

## FACT FILE

**LOCATION:** 13km off the Iveragh Peninsula, Co. Kerry. The harbour town of Portmagee is roughly 70km (1hr 20mins) by road from Killarney, and 9km (15mins) from Cahirciveen.

**SIZE:** Around 18 hectares (Skellig Michael). The main Skellig is accessed by boat, and trips generally take about half a day (leaving at 10am and returning at 3pm).

**POPULATION:** 0.

**FACILITIES:** None.

**GETTING THERE:** Several boat operators depart mid-morning for The Skelligs (Na Scealga) from Portmagee, Valentia Island, Ballinskelligs and Derrynane and return mid-afternoon. A two-hour cruise around The Skelligs (Na Scealga) departs approx 2.30pm from The Skellig Experience Visitor Centre.

All sailings are weather-permitting. Further information is available from The Skellig Experience (353 66 947-6306, [www.skelligexperience.com](http://www.skelligexperience.com))

**GETTING AROUND:** Walking is the only option on Skellig Michael (Sceilig Mhicil), and a degree of fitness is required for the steps.

**FIND OUT MORE:** The Skellig Experience (353 66 947-6306, [www.skelligexperience.com](http://www.skelligexperience.com)) is open year-round. [www.discoverireland.ie/islands](http://www.discoverireland.ie/islands)

**DID YOU KNOW?** "Stormy", a Skellig storm petrel, lived long enough to earn inclusion in the Guinness Book of Records. She undertook an annual return journey of 20,000km for 26 years.

## Top 3 Activities

- Birdwatching
- Heritage
- Boat trips

# THE SKELLIGS (Na Scealga)



## An t-imeallchríoch spioradálta



## The spiritual outpost

Skellig Michael (Sceilig Mhicil) is Ireland's Machu Picchu. A staggering shard of rock punching out of the Atlantic, what drew early Christian monks to row out here? What compelled them to build a monastery on the edge of what was then the known world? Nature designed the Skelligs to be inaccessible – but that only seems to have motivated these frontiersmen of the Christian faith.



Today, Skellig Michael (Sceilig Mhicil) is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with a 1,000-year-old stone stairwell leading to the small cluster of huts, oratories, chapel and stone crosses clinging to its cliffs. Two lighthouses (the second was finally made automatic in 1987) tell of another self-sacrificing island lifestyle. But Skellig Michael (Sceilig Mhicil) is not alone. Alongside it are two other rocky outcrops – the seabird sanctuaries of Little Skellig, home to more than 30,000 pairs of gannets, and Puffin Island (puffins are best seen in late spring). Taken together, they offer one of the most dramatic vistas Ireland has to offer.



Day trip



Gaeltacht Island