WALKING HOLIDAY IRELAND

FROM
€1,595
per person sharing



SELF-GUIDED WALKING HOLIDAY · THE KERRY WAY

THE COMPLETE KERRY WAY
12 DAYS

The full Kerry Way circuit: 170km in nine walking days from Killarney back to Killarney, with a rest day in Cahersiveen and the option of a boat trip to Skellig Michael.

DURATION	WALKING DAYS	DISTANCE	GRADE
12 days	**10**	**184.3 km**	**Moderate**
11 nights B&B	15 to 24 km each	about 4,200 m of ascent	

Family-run since 2012 · Cliff & Louise

walkingholidayireland.com

Tour code SWA-KW-12M

Your route at a glance

The full Kerry Way circuit: 170km in nine walking days from Killarney back to Killarney, with a rest day in Cahersiveen and the option of a boat trip to Skellig Michael.

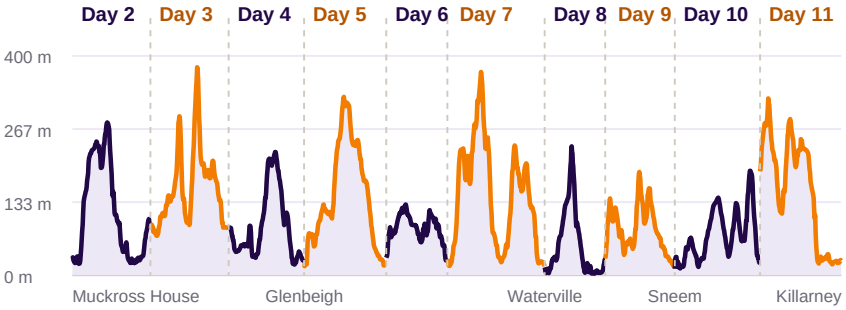


Overnight · Days 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10 · Days 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11

DAY 1	**Arrival in Killarney**	Settle in. The Kerry Way begins…
DAY 2	**Muckross House to the Black**	18.8 km · 433 m ascent · Moderate
DAY 3	**Black Valley to Glencar over the**	18.8 km · 563 m ascent · Moderate
DAY 4	**Glencar to Glenbeigh**	18 km · 287 m ascent · Moderate
DAY 5	**Glenbeigh to Cahersiveen**	19.6 km · 372 m ascent · Moderate · back…
DAY 6	**Rest day in Cahersiveen — Skellig**	14.6 km · 225 m ascent · Gentle
DAY 7	**Cahersiveen to Waterville — the**	23.5 km · 759 m ascent · Challenging
DAY 8	**Waterville to Caherdaniel**	14.5 km · 305 m ascent · Gentle
DAY 9	**Caherdaniel to Sneem**	16.6 km · 398 m ascent · Moderate
DAY 10	**Blackwater Bridge to Kenmare**	20.5 km · 437 m ascent · Moderate
DAY 11	**Kenmare to Killarney — closing the**	19.4 km · 413 m ascent · Moderate
DAY 12	**Departure from Killarney**	A last full Irish breakfast, a last look at…

The whole walk in one line

184.3 km · 4,192 m of climbing over ten days · from our GPS tracks



What's underfoot

Surface across the ten walking days



Road and lane	40%
Footpath and trail	40%
Gravel and forest track	20%

Day by day

Elevation, 0 to 400 m · Moderate · Gentle · Challenging

1 **Arrival in Killarney.** Settle in. The Kerry Way begins tomorrow. Arrive in Killarney, Kerry's walking capital — trains from Dublin, buses from Cork and Shannon, Kerry Airport twenty minutes away. Collect your route notes, waterproof maps and pre-departure… **Overnight Killarney**

DAY 2



18.8 km · 433 m up · Moderate

Muckross House to the Black Valley

The Kerry Way opens with one of its finest days. A short taxi brings you from your B&B to Muckross House, the great Victorian mansion on the shore of Muckross Lake, and from there the trail draws you south through the heart of Killarney National Park along the old carriageway — the lakeshore path beneath ancient oak woods, the Reeks across the water, and Torc Waterfall dropping through the moss just off the path. The trail climbs through Esknamucky Glen, rounds the Upper Lake and joins the old Kenmare Road — a pre-Famine track reclaimed by heather and bog — before the final descent into the Black Valley, one of the last inhabited valleys in Ireland to get electricity.

