



RAIL & HIKE SPRING & AUTUMN

type : Hiking Tours Self-Guided
 level : 
 duration : 11 days
 period: Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct
 code: IRL02

The Kerry Way - Ireland

11 days, PRICE FROM € 1205



Spanning an impressive 230km, the **Kerry Way is Ireland's longest Waymarked Trail**—a journey of breathtaking beauty that begins and ends in the lively town of Killarney. Traditionally tackled in a clockwise direction, this iconic route unfolds over nine stages, leading you through picturesque **Kerry towns like Glenbeigh, Caherciveen, Waterville, Sneem, and Kenmare.**

As you skirt the base of the mighty MacGillycuddy's Reeks, home to Ireland's highest peaks, **Carrauntoohil (1038m) and Caher (1001m)**, the landscape transforms—quiet roads, open moorlands, ancient woodlands, and tranquil field paths paint an ever-changing canvas. While the trail avoids the towering summits, it offers its own challenges, with isolated stretches, muddy tracks, and the occasional steep climb adding to the adventure.

Want to make your journey even more special? **Whether it's airport transfers, a night in Dublin, or a relaxing rest day, we're here to tailor the experience to you.** Just let us know, and we'll take care of the details!

Route

Day 1 Arrive in Killarney

Killarney, one of Ireland's gems, is renowned for its stunning national park and breathtaking views. You can explore **Killarney National Park**, home to enchanting lakes, lush forests, and the famous Torc Waterfall. The town serves as a perfect starting point for venturing onto the **Ring of Kerry**, a scenic route that showcases spectacular landscapes. History enthusiasts can visit **Muckross House** and the ancient ruins of local monasteries, while outdoor lovers can enjoy hiking, horseback riding, and cycling tours. With its **traditional pubs** and vibrant cultural scene, Killarney offers an unforgettable experience for all its visitors.

Day 2 Killarney to Black Valley, 22 km

The Kerry Way officially begins at the Tourist Office in **Killarney**, leading south along the **Muckross Road**. The trail enters **Bourn Vincent Memorial Park**, offering stunning views across **Lough Leane** and the **Shehy Mountains**. A steep climb by **Torc Waterfall** brings you to the old Kenmare Road, a **medieval path** with mountains on either side. The route continues through Esknamucky Glen's oak forests, eventually reaching **Galway's Bridge** and **Black Valley**. Expect tranquil landscapes but prepare for steep climbs and some busy areas near popular sites like Lord Brandon's Cottage.

Distance: 22 km

Elevation Gain: +400 m

Day 3 Black Valley to Glencar, 20 km

Leaving the Black Valley, the Kerry Way ascends with stunning views over **Bridia Valley**. The trail alternates between **quiet tarmac roads, gravel paths, and forest tracks**, offering **breathtaking views of the Caragh River Valley and Mulaghanattin Peak** (773m). A surprise awaits at the **Cooky Monster's Café** in this remote area. Reaching the head of the pass, the panorama opens to Lough Acoose and **Ireland's highest peak, Carrauntoohil** (1,039m). The route then skirts Lough Acoose before connecting to the main road towards **Glencar**.

Distance: 20 km

Elevation Gain: +500 m

Day 4 Glencar to Glenbeigh, 18 km

Starting from **The Climbers Inn**, the trail meanders through **quiet country roads and forestry paths** in the scenic **Glencar Valley**, offering beautiful views of the **McGillycuddy Reeks, Seefin Mountain, and Lough Carragh**. The route eventually reaches Gortirragh. You'll face a climb to the **Windy Gap**, and you'll be rewarded with **stunning vistas** of Rossbeigh, Inch Strand, and the Dingle Peninsula. A rough descent follows, leading to a small road at Gowlane, with the final 2km of tarmac taking you into the heart of **Glenbeigh**.

Distance: 18 km

Elevation Gain: +420 m

Day 5 Glenbeigh to Caherciveen, 28 km

This strenuous section is rewarded by the **breathtaking view of Dingle Bay and Peninsula** from the **slopes of Drung Hill** (640m). As you walk through **woodlands** and rural roads toward **Cahersiveen**, you'll pass historic field systems where locals once used seaweed to make arid land fertile. The remnants of this land reclamation, seen in stone fences and terraced fields, offer a glimpse into the **area's agricultural past**, once primarily used for potatoes and grazing.

