Top Seven Views

Glengarriff is well known for its natural beauty. Here are some local tips on how to reach the best viewpoints and where to take the best photos of the area. See the brochure Walking in Glengarriff for more information.

1. Top of Sugar Loaf Mountain
You will have to work hard for this one, but once you reach the top of Glengarriff’s most popular mountain on a fine day you will be rewarded with 360° panoramic views across the Caha Mountain range and Bantry Bay. Unrivaled!

2. Old Road below Cob Dubh
Walking the old mountain road south-east of Glengarriff high above the N71 road, stretching between Coomhola and Dromgarriff, provides you with the best vistas of Garinish Island and Glengarriff Harbour. Spectacular views of Glengarriff village and the adjoining Glen. Best time: mornings and evenings.

3. Viewpoints along the Caha Pass (N71)
These destinations have easy access by car or for road walkers on foot via the Glen and Rossnagreane. Panoramic views of The Rugged Glen, Barley Lake nestled in the Caha Mountains, and across Bantry Bay.

4. Lady Bantry’s Lookout
Locally known as Fhaili na gcaite (the cliff of the cats), Lady Bantry’s Lookout is well worth the short but steep climb to this viewpoint. Access the steps to the lookout via the car park in Glengarriff Nature Reserve or via the Coomkane road. From the top you can appreciate the full beauty of the Nature Reserve, the Caha Mountains and Glengarriff Harbour.

5. Seal Point and the Blue Pool (Poul Gorm)
The destination for a pleasant afternoon stroll. Walk to the Blue Pool Ferry and follow the loop walk to Seal Point with its marvellous outlook over the waters and inlets of Glengarriff Harbour. If the tide is out you may spot the Harbour seals resting on the rocks below you.

6. Carrigour high above the Eccles Hotel
Take the road to the right of the Hotel. At the crossroads you can opt for either direction. The road to the left leads you up to Carrigour, keeping straight brings you into Rossnashungsme. As vegetation has grown up over past years, walk up as high as needed to sneak a peek of fabulous Bantry Bay. Be prepared for a tough hike. Rewards guaranteed on clear days.

7. Martello Tower on Garinish Island
Garinish is famous for its Italian Gardens and the rich collection of trees and shrubs from all over the world. It offers great views as well. Climb to the top of the Martello Tower for panoramic views of the Inner Harbour, the Glengarriff Castle area and the surrounding mountains.

Rare Flora & Fauna

Glengarriff enjoys a rich abundance of natural habitats with high biodiversity. These areas provide the opportunity of observing scarce species of animals and seeing rare plants. Local people appreciate the natural treasures of the area and ask visitors to treat the natural habitats and their inhabitants with caution and respect.

Rare Fauna
Glengarriff holds internationally important populations of animals which are rare elsewhere in Europe and are therefore listed in Annex II of the European Habitats Directive.

- Common or Harbour seal (Glengarriff is home to one of the largest colonies of Harbour seals in Ireland) • Porpoise • Otter • Lesser Horsehoe Bat • Freshwater Pearl Mussel

Exclusive to West Cork & Kerry
- Kerry Slug • Downy Emerald Dragonfly
- Rare and scarce birds • Peregrine Falcon • Short-eared Owl • Barn Owl • Kingfisher • Common Tern • Arctic Tern • Little Egret • White Tailed Eagle • Hen Harrier (winter visitor) • Chough (Caha Mountains and seaciffs)

Rare Flora
Glengarriff Woods Nature Reserve covers some 300ha, with the dominant habitats being old oak woodland and regenerating woodland, which has been cleared over the last few years of non-native conifers and Rhododendron. The woods form one of the best examples of oceanic sessile oak woodland in Ireland, being rated second only in importance to the Killarney oakwoods.

- Red Data Book Plants • Narrow-leaved Helleboine • Smooth Broome • Irish St. John’s Wort • Irish Lady’s Tresses • Recurved Sandwort • Killarney Fern
- The last two species are in the Caha Mountains rather than Glengarriff. There are other Red Data Book species found on the Beara Peninsula such as Betony, Sea Kale and Kerry Lily but they are found only in the western part of Beara, west of Adrigole.

50 THINGS TO DO IN Glengarriff

Where to stay:
- Glengarriff is a shopper’s dream! Local shops, large or small, offer a magnificent range of products.
- Knitwear, crystal, fashions, leatherwork, pottery, woodworking, china and books with prices to suit all pockets.
- Non-EU customers can avail of Tax Free Shopping.

Where to eat:
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Scarce plants exclusive to West Cork & Kerry
- Strawberry Tree • St Patrick’s Cobabbage • Large-flowered Butterwort • Irish Spurge

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Holiday Destination Glengarriff

Glengarriff is ideal as a centre for touring the delightful places of West Cork

The Beara Peninsula is on our doorstep offering some of the most spectacular scenery anywhere in Ireland. The Ring of Beara takes in all of the area including Adrigole, Healy Pass, Lauragh, Eyeries, Allihies, Dursey Island and the fishing port of Castletownbere.

South of Glengarriff lies the bustling town of Bantry and the Dunmanus Peninsula. Tour the area via the Sheep’s Head Way. Travel north via the Caha Pass to County Kerry and stop at Kenmare, winner of Ireland’s Tidiest Town Award, with its many restaurants and cafes together with some interesting places to see on the town’s Heritage Trail.

Eastward, in the Lee Valley, is Gougane Barra. Imagine a secluded enchanting valley with a lake and island church at the centre of it, all surrounded by steep wooded slopes that seem to rise to the heavens.

At the end of your day’s outing, nothing for it but to return to Glengarriff and make plans for tomorrow!
1. **ILNACULLIN – GARINISH ISLAND**
   A short boat ride across the harbour, will bring you to this internationally renowned sub-tropical garden paradise.

