



Waterford to be the South East Camino?

KIERAN WALSH REPORTS

WE met with Maria Golpe at the Travel Media Awards recently.

Maria Golpe is joint head and marketing manager of Camino Ways In Ireland.

They organise for many Irish groups to travel and do the Camino in Spain, France and Portugal.

She herself is from the Camino Region of Galicia and knows very well how to make the Irish Greenways work for tourism.

She is very enthusiastic about the Greenway in Waterford and could include it in their programme for next year.

They already do the Mayo Greenway and the Dingle Ways Walk in Ireland.

The Dingle Walk or Kerry Camino is from Tralee to Dingle along the coastal route and is similar to the proposed Waterford route.

The Dingle Walk starts with an overnight in Tralee then Camp 18km, Anascaul 17 km and Annascaul to Dingle 22km.

This is 57km long and more than the Waterford Greenway.

They do overnight stays at each location. There is also a Burren Way too in Clare.

Waterford could have overnights in Kilmacthomas, Stradbally, Clonea or Dungarvan.

A walk back along the coast could mean an overnight in Bonmahon as an option on the way to Tramore.

Smaller villages could see new little snack places open up for the sale of drinks, coffees.

It all points to make potential micro businesses.

Bike hire could be another big option as many may decide to do the Greenway by bikes.

Families might go for

10-15km with smaller kids, more family size B&Bs may be needed, if traffic develops.

A good average could be 15 km walking We did 20 km in Spain a few years back but here with weather uncertain it may be less as people might take some shelter in showers, as happens elsewhere in Ireland.

Courtesy taxis to carry luggage and people is another possibility.

Buses could also work operate from Dungarvan back to Waterford for train or coach to Dublin.

Another extension by bike to Helvick or walk to the Ring Gaeltacht is another possibility

However roads are narrow there at points.

Places like Bonmahon, which has lost shops etc. can be revitalised. Kilmac will also get a boost and Durrow.

In Spain it started lowly and then grew really big. Now there is a growing popularity in the Portuguese Camino which is a ten day to week trek.

