



Walking Holidays in Britain's most Beautiful Landscapes

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The Dingle Way

The Dingle Way is one of Ireland's most popular long distance trails and it's easy to see why. On your 116 mile circuit of the Dingle Peninsula you'll discover a landscape rich with archaeological and cultural heritage. There are numerous well-preserved examples of standing stones, dolmens, ring forts, clocháns and perhaps the most intriguing of all, Ogham, an ancient alphabet cut along the flat edges of stones. The western Dingle Peninsula is part of the Gaeltacht, a place where the Irish language is spoken and Irish culture is honoured, notably in dance, song and crafts.

Located on Ireland's wild Atlantic coast the Dingle Way is renowned for its dramatic and atmospheric scenery. Prepare yourself for awe-inspiring landscapes as you traverse the lower slopes of the Slieve Mish Mountains, climb the shoulder of Mount Eagle and cross the flanks of Brandon Mountain. Off the mountains there are miles of beautiful expansive sands to be enjoyed. Add to this, quiet country lanes, picturesque farm tracks, woodlands and wetlands, and you have a hugely varied and rewarding walking experience.

The Dingle Peninsula is home to a variety of habitats and wildlife. Bell heather and the pink-flowering ling carpet the moors. Skylarks, kestrels and peregrine falcons fly overhead. Hedgerows are coloured with yellow primroses, pink and white wild dog rose and purple foxgloves. Oyster catchers, ringed plovers and redshanks can be found on wetlands and off the coast look for seals and the occasional dolphin.

The Peninsula has a fascinating geology and there are stunning rock formations along much of the coastline. Separated from the peninsula by a narrow strip of water are the Blasket Islands. Abandoned in the early 1950's the islands lie on the westernmost edge of Europe. Consider factoring in a rest day at Dingle or Dunquin, and weather permitting, take a boat trip to spend time exploring the abandoned village and outlying buildings.

At the heart of your Dingle Way holiday is hospitality. From the quiet charm of rural guesthouses to lively inns filled with the sound of traditional music and laughter, you are guaranteed a warm welcome and good craic wherever you go.



100% Financial Protection





Summary

Why do this walk?

- Experience the adventure of one of Ireland's most popular long distance walks.
- Discover a landscape rich with archaeological heritage and marvel at the many stone circles, standing stones and dolmens.
- Walk over wild moorland on the lower slopes of the Slieve Mish mountains and traverse the northern shoulder of Brandon Mountain.
- Learn about the Gaeltacht, where Irish language is spoken and Irish culture is honoured.
- Enjoy expansive beach walking between Brandon and Tralee Bays and delight in the beautiful white ribbon of Inch Strand.
- Follow a dramatic coastline shaped with awe inspiring geology.
- Listen live to traditional music and enjoy delicious food and drink.

Essential Information

Length	5 - 9 nights
Full Route Length	116 miles/187 km
Shortest Length	59 miles/95 km



Moderate

Terrain: Almost 50% of the route is on tarmac road, albeit scenic along quiet lanes with very little traffic other than occasional agricultural vehicles. A number of beaches make up approximately a further 15% of the trail providing fabulous walking along wide sands. The remainder of the trail follows farm tracks, field edges, cliff tops, moorland and boreens (a country lane, or narrow, frequently unpaved, rural road).

What's it like underfoot? Walking on tarmac can prove hard going and take its toll on the joints. At the opposite end of the scale walking in soft sand on the beach can prove tiring. Following periods of rain boreens, farm tracks and moorland paths can be boggy, sometimes extremely so. You should be prepared for all of the above.

How Much Up & Down? Fairly frequent minor ups and downs as you cross small valleys and headlands. There is one significant ascent over the spur of Brandon Mountain at 650m otherwise the route never rises above 230m.

Signposting: Generally good. Black posts show a yellow walker icon and an arrow head. Occasionally at junctions there will be paint markings on rocks.

Navigation: Your guidebook has a detailed route description with maps in English. Your Ordnance Survey Ireland 1:50k maps are in Irish, not English. It is recommended you study them and familiarise yourself with the route and the maps ahead of your holiday. On the trail refer to your guidebook and maps at regular intervals. If in doubt at any stage, retrace your steps to your last known location and take direction from your maps and guidebook.



