



**KDavis Travels**

## **Dingle, Ireland** **June 1 - 8, 2023**

The trip begins at The Courtyard B & B in the town of Bunratty, Ireland 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. Because flight delays can happen, it is safest to arrive a day (i.e., May 31) before our trip start date. After I receive your reservation, I will send you information about making reservations at the Courtyard B&B.

Trip Start: June 1, 2023 – The Courtyard B & B, Bunratty, Ireland – 9:30AM

<https://bunrattycourtyard.com/>

Trip Finish: June 8, 2023 – Tralee Train Station – 9:00AM

Trip Length: 8 days, 7 nights

Trip Cost: \$3,100 per person sharing a room

\$3,500 for a single room

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

### **Day by Day Overview**

**Thursday, June 1** – The Dingle Shuttle van will meet us after breakfast at the Courtyard B&B (Bunratty) for transport to Dingle (3 hrs). We'll check in to our Dingle hotel midafternoon and meet our guide for a town walk.

- Dingle Lodging: Greenmount House- <http://www.greenmounthouse.ie/>
- Lunch stop in route.
- Dinner together.

**Friday, June 2** - 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.

**Saturday, June 3** - 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

**Sunday, June 4** - Today is officially a “free day”. There will be an option of a short morning walk along Dingle Bay. You’re free in the afternoon to explore Dingle town on your own.

- Lunch on your own
- Dinner together

**Monday, June 5** - 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, bothaireens (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

**Tuesday, June 6** – Weather dependent, we will take a boat trip to the Blasket Islands and begin our walk from the harbor. We have had these islands in sight all week on our coastal walks. The Great Blasket Island was inhabited by Irish people from 1841 until 1953, when the inhabitants were forced by local government to abandon the island. The living conditions were harsh. The island reached its population peak of 150 in 1840 but decreased to 100 following the Great Famine. The Great Blasket is known for its gifted Irish language writers who have written several books describing their way of life. Today’s walk is a trip back in time! (As getting to Blasket Islands is weather dependent, this day may move to a different day in the schedule.)

- Snack lunch
- Dinner on your own

**Wednesday, June 7** – Following the Dingle Way around Smerwick Harbor, we come to the fishing village of Baile nan Gall. We have stunning views of the Three Sisters in the shadow of Mount Brandon . We have some lovely beach walking today through areas named Beal Ban and Cul Dorcha and Tra an Mhuiriosh. We end our day at Tigh Pub (TP’s pub). There has been a pub on this site for over 100 years. Take a look at the family photos on the wall! Distance – 5 miles; Elevation gain 325’.

- Packed lunch.
- Dinner together.

**Thursday, June 8** - After a light breakfast we will have an early departure for Tralee Train Station to arrive there for the 9:00AM train. Total Drive Time: about 1 hr.

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

## **Flight and Airport Info**

**Getting to Ireland:** Flights from the U.S. go to Dublin and to Shannon airports. Flights to Dublin are dependable, but with Covid the Shannon flight schedules became less dependable. This itinerary reflects flying out of Dublin. Including Dublin in your travel plans affords you the opportunity to spend a few extra days on your own exploring that city. A van will meet us at the Courtyard B&B in Bunratty on the morning of June 1 to transport us to Dingle (about 3 hours).

**Meals** – Packed lunches will be provided on our hiking days and dinners as indicated (“dinner together”) on the itinerary.

**Weather:** Generally mild with mix of sun and rain; Average temps for daytime 65-70F- and night 50-55F

## **Helpful Websites:**

**Dingle Hotel:** <http://www.greenmounthouse.ie/>  
**Dingle Peninsula:** <http://www.dingle-peninsula.ie/>  
**Gallarus Oratory** <http://www.heritageireland.ie/en/south-west/gallarusoratory/>  
**Blasket Museum:** <http://www.heritageireland.ie/en/south-west/ionadanbhlascaoidmhoir-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  
*Ireland* – Frank Delaney (fiction) – 2005  
*The Immortal Irishman* – Timothy Egan - 2016 book on Irishman who came to US & fought in Civil War (biography)  
*A Thread Across the Ocean*—John S. Gordon (non-fiction)  
*An Unsung Hero:* Tom Crean, Antarctic Survivor  
*A Day in Our Life – The Last of the Blasket Islanders* – Sean O’Crohan (non-fiction)  
*This is Happiness* - Niall Williams (fiction)

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

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