



The Beara Way

The Beara Way is approximately 220 kilometres in length and completes a circuit of the peninsula before turning inland to Kealkill. The route follows quiet back roads and un-tarred tracks, where available. Nonetheless, traffic volumes have increased in recent years and walkers and cyclists are asked to take care, particularly on the busy roads entering and leaving towns and villages.

Much of the Beara Way traverses private lands. Access has been arranged by local community groups and is entirely dependent on the goodwill of local landowners. Dogs are not permitted on the Beara Way as a condition of this access, and walkers are asked to respect this. Please also be aware that the route is closed to the public on January 31st each year.



6 Allihies to Dursey Sound

This 4.5 hour walk passes Ballydoonegan Beach and follows the coast with its fantastic views of the Skellig and Scariff Islands. At Firkeel Gap, there are two possible routes to Dursey Cable Car: take the Crow Head route south with its views of Bantry Bay and Dursey Island. The last 2 km of this route uses the main road, which can be busy in the tourist season. Please be aware that there is no mobile/cell phone coverage or public phones at the western tip of the peninsula.

8 Eyeries to Ardroom

This route, though only 3-4 hours in duration, is particularly notable for the variety of terrain encountered. Departing Eyeries Village along the Coast Road, the route soon swings seawards to meet the shoreline, passing the old Coastguard Station on route. Rejoining the Coast Road, the route skirts scenic Ballycoveane Harbour and then runs inland and off-road along the southern bank of Lough Fadda (meaning Long Lake). However, walkers remaining on the Coast Road, for the 1-kilometre detour to the Hag of Beara rock and Katherine Church beyond, will be agreeably diverted. The final stretch finds the walker atop a ridge with panoramic views of Kenmare Bay and Ardroom harbour before descending to the village below: Highest point 90m - easy walk.

10 Lauragh to Tuosist

Walkers should be aware that this route follows a tarred road for its entirety. Nonetheless, the section is short (about 2-3 hours) and uses quiet byroads with limited traffic. Leaving Lauragh along the perimeter of the Dereen Estate, the road climbs the gap between Knockatee and Knockanoughanish. Passing to turn, walkers can appreciate the spectacular views of Dereen woods and Kilmackilligge Harbour that the elevation affords. Tip and over, the route descends past a stone circle to reach a signed junction. From here, walkers can continue north to Tuosist or turn east to Bonane - an additional 6 hours walking.

7 Allihies to Eyeries

This is a 3-4 hour walk. Leaving Allihies, the route passes the tall chimney known as the North Engine and follows an old disused mining track and mountain pass with magnificent views of Coadagh Bay. Mid-way walkers can take the spur to Tuosist for refreshments or continue along off-road tracks and quiet roads to reach the colourful village of Eyeries.

9 Ardroom to Lauragh

Leaving Ardroom along a back road running parallel to the main R571, walkers skirt the foot of Toorcemanna. The area is rich in prehistoric monuments, the most accessible of which is Ardroom (Candó) stone circle. The route converges with the main road for several kilometres and caution is urged until the disused track, along which the trail continues, is reached. A tranquil valley provides respite from the motorised world, and the trail continues through part of the Dereen Estate, affording stunning views of Kilmackilloque Harbour. To complete the route, follow the winding backroads into leafy Lauragh, paying careful attention to signage. This 3-4 hour section begins in Co. Cork but concludes in Co. Kerry. This is a moderate walk - highest point 200m.

11 Tuosist to Bonane

Departing Tuosist, walkers must negotiate a series of junctions and a short stretch along the narrow walled R571. However, once off-road, the trail rises onto the shoulder of Knockagarrane to delight in views of the Clonee Lakes below and Kenmare Bay and the Iveragh Peninsula beyond. Dropping to skirt the shore, the route continues through a mountain pass and the austere beauty of the Cahal landscape - the most isolated stretch of this 5-6 hour section. The trail joins a lonely tarred road through rugged mountain scenery for many kilometres until the main N71 is reached and followed - with caution - for the final stretch into Bonane.

12 Bonane to Glengarriff

This is 3-4 hour walk. Close to the start is the famous Bonane Heritage Park. The Park is unique in that it has an abundance of well-preserved multi-period archaeological sites from the Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages right up to pre-damine times. It includes Stone Circles, a Ringfort, a Standing Stone and a Falacht Fish. The Beara Way follows the old Kenmare to Glengarriff road over Esk Mountain. At the top of the ridge, there are panoramic views of Kenmare Bay and Bantry Bay; then for the last 2 km, walkers walk through the woods before descending to Glengarriff village.

Bonane to Kenmare

There is also a link to Kenmare town via Quin country roads.