The Route

Tralee to Camp

The Dingle Way starts and finishes in Tralee beside the Kerry County Museum. The trail swiftly leaves the town and joins the canal path for 2km to Blennerville with its iconic windmill.

Quiet country back roads lead you onto the flanks of the Slieve Mish mountain range. After approximately 3km, the trail reaches Tonavane and heads out into the open mountainside, which is often somewhat marshy. Large red sandstone stepping stones are a useful aid. The views are stunning, therefore rather than become distracted and miss your footing, it's perhaps best to stop a while and savour the views!

The trail passes the entrances to a number of impressive glacial valleys and several streams make their way out to sea. These are easily crossed either by stepping stones or better still, bridges. Leaving the mountainside the trail descends to a hedge-lined stone path which once upon a time was the Tralee to Dingle road. Look out for the ruins of Killelton Oratory. This track is often used as a cattle drove and as a result it can be

quite muddy at times. This section of the trail ends by dropping down into a valley, crossing the Finglas River and climbing uphill to meet a minor road before finally heading downhill for approximately 1km to Camp Village.

Camp to Annascaul

This section of the trail follows minor roads that are so seldom used you'll be astonished if you see a car on one! Leaving Camp the trail follows a straight course for 2km, steadily climbing out from the valley. You'll be rewarded with views of Caherconree Mountain and the impressive megalithic fort situated near its summit.

The trail reaches a height of 235m as it crosses the col between the peaks of Corrin and Knockbrack and journeys onwards with the long mountain ridge of Moanlaur and Knockmore on the left and the main Tralee-Dingle road across the valley to the right. The trail gradually descending towards a small plantation of coniferous trees. This is the only forest of note on the Dingle Way. The trail continues through the plantation for 2km before emerging and joining a minor back road ahead of crossing the Emlagh River and meeting a rough track.

The trail now reveals a spectacular view of the stunning Inch Beach, famously a setting for the film Ryan's daughter. Rounding the small summit of Knockafeehane you are rewarded with outstanding views of Lough Anscaul. The trail continues in a perfectly straight line for the final 2km delivering you to the heart of Annascaul.

Annascaul to Dingle

Leaving Annascaul, the trail joins the busy Tralee-Dingle road for a short time prior to joining a quieter road that winds its way for a little over 4km before descending to sea level beside the magnificent ruin of the 16th century Minard Castle. The beach here is a great place to enjoy the views across Dingle Bay towards the Iveragh Peninsula.

Beyond the beach the trail climbs steeply up a narrow path and for the next 6km follows boreens and minor roads that weave around the surrounding farmland. Prior to reaching Lispolé a breathtaking vista of the mountain range to the north comes into view with Croaghskearda and An Cnapán Mór being the more dominant peaks. The trail then crosses the main N86 road and heads north in the direction of Croaghskearda Mountain.



After following a minor road for around 2km the trail crosses farmland and rises onto the lower mountain slopes. This section lasts for approximately 5km and can be particularly muddy in places. A bridge crossing the Garfinny River realigns the trail in a south-westerly direction and heads straight for the town of Dingle approximately 4km downhill.

Dingle to Dunquin

Journeying west from Dingle along the harbour the trail crosses the Milltown River and accompanies the main road for a further kilometre before taking a side road through an area of low-lying farmland.

After approximately 3km the road joins the Pilgrims Route for approximately 300m before turning off the road for 1.5km heading cross country in a north-westerly direction. Once over the col at Mám an Óraigh the trail drops down to meet a minor road approaching Ventry from the north.

The trail now crosses a beach for the first time, drawing a long arc across the sands of Ventry Harbour. A number of small rivers feeding into the sea along the beach are crossed by bridge. This sandy section lasts for approximately 2.5km before returning to firmer ground.

The trail now follows intertwining minor roads and tracks for 2km to meet the main Sleah Head Road. The next 7km of the trail passes stunning scenery on all sides as it skirts the base of Mount Eagle. At 160m above sea-level, the view over the Atlantic gradually starts to include the Blasket Islands as the trail rounds Sleah Head.

