

Cycling Europe

RING OF KERRY & THE DINGLE PENINSULA UNSPOILT IRELAND 2019

7 NIGHTS/8 DAYS, 250kms - GUIDED OR SELF GUIDED



Your tour starts and finishes in the grand old town of Killarney, shadowed by the MacGillikuddy Reeks and adjacent to the famous Muckross National Park.

From Killarney you cycle deep into the Iveragh Peninsula along quiet backroads toward the villages of Sneem and Glenbeigh.

It's then on to the Dingle Peninsula, the most westerly point in Europe, where you cycle along the

dramatic Sleat Head coast amongst Neolithic ruins with a wonderful view out to the Skellig and Blasket Islands. Enjoy a break amongst the great array of shops, entertainment and restaurants that the charming town of Dingle has to offer - of course the weary may well need to be revived with a pint in the famous Dick Macs pub, which doubles as a cobbler!

Following your rest day Conor Pass stretches the legs again as you take in the stunning vistas of the peninsula from its lofty perch before enjoying the freewheel down to lunch in the village of Camp near the foot of the Slieve Mish Mountains.

Your final day's cycle takes you through the Gap of Dungloe and the Black Valley (a fitting finale to this dramatic tour) before you end up all too quickly back in Killarney.



ITINERARY

DAY 1: (Fixed date Saturdays on group tour/any day if self-guided)

Arrive Killarney:

On arrival in Killarney make your way to your accommodation. If you have time you could visit Ross Castle a wonderfully restored 16th Century Norman Tower House overlooking Lough Leane. You can even hire a boat from here and row out to a 6th Century monastic site located on one of the nearby islands. Ross Castle is about 1.5 miles from the

town. Stay overnight in Killarney.

GUIDED TOUR: 6.30pm meet the group and your guide at a central hotel. Following an introductory talk your guide will organise an evening meal.

DAY 2: Killarney to Sneem - cycling 47kms

The tour starts off by following a cycle track into the beautiful grounds of Muckross House. Located on the grounds is a Franciscan Abbey founded in the 15th Century. It is now in ruins but is delightfully situated with a large yew tree rising up through the cloisters. After a stroll around the celebrated Muckross gardens, continue on a wonderful ride along a quiet cycle path between two of the Killarney lakes before returning to the main road. A steady climb follows your lunch stop at Molls Gap. In the afternoon, cycle to Sneem enjoying panoramic views of the surrounding landscape along the way.

DAY 3: Sneem to Glenbeigh - cycling 51 kms

Avoiding the main Ring of Kerry road you cycle across the Peninsula. Start by cycling quiet country roads with stunning views of the surrounding mountains then climb to the beautiful Gap of Ballaghbearna and descend the other side into a valley with views of Carrauntoohil, Ireland's highest mountain. After lunch there is a wonderful ride through quiet fields and over old stone bridges before coming to Caragh Lake. Following the lakeside you then head west to the seaside village of Glenbeigh where you spend the night in a comfortable hotel.

DAY 4: Glenbeigh to Dingle - cycling 47 kms

Start the day with a short coach trip to Dingle where you are based for two nights. Back on your bike you then follow the Sleat Head Route around the tip of the Dingle peninsula. This is one of the highlights of the tour with a wide variety of archaeological sites to visit along the route and some breathtaking coastal scenery.

DAY 5: Rest Day in Dingle

A variety of activities can be organised from the town. You can join an archaeological bus tour of the peninsula or you can swap your bike saddle for a horse saddle. There are boat trips to the largest of the Blasket Islands with its wonderful walking trails. You can also take a boat trip to see "Fungi", the Dingle Dolphin, or you can simply potter around the lovely little town with its many shops and aquarium.





DAY 6: Dingle to Killorglin - cycling 69 kms

The morning starts with a long steady climb up to the Conor Pass with its stunning views of Mount Brandon and the coastline in the distance. This is followed by a glorious descent to a pleasantly flat cycle along the coast to the village of Camp where you stop for lunch. In the afternoon you head into the mountains and traverse the peninsula, climbing up one side to views of the other side with Dingle Bay and Ireland's highest mountain range stretching out in front of you. Then comes the descent and the final stretch to your night stop in Killorglin.

