

## TOURIST INFORMATION

Visit one of our Tourist Information Offices dotted throughout the county where staff can assist you with route planning, accommodation bookings and ideas to keep the family busy throughout the holiday.

### TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICES

CORK CITY & COUNTY		
Cork City	<i>(All Year)</i>	+ 353 (0)21 4255100
Blarney	<i>(Seasonal)</i>	+ 353 (0)21 4381624
Bantry	<i>(Seasonal)</i>	+ 353 (0)27 50229
Clonakilty	<i>(All Year)</i>	+ 353 (0)23 33226
Glengarriff	<i>(Seasonal)</i>	+ 353 (0)27 63084
Kinsale	<i>(All Year)</i>	+353 (0)21 4772234
Macroom	<i>(Seasonal)</i>	+ 353 (0)26 43280
Midleton	<i>(Seasonal)</i>	+ 353 (0)21 4613702
Skibbereen	<i>(All Year)</i>	+353 (0)28 21766
Youghal Information Point		+ 353 (0)24 20170

COUNTY KERRY		
Tralee	<i>(All year)</i>	+353 (0)66 7121288
Killarney	<i>(All year)</i>	+353 (0)64 31633
An Daingean (Dingle)	<i>(All year)</i>	+353 (0)66 9151188
Listowel	<i>(Seasonal)</i>	+353 (0)68 22590
Cahersiveen	<i>(Seasonal)</i>	+353 (0)66 9472589
Kenmare	<i>(Seasonal)</i>	+353 (0)64 41233
Waterville	<i>(Seasonal)</i>	+353 (0)66 9474646

The Tourist Information Offices in the Cork Kerry Region are there for your assistance and to help make your stay more enjoyable and informative.



## INTRODUCTION

Located on the South West Coast of Ireland, Cork is the largest of all Irish counties and to many the most varied. Steeped in over 4,000 years of history, Cork today offers its visitors a rich and distinctive cultural heritage. Cork is a region full of colour and contrasts, which includes some of Ireland's most attractive and colourful landscapes.

*From the bustling friendly streets of Cork City, to the rugged beauty of West Cork, the tranquillity and enchantment of North Cork and the holiday atmosphere of East Cork, the region is a land of diversity waiting to be discovered and enjoyed.*

### GAELIC

*Suite ar chósta iar-dheisceart na hÉireann, is é Co. Chorcaí an contae is mó thar contaethe uile na tíre agus dar le mórán an ceann is éagsúla. Agus í baíte sa stair le breis is 4,000 bliain ní h-ionadh go cuireann Corcaigh an lae inniu oidhreacht shabhair dhúchasach ar fáil dá cuid cuairteoirí. Réigiún is ea Corcaigh atá lán do dathanna agus contrárthachtaí, agus ina bhfuil cuid de na radharcanna tíre is áille in Éirinn.*

*Ó shráideanna gnóthacha Chathair Chorcaí go dtí áilleacht fiantas Iarthar Chórcáí agus ó shuaimhneas agus dhraíocht Thuaisceart Chorcaí go h-atmaisféar spraoiúil Oirthear Chorcaí, is áit í atá lán go barr le héagsúlacht agus pléisiúr don té a bhaineann amach í.*

### FRENCH

*Situé sur la côte sud-ouest de l'Irlande, le Comté de Cork est le plus vaste des comtés irlandais et certainement un des plus varié. Ancré dans plus de 4000 ans d'histoire, Cork offre aujourd'hui aux visiteurs une richesse de culture et tradition bien distincte. Le Comté de Cork c'est la région des couleurs, des contrastes et des paysages grandioses*

*Les rues animées et rassurantes de la ville de Cork, la beauté sauvage de l'ouest, la grâce paisible du nord et l'atmosphère de vacances de l'est, composent une mosaïque d'attraits qui ne demandent qu'à être découverts et appréciés. Venez en faire l'expérience ! Cork peut satisfaire tous les goûts et intérêts. Nombreux sites à visiter, nombreux sport à pratiquer ou à voir, nombreux festivals et événements à entendre, déguster et surtout , auxquels prendre part.*

### GERMAN

*Das im Südwesten Irlands gelegene County Cork ist die größte Grafschaft Irlands und zählt zu den abwechslungsreichsten Regionen der Insel. Die Stadt Cork blickt auf eine 4000-jährige Geschichte zurück und bietet heute*