The final section of this stage sees the trail back on the main road for 3km before descending towards the picturesque pier and on to the centre of Dunquin. The heritage centre tells the poignant story of the Blasket Islands. A rest day with good weather will allow for a ferry ride out to the Blaskets.

Dunquin to Feohanagh

Heading uphill out of Dunquin the trail soon becomes a gravel path as it rounds the shoulder of An Ghráig before descending and rejoining the main road. Having crossed grasslands and passed the charming Clogher Beach, the trail skirts the clifftops and the ferocity of the Atlantic is felt as the mighty waves crash below.

Beyond Smerwick Harbour the trail follows 6km of beach, bypassing Ballyferriter before finally reaching

Murreagh and Ballydavid. Once passed Ballydavid the trail follows a 3 km section of cliff walk prior to turning inland and rejoining the road at Glashabeg leading to Feohanagh.

Feohanagh to Cloghane

Leaving Feohanagh the trail joins an old green road taking the trail in a north-easterly direction aiming for Cnoc na mBristi. The steep pull up to the shoulder of Brandon Mountain sees the trail round the col between Masatiompan and Piaras Mór reaching 650m. The ancient marker ogham stone with an inscribed cross can be found here.

The descent from the mountain can prove incredibly hazardous following heavy rain as the slope is quite steep and the terrain boggy underfoot. Following a section of around 2km the gradient becomes more manageable as the trail weaves its way down into the valley for a further 4km before meeting up with a wider road section.

After the physical challenge of Brandon Mountain you may be tempted to take a short cut by missing out the 4km loop taking in Brandon Village. However doing so would result in missing out on one of the most tranquil settings in Ireland.



The final leg of this section sees the trail leave the pier at Brandon and head south-west across lanes for just over 6km in the direction of Cloghane Village.

Cloghane to Castlegregory

The trail leaves Cloghane along a quiet undulating road that temporarily heads inland and skirts Drom Hill to the north, rewarding you with striking views of glacial valleys to the south. This road section lasts approximately 3.5km prior to threading through Drom and Farrendalouge and emerging back on the sea-front at Fermoyle.

It's now sandy beach for much of the way between Fermoyle and Castlegregory. Taking in the low-lying land reaching out towards the Magharee Islands to the north, the trail spans the length of Ireland's longest beach, at 11km in length.

Several streams along Fermoyle Strand have to be crossed and these can become quite deep following heavy rain or during high tides. At such times it is wiser to take to the higher ground of the sand-dunes where they can be easily crossed.

Reaching the head of the strand the trail travels through the small community of

Fahamore before curving around Scraggane Bay and making its way back down the eastern side of the loop along another 2.5km stretch of beach before a final section of tarmac road leads into Castlegregory.

Castlegregory to Tralee

Leaving Castlegregory the trail heads in a south-easterly direction through an area of bogland. After approximately 3.5km the trail joins the main Camp to Castlegregory road for 200 metres before breaking off and making its way back to the sea and following another 7km stretch of coastline.

Having bypassed Camp Village the trail leaves the shore and traverses the busy Tralee-Dingle Road and makes its way onto the lower slopes of the Slieve Mish Mountain range. This section was walked in the opposite direction at the start of the trail. Approximately 9km of open mountainous terrain leads to Blennerville with its distinctive windmill landmark. Having reached Blennerville all that remains is the final 2km along the canal path back into the centre of Tralee and the completion of the Dingle Way.

Additional days

We can arrange extra nights at any of the overnight stops, allowing for rest days, or giving you more time to explore the locality. We recommend Tralee, Dingle, or Dunquin.

Tralee

Tralee is the largest town in County Kerry and it's well worth spending a day here before or after your walk. Make time to visit the award winning museum in the Ashe Memorial Hall where among other things you can inspect a medieval brooch submerged in a bog for a millennium and examine clothing worn by Antarctic explorer Ernest Shackleton.

