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Céad Míle Fáilte!

Southern Ireland Golf Sample

Killarney County Kerry

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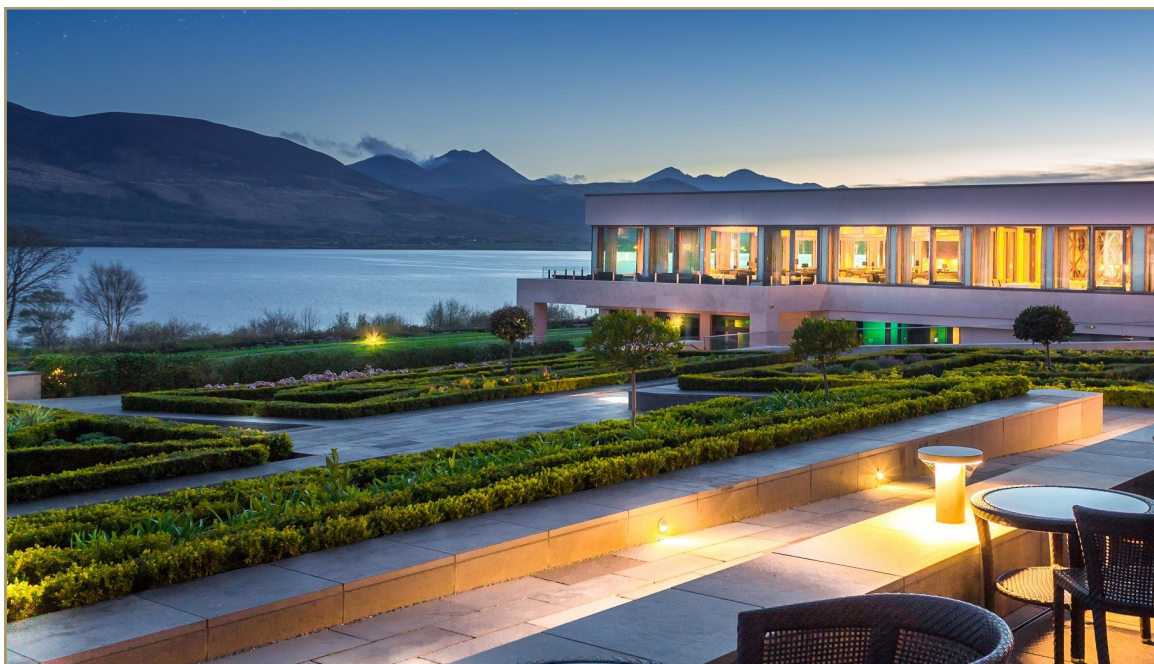
4 Star Hotel: The Killarney Plaza

The four-star Killarney Plaza Hotel reigns over the town of Killarney, County Kerry with grace and glamour. Guests will find luxury, attentive personal service and an incomparable central location overlooking the National Park. In Killarney, there is a plethora of active and passive activities available. Guests can stroll in Killarney National Park, or play a round of golf at one of the many nearby courses. They can also enjoy horse-riding, fishing, boating and cycling in the area.



5 Star Hotels: The Europe Hotel & Spa

The Europe Hotel and Resort sits amid some of the most breathtaking of locations on the Lakes of Killarney and at the foot of the Kerry mountains. Only 3km from Killarney town centre in County Kerry, this glorious setting offers guests the chance to experience true luxury in the heart of Ireland's South West. Whether dining in one of the hotel's three restaurants or relaxing in the spa, guests enjoy stunning views over the Lakes of Killarney and mountains beyond. The hotel offers an ideal base from which to explore many famed Kerry beauty spots, such as the nearby National Park, Ring of Kerry and the Dingle Peninsula.



Day 1: Arrive and check in

Arrive into Dublin, Cork or Shannon Airport and transfer to Killarney in County Kerry where you will be staying for 7 nights.