*dem Besucher ein unverwechselbares, reiches Kulturangebot. Kontrastreich und farbenfroh sind die unterschiedlichen Landschaftsformen in diesem Teil der Insel.*

*Die geschäftig-quirrigen Straßen der Hauptstadt, die herbe Schönheit von West Cork und die angenehme Ruhe im nördlichen Rand der Grafschaft - das alles wartet darauf, entdeckt zu werden. Cork verfügt über eine große Auswahl an Urlaubsaktivitäten für ganz unterschiedliche Interessen. Zahllose Sehenswürdigkeiten stehen dem Besucher offen, viele Sport- und Freizeitmöglichkeiten werden angeboten, die Liste der Festivals und Veranstaltungen ist lang und das Mitfeiern äußerst unterhaltsam.*

### SPANISH

*Situada en el suroeste de la costa de Irlanda, Cork es el más grande de los condados irlandeses y el más variado. Con un pasado de más de 4.000 años de historia, el Cork de hoy ofrece a sus visitantes un extenso y característico patrimonio cultural. Cork es una región llena de color y contrastes, entre los que se incluye algunos de los más coloristas y atractivos paisajes.*

*Desde las animadas y agradables calles de la ciudad de Cork a la escarpada belleza del oeste de Cork, la tranquilidad y el encanto del norte de Cork y el ambiente vacacional del este de Cork, la región es una tierra llena de diversidad, esperando a ser descubierta para disfrutar. Ven y vive la experiencia, Cork ofrece una gran variedad de opciones para todos los gustos, con numerosos sitios para visitar, muchos deportes y actividades en las que participar o mirar y ser anfitrión de los festivales y eventos para recrearse y disfrutar.*

### ITALIAN

*Situata sulla costa sud ovest d'Irlanda, Cork è la contea più grande di tutte le contee irlandesi e forse la più variata. Con una storia di oltre 4.000 anni, Cork oggi offre ai suoi visitatori un patrimonio culturale ricco e distintivo. È una regione piena di colore e contrasti, che comprende alcuni dei paesaggi più belli e vivaci in Irlanda.*

*Dalle strade amichevolmente vivaci della città di Cork al bellissimo paesaggio dell'ovest di Cork, dalla tranquillità e l'incanto del nord di Cork all'atmosfera di festa dell'est della contea, la regione aspetta solo di essere scoperta. Cork offre un'ampia gamma di possibilità per ogni tipo di vacanza, con numerosi luoghi da visitare, tante attività sportive e per il tempo libero e innumerevoli festival ed eventi che ti coinvolgeranno. Vieni e vivi questa esperienza unica!*

**Currency**  
The euro is the currency of the Republic of Ireland. One euro consists of 100 cent. Notes are €5, €10, €20, €50, €100, €200 and €500. Coins are 1c, 2c, 5c, 10c, 20c, 50c, €1 and €2.

### Credit Cards

Visa, Mastercard and American Express credit cards are widely accepted in Ireland.

### Banks

Banks hours are generally 10.00-16.00 hrs, Monday-Friday. ATM (cash) machines are located at most banks and accept most credit and debit cards.

### Electric Current

The standard electricity supply is 220 volts AC. Visitors may require a transformer and plug adaptor (*to convert 2-pin plugs to the standard 3-pin plugs*).

### Time

Ireland is on Greenwich Mean Time (GMT). Clocks are put forward one hour mid-March and back one hour at the end of October. During summer it stays light until as late as 23.00 hrs but by mid- December it can be dark by 16.00 hrs.

### Telephone

Mobiles Phones - Only digital phones with GSM subscriptions and a roaming agreement will work in Ireland. Visitors should consult with their network before leaving.

Pay Phones - Easy to use country calling cards are widely available at many outlets.

### E-mail & Internet Access

Internet cafes can be found throughout the region. Many libraries also have internet facilities.