2. **BRYCE HOUSE**
   The home of Mrs Violet Bryce, owner of Garinish it was expanded by her son, Roland who lived here until his death in 1953. Opened as a Visitor Centre in 2016.

3. **GLENGARRIFF NATURE RESERVE**
   Situated just outside the village, the nature reserve is one of the finest oceanic sessile oak woods in Ireland.

4. **BLUE POOL – POULGORM**
   A beautiful public area in the heart of the village ideal for exploring and relaxing. It takes in the two ferry and adventure playground.

5. **THE EWE GALLERY & SCULPTURE GARDEN**
   Ireland’s only interactive Sculpture Garden – in a magical riverside setting with bridges and waterfalls.

6. **GLENGARRIFF BAMBOO PARK**
   An unique exotic garden with 30 species of bamboo, tropical plants, romantic paths and breathtaking views.

7. **SEALS & SEA EAGLES**
   The largest colony of Harbour seals on the Irish Coast. Seals can be seen from Seal Point and from ferries to Garinish Island. Look out also for White-tailed Eagles.

8. **WALKING & RUNNING**
   Glengarriff has a great choice of marked walks. Why not join the Park Run Every Sat @ 9.30 from the car park in the Nature Reserve.

9. **GLENGARRIFF GOLF CLUB**
   This stunning 9-hole course offers outstanding views of Glengarriff Harbour and the surrounding mountains.

10. **GLENGARRIFF SHOPPING**
    A wide variety of shops sell sell sell craft products, woollens, jewellery, crystal, fashion and antiques.

11. **THE HERITAGE TRAIL OF GLENGARRIFF**
    Investigate the built heritage of Glengarriff. Booklet with map available locally.

12. **BARLEY LAKE**
    A spectacular corrie lake set high up in the Caha Mountains.

13. **Beara Scenic Drive**
    Drive around the most beautiful and unspoilt peninsula in Ireland

14. **Zetland Pier**
    Sandy coves for swimming

15. **Beara Way Walking Route**
    Superb walking country

16. **Healy Pass & Glenmore Lake**
    Highly recommended scenic drive across the peninsula

17. **Hungry Hill Waterfall**
    The highest in Ireland

18. **Castletownbere**
    The largest whitefish port in Ireland

19. **Bere Island, Yacht Marina & Heritage Centre**
    Catch a ferry to this popular island

20. **Dunboy Castle**
    The ruined castle was the seat of the O’Sullivan Bere Chieflain which was besieged in 1602

21. **Dzogchen Beara Meditation Centre**
    Buddhist Meditation Centre and Café

22. **Dursey Island Cable Car**
    The only cable car in the country, a truly unique experience

23. **Allihies Copper Mine Visitor Centre & Beach**
    Dedicated to the history of copper mining in the Allihies area

24. **Eyeries Village & Ogham Stone**
    Colourful award-winning rural Irish village

25. **Ardgroom Stone Circle**
    Stone circle of 9 standing stones and 2 prostrate stones, 8 metres in diameter

26. **Dreen Gardens**
    Mature woodland estate and Gardens

27. **Gleninchiquin Waterfall and Park**
    Spectacular waterfall and breathtaking scenery

28. **Star Outdoors**
    Sailing, kayaking and more, just a short drive from Kenmare

29. **Kenmare Seafood**
    The original eco-cruise from Kenmare Pier with seal and white tailed eagle watching

30. **Kenmare Heritage Centre & Town Trail**
    Providing an integral insight into the history of the town and its lace making

31. **Bonane Heritage Park**
    A walk through the 5000 years of the archaeology of Bonane

32. **Molly Gallivan’s**
    A 200 year old cottage and farms shows life before electrification and modern conveniences

33. **Caha Pass**
    A very scenic mountain road between Kenmare and Glengarriff

34. **Bantry Museum & Trail**
    History of the town and fascinating town walk, loop walks

35. **Indoor Leisure Centres Bantry**
    Swimming pools and gyms in Bantry’s Hotels

36. **Bantry House & Gardens**
    Unrivalled setting with views of Bantry Harbour

37. **Whiddy Island**
    Haven of peace and tranquillity, a short ferry ride from Bantry

38. **Sheep’s Head Walk**
    A beautifully scenic long distance walking route

39. **Air India Disaster Memorial**
    A memorial garden and sundial honours the memory of the victims of the 1985 Air India disaster

40. **West Cork Garden Trail**
    Private gardens open to the public, enquire locally for details

41. **Mizen Vision Centre**
    Lighthouse visitor centre on Ireland’s Land’s End

42. **Barley Cove Beach**
    The largest expanse of golden sand in the South West

43. **Roaring Water Bay**
    Whale watching

44. **Schull Planetarium**
    Discover the heavens

45. **Ballydehob Bridge Park**
    Shoreside park with walks, picnic areas and playground

46. **Skibbereen Famine Heritage Centre**
    History of the Great Famine and nearby Lough Hyne

47. **Lough Hyne**
    A salt-water lake connected to the sea by rapids, Ireland’s first Marine Nature Reserve

48. **Carrigannass Castle & Stone Circle**
    Fine example of a fortified castle in tranquil riverside setting

49. **Gougane Barra Forest Park & St Finbarr’s Oratory**
    The scenic valley, the source of the River Lee contains a Forest Park and Oratory

50. **Kilgarvan Motor Museum**
    Vintage cars and tea rooms

For more things to do in the area there are two informative brochures available locally.

Walking in Glengarriff, serves as the walker’s reliable companion.

Visit Garinish Island tells all you need to know about this garden paradise.

An annual Directory of businesses and accommodation in Glengarriff is also available locally.