

CULTURE + WALKING

# IRELAND

Killarney Lakes & Dingle Peninsula



*Classic*  
JOURNEYS



“Classic Journeys provides unbeatable access to experiences around the globe.”

— *Travel + Leisure*

## The Best of the Emerald Isle

The Ring of Kerry. The Dingle Peninsula. The Killarney Lakes. You may have heard of them, but that’s just where Classic Journeys begins. We also take easy walks on the high peninsulas and wild seashores. You’ll get a not-very-useful but absolutely fascinating lesson in how farmers cut peat. There’s optional golf on spectacular links. And for the name alone—MacGillycuddy’s Reeks—we love Ireland’s highest mountain range, and we’ll show you why. Maybe you can tell: Ireland makes us happy. It’s stunningly beautiful. The people are even warmer and more good-humored than the cliché. And from stately Killarney to sheep-clogged country lanes overlooking the sea, you’ll get a complete and memorable taste of Irish life.

## DAILY ITINERARY

IRELAND | KILLARNEY LAKES & DINGLE PENINSULA | CULTURE + WALKING

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### DAY 1

#### KILLARNEY

- Walk on the Old Kenmare Road, pedestrian-only since 1860

We meet in Killarney, nestled on a beautiful lakeshore in a valley ringed by mountains. Just outside of town, we arrive at Torc Waterfall, a 60-foot cascade tumbling over moss-covered rocks in a wooded glen. The falls are our starting point for a warm-up walk on the Old Kenmare Road, part of the Kerry Way, which has been pedestrian-only since 1860.

As we stroll through the wild, heath-covered hillsides of Killarney National Park, we keep a lookout for its magnificent herd of native red deer and unique plant life.

**OVERNIGHT: KILLARNEY**  
**MEALS: L, D**

### DAY 2

#### THE GAP OF DUNLOE / KILLARNEY LAKES

- Walks through a scenic valley
- Cruise on a skiff across fabled Killarney Lakes
- Visit 15th century Ross Castle

Today's explorations begin along the Ring of Kerry at Kate Kearney's Cottage, a historic shop and pub named for the colorful character who sold her illegal homebrew to thirsty travelers in the 1800s. Following an easy-going footpath, we wind through the Gap of Dunloe, a spectacular valley filled with lakes, streams, meadows, waterfalls and the famed Wishing Bridge. In the heart of MacGillycuddy's Reeks—Ireland's tallest mountain range at 3,414 feet—we stop for lunch at Lord Brandon's Cottage.

From here, we cruise on a wooden skiff across the fabled Killarney Lakes, enjoying vivid tales told by our boatmen amid the scenic beauty of the national park and its scattered islands. Returning to shore, we visit 15th century Ross Castle, ancestral home of the O'Donoghue chieftains, before arriving at our hotel in Killarney. After dinner in Killarney town, you may choose to relax at the hotel or join our guide for a visit to a local pub.

**OVERNIGHT: KILLARNEY**  
**MEALS: B, L, D**

### DAY 3

#### DINGLE PENINSULA

- Walks along the Dingle Way
- Trying out our new Gaelic with the locals

After breakfast, we travel to West Kerry, one of several regions where Irish is the official language, both in public and at home. Starting at Slea Head, the most westerly point on the Irish mainland, we follow the Dingle Way to Dunquin and the Blasket Islands Heritage Centre. Until Blasket residents left the islands in 1953, they were entirely Irish-speaking, and books written by them in the Gaelic language have become world-famous. The area was also the setting for the 1970 film "Ryan's Daughter," whose brilliant cinematography helped put Dingle Peninsula on the map.

After lunch in Dingle with a chance to relax with the locals, listen to some Irish music, and explore the shops in town, we pay a visit to our friend Tom, the master distiller at Dingle Distillery. Their model is that they are an artisan distillery

that's not in the business of building global brands. As if to underscore that belief, they produce a total of two casks per day! On one visit, we watched as Tom repaired a leak in a cask while exclaiming, "I don't mind if the angels get some, but I'll be damned sure the devil won't!" We're welcomed in for a personal tour and tasting.

Later in the day, we return to Killarney with time to explore or relax before dinner.

**OVERNIGHT: KILLARNEY**  
**MEALS: B**

### DAY 4

#### RING OF KERRY

- Visit a working sheep farm
- Explorations along the famed Ring of Kerry

After a morning walk on the quiet roads and beaches at Rossbeigh, we journey a short distance to nearby Moll's Gap, where we find our friends, John and his son Sean, awaiting our arrival to show us around their sheep station. John's family is the proud owner of a flock of nearly 1,000 mountain sheep that his family has carefully bred for almost 150 years. John and Sean share with us stories of the sheep on a walking tour around the property, and introduce us to their prized sheep dogs.

