Ring of Beara

West Cork ~ South Kerry

Scenic Ring Road
Historical and archaeological sites
Beara Way Walking and Cycling Route
Sailing - Fishing - Golf
Gardens - Horse riding Art

Funded by the Irish Government and part-financed by the European Union under the National Development Plan 2000-2006

Bonane Valley

Bonone heritage park is open to the public all year round in the park you can see Wedge tombs, Standing Stones, Stone circle Ringforts and Fulachta Fiadh.

Glengarriff area

Garnish Island has delightful grounds, a charming Italian garden and pool, a Miniature Temple and a Martello Tower, yet is only a short boat trip across the bay; a boat leaves every 5 or 10 min. The island was originally a barren rock until early in the 20th century, when one Annan Bryce engaged an eminent architect and landscape artist to design the layout and plant it as a rare garden.

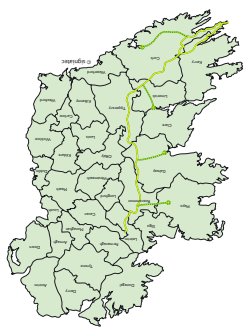
The **State Forest** is a magnificent area in the heart of old Glengarriff Valley, once the property of Lord Bantry, and is made of ancient woodlands and new plantations. Driving, cycling and walking excursions are possible. The property contains Lady Bantry's Lookout and different riverside and mountain walks.

Kenmare area

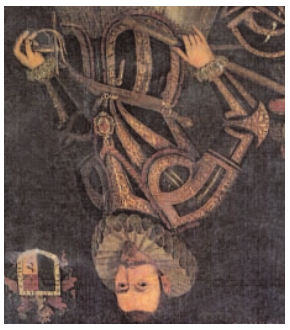
The picturesque town of **Kenmare** is an example of one of Ireland's few planned towns. It was built by Sir William Petty, on the instructions of the first Marquis of Lansdowne. The limestone facades and ornate plasterwork of some of the buildings pay tribute to the craftsmen of a bygone age. Kenmare and its Gaelic name Neidin (little nest) so called because of its fine setting nestling as it does amount the mountains of Cork and Kerry.

Please help us to keep our peninsula a natural beautiful place and dispose of your rubbish thoughtfully.

Beara Tourism & Development Association Ltd
The Square, Castletownbere, Beara, Co. Cork, Ireland
Tel/Fax: 00 353 (0) 27 700 54
www.bearatourism.com - bearatours@eircom.net



Donal Cam O'Sullivan Beara

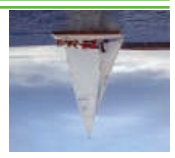


Beara-Breifne Way

The O'Sullivan Beara historical route from Beara to Leitrim.

Work has started on a new walking and cycling route from Beara to Leitrim based on the historic march of O'Sullivan in 1603. This walkway will also link with existing walking routes in Northern Ireland. This project is being developed by the Heritage Council and local County Councils in conjunction with Beara Tourism and over 60 community groups along the route.

Sailing and Watersports on the Peninsula



The peninsula is the perfect place for all kinds of watersports, from windsurfing to kayaking. A sailing centre in **Adrigole**, offers various courses by qualified instructors (keelboat, wayfarer, optibat, catamaran, powerboat etc.) for all ages and abilities. Scenic cruises and angling trips can be arranged from Castletownbere, or you can rent kayaks and canoes to enjoy exploring the area by yourself. Diving centres in Castletownbere and Allihies offer courses from the beginner to the more experienced diver.

Beara Artists

The **Beara Peninsula** is home to numerous well-known artists. The untouched beauty and wildness of the landscape is without any doubt a source of inspiration for their different styles of art works; from paintings, prints, drawings, sculpture, pottery, ceramics, bronzes to hand-crafted jewellery, photography and textile, there is something for all tastes and pockets. All can be purchased from the local galleries.

The Beara Peninsula

The Beara Peninsula is rich in sites of historical and archaeological interest from wedge tombs, which are thousands of years old, to church sites of more recent origin. The area is dotted with stone circles, alignments and gallauns. There are a number of Martello towers, from Dursey Island and Garnish to Bere Island. Several ogham stones can also be found throughout the peninsula.

