

Dingle Peninsula, Ireland: hiking trip timeline

[Karen & Pete Matthews Jr](https://3nt.xyz) – <https://3nt.xyz> – © June 16, 2022

Ah, the hiking was grand indeed! We enjoyed it immensely – photos coming.

- Sat
May 28 Karen, Ellen and Pete took Uber to the airport in Boston, departing on a Delta flight at 9:05 pm.
- Sun
May 29 We arrived at Dublin airport at 8:15 am, and took a taxi to the Maldron Hotel on Kevin Street. After regrouping, we did some exploring. We spent some time in nearby St. Patrick's Park, next to the church. On his own for dinner, Pete made the mistake of eating in Reyna, a narrow, crowded kabob shop – good food, but fallout to come.
- Mon
May 30 Trinity College: the Long Room and the Book of Kells. We went to St. Patrick's Cathedral for an evensong service. We found out that, along with the other monumental churches of Dublin, it is protestant, so the patrons are mostly tourists. Karen and Pete went to Dublin Pizza, found it was a takeout place, and were directed to the Swan pub. We ordered pizza, which was delivered to us there; we shared a pint of Guinness – over there, it actually has some taste! The Margarita pizza was good, but Pete picked most of the rancid-tasting salami off of his.
- Tue
May 31 Taxi from the Maldron to Burgh Quay for a bus ride through the countryside to Bunratty, where we stayed the night at the Park House B & B. On this beautiful evening, after a quick first meeting with everyone, the group walked about a half mile down the country road to Durty Nellie's restaurant (beside Bunratty Castle), passing a nearby yard where we met two donkeys who brayed at our appearance. Most of the group ate inside, but we ate outside at a picnic table with Carol and her son George, where we had a perfect view of Bunratty Castle beside the restaurant and a lovely body of water beneath us. We could hear bagpipe music being played within the castle walls.
- Wed
June 1 **Tour begins.** Met by a van at Bunratty after breakfast for transport to Dingle (3 hours). Checked into our hotel midafternoon and met our guide for a town walk. Karen and Pete were given a beautiful, spacious room with a large seating area and lovely views of the water, the

neighboring green fields, and grazing cows. Dinner at John Benny's Pub was OK. "Allergy" symptoms began for Pete after this walk.

Lodging: Greenmount House - www.greenmounthouse.ie

- Thu
June 2 Dunquin Wild Atlantic Way Walk - This is a lovely walk featuring a combination of coastal cliff walking and some old bog roads through the parish of Dun Chaoin, Ireland's most westerly parish and the heart of the west Kerry Gaeltacht. Lots of big skies and Atlantic and Blasket Island views. Pete tested negative for COVID in the morning. Karen skipped dinner at Fenton's; Pete had the rack of local lamb, three interleaved chops, and definitely his best meal of the trip.
Distance: 6 miles; Elevation gain: 600'.
- Fri
June 3 Loch an Duin Bronze age Valley - This walk back in time is a wonderful combination of Bronze Age archaeology and beautiful nature as we explore the valley of the fortified lake. This valley, now deserted and covered in bog contains dwellings, rock art, burial tombs and pre bog field walls from over three thousand years ago. And there is also the waterfall of course! Some rough ground, no major ascents. On our own for dinner, probably bread and cheese.
Distance: 6-7 miles; Elevation gain: 600'.
- Sat
June 4 Officially a "free day." We took the optional short morning walk along the shore; Karen and Pete returned early, while Ellen continued to the lighthouse and back. On our own, we explored the town of Dingle in the afternoon. Pizza dinner at Blue Zone was good; salad was huge and delicious.
- Sun
June 5 Cosan na Naomh - Following the old pilgrim path from Ventry beach to Gallarus Oratory. Dating back 1200 years the Gallarus Oratory, a small dry stone structure, is said to be the best preserved Christian Church in Ireland. [The oratory was the highlight of the trip for Pete.] The Pilgrims path is 17.7km long. We walked about 10km, along quiet country roads, both aireens (small roads) and farmland. This route is rich in archaeology from the early Christian period (5th - 12th century). Dinner at Lord Baker's was very good - Karen had the hake and Pete had the salmon.
Distance: 6-7 miles; Elevation gain: 500'.
- Mon
June 6 With increased cold-like symptoms, Pete tested positive for COVID, so stayed behind; one other guy, Tom, also tested positive. The rest of the group took a boat trip to Great Blasket Island, superseding the

original plan for the day, as the weather report was bad for Tuesday. This was an on-your-own dinner; Karen brought in fish and chips.

Tue
June 7 Due to blisters on her bunion, Karen stayed behind. When Ellen came back afterward, she said she thought it had been a smart decision. It rained most of the time (which it had not been doing on the other days) and there wasn't a lot that was exciting to see. [It was not Monday's planned walk at Ballydavid Head, western tip of the Dingle Peninsula.] We all missed the final dinner at Doyle's.

Wed
June 8 9:30 am departure by van to Tralee Casement. **Tour ends.** Having both previously ridden with taxi driver Donncha (Donn-ah-kah), Pete and Tom (both COVID+) rode with him to Tralee, splitting the cost of the trip. Irish Rail to Dublin (change at Mallow). Afternoon COVID antigen (home-style) test at Travel Health Clinic; both Karen and Pete tested positive and could not fly to the U.S. for at least 10 days; Ellen tested negative. Overnight at Maldron Hotel, Kevin Street; Karen's foot was infected. Pete went out, ordered a Pizza at "Pi" and ate most of it while walking back. Having learned his lesson, he got Margarita, and it was definitely the best pizza he had in Ireland.

