



County Kerry

POP 145,000 / AREA 4746 SQ KM

Includes ➔

Killarney	265
Killarney National Park	270
Ring of Kerry	277
Skellig Islands	284
Kenmare	288
Dingle Peninsula	290
Dingle Town	292
West of Dingle	299
Northern Kerry	303
Tralee	304
Listowel	307

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Jacks Coastguard Restaurant (p282)
- ➔ Smuggler's Inn (p286)
- ➔ Out of the Blue (p298)
- ➔ Spillane's (p303)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Gormans Clifftop House (p302)
- ➔ Aghadoe Heights Hotel (p276)
- ➔ Teach de Broc (p309)
- ➔ Parknasilla Resort & Spa (p287)

Why Go?

County Kerry contains some of Ireland's most iconic scenery: impossibly crenulated coastlines, endless green fields criss-crossed 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?

Seads of festivals take place throughout the county during the warmer months, particularly June to August (when you'll need to book accommodation well ahead). These are some of the highlights on Kerry's annual calendar are:

- ➔ Listowel's Writers' Week is in June .
- ➔ Dingle town has races and a regatta in August.
- ➔ Killorglin's Puck Festival, which dates back at least as far as the 17th century is also held in August.

Even in the depths of winter, you'll find storytellers and musicians taking part in impromptu sessions in pubs throughout the county.

ATLANTIC
OCEAN



County Kerry Highlights

- 1 Row from Ross Castle across the Lower Lake to historic Inisfallen Island in **Killarney National Park** (p271)
- 2 Cycle through the dramatic **Gap of Dunloe** (p275)
- 3 Scuba-dive the crystal-clear waters around **Castlegregory** (p303)
- 4 Tour the Dingle Brewing Company and sample a pint before savouring seafood straight off the boats in charming **Dingle Town** (p292)
- 5 Tee off at the spectacularly sited **Waterville Golf Links** (p286), framed by the ocean on the Ring of Kerry
- 6 Clip-clop around **Killarney** (p265) in a horse-drawn jaunting car
- 7 Island-hop around the rocky **Skelligs** (p284) and evacuated **Blaskets** (p300)
- 8 Cruise through fresh and saltwater habitats on a safari at the **Tralee Bay Wetlands Centre** (p304)