DAY 7: Killorglin to Killarney - cycling 64 kms

You continue along backroads up to Kate Kearney's Cottage where you can stop for a refreshing cup of tea before the final highlight of the tour; the Gap of Dungloe, a place you will never forget! Coming out of the Gap, you have an incredible view looking down the Black Valley before following a quiet route through a peaceful valley of green fields full of grazing sheep. You climb out of the valley to return to Molls Gap. After lunch there is a wonderful freewheel down to Killarney. This evening enjoy a final night on the town.



DAY 8: (Saturday) Killarney. Your tour concludes this morning after breakfast.

TERRAIN

Grade: medium to challenging. This area is hilly with some steep climbs, but you have all day to do the cycling. With the exception of the roads in and out of Killarney, the traffic on the route should be quite light. A limited number of Electric bikes are available (must be requested at time of booking).

ACCOMMODATION

On a twin share/double basis in a mix of family run hotels and guest houses which, we hope, fuse the best standard with the warmest welcome. We ensure private facilities almost all of the time however in some of the more remote spots one might occasionally have to share a bathroom. Due to the isolated nature of several of the places we stay in, we cannot guarantee the availability of single room accommodation. For those on their own on a guided tour, we will twin share them with another single person on the tour.

GUARANTEED SET DEPARTURE DATES/GROUP TOURS

Set departure dates where clients join from all around the world.

On these set dates, we arrange luggage transfers and accommodation and you cycle independently with detailed maps and route descriptions. Once numbers exceed 8 participants, guests will be accompanied by a guide, who does not cycle with the group but instead drives a backup vehicle, drives the route throughout the day. She/He will sweep during the day to check on cyclists. In the afternoon they will be gone for about two hours to leave the luggage at your accommodation, so may not be on hand to give you a lift, but there is no rush and you have all day to

complete the ride. As soon as the guide has delivered the luggage to your accommodation they will sweep back to do a final check on cyclists. The aim is to allow you feel like an independent traveller, free to cycle each day at your own pace while at the same time having the security of knowing that a support van is nearby just in case you might need it. Most importantly, our guide is there to help in whatever way possible so that all you have to do is leave your worries behind and enjoy the many wonderful experiences that this cycling holiday has to offer.

2019 DATES

Group Tour with support van & guide:

15 June, 27 July, 18 August

Self-guided Tours do not have support vehicle or guide - they have a 24 hour service hotline

Start any day from April to end of September.

2019 PRICES

SELF-GUIDED TOUR

- **€900.00** per person sharing May, June & September
- **€938.00** per person sharing July & August
- **€255.00** single room supplement (on request)
- **€395.00** solo tour supplement (for solo travellers on self-guided tour)

(Additional cost of self-guided covers the required individual transfers)

EXPENSES ON TOUR

* Meals - Lunch and 6 dinners are not included. Budget between €10 - €15 for lunch and €20 - €30 for an evening meal.

Note that one evening meal during the tour is included in the tour price.

TOUR INCLUDES

- Seven nights accommodation with full Irish breakfast
- One dinner
- 24 speed Giant Escape touring bike with mudguards, rear rack and pannier bag, repair kit
- Route maps and detailed cycling notes
- Luggage transfers each day
- 24 hour back up emergency phone numbers on self-guided tours
- Guide in a back up van on guided tours only (Set date departures with more than 8 guests)

HELMETS & ELECTRIC BIKES

- Helmets are included on the guided tour only - please request when booking.
- On the self-guided tour you will need to supply your own helmet.
- A limited number of rental electric bikes are available – approx. €100 additional for the week, on request.

BICYCLES

24 SPEED HYBRID TOURING BIKE. Repair equipment, helmets (for guided tours only) and either a front or rear pannier bag are available for each client. **Electric bikes: Limited bikes available, on request**

24 speed hybrid touring bikes



EXTRA NIGHTS

Additional nights before or after the tour can be booked on request.

Book through:

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