## FESTIVALS & EVENTS IN CORK

The people of County Cork certainly know how to enjoy themselves. The city and county host some of the best festivals on the calendar. Sport, film, music, dance, the arts, literature and food are just some of the causes for celebration. In March, **St. Patrick's Day** is a time of general festivity, with some towns holding a parade on the day itself, and others on the nearest weekend. **Walking festivals** are becoming increasingly popular in spring and autumn, with guided walks by day, and live entertainment by night. Summer is traditionally the time for **regattas**, which take place all around the coast from May to August. **Water sports** are supplemented by free **open-air concerts, Irish dancing, and workshops in artistic activities**. Cork City and the county's towns host a variety of festivals celebrating the **arts and music**, where community events coexist with a commitment to showcasing the highest quality of international performers. Cork's passion for sporting events is unsurpassed. Get to the heart of the region's sporting culture by experiencing the electrifying atmosphere of **Gaelic games** at a hurling or football match. Other compelling sporting events include **horse racing** and **greyhound racing**. Food is increasingly a cause for celebration in Cork, as the region's **artisan food producers** join forces with the county's many famous restaurants to showcase Cork's tradition of fine food. The party is on and you are invited. Log on to [www.corkkerry.ie](http://www.corkkerry.ie) for a full list of events or call into the local Tourist Information Office.

### Shopping, Culture & Crafts *(Cultúr agus Ceardaocht)*

Cork City & County offers a wide variety of shopping. Patrick Street in the city centre is the traditional shopping area, with a wide range of department stores, fashionable boutiques, antique shops, art galleries and shopping malls. There are a wide range of Shopping Malls throughout the City and County. There is a thriving craft industry in Cork County, where there is a strong tradition of talented and skilled craft workers. Designer knitwear, lace, jewellery, ceramics, furniture, wood turning, glass, basketry, weaving, leather and batik and among the crafts on offer. Interesting craft shops selling unique, locally-made goods can be found throughout Cork City and County. Many craft workers and artists welcome visitors to their studios and Galleries which are often located in scenic areas.

## ACTIVITIES TO SUIT ALL TASTES

# Cork

CITY & COUNTY GUIDE



## Travelling Around Ireland

**Bus**  
Expressway coaches link County Cork with locations nationwide. Bus Eireann Tel: 021 4508188 [www.buseireann.ie](http://www.buseireann.ie)

**Rail**  
Irish Rail (*Láimní Éireann*) operates daily maritime rail services from Dublin. Fares and routes to Cork City.

**Emergency Services**  
In the case of an emergency if you require Ambulance, Fire Brigade, Gardaí (Irish Police), Lifeboat or Mountain / Coastal Rescue **Dial 999 or 112**

**Directory Enquiries** (*Irish and including Northern Ireland*)  
11811  
11818

**www.corkkerry.ie**

**Airport Information**  
Daily connections to Cork International from the UK and Shannon Airports. Europe are frequent. Cork can also be accessed from North America via Tralee Tel: +353 67 6764644  
main road between Killybegny and Kerry Airport is located just off the [www.corkairport.com](http://www.corkairport.com)  
City. Tel: +353 21 4313131.  
4 miles, (6 kilometres) south of Cork.

**Ferry Ports**  
Regular ferry services link Cork with Wales and France. The Ferry port for the Cork Kerry Region is located at Ringaskiddy, 10 miles (16 kilometres) south-east of Cork City. Tel: +353 21 4273125

**Car Rental**  
Most of the major car rental companies have reservation desks at the airports, from terminals and large towns throughout the region. Generally, these companies do not rent cars to drivers under 21 or over 70.

**Useful Numbers**  
All drivers must have valid licences. It is advisable to book in advance, especially if you are driving during the high season or if you require an automatic car or child seats.

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**Accommodation**  
Cork City & County offers a broad range of accommodation, from self-catering units to luxurious hotels. Whatever the price range, you will find a warm welcome and the highest standard of service.

**Entertainment**  
A fine variety of social, cultural and sporting events take place in Cork City and County throughout the year. Art exhibitions and fairs, theatrical performances and operas, and guided walks take place year-round. There are festivals celebrating music, film, dance, traditional Irish music, and the fine food local. In summer, regattas and other local festivals fill the calendar with fun events and free entertainment. Many bars have live music, and some offer Irish traditional, sessions and set dancing. There is a varied and eclectic range of venues for all tastes. Cork City has several theatres of varying sizes, and there is a range of dramatic activity on local stages throughout the county.

