

Killarney and Kenmare

Ireland Cultural Walking Adventure



Classic
JOURNEYS™

DAILY ITINERARY

Ireland: Killarney and Kenmare | Cultural Walking Adventure



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

— *Travel + Leisure*

The Best of the Emerald Isle

The Ring of Kerry. The Killarney Lakes. You may have heard of them. But that's just where Classic Journeys begins. We'll 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—McGillicuddy'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.

DAY 1

KILLARNEY

- Ice cream tasting
- Ross Castle exploration

We meet in Killarney at our manor house hotel, set on its own private grounds against a backdrop of mountains and the Killarney Lakes. Our first stop is at the shop of our local friends who created their own ice cream years ago with the goal of making the best in the world. People like the editors of Food & Wine Magazine have raved about their creations. We just like to order using the fun Gaelic words for the incredible flavors.

Refreshed, a short stroll leads us around the grounds and to a visit of nearby 15th century Ross Castle. Enjoy learning about the construction of the impressive structure and exploring the rooms filled with 16th and 17th century furniture while hearing the stories of how it became a stronghold of an Irish chieftain during the Middle Ages. Later this afternoon we stop for a countryside walk with magnificent views of Torc Waterfall, a 60-foot cascade tumbling over moss-covered rocks in a wooded glen.

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: L, D

DAY 2

KILLARNEY

- Walk the Gap of Dunloe or enjoy a jaunting car ride
- Cruise on a skiff across the fabled Killarney Lakes

Today's explorations begin 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. Or, opt for a ride on a jaunting car along the same path. 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. The stories give us a great introduction to Ireland and set the stage for the week ahead.

Overnight: Killarney

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 3

RING OF KERRY

- Visit a working sheep farm
- Skellig Experience Centre
- Enjoy panoramic views along the Ring of Kerry

After a morning walk to Rossbeigh Beach, we journey a short distance to Kells. 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 sheepdogs.

A short walk from Valentia Island is the Skellig Experience Centre, and a traditional lunch in Portmagee. From there, adorn your time-traveler hat as you venture down the Mass Path originally walked by 17th-century locals along the shore of Derrynane Bay. Here, we visit the Derrynane House, the ancestral home of Daniel O'Connell, one of the great figures in modern Irish history. Later in the day, we soak in the panoramic views of Sneem before returning to the mainland and arriving at our former hunting lodge, now a 5-star hotel.

Overnight: Kenmare

Meals: B, D

DAY 4

KENMARE

- Visit the kitchen of a chocolate maker
- Learn to cut turf
- Enjoy a falconry demonstration

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 creates the chocolates, 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.

Later in the day we return to our hotel and beautiful estate for a guided hawk walk and falconry session. Alongside an experienced falconer, we see the unique bond that is formed with these impressive birds of prey while learning how to handle and fly these birds for yourself.

Overnight: Kenmare

Meals: B

DAY 5

BEARA PENINSULA

- Explore the Beara Peninsula
- Kayak on Kenmare Bay, or
- Visit Derreen Garden

Today we visit the Beara Peninsula, the southernmost of the peninsulas on Ireland's southwest coast. On a morning walk we explore a mysterious stone circle, dating to the Bronze Age - 3,000 to 4,000 years ago. The circles were often built for ritual and ceremonial purposes, and were orientated on solar events, such as the position of the sun on the horizon or a solstice. With our guide, we pitch in our own theories of the construction and purpose of the site, which is the largest in County Kerry.

Following lunch, everyone has the option this afternoon to explore the hidden secrets of Kenmare Bay aboard sturdy sea kayaks. Paddling among the inlets and coves, your instructor points out its teeming wildlife, including seals and seabirds that flock to the area. As an option to kayaking, enjoy a guided visit to the magnificent 19th century woodland garden at Derreen. This breathtaking estate was once the home of the Marquis of Lansdowne, a descendant of Kenmare's founder Sir William Petty. Now it has a luxuriant display of rhododendrons, camellias, tree ferns and many fine semi-tropical shrubs and specimen trees that grow and flourish even at the same latitude as Newfoundland.

We reconvene this evening as we celebrate our week in Ireland. Enjoy dinner together at one of Kenmare's landmark restaurants followed by an invitation by our guide to join at the local pub for a night of Irish song and dance. This a wonderful opportunity for us to mingle with the locals. The pub is very much a part of Irish life and community.

Overnight: Kenmare

Meals: B, D

DAY 6

KILLARNEY

- 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

DAILY ITINERARY

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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:** 2



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:** 3

Tour Dates & Prices

To see the full list of dates and prices for this tour, go to our website by clicking [here](#).

Want to travel with just your group on a date of your choosing? Visit [CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE](https://www.classicjourneys.com/private) to learn more about Private Journeys.

Trip Essentials

TRIP LENGTH 6 Days, 5 Nights

START Great Southern Killarney lobby, Killarney, Ireland

END 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

- 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

1-800-200-3887

Mon-Fri 8:00AM – 5:00PM PST

moreinfo@classicjourneys.com

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
- Enjoy a falconry session at Sheen Falls
- 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

"Classic Journeys excels in providing exceptional guides familiar with the local area."

-Bert and Jo Ann E., Red Lodge, MT