



Dingle, Ireland **June 7 - 14, 2019**

The trip begins at the Shannon airport where we will be met by a van for transport to Dingle. After the minimum of 10 reservations is reached, we will advise you to make your air travel reservations.

Trip Start: June 7, 2019 – Shannon, Ireland Airport – 10:30AM

Trip Finish: June 14, 2019 – Shannon Airport – 9:30AM

Trip Length: 8 days, 7 nights

Trip Cost: \$3000 per person sharing a room

\$3,400 for a single room

(Trip cost does not include airfare, meals indicated as on your own, beverages and tips.)

Day by Day Overview—Dingle Hiking Days

Friday, June 7 – We'll meet at the Shannon airport where we will be met by a van for transport to Dingle (3 hours). We'll check in to our hotel mid afternoon.

- Lodging: Greenmount House- <http://www.greenmounthouse.ie/>
- Dinner together.

Saturday, June 8 - Dunquin Wild Atlantic Way Walk - This is a lovely walk featuring a combination of coastal cliff walking and some old bog roads through the parish of Dun Chaoin, Ireland's most westerly parish and the heart of the west Kerry Gaeltacht. Expect lots of big skies and Atlantic and Blasket Island views. We will visit the fascinating Blasket Museum - recording the history of the Great Blasket Island, its residents, and their evacuation for good in 1954.

Distance: 6 miles; Elevation gain: 600'.

- Packed lunch; Dinner together.

Sunday, June 9- Loch an Duin Bronze age Valley- This walk back in time is a wonderful combination of Bronze Age archaeology and beautiful nature as we explore the valley of the fortified lake. This valley now deserted and covered in bog contains dwellings, rock art, burial tombs and pre bog field walls from over three thousand years ago. And there is also the waterfall of course! Some rough ground, no major ascents.

Distance: 6-7 miles; Elevation gain: 600'.

- Packed lunch; Dinner on your own.

Monday, June 10 - Today is officially a “free day”. There will be an option of a morning town walk. You’re free in the afternoon to explore the town of Dingle.

- Lunch and Dinner on your own

Tuesday, June 11 - Cosan na Naomh - Following the old pilgrim path from Ventry beach to Gallarus Oratory. Dating back 1200 years the Gallarus Oratory, this small dry stone structure, is said to be the best preserved Christian Church in Ireland. The Pilgrims path is 17.7km long. We will walk approximately 10km, along quiet country roads, bothaiteens (small roads) and farmland. This route is rich in archaeology from the early Christian period (5th - 12th century).

Distance: 6-7 miles; Elevation gain: 500’.

- Packed lunch; Dinner together.

Wednesday, June 12 - We travel today to the western tip of the Dingle Peninsula to walk at Ballydavid Head, for one of the best walks in Kerry. We climb gently through moorland grass to reach a fine vantage point with expansive views of the surrounding hills, fields, mountains, sea and cliffs. This area could be described as a "photographer's paradise". We will take our time to take pictures, relax, and enjoy the views.

Distance 6 - 7 miles; Elevation gain 400’.

- Packed lunch; Dinner together

Thursdays, June 13 – We will determine the activity for this day during our week. Options we will consider: a boat trip to the Blasket Islands, a hike on Connor Pass or Mt. Brandon. All of these options are weather dependent.

Friday, June 14 - After a light breakfast we will have an early departure for Shannon Airport to arrive there by 9:30AM.

Total Drive Time 2 hrs 50 mins

Please Note: The above schedule is subject to change due to weather or other circumstances beyond our control.

Flight and Airport Info

Getting to Shannon: Fly from the U.S. to Shannon Ireland airport. A van will meet us at the Shannon airport to transport us to Dingle (about 3 hours).

Meals

Packed lunches will be provided on our hiking days and dinners as indicated on the itinerary.

Weather: Mild spring weather with some rain/wind likely.

Helpful Websites:

Dingle Hotel: <http://www.greenmounthouse.ie/>

Dingle Peninsula: <http://www.dingle-peninsula.ie/>

Gallarus Oratory: <http://www.sacred-destinations.com/ireland/gallarus-oratory>

Blasket Museum: <http://www.heritageireland.ie/en/south-west/ionadanbhascaoidmhoir-theblasketcentre/>

Reading:

Rick Steves Ireland has good information for travelers

A Brief History of Ireland - Richard Killeen (non-fiction) - 2012

How the Irish Saved Civilization - Thomas Cahill (non-fiction) - 1995

The Dingle Peninsula - Steve MacDonogh (non-fiction) - 1993

A Day in Our Life - Sean O’Crohan (non-fiction about Blasket Island) – 1992

The Immortal Irishman - 2016 book on Irishman who came to US & fought in Civil War

A Thread Across the Ocean—John S. Gordon

An Unsung Hero: Tom Crean, Antarctic Survivor

A Day in Our Life – The Last of the Blasket Islanders – Sean O’Crohan

Movies filmed in Dingle (may be found at your library or on Netflix)

- *Ryan’s Daughter*
- *Far & Away*
- *Leap Year*
- *The Islandman*