

The Maharees

Heaven

The Dingle Peninsula



The Perfect Holiday Destination

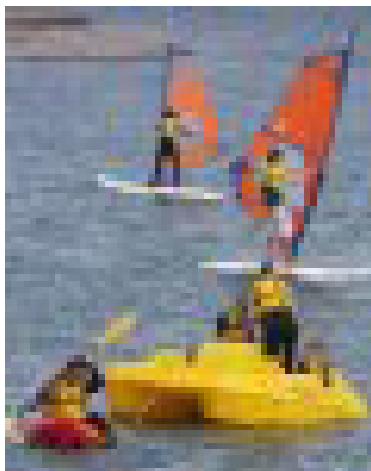
With its stunning scenery, abundance of history, geography, activities and accommodation, The Maharees makes an ideal holiday destination. Nestled on the north side of The Dingle Peninsula and surrounded by a backdrop of mountains, it is one of the most picturesque parts of Ireland. Friendly locals, great bars & restaurants and top class activity providers can all be found on this little sand-spit jutting into The Atlantic Ocean.

Stunning Beaches and Scenery



- Beaches stretch for miles on all sides of The Maharees. The scenery is breathtaking especially on a sunny day.
- Mount Brandon, and Beenoskee provide a perfect backdrop to the peninsula and also take most of the rain so the sun shines more here than anywhere else.
- The Seven Hogs (or Maharee islands) are scattered to the north and protect from the big Atlantic swells. Huge waves crash off the islands during winter storms.
- Clifftop walks around The Pier and GaryWilliam offer wonderful photo opportunities.

Wide range of Activities



There are numerous things to see and do including:

- Watersports
- Diving
- Walking/Hiking
- Biking
- Horse-riding
- Bird-watching
- Fishing

History & Geography



The Maharees has significant historical and geographical features.

- 14 ft Standing Stone (gallán) in Candiha
- Limestone fossils in rocks at Garywilliam
- Killshannig Graveyard with 7th Century Cross Slab & 14th Century church ruins.
- Oilean TSeanaigh-early monastic settlement with souterrain, cross-slabs, alter, & hut remains.
- The Maharees is designated a Special Area of Conservation with its acres of sand-dunes and marram grass. It is home to the rare natterjack toad, orchids and other dune wildlife.



The Maharees stretches north on The Dingle Peninsula, for about 5 miles. The nearest village is Castlegregory on the R560 just off the Tralee to Dingle N86 route. It is about 20 miles from both towns.

The Maharees contains a number of little villages or hamlets. Emigration in the 70s and 80s led to a large decrease in the local population. It stands at about 200 year-round residents and but this number swells to thousands during the busy summer months.

Many houses are rented out as holiday homes and camping in the local caravan sites and dunes is popular. There are a couple of B&B's close by.

Fahamore: Location of Old School House and Popular Spillane's Bar & Restaurant.

GaryWilliam: Famous Surf spot, Limestone crevasses (the couses), lovely walk.

Candahy: Standing Stone, The Green Room Bar, Jamie Know Watersports

Killshannig: Churchyard dating from 7th Century.

Sandy Bay: Safe Bathing area, picnic tables, watersports rentals.

Dumps: Brandon Bay is famous for windsurfing and surfing.

Get Out There

No such thing as bad weather

Just bad clothing!

Heaven for The Outdoor Enthusiast

World Class Windsurf & Surf Conditions



- The Maharees is surrounded by Brandon Bay to the west and Tralee Bay to the East. Because it's beaches face all directions, there is always a spot getting hit by the prevailing wind and swell.

- Brandon Bay offers worldclass wavesailing conditions with cross off down the line beach breaks in gowlane in a southwesterly and epic starboard tack Mossies in a northwesterly.

- Tralee Bay to the east and Scraggane to the north are more suited to beginners and intermediates with miles of blasting in safe waters.

Miles of Sandy Beaches for Walking



- The longest beach in Ireland stretches from Cloghane in the west all the way to the end of The Maharees. You can walk for miles on deserted beaches.

- Great for walking dogs.

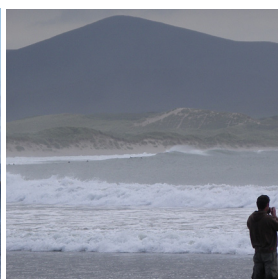
- Plenty of birdlife.

- Backdrop of mountains offering a stunning vista.

- Shells, Fossils, Mon Tra, plenty of treasures to find.

- Sand dunes with natterjack toads and rare orchids.

Excellent Fishing Opportunities



- Renowned for its Bass Fishing

- Varied bays with rough swells or calm pools

- Spear Fishing

- Charter Boats

Horse-Riding

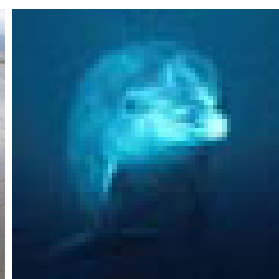


- Local Horse-riding school.

