



County Kerry

POPULATION: 145,000 / AREA: 4746 SQ KM

Includes »

Killarney	272
Ring of Kerry	284
Killorglin	285
Rossbeigh Strand.....	289
Valentia Island.....	290
Portmagee.....	291
Skellig Islands	291
Sneem	294
Kenmare	295
Dingle Peninsula	297
Dingle Town	299
Tralee	312
Listowel	316

Best Places to Eat

- » Jacks Coastguard Restaurant (p285)
- » Out of the Blue (p306)
- » Bianconi (p285)
- » Chapter 40 (p275)
- » Truffle Pig (p296)

Best Places to Stay

- » Aghadoe Heights Hotel (p282)
- » Pax House (p304)
- » Harbour House (p311)
- » Parknasilla Resort & Spa (p294)
- » Crystal Springs B&B (p272)

Why Go?

County Kerry contains some of Ireland's most iconic scenery: impossibly crenulated coastlines, endless green fields crisscrossed by tumbledown stone walls, and mist-shrouded mountain peaks and bogs.

With one of the country's finest national parks as its backyard, the lively tourism hub of Killarney spills over with colourful shops, restaurants and pubs with spirited trad sessions. Killarney is the jumping-off point for Kerry's two famed loop drives. The larger Ring of Kerry skirts the Iveragh Peninsula, fringed by islands scattered offshore. The compact Dingle Peninsula is like a condensed version of its southern neighbour, with ancient sites, sandy beaches and glimpses of a hard, unforgiving land.

Kerry's exquisite beauty makes it one of Ireland's most popular tourist destinations. But if you need to escape from the crowds, there's always a mountain pass, an isolated cove or an untrodden trail to discover.

When to Go?

Scads of festivals take place during the warmer months, particularly June to August (when you'll need to book accommodation well ahead). Highlights on Kerry's calendar include Listowel's Writers' Week in early June; Dingle town's races and regatta, both in August; and Killorglin's Puck Festival, also in August, which dates back at least as far as the 17th century. And even in the depths of winter, you'll find storytellers and musicians taking part in impromptu sessions in pubs throughout the county.



County Kerry Highlights

- 1** Drink in 'Ireland's finest view' across the rugged coastline over a pint on the **Ring of Kerry** (p294)
- 2** Savour seafood straight off the boats on the enchanting **Dingle Peninsula** (p297)
- 3** Cycle through the dramatic **Gap of Dunloe** (p282)
- 4** Sail on the Upper Lake in **Killarney National Park** (p278)
- 5** Clip-clop around **Killarney** in a horse-drawn jaunting car (p277)
- 6** Island-hop around the rocky **Skelligs** (p291) and evacuated **Blaskets** (p308)
- 7** Groove to old-school funk at the hippest little bar in **Tralee** (p314)
- 8** Scuba-dive the crystal-clear waters around **Castlegregory** (p311)