Thu
June 9 Karen was very sad to say goodbye to Ellen the next morning. It's certainly not the way we had planned to end the trip. While Ellen waited in the lobby for her taxi, for more than an hour, she chatted up the general manager (Fiona) who was very kind to her, looked into the taxi situation, offered her a cup of tea.

Ellen had told Fiona about Karen's diabetes and terrible-looking blisters, and said how concerned she was that Karen wouldn't be able to see her doctor right away. Fiona told her that she knew a doctor who could come to see Karen and that she would arrange it immediately. She said it would cost us 110 euros cash. The doctor came within 2 hours of Ellen's conversation with Fiona. Fiona brought him up to our room and said she would call us later. The doctor was an older man, very kind, from Algeria. When he looked at Karen's bunion, he immediately told her that it was badly infected, and he was concerned that she would not be able to see her own doctor. He prescribed medicated patches plus an antibiotic and an anti-inflammatory. We got them from a pharmacy and she started on everything immediately. Meanwhile, thanks to Fiona, Ellen made her flight – her follow-up COVID tests have been negative.

Because of concern for Karen's foot, we decided to return home via Canada. For air entry there, we only needed to be fully vaccinated; no COVID restrictions apply to land entry to the U.S. Fiona came through for us, again: she allowed us to stay well into the afternoon; since her hotel was full, she arranged for the same rate (then well below market) at the Clayton/Maldron hotel near the airport; she found and sanitized a cane for Karen in the lost-and-found; and she found us a taxi. As Ellen said, "Fiona is the bomb!" Fiona was not allowed to accept our proffered.

Fri
June 10 For our 10:20 am WestJet flight to Toronto, we planned to be at the airport by 6:50, 3.5 hours early – the news had been full of delays at Dublin airport. We took an early shuttle from the Clayton, which dropped us off far from the terminal. After a hike, and a few other wringers, we made our way to the gate in plenty of time. (We had plenty of N95 masks with us and wore new ones each day.)

Car rentals are hard to come by, apparently, and none are available in Canada for drop-off in the U.S. Accordingly, we had a connecting flight to Montreal, scheduled to depart at 6:00 pm. We walked onto the tarmac and boarded on time, but then we waited almost two hours for connecting passengers to join us. Up to this point, everyone was extremely kind and helpful and pleasant. We were both feeling good and in good humor.

We arrived in Montreal around 9:30. We succumbed to a gypsy cab driver, it now appears, for as hair-raising a ride as either of us has ever had (143 K in a 70 zone = 89 MPH in a 43). He was punching in the address of our hotel as we hurtled down the highway. We arrived at LELUX Hotel (which is combined with Empire Suites), around the corner from the bus depot – see my review at [booking.com](https://www.booking.com) – and soon tumbled into bed.

Sat
June 11 We walked into the bus depot before 7:00 am for our 8:00 Greyhound bus to Boston. There was a young attendant there who converted Karen's reservation into tickets for us. However, the incoming bus had had oil trouble and had not arrived until a few hours earlier. That driver was not permitted to drive before ten hours of rest, and no other driver was available to operate the replacement bus that was already sitting there. The attendant told us 2:00 pm, locked up the office at 10:00 am, and departed (leaving a sign that the office would be attended starting at 4:30). Fortunately, this is a clean bus terminal.


There's a cafe, a pizzeria, a small gift shop, a hairdresser, and clean rest rooms.

Soon the video displays posted a 1:00 departure time. First 1:00 and then 2:00, came and went without a driver. Another ticket-holder, Vanessa, got ahold of somebody on the phone – apparently a major feat with Greyhound – and managed to convince the person that, no, the bus had not left at 8:17 am, and no, the bus had not gone through customs (an hour away) at 1:00 pm. They refused to transfer her call to somebody who could do something, but they did eventually promise her a bus driver at 4:00 pm. A bus driver appeared around 2:30, got everything set up, and we were on the road at 2:48, with 15 passengers, about a third of the original number. A manager in Boston had called up our driver and convinced him to drive the bus to White River Junction – he did not have enough hours to drive farther – where another driver would take over – and it really happened! The first driver rode on to Boston with us. We finally arrived home via Uber. Too wired to sleep, we unpacked some and showered, getting to sleep in the wee hours.

The U.S. removed the COVID-test requirement, effective Sunday, June 12, while we were in transit. The care prescribed in Dublin resulted in a great improvement in the condition of Karen’s foot. We are grateful to be home.

Camera Time Discrepancy

Despite trying to set the time on the Panasonic Lumix camera, all those photos have an incorrect time. At home again, I took a picture of my phone with the Lumix, pared it down (as shown), and inspected its date in BreezeBrowser Pro:

	YYYY	MM	DD	hh	mm	ss
	2022	06	16	13	32	00
Add 5 hours (time zones)	2022	06	16	18	32	00
2014-06-25 Lumix Time	2014	06	26	03	48	31
Borrow			-1=25	+24=27		
Adjustments	+ 8	0	- 9	- 9	- 16	- 31

In BreezeBrowser Pro: select all photos; Tools > Adjust...; adjust each section of the displayed time and date (for the first picture); and Update All. As illustrated, some date arithmetic may be required.

Caution: when looking at a file from the Pixel 3, the file name may not encode the correct hour from within the file.

