

Now, we look forward to
welcoming you

In 2016 alone, the peninsula has welcomed Top Gear (featuring Matt Le Blanc and Chris Evans) showcasing the character of the people and communities, its landscape and spectacular Slea Head Drive; Disney Lucas Films and the lead cast and crew of Star Wars for Star Wars 9 which will be released in December 2017; and Bear Grylls and Courtney Cox (yes, that is the second member of the cast of Friends to visit the peninsula in one year) who experienced the "Wild Side" of the Dingle Peninsula.

FALTE ROIMH - WELCOME



- What you will Experience on the Dingle Peninsula:**
- Stunning scenery and natural beauty – beaches, cliffs, mountain passes including the iconic Conor Pass, hidden lakes, bays and the Wild Atlantic Ocean;
 - The Slea Head Drive and archipelago of islands – The Blasket Islands with its rich literary legacy;
 - It's Gaeltacht area with a thriving Irish-language community;
 - 2 Mountain Ranges including Mount Brandon, Ireland's second highest mountain and connection to St. Brendan, the Navigator;
 - Friendliness of local people and communities;
 - Range of activities and attractions for adventurers, leisure seekers, "Culturally Curious", "Great Escapers" and families alike;
 - Rich musical tradition with an abundant choice of venues;
 - Award winning "Foodie" reputation with an abundance of local artisan producers;
 - Host of talented craft people, artists and photographers;

www.dingle-peninsula.ie

For Information on Accommodation, Places to Eat, Things to Do and How to Get Here, visit

The Dingle Peninsula has a number of different villages and one town, each with their own personality and ambience - from fishing villages to market town to seaside resorts, there is so much to explore!

The rich choice of so much for so many is what makes the Dingle Peninsula so special and universally appealing.

- Abundance of Festivals and Events both community enhancing and visitor welcoming;
- Walking Routes for all abilities;
- World class deep sea and shore angling, diving and sailing grounds;
- Brandon Bay and Inch for world class windsurfing and surfing – all year round;
- Over 2,000 archaeological sites with the ancient stories and mythology of Corca Dhubhne and Fionn Mac Cumhail;
- Famous forefathers – St. Brendan the Navigator, Tom Crean – Antarctic Explorer, Jerome Connor – Sculpture and Páidí Ó Sé – Kerry footballer;
- And Fungie! Our famous dolphin.

ABOUT THE DINGLE PENINSULA

- Luxury Travelblog – Dingle is second of the top European travel destinations favoured by celebrities
- Once cited as 'the most beautiful place on earth' by the National Geographic
- Voted among the top 100 destinations of choice in the world by Trip Advisor
- CNN recently recommended it as a very favourable winter destination
- It is listed as one of the top 10 places to be on New Year's Eve
- Awarded the inaugural Foodie Town of Ireland for Dingle

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Leithinis Chorca Dhubhne
Áit leis fhéin.

Ireland's Stunning

Dingle Peninsula

Driving Routes & Holidays
on Ireland's Wild Atlantic Way



SLEA HEAD DRIVE & BRANDON CREEK

(as seen on Top Gear May 2016)

Approx. 60 km - allow about 1 hour 40 minutes (non-stop).
However, with so much to see, do and photo - we recommend a half day minimum!

The **Slea Head Drive (Slí Cheann Sléibhe)** is a circular route, forming part of **Ireland's Wild Atlantic Way**. It takes in a large number of attractions and stunning views on the western end of the peninsula. The route is clearly labelled by road signs throughout its length. To properly enjoy the Drive, a half-day should be set aside for the journey.

Travellers should travel clockwise and this will offer the best of the "wow's" enroute. The route is suitable for motorists and is also enjoyed by cyclists. It is possible to hire a bike at a number of locations in Dingle.

Take the R559 westwards towards **Ventry (Ceann Trá)** with its glorious crescent shaped beach. Shore angling, horse riding and walking are popular here and as you drive further west, you can visit **Beehive Huts** before you come to **Slea Head** and the incredible views of the **Blasket Islands**. You are now looking across at Ireland's and Europe's most westerly point. Stop off at **Coumeenole Beach**, a famous location scene from the film **Ryan's Daughter**, and be mesmerised by the breaking jade waves.

The **Blasket Island Centre** is located in **Dunquin (Dún Chaoin)** and is a great introduction to the history of the islands and their Irish Literary tradition. Ferries to the islands are located here and in Dingle. Driving on you will marvel at the spectacular coastal scenery where **Hollywood Director Ron Howard** filmed the opening scenes of **Far and Away** and where **Lucas Films** filmed elements of the new upcoming **Star Wars Episode 8**. Stop in **Ballyferriter (Baile an Fheirtéaraigh)** village, the heart of the **Gaeltacht** and recent "new temporary home" to **Star Wars**, and spend time at **Músaem Chorca Dhuibhne**.

On the way to the quiet fishing village of **Ballydauid (Baile na nGall)**, stop at the incredible archaeological sites of **Gallarus Oratory** and **Kilmalkedar Church**. Make your way back in to Dingle by taking the **Feohanagh (An Fheothanagh)** route taking you to **Brandon Creek** and under the western slopes of **Mount Brandon**.



THE SLIEVE MISH DRIVE OF THE DINGLE PENINSULA

Approx. 132 km and allow about 3 hours 40 minutes (non-stop).
However, with so much exploring to be done - we recommend about 6 hours!

TripAdvisor travellers have voted the **Dingle Peninsula** a Top World Destination. Therefore we recommend at least 3 days to explore and experience this wonderful place. This drive is our most adventurous and is best for cars that are comfortable with steep gradients, a narrow mountain road and medium to high chassis.