A short walk from Valentia Island is the Skelligs Interpretive Centre, and lunch in Portmagee. After lunch we'll walk The Mass Path along the shore of Derrynane Bay. Later in the day, we return to the mainland and arrive at our former hunting lodge, now a 5-star hotel.

**OVERNIGHT: KENMARE**  
**MEALS: B, D**

### DAY 5

#### MOLL'S GAP / KENMARE

- Visit the kitchens of a chocolate maker
- Learn to cut turf

You're sure to enjoy this morning's visit with our friend, Benoit. He's a Frenchman who migrated to Ireland and brought with him a passion for crafting award-winning chocolates. Led by our own personal Willy Wonka, we wander through his factory (formerly a post office,) learn how he crafts his creations, and taste some of his favorites.

Many of the treats we have at our big daily breakfasts start on local farms. We'll get a look at one next. We visit an old farmhouse, where we get an insider's look at traditional Irish life, including peat cutting and moonshine making. After, we'll enjoy a walk in Bonane Heritage Park, home to more than 250 archaeological sites. Later in the day allows time in Kenmare, to shop or have a pint in one of the many pubs, or relaxing at the hotel.

This evening, we celebrate our week in Ireland with a festive farewell dinner in one of Kenmare's landmark restaurants, The Mews.

**OVERNIGHT: KENMARE**  
**MEALS: B, D**

## DAILY ITINERARY

IRELAND | KILLARNEY LAKES & DINGLE PENINSULA | CULTURE + WALKING

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### DAY 6

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#### BEARA PENINSULA

- Visit with artisans at a Victorian mansion
- Roam the grounds at an evocative 15th century ruin
- Part company in Killarney

This morning we visit Muckross House, a magnificent Victorian mansion completed in 1843. The elegant house with its opulent rooms also plays host to a community of craft workers who demonstrate skills such as weaving, bookbinding, and pottery making. One of the few remaining indigenous oak woods of Ireland, dating back two centuries,

surrounds the property. After exploring the estate's formal gardens, we walk through the grand oak woods, to pay a visit to the remarkably preserved Muckross Abbey, a 15th century roofless ruin with commanding views of Lough Leane.

This afternoon our Irish walking adventure comes to a close and we part company at the Killarney rail station.

**MEALS: B**

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## Tour Hotels



### Great Southern

Built 160 years ago, this grand Killarney hotel has hosted demanding guests from Jackie Kennedy to the Duchess of York. The gracious rooms are a modern take on classic elegance. At breakfast, you'll appreciate that the hotel has its own in-house bakery.

**OVERNIGHT: KILLARNEY | NIGHTS: 3**



### Sheen Falls Lodge

Overlooking picturesque Sheen Falls and just outside the village of Kenmare, it welcomes its guests to a collection of luxury cottages and villas. Sheen Falls Lodge is rated the #1 hotel in Ireland by Conde Nast Traveler's 2014 Gold List.

**OVERNIGHT: KENMARE | NIGHTS: 2**

## Tour Dates & Prices

Tour Dates	Price per Person	Price per Person
	Double Occupancy	Single Occupancy
June 7-12, 2020	\$4,395	\$5,190
July 5-10, 2020	\$4,595	\$5,390
August 9-14, 2020	\$4,595	\$5,390
September 6-11, 2020	\$4,595	\$5,390
June 6-11, 2021	\$4,495	\$5,290
July 4-9, 2021	\$4,695	\$5,490
August 8-13, 2021	\$4,695	\$5,490
September 5-10, 2021	\$4,695	\$5,490

Want a different date? Or your own date? Visit [CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE](https://www.classicjourneys.com/private) to learn more about private journeys.

## Trip Essentials

**TRIP LENGTH:** 6 Days, 5 Nights

**START:** 12:00 PM Great Southern Killarney lobby, Killarney, Ireland

**END:** 1:00 PM Rail Station, Killarney, Ireland

**TERRAIN:** Easy to moderate on good trails and coastal paths. At your option, up to 2 to 4 hours of walking per day.

## What's Included

- Memorable accommodations for 5 nights
- All breakfasts, 2 lunches, and 4 dinners
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip, handle behind-the-scenes logistics and are there to help with anything
- Admissions to tastings, historic sites and other scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip

## Above & Beyond Benefits

- **Privileged Access Events**
- **Invisible Check-In**

READY TO BOOK?  
CLICK TO MAKE A RESERVATION

## Or give us a call

1-833-387-1210

Mon-Fri 8:00AM – 5:00PM PST

[moreinfo@classicjourneys.com](mailto:moreinfo@classicjourneys.com)



## TRAVEL WORRY-FREE!

It's easy with insurance from Travel Guard. Your policy can cover trip cancellation, travel delays, lost luggage, medical emergencies, and more. If you are traveling with kids, add them to your policy at no extra cost. [Click here](#) or call 800-826-4919 for details.

