

# Bantry & the Ring of Beara

*“Ireland’s Best Kept Secret”*

**4 Star  
Hotel**



**Departs: Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> Sept**  
**Returns: Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> Sept**

**Only £759**

**Single supplement £149**  
**All singles rooms are double or twin for sole use in each hotel**

## Look what's included

- Executive coach travel
- Dinner, bed & full cooked breakfast
- Porterage
- Tea & Coffee after dinner
- Live musical entertainment on 2 nights in main hotel
- Free use of leisure facilities
- Blarney visit
- Cruise to & Guided tour of Cape Clear island
- Baltimore visit
- Guided tour of Skibbereen Heritage Centre
- Guided tour with Tea/Coffee & Scones at Molly Gullivan's Cottage
- Beara Peninsula excursion
- Entrance to Bantry House & Gardens
- Youghal visit

Expect breathtaking scenery, wild seascapes and colourful villages on our scenic tour of County Cork & County Kerry as we travel along the spectacular Ring of Beara. We also spend a day visiting beautiful Cape Clear Island, and spend time at the Skibbereen Heritage Centre, Molly Gullivan's Cottage and the stunning Bantry House & Gardens.

## Itinerary\*

**Day 1** Departing your local pick up point today we make our way to Holyhead for the ferry across to Ireland. Leaving the ferry we travel to our overnight hotel, the Midlands Park in Portlaoise. Here we spend the night with dinner, bed and breakfast provided.

**Day 2** After a leisurely breakfast today we head for Bantry calling en-route to visit to the town of Blarney in County Cork. We spend time here for lunch and some of you may even wish to visit Blarney Castle, the location of the famous Blarney Stone. Located at the top of the tower is the legendary Stone of Eloquence which if kissed you will never be lost for words again.

After our stop at Blarney we travel to West Cork and onto Bantry and the Maritime Hotel where we spend the next four night's with dinner, bed & breakfast provided.

This stylish hotel is situated on the edge of Bantry Bay and has excellent facilities including a swimming pool, sauna and steam room and boasts live musical entertainment on some evenings. The hotel features over 100 designer bedrooms, many of which boast spectacular harbour views of Bantry Bay with balconies,

**Day 3** This morning we head to Baltimore in County Cork from where we take a 40 minute ferry journey to Cape Clear Island, Ireland's southern-most inhabited island, with a population of 130. The journey over offers splendid views and the chance to see any passing seals and dolphins in these wildlife-rich waters. On arrival to the island, we enjoy a 1 hour minibus tour of the 3 mile long by 1 mile wide island, taking in its rich history and sites of interest, before we begin our return ferry journey back to the stunning fishing village of Baltimore. We enjoy free time for lunch here before we head to the Skibbereen Heritage Centre where we have a 1 hour guided tour of the Famine Exhibition, here we learn about the significance of Skibbereen in terms of Famine heritage.



**Day 4** Today we see breathtaking views on our included excursion, as we tour the Beara Peninsula, a bygone haunt of smugglers. We set out after breakfast for this scenic drive calling at Molly Gullivan's Cottage & Traditional Farm, here we enjoy a guided tour with tea/coffee and scones. We will climb the Healy Pass which offers spectacular views of Kenmare Bay to the north and Bantry Bay to the south. We pause at the fishing port of Castletownbere located on the southern coast of the peninsula and then continue to Glengarriff where you may wish to take a boat trip to the magnificent Garnish Island (extra cost payable locally), with its famous collection of plants and Italian landscaping.



**Day 5** This morning, we visit Bantry House & Garden, a family home for the past 300 years. We have free time to explore the house and stunning formal gardens before spending the rest of the day in the stunning resort of Bantry, with its semi-tropical flowers, palm trees, high mountain ridges and cascading mountain streams leading to an azure blue sea.



**Day 6** Leaving Bantry behind us, we travel to Ireland's ancient east coast and visit Youghal. After time in Youghal for lunch we head for our overnight hotel, the Rochestown Lodge Hotel in Dun Laoghaire with dinner, bed & breakfast provided.



**Day 7** An early departure this morning as we make our way to Dublin Port for the return ferry crossing. On arrival in Holyhead we continue our journey with suitable comfort stops en-route arriving back home early evening.

\*Itineraries can be subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances

