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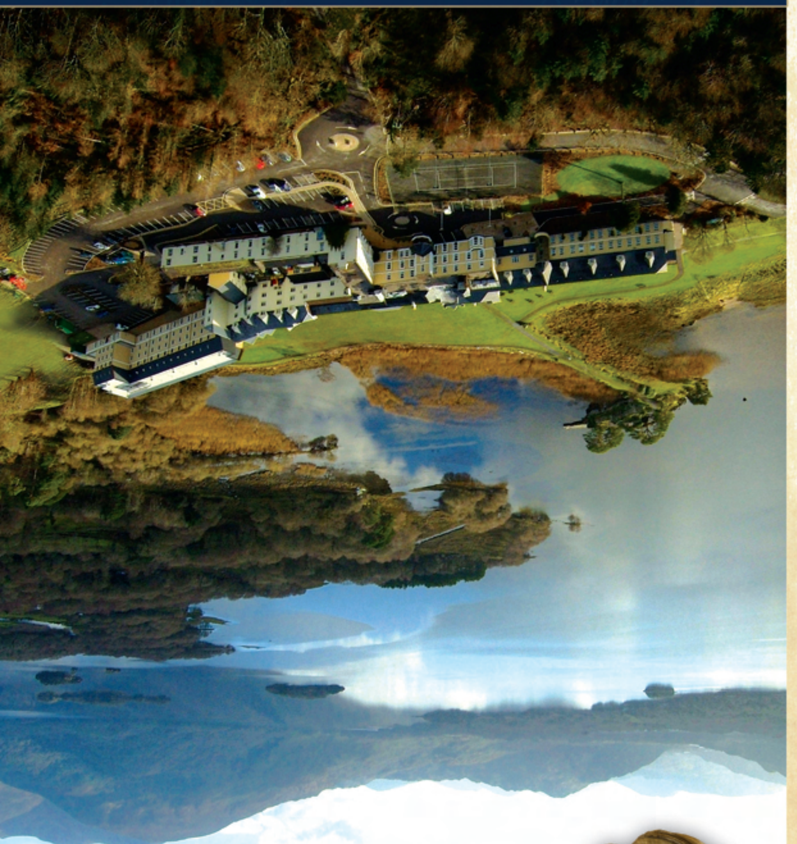
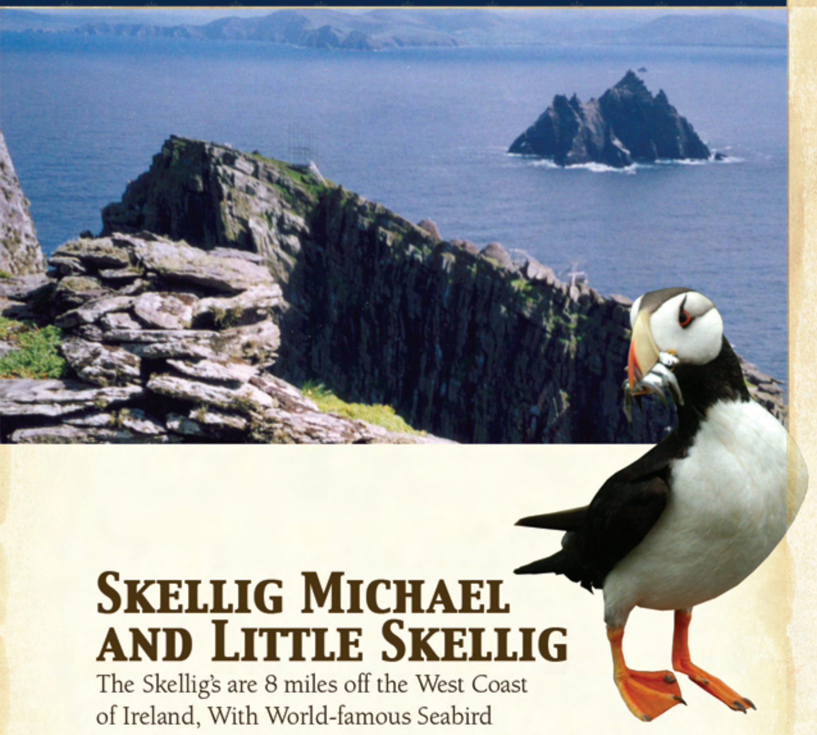
# The Lake Hotel

· KILLARNEY ·

*Killarney… a magical place*



TOURIST INFORMATION, ADVISE & MAPS



## SKELLIG MICHAEL AND LITTLE SKELLIG

The Skellig's are 8 miles off the West Coast of Ireland, With World-famous Seabird colonies, magnificent scenery and the World's finest example of early Christian Monastic architecture on a cliff-top, 218 metres above the Sea. 1.5 hours from the hotel, you can take a boat to Skellig's. You should book it at the hotel and on the morning of departure, telephone to see is if the Atlantic Ocean is calm enough for the journey. This is a magical journey, both spiritual and scenic. The best months to go are between April and October, to see the Puffins the first week in August as the Puffins then travel to the South.

## THE RING OF KERRY

Leaving the Lake Hotel, turn left into Killarney head for the Killorglin road (N 72), pass Killarney Golf Club on your left ( 1.5 miles ) and you are on the road to Killorglin. **Killorglin** is famous for The PUCK Fair (Pagan Festival) dating back 3000 years.