- miles of beaches

- great for children

Swimming & diving



- Water quality in The Maharees is second to none.

- The crystal clear bays provide excellent swimming and diving opportunities.

- Sandy Bay is monitored by life guards during the summer months and is a calm safe bathing area.

- Diving sites off the Maharee islands are world renowned .

The Maharees has numerous places of historical, cultural and geographical interest.

The local population can trace its roots back many generations. Originally mainly farmers and fishermen Maharees was famous for its carrots and onions which grew well in the sandy soil. Nowadays more people make their living from the busy summer tourism industry.

The Maharee islands were populated until the 1960's, now one can visit the monastic ruins on the island and even spend time in the holiday cottage there.

The local pier provides a vital source of income to fishermen who land crab, lobster & crayfish daily.

Kilshannig

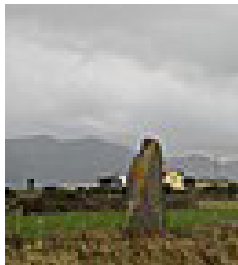
Church of St Seannig
Local graveyard



- A standing stone – a cross-slab of the 7th Century with an interestingly designed cross can be found in Kilshannig. It includes both Greek initials for Christ with a Latin cross, as well as pagan spirals at the base.
- The church ruins are believed to date in part to the 12th Century but it is mostly a 15th-16th Century reconstruction.
- Info acquired from "The Dingle Peninsula: History, Folklore, Archaeology" by Steve MacDonough, copyright 1993.

Standing Stone

Candiha



- A standing stone is known as gallán in Irish.
- It refers to a single standing stone located on its own.
- This example stands over 14 ft tall.
- It is located in a field in Candiah

GarryWilliam

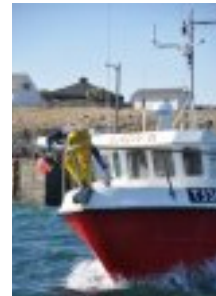
World class Reef Break



- Garrywilliam is a quiet secluded jewel on the Maharees. Mainly limestone, its rocky shoreline bears the brunt of storms and swells. A world renowned reef break is found here. Also interesting fossils and shell middens can be seen in the cliffs. These middens date back to famine times. On a walk through the fields here one will see carrots and potatoes growing.

The Local Pier

Fishing



- Fishing is one of the main local livelihoods. Lobster and spider crab are plentiful and are sold to French and Spanish Trucks on the pier. Fresh Crab claws can be sampled in the local seafood restaurant Spillanes.
- Boats can be chartered from the pier for fishing trips or to visit the monastery on Oilean TSeannig.
- The local padi dive centre operates from the pier.

The Seven Hogs

The Maharee Islands



- The Maharee islands are known as The Seven Hogs. One of the islands was occupied by The Goodwin and O Leary families up until the 1960s. Nowadays they are mainly used for farming cattle and sheep. An ancient monastic settlement from the 7th Century can be found on Oilean TSeanaigh. The enclosing wall, or cashel, is about 18 feet thick – There are two ruined oratories with an altar and window. a souterrain runs to a chamber in the enclosure wall. There are cross-slabs; and three leachts, rectangular burial platforms.

Great Bars & Restaurants	
Lots of Activity Providers	

Local Businesses in The Maharees

Spillane's Bar & Restaurant. 0667139125

Serving delicious seafood & steaks including crab claws from the pier at Maharees.

Owned and run by Michael and Marilyn Spillane, it is a warm and friendly pub with a great atmosphere. Hugely popular with locals & visitors alike.

The Green Room Bar 0667139153

Another popular watering-hole, The Green Room is run by the O Connor family and is located in Candiha near the Standing Stone

Jamie Knox Watersports 0667139424

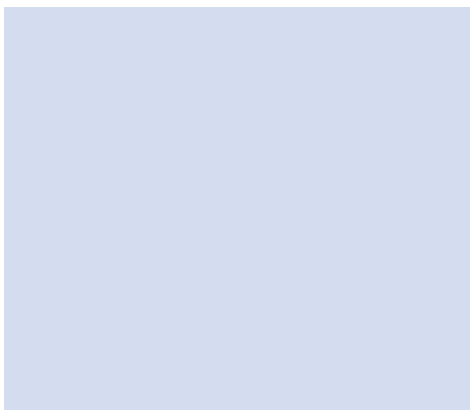
Providing excellent watersports tuition and rental for over fifteen years, Jamie Knox's is a great place to learn how to surf, windsurf and kitesurf. Gear can be purchased in their well equipped surf shop located in Candiha.

Waterworld 0667139292

Local PADI dive & leisure centre run by Pat and Ronnie Fitzgibbon along with The Islands restaurant located onsite.

O Connors Pony Trekking 0667139216

Ride horses on the beautiful beaches of The Maharees. Located close to Dumps in Kilshannig West and run by the O Connors.



