



DISCOVER Valentia Island

Dairbhre Valentia



Heritage

History in the rocks

Holy wells, ogham stones, standing stones, rock art, and a slate quarry mean that there are lots of sites to visit to explore the heritage of Valentia Island, and many of them also have spectacular views!

Transatlantic Cable

In the 1850's and 60's there were various attempts to lay a cable across the Atlantic from Valentia to Newfoundland that would allow communication between Europe and north America. Learn all about the birth of modern communications here.

Maude Delap

Maude Delap was a pioneering marine biologist who lived in Knightstown for most of her life. Her house still stands there, her family are commemorated in St John's Church and in the Heritage Centre.



Landscapes

Coast

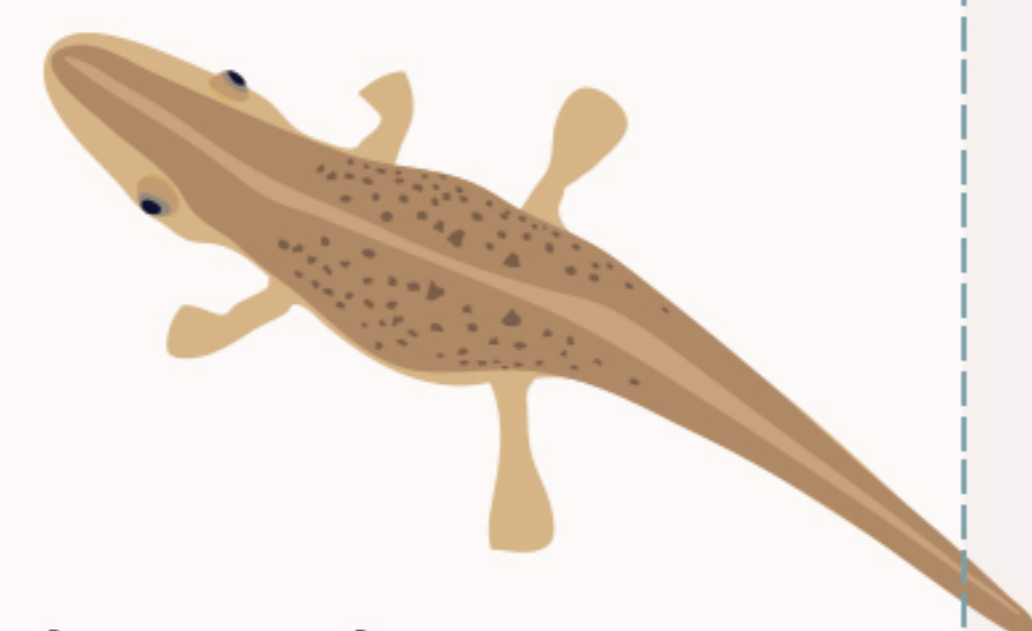
The coastline of Valentia includes sheltered beaches, a long, sheltered rocky shore, and dramatic cliffs with spectacular views. Explore from the land or take a boat tour for a different perspective.

Subtropical beach

The area around Glanleam on the island's north coast is a lush haven for plants and the tiny beach here is a secluded spot.

Fossils

The tetrapod trackway on Valentia Island is the site of some of the oldest evidence of animals walking on land ever discovered. There are fossilised plants and tiny myriapod trackways nearby too. These are highlighted in the low morning light.



Wildlife



Seals

The Portmagee Channel is a great place for some seal spotting! Iveragh is home to both common and grey seals. Look for them bobbing in the water or arched like a banana on a rock.