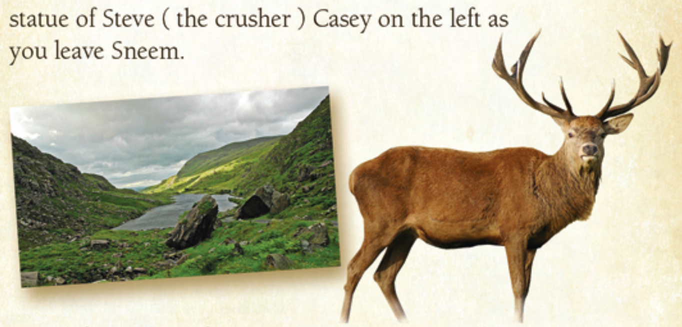
After Killorglin you will also pass the Red Fox Inn and Traditional Bog Village. Next stop is **Glenbeigh**, it has a beautiful beach at Rossbeigh, (3 miles of sandy beach), From the mountain stage near Kells there is a great view of **Dingle Bay**, **Dingle Peninsula** and the **Blasket islands**., this is a good spot to stretch your legs and enjoy the view. Just before **Caherciveen** at the new bridge on the left, can be seen the birth place of Daniel O'Connell " The LIBERATOR " and hero to the Irish people in the 1800's. In this area of the Ring, there are two stone forts dating back to the 9th.Century. All visitor information can be found at the tower like building, the refurbished RIC barracks near the town center. You can also find Ballycabbery Castle (ruin) once a fortress to The McCarthy Mór (like that at Castlelough beside the Lake Hotel). (Leaving Caherciveen on your right hand side you can see **Valentia** Island, which can be accessed from Renard Pier by a car ferry and eventually exit at **Portmagee**. Here you have an option to do the "Skellig Ring").

**Valentia** was where the first Transatlantic Cable was laid to America in 1857. You can also visit the Slate Quarry and the Light House, there are many remains of old structures including Stone Forts and Churches. Out to Sea you can see The Skelligs, Two Huge Rocks towering 700 feet out of the Atlantic Ocean. This was used by monks as a monastery from the 5th. Century. You can visit the rocks by boat and is highly recommended. Heading on to **Waterville** you can head on for one mile to the Village, where Charlie Chaplin used to walk every morning.

Leaving Waterville, you head up and over the mountains at **Coolmakista Pass**, park here and enjoy the views. To the north Ballinskelligs Bay and to the south Caherdaniel, Derrynane and Castlecove, in the far distance you can see County Cork. If it is a nice day go to Derrynane Beach or to Daniel O'Connell's home, which is now a museum.

After Caherdaniel head for **Staigue Fort** ( 2500 years old ) and experience the way it was, 2500 years ago for the Celt's.

Next stop, **Sneem**, home of the famous CASEY brothers. The New York times wrote : " The Toughest Family That Ever Lived ". Steve Casey was the undisputed world wrestling Champion for more than ten years. When wrestling was " WRESTLING ". Joe Louis refused many offers from Steve Casey, as he feared this Irish man who could box as well as wrestle. There is a life size statue of Steve ( the crusher ) Casey on the left as you leave Sneem.



Turn left and head for Molls Gap, here you will have a good view of the Mountains of Kerry. When you get to Molls Gap, you will see lakes on your left with the Black Valley and the Head of the Gap ( the Gap of Dunloe ) in the distance.

At Ladies View you can see the Lake Hotel in the distance and as you descend you can see Irelands best living Oak Woods at Derrycunnihy. You will pass the Upper Lake and the Middle Lake before you get to Torc Waterfall on your right and then on to Muckross House and Gardens, well worth a visit and stretch those legs after a great day. All that is left is, back to the " Lake " and Shower / Bath / or relax in a Jacuzzi if you are lucky enough to have one, if not use the Outdoor Lakeside Jacuzzi, then a relaxing drink in the Devil's Punch bowl Bar and its time for dinner in The Castlelough Restaurant.

## THE SKELLIG RING

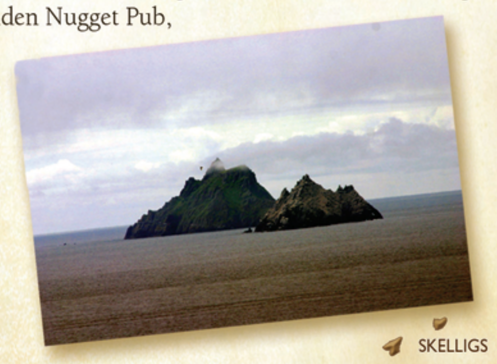
The Skellig Ring, a magnificent scenic drive. Off the main Ring of Kerry it offers unique scenery and interesting stops, it is the hidden gem in the Kingdom of Kerry a photographers dream.

If coming from Cahersiveen, take the Car ferry to Valentia, travel the North Road on Valentia, here you have beautiful scenery. Visit O'Sheas Pub, Irelands most remote pub on the road to Brendan's Well or at the end of the island walk up to Bray head, here you command a massive view of Great Skellig and Little Skellig. Leaving Valentia at Portmagee (bridge) turn right and follow the signs for the "Skellig Ring".

It's a narrow steep road, very scenic and it will bring you to Saint Finians Bay, here we say "look but don't touch". The beach and waves are very dangerous for swimmers. Out to sea you can see the Skelligs again and possibly many Gannets diving into the wild atlantic. Drive towards Ballinskelligs and Waterville, now you are back on the Main Ring of Kerry.