The "Gateways" of the **Dingle Peninsula** are **Blennerville**, the N86 route from Tralee or **Castlemaine**, N72/R561 from Killarney. The village gateways, provide the first sense that you are travelling onto a special place. From Tralee, drive west along the northern shores of the peninsula, on the **Wild Atlantic Way**, to the village of **Camp**. Take in the sweeping landscape from the mountain tops to shoreline in **Derrymore** and note that you are driving parallel (though lower down) to the world class **Dingle Way** - one of Ireland's most stunning way marked ways.

The village of Camp is set on 2 levels on the lower slopes of the **Slieve Mish mountains**. The pubs here are famous and a great place to stay and eat with sandy beaches, idyllic farmlands and the stories of the old **Dingle railway**. Take the left hand turn, staying on the N86 for Dingle and as you approach the bend, take the narrow road to the left of the house at the river. From here, it is an uphill climb. This is the hidden gem of **Bothar na gCloch** and as close as a car can get to experiencing the Dingle Way!

This extraordinary drive will bring you under the stunning summit of **Caherconree** and as you approach the top of the pass, be prepared to take in the stunning views of **Dingle Bay, Inch Strand and the Iveragh peninsula**. Back on the N72 (at the foot of the pass), take a short drive to **Boolteens** to enjoy wonderful food, stories of the Blacksmith or take time to stretch the legs and enjoy the **Uphill Downhill loop walk** close by.

Heading back west towards **Inch** on the N72, enjoy how **Castlemaine Harbour** follows you as you get closer to the sand dunes of Inch. This special area of conservation, a favourite for bird watching enthusiasts, stretches 3 miles across the bay and films such as **Ryan's Daughter** and **Playboy of the Western World** were filmed here.

Travel on the N72, taking in the vastness of **Dingle Bay** as you head west and as you drive through a series of narrow hilly bends, slow down and take the first left hand turn up the hill. Following the map, this local road will bring you through local farming communities and down to **Minard** where you can enjoy one of the peninsula's storm beaches at **Kilmurry Bay**. Here the remains of **Minard Castle tower** over this dramatic storm beach of large rounded boulders. Nearby are the holy well of **St. John**, still visited on the saint's "pattern day".

Follow the road back up to **Lispolle at Katie's Cross** and turn right on the N72 back towards **Annascaul**. A stop in Annascaul is a must. It is a walker's paradise and is the home place of **Antarctic explorer, Tom Crean and Jerome Connor, sculptor**, where you can enjoy some of his pieces at the Gallery in the South Pole Inn. You will enjoy the **Slieve Mish Mountains** that will bring you back to the village of **Camp** where great hospitality and stories will abound over dinner with crackling open fires.

THE CONOR PASS & DINGLE PENINSULA'S GOLD COAST DRIVE

Approx. 94 km and allow about 2 hours 25 minutes (non-stop).
However, as this is a challenging drive with narrow mountain and hill passes for dramatic vista discoveries - we recommend about 4 to 5 hours!

The **Conor Pass** is the highest mountain pass in Ireland, and provides the most dramatic and scenic way of entering or leaving **Dingle** and the **Dingle Peninsula North Shore**. (As this is a mountain pass, there are length and weight restrictions, and vehicles such as caravans, camper vans and trucks cannot use the pass as they will not get through. Also, please note that descending traffic has right of way.)

Starting from **Camp** travel straight on towards the **Conor Pass**. There are some wonderful delights to discover along the way. In the village of **Aughacashla**, take a left and discover **Glanteenassig lake** and peatland. There are lovely walks here and a hidden gem for anglers. Back down on the N60, take another completely different detour to **Castlegregory** and **The Maharees** which will take you out to the tip of the Maharees taking in the stunning sand dunes and should you have time, enjoy some of the Water Sports that this area is renowned for and of course, Ireland's longest beach along **Brandon Bay**.

As you drive back towards the N60, Brandon Bay will open up more to your right and you will enjoy the views of **Mount Brandon** and the breaking rollers of the Atlantic Ocean. Having just entered the **Gaeltacht**, another recommended detour, is for **Cloghane (An Clocháin) and Brandon (Cé Bhréanainn) Villages**. These villages are a joy for walkers, shore anglers and artists and drive out to **Brandon Point** for mesmerising views of the bays and mountains. Before you leave, go back in time and travel into the back of this uninhabited part of the valley to **Mullagh** and peer outwards at the world from this deserted village under the **Conor Pass**.

Back on the **Conor Pass Road**, you will be amazed by glacial valley views, craggy mountain peaks and hanging lakes. At the little waterfall, stop and admire the panoramic views. At the top of the Conor Pass, enjoy the stunning vistas of **Brandon Bay and the Kerry coastline** to the North and to the South, you will see **Dingle (Daingean Uí Chuis) harbour** and bay, the **Iveragh (Ring of Kerry) Peninsula** and on a clear day, the **Skellig Rocks**.

Dingle is a charming fishing port with so much to see and do, brimming with lovely award winning restaurants, pubs, cafes and shops to ramble around. Traditional Irish music is a key feature every evening.

From Dingle, take the **N86 to Annascaul**. This village is in the heart of the Dingle Peninsula: situated close to both the **Slieve Mish mountains** and the long sandy beach at Inch, it is a very popular area for walkers. It is also home to a number of great pubs and the village also celebrates two famous sons: **Antarctic explorer Tom Crean and Irish-American sculptor, Jerome Connor**. Take a detour into the dramatic **Annascaul lake** surrounded by a horseshoe of steep glacial mountains. Back in the village, drive on for Camp and you will again enjoy the Slieve Mish mountains that will bring you back to the **village of Camp**.