## AMBASSADOR CLUB

As a Classic Journeys guest, you are invited to join the Ambassador Club after your first Classic Journeys tour. As a member, you'll have access to a [whole suite of Ambassador benefits](#) you can use immediately and as often as you like.

## ENJOY THE UNEXPECTED

When you travel with Classic Journeys, you can expect handcrafted surprises built into every trip, but some things just can't be anticipated. Unusual weather, a once-a-year festival or an unscheduled site closing will inspire us and your local guide to improvise and modify this itinerary. Likewise, the hotels named here are used on the majority of our trips, but occasionally one of them can't accommodate us. If that happens, you can count on us to let you know before departure and make sure you're in a hotel of equal or better quality. It's our goal to make your trip exceptional!

\*\*Any discount offered cannot be combined with other offers, and only applies to published (regularly scheduled public) departure dates in our catalogs or on our website.

# THE Classic Journeys Difference

## HANDCRAFTING TRIPS OF A LIFETIME.



At the end of the day, we fundamentally believe that every guest on every departure of every trip should have a trip of a lifetime. We're fortunate to play the role of well-connected friend, linking our guests with amazing guides, artisans, winemakers, hoteliers, restaurateurs, naturalists, and too many others to list here.

That's what motivates me and our team — in our La Jolla HQ and around the world — every day. Join Us!

President & Founder



## You can expect the highest standards:



### Luxurious Lodgings:

Ours include coveted properties that appear in "World's Best" and "Gold List" rankings.



### Included Activities:

You'll never be surprised with add-on fees on your activities that include snorkeling to cooking lessons.



### Local Guides:

Your guides are locals who are always at your side like well-connected friends.



### Small Group Travel:

With an average of just 10-12 guests, it's a small footprint that guarantees you access that's off-limits to larger groups.



### Amazing Cuisine:

From Michelin-starred restaurants to lunch in a farmhouse kitchen, you'll have a seat for the region's signature dishes.



### Unmatched Value:

"Excellent value" and "unbeatable access" are two of the reasons that Travel + Leisure has consistently voted us a World's Best Tour Operator.

## You'll enjoy these handcrafted travel experiences in Ireland...

- Walking on the Ring of Kerry and through the Gap of Dunloe
- Visiting a friend's farm where his family tends 1,000 sheep
- Tasting the whisky at artisanal Dingle Distillery
- Luxuriating in perfectly-sited accommodations, like a 5-star hunting lodge-turned-hotel overlooking picturesque Sheen Falls
- Laughing with your gem of a local guide Donal, who's full of stories, wisdom and plenty of wit

*"I just saw an article featuring 3 hotels we've stayed in with Classic Journeys. I was impressed that we travel in pretty exclusive circles. And what a shock when I saw the high rates they quoted. I don't know how you do it, but I'm ecstatic that you do!"*

—Fred & Terry P.

Let's Go!

TO RESERVE: 833.493.5038 | CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/RESERVATIONS

You might also enjoy...



## England

### Cotswolds, Stonehenge & London

Culture + Walking

#### PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Walking between villages of honey-colored stone
- Rambling hillsides studded with stately homes
- Approaching Stonehenge like a Bronze Age pilgrim

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/londonstonehengecotswolds/>.



## England

### Cornwall Coast to Land's End

Culture + Walking

#### PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Walking lush green cliffs lined with coastal paths
- Crossing a causeway to an island castle
- Exploring seaside hamlets with picturesque harbors

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/cornwall/>.



## Normandy & Brittany

### Mont-St.-Michel to D-Day Beaches

Culture + Walking

#### PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Rambling through farmland and apple orchards
- Retracing history on D-Day beaches
- Crossing a tidal estuary to an island fortress

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/normandy/>.



You might also enjoy...



## Scotland

### Edinburgh & the Highlands

#### Culture + Walking

##### PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Exploring the iconic ruins of Urquhart Castle
- Tasting single malt whisky at an artisanal distillery
- Gliding between highland mountains on the waters of Loch Ness

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/scotland/>.