## THE DINGLE PENINSULA

To see the Dingle Peninsula properly (like the Ring of Kerry) you need a full day. Leaving the Lake Hotel around 10 /10.30AM. And returning around 5 / 6 PM. would be about right. Take the Killorglin road for 2 miles, turn right at the Golden Nugget Pub, head to **Miltown** and then on to **Castlemaine** (Austrailian Jack Duggan "Wild Colonial Boy" came from here) head for **Inch Beach** (some of Ryan's Daughter was filmed there). Passing the Anascaul river mouth, you may want to turn right for Anascaul and Tom Crean's South Pole Inn Pub.

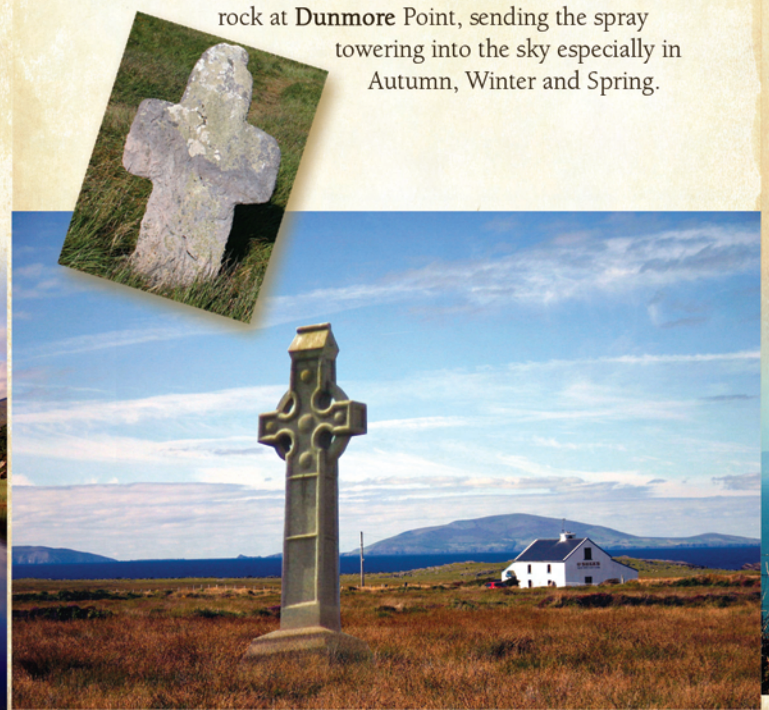


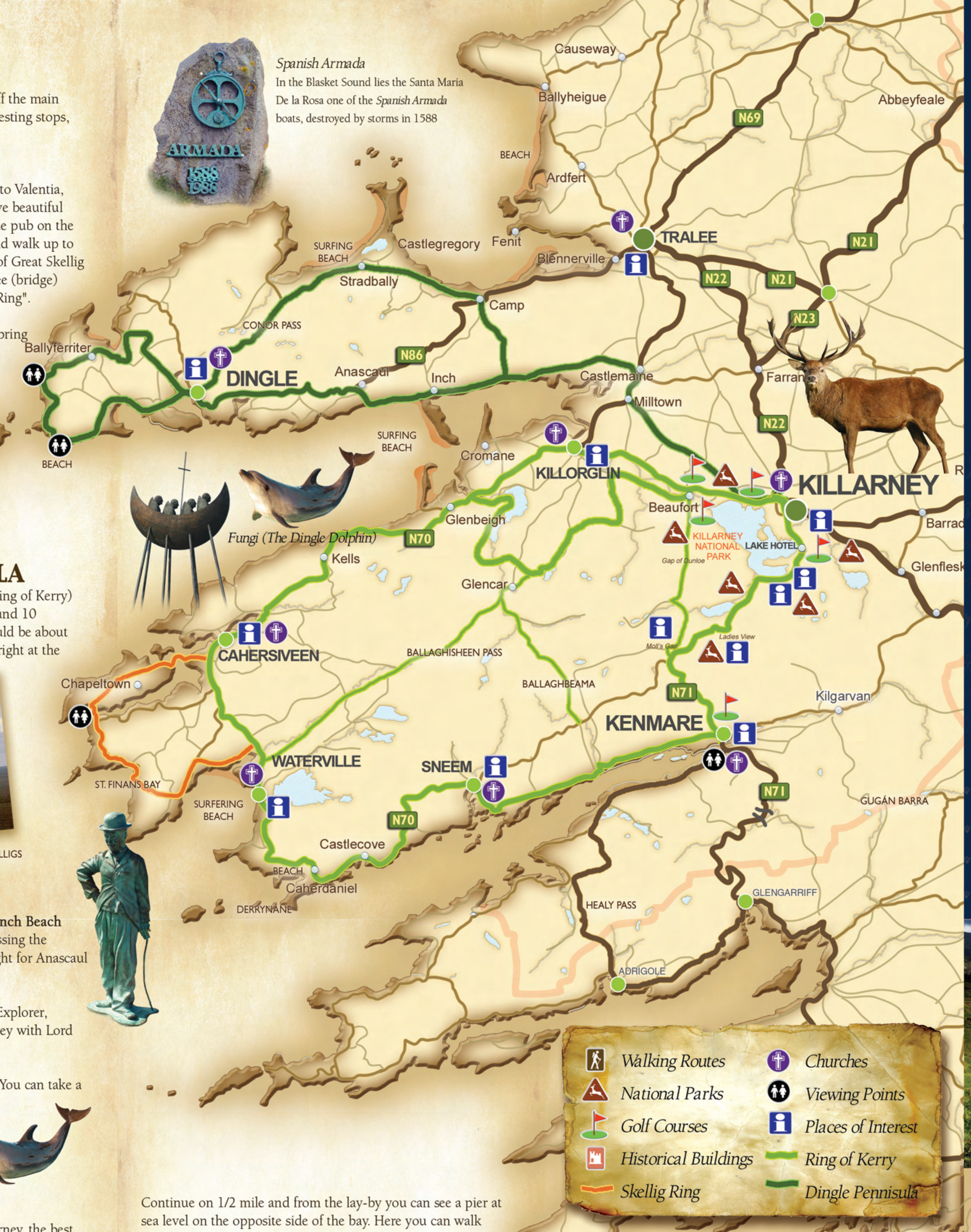
It was here Tom Crean, the famous South Pole Explorer, returned after his magnificent courageous journey with Lord Shackelton to the South Pole.