Tralee

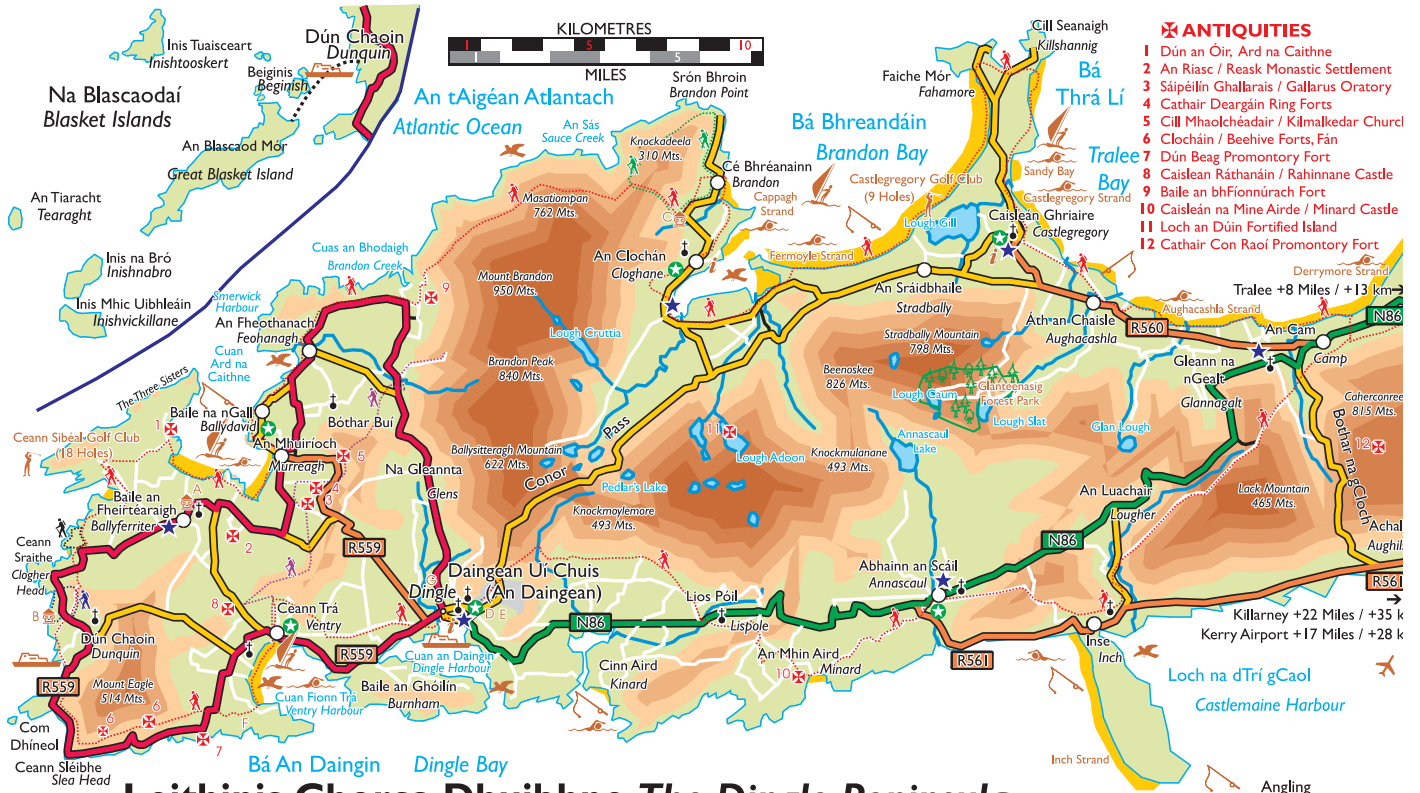
Tralee is capital town of Kerry and the main commercial centre. It is located about 20 miles from the Maharees. Travel through Tralee en route from Kerry/Cork/Shannon Airports or ferryports to The Maharees.

Dingle

Also known as An Daingean, Dingle is the main town on The Dingle Peninsula. It is a gaeltacht area and full of culture, music and attractions. Dingle is situated 20 miles from the Maharees over the beautiful Conor Pass Road.

Castlegregory

Castlegregory is the closest village to The Maharees. It is where the local schools, church and grocery shop are located.



Leithinis Chorca Dhuibhne The Dingle Peninsula

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|------------------|---|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| National Roads | Sli Chorca Dhuibhne / Dingle Way | Tourist Information | Passenger Ferry |
| Sleá Head Drive | Cosán na Naomh / Pilgrims' Route | Post Office | Watersports |
| Regional Roads | Siúlóid a'tSáis / Sauce Creek Walking Trail | Garda (Police) | Museum or Heritage Centre |
| Other Main Roads | Siúlóid na Cille | Church | Beach Suitable for Swimming |
| Minor Roads | Cosán Cuan na nEighe | Beach | Bird Watching |

This Booklet is non profit and aims to provide interesting information on The Maharees. Some excerpts have been taken from local books and websites.

It was not my intention to infringe on any copyrite of photos etc.

If you wish to have something added , subtracted or changed please email rorespillane@hotmail.com