

Discover The Ring of BEARA



One journey, many adventures...

The Ring of Beara is a scenic coastal driving route, encompassing picturesque villages and towns, enchanting islands and breathtaking scenery. The finger-like peninsula that projects into the Atlantic stretches from Kenmare and Glengarriff to Castletownbere and on to Dursey Island. The Ring of Beara is a must for any visitor in the area.

30 Things TO SEE AND DO

Here are some things that we like to do. We are sure you will discover some hidden treasures of your own.

- 1 Kenmare Stone Circle
- 2 Reenagross wooded park
- 3 Seal, Dolphin and Whale watching – Kenmare, Glengarriff, Dursey Island and Bere Island
- 4 Bonane Heritage Park
- 5 Molly Gallivan's Traditional Farm
- 6 Loop Walks can be enjoyed in Bonane, Glengarriff Woods Nature Reserve, Bere Island, Eyeries, Ardgroom and Gleninchaquin Park
- 7 Caha Pass and Tunnels
- 8 The Ewe Experience
- 9 Glengarriff Woods Nature Reserve
- 10 The Bamboo Park
- 11 Garinish Island
- 12 Glengarriff Harbour Seal Colony
- 13 West Cork Sailing Centre
- 14 Healy Pass
- 15 Millcove Gallery & Sculpture Garden
- 16 Great Golf in Kenmare, Glengarriff and Castletownbere
- 17 Bere Island Heritage Centre
- 18 Martello Towers
- 19 Dunboy Castle
- 20 Dzogchen Beara Buddhist Centre
- 21 Lorge Chocolatier
- 22 Cable car to Dursey Island – Calf Rock Museum and Cafe
- 23 Allihies Award-winning Copper Mine Museum
- 24 Copper Trail Walks
- 25 Eyeries – Award-winning tidy town
- 26 Ardgroom – Village, lakes and Inward Ardgroom scenic drive
- 27 Diving at Allihies and Killmacillogue
- 28 Derreen Gardens
- 29 Gleninchaquin Park
- 30 Star Outdoor Adventure Centre

Produced in association with:



Kenmare Chamber of Commerce & Tourism
Glengarriff Tourism and Development Association
Castletownbere Community Development Association
Bonane Community Council
Allihies Parish Co-Operative Society Limited
Eyeries Tidy Towns



KENMARE.IE
ESCAPE TO LIVING



Cradled in the heart of Kenmare Bay, the picturesque Heritage town of **Kenmare** is the perfect base from which to explore the stunning South West corner of Ireland – with accommodation to suit all budgets from 'glamping' to 5-star luxury and everything in between. The region has scenery that is difficult to equal, where the beauty of mountains, sea, lakes and woodland can be seen in varying light and shades whatever the weather.

The area is rich in tradition and is home to craft workers such as artists, weavers, potters, silversmiths and of course, the famous Kenmare needlepoint lace is still made here and can be viewed at the Heritage Centre. Kenmare is home to several art galleries showcasing the best of Irish art and ceramics. Ireland's love of music lives on in **Kenmare** and traditional music flourishes in the many pubs and bars around the town. Order a pint, pull up a chair and soak of the fabulous atmosphere. A wonderful array of brightly-coloured shops, cafés and boutiques, many open late into the evening during the summer, give the town a bustling cosmopolitan atmosphere.

Kenmare offers a range of outdoor pursuits on both land and sea and caters for the golfer, equestrian, cyclist, sailor, diver, rambler, hill walker, climber and many more. Take a cruise on Kenmare Bay for eagle and seal watching, castles and manors. For families the beautiful Reenagross Park and the picturesque town green offer the chance to rest their feet and enjoy a picnic. Kenmare Pier is reputed to be the oldest in Ireland and the perfect spot for a dip and to watch the sun go down over Kenmare Bay.

Visitors can round off their day with a meal in one of the town's many eateries and discover just why **Kenmare** has a reputation for being one of the best places to eat out in Ireland.

GLENGARRIFF the natural meeting place



Glengarriff is the Southern gateway to the Beara Peninsula. The pretty and inviting village has a great variety of shops, galleries, accommodation, restaurants, pubs and services and, as such, is an ideal place to overnight as you explore the Ring of Beara.

Glengarriff has been a holiday destination since the 1700s and visitors both then and now have always regarded it as an attractive and welcoming destination. This is not surprising as the location of the village on the harbour inlet of Bantry Bay where the mountains meet the sea, is surely one of the most attractive and inviting settings you will see on your travels. This rugged natural beauty, which has entranced travellers to the area for generations, is still available to you to enjoy at your leisure in a wide number of ways.

Located in the area are the four top-line attractions that make up **Glengarriff** – Ireland's Garden Haven. Garinish Island in the harbour is an outstanding island garden, now over 100 years in existence, with collections of rare plants from around the world. The Bamboo Park has a unique collection of Bamboos and Palms and Glengarriff Woods Nature Reserve is a conserved ancient oak forest. The Ewe Experience has a wide range of interesting and quirky sculptures in a natural setting and is well worth a visit.

Glengarriff is a paradise for walkers of all abilities. There are walks for everyone from easy strolls in the centrally located Blue Pool harbour-side area and the Glengarriff Woods Nature Reserve to longer hikes on hill and mountains.

Most importantly, **Glengarriff** – The Natural Meeting Place – with its unrivalled beauty, its peace and tranquillity, invites you to sit back, relax and take in the very special ambience of the place.