Although passed on the first day of your walk, the Blennerville Windmill deserves a more leisurely, closer inspection. The whitewashed tower mill stands at over 21 metres and is one of the tallest mills of its kind in Europe. There's a visitor centre too.

Tralee Bay Wetlands Centre is a 3,000 hectare nature reserve. The activity centre features a 20 metre high observation tower as well as an interactive wildlife exhibition. Guided nature spotting boat tours are also available.



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Ratass Church is a National Monument of Ireland. The church was built from local sandstone the 10th century on the site of a much older ringfort. During maintenance works in 1975 a 6th century Ogham stone was discovered at the church. Ogham is an ancient Irish alphabet comprising dashes or short straight lines cut into a flat stone.

Dingle

Take time out from your walk to soak up the vibrant atmosphere of Dingle Town, a hub of literary and creative culture. The town is famous for its fresh seafood, be sure to try some.

Book a boat trip along Dingle Bay and see the local landmarks including incredible views of Valentia Island and Ireland's highest mountain, Carrauntoohill.

Another great way to enjoy the Dingle coastline is on a horseback tour culminating with an exhilarating gallop along the shoreline.

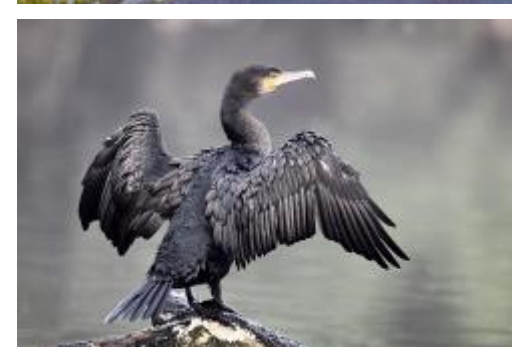
Take a tour of Dingle Distillery producer of world class whiskey, vodka and gin and learn all about the production of their tantalising drinks.

Visit Dingle Cookery School where during a three hour class you'll create a delicious meal using local ingredients such as fish, shellfish, lamb, cheeses and even whiskey.

Dunquin

Dunquin is the perfect place from which to take a boat tour out to the Blasket Islands. Inhabited probably since the Iron Age before being abandoned in 1953, the islands lie on the westernmost edge of Europe.

These extremely isolated islands are separated from the mainland by Blasket Sound, a narrow and treacherous strip of water. It is said that even in the 20th century island life had a medieval flavour with no machinery or electricity and operating on a cashless co-operative economy. An exploration of the abandoned village on Great Blasket, the largest of the six islands will prove a fascinating visit.



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Getting There and Away

General travel information for the Dingle Way will be in your holiday pack.

Detailed instructions on getting to your first night's accommodation by car, or on foot from the nearest train or bus station, will also be included in the holiday pack on individual accommodation maps.

To view train times please visit Irish Rail. For information on bus timetables please visit visit Bus Éireann.

If you require secure car parking whilst walking this route, please contact us for information.

Getting There:

By Air: The nearest and most convenient International Airport to Tralee is Cork. Buses regularly depart for Cork city centre where trains run frequently to Tralee.

By Ferry: The most convenient Ferry Ports for Tralee are Rosslare (from Fishguard, Pembrokeshire or Cherbourg, France) and Dublin (from

Liverpool or Holyhead, Anglesey). Trains run regularly from Dublin and Rosslare to Tralee.

By Public Transport: There is a railway station at Tralee. Tralee Station is the terminus of the Mallow to Tralee line, from Mallow there are fast and frequent services to and from Dublin and Cork.

By Road: Tralee is located at the end of the N22 from Cork and the N21/ N69 from Limerick.

If travelling from Dublin, take the N7/ M7 to Limerick then exit at Junction 30 and follow signs for the N21 Tralee.

If travelling from Rosslare Ferry Port, follow the N25 to Waterford then follow the N24 to Limerick joining the M7 at Junction 29 (Ballysimon) and following signs for the N21. Then continue as above.

Getting Back:

As this is essentially a circular route you will be walking back to your starting location so you can depart by the same means you arrived.