After this you can continue on to **Dingle** town. You can take a boat trip to see Fungi, the wild dolphin, who has been a resident in Dingle Harbor for eighteen years, alternately you can visit Ocean World with its underwater tunnel with sharks, turtles and a huge array of fish.

Prepare your cameras for the next bit of the journey, the best coastal scenery this Country has to offer in our view, so please spend as much time as you can in this area.

Check out **Coomeenole Beach** ( the most westerly beach in Europe, New York 3000 miles ) do not swim here ! As you look west you can see **Great Blasket Island** and to the north west **Inishtooskert** ( the sleeping giant ! ). Many **Spanish Armada** Ships went down here in a strong storm. Looking out to sea here you will forget all the stresses of modern day life. As if in slow motion the huge Atlantic swells crash on the bare rock at **Dunmore** Point, sending the spray towering into the sky especially in Autumn, Winter and Spring.





*Spanish Armada*
In the Blasket Sound lies the Santa Maria De la Rosa one of the *Spanish Armada* boats, destroyed by storms in 1588

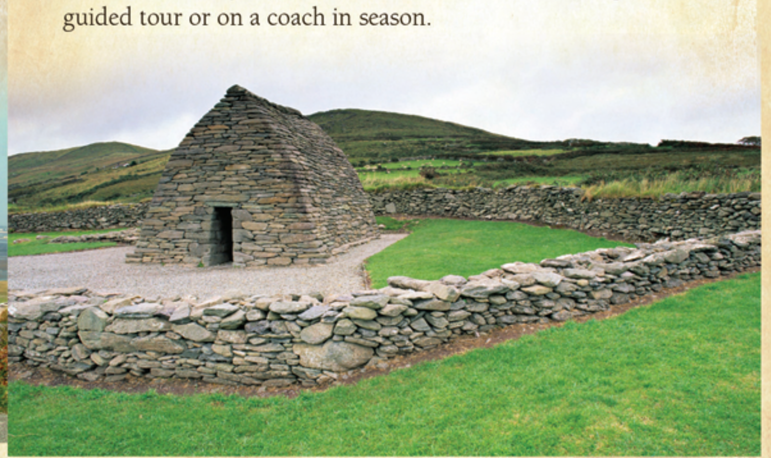
Continue on 1/2 mile and from the lay-by you can see a pier at sea level on the opposite side of the bay. Here you can walk down to the pier and see Currachs ( traditional boats used by Islanders ) and in good weather you can get a boat to Great Blasket ( check time of return ! ). In bad weather I recommend you pay a visit to the **Blasket Centre**, Audio Visual multi image show. Head back to Dingle turning right and over the mountains or continue on to see the **Gallarus Oratory** ( 12 AD Christian Church ) and take the Dingle road.

On rare occasions one can see dolphins shoot out of the faces of large waves, racing each other here. A walk on the Beach here is recommended, to the left Brandon Point and to the right Rough Point with its Surfing Reefs. Many species of Birds are found here.

Its on to Tralee now, via Blenerville and the Windmill and back to The Lake Hotel for a relaxing drink looking out at the magnificent view !

For the adventurous driver, try the " Surfers route " from Brandon to Killarney, via **Caherconree** ( only for very experienced drivers ). At Camp take the side road beside Ashes Pub which will bring you out on the Inch - Killarney road. This road is not suitable for buses of any kind or in frosty weather ! The road is narrow and steep, the price you pay for the view at the top. Drive safely and keep your eyes on the road and put your hand brake on when stopping! You can see Tralee Bay to the north and Cromane, even Caragh Lake in the distance to the south, with the mountains at Glenbeigh to the south west.

We recommend you self drive but we can also book a private guided tour or on a coach in season.



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This publication was compiled especially with the clientele of
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& Mulvihill Media

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## BALLAGH BEAMA & BALLAGHISHEEN PASSES

In the heart of the Kingdom can be found these two passes, that are very remote, with rugged beauty unique to Kerry. Wild beauty, windy on the calmest, of days, mountain streams, rock, gorse, narrow windy roads. Its easy to take the wrong turn, so a good map is essential. The rewards are great for the driver seeking some rare scenery and adventure.