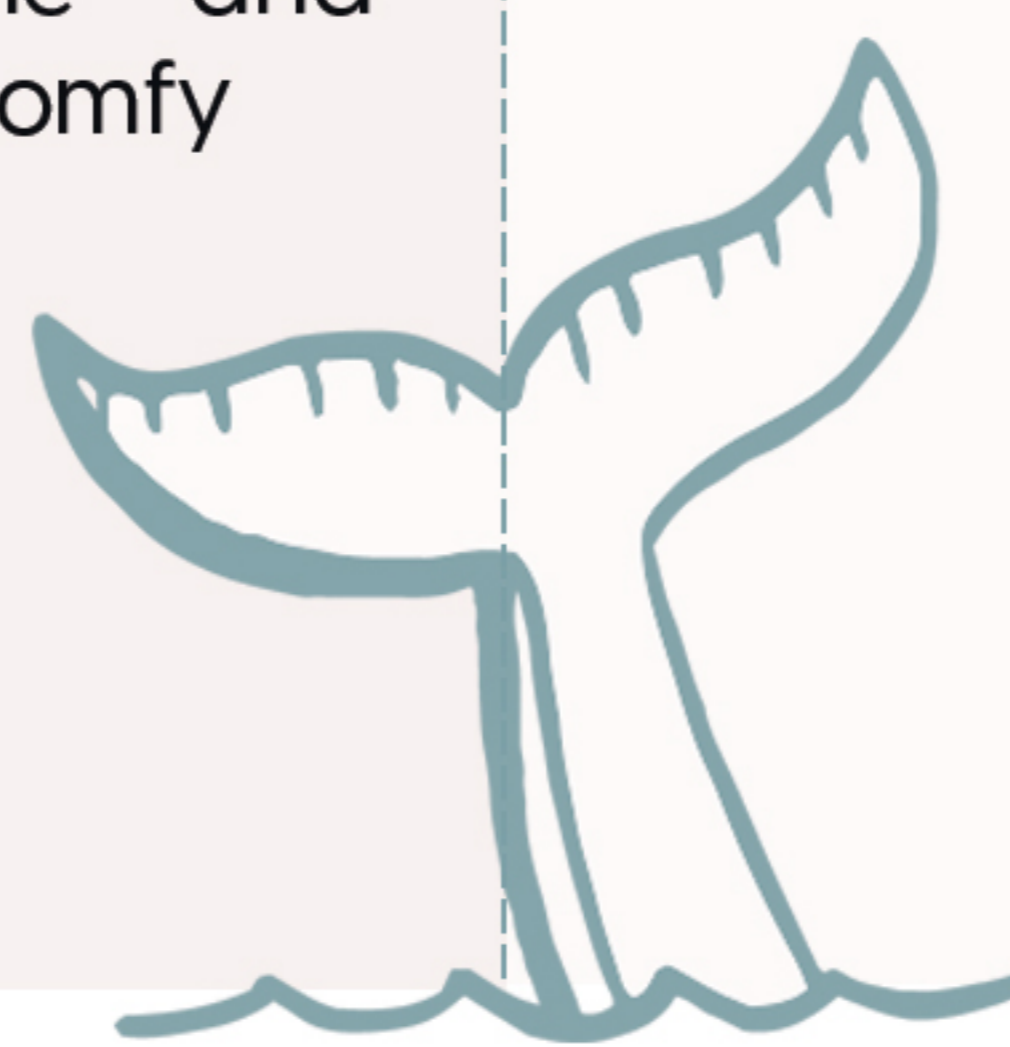
Birdwatching



The dramatic cliffs & islands around Valentia are home to many species of seabirds from gannets to guillemots. It is also a stronghold for Ireland's rarest crow – the Red-billed Chough.

Whales and Dolphins

Bray Head is a well-known spot for land-based whale and dolphin watching. Get comfy and keep your eyes peeled for 'blows', 'splashes' and diving birds as hints of life beneath the waves.



Family



Museums

Work on the iconic riverside Cahersiveen Barracks began in 1870. A walk through the adjacent park brings you to a replica stone fort and has great views of the old railway bridge.

Harbour

Knightstown harbour is a hive of watery activities in the summer and the pier is often packed with wetsuit-clad kids taking turns to jump off when the tide is right.

Walks

The buggy friendly Altazamuth Park in Knightstown is a great outdoor space for all the family.



Active



Run

If you're looking for a challenge, a circuit of Valentia Island is approximately the distance of a half marathon, and includes some dramatic scenery.

Bike

With very few steep ascents, Valentia is the perfect place to explore by bike. Why not go car-free and arrive on the ferry from Cahersiveen?

Hike

The walk up to Bray Head is a gentle uphill on a wide track. You pass archaeological sites before reaching the spectacular cliffs and the WW2 lookout tower.



Rise and Shine

Afternoon

Into the Evening

DISCOVER Iveragh

Valentia Island, Dairbhre (Oak Island) is an ideal location to stay, taking in the sights, sounds, heritage and history of the beautiful Iveragh peninsula, in south Kerry, Ireland.

