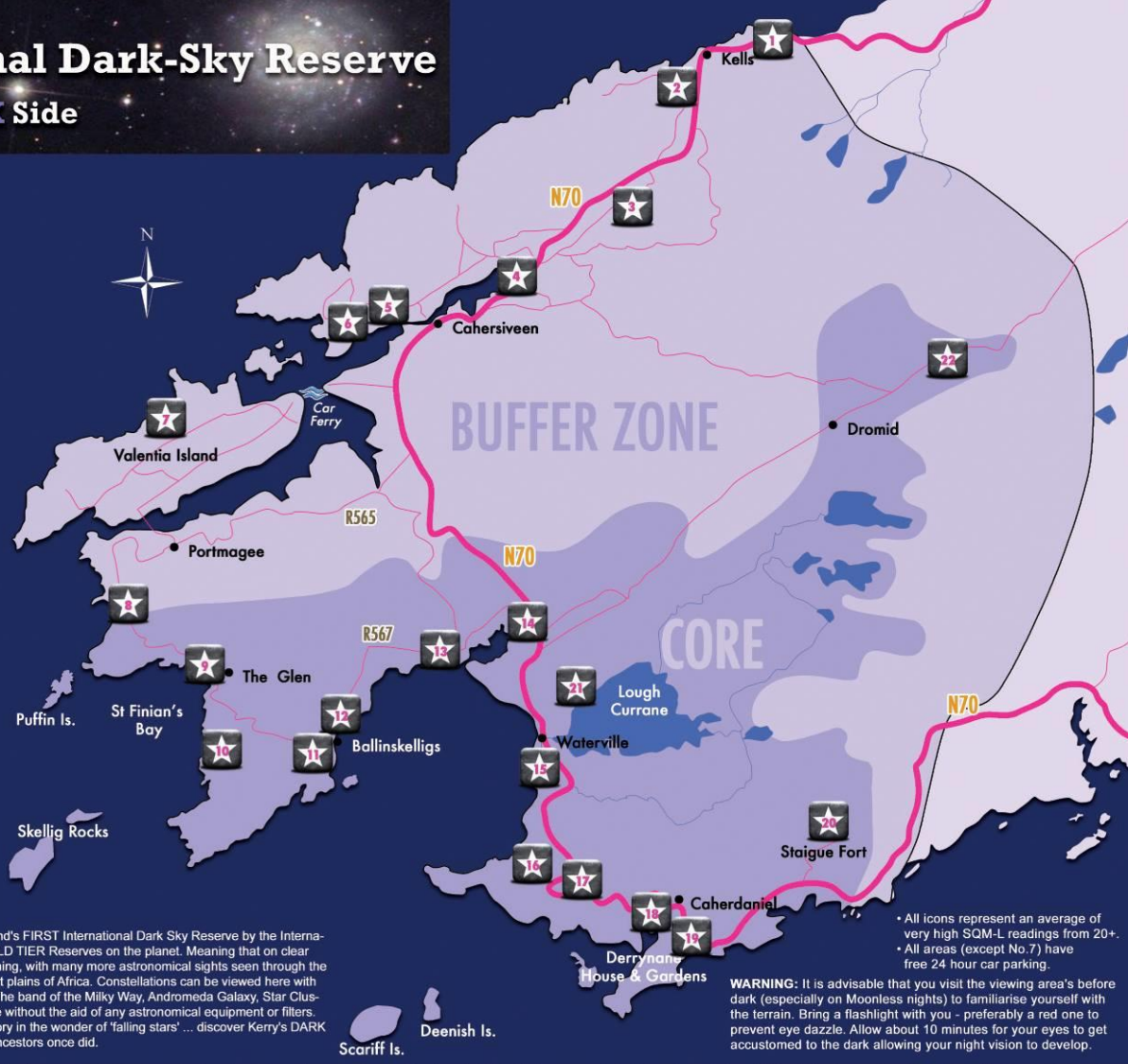


Kerry International Dark-Sky Reserve

Discover Kerry's DARK Side

- ★ Kells - lay-by on N70 (across from Dingle Bay)
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- ★ Foilmore
- ★ Carhan Bridge
- ★ Ballycarbery
- ★ White Strand
- ★ Geokaun Mountain
- ★ Coomanaspig
- ★ St. Finian's Bay
- ★ Duchalla
- ★ Ballinskelligs Beach
- ★ Ballinskelligs GAA Car Park
- ★ Reenroe Beach
- ★ Inny Bridge
- ★ Skellig Bay Golf Club Car Park
- ★ Coomakista
- ★ Beenarourke
- ★ Derrynane Beach
- ★ Derrynane House & Gardens (4 Car Parks)
- ★ Staigue Fort
- ★ Lough Currane Car Park
- ★ Bealach Oisín

Core Zone = Darkest part of the reserve
Buffer Zone = Peripheral area around core



Kerry International Dark-Sky Reserve has been designated Ireland's FIRST International Dark Sky Reserve by the International Dark-Sky Association (www.darksky.org) one of only 3 GOLD TIER Reserves on the planet. Meaning that on clear nights the sky in this South West region of Ireland is simply stunning, with many more astronomical sights seen through the naked eye as can be seen say in the Grand Canyon or the desert plains of Africa. Constellations can be viewed here with many many more stars than are shown on the usual sky maps. The band of the Milky Way, Andromeda Galaxy, Star Clusters and Nebula's are just some of the naked eye wonders to see without the aid of any astronomical equipment or filters. Go Satellite watching, Moon gazing, Planet hunting, or simply glory in the wonder of 'falling stars' ... discover Kerry's DARK side and you'll experience the wonder of the stars - just as our ancestors once did.