## BEARA PENINSULA

The Beara peninsula is a mixture of beautiful Kerry scenery combined with that of West Cork. Leaving the Lake Hotel turn right, go to Kenmare on this very scenic route. On your right you will see the lower lake, drive through Ireland's magnificent Oak Wood, see the MacGillycuddy's Reeks. Pass through Moll's Gap and on to Kenmare. Here you stay on the N71 via Caha Pass and two magnificent tunnels, the second opens the view of Glengarriff and all of West Cork. In Glengariff, plant lovers or families with young Children should take a trip out to Garnish island. On the ferry you will pass a Seal Colony and have nice views of Glengarriff. Leaving Glengarriff take the road to Adrigole heading West, here you turn right for Healy Pass. A windy but very scenic road brining you over the Caha Mountains with a view of South Kerry in the distance. In Lauragh follow the coast road to Kenmare, you have an option to visit Gleninchaquin a privately run park with walks and a scenic Waterfall. It is about 4 miles on a narrow road but well worth it if you have time. When back in Kenmare head back through Moll's Gap towards Killarney and you will see the scenery in a totally different way. Pass Ladies View and here you can see the Lake Hotel in the distance. A cool drink awaits and you can relax and watch the sun go down from our Devil's punchbowl bar overlooking the Lakes and Mountains of Killarney.

The Huggard Family (along with our Associates) would like to wish your stay with us, a most pleasant one. Here we have put together some information we hope will make your stay with us more enjoyable. Kerry is known as the "Kingdom of Kerry" and Killarney is the Jewel in the Crown. From here you can visit our many local attractions, if you travel a little further you can visit the world famous routes such as the Ring of Kerry (in the top ten famous drives in the world). The Dingle Peninsula is regarded by National Geographic to be in the top Ten most scenic places on Earth. We also have great routes like the Beara Peninsula, Skellig Ring, Valentia Island, Caragh Lake and the Gap of Dunloe. Landmarks such as Ladies View, Dinis Cottage, Meeting of the Waters, Muckross Abbey and Torc Waterfall are just some of the delights that await you on your stay with us. Explore our Historic Buildings like Innishfallen Abbey, Ardfert Cathedral, the 5th century Beehive Huts and Monastic Site on the Great Skelligs. Trace the movements of Legend's like the Fianna and Fionn McCool, Tir na Nog is rumored to be by the Lakes of Killarney. Famous Kerry Men and Women include Ireland's great Liberator Daniel O'Connell, Peig Sayers, Mick O'Connell, Steve (the crusher) Casey and Tom Crean just to name a few. We have included some interesting Walking routes, Viewing points, Historical buildings and Places of Interest.

*Huggard Family*

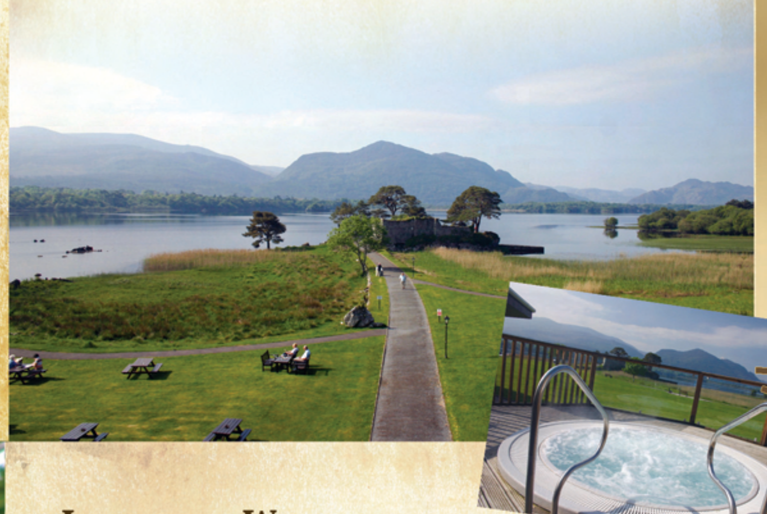
Huggard Family

## White Tailed Sea Eagles

In August 2007, 15 White Tailed Sea Eagles were re-introduced in the Killarney National park under the supervision of Dr Allan Mee. In 2008 another 20 chicks will be released and it will continue until a total of 75 have been released in total. At the Lake Hotel we are proud sponsors of this project and have been lucky enough to see them from our Restaurant and Bar. On one such occasion an Eagle was seen grabbing a small fish while being perused by Gray Crows in front of the Castle. At reception we update the latest information on the Eagles whereabouts and the best place to go to see them. The Eagles can also be seen when you are out walking, cycling or on a day excursion, once you see one you will always we able to distinguish them from other birds. There wingspan is 8 feet and they are often viewed soaring high over mountain peaks and in valleys.

## Native Red Deer

Ireland's Native Red Deer can be regularly seen on the grounds of the Lake Hotel, early in the morning or just after dark. Here since the Ice Age, these Mammals also made it through the Great Famine (1846-52) but were nearly extinct. Today we give the Red Deer free passage and they are now protected under the wildlife act. In late April / May the Hinds calf tend to stay in the Oak Woods, however in September / October when the "Rut" is on the Stags roar, you can listen to this on the grounds of the hotel. On many occasions we have seen these "Rut" battles between Stags from the comfort of the hotel.



