



Killarney Trails

www.killarney.ie/killarneytrails

POINTS OF INTEREST ON THE WALK

This walk will guide you to the main points of interest of Killarney and should take approx. 40 – 50 minutes. There is a downloadable audio guide to accompany your walk with this map. To download go to www.killarney.ie

Historic Plaques
 Killarney Trails Walk

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Audio tracks

A complimentary Audio Guide to this trail is available from www.killarney.ie



While ever effort has been taken to ensure accuracy in the compilation of this guide, Killarney Chamber of Tourism & Commerce cannot accept responsibility for errors or omissions, but where such are brought to our attention future editions will be amended accordingly.



Killarney is a special place, brim full of history, heritage and surrounded by 26,000 acres of Ireland's oldest National Park. We pride ourselves on our world class hospitality. Enjoy our award-winning accommodations, vast array of restaurants and cafés, our quaint pubs and the largest indoor entertainment venue in Munster. Killarney, a vibrant town that exudes the true heartbeat of Ireland and extends the warmest of Irish welcomes to all our visitors.



Buildings & Monuments

1 Golden Gates

Each pillar topped with a lamp and coronet. Originally built as the entrance to Kenmare House, home of the Earl and Countess of Kenmare, this is now one of the main entrances to the Killarney National Park.

2 Killarney House & Gardens

The present Killarney House was once the stable block of a French chateau style residence that you would find in Normandy & Brittany. It was built by Valentine Browne mid 1720s. In 1959 John McShain, a building contractor from Philadelphia, bought the estate outright. In later years this was generously donated to the state by the McShain family. The House has recently undergone extensive renovations and now provides an interpretive centre for the National Park.



3 Johnny O'Leary

Born in 1923, Johnny O'Leary as one of Ireland's most talented accordion players. In traditional Irish music, he was known for his unique style of Slabh Luachra music and brought interest and awareness to a much greater audience.

4 Town Hall

This hall was built in 1930s to replace the old, red brick Town Hall at the centre of the town and is the current home of Killarney Municipal Council.

5 Holy Well

At the rear of the current Town Hall is a Holy Well. These wells are a feature of Irish life and a place of pilgrimage & prayer on certain days. Killarney's principal pilgrimage day, or 'Pattern Day' is August 15th, the feast of the Assumption of Our Lady into Heaven.

6 St. Mary Church of Ireland

There is a belief that this church stands on the site of the original Cill Airne and even though there has been a church here since ninth century, it could have been the site of pagan temple before that.

7 Jarvey Stand

The Jaunting Car was once the common mode of transportation in Ireland and is now seen as the "trade mark" of Killarney. The drivers or Jarveys have a wealth of local knowledge and no visit is complete without a trip on a Jaunting Car.



8 The Ha & Christ The King

The Ha Ha once was a walled ditch, sunk in the ground to serve as a fence to keep animals out of formal gardens without impairing the view. The Statue of Christ the King was erected by the people of the town in 1936. The Gaelic inscription says "My Kingdom is not of this world".

9 Railway Station

Killarney Junction Railway (KJR) was sanctioned as early as 1846. The fine stone railway buildings were erected at the time with stone quarried near the town and they have stood the test of time. The KJR was the first railway company to own and operate its own hotel, the Great Southern Hotel, which opened in July 1854.

10 An Spéir Bhean

An Spéir Bhean is said to represent the 'Spirit of Ireland'. It commemorates the four great Kerry Poets, Píeter Ferriter, Owen Rua O'Sullivan, Geoffrey O'Donoghue, and Aogan O' Rahilly.

11 The Friary

The Franciscan link with Killarney goes back to 1448 when they made a foundation at Muckross, known to this day as Muckross Abbey. The foundation of the present Church and Friary dates from the 1860's, when some Belgian Franciscans were invited to Killarney by Bishop Moriarty. The Belgians, in turn, handed the Friary over to the English Franciscans in 1891 and finally, in 1902, the Killarney Friary came once again into the care of the Irish Province.



12 Rutting Deer

Sculpted by Don Cronin, this statue depicts two stags with antlers locked in battle. This bronze life size sculpture was commissioned as a celebration of saving the Killarney red deer population.

13 Old Town Hall

This area is the very centre of the town and is known as the Market Cross. The Old Town Hall was built by Lord Kenmare with brick left over from the building of his mansion at Knockree.



14 The White Tailed Eagle

Sculptured by local artist Joe Neeson which represents Killarney's connection with the White Tailed Eagle. At the time of commissioning the White-Tailed Eagle was reintroduced to Killarney National Park.

15 The Kerry No II Memorial Brigade

The War Memorial was commissioned in memory of all those who lost their lives during the fight for Irish freedom.

16 St Brendan's College

St. Brendan's was founded in 1860 by Bishop David Moriarty as a boarding and day-school for boys under the name of 'St. Brendan's Seminary' and is still a thriving boys school to this day.

