

Ireland: Cork, Killarney & Dingle

Air Package Itinerary

Is there a better way to greet the day? Mist rises over rock-strewn pastures and smoke billows from the chimneys of whitewashed cottages near Killarney. Slinging your backpack over a shoulder, you stride outside onto the country lane. A stream rushes by as you climb the green glacial valley towards the Gap of Dunloe. Come afternoon, you'll be crossing the arched stone bridge at Lord Brandon's Cottage for a picnic, then boating over to Ross Castle. But you're in no hurry. This is a week for savoring tales—and fresh-baked scones—in an Irish storyteller's home, walking windswept beaches and the legendary Kerry Way. Breathe deeply and admire the peaks of Macgillycuddy's Reeks reflected in mountain lakes. You're on a walking tour in Ireland, and taking things slowly is a way of life.



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 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 tours, some days offer options for self-exploration, cultural visits, or free time to relax on your own.

DAY 1

Fly to Cork or Dublin, Ireland

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

DAY 2

Arrive in Cork or Dublin, 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 including recommendations on what to see and do in Cork during your stay.

Accommodation: Imperial Hotel

*Please note that the Cork airport will be closed for maintenance from 9/12/2021 through 11/22/2021. Guests booked in this time frame will fly into Dublin and be met by a Country Walkers representative at the Dublin airport. Country Walkers will provide complimentary transportation from the Dublin airport to your Cork hotel, approximately three hours away.

DAY 3

Join your Ireland: Cork, Killarney & Kenmare tour

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

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

Following 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 enter the stunning vistas of the Killarney Lakes with 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, Muckcross House.

Your lunch today at the manor's Garden Restaurant is included. Once you've finished, 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 Muckcross 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 Muckcross House on the way.

Take some free time to settle in, then get to know your fellow travelers and guides during a welcome reception and dinner this evening.

Accommodation: Loch Lein Country House Hotel

Included Meals: Breakfast (for air and Pre-Tour Extension guests), 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

This morning, 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. You ascend a steady paved incline and traverse 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. Perhaps you'll mingle with locals over a pint of Guinness in one of Killarney's lively pubs.

A vibrant town surrounded by the stunning beauty of the National Park, Killarney is home to historical sites and lively pubs. It's also an ideal base for exploring the nearby mountains and lakes.

Guided – Flex Options include:

- Visit Killarney House and Gardens and enjoy a tour of the historical rooms and breathtaking landscape.

An interpretive exhibition invites you to discover everything about Killarney National Park and the landscape of Country Kerry. Open seven days a week, free admission.

killarneynationalpark.ie/explore/house-gardens/killarney-house-gardens/.

- Discover "the legend that is in the brew" on a visit to Killarney Brewing Company in downtown Killarney. The brewery specializes in what is claimed to be Ireland's finest range of small-batch craft beers. All of their beers are named after local myths and legends, evoking the spirit of all things Killarney.

killarneybrewing.com/

- Step back in time and enjoy a guided tour of Muckross House and Traditional Farms, regarded by many as the focal point of Killarney National Park. Staged to represent Ireland in the 1930s and 1940s, the tour will visit three separate working farms, as well as the 19th-century Victorian mansion on the shores of Muckross Lake. Advanced reservations required. muckross-house.ie/index.html

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 about 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 today you depart Killarney 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 throughout the ages—some remains date back 4,000 years to the prehistoric Bronze Age, and others are from the 19th century.

You'll have free time for lunch in Killarney on your own, then regroup to visit your newfound friend, Denis Kissane. He 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

Start your morning with a leisurely breakfast, then set off to explore Kenmare Market, where vendors sell everything from cheese to soda bread to antique tools. Afterward, 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.

You leave the park to ride to a nearby pier overlooking Kenmare Bay where you'll 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.

The town of Kenmare, located on Kenmare Bay, has a reputation for gourmet restaurants, stunning scenery, and historical homes and cottages.

Guided – Flex Options include:

- Visit the ancestral home of Irish statesman and prominent figure Daniel O’Connell, now preserved as the Derrynane House, a public museum under the management of National Historic Properties of the Office of Public Works. The €5.00 entrance fee includes access to the house, beach, and nature trail.

derrynanehouse.ie/

- Explore the charming village of Kenmare, whose name was anglicized from “Ceann Mara,” meaning “head of the sea.” Visit the downtown farmers market and connect with local farmers and craftsmen who enjoy sharing their stories with visitors from near and far.

- Take an optional walk from the hotel in Kenmare to Cromwell’s Bridge and the Holy Well, located just steps from the Kenmare Heritage Center. Continue through town to the Pier and Reenagross Park and enjoy views overlooking Kenmare Bay and the hills beyond.

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 you’ll take in spectacular scenery 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 walk 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, today Derrynane House 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.

You'll also have time at leisure 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 motorcoach to the medieval town of Kinsale. The drive takes approximately 2.5 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. 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 including 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

Departure

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

*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.

†Please note that the Cork airport will be closed for maintenance from 9/12/2021 through 11/22/2021. Guests booked in this time frame will be transferred to Dublin airport for your return flight, approximately three hours away.

**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	✓	✓
Travel assistance available 24/7 provided by Allianz	✓	✓
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	✓	