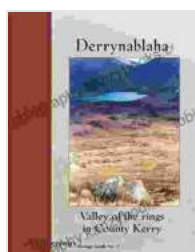


Valley of the Rings in County Kerry: An Archaeological Journey Through Ireland's Ancient Heritage

Nestled amidst the breathtaking landscapes of County Kerry, Ireland, lies the Valley of the Rings, a captivating archaeological treasure trove that bears witness to the rich tapestry of human history that has unfolded on the Emerald Isle.

As you venture into this mystical valley, you will be greeted by an array of prehistoric monuments, each with its own unique story to tell. From towering stone circles to enigmatic standing stones, from ancient burial chambers to enigmatic rock art, the Valley of the Rings is a living testament to the ingenuity and artistry of our ancestors.



Derrynablaha: Valley of the Rings in County Kerry (Archaeology Ireland Heritage Guides Book 17)

by Andrew Green

★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5

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Screen Reader : Supported

Print length : 448 pages



The Stone Circles of the Valley

The most striking feature of the Valley of the Rings is its collection of stone circles, which stand as silent sentinels to the passage of time. The largest

of these circles, known as the **Ballynoe Stone Circle**, is a truly awe-inspiring sight, with its massive stones towering over the surrounding landscape. As you gaze upon these ancient monoliths, you can't help but wonder about the rituals and ceremonies that once took place within their embrace.

Another notable stone circle in the Valley is the **Loher Stone Circle**, which is believed to have been constructed around 1500 BC. This circle is unique in that it features a large, flat stone known as the "altar stone."

Archaeologists believe that this stone may have been used for sacrifices or other religious rituals.

The Standing Stones of the Valley

In addition to its stone circles, the Valley of the Rings is home to a number of standing stones, which are often associated with ancient burials. These stones, which can range in height from a few feet to over 10 feet, are often found in isolation or in small groups. Some of the most notable standing stones in the Valley include the **Drombeg Stone**, the **Uragh Stone**, and the **Kealkill Stone**.

The Burial Chambers of the Valley

The Valley of the Rings is also home to a number of burial chambers, which were used by our ancestors to inter their dead. These chambers, which are typically constructed of large stone slabs, can range in size from small, single-chambered structures to large, multi-chambered tombs. Some of the most notable burial chambers in the Valley include the **Ballylahanea Wedge Tomb**, the **Leacanabuaile Wedge Tomb**, and the **Kilmalkedar Wedge Tomb**.

The Rock Art of the Valley

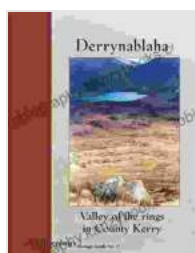
In addition to its prehistoric monuments, the Valley of the Rings is also home to a number of rock art sites. These sites, which are often found on the walls of caves and shelters, feature a variety of carvings and engravings that provide a glimpse into the lives of our ancestors. Some of the most notable rock art sites in the Valley include the **Ballylahanea Rock Art**, the **Derrynafeana Rock Art**, and the **Kilmalkedar Rock Art**.

Exploring the Valley of the Rings

The Valley of the Rings is a popular destination for tourists and archaeologists alike. There are a number of waymarked trails that lead through the Valley, allowing visitors to explore its many monuments at their own pace. There is also a visitor center at the site, which provides information about the Valley's history and archaeology.

If you are interested in Irish history and archaeology, then a visit to the Valley of the Rings is a must. This captivating valley offers a unique glimpse into the lives of our ancestors and the rich tapestry of human history that has unfolded on the Emerald Isle.

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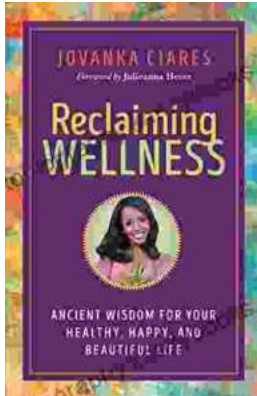
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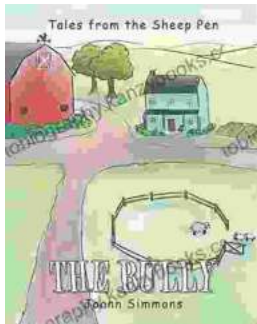
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