## Lakeside Walk

Our Lakeside walking path leads to our 12th Century Castle. It is a great place to observe wildlife along with the magnificent view of the Lakes, Islands and Mountains. On occasion Otters can be seen here, White and Grey Herons, Cormorants and a large array of Ducks. It is also a good place to look for Eagles and Native Red Deer.

## Our Live Web Cam

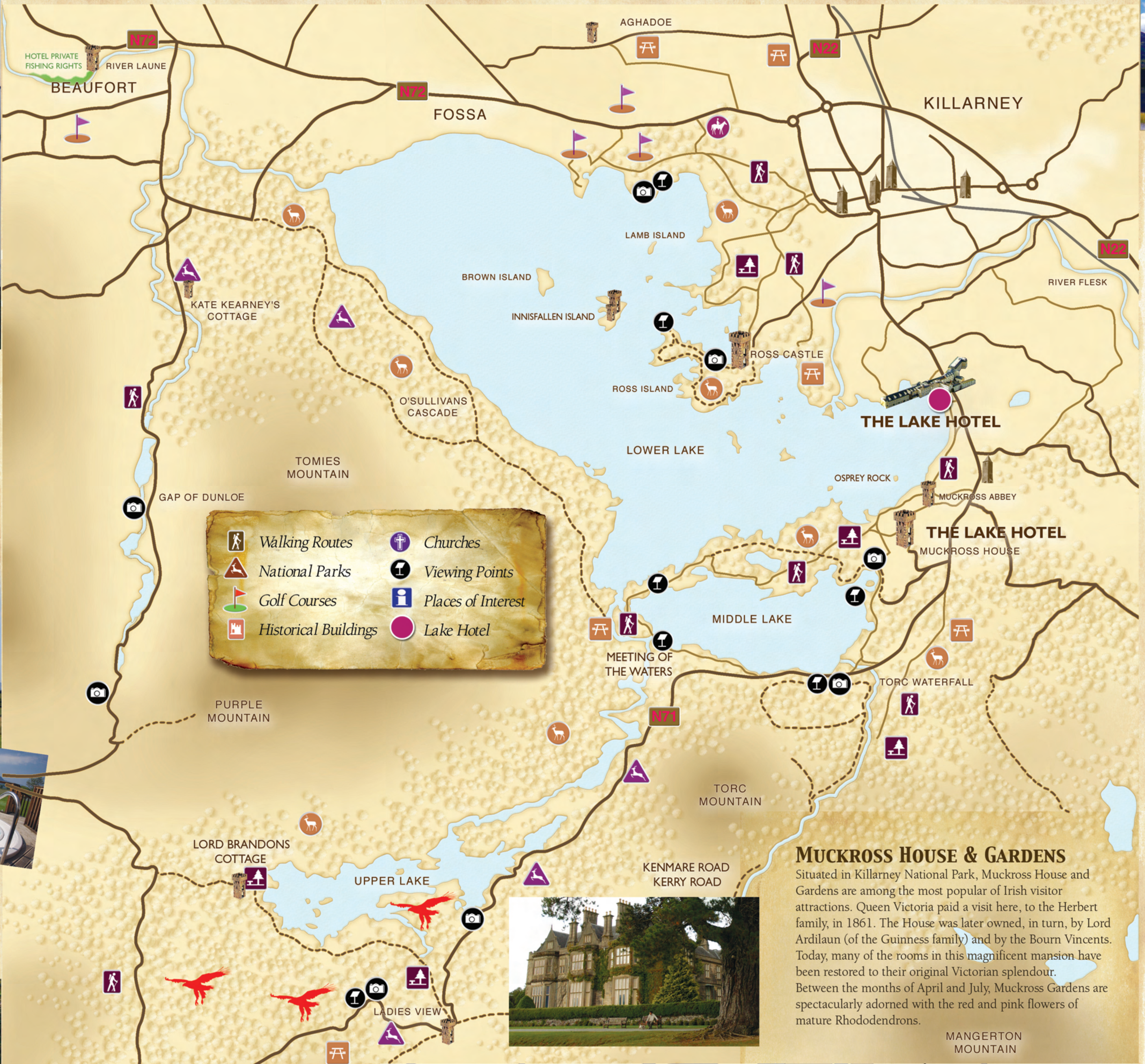
Our Live Web Cam overlooks our 12th Century McCarthy Mór Castle, Lakes and Mountains of Killarney. Here you can phone your friends and be seen anywhere in the World on our Website www.lakehotel.com

## Muckross Abbey

Muckross Abbey was founded as a Franciscan Friary in 1448 by Donal McCarthy ("Dan the Feathers" and also the "Last King of the McCarthys"). Donal resided in the Castle on the grounds of the Lake Hotel, he was a religious man, fond of drink and women and was known as one of the greatest wine drinkers of his time. There is a Yew tree in the courtyard and rumour has it anyone who touches it will have bad luck.

## Torc Waterfall

Torc Waterfall is 3.4 km from the Lake Hotel (you can walk from the hotel) it is an ideal area for photography and enjoying the views of the Lake of Killarney.

