

5.0/5 · 16 walker reviews



The Kerry Way Hiking Tour 8 Days

Ireland's longest and most famous walking trail

DURATION

8 days

WALKING DAYS

6

TOTAL DISTANCE

94.5 km

GRADE

Moderate

From

€935

per person

Book or enquire at

walkingholidayireland.com/walking-tours

[See website for current rates](#)

About This Tour

Ireland's longest and most famous walking route: 214km around the Iveragh Peninsula with dramatic mountain passes, emerald valleys, and coastal views.

Tour Highlights

● The Skellig Islands Vista

As you climb out of Cahersiveen toward the high mountain section above Bolus Head, the Skellig Islands appear on the Atlantic horizon: two jagged black rocks, ancient and improbable, rising out of the sea twelve kilometres offshore.

● Torc Waterfall & Muckross House

Your final walking day (Day 7) is a masterpiece finale. You'll wind through ancient oak forests in Killarney National Park, encounter the ethereal Torc Waterfall cascading down the mountainside, and finish near the magnificent Muckross...

● Charlie Chaplin's Waterville

The descent into Waterville on Day 3 brings you to one of Kerry's most quietly perfect villages. Charlie Chaplin brought his family here every summer for decades.

● The Challenge of Sneem to Kenmare

Day 6 is the Kerry Way's most demanding stage: 20.5km with 554m of ascent across open mountain above Blackwater Bridge, with sweeping views over Kenmare Bay and the Beara Peninsula beyond. The climb is sustained.

Who Is It For?

Your fitness level

This tour is for experienced walkers who are comfortable with sustained daily distances and real elevation. You should be happy covering 14–23km in a day on mountain terrain, and confident navigating with a map and route notes in open country. Day 3 — 23.5km and 862m of ascent — is a serious mountain day. If you've completed multi-day walking tours before and want something that genuinely challenges you, the Kerry Way is the right choice.

The right kind of traveller

You want to know Kerry the way Kerry should be known — from the inside, on foot, at a pace that lets the landscape register. You are not in a hurry. You would rather earn a view than arrive at a viewpoint.

Day-by-Day Itinerary

DAY

1

Arrival in Glenbeigh

Overnight: Glenbeigh

Settle in. The Kerry Way begins tomorrow.

Your tour starts in Glenbeigh, a small village at the head of Rossbeigh Strand on the northern shore of the Iveragh Peninsula. Arrive in the afternoon, collect your route notes, waterproof maps and pre-departure pack from your B&B host, and get your bearings.

Glenbeigh is a gentle introduction to Kerry — a pub, a beach within walking distance, and the mountain landscape that will fill your view for the next seven days is already visible in every direction.

We will provide you with information on how to get here using public transport in your pre-departure pack — or talk to us about private transfer options from Kerry Airport (the closest), Cork Airport or Shannon Airport.

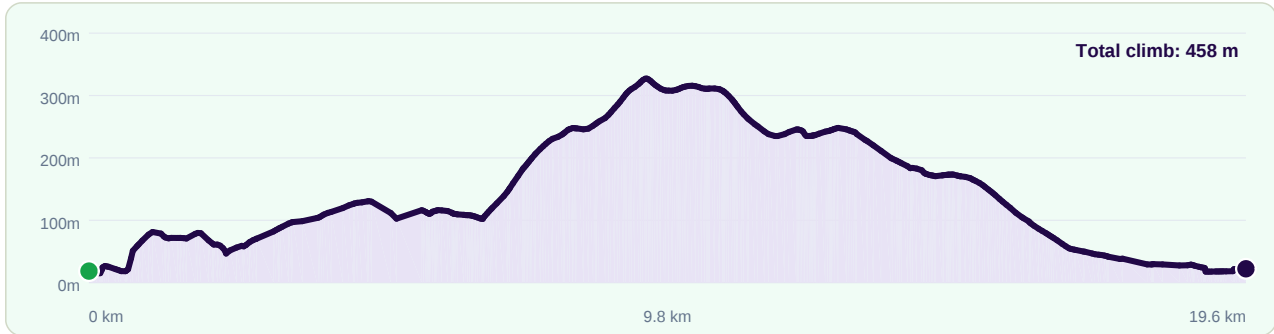
Spend the evening resting, eating well, and resisting the temptation to check the elevation profile for Day 3.

DAY
2

Glenbeigh to Cahersiveen

Walk: KW Glenbeigh to Foilduff (19.6 km) · Overnight: Cahersiveen

ROUTE 19.6 km · 458 m ascent · Moderate · Glenbeigh to Foilduff Community Centre



Your first full day on the Kerry Way takes you south from Glenbeigh along the old stagecoach road that once connected these villages before the coast road existed. The trail rises steadily through open bogland, the sky widening with every metre of elevation.