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How our holidays work

We specialise in self-guided walks because we think it's the best way to really experience local landscapes, cultures and history. You walk under your own steam, at your own pace, safe in the knowledge that we have organised everything, and help is only a phone call away. We book all your accommodation, move your luggage between overnight stops, provide you with maps and guidebooks and all the details you need for a successful holiday. You just turn up and walk!

Inbuilt Flexibility

Our holidays are designed to be flexible and can therefore be tailored to suit your requirements. If you're looking for something different, or extra, from the holidays described here, give us a ring and we'll do our best to please.

You can start on any day you like and we can arrange extra nights at any of the overnight stops allowing for rest days, or giving you more time to explore the locality. You can book part

of a walk if you don't have the time to complete the entire distance.

How to Book

Once you have decided which holiday you wish to book, please fill in the form at the back of this brochure which can then be emailed or posted to us. We will get in touch with you once we have received your booking to confirm your holiday details.

Alternatively, you can either book online using our website at mickledore.co.uk or telephone us during office hours.

Accommodation

Good accommodation and friendly hosts are an essential part of any holiday. We understand this and go out of our way to find the best. We put a great deal of effort into hand picking our accommodation and matching it to individual customer requirements. In selecting the accommodation, we look for helpful, friendly hosts with good quality, characterful accommodation close to

the trail. For example, over the course of your trip you might stay in a village inn, a bed and breakfast in a converted barn, a Victorian guest house, and on a working farm. Occasionally we may use a chain hotel. We always try to arrange en suite accommodation, i.e. rooms with their own bathrooms, for each night of your stay. However, in some of the more remote locations accommodation is limited and occasionally we may have to book rooms with shared bathrooms for one or two nights of your holiday, (especially if the booking is made at short notice), but we will always let you know if this is likely to be the case.

Single Rooms We are happy to book single rooms on this walk but cannot normally book more than two for any one group. Single room bookings include a supplement.



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What We Provide

All Holidays

Accommodation Overnight Bed and Breakfast accommodation in selected hotels, farmhouses, village inns, guest houses and family B&Bs.

Full English or Continental breakfast.

Guidebook A guidebook with route information, maps, photos and background information.

Information of Services Along the Route A comprehensive service Info sheet, including services such as cash points, banks, post offices, village shops, inns, cafés and taxis.

Maps 1 waterproof 1:40000 Harvey map covering the whole route.

Personal Itinerary A personal itinerary setting out each overnight stop, including large scale maps of each accommodation, to ensure you find it easily.

Emergency Telephone Support If you get in to difficulties during your holiday, we are always available to help, even out of office hours.

12.5% discount at Cotswold Outdoors We will issue you with a 12.5%

Discount Card valid at all Cotswold Outdoor stores, and online, for the whole year on confirmation of your booking.

Options

Luggage Transport We will transfer your luggage between each overnight stop – leave your luggage at the accommodation when you set off in the morning, it will be moved on to your next B&B. You only need to carry a small day sack with the clothes and provisions you require during the day's walk. We ask you to limit your luggage to one bag per person, up to 18kg.

Packed Lunches Provided for each day's walking and recommended on this holiday as there will not always be a handy shop or café on the route.

Off Road Parking If you are travelling by car we can usually arrange off road parking for the duration of your trip. (There may be a small charge for this).

Arrangement of return transport We can also arrange your transfer back to your car, (or advise you when public transport is a better option!)

What's Not Included

Evening Meals Your evening meal isn't included in the package, but we include full details and recommendations for each evening meal in your itinerary. You will normally be within walking distance of a pub and/or restaurant, or where there is good food available at the accommodation, we'll book that for you. Allow about £20.00 per night.

Transport to the start & away from the finish Taxi or bus transport if you need to miss a stage (but we'll help you organise it if you need help)

Travel Insurance Even if you are based in the UK travel insurance is worth having.

Prices

Detailed prices for all our holidays are available on the website. mickledore.co.uk.



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About Mickledore

Mickledore Travel is based in Keswick at the heart of the English Lake District. We are one of the leading specialists in self-guided walking and cycling holidays in the UK, and provide a friendly, professional and flexible service.

