



County Kerry

POP 145,500 / AREA 4746 SQ KM

Includes ➔

Killarney	255
Killarney National Park	260
Ring of Kerry	267
Killorglin	268
Caherciveen	269
Valentia Island	271
Dingle Peninsula	279
Dingle Town	281
Blasket Islands	290
Northern Kerry	292
Tralee	292
Listowel	295

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Jacks Coastguard Restaurant (p270)
- ➔ Smuggler's Inn (p275)
- ➔ Idás (p285)
- ➔ Spillane's (p292)
- ➔ Tom Crean Fish & Wine (p279)

Best Walks

- ➔ Muckross Lake Loop (p261)
- ➔ Bente Loop (p270)
- ➔ Mt Brandon (p289)
- ➔ The Saint's Road (p289)
- ➔ Carrauntoohil (p267)

Why Go?

County Kerry contains some of Ireland's most iconic scenery: surf-pounded sea cliffs and soft golden strands, emerald-green farmland criss-crossed by tumbledown stone walls, mist-shrouded bogs and cloud-torn mountain peaks.

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 loud with spirited trad music. The town is the jumping-off point for Kerry's two famed loop drives: the larger Ring of Kerry skirts the mountainous, island-fringed Iveragh Peninsula. The more compact Dingle Peninsula is like a condensed version of its southern neighbour, with ancient Christian 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?

Lots of festivals take place throughout the county during the warmer months, particularly from June to August (when you'll need to book accommodation well ahead).

Some of the highlights on Kerry's annual calendar include Listowel's Writers' Week in June and Dingle town's races and regatta in August. Killorglin's famous Puck Festival, which dates back to the 17th century, also takes place in August.

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 Travel by boat and by bike through the Killarney Lakes and the **Gap of Dunloe** (p266)

2 Hike to the 1000m summit of **Carrauntoohil** (p267), Ireland's highest peak

3 **Scuba-dive** (p292) the crystal-clear waters around Castlegregory's Maharees Island

4 Go **fly fishing for brown trout** (p263) or salmon on Killarney's beautiful Lough Leane

5 Hire a bike and cycle around the incredibly scenic **Slea Head Drive** (p288)

6 Tee off at the spectacularly situated **Waterville Golf Links** (p275) on the Ring of Kerry

7 Discover the monuments along the **Saint's Road** (p289) on the Dingle Peninsula

8 Take a boat trip to the remote monastic ruins atop the **Skellig Michael** (p276)

9 Cruise through fresh and saltwater habitats on a safari at the **Tralee Bay Wetlands Centre** (p293)