

MERMAID ISLE

Two acclaimed homes on 25+ oceanfront acres, half a private island, over 4000 ft. of shoreline, two hot-tubs, boat launches and moorings, just off the famed Ring of Kerry in southwestern Ireland__7.5-million Euros (offers)

Featured on Home & Garden's Fine Living Television, Mermaid Isle is a world-class oceanfront retreat washed by warm crystal waters of the Gulf Stream in a protected inlet of south western County Kerry, Ireland. Local legends speak of Mermaids, called Selkies or seal people, living in the private bay, sheltered between the island, Illaundrane, and Mermaid Isle's mainland. The 25+acre experience includes half of that 26-acre island and 12 acres of mainland, with a bonus 3 additional acres of turbary used to fuel four turf-burning fireplaces. While dolphins patrol its endless tidepools, contented seals bask on the rocks, confident of a ready supply of fish. It's not unusual to be greeted in the morning by a playful otter scampering down to the sea past one of the two California hot-tubs perched just above the sea at the 4500+ sq.ft. (450 sq.m.) slate-clad main home, recently built in the style of a medieval post & beam barn, fitted with centuries-old appointments, windows and doors, or the ancient fisherman's cottage, completely refurbished by its present museum designer owner. His other designs are manifest in most major museums in North America as well as aquaria and ecology centers and Irish historic monuments and national parks. Both homes are natural observatories, nestled in mature wooded groves, oriented so that sun rays and moon beams reflecting on the bay will clothe your bed, where you'll be lulled by songs of wind and waves.

It's obvious that those who first built the ancient cottage and the main home loved the sea. South facing windows and sunrooms allow you to spend days and nights in nature surrounded by sunlit clouds, the moon and the stars, progressive seasonal explosions of brilliantly colored wildflowers and all the players on this stage of life: patient herons, silent swans, screeching oyster-catchers, bobbing mergansers, probing curlews, hovering falcons, a variety of soaring gulls, skydiving gannets, free diving cormorants, and curious pup seals. After a swim in the calm clear Gulf Stream warmed waters of Mermaid Isle, your evenings can be spent in

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one of the two hot-tubs contemplating dramatic shooting stars or the lights of Jupiter, Saturn, and Venus, reflecting on the glasslike private cove's surface below the most pollution-free skies on this planet.

Modern gourmet stainless steel kitchen appliances in both homes have been tastefully disguised by historic leaded church doors and panels, or antique copper and great slabs of cedar. You can sit at the time-honored pitch-pine kitchen table preparing your meals before the roaring turf fire in a glass faced iron stove set into the original hearth, complemented with its centuries-old crane and cauldrons. In the Cottage, a spiraling stairway was carved by a local sculptor from a single stump. The main home features three mortised stairways. Floor-to-ceiling antique leaded pastel windows, French casement windows from historic churches and convents, and massive skylights flood both homes in warmth and sunlight. The four contemporary fitted bathrooms are clad in marble and limestone reclaimed from great manor houses. The main home was designed from an artistic sensibility with flexible spaces that may be used for offices, fitness, hobbies, or possibly seven or eight bedrooms.

The extensive property offers incredible privacy, allowing unlimited explorations of endless tidepools and sea vistas, without returning to the Ring of Kerry. But that famous scenic road will take you to the local quaint, gaily painted towns of Sneem, Caherdaniel, and Kenmare, consistent national Tidy Towns competition winners, and home to world-class restaurants, pubs, golf courses, and Blue Flag beaches where you can rent horses and go galloping along the surf, rent dive or water-sports gear or board commercial fishing boats. Other boats will take you to the seventh century monastery atop Skellig Michael, eight miles off the coast. Prehistoric Celtic monuments dot the landscape and the lakes, forests, and waterfalls of Killarney are just across the mountains.

Mermaid Isle is a private retreat for creative people, naturalists, lovers, a place to spark the imagination, reopen your senses and rekindle your love of life. It truly is Tir Na Nog, the Land of the Forever Young, a place where time stops.

Amenities-property: Private Location, Private Island, 25+ acres, 3 acres of turbary, 4000+ ft. of shoreline, Gated private roadway, Two hot-tubs (one at each home), Mature groves of trees, Mains electricity and telephone/internet, Air-pumped bioactive water treatment sewage plant,

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Access to Ring of Kerry, Deep high-pressure private well, Varied wildlife, Seal Rookery, Crystal clear protected ocean water for swimming, snorkeling and scuba diving, Garden/waterfront sitting areas. Ancient ruins on both mainland and island, Extensive tidepools on mainland and island, Two boat launching areas and moorings, Safe deep-water moorage for large yachts (on Admiralty Charts).

Amenities-Main Home: 4500+ sq.ft. on three levels, South-facing over the sea, Flexible layout with 3 to 8 potential bedrooms, Three full baths, Exposed post & beam construction, Extensive cross-bracing, High (to 18.5ft.) vaulted ceilings, Passive solar, Highly insulated, Extensive use of antique stained glass, Antique French casement windows and doors, Five pairs of antique lancet doors from churches, Pitch-pine antique inner doors, Reclaimed marble in bathrooms, 7-burner gas cooktop (hob), Double fan-assisted ovens, Stainless-steel Italian and German signature kitchen appliances and counters, Dishwasher, Disposal, Exhaust hood, Refrigerator, Redesigned 8ft. x 4ft. antique pitch-pine kitchen island, Theatrical low-voltage pinspot lighting, 68 Kw Geminox oil burner and low-profile double-core radiators, Two Morso airtight wood or turf-burning glass-doored cast iron stoves, 8 Velux skylight roof windows, 18.5ft. x 14.5ft. conservatory skylight, Arboretum, Library, Laundry room with washer and dryer, Two-car garage, Workshop/third car or boat garage, Fitness room, Three sets of 4ft.-wide stairways, Exterior wall cladding in reclaimed slate and ship-lap treated Douglas Fir, 30-year colored box profile metal roof over rigid insulated t&g panels, Proposed 324 sq.ft. conservatory for additional dining/living, Hangers for proposed decking.

Amenities-Cottage: 716 sq.ft. on two levels, South-facing over the sea, Centuries-old exposed stone construction, One bedroom with open fireplace and sitting area, One bath room with electric shower, Washer and dryer under antique shutters, Gourmet kitchen with custom counters, antique cabinets and stained glass doors, Dishwasher, Disposal, Large Refrigerator, Exhaust fan under antique copper hood, Five-burner gas cooktop (hob), fan-assisted electric oven, Large conservatory sun room with dining and living room area, Custom-made and antique furnishings, Airtight wood or turf-burning cast iron stove in original hearth with antique crane, pots and hardware, Electric storage heater, Oil-filled electric heaters, Slate, ceramic tile and pine floors, Sculptural stairway.

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Activities (on site or nearby): Bird Watching, Wildlife viewing, Swimming, Ocean and Fly-Fishing, Tidepooling, Photography, Art, Walking, Hill Climbing, Horse Riding, Windsurfing, World-class Golfing, Row boating, Kayaking, Sailing, Chartered Deep-sea Fishing, Snorkeling, Scuba Diving, Bicycling, Sightseeing, Historic & Prehistoric Monuments, Skellig Michael Boat Trips, Sculpture Gardens, Horticulture Gardens, Gourmet Restaurants, Pubs, Musical Entertainment, Art Galleries, Irish Field Sports.

Note: For additional specifications on the property and the two Mermaid Isle homes, please refer to the Site and Floor Plans and to the Mermaid Isle Specifications Folders on this website.

If you'd like more information on this property, email us at:
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