The scent of wild heather and the occasional startled grouse accompany you across the high moorland. Then Dingle Bay opens to the north – the full width of it, the Dingle Peninsula's mountains across the water – and you understand for the first time what walking Kerry means.

The route ends at Foilduff, where a short transfer brings you into Cahersiveen, your overnight stop. The town has genuine character — it's the birthplace of Daniel O'Connell, the Great Liberator, with good restaurants and a lively pub scene on the main street. Rest well: tomorrow is the Kerry Way's most demanding day.

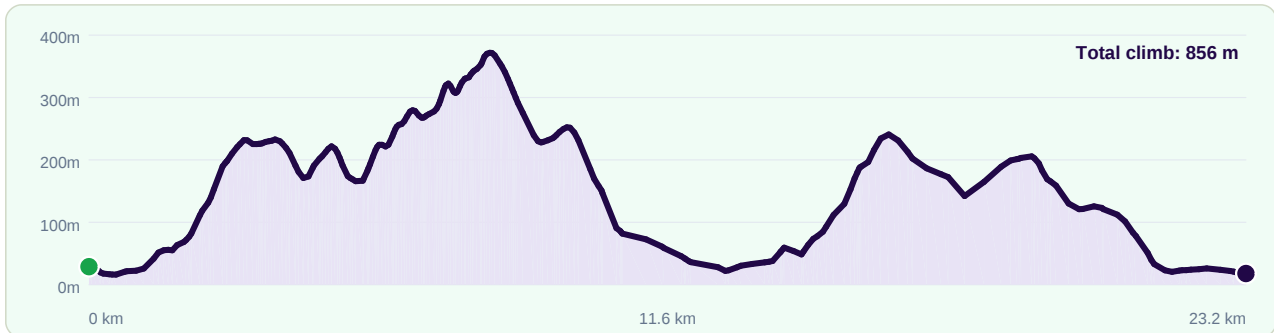
DAY

3

Cahersiveen to Waterville

Walk: Kerry Way Cahersiveen to Waterville (23.5 km) · Overnight: Waterville

ROUTE 23.5 km · 862 m ascent · Challenging · Foilduff to Waterville



This is the day. The toughest stage on the tour— and the most memorable. You start from Foilduff and climb immediately into the mountains, the trail rising above Bolus Head with Kerry's Atlantic coastline falling away below you. At around 400 metres, the Skellig Islands appear on the western horizon: Skellig Michael and Little Skellig, their dark silhouettes unmistakable against the Atlantic. Monks built a monastery on Skellig Michael in the 6th century and lived there for six hundred years. You can see why they chose it — isolated, otherworldly, beyond the reach of ordinary life. Standing here, with the elevation burning in your legs and the whole peninsula spread below you, is one of the outstanding moments of Irish walking. The descent into Waterville is long, gradual, and beautiful — the village appearing slowly below you as the trail drops toward the coast. Waterville is where Charlie Chaplin brought his family every summer for decades. The village bronze statue of him captures the place perfectly: unhurried, characterful, utterly itself. After 23.5km and 862m of climbing, you'll be more than...

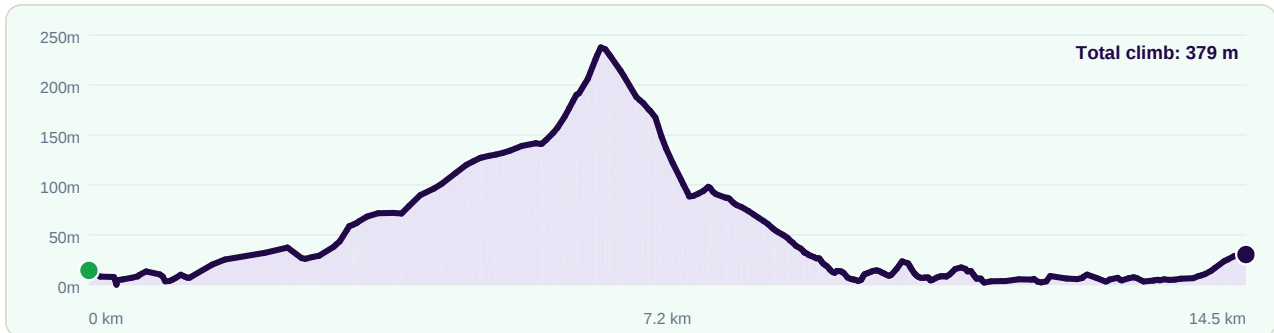
DAY

4

Waterville to Caherdaniel

Walk: Kerry Way Waterville to Caherdaniel (14.5 km) · Overnight: Caherdaniel

ROUTE 14.5 km · 379 m ascent · Easy · Waterville to Caherdaniel



A shorter day — deliberately so. The Kerry Way gives you a chance to breathe after the demands of Day 3, and the coastal section from Waterville to Caherdaniel is exactly the right kind of walking for a recovery stage: long headland views, the Atlantic close and constant, and a pace that lets you actually look at what's around you.