Day 2: Waterville

Make no mistake about it; Waterville Golf Links in Kerry is one of the finest links golf courses in the world, never mind Ireland. Located on the Ring of Kerry, the surrounding scenery and quality of golf holes is breath-taking to say the least. The Waterville area and Ballinskelligs Bay also play an important role in the mythology and history of ancient Ireland. The granddaughter of Noah (of Ark fame) is reported to have landed in Ballinskelligs Bay, while the last of the mythical invaders, the Milesians, settled here in 1700 BC, leaving behind many archaeological reminders. These rich legends combine with a serene location to form a mystical aura that visitors to Waterville can sense to this day. Since opening in 1973, Waterville has enjoyed great popularity and has hosted some of the world's leading professionals from Faldo and Floyd to Stewart, O'Meara and Woods, all of whom have been captivated by the course. Raymond Floyd subsequently wrote of his experience: "this is one of the most beautiful places I have ever seen it has some of the finest links holes I have ever played". In September of 1994, Waterville's favourite son, John A. Mulcahy, passed away and as requested, his ashes were buried on the famous "Mulcahy's Peak", the par three 17th at Waterville.



Day 3: Killarney Golf Club

Situated in area known as "Heaven's Reflex", due to its outstanding beauty, Killarney Golf Club comprises two top class parkland layouts the Killeen Course & Mahony's Point. It is the Killeen Course however (closely followed by Mahony's Point) that is perceived to be the jewel in the Killarney golfing crown. Nestled amidst the splendour of the Lakes of Killarney in the shadow of the majestic Macgillycuddy's Reeks mountain range, the Killeen Course is consistently rated amongst the world's top courses and has hosted many major championships including the 1991 & 1992 Irish Open Golf Championship, won on both occasions by Nick Faldo; and also the 1996 Curtis Cup. After the rough and tumble challenge of southwestern Ireland's great links courses, Killarney provides a somewhat welcome respite, though not necessarily an easier option. Superb holes abound on both the Killeen Course and Mahony's Point.



Day 4: Dooks

Dooks Golf Club has been a golfing location since 1889, making it one of Ireland's oldest courses. The course sprawls across three expansive stretches of sand dunes at the head of Dingle Bay. The layout is traditional, but challenging with narrow fairways and contoured greens. The dunes that pitch and roll throughout the golf course are less intimidating than on other links courses but they still require careful course management and imaginative shot-making. Dooks' stunning landscape is covered in a variety of gorse, heather, and wildflowers. There are also scenic views in every direction with McGillicuddy's Reeks to the east, the hills of Glenbeigh to the west, and Slieve Mish and the Dingle Mountains to the north.



Day 5: Ballybunion

The Old Course is the original course at Ballybunion Golf Club, which is located in County Kerry on Ireland's southwest coast. It is joined by another championship links course designed by Robert Trent Jones. The Old Course has gained a reputation as one of the best links golf courses in the world. The classic linksland terrain is covered with rolling sandhills and grassy dunes. The challenging layout features narrow, contoured fairways that feel as though they are tunnelled through the dunes. The golf course begins gently but by the seventh hole, it is clear why it is ranked as one of the best in the world. Golfers at Ballybunion should be prepared for a formidable test of their shot-making, placement, and trajectory control skills. The already beautiful landscape is further enhanced by the stunning views of the Atlantic.



Day 6: Tralee

Tralee Golf Club has the distinction of being Arnold Palmer's first European course design. Located on Ireland's southwestern coast, there are beautiful ocean views from every hole on the golf course. Palmer immediately recognized the landscape's enormous potential, saying that he has "never come across a piece of land so ideally suited for the building of a golf course." The layout features undulating fairways lined with treacherous rough and hard greens covered in fescue. Palmer used a heavier hand designing the front nine but the more challenging back nine was truly sculpted from nature. Tralee's homeward stretch includes what is arguably the most difficult hole on the course. The 12th hole is a long downhill par-4 that features heavy rough on the right and a wall to the left, demanding accuracy off of the tees.



Day 7: Old Head

Designed by a combination of Ireland's golfing heroes and design experts, the Old Head Golf Links is quite simply one of the most remarkable developments ever conceived in the history of golf; an Atlantic promontory that will never be rivalled in terms of drama and beauty. The course rises hundreds of feet above dramatic cliffs, surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean on all sides and commanding the most spectacular views from almost every part.

For a golf course of this magnitude, it is fitting to conclude with the thoughts of one of Ireland's greatest golfing sons, 3 times British Amateur Champion and former captain of the Royal and Ancient, Joe Carr. Speaking about the course, he commented: "The Old Head will in my estimation rate with the great golf courses of the world. Its location, its scenic reality and spectacular terrain remind me of Cypress Point and Pebble Beach. I see Old Head as a golfer's paradise and it has the potential of being the eighth wonder of the world, in golfing terms." Strong words but accurate indeed.



Day 8: Depart

Enjoy breakfast in your hotel and check out. Transfer to the airport for your return flight home.