# “Enthusiasm is Contagious”

AS TRAVEL + LEISURE NAMES CLASSIC JOURNEYS THE WORLD'S BEST TOUR OPERATOR FOR 2019, FOUNDER EDWARD PIEGZA REVEALS HOW IT FEELS. ENTHUSIASTICALLY.



*EDITOR'S NOTE: Just before publication of this issue, Travel + Leisure magazine announced that its readers have voted Classic Journeys the World's Best Tour Operator for 2019. It's the second time Classic Journeys has won that recognition and the 14th consecutive year the company has been in the Top 10.*

### **Congratulations! How did you get the news?**

I received a top-secret email and phone call from the editor of *Travel + Leisure* a few weeks ago with orders not to tell ANYONE. Friends and neighbors must have wondered why my smile has been so extra big lately. Now they know.

### **And how does it feel to be the World's Best Tour Operator again?**

Awesome. Humbling. So, so satisfying. Deeply gratifying to learn that we have achieved what we set out to do which is to handcraft trips of a lifetime for every guest who travels with us. I'm known as long-winded, so I could probably come up with 10 or 15 more ways to describe it if you want me to keep going.

### **Why do you think *Travel + Leisure* gave you this recognition?**

Actually, it isn't the *T+L* editors who make the decision. That's the best part. Their readers cast the votes. So the people who do the traveling, the guests who explore the world with us and our competitors — they are the ones who raised their hands to tell *T+L* that Classic Journeys is the World's Best Tour Operator based on their own experiences. Let me say it right here: "To all of you who voted for us, you are the World's Best Guests!"

### **What do you think makes your guests the World's Best Guests?**

That's easy. They are curious. They care about connecting with people of different cultures and immersing themselves in the world. They treasure experiences more than things. Like the old ad slogan went, they go for the gusto and crave the chance to have one-of-a-kind moments. They are incredibly interesting and interested people, and all of us at Classic Journeys count it as a real privilege to share in their passion for travel. And we feel that way on the

other 364 days of the year when we're not celebrating recognition like this.

### **I guess this is what you meant when you told me that "Enthusiasm is contagious."**

Absolutely. That's not our official motto, but it could be. We love what we do. We enjoy helping guests figure out how to invest their precious time and budget. I can honestly say that all of us feel that way — the Guest Services folks who interact with you while you're planning your trip, the Tour Operations team members who plan all of the logistics, the local guides who lead each one of our trips full time. There's just a huge amount of positive energy in what we do, and I think it truly is hard to resist. We'd climb into every one of our guest's suitcases and go along with them if we could. Because we can't, we call each guest while they're on tour just to be sure they are having a trip of a lifetime.

### **Has anyone ever called Classic Journeys obsessive?**

I hope so, because we are. Everything is in the details. For instance, we've created a special tour for the total eclipse of the sun which is going to pass over parts of South America in 2020. We've already analyzed likely traffic patterns in the most remote areas and figured out how to structure our itinerary so that our guests will be in place in the path of totality while the people who don't plan ahead will be stuck in jams on remote dirt roads. We enjoy obsessing about details like that so that our guests never have to.



### **How can you top this?**

Oh, we never let ourselves think of it that way. We just continue to approach every single guest on each and every departure like the most important guest we've ever had. It seems to be working! Of course, we keep looking for new ways to win more converts. For 2019, we've launched a new series of Classic Journeys that are based from

## **"I voted for you!"**

We've heard that expression so many times lately from guests who registered their votes with *Travel + Leisure*. Given the results, we know it's true ... and you know that your votes really count!

### **STAFF AND GUIDES**

"I always feel like I'm traveling with a best friend. I prefer your local guides to the ones that other companies fly in."

### **ITINERARIES AND DESTINATIONS**

"If it's on my bucket list, you always seem to go there. Of course, with so many options you always seem to make my list longer and longer!"

### **ACTIVITIES**

"On your trips, I've cooked with Michelin chefs, sung songs with Quechua schoolchildren, and walked on glaciers with the descendants of Vikings. Fun doesn't begin to describe it."

### **ACCOMMODATIONS**

"How you manage so many 5-star properties on these trips shocks me. But please, please, please keep it up!"

### **FOOD**

"I have never eaten so well so often so happily. When you people claim that you are foodies, you aren't kidding."

### **OVERALL VALUE**

"We have never had a better vacation at any price."

river cruise boats. On a different note, seeing how many travelers can't always find as much vacation time as they really want, we have developed a series of 6-day or shorter quick trips that go as far afield as Iceland, the Galápagos and Morocco.

### **Final thoughts?**

It's always an honor to win recognition. But, for all of us at Classic Journeys, the biggest privilege is to share the dreams of our guests and make those dreams come true. That connection is the best feeling of all.