**Fine Food**  
Cork County has a reputation as a culinary paradise, with a range of foods and restaurants to equal any worldwide. The temperate climate, a long tradition of farming and a plentiful supply of top quality raw materials has attracted chefs and food producers from all over the world, putting Cork at the head of Ireland's culinary revolution. A visit to the English Market in Cork City is a must for any food lover. Here you can sample the wares of the many local artisan food producers, and appreciate the skills of the market's traditional butchers and fishermen. There are also numerous Farmers' Markets which take place throughout Cork County. There is a friendly cosmopolitan atmosphere at the markets, whether in winter or summer - a pleasant mingling of locals, food producers and visitors. So whether you are eating a simple bar ter food lunch, or a formal five course dinner, you will find the food in Cork is fresh, wholesome and flavoursome, and served in pleasant surroundings with flair and generosity. Look out for The Fuchsia Brand and other local food brands

**Sport and Activities**  
Cork City and County offer numerous sporting attractions. The county is famous for its golf courses, deep sea, coarse and game angling. There are several dive centres in the county, ocean-going yachts can be chartered, with or without skipper, and dinghies and surfboards can also be hired by the day or the hour. More and more people are taking to the sea year-round in wetsuits. Wetsuits, surf boards and kayaks can be hired at several venues around the county, ocean-going yachts catering for all age groups. Hostels are run by private operators, as well as room-profit organizations, and have fully equipped kitchens and common rooms. Most have double and single rooms en suite, as well as dormitory accommodation, and will supply bed linen and towels, sometimes at a small extra cost.

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**VISITOR ATTRACTIONS**

There is a wide variety of things to see and do while holidaying in Cork City and County, including interpretative centres, historic buildings, parks and gardens, woodland walks, boat trips and Blue Flag beaches. The following are just a selection of what's on offer. For further information log on to [www.corkkerry.ie](http://www.corkkerry.ie) or contact one of our Tourist Information Offices.

**Cork City & Blarney**

- 1 Cork City Gaol Heritage Centre** Sunday's Well, Cork City  
This imposing building overlooking the city was formerly a prison, and houses life-size waxwork figures in its cells, and a tour with spectacular sound effects. The Radio Museum is also located here.
- 2 Life Time Lab**, Lee Road, Cork City  
The Life Time lab is housed in Cork city's old waterworks along the scenic banks of the River Lee. It offers a fascinating insight into environmental issues and Cork's industrial heritage.
- 3 St. Finbarre's Cathedral**, Dean Street, Cork City  
Widely acknowledged as an architectural gem, this three-spired Gothic cathedral was completed in 1879 on the site where St Finbarre is believed to have founded his monastery in the seventh century.

- 4 St Anne's Church (Shandon Steeple)**, Shandon, Cork City  
Ring the Bells at the pepper pot steeple of St Anne's Church, (also known as *Four Face Liar*) built in 1722, is the city's most famous landmark.
- 5 Cork Butter Museum**, Shandon, Cork City  
The Cork Butter Market, which was in use from the late 1700s until 1924, is next to St Anne's Church. Its classical facade is a reminder that it was one of the most important butter markets in Europe in its day.
- 6 University College Cork (UCC)** Western Road, Cork City  
UCC, a constituent college of the National University of Ireland has been an integral part of Cork life since 1845. The Gothic Revival Quadrangle, Ogham Stones, Aula Maxima (great hall), Honan Chapel and the Lewis Glucksman Gallery, are all highlights to a visit to the University.
- 7 Cork Vision Centre in St Peter's Church** North Main St., Cork City  
This exhibition centre housed in St. Peter's Church displays past, present and future plans for the City of Cork, and regularly showcases visiting exhibitions.
- 8 The English Market** Grand Parade, Cork City  
An indoor food market, built in 1788 is still in operation today, and is one of the highlights of a visit to Cork.

- 9 Cork Public Museum and Fitzgerald Park** Cork City  
Cork Public Museum is located inside Fitzgerald Park which has gardens that span 18 acres. The exhibition of Michael Collins and Cork's role in the War of Independence is a must see. It also has a number of interesting archaeological exhibits.
- 10 Red Abbey Tower** Abbey St., Cork City  
The Red Abbey Tower is the oldest building in the city. (circa 13th century)
- 11 Bishop Lucey Park**, Grand Parade, Cork City  
This park is an oasis of green in the heart of the city, where you can see some of the original medieval town walls, there is also an ornate fountain featuring swans commissioned for the city's 800th anniversary in 1985.
- 12 City Hall**, Anglesea Street, Cork City  
Opened by President Eamonn De Valera in 1936, the City Hall is used as a venue for conferences and concerts, and is home to Cork City Council.
- 13 Elizabeth Fort**, Off Barrack Street, Cork City  
Built in the late 16th century and converted into a prison in 1835. A portion of the fort is open to the public, with great views of the city from its walls.
- 14 Blarney Castle**, Blarney, Co. Cork  
Blarney is renowned for its stone, which has the traditional power of conferring eloquence "the gift of the gab" on all who kiss it.