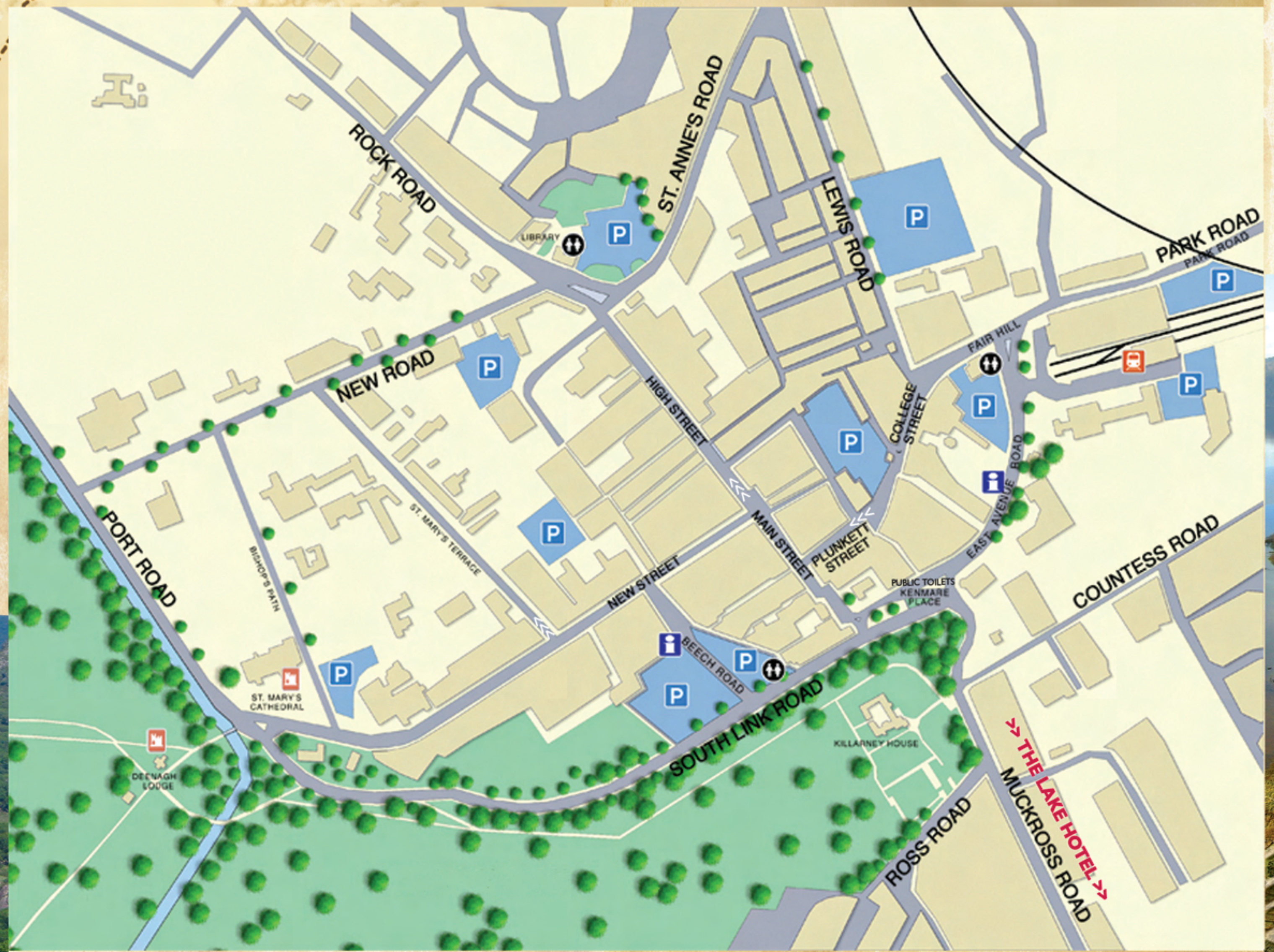


## Muckross House & Gardens

Situated in Killarney National Park, Muckross House and Gardens are among the most popular of Irish visitor attractions. Queen Victoria paid a visit here, to the Herbert family, in 1861. The House was later owned, in turn, by Lord Ardilaun (of the Guinness family) and by the Bourn Vincents. Today, many of the rooms in this magnificent mansion have been restored to their original Victorian splendour. Between the months of April and July, Muckross Gardens are spectacularly adorned with the red and pink flowers of mature Rhododendrons.

## Ladies View/Molls Gap

Ladies View is 9 miles from the Lake Hotel and has a magnificent view of the three Lakes of Killarney. It is said that Queen Victoria's "Ladies in Waiting" gave it the name Ladies View on her visit to Killarney in 1861. From the Restaurant in the Lake Hotel we can see the flickering of car windscreens passing Ladies View.