Overnight Black Valley

DAY 3



18.8 km · 563 m up · Moderate

Black Valley to Glencar over the Lack Road

The wildest day on the Kerry Way. From the head of the Black Valley the trail climbs steeply to the Lack Road — at 383 metres one of the high points of the route, an old drovers' path with views north into the Reeks and south across the whole Iveragh Peninsula. Take your time at the top. Nobody ever regrets it. The long descent into Glencar passes Lough Acoose and old farmland before the Climbers Inn appears — a mountain inn that has been feeding walkers for over a century, and knows exactly what you need.

Overnight Glencar

DAY 4



18 km · 287 m up · Moderate

Glencar to Glenbeigh

After two days in the mountains, the Kerry Way opens up. You climb out of Glencar onto the Beann ridge with sweeping views back to the Reeks, then traverse long moorland slopes before the ground begins to fall towards the coast. Then the reveal: Dingle Bay, the full width of it, the Dingle Peninsula's mountains across the water and Rossbeigh Strand curling into the sea below you. Glenbeigh is a small village at the head of the strand — a good pub, a beach within walking distance, and your first evening by the Atlantic.

Overnight Glenbeigh

DAY 5



19.6 km | 372 m up

Moderate

Glenbeigh to Cahersiveen

The Kerry Way turns its back on the coast and heads into the quiet interior of the peninsula along the old stagecoach road that connected these villages before the coast road existed. The trail rises steadily through open bogland — heather, the occasional startled grouse, the sky widening with every metre — with Dingle Bay filling the view to the north. The stage ends at Foilduff, where a short transfer brings you into Cahersiveen, your home for the next two nights. The town has genuine character — Daniel O'Connell's birthplace, good restaurants and a lively main street — and tomorrow, for once, there is no alarm clock.

Overnight Cahersiveen · back to Cahersiveen for the night

DAY 6



14.6 km | 225 m up

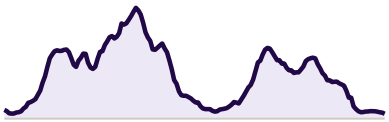
Gentle

Rest day in Cahersiveen — Skellig Michael, or an easy loop

A day off the trail, placed deliberately before the Kerry Way's toughest stage. Three good ways to spend it. Skellig Michael (optional extra). Fifteen minutes down the road at Portmagee, the boats leave each morning for the Skelligs. Land on Skellig Michael, climb the 600 stone steps and stand among the beehive huts of a 6th-century monastery, with Little Skellig and its 70,000 gannets across the water. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the most extraordinary places in Europe.

Overnight Cahersiveen

DAY 7



23.5 km | 759 m up

Challenging

Cahersiveen to Waterville — the Skellig coast

This is the day. A morning transfer returns you to Foilduff to pick up exactly where you left off, and the trail climbs immediately into the mountains above Bolus Head, the Atlantic coastline falling away below you. At around 400 metres the Skellig Islands appear on the western horizon: Skellig Michael and Little Skellig, dark silhouettes twelve kilometres out to sea. If you stood on that rock yesterday, this is the view that makes sense of it. The descent into Waterville is long, gradual and beautiful. Charlie Chaplin brought his family here every summer for decades; his bronze statue on the seafront captures the place perfectly.

Overnight Waterville

DAY **8**



14.5 km **305 m up**

Gentle

Waterville to Caherdaniel

A shorter day — deliberately so. From Waterville the route climbs onto the ridge above Lough Currane with the Skelligs at your back, then traverses a long high-level path over the Coomakista pass with the Atlantic close and constant. Many walkers name this the finest stretch on the entire Kerry Way. Below you is Derrynane Bay — one of the loveliest beaches in Kerry, sheltered by dunes, the water a clear Atlantic green — and Derrynane House, the ancestral home of Daniel O'Connell. Caherdaniel itself is tiny: a handful of houses, a pub, a few guesthouses. You'll eat seafood that arrived this morning and sleep in a quiet the bigger towns can't offer.

