

## ATTRACTIONS

For the non golfer, those non golfing days, or for before or after golf, the southwest of Ireland offers a variety of attractions with emphasis upon scenic beauty. We'll follow the route of our golfing suggestions and begin on the **Beara Peninsula**. The peninsula, partly in Co. Cork and mostly in Co. Kerry, is less spoiled by tourism than the Ring of Kerry or the Dingle Peninsula. That also means that the area is less developed. Begin your tour at Kenmare and drive southwest on R571 as it skirts lovely Kenmare River to Coulagh Bay. Just past the brightly painted Eyeries Village, turn right on R575 which heads out toward the wide open Atlantic. A short side trip on R572 will bring you to one of Ireland's unique attractions, the **Cable Railway to Durse Island**. Built in 1970 and designed to carry six people or one man and his cow the 250 yards from the mainland to the island, the cable car runs every fifteen minutes for two hours in the morning and again in the afternoon. On the island the ruins of St. Michael's Chapel and a 16C monastery are within easy walking distance. Continuing around the Beara Peninsula visit the village of **Castletown**, the largest spot of civilization on the peninsula, where Russian factory ships moor in the harbour. Nearby is the **Derrintaggart stone circle**, a bronze age alignment on farmland signposted just west of the village. Like many of the antiquities on private land in Ireland, the farmer asks for a small fee or donation, which in this case is promised to charity. Also nearby is **Dunboy Castle** (admission fee), a park containing ruins of both Puxley's Castle and Dunboy Castle. Continue on R572 to Glengarriff with a side trip from Adrigole up to the **Healy Pass** with a spectacular panorama of Glanmore Lake below; or skip Glengarriff (hopefully you've already played the course) and continue over the pass to hook up again with R571 back to Kenmare. All around the perimeter of Beara be sure to stop at the numerous **vista points** for some of Ireland's most dramatic scenery. Kenmare, between the Beara Peninsula and the Ring of Kerry, has more in town than good eateries and great music pubs. Kenmare has its own stone circle a few hundred yards from the main town square. The **Kenmare stone circle** is the largest in the area consisting of several large boulders set in an egg-shaped configuration more than fifty feet across.

Kenmare is a good point from which to start a tour of the **Ring of Kerry** (the common name for the Iveragh Peninsula). When contemplating a visit to the Ring, most guides suggest you travel counterclockwise around the Ring (Kenmare - Sneem - Waterville - Killorglin - Killarney) in order to not have to follow the myriad tour buses traveling the Ring. On advice from locals, we did just the opposite