## History of the MacCarthy Mór Castle

McCarthy MOR CASTLE (IN THE GROUNDS OF THE LAKE HOTEL) From the windows of the Lake Hotel can be seen the ruins of a Medieval Castle built on a rocky promontory within the grounds. It is situated on the eastern shore of Loch Lein or the lower lake and gives its name to that portion known as the Bay of Castlelough. In early times this district was known as Eoghanacht Loch Lein. The families who ruled there, were descended from a common ancestor, Eoghan or Owen. Other branches of the same race ruled various parts of Cork, Limerick and Tipperary. Their descendants to-day are known by the family names of McCarthy, O'Sullivan, O'Mahony, O'Keeffe, O'Donovan and O'Donoghue. The ANGLO NORMAN INVASION During the year 1152 Turlough O'Connor acting as High King, divided Munster between Donal O'Brien and Dermod McCarthy, both to defer to him. Dermod was King of Desmond, or South Munster, which extended from Lismore, Co. Waterford to Mount Brandon, Co. Kerry. On arrival of Henry 11 of England at Waterford in 1172, both these Kings swore allegiance to the King from overseas. They repented of this act and endeavoured to make atonement. In the wake of Henry 11 were many land hungry nobles who were given parchment grants of the land, but it was many years before the invaders occupied South Kerry. In 1214 a war broke out between two McCarthy Kinsmen and Kerry became studded with Anglo-Norman Castles. The Carews erected that of Artrully near Kilgarvan, the Fitzgeralds, those of Dunloe and Killorglin, Fitzmaurices at Molahiffe, and the Roches erected a Castle at Oirbealach. As the Tuath of Oirbealach extended along the shores of the Lein, it may be that the Castle on the Lake was first set up by the Roches. In 1261 and 1262, the McCarthys led an army into Kerry from West Cork, and killed Gerald Roche. Cormac McCarthy was himself slain and a cairn on Mangerton marks the spot where he fell. But henceforth the McCarthys ruled South Kerry from their three Castles, that of Castlelough (on the Lake), Pallas and Ballycarbery near Cahirciveen. The Chief of the McCarthys was known as McCarthy Mor. He was entitled to rents and services from O'Sullivan Bere, O'Donoghue Mor, and O'Sullivan Mor and O'Donoghue from Glenflesk and many lesser McCarthys in Cork and Kerry. The annals of Innisfallen record the death of Donal Og McCarthy, King of the Irish of Desmond in 1390 at this Castle of Loch Lein and also that of his son Tadgh in 1428 at his Castle of Ballycarbery. They say of the latter that of all the wine drinkers of his time, he was the greatest. The annals of the four masters relate that in 1517 the sons of another McCarthy Chief known as Cormac Lyrah were expelled from the Castle on the Lake. In 1565, Queen Elizabeth created Donal McCarthy Mor, Earl of Glencar. In 1569 he repudiated the Earldom and joined graces with the Catholic Confederacy of Desmond. When the Confederacy broke down in 1571 Donal submitted and obtained a pardon. In 1580, Gerald, the Earl of Desmond, went into rebellion, and was slain in 1583. Another troop of strangers entered Kerry on the Authority of parchment grants which granted them ownership of lands held by the late Earl, on condition that they planted them with good reliable English tenants. Hence they were called undertakers, and amongst them were the Brownes (later to become Earls of Kenmare) and the Herberts. In about 1588 the Earl of Glencar mortgaged Castlelough to a Kinsman. Florence was summoned to London and for a period lodged in the Tower. Lady Ellen was detained in Cork, and Florence entered into a bond that she would remain there. However, on a night in February 1580, she and a maid stole through one of the gates of Cork, just before closing time, and vanished into the Country beyond. Sir Warham St. Ledger, the Queens President of Munster, urged that Florence's bond be forfeited and that the Queen take over Castlelough. Very little fortification was needed to make it impregnable. It stood in a great Lough, wherein vast quantities of pearls were found. In 1605, Lady Ellen obtained portion of her fathers lands with reminders to her sons. At the time has base brother Donal McCarthy got a grant of Castlelough. He was a doughty warrior with a passion for securing as trophies the "plumed" helmet of Elizabeth's troops . He is known in local tradition as Dan The Feathers. He made such sport of them that the women were employed in his stronghold in the making of bed's. He died quietly, but not before the English chivalry had dubbed him "The Robin of Munster". The Castle must have been transferred at some later date and it is known that Florence, youngest son of Lady Ellen was residing there in 1642. This Florence McCarthy, together with all the other McCarthys, ranged himself in 1642 under the banner of the Confederation of Kilkenny. The ensuing war lasted until 1635, when a last stand was made at Ross Castle, and Castlelough was battered by Cromwellian Troops. Terms of capitulation were agreed to and the Cromwellian Wars in Ireland finished on the shores of Lough Lein. When Charles 11 of England was restored, the Lands of Pallas, Muckross, Cahernane and Castlelough were restored to Dame Sarah McCarthy, otherwise McDonnell, a sister of the Marquis of Antrim. Her son granted Castlelough to his cousin Denis McCarthy. The Castle remained with his family until the reign of George 11 when it was sold to Colonel William Crosbie. The subsequent history of Castlelough is by way of ordinary purchase and sale. A mansion was erected within view of the ruined Castle and was purchased by the Lalor family of Killarney. In 1846, the death is recorded at the residence, Castlelough House, of Mrs. Martin Lalor on her 90th birthday. Her grandson, John Shine Lalor, was a poet and intimate friend of Daniel O'Connell, and was arrested during the insurrection of 1848. The mansion must have been subsequently enlarged as the Lake Hotel and in 1852 belonged to a certain Thomas Cotter. The hotel changed ownership from Cotter to Coffey, and then to Morrough, Bernard and Courtney. In 1897, it was purchased by Mr. Hillard of Killarney, in whose hands it remained until 1940, when it was purchased by Mr. & Mrs. Huggard of Waterville and became one of their famous family hotels. In recent years the Hotel has undergone major improvements while retaining its Old World Style and Charm.

# The Lake Hotel

· KILLARNEY ·

*Hotel Walks*