

# GUIDE TO CORK CITY

- Including Blarney, Cobh and Midleton

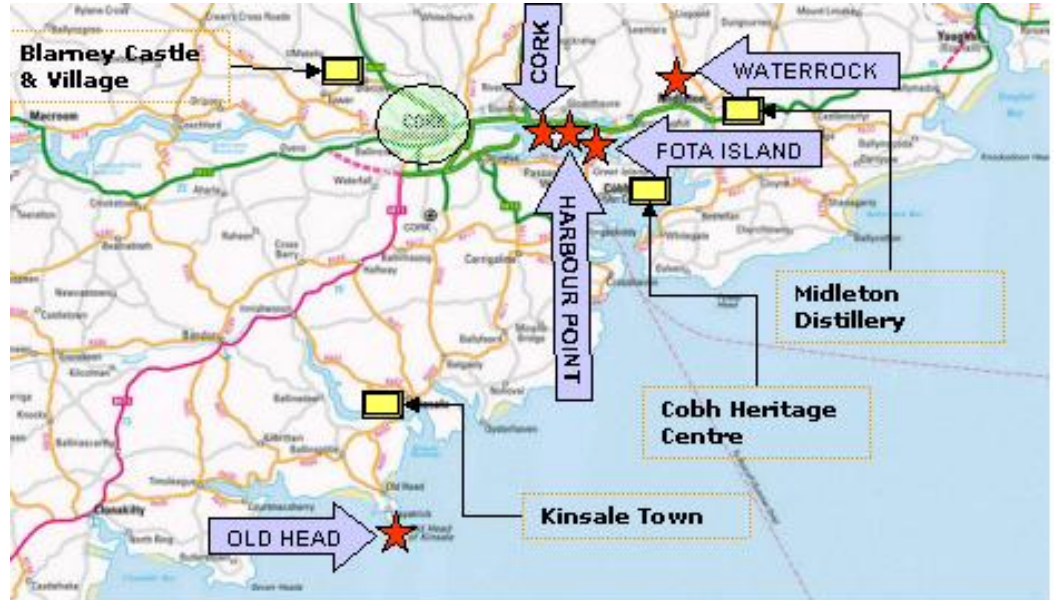


## GENERAL ORIENTATION

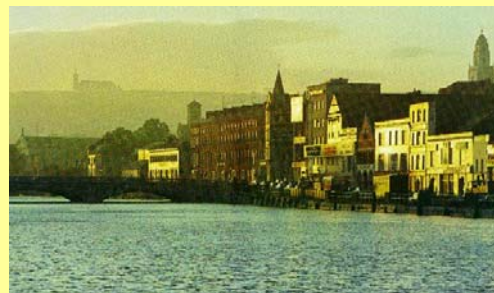
Cork City is Ireland's second city built on the River Lee as it flows towards Cork Harbour.

Blarney Castle is 8 miles, the heritage town of Cobh is 15 miles and the distillery town of Midleton is 15 miles.

The picturesque harbour town of Kinsale is 17 miles.



Corcaigh, meaning 'marsh', is Ireland's second largest city. It is situated on the River Lee, which sources at **Gougane Barra** and flows into one of the worlds deepest natural harbours. Cork's coat of arms reads "Statio Bene Fide Carinis", or a safe place for ships which symbolises Corks historical importance as a maritime trading centre.



Originally a monastic settlement, established by **St. Finbarr** in the 7<sup>th</sup> century, Corks trading history began with the Viking settlement in c.800 and continued with subsequent Norman and Anglo-Saxon settlements. By the 18<sup>th</sup> century Cork was a port of international importance, especially for the exportation of **butter**.

The trading history of Cork is preserved today at the English Market, one of Cork's landmarks, where fresh food of all kinds is sold.

Cork City witnessed several key events during the Irish War of Independence and consequent Civil War, such as the assassination of Lord Mayor Tomas McCurtin and the burning of the city centre by the Black and Tans.

Today, the city is known nationally and internationally as an important centre for third level education, scientific research/production, the arts (hosting the European Capital of Culture in 2005) and an attractive city in which to live.



The city's main shopping thoroughfare is Patrick Street while the best bars and restaurants are located between Patrick Street and the South Mall along Oliver Plunkett Street and its many side streets.

Suburban rail service is available from Cork to Cobh.