We are walkers and cyclists ourselves, so it really matters to us that you have a good holiday. We are still a small business, with a lot of local knowledge, and personal enthusiasm for the outdoors. If you've got any queries, we're always happy to help, so don't hesitate to pick up the phone or drop us an email, or call in and see us if you're in Keswick.

- We specialise in UK holidays, and by concentrating on what we consider the best routes, we get to know the trails, accommodation, and local area intimately.
- All your accommodation has been carefully selected and is regularly monitored.
- We listen to you and tailor each holiday to meet your

requirements.

- We have an excellent level of customer service.
- We have 15 years' experience, and very high levels of customer satisfaction.
- Peace of mind – help is only ever a telephone call away.
- We're all outdoor enthusiasts – we know what makes a good holiday, and we want you to have one!
- 15% discount card for all your outdoor equipment purchases from Cotswold Outdoors.
- 100% financial protection – in the very unlikely event of Mickledore's financial failure, you receive a full refund.

Financial Protection

Your payments are fully protected against our financial failure. We are members of the Association of Independent Tour Operators (AITO), and the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA). We have arranged bonding through ABTA. This means that in the unlikely event of our financial failure, any monies you have paid to us will be refunded. This

bonding is fully compliant with the Package Travel Regulations and provides 100% financial protection.

AITO Quality Statement

Mickledore Travel is a member of the Association of Independent Tour Operators. The Association represents Britain's leading independent tour operators. It promotes high levels of professionalism and a shared concern for quality and personal service. The Association encourages the highest standards in all aspects of tour operating.

Mickledore Travel abides by AITO's Code of Conduct and adheres to the Quality Charter which can be viewed at aito.com. Visit the website to find out more about the Association or call 020 8744 9280.



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The Dingle Way

Round Trip from Tralee in 8 Days Walking Code: DG9

		miles	km
Day 1	Travel to Tralee for your first night of accommodation		
Day 2	Tralee to Camp	12	19
Day 3	Camp to Annascaul	10	16
Day 4	Annascaul to Dingle	14	23
Day 5	Dingle to Dunquin	14	23
Day 6	Dunquin to Caus	17	27
Day 7	Caus to Cloghane	14	23
Day 8	Cloghane to Castlegregory then transfer to Cappateige	17	27
Day 9	Transfer back to Castlegregory then walk to Tralee	18	29
Day 10	Depart from Tralee after breakfast		

Dingle Way Tralee to Cloghane in 6 Days Walking Code: DGT7

Dingle Way Annascaul to Cloghane in 4 Days walking Code: DGA5

		miles	km		miles	Km
Day 1	Travel to Tralee for your first night of accommodation			Travel to Annascaul for your first night of accommodation		
Day 2	Tralee to Camp	12	19	Annascaul to Dingle	14	23
Day 3	Camp to Annascaul	10	16	Dingle to Dunquin	14	23
Day 4	Annascaul to Dingle	14	23	Dunquin to Caus	17	27
Day 5	Dingle to Dunquin	14	23	Caus to Cloghane	14	23
Day 6	Dunquin to Caus	17	27	Depart from Cloghane after breakfast		
Day 7	Caus to Cloghane	14	23			
Day 8	Depart from Cloghane after breakfast					





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Booking Form

Contact Details

Address

Mobile Telephone..... Landline telephone.....

Email.....Emergency Contact no

Your Holiday

Holiday Code.....Holiday Name.....

Date of First Night.....Date of Last Night.....

Party Members

Title	First Name	Last Name	Date of Birth

Options	Rooms Required	Rest Days (give date & location)
Luggage Transport	Y/N	No. Double Rooms <input type="text"/>
Packed Lunches	Y/N	No. Twin Rooms <input type="text"/>
Off Street Parking	Y/N	No. Single Occupancy Rooms <input type="text"/>
Return Transfer required (additional charge)	Y/N	

Comments (special diets, other requirements etc):

Upon receipt of your booking form Mickledore will send by email a confirmation with the full price and 20% deposit cost required. You can pay by card or cheque (GBP only for cheque).

How did you hear about Mickledore Travel?



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