

A guide to some of our favourite walks, beaches and swimming spots within easy reach of the cottage in Cilliruih.

Please bear in mind that the weather and sea conditions around West Dingle can be highly unpredictable so dress accordingly and only swim in safe areas when conditions are calm.

1. Mount Eagle Lake – *wonderful views across Ventry Bay and the surrounding area*

Starting point is from the cottage itself - <https://maps.app.goo.gl/nDx29d8XzF5NX9RY7>

Walk up the road from the Old Cottage following the turn to the left towards the communication mast. The pathway begins at a point where the road bends left but you will see a sign pointing to the track that heads straight on up. It's not too far but a steep enough incline. When you reach the mast, keep walking for about another 100m till to come to a gate. going through the gate, you will reach the lake a bit further on the left.

2. Ventry Beach – *Large horseshoe beach with safe swimming on most days.*

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/EVWrHZozCkMvV1LMA>

Our local beach which is just over 3km away from the cottage with large carpark and well-maintained public toilets. We either swim from here or, on a high tide, head over to the pier nearby - <https://maps.app.goo.gl/7rYd3V7n8bwdqoqy6> The beach is long with firm sand so its great for walking even on blustery days.

3. Cuan Pier and Beach – *Sheltered beach and pier.*

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/DiePkydp5ctqchSQ8>

Not too far from the cottage, Cuan is a small beach and pier that can be nice for swimming on a higher tide when the wind is blowing directly onto Ventry.

4. Cruach Marthain mountain – *Best on a clear day, really rewarding short climb with 360' views of the whole west Dingle peninsular area.*

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/NGBRsRz35nPdoVNY9>

Just a short drive from the cottage, the road is known as The Clasach and was the original route to Dunquin before the scenic Sea Head Drive was built. Park beside the mast and the steep path goes straight up to the peak. It's wonderful at any time of day but particularly good if the weather is nice in the evening about two hours before sunset.

5. The Sleah Head drive – *This is a great way to start your visit*

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/LBsX8U32HPyPHgRQ8>

The road follows the coastline west from Ventry and takes in many wonderful spots along the way. Because some sections are very narrow, it is best to travel in a clockwise direction to avoid a logjam with a tour bus or campervan heading in the opposite direction!

6. Coumeenole Beach – *Probably our number one beach, a particular favourite.*

GPS: 52.110341513894376, -10.463953270997374 Dramatic location along the Sleah Head drive, the beach sits at the base of tall cliffs with great waves rolling in on most days. There is a large carpark at the top with a short steep path to the beach itself. **Only suitable for confident swimmers on calmer days**, we love swimming here and, in summer, the bodyboards can be great fun!

7. **Dunmore Head** – *a short rewarding walk from the Coumeenooles carpark.*
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/Psrh9w8ay9e6FYtZ9>
Located 10°24' W, Dunmore Head can claim to be the most westerly point of Europe. The Head offers a wonderful view across Blasket Sound to the Great Blasket Island and beyond. At the highest point, there is the ruin of an old lookout post from World War 2.
8. **The Blasket Visitors Centre and coastal walk** – *definitely worth a visit, rain or shine*
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/LyPMzN7K9m2hXUZA9>
This beautifully designed interpretive centre celebrates the culture and history of the island community. Well worth a visit and many of our guests say that it is one of the best interpretive centres they have ever been to. There is also a café with excellent coffee and light lunch menu all in a beautiful setting. Just around the corner is a path leading to the coastal walk with good clifftop views.
9. **Dunquin Pier** – *This is the original historic landing point to the Great Blasket Island*
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/CTPw7z2tasLPyqK7>
The short twisting pathway down to the pier is dramatic and a popular subject of many millions of photos!
10. **Clogher Head** – The short stroll to the top of this craggy headland is a rewarding detour.
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/fuWLHGDvFtCyQv8j9>
No quite as far west as Dunmore Head but still gives a sense of being on the edge of Europe!
11. **Clogher Strand** and coastal walk – *Attractive beach but **DANGEROUS FOR SWIMMING***
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/8XiLwR4Kq5z4uC6y6>
There is a small car park overlooking the beach and it's a good spot to watch the waves rolling in particularly in a strong westerly wind just don't attempt to get in the water even on calm days!
There is also a **good coastal walk** in a NW direction which you can access from a stile just close to the carpark.
12. **Béal Bán Beach** – *Long sheltered beach with firm white sand*
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/Z518Vdvtjm4yQnG8>
With dramatic views of the Three Sisters, Smerwick Harbour and Mount Brandon, Béal Bán is great for stretching the legs and safe for swimming on calmer days.
13. **The Wine Strand** – *small, sheltered beach which is another favourite of ours*
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/RmBCveqSTXR7Rsd6>
When the winds are blowing from the South or Southwest, the Wine Strand and small pier can be very calm and safe for swimming. Limited parking but usually quiet if you get there early enough in the day.

14. **Ballydavid Village and costal walk** – *small beach, nice pub and enjoyable coastal walk*

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/huJxfVMfEVvzUNM47>

Can be tight for parking but this small village is a very pleasant place to enjoy a drink overlooking the sea at Tigh T.P. Bar. The Kerry Way path runs through the village and on along the coastline to the North, definitely worth a try for a few kilometres out and back.

15. **Bín Bán Car Park** – Short but dramatic coastal path.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/ucV7P5tjuLeVqGwk8>

Although the Bín Bán beach is temporarily closed due to a rock fall, the short coastal track heading East with dramatic cliffs is well worth a look but stay well back from cliff edges.