

# Ring of Kerry

The Ring of Kerry is one of Ireland's most scenic drives; it is a trail of about 180 kilometres with dramatic scenery, coastlines, colourful towns and villages as well as ancient archaeological remains.

From Killarney travel to Killorglin; continue southwest to the picturesque village of Glenbeigh. Travelling to Kells Post Office one has a panoramic view of Dingle Bay, the Blasket Islands and Kells Bay. You will also pass the Gleesk Viaduct which is a relic of the Great Southern and Western Railway Line, which ran from Cahersiveen to Farranfore Junction. The cliff section of the road offers spectacular views of the Blasket Islands and the Dingle Peninsula. Cahersiveen is home to the Old Barracks Heritage Centre, also take time to visit the spectacular Cahergal and Leacanabuaile Stone Forts.

Continue to the village of Waterville, home to the world famous golf links. Along the road you will pass Valentia Island, home of the first Atlantic telegraphic connection and the setting out point for a visit to the Skellig Islands. From Waterville continue southeast towards the village of Caherdaniel. From the Coomakista Pass, you can take in the spectacular views over the Kenmare River, Scariff and Deenish Islands.

Visit Derrynane House, the home of Daniel O'Connell and Derrynane National Park. Visit Staigue Fort in Castlecove, which is one of the largest and finest examples of a circular stone fort in Ireland. Stop at the colourful village of Sneem, home to the Sculpture Park and Garden of the Senses. Continue east to the Heritage Town of Kenmare, travel north to Killarney via Moll's Gap and Ladies View, with breathtaking views of the spectacular Lakes of Killarney.





## Ring of Kerry towns and villages

**Ballinskelligs** Sitting on the attractive Ballinskelligs Bay, Baile an Sceilge is an Irish-speaking area with a unique history and culture. Once the land base for the monks of Skellig Mhichil, the surrounding area has numerous pre-historic and early Christian ruins along its shores. Miles of golden, sandy beach and turquoise water attract holidaymakers with safe swimming and excellent opportunities for water sports and sea angling.

**Cahersiveen** Situated halfway around the Ring of Kerry, Cahersiveen is the main shopping centre of the Iveragh peninsula and lies at the foot of Beentee Mountain on the Fertha River overlooking Valentia Harbour. For the active person there is a huge range of sporting activities on offer including mountaineering, windsurfing, water-skiing, sailing, yachting marina, walking, cycling, horse riding, golf and deep sea angling. The area also boasts a large number of sandy coves and beaches, such as the White Strand, one of the regions' Blue Flag Beaches. Cahersiveen is one of the few towns in Ireland that still holds traditional fair days or market days where people from the surrounding countryside come to shop and socialise.

**Caherdaniel** This pretty village stands on the shore of Derrynane Bay, the terrain varies from rugged shore lines to gently rolling mountains, there is a magnificent blue flag beach in the area. Activities include, kayaking, canoeing, horse-riding, diving and walking.

**Castlecove** This is a small resort with fine sandy beaches nearby, on a bay in the picturesque Kenmare River. The coast has created natural rock pools and there are exquisite sandy coves dotted underneath the cliffs. Nearby are the imposing ruins of Staigue Fort, one of Ireland's finest archaeological remains.

**Glenbeigh** The picturesque village of Glenbeigh is nestled at the foot of a well wooded mountain and close to the head of Dingle Bay. The area is a popular destination for families due to this superb blue flag beach at Rossbeigh which is located 1.5km from Glenbeigh.

**Kells** Kells is an old fishing village and still continues in the fishing tradition to this day. The tranquil atmosphere and crystal clear water of the sheltered blue flag beach at Kells Bay has made it a family favourite for years during the summer months. Scenic walks from the village offer panoramic viewing points.



**Kenmare** A Fáilte Ireland Heritage Town, Kenmare is magnificently situated at the point where the River Roughy opens into the estuary of the Kenmare River. Quite apart from the beauty of its own setting, Kenmare is also an ideal centre for exploring the beauties of the South West of Ireland.

**Killorglin** Killorglin is a gateway to the beautiful Iveragh Peninsula situated on a hill overlooking the wide and graceful River Laune, a river offering salmon and trout angling. Dominating the landscape to the south are the MacGillycuddy's Reeks. Killorglin is the location of the famous "Puck Fair" festival - Ireland's largest and the world's oldest business event dating back to pre-Christian times.

**Parknasilla** Beautifully situated, the charming scenery of Parknasilla, with its combination of sea, wood and mountain, makes for a relaxing and peaceful holiday. It nestles between the sea, studded with islands and Knockanamadane Hill 273 metres, on the magnificent coastline of the Kenmare River

**Portmagee** Brightly painted houses line the streets of the small fishing village of Portmagee, the village is South West Kerry's main fishing centre, close to the village is the safe and secluded Reencaheragh Strand. Portmagee is the main departure point for boat trips to the Skelligs UNESCO World Heritage Site.

**Sneem** Sneem village is situated on the estuary of the Ardsheelaun River, the village boasts beautifully manicured squares and gardens and is the winner of several National Tidy Towns Awards. Gaily painted houses and shops surround the beautiful landscaped greens. From Sneem village North Square one can explore Kerry's Geopark by taking the Fermoyle loop walk.

**St. Finan's Bay/the Glen** South of Portmagee the scenic drive along Coomanaspig Pass offers stunning views over St. Finan's Bay and out to the Skellig Rocks. The pier at St. Finan's Bay is a popular launch pad for divers exploring the underwater treasures of this area.

**Waterville** is a picturesque coastal village and is famous throughout the world for its superb golf courses, its sea trout and salmon angling and its long sandy beaches. Its angling is so good that the area has been designated as a 'centre of excellence' for angling.

For more information on towns and villages in the Ring of Kerry, visit our website [www.discoverireland.ie/southwest](http://www.discoverireland.ie/southwest)