Overnight Caherdaniel

DAY **9**



16.6 km **398 m up**

Moderate

Caherdaniel to Sneem

The Kerry Way climbs out of Caherdaniel over Eagle Hill and into a landscape of bog and rocky moorland — the high ground between two great bodies of water, the Atlantic behind you and the Kenmare River widening ahead, with the Beara Peninsula emerging across it on a clear day. The descent to Sneem is through farmland and quiet lanes, the pace gentling as the mountain drops away. Sneem is one of Kerry's most photogenic villages: brightly painted houses on either side of a river, gathered around two village greens. Its Irish name, Snaidhm, means knot — a good place for the trail to gather itself before the mountains.

Overnight Sneem

DAY **10**



20.5 km **437 m up**

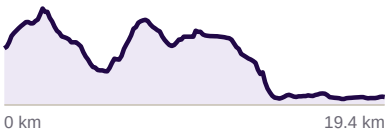
Moderate

Blackwater Bridge to Kenmare

A short morning transfer brings you from Sneem to Blackwater Bridge, from where the trail climbs steadily onto open mountain above the south shore of Kenmare Bay — broad moorland ridges with views that widen as you gain height: the estuary below, the Beara Peninsula across the water, the Iveragh mountains you crossed a week ago rolling back to the west. The descent into Kenmare is long and satisfying, the town's colourful main street appearing gradually beneath you. Kenmare is one of Kerry's finest towns — excellent restaurants, a famous farmers' market, and the kind of evening atmosphere that makes it easy to linger. After 20.5km and 437m of climbing, you have permission.

Overnight Kenmare

DAY **11**



19.4 km **413 m up**

Moderate

Kenmare to Killarney — closing the circle

The Kerry Way closes as it opened — in Killarney National Park, in the oak woods, among the lakes. From Kenmare the route heads north through the ancient Derrycunnihy oakwood, one of the finest sessile oak forests left in Ireland, then crests the pass and drops towards the Upper Lake with the Reeks reflected in the water. Torc Waterfall appears suddenly — a wide white drop down a mossy rockface, the sound of it reaching you before the path turns the corner. The final kilometres wind past Muckross House and along the lake shore into Killarney. You walked out of this town ten days ago.

Overnight Killarney

12 **Departure from Killarney.** A last full Irish breakfast, a last look at the MacGillycuddy's Reeks from the town, and then onwards. Killarney has trains to Dublin (three hours), buses to Cork and Shannon, and Kerry Airport twenty minutes away, so onward travel is easy in any direction. Most walkers leave already thinking…

Is this walk for you?

GENTLE — MODERATE — CHALLENGING

15 to 24 km	4,192	10
a day	m of climbing in total	walking days

This tour is for regular walkers who want the complete trail and are comfortable with nine days on mountain and coastal terrain, broken by a rest day. Most stages are 14–20km with 250–560 metres of ascent; two are harder — Cahersiveen to Waterville (23.5km, 759m) and Blackwater Bridge to Kenmare (20.5km, 437m). The rest day sits right before the first of them. If you have done a week-long walking holiday before and finished wanting more, this is the one. You don't want highlights; you want the whole thing.



INCLUDED

- ✓ **Accommodation.** 11 nights in handpicked en-suite B&Bs and guesthouses
- ✓ **Breakfast.** Full Irish or continental breakfast every morning
- ✓ **Logistics.** Luggage transfers to each night's accommodation
- ✓ **Trail transfers.** Foilduff to Cahersiveen and back, Sneem to Blackwater Bridge, and the Kenmare trailhead drop…
- ✓ **Navigation.** Personalised digital itinerary and route app for your smartphone that keeps you on the trail at…
- ✓ **Support.** 24/7 emergency contact line (peace of mind)
- ✓ **Preparation.** Pre-departure information pack with route details and packing suggestions

NOT INCLUDED

- ✗ Flights to/from Ireland
- ✗ Travel and hiking insurance
- ✗ Lunches and dinners (though we'll suggest brilliant local spots)
- ✗ The Skellig Michael boat trip and transfer to Portmagee (available as an optional extra)

FROM

€1,595

per person sharing

Single room supplement applies. See the website for current rates.

How booking works

1. Tell us your dates and how many walkers. We check the B&Bs.
2. A 25% deposit holds your places; the balance is due before you travel.
3. Your travel pack arrives 14 days before departure.

Check dates and book

Scan for live dates

info@walkingholidayireland.com · +353 42 932 3396

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