will entertain you over tea or coffee and freshly made scones. Afterward, continue to Kenmare.

Tonight is free for you to explore the town, a four-minute walk away along a footpath directly opposite the hotel. Dinner is on your own.

Accommodation: Brook Lane Hotel

Included Meals: Breakfast

## DAY 7

### **Gleninchaquin Park. Independent exploration of Kenmare**

Various options from 2 miles, easy to 4 miles, moderate

After a leisurely start to your morning, you'll explore Kenmare Market, where vendors sell everything from

cheese and soda bread to antique tools. Afterwards, you'll shuttle 15 miles to Gleninchaquin Park, located at the end of a beautiful valley. Here you meet the park's groundskeepers, whose ancestors have lived in the valley for more than 130 years. Then, choose from a variety of walks, from gentle farm or river strolls to a more challenging walk above a 448-foot waterfall (well worth the effort for the amazing views). Make sure you visit the Heritage Site to see the reconstructed 19th-century cottage that was typical in this area.

After leaving the park, you'll ride to a nearby pier overlooking Kenmare Bay to enjoy a special lunch of freshly prepared Irish salmon.

This afternoon, shuttle back to Kenmare where you'll have free time to experience this pretty town on your own. Choose from among Kenmare's many pubs or restaurants for dinner on your own this evening.

Accommodation: Brook Lane Hotel

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

## DAY 8

### Kerry Way to Caherdaniel and Derrynane Bay

Derrynane House to Abbey Island and back; 2 miles, easy or walk to Derrynane House; 4 miles, easy to moderate

Today the scenery is spectacular as you walk along the southwestern section of the Kerry Way, with views of tiny islands, towering cliffs, and some of the finest beaches in Europe.

For those who would like a slightly more challenging option, the morning trailhead begins along a single-track road. Follow this path along another section of the Kerry Way, known to the locals as the Old Butter Road. This leads you along farm tracks and then into open moorland. There is a slight incline before you drop down into Caherdaniel, where you're met with one of the best views in Ireland, overlooking Derrynane Bay.

Once in Caherdaniel, a pretty coastal village on the bay's shores, you transfer by bus to Derrynane House. The ancestral home of Daniel O'Connell, "the Liberator" or "the Emancipator" of Ireland, Derrynane House today is a public museum. If you'd prefer the easier option, you may shuttle directly to Derrynane Bay and enjoy a lovely walk with one of your guides across to Abbey Island. Here you'll view the remains of a 10th-



century abbey and a local cemetery.

You meet for an included lunch in the café at Derrynane House, followed by a tour of the museum.

Derrynane House is furnished with a variety of items belonging to Daniel O'Connell, including the dueling pistol he used to kill rival John D'Esterre in 1815, the black glove he wore in remembrance of that day, and the fabulous gold chariot he rode through Dublin to greet jubilant crowds upon his release from prison. A video presentation outlines the life and times of the man who inspired many leaders from Mahatma Gandhi to Martin Luther King, and was known as the Great Liberator.

You'll also have time at leisure here to explore the gardens behind the house, walk around the Derrynane Dunes nature trail, or simply relax on one of the most beautiful beaches in the country, with more than a mile of golden sand. Regroup at the Keatings Bar, a cozy pub located in a small room in a private house. After an included drink, you'll shuttle back to Kenmare.

This evening, you'll enjoy a farewell dinner in your hotel and bid goodbye to your Country Walkers guides.

Accommodation: Brook Lane Hotel

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 9

### ***Your Ireland: Cork, Killarney & Kenmare* tour concludes. Transfer to Kinsale**

At 8:45 a.m. transfer by private motor coach to the medieval town of Kinsale. The drive takes approximately two-and-a-half hours. Kinsale has an abundance of traditional bars and restaurants, beautiful buildings, narrow streets, shops and galleries, and a pretty harbor area.

Once you arrive in Kinsale, settle in and have lunch, before meeting a local guide in the hotel reception at 2:00 p.m. and enjoy a one-hour walking tour that explains the colorful story of Kinsale—from its medieval walled town to the sinking of the Lusitania. The remainder of the day is free for you to explore this quaint town on your own. Country Walkers provides you with City Information that includes recommendations about what to see and do in Kinsale.

Kinsale has been seasoned liberally by Norman, Spanish, and English influences since the Middle Ages,



but nowadays most of the seasoning takes place in the numerous fine restaurants that make this the “Gourmet Capital of Ireland.” Kinsale is also a yachting and fishing center, hence its reputation for great seafood!

Accommodation: The Trident Hotel

Included Meals: Breakfast

## **DAY 10**

### **Depart for home**

After breakfast,\* transfer to the Cork airport for your return flight.\*\*

\*Please note: For guests with early-morning departures, full breakfast at the hotel may not be available, in which case a cold tray can be delivered to your room. Please check with the reception desk to verify the times when breakfast is served and to arrange for your cold tray, if necessary.

\*\*Country Walkers transfer times and departure points are finalized in advance and cannot be modified for individual guests. If you extend your stay beyond the scheduled program dates, return transportation to the airport is at your own expense.

Included Meal: Breakfast

## What's Included

### Air Package

### Tour Only

Exceptional boutique accommodations	✓	✓
14 on-tour meals: 7 breakfasts, 4 lunch, 3 dinners	✓	✓
Local guides with you throughout tour	✓	✓
Entrance fees and special events as noted in the itinerary	✓	✓
Emergency travel assistance hotline available 24/7	✓	✓
Roundtrip airfare	✓	
One extra night at the Imperial Hotel in Cork and one extra night in the Trident Hotel in Kinsale	✓	
Airport car service for arrival & departure	✓	
Pre- and post-tour breakfasts	✓	
Business-class upgrades available	✓	