• All icons represent an average of very high SQM-L readings from 20+.
 • All areas (except No.7) have free 24 hour car parking.

WARNING: It is advisable that you visit the viewing area's before dark (especially on Moonless nights) to familiarise yourself with the terrain. Bring a flashlight with you - preferably a red one to prevent eye dazzle. Allow about 10 minutes for your eyes to get accustomed to the dark allowing your night vision to develop.

Kells: The N70 road will eventually bring you to the scenic beauty of Kells. All during the tourist season one can see many buses, cars etc stopped on or near to the many large lay-bys offering the tourist stunning photographic views. Across the Bay you can see the Dingle Peninsula while looking down from the N70 one can view the charming little fishing village of Kells. What tourists are not aware of is that when darkness falls another, more dramatic, scenic view appears - on clear nights one can see an uninterrupted vista of many tens of thousands of stars and in the summer time when the band of the Milky-Way is high, the star numbers climb up into the billions. Having or not having extra optical equipment-like for instance binoculars - makes no difference, as your own eyes will see almost too much to take in with a single glance.

Cahersiveen: This is the Capital Town of the Reserve and indeed the whole of the Iveragh Peninsula. Just a ten minute walk from the town's main street will provide you with many great Star-gazing spots. Carhan Bridge at the entrance to Cahersiveen (coming from Killamey) provides a great little parking spot and you can also see the sampling of newly installed Dark-Sky Compliant public street lights ahead, showing just how effective these lights can be and how they not deter from viewing the stars. The Kerry County Council will be installing similar kinds of public street lights throughout the whole county of Kerry beginning the end of 2014. In a few short years Kerry will be the only county in Ireland to have Dark-Sky compliant public street lighting. This also means that the dreadful orange glow globally associated with the distant night-time view of towns, villages and cities will be soon be a nuisance of the past in Kerry.

Portmagee: The fishing village of Portmagee was the proud winner of Ireland's 'best' tourism town in 2012. Here is a place of traditional Irish entertainment and for many the departure hub for awe-inspiring visits to the Skellig Islands, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. From here one can drive over the bridge to Valentia Island. Before entering the village one can pull in near to the local GAA grounds to view the stars. As in all the other towns and villages within the reserve these lights will be replaced with Dark-Sky Compliant lighting which will allow better star gazing views in the area.

The Glen: This is the only village in the Core Zone of the Kerry Dark-Sky Reserve and a visit there will enlighten anyone as to the reason why. A lot of surfers come here to ride the rolling waves, but to most visitors simply sitting and looking out into the Atlantic at those rocky spikes is fulfilling enough. The beautiful fish-eye photo of St. Finian's Bay at night with its star studded sky really speaks volumes for the whole of the Reserve. During the daylight hours the view from that

same Bay shows the Skellig Islands in all their mystic glory. The Sunsets one can witness there are a photographers dream, as is the view of the Skelligs in full or partial moonlight. Also nearby is a bird sanctuary and a chocolate factory...what more could one ask for.

Ballinskelligs: Has many interesting places to visit during the day, the Old Abbey, McCarthy's Castle and Bolus Head are just three suggestions, not forgetting the relaxing stroll along Ballinskelligs beautiful Blue-Flag beach. Along with the other areas within the Kerry Dark-Sky Reserve it offers excellent photographic opportunities. The large parking area at beach is a great place to view the stars without any intrusion of local light pollution.

Caherdaniel/Derrynane: Staigue Fort, Derrynane House and Gardens and Derrynane Beach are suggested offerings for a daytime visit. The views to be seen along route between Waterville and Caherdaniel are simply breathtaking and every photographers dream. There are quite a few areas in this area very suitable for Stargazing. Coomachoste is a large parking area approx 4/5km outside of Waterville. The road can be busy before 6pm during the summer tourist season, but in the evening and especially during the off-season the road has little traffic. Staigue Fort can be absolutely pitch black on moonless nights, should you choose to go inside the fort to stargaze it is advisable that you visit the area during the day to familiarise yourself with the terrain. Derrynane House and gardens has 3 car parks, the two car parks away from the house are much darker should you wish absolutely no local light intrusion, though the car park near to the house is still most suitable for star-gazing.

Waterville: Once you've walked through the Waterville promenade, have taken more than a few photographs of the famous Charlie Chaplin statue, or maybe have returned from one of the many local Kerry Way walks staying in the area a while longer to witness/photograph the sunset in Ballinskelligs Bay will be most rewarding. Depending on the time of year you just may be lucky enough to see the sun set in the company of the inner trailing planets Venus or Mercury or maybe the outer gas giants Jupiter or Saturn will be viewable. The Moon also makes a striking scene hanging over the Bay. Just outside the village the wonderful Eightercua pre-historic standing stones are testament to how our ancestors once marked the passing of the Season's, and the phases of the Moon.

Dromid: The roads that winds through the Parish of Dromid also leads one up into the pass called Bealach Oisín (The Rock of Oisín) where legend has it that the great Fianian warrior Oisín, having live happily in the land of eternal youth (Tír na Nóg) for over 300 years, fell from his horse while helping some local men to move a big boulder. Instantly he turned into an old man and died shortly after. Whether the tale be fact or fantasy can always be debated, but what is true and totally agreed upon is that the stellar view in this area on a clear dark night is mesmerising. The peculiar quiet that hangs over the area also lends to the sense of wonder and deep mystery. A daytime visit is also heavenly with a clear view of the Kerry Mountains, plenty of picnic spots and parking spaces.