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## HIGHLIGHTS

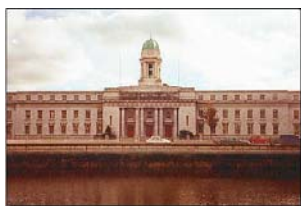
Shandon Bells  
University College  
St. Finbarr's  
English Market

## CORK RESTAURANTS

Jacques  
Clancy's  
Greenes  
Luigi Malones  
La Boqueria

## CORK BARS

The Long Valley  
The Lobby  
Sine  
Dan Lowrey's  
An Spailpin Fanac



## ▶ SHANDON BELLS

Shandon Tower is arguably Cork's most famous landmark and offers great views of the city from its northern slopes. The tower was constructed in 1720, after an original building was destroyed in the 1690 siege.

Two of the tower's walls are made of sandstone, the other two of limestone.

Thirty years later, the Bells of Shandon, cast by Rudhalls of Gloucester and weighing over 6 tonnes were installed in the tower. These can be rung by visitors to the tower.

A public clock was installed in 1847 to inform working-class locals of when to take their medicine. **Father Prout**, composer of 'The Bells of Shandon' and historical Cork figure is buried near to Shandon tower.

Locally, the clock is known as the 'four faced liar' as two clocks tell a slightly different time to the other two.

## ▶ UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK

U.C.C. was founded in 1845 and is one of three original Queens colleges (Queens College Galway, Queens College Belfast). The University motto 'Where Finbarr Taught, Let Munster Learn', refers to a school St. Finbarr established on a site near by in the 7<sup>th</sup> century.



The original campus buildings were built by Sir Thomas Deane overlooking a channel of the River Lee and the pleasant grounds remain today to the south side of the 'Quad'. Also of note is the University chapel where many U.C.C. graduates tie the knot.

## ▶ ST. FINBARR'S CATHEDRAL

Designed and built by William Burgess in 1870, the cathedral is located on the site of St. Finbarr's original monastery. Burgess was enchanted by all things medieval and the Early French Gothic architecture features highly ornamented mosaic work and rich carvings of birds, beasts and gargoyles.



Inside there is a Roll of Honour of parishioners killed during the Great War 1914 – 1918 and a cannon ball fired during the 1690 siege. Legend has it that the golden trumpeter on the cathedral's east side will sound its trumpet on the Day of Judgement!

## ▶ ENGLISH MARKET

With entrances from Patrick St., The Grand Parade and Princes Street the English market is well worth a visit to see the colourful local characters as they sell all kinds of fresh food in this huge market area.



The origins of the market can be traced to James I in 1610. The present building was erected in 1786 but destroyed by fire in 1980 and refurbished by Cork Corporation.

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## HIGHLIGHTS

**Midleton Distillery**  
**Cobh Heritage**  
**Blarney Castle**  
**Blarney Village**



## ► MIDDLETON DISTILLERY

Irish Distillers Group (Jameson, Powers whiskey) main distillery is located at Midleton, 11 miles east of Cork city. The distillery once boasts the largest still (31,618 gallons) in the world.



An audio-visual presentation follows the distilling trail through mills, maltings, corn stores, stillhouse, warehouses and kilns. Sample the produce in the bar and browse the exclusive Jameson merchandise outlet.

## ► BLARNEY

Blarney Castle is an ancient stronghold of the Munster McCarthys, Lords of Muskerry. The present day castle (1456) is the third castle on the site, the original having been a wooden structure erected in the 10<sup>th</sup> century.

Legend tells that Cormac McCarthy supplied 4,000 men to support Robert the Bruce at the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314 and as an acknowledgement received half of the Stone of Scone. This is now known as the Blarney Stone and was incorporated in the battlements where it can now be kissed.



## ► COBH HERITAGE CENTRE

Cobh (Gaelic for 'cove' and pronounced similarly) is a harbour town commanding impressive views of Cork Harbour. From the famine years (1845-1850) until the 1950's, Cobh was the point of emigration for over 6 million Irish citizens, mainly to North America.



The Cobh Heritage Centre tells the story of these emigrants. The statue of Annie Moore and her two brothers commemorate the first immigrant to pass through Ellis Island in New York in 1892.

The term Blarney was coined by Queen Elizabeth I of England who had ordered her generals to take the castle from the McCarthys. Whenever the English tried to negotiate, McCarthy suggested a banquet and spoke at length without ever agreeing to surrender. The queen grew frustrated with the long reports and suggested McCarthy was 'all blarney'.

The village is built around the square in Tudor fashion and maintained by the estate trust. There are numerous craft shops and tea-houses and Blarney Woolen Mills sells traditional Irish knitwear.