The Beara Peninsula is rich in sites of historical and archaeological interest from wedge tombs, which are thousands of years old, to church sites of more recent origin. The area is dotted with stone circles, alignments and gallauns. There are a number of Martello towers, from Dursey Island and Garnish to Bere Island. Several ogham stones can also be found throughout the peninsula.

Adrigole is the gateway to the Ring of Beara. The Healy Pass road is a scenic mountain road between Adrigole and Lauragh: cutting through the high Caha Mountains, it rises 334 metres above sea level and passes between two of the highest peeks of the Caha range. This is one of the finest mountain roads in Ireland and is named after Tim Healy, the first governor-General of the Irish Free State, who was born in nearby Bantry. At Trafrask is a plaque commemorating the five Sullivan brothers who were killed when the US Navy ship on which they were stationed was torpedoed; the brothers' grandparents originally came from Adrigole.

Castletownbere is the peninsula's principle town, and the largest whitefish port in Ireland. Berehaven being the second largest natural harbour in the world, it provides safe anchorage for yachts and is also ideal for all water sports, from sea angling to windsurfing. Just outside the town is Berehaven Golf Club. The "Call of the Sea Centre", North Road, is a voyage of discovery through the sights and sounds of the historical peninsula. Fresh seafood is also served in many restaurants all over the peninsula.

Dunboy Castle: beside the remains of the older O'Sullivan Beare Castle, destroyed in a siege in 1602, a vast 19th century castle was built in a bewildering mixture of styles, including French chateaux and Italian villa. The edifice was built by the Puxley family, landlords until 1921, who made their fortune from the copper mines in Allihies. The castle was destroyed by fire in 1921 and lay in ruins for many years. It has now been restored to its former glory and transformed into a luxury hotel. The English novelist, Daphne du Maurier, wrote about the family's story and that of the mines' in her novel Hungry Hill.

Dunboy woods are open to the public with picnic areas and walks. Horse riding is available from the local stables at Dunboy.

There are two regular ferries to Bere Island. Scattered throughout the island are numerous remains including two intact six-inch guns at Lonehart Fort. These are remnants of the vast large Victorian military fortification which Britain built to protect its naval base in Berehaven Harbour and maintained up till 1938. On the south side of the island a French Armada longboat landed in the 1796 invasion of Cuan Boai, which is now called Bantry Bay. The refurbished Martello Tower is also worth a visit.

Dursey Island is linked to the mainland by cable car, the only one of its kind in the country. This area is remarkable for the variety of migrant birds that frequent it. There are two sandy beaches in the Garnish area.

Allihies was once the site of extensive copper mines. Ballydonegan beach, below the village, was created by crushed stones from the mines. Do not miss the Mine Museum in the renovated Church of Ireland chapel. The chapel was built in 1845 for the Cornish miners and their families who came to the area and the adjoining cemetery contains some Cornish memorials. Now Allihies is home to many of the famous artists who live in the Beara Peninsula. Leaving Allihies by the Reentrisk road there is rugged scenery.

The village of **Eyeries** overlooks the Atlantic. It has beautifully painted houses and a flower display on nearly every window. The television series "Falling for a Dancer" was shot here in 1997. Eyeries is also the home of the international award-winning 'Milleens' cheese. Shore angling is very popular along the Eyeries coastline, and boat angling is available locally.

Another picturesque locality is the village of **Ardgroom**. This has two lakes, Glenbeg and Derryvegal, both of which provide good trout fishing. Beyond the village there is a perfect example of a stone circle, one of the many archaeological sites on the peninsula

Lauragh & Tuosist: Derreen Gardens, beside Kilmakilloge Harbour in Lauragh, were planted 100 years ago by the fifth Lord Lansdowne. The woodland gardens contain many azaleas and rhododendrons. There is also a grove of New Zealand Tree ferns. Cloonee Loughs are very popular for salmon and white trout fishing. Travelling to the top of the Healy Pass, which looks down on Glanmore Lake and woodland, one can see an area that has been compared to the Lake District of England.