Distance: 28 km

Elevation Gain: +450 m

Day 6 Caherciveen to Waterville, 22 km

From **Teeraha**, the Kerry Way trail ascends a ridge of small hills, gradually reaching **peaks** over 300 meters. The descent leads through minor roads to **Mastergeehy** and onward to **Coomduff**. At the summit of Coomduff, enjoy sweeping views: to the north, you'll see **Aghatubride, Foilclogh, and Beenduff**, while the south-east is dominated by **Coomcallee**. To the southwest lies **Lough Currane**, framed by the mountains of **Mullaghbeg, Cahernageeha, and Farraniaragh**. Waterville and the Atlantic Ocean stretch out on the western horizon. The trail continues over rough terrain and Knag Hill, leading to the charming seaside village of **Waterville**.

Distance: 22 km

Elevation Gain: +270 m

Day 7 Waterville to Caherdaniel, 13 km

Begin with a stroll past a statue of **Charlie Chaplin**, who was a frequent visitor to the area. After crossing the **Currane River**, the trail follows a quiet back road shared with the Ring of Kerry Cycle Route, offering views of **Ballinskelligs Bay** and the **Skellig Islands**. Along the way, you'll pass **Loher Fort**, an ancient stone structure from the 9th century, and fields that bear the remnants of the Great Famine of 1845. As the path turns, stunning views of **Derrynane Bay** and its islands open up. The last stretch takes you through Derrynane National Park's ancient forest, ending in the village of **Caherdaniel**.

Distance: 13 km

Elevation Gain: +300 m

Day 8 Caherdaniel to Sneem, 19 km

Today you walk along "green roads," including part of the **Old Kenmare Road**, with stunning views over **Kenmare Bay** towards **Bantry**. A must-see is **Staigue Fort**, an impressive Iron Age ring fort with 4-meter-thick stone walls and an intriguing system of steps leading to the top. After passing a **stone bridge**, the route follows an old stagecoach road with elevated views of Staigue and Kenmare Bay. The final 2.5 km winds through **forests, boreens, and quiet roads** before arriving in the colorful village of **Sneem**.

Distance: 19 km

Elevation Gain: +400 m

Day 9 Sneem to Kenmare, 23 km

This penultimate section is long but mostly flat, starting in **Sneem** and weaving through serene oak, birch, and holly **woods** around the Parknasilla estate. Passing the quiet village of **Tahilla**, the route offers stunning views of **Coongar Harbour** and **Lough Fadda**. Along the way, you'll encounter the traditional **bamboo rushes** used for thatching, now revived with flame-resistant treatments. The trail follows forest paths, roads, and mountain trails, crossing **Blackwater Bridge** with its picturesque surroundings, passing historical sites like Dromore Castle and Cappanacush Castle. As you near **Templenoë**, you'll enjoy views of the Kenmare Estuary and the Caha Mountains on the Beara Peninsula. Two climbs over Lacka and Gortamullin Hills bring you to a peaceful gravel path leading into **Kenmare's** lively market square.

Distance: 23 km

Elevation Gain: +520 m

Day 10 Kenmare to Killarney, 26 km

The final stage features a challenging ascent to the **Windy Gap** (320m) via Strickeen Hill. From the summit, hikers are rewarded with sweeping views of **Killarney National Park** and a ring of mountain peaks, including **Eagles Nest** and **Purple Mountain**. As the trail descends, it splits, offering a scenic route through oak forests and above the treeline, with the majestic **MacGillycuddy Reeks** visible to the northwest. Retracing earlier steps, the path leads through the tranquil **Esknamucky Glen** and **Torc Waterfall** before passing Muckross Estate. The final 2.5km brings walkers back to **Killarney**, completing the adventure beside Lough Leane and Muckross House.

Distance: 26 km

Elevation Gain: +630 m

Day 11 Arrivederci, Kerry Way!

Our services end after breakfast unless you have booked another service with us.

Practical info



On Arrival:

The closest airport is in Dublin.

In Dublin take the local bus to reach Killarney (sometimes you have to change).

On Departure:

From Killarney take the local bus to Dublin (sometimes you have to change).

Included

What is included

- 10 Nights in double room in Guesthouses and B&B with breakfast;
- Luggage transportation from hotel to hotel (max 1 item per person);
- Maps and detailed description of the itinerary in digital form, App;
- Medical and luggage travel insurance;
- 24h phone assistance.

What is not included

- Transfers to the starting location and from the arriving location of the tour;
- Lunches and dinners, if not otherwise stated;
- Visits and entrance fees - tips;
- Personal expense;
- Possible sojourn taxes;
- Everything that is not mentioned in the "What is included" section.

Optional Services

These services can be added to the ones included in the base price of the tour:

- Single room supplement;
- Cancellation insurance;
- Rest days along the way;
- Extra nights in Dublin before and after you walk;
- Transfers to reach the starting location or to leave the arriving location of the tour, which will be quoted on request.