The trail follows the coastline south, passing above Derrynane Bay — one of the finest beaches in Kerry, sheltered by its dunes and the water a clear Atlantic green. Derrynane House, the ancestral home of Daniel O'Connell, sits behind the beach.

Caherdaniel is tiny—a handful of houses, a pub, and a few guesthouses— and that smallness is precisely its appeal. You'll have proper conversations with locals, eat seafood that arrived this morning, and sleep in a quiet that the bigger towns on this route can't offer.

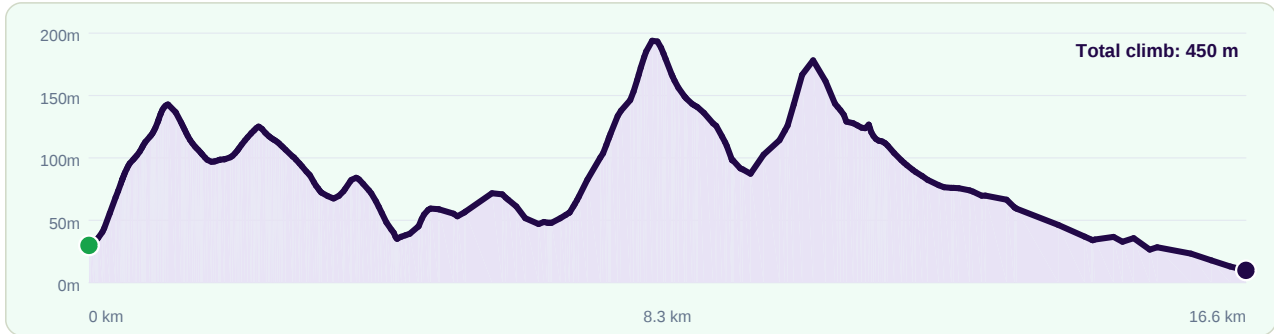
DAY

5

Caherdaniel to Sneem

Walk: Kerry Way Caherdaniel to Sneem (16.6 km) · Overnight: Sneem

ROUTE 16.6 km · 450 m ascent · Moderate · Caherdaniel to Sneem



The Kerry Way turns inland today, climbing away from the coast into the mountain interior of the Iveragh Peninsula. The trail rises through a heathery hillside above Kenmare Bay, the estuary widening to the east, the Beara Peninsula emerging across the water on clear days.

This is a day of views that change slowly — you're walking the high ground between two great bodies of water, the Atlantic behind you and the Kenmare River ahead. The descent toward 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, the kind of place that appears on the front of Irish travel calendars without really trying. Its Irish name, Snaidhm, means "knot" — and it does feel like a gathering point, a place where the trail ties itself together at the halfway mark.

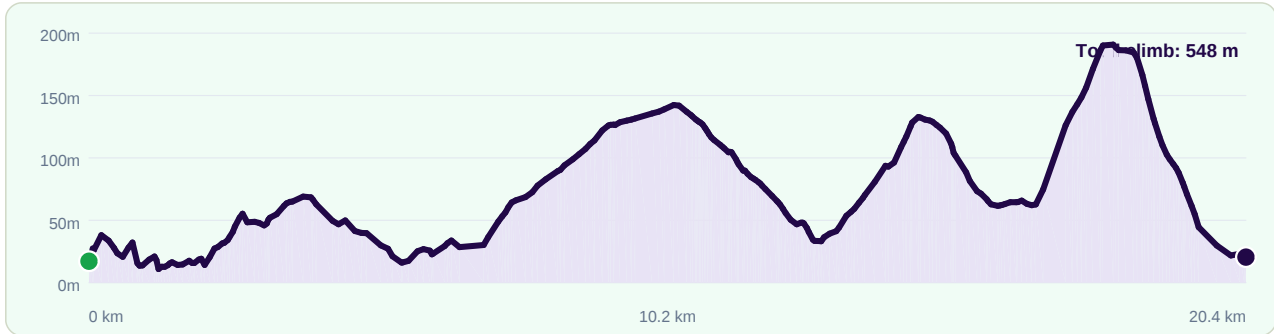
DAY

6

Sneem to Kenmare

Walk: Kerry Blackwater Bridge to Kenmare (20.5 km) · Overnight: Kenmare

ROUTE 20.5 km · 554 m ascent · Challenging · Sneem (Blackwater Bridge) to Kenmare



The Kerry Way's second great challenge. You leave Sneem via the Blackwater Bridge and climb steadily onto open mountain — broad moorland ridges with 360-degree views that expand as you gain height. To the south, Kenmare Bay stretches toward the Atlantic. To the west, the Iveragh Peninsula rolls back toward the mountains you crossed on Days 3 and 5. On a clear day, you can see across to Cork.

