



### **Luxury Sailing Vacations - Ireland**

Luxury sailing vacations in Ireland will give you a choice to book in to a luxury hotel for a few nights, play golf on some of the best links courses in the world, eat in the best Irish restaurants, go riding, cycling or surfing, do a sightseeing tour. Sailing in Ireland will take you to beautiful remote and wild countryside.

The South of Ireland provides some of the most beautiful sailing in the world. The coastline is magnificent providing many places where you can step ashore. Yachts are available for charter on the south coast.

Cork and Kerry have magnificent scenery. Rocky headlands, dramatic landscapes, colourful fishing villages. Many of the islands in Kerry were once inhabited; they appear very bleak and inhospitable. Pre historic and early Christian sites. Unspoiled, friendly atmosphere, with some Irish speaking areas. In the 1600s the English built forts against invasion from Spain and France. In the 1800s Cork was the departure point for people fleeing the famine. In the early 1900s the area was active in the War of Independence and Civil War.



**Achill Island**



**Cape Clear Island**

The coast between Dingle and Cork is uncrowded and a paradise for yachtsmen. The clear Atlantic waters are warmed by the Gulf Stream. The sea passages are short with many protected areas.

All of the places listed below are either navigable or a short distance by road, helicopter:

**Dingle** and the **Peninsula**. A drive around the Peninsula takes at least half a day. Iron age stone forts, Christian oratories, beehive huts, museums explaining life on the islands, excavated monastery from 600 AD. Dingle, famous for local resident Fungie the dolphin, good place to eat and drink.



**Killarney.** Fifteen miles from the coast. **Muckross House** (1843), Killarney Lakes beautiful with the shifts of light and colour (attraction for artists), dotted with ruined castles and abbeys. (Ross Castle 1420).

- **Hotel.** Stay at **Killarney Hotel Europe**. Excellent hotel, beautiful views of the lakes.
- Play golf at **Killarney Golf and Fishing Club**. Beautiful setting of woodlands and lakes. Henry Longhurst said 'what a lovely place to die!'. The 18<sup>th</sup> is one of the most famous finishing holes.

**Tralee.** Twenty miles from the coast.

- Play golf at Tralee Golf Club. A links course on the shores of the Atlantic. Set in rugged country, breathtaking views, high winds. Arnold Palmer designed the course. The film Ryan's Daughter was filmed on the beach. A poor shot on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> holes falls on to the rocks. The 13<sup>th</sup> is played across a ravine.

**The Ring of Kerry.** The drive will take about a day. Killorglin village famous for Puck Fair, Glenbeigh reconstructed cottages from 1800s. Staigue Fort, Iron Age dry stone, Sneem beautiful town.

- **Valentia Island.** First transatlantic cable (1866), village with lively pubs (music and dancing).
- **Hotel.** Stay at **Glanleam House Hotel** built in 1775 as a linen mill with spectacular subtropical gardens and woodland. Library, antiques, modern comforts.
- **The Skelligs.** (Islands). Isolated Christian monastery with 1000 year old stairway. Dry stoned beehive monastic buildings from 500 AD still stand. Inhabited until 1100. Now sea birds, storm petrels, puffins, Manx shearwaters, gannets.
- Play golf at **Waterville House and Golf Links**, a links course. Sam Snead said 'this is one of the golfing wonders of the world'. Built in 1889 with sand hills, views of the Kerry mountains and a promontory jutting into the sea, Gary Player said of the par 5 11<sup>th</sup> 'the most beautiful and satisfying of them all'.
- **Kenmare** founded in 1670 renowned for lace making.
- **Hotel.** Stay at **Sheen Falls Lodge Hotel**. Luxury hotel on the waterside, set in 300 acres. Grand yet restful. Includes an equestrian centre and salmon fishing.

The **Beara Peninsula** is remote. Bleak moorland, fishing villages, was a haven for smugglers exchanging pilchards for French brandy. Great walking country, Healy Pass and Hungry Hill. Castletownbere village has McCarthay's bar with an original matchmaking booth where families agreed marriage terms. A cable car, licensed to carry three passengers and a cow, swings across to Dursey Island.

**Bantry Bay** includes **Glengarriff** a town with a genteel Victorian appearance.

- **Bantry House.** Originally from 1700. Collection of art and furnishings, Gobalin tapestry from 1700s, Italian garden from 1850s. Spectacular views of Bantry Bay.
- **Hotel.** Stay at **Bantry House** which is also a luxury hotel with restful bedrooms – open March to October.



**Baltimore.** Has a ruined castle from the 1400s, is a bustling port with good seafood pubs and excellent cliff walks. Baltimore in 1631 lost 100 of its citizens to Algerian pirates. Sherkin Island has a ruined abbey from the 1400s, a marine station and pubs. Cape Clear Island is a remote Irish-speaking island set amongst dramatic black rocks.

**Clonakilty** originally an English outpost from 1588, was a linen producer, now known for its music pubs, rich black puddings.

**Drombeg Stone Circle** dates back to 150 BC. Also a stone age cooking pit.

**Blarney Castle** is world famous for kissing the **Blarney Stone**. A tower house dating back to the 1400s. The stone is set in the wall; to kiss it the visitor is grasped by the feet and suspended backwards under a parapet.

**Kinsale** is a very pretty small town. An important naval base in 1600 and 1700s, now renowned for its cuisine with an annual Festival of Fine Food. Pubs and wine bars for all tastes. Charles Fort, fortress from 1670s, picturesque main street. The harbour is beautiful, host to many international sailing events.

**Cork** dates back to 650 AD. Narrow streets, waterways and Georgian houses the town has a bohemian spirit. In October there is a Jazz Festival. The Butter Exchange exported 500,000 casks of butter in 1890s, dates from 1770. Cork City gaol dates from 1800s. Dukathel House from 1785 set in beautiful parkland. Paul Street with ethnic restaurants, bars, boutiques – a lively place.

- **Hotel.** Stay at the **Hayfield Manor Hotel**. Luxurious hotel, beautiful furnishings, large bedrooms, good leisure facilities.

Available yachts include (subject to availability):

|                    |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| <b>Gib Sea 43</b>  | <b>Dufour</b>  |
| <b>Sun Odyssey</b> | <b>Oceanis</b> |
| <b>Sun Magic</b>   |                |

Yachts are between 30 to 50 feet (9 to 15 metres) and sleep 6 to 10 people.

Available for Bareboat Charter or Skippered Charter. Personal sailing details required: -

- Years of experience
- Sailed which types of boat
- How many miles sailed (approx)
- Skippered or crew
- Holder of marine radio licence

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