**North Cork**

- Mallow is the Capital of North Cork and often referred to as the Crossroads of Munster.
- 15 The Spa House**, Mallow, Co. Cork  
The Tudor style Spa house that stands over the spring well, which was discovered in 1724, which lead to the towns reputation a spa town now houses an energy advice centre.
- 16 Mallow Castle**, Mallow, Co. Cork  
Mallow Castle was built beside what once the only river crossing on the Blackwater, and was replaced by a fortified house in the 16th century.
- 17 The Donkey Sanctuary**, Lisacarrall, Mallow, Co. Cork  
The Sanctuary has taken over 1,800 donkeys into care, many rescued from neglect.
- 18 Doneraile Country Park**, Doneraile, Co. Cork  
The park comprises of 166 hectares (412 acres) and is an outstanding example of an 18th century landscaped park in the 'Capability Brown' style. It is situated only 10km from the historic town of Mallow

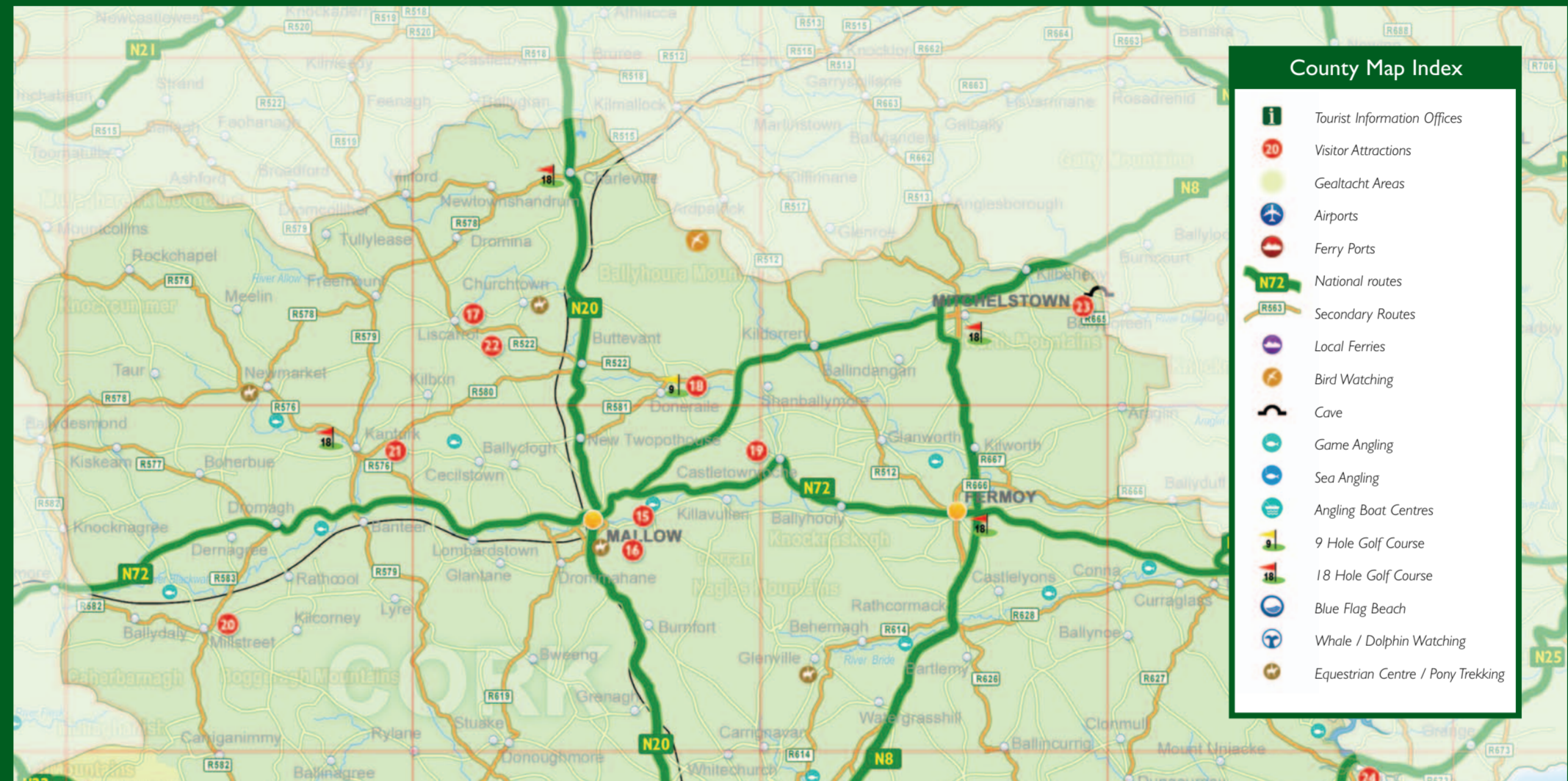
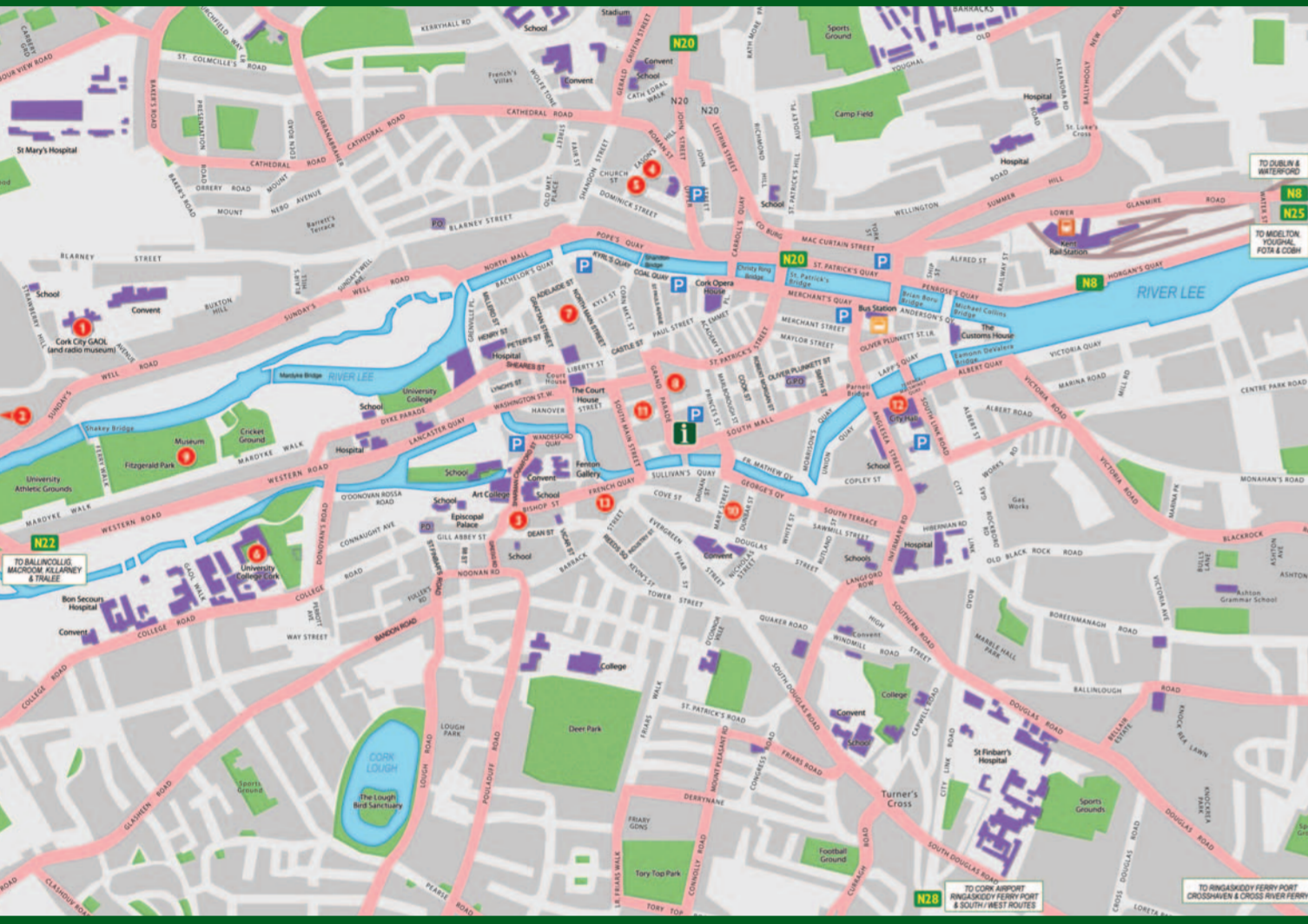
- 19 Annes Grove Gardens**, Castletownroche, Co. Cork  
Set on a sloping site around an elegant early eighteenth-century house overlooking the River Awbeg, the thirty-acre garden is filled with thousands of thriving plants in a layout that merges unobtrusively into the landscape.
- 20 Millstreet Country Park**, Millstreet, Co. Cork  
Millstreet Country Park is renowned for its breathtaking views and themed gardens. A herd of 700 Red Deer can be seen roaming the paddocks, and is also home to many species of birds and wild animals.
- 21 Kanturk Castle**, Co. Cork  
Kanturk Castle, is an impressive ruined shell with ornate fireplaces and mullioned windows, dating from 1601, situated one mile south of Kanturk town, the capital of the ancient Barony of Duhalloo.
- 22 Lisacarrall Castle**, Lisacarrall, Co. Cork  
The Castle is a National Monument. The Castle was built around the year 1280. A large keep survives, with four towers, and is one of the largest 13th century castles in Ireland.
- 23 Mitchelstown Caves**, Burncourt, Cahir, Co. Tipperary  
Mitchelstown Caves is located 12 km east of Mitchelstown, and is one of the most spectacular in Europe, with stalactite and stalagmites reaching up to 10 meters high.