The high ground is exposed and beautiful in equal measure. This is the kind of Kerry walking that earns its reputation: big skies, ancient landscape, and the particular satisfaction of being on top of something that most people only see from a car.

The descent into Kenmare is long and satisfying. The town appears gradually below you — its colourful main street, the Blue Pool, and the Kenmare River beyond. Kenmare is one of Kerry's finest towns: excellent restaurants, a farmers' market, and the kind of evening atmosphere that makes it easy to linger. After 20.5km and 554m of climbing, you have permission.

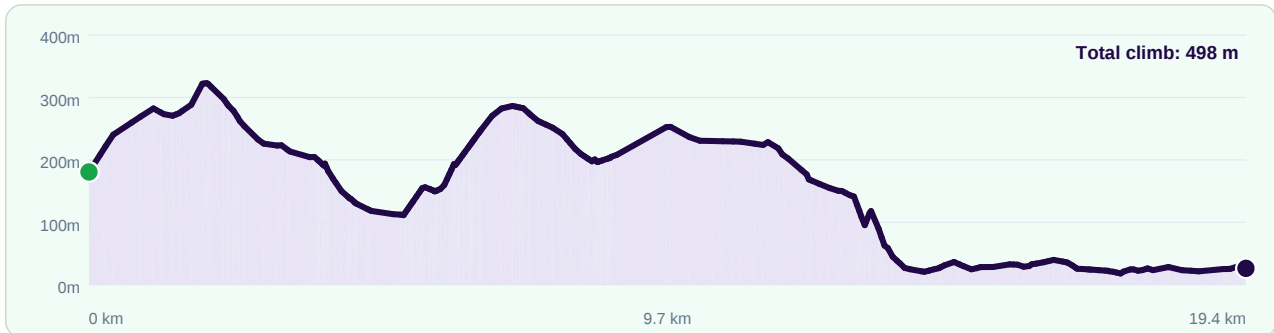
DAY

7

Kenmare to Killarney

Walk: Kerry Way Kenmare to Killarney (19.4 km) · Overnight: Killarney

ROUTE 19.4 km · 504 m ascent · Moderate · Kenmare to Killarney



Your final walking day is the Kerry Way at its most beautiful. Leave Kenmare and climb through the Black Valley — a remote, sparsely populated valley that has changed very little in a century. The last inhabited place in Ireland to receive electricity, it still carries that sense of being slightly outside ordinary time. The trail crests the pass and drops toward Killarney National Park, where the character of the landscape shifts completely: ancient oak woodland closes around the path, the light filtering through a canopy that has been here for thousands of years. This is one of the largest areas of native oak forest remaining in Ireland. Torc Waterfall appears suddenly — a wide white drop down a mossy rockface into a dark pool below, the sound of it reaching you before the path turns the corner. A moment worth stopping for, and you will stop. The final kilometres wind through the National Park past Muckcross House — a 19th-century Victorian mansion on the shore of Muckcross Lake, with the MacGillycuddy's Reeks reflected in the water — before the...

DAY

8

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), and the town's position at the centre of the Kerry road network makes onwards travel easy in any direction.

Most walkers leave already thinking about which trail to walk next. Some people book the 10-day version before they have finished their coffee.

What Our Walkers Say

Rated 5.0/5 by 16 walkers

Clear routes, welcoming hosts, and excellent planning on the Kerry Way.

- Michael O'Connor - 2025

The Kerry Way delivered stunning scenery and a real sense of achievement. Cliff planned daily stages that felt balanced and achievable. The views changed constantly, from mountains to coastline. Each evening we stayed in welcoming accommodation with great local food. The app ensured we stayed on track at all times. A very rewarding experience.

- Claire Dubois - 2025

The Kerry Way was challenging but very rewarding. Distances were well planned, and the organisation was excellent.

- Lucas Martin - 2025

Ready to Walk Ireland?

Every tour is self-guided with hand-picked accommodation, daily luggage transfer, detailed route notes and GPX files, plus our personal local support throughout your walk. Dates and group sizes are flexible — just ask.

What's Included

- ✓ Accommodation: Welcoming en-suite B&B rooms
- ✓ Breakfast: Full Irish breakfast every morning
- ✓ Luggage Transfer: Daily transfer of your main bag between accommodations
- ✓ Personalised Itinerary and route app for your smart phone that keeps you on the trail at all times.
- ✓ Support: 24/7 emergency support throughout your holiday
- ✓ Pre-Departure Pack: Information pack sent before you travel, so you know exactly what to expect

Not Included

- ✗ Flights: Travel to Ireland is not included
- ✗ Insurance: You'll need travel and walking holiday insurance
- ✗ Meals: Lunches and dinners are not included (though we'll recommend great local spots)



Get in touch

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per person

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