17 Bishops Palace

Built in c. 1850, this has been the private residence of the Bishops of Kerry from around the 12th Century. It was remodelled in 1994 to facilitate the current Presbytery administration and is also where the Diocesan archives are also stored.

18 St. Mary's Cathedral

Saint Mary's Cathedral, considered to be one of the most beautiful Gothic-Revival Cathedrals in Europe. The foundation stone was laid in 1842 and on 22 August, 1855, the Cathedral was consecrated

and dedicated to the Assumption of the Virgin Mary. At that time, the name Pugin was synonymous with Gothic architecture and he was engaged as architect for the proposed new church.

19 Presentation Convent

The Presentation sisters arrived in Killarney in 1793. Children flocked to the little schools set up by the nuns. Here they studied reading and writing, Christian doctrine, needlework and spinning. In 1803 the current red brick building was established and is a thriving girls school to this day.

20 Deenagh Lodge

Deenagh Lodge is a beautiful thatched cottage that was built in 1834 and was the gate lodge of the Kenmare Estate. The thatch consisted of river reed and being hollow, it offered excellent insulation ensuring the house was warm in the winter and cool in the summer. Deenagh Lodge is now a tearoom.

21 Knockree

The Knockree section of Killarney National Park formerly part of the Kenmare Estate, which was laid out by Valentine Brown, the third Viscount of Kenmare. Knockree House, a short walk up the hill, is the Killarney National Park Education Centre and is built on the site of the original Killarney House, which was destroyed by fire in 1913.

22 Cairn of Peace

It was erected in 1920 to commemorate the holding of the World Ploughing Contest in Killarney in 1954. This was the first World Ploughing Contest to take place on European soil and the second ever World Ploughing Competition.



23 O'Donoghue Legend

Designed to commemorate the memory of a Chieftain O'Donoghue, Ross Castle. The piece was designed and sculpted by French artist Leticia Mangon.

24 Commemorative Fern

The slate is a circular design to represent the world, while the steps and stones represent the journeys undertaken by all the Garden missionaries. The names of all those who have been paid tribute to are also present in the garden.



25 Monsignor Hugh O'Flaherty

During World War II in Rome, Monsignor Hugh O'Flaherty, a Killarney native, successfully organised the escape of innocent civilians and allied POW's from the warfare. His activities earned him the nickname 'the Scarlet Pimpernel of the Vatican'.

26 Methodist Church

The Methodist Church was originally situated near the top of High Street. It was felt that the little church built in 1820 "hidden away in the backyards in the poorest part of the town", was an unworthy advertisement for Methodism. This present church was built in 1910 to the style of Sir Edward Lutyens.

27 The Royal Fusiliers & The WWI Headstone

The Celtic cross erected in 1906 to honour the memory of the Munster Fusiliers who had lost their lives in the South African or Boer War. Many local men had served with the Regiment then and again in WW1. The design is based on the Celtic high crosses of the 8th-11th centuries. The circle may represent the sun, a pagan symbol, but also Christ, the light of the world. The Headstone erected in 2007 to commemorate local men who served in WW1. Men from the 'lanes and byways' of Killarney served in Suval Bay, Rue De Bois, Passchendale, Ypres and Etreaux in various regiments of the British Army.



28 Stag Carving

This carving was created out of a decaying Spanish Chestnut tree in 2018. The carving was done by Co. Limerick based tree sculptor Will Fogarty which shows a red deer leaping into the air.

Tree Trail - Killarney Town

- A** Entrance to Railway Station & Great Southern Hotel
Monterey Cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa*)
- B** Monument to Royal Munster Fusiliers
Columnar Hornbeams (*Carpinus betulus Columnaris*)
Irish Yew (*Taxus baccata Fastigata*)
Cypress Oak (*Quercus robur Koster*)
- C** Johnny O'Leary Sculpture
Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*)
- D** Monsignor Hugh O'Flaherty Monument
Dawck Beech (*Fagus sylvatica "Dawck"*).
- E** Mission Road (Opposite Fern Garden)
Sycamore (*Acer Pseudoplatanus*)
Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*)
Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*)
Turkey Oak (*Quercus cerris*)
Scot's Pine (*Pinus Sylvestris*)
Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*)
Wych Elm (*Ulmus Glabra*)
Tasmanian Tree Ferns (*Dicksonia antarctica*)
- F** Cathedral Grounds (Port Road Entrance)
Wellingtonia/Giant Sequoia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*)
- G** Dennagh River
Native Alders (*Alnus glutinosa*)
- H** Bishop's Path - East Gable of Cathedral Grounds
Blue Atlas Cedar (*Cedrus Libani var. Atlantica*)
Japanese Umbrella Pine (*Sciadopytis verticillata*).
Limes (*Tilia species*)