

Key Information

Ascent:	100 m
Distance:	15 km
Estimated Time:	3-5 hrs
Grade:	Moderate

Directions to Trailhead

Start from Muckross House, only 3.6 miles/6 km from Killarney town centre, along the main Kenmare road (N71).

Muckross Lake – A Royal Route

Just minutes from Killarney, Muckross House offers the possibility to escape the hustle and bustle of the busy town. The walk is a wonderful stroll through native forest, here and there the path visits the lake shore and the views of Torc Mountain and MacGillycuddy's Reeks come into view. The road continues over the local landmark of Brickeen bridge where you can linger and look out over Lough Leane and Muckross lake. Or continue for a few more minutes to Dinis Cottage, an old hunting lodge now a cafe. From here you can continue walking through the lakeshore and back to Muckross, or travel by boat back to Killarney.

A to B Make your way along the signposted route from the 19th century Muckross House, stopping off to discover the traditional working farms and afterward descending down to Muckross Abbey.

B to C The trail then brings you to Muckross Peninsula, with the spur of the land separating the Muckross Lake from the larger Lough Leane. Here, you enter Reenadina Wood. Carpeted by moss and ferns, it's worth watching out for red squirrels and the majestic red deer.

C to D At the western end of Muckross Lake is the 200-year-old Dinis Cottage. You can grab refreshments here before heading behind the Cottage to a short path leading to the Meeting of the Waters – where Killarney's Upper Lake flows down to join the lower loughs.

D to E Lakeside tracks and wooded paths lead you back to Muckross House. Shortly before you arrive, an optional sidetrip leads to the top of Torc Waterfall, but this 4 km circuit can also be tackled in its own right.

E to A Known locally as "Springfield" this pleasant path runs parallel to Muckross Lake and the lovely sandy Goleen Bay which is popular with bathers. Also one can see the distinct and fully black breed of the Kerry Cow grazing in the fields which is unique to the Muckross Estate and County Kerry. The path runs all the way to Muckross House with the option of visiting the magnificent Sub-Tropical gardens.

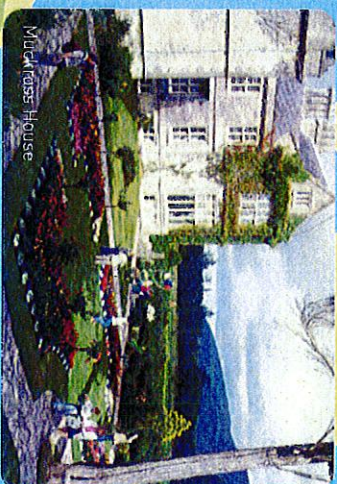
Join the Kerry Way in the National Park to Lord Bransdon's Cottage (park at Galways Bridge) or take a boat trip on the majestic Killarney Lakes. Distance: approx 5 km return. Grade: Moderate, ground can be rough underfoot. Walking Time: 1.5 – 2 hrs. Enjoy lunch at the Cottage before your return journey.

If you like that - try this

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Walking in Kerry

Muckross Lake Loop A Royal Route



Muckross House