Glengarriff Tourist Information
For more information visit our website
www.glengarriff.ie

Kenmare Chamber of Commerce & Tourism

Tel: +353 (0)64 6642615

For more information visit our website

www.kenmare.ie

Essential Information: In case of emergency telephone 999 or 112. For out of hours medical services, telephone South Doc on 1850 335 999

Castletownbere The heart of the Beara Peninsula



Pic: www.peterzoellerphoto.com

Nestled at the foot of the Caha Mountains, **Castletownbere** is surrounded by rugged and beautiful scenery. It is Ireland's premier whitefish port and the nearby restaurants and pubs cater amply for the seafood enthusiast. There are many first class B & B's and hostels to accommodate all tastes.

Situated in the centre of Beara, **Castletownbere** is an ideal location from which to explore and enjoy the delights of the peninsula. Travel the Ring of Beara and visit the many archaeological and historical sites. Enjoy a relaxing game of golf at the Berehaven Golf Course with Green Fees as low as €25 a day.

Sea Angling and Coastal trips can be arranged, with rods and tackle for hire, if needed. Shore Angling is available at the numerous designated sites. You can also enjoy whale and dolphin watching from both land and sea while Dursey Island is a haven for bird watchers. The famous Beara Way Walking Route has many short loop routes around **Castletownbere**, or for the avid walker, longer treks. The full route is 200km (125 miles) long.

Outdoor pursuits in the form of Sea Safari, Canoeing, Kayaking and Dinghy Sailing can also be enjoyed on the peninsula. Gaelic Football is vibrant in **Castletownbere** and indeed in the whole of Beara. There is always a match or two at the weekends.

Dunboy, where the ruins of the Puxley Mansion and the older O'Sullivan Bere Castle can be seen, is only one mile from the town.

Castletownbere Tourist Information

The Square, Castletownbere

Tel: +353 (0)27 70054

www.castletownbere.ie



Beara towns & villages

There are two regular ferries to **Bere Island**. There are numerous remains of the vast Victorian military fortification on the island, including two intact six-inch guns. The refurbished Martello Tower is also worth a visit.

Dursey Island is linked to the mainland by a cable car – the only one of its kind in Ireland. This area has a large variety of migrant birds and there are two sandy beaches on the approach road to the cable car.



There is a rugged tranquillity about the far reaches of the Beara Peninsula. And right at the heart, nestling between the dramatic shadows of the Caha Mountains, a patchwork of green fields and the expansive Atlantic Ocean, you will find the picturesque village of **Allihies**. Allihies was the site of an important 19th century copper mining enterprise and Allihies Copper Mine Museum at the bottom of the village brings this story alive. The museum also houses The Copper Café which commands views over the sandy beach at Ballydonegan. With its cosy pubs, sheltered sandy beaches and endless list of local attractions and activities, no trip to Beara would be complete without the Allihies experience.

From Allihies, a short drive clockwise brings you to the charming village of **Eyeries**, overlooking the Atlantic. Renowned for its colourful streetscape this beautiful village is a regular national medal winner in the Tidy Towns Competition. Voted Ireland's Best Town in 2012. Another picturesque locality is the village of **Ardgroom**. It has two lakes, Glenbeg and Derryvegal, both of which are excellent for trout fishing. Beyond the village there is a perfect example of a stone circle, one of many archaeological sites on the Beara Peninsula.



Lauragh and Tousist are both rich in beauty and heritage. Derren Gardens, beside Kilmakiloge Harbour in Lauragh, was created 100 years ago by the fifth Lord Lansdowne. The woodland gardens contain many azaleas and rhododendrons. There is also a grove of

Bonane Tourist Information

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www.bonane.com

www.bonaneheritagepark.com



Allihies Tourist Information

Allihies Parish Co-Operative Society Limited

Email: allihiesparishcoop@eircom.net

www.acmm.ie

Eyeries Tourist Information

Eyeries Tidy Towns

E-mail: info@eyeries.ie

www.eyeries.ie

Pic: Clare Heardman

New Zealand Tree ferns. Cloonee Loughs are good for salmon and white trout fishing. Travelling to the top of the Healy Pass (below) is a must do, one can look down on Glanmore Lake and the surrounding woodland.

Situated in the heart of the spectacularly scenic Caha Mountains, unchanged by time, **Bonane** links the Kerry Way and the Beara Way and is a paradise for visitors; offering a multitude of activities. Bonane's proximity to the warm Gulf Stream results in its sub-tropical climate giving an abundance of rare wild flowers and fauna. Visitors to Bonane can enjoy a visit to the Bonane Heritage Park, Lorge Chocolate Factory and Molly Gallivan's Traditional Farm and tea rooms. For the more energetic, there are a number of stunning loop walks and three new cycling routes. A guide book with all the details is available locally.

Beara activities

The Beara Way Walking Route winds its way through the peninsula for a magnificent 200km (125 miles), taking in some of the most breathtaking scenery in Ireland along the way. It has no official start or finishing point and sections can be walked following the walk markers or a good map. We recommend OS84 and OS85.

The Beara Cycling Route is a National Cycling route and for the most part is on quiet country roads. It travels the length of the Beara Peninsula, passing through all the towns and villages along the way. There is no start or finishing point so you can pick it up in an town or village and cycle as much of it as you like.

Historical and Archaeological Sites are plentiful! In fact the Beara Peninsula has more sites per comparable area than any other place in Europe.

There are over 20 **Shore Angling** sites signposted on the Beara coastline. No permit is needed for sea fishing and rods and tackle can be purchased from most villages and towns.

Beara is the perfect place for all kinds of **Watersports**, from wind surfing to kayaking. Dedicated centres at Adrigole and in Kenmare offer a range of activities and there are diving centres in Bantry Bay, Castletownbere, Allihies and Kilmacillogue.

Horse riding is available at various locations on the Beara Peninsula. Contact one of the tourist information offices for more details.

Graphics: www.dennisondesign.ie