**KILLARNEY STORY**

People have been escaping to Killarney – in the ancient Kingdom of Kerry – for over

250 years.

They come for the legendary beauty: the lakes, waterfalls, mountain peaks and heartstopping

views. And they come for the *craic agus ceol*: the good times and the banter,

the pubs, live music, and easy Irish charm.

Queen Victoria visited and fell in love with it. Poets and songwriters have waxed

lyrical about it. It’s known as “the home of the traditional Irish welcome”, because

this is where Irish tourism began.

“Beauty’s home, Killarney” (as the song goes) is in Ireland’s first great National Park,

where *Na Crucha Dubha* - the country’s highest mountains - ring three gorgeous glacial

lakes. Ireland’s only herd of native red deer roam wild here in ancient woods of oak

and yew. Rare white-tailed sea eagles drift overhead.

The town is on the north-east shore of the largest of the three Lakes of Killarney –

Lough Leane, or Lake of Learning – where the medieval monks of Inisfallen recorded

the earliest history of Ireland.

Killarney makes it easy to enjoy nature - to be as active or as laid-back as you choose.

There are easy strolls and challenging hikes, trips and tours, bike hires and boat rides.

Traditional horse-drawn jaunting cars – with their drivers known as “jarveys” – wait in

the centre of town to take visitors into the National Park. You can take a jaunting car

through the hauntingly beautiful mountain pass, the Gap of Dunloe. The boat trip

across the three lakes is a magical experience.

And Killarney’s a great base for exploring South West Ireland’s three wild Atlantic

peninsulas – Dingle, Beara and Iveragh – and the world-famous Ring of Kerry.

Back in town, the streets are a hive of activity, full of life … Irish through and through.

Everything’s geared towards making sure you have a great time.

No wonder, when you say “Killarney” to an Irish person, they’ll start to smile …