



## Killarney Weekend Away 2017 – B & C Walks

<b>Walk Name</b>	Killarney Weekend Away €195pps Single Supplement €90 (limited)
<b>Date of Walk</b>	Friday 29th of Sept to Sunday 1st Oct
<b>Area of Walk</b>	Glencar, Black Valley, Galways Bridge
<b>Directions</b>	<b>Bandon, Macroom to Killarney</b>
<b>Guide's Name</b>	Tadhg O Leary – Mick Doyle
<b>Guide's Number</b>	0862395754    0868269096
<b>Sweeper's Name</b>	Robert Wilmot
<b>Sweeper's Number</b>	0868305659
<b>Meeting Place</b>	The Ash Tree
<b>Departure Time</b>	Cars leaving Bandon at your leisure heading for The Gleneagle Hotel, Killarney, all walks are linear so local buses will be provided to and from the Hotel.
<b>Meeting Place near Walk</b>	Gleneagle Hotel
<b>Leaving for walk</b>	Gleneagle Hotel
<b>Level of Walk</b>	Grade B and C walks over the weekend
<b>Approx duration of walk</b>	Sat B Walk 6-7hrs C walk 4hrs, Sun B Walk 6-7hrs C Walk 4-5hrs
<b>Parking availability</b>	Linear Walks so a local bus will drop off
<b>Description of walk:</b>	<p>Main walks will be the last parts of the Kerry Way which will complete the entire 220km for the club.</p> <p>Don't let the lengths of the walks put you off as the Kerry Way is designed to traverse under Kerry's largest mountains so there are some climbs but nothing to be afraid of.</p> <p><b>Saturday Kerry Way Black Valley to Glencar: (Best leg of all The Kerry Way in my Opinion)</b></p> <p>Saturday breakfast at 7.30, buses leaving at 8.30 sharp</p> <p>Bus collects us from Gleneagle at 8.30am Sharp to the Black Valley and brings us back later from the Climbers Inn Glencar after some refreshments approx. 6pm.</p> <p>Starting from the church in Black Valley, the Kerry Way begins to weave its way west towards the head of the valley. The road goes for a few hundred metres before a turn to the right rises to meet Kerry's famous Gap of Dunloe. Our trail ignores this turn-off however and continues straight ahead for around 2½km on the tarmac road, holding a steady</p>

distance between the towering Macgillycuddy's Reeks above on the right and the Gearhameen River below to the left.

Having passed the lower lake of Cummeenduff Lough and reaching the last houses of Cloghernooosh, the Kerry Way starts to follow a green road through some forestry. Brassel Mountain (575m) looms to the north as the green road eventually tapers out after 1km and emerges from the coniferous trees to traverse wet grassy fields for a further kilometer. The imposing stature of Broaghnabinnia (745m) lies straight ahead with the picturesque Lough Reagh nestled below.

Upon reaching Dromluska, the Kerry Way once again joins a tarmac road for around 2km as it follows Cummeenduff Glen to its end. Once having passed the last remaining farm dwellings, the trail rises steeply towards the saddle between Broaghnabinnia and Curraghmore. The terrain for this section is very rocky and wet. Great care is needed both in keeping a firm footing but also to keep the signage posts in sight. The height at the saddle is around 300m and it provides spectacular views of both Bridia Valley in front and Black Valley behind.

Extreme caution is needed for this section, especially in wet conditions. Similar to the ascent from Black Valley, the descent into Bridia Valley is even more steep and slippery. The Kerry Way follows the bouldery ridge down into the valley for around 1km before arriving at more welcoming footing at some farmland. With a further kilometer on road leading to Maghanlawoun, one will be greatly surprised to come across the Cooky Monster's Café in this remotest of places.

**There is an opportunity for people to ring a taxi (or have cars arranged the night before) from here as an escape route if required as this is the halfway point of today's walk.**

The title of 'Lack Road', which traverses the next mountain pass, gives the wrong impression of a wide sturdy trail. In reality it is little more than a sheeps path that zig-zags back and forth up to the height of 380m. On a clear day, spectacular views back across Bridia Valley and Broaghnabinnia can be seen to the south-east. To the north-east, the ridge-line stretches from Curraghmore to Caher. This ridge is a gateway to the MacGillycuddy's Reeks, which are home to 9 out of 10 of Ireland's highest peaks.

Once having reached the top of the mountain pass, a new vista lies ahead with Lough Acoose below at the far end of the valley and the Dingle Peninsula on the distant horizon. The next 1km descent is quite steep and can become extremely slippery in wet conditions. Great caution must be taken on the way down. The gradient eventually levels off near the Gearhanagour Stream. The Kerry Way follows the stream towards scattered farmsteads at Derrynafeana, marking the end of a tough 3½km off-road section.

The Kerry Way follows a boreen to the north for the next 3km. It flanks the east of Lough Acoose before briefly threading its way between a hillock and Slievanore and reaching the main road to Glencar. Turning left at the T-Junction, the road hugs the shores of Lough Acoose for 1km before passing through a coniferous forest for 1km at Gortmaloon. The

road can be quite narrow in places with several blind bends. Walkers should stay alert to oncoming traffic and walk on the wide side of each bend to provide the most amount of visibility to motorists. After passing the turn-off for Shanacashel, the final 2km of road section starts to straighten out before reaching the Climber's Inn.

**Sunday Kerry Way Black Valley to Gleneagle Hotel:**

Sunday breakfast at 8.00, buses leaving at 9am sharp, please be checked out in plenty time for bus as it will be later in the day before we are back at the Hotel Car Park to our cars.

Bus collects us from Gleneagle at 9am Sharp to the Black Valley.

Leaving Lord Brandon's cottage we walk alongside the upper lake along a well-defined track heading up through an old forest. In the background is the Upper Lake. Tour boats can be seen making their way to and from Ross Castle in Killarney. The trail passes a group of small tree-covered masses emerging from the lake. The first of these include Juniper Island, then Ronayne's Island with Eagle Island hiding behind and finally McCarthy's Island. We keep heading for the quaint Derrycunihy Church, now bricked up, which rests beside Galway's Bridge.

**There is an opportunity for people to ring a taxi (or have cars arranged the night before) from here as an escape route if required (this is only 2hrs out)**

From this point, we head towards the Old Kenmare Road and take a left heading for the path that leads up the Esknamucky Glen towards Friars Glen and along the Crinnagh River. This old Butter road will bring us to the top car park above Torc Waterfall.

**There is an opportunity for people to ring a taxi (or have cars arranged the night before) from here as an escape route if required (this is approx 5hrs out)**

We drop down alongside Torc Waterfall and make our way through Muckcross House estate and back to the Gleneagle Hotel.

There will be C walks organised on each day or alternately people can use the escape routes from above to create C walks along the same route as the B walks.

At this point a huge congratulation is due to anyone that has joined us over the years as we made our way along the longest Way in Ireland, The Kerry Way 220km is now complete!

If you have any queries on the walks please contact Tadhg or Pat.

**Note: All times are "ISH"**