**East Cork**

- 24 Youghal** is a scenic walled port town on the mouth of Munsters majestic **River Blackwater**, it also boasts **5 miles of sandy beaches**. Steeped in history, heritage and culture there are numerous delights to explore. Visit the **original walls of the old town** which are still intact, while the **Clock Gate**, which dates from the 1777, spans the main street. **St. Mary's Collegiate Church**, an 11th Century jewel, nestles within the security of these fortifications. See **Myrtle Grove** which was once home to **Sir Walter Raleigh** who brought Ireland its first potatoes and tobacco, or visit the tomb of **Richard Boyle, 1st Earl of Cork**.
- 25 Fota House & Gardens**, Carrigtwohill, Co. Cork  
Fota House is a fine example of Regency-period domestic architecture, with magnificent neoclassical interiors. Surrounded by parkland, Fota House boasts superb gardens and a world-renowned arboretum.
- 26 Fota Wildlife Park**, Carrigtwohill, Co. Cork  
Fota Wildlife Park is among the most progressive wildlife parks in Europe, with more than ninety species in open, natural surroundings.
- 27 Old Midleton Distillery**, Midleton, Co. Cork  
Follow the distillery trail through mills, maltings, corn stores, still houses, warehouses and kilns and view the largest pot still in the world, all prior to sampling the renowned Jameson Whiskey in the bar.
- 28 Barryscourt Castle**, Carrigtwohill, Co. Cork  
Seat of the Barry family from the 12th to the 17th century, the present castle is a fine example of a 15th century tower house with 16th century additions. The ground floor houses an exhibition on the history of the Barrys and Barryscourt Castle.
- 29 Cobh - The Queenstown Story**, Cobh, Co. Cork  
Cobh was the last port of call for the ill-fated Titanic. The town also was a silent witness to the millions of emigrants who left Ireland in the 19th and 20th centuries. A multi-media exhibition in the old railway station tells the story. Today luxury liners from all over the world call to Cobh, making visitors realize just how far we have come.
- 30 St Coleman's Cathedral**, Cobh, Co. Cork  
The magnificent Cathedral, which towers over the town of Cobh, took half a century to construct. The foundation stone was laid in 1868, and consecration finally took place in 1919. The Cathedral is renowned for its 47-bell carillon.

**West Cork**

- 31 Charles Fort**, Summercove, Kinsale, Co. Cork  
Charles Fort constructed in the late 17th century is a classical example of a star shaped fort. One of the largest military forts in the country, it has been associated with some of the most momentous events in Irish history.
- 32 Desmond Castle**, Cork Street, Kinsale, Co. Cork  
Locally known as "The French Prison", it was built as a custom house by the Earl of Desmond c.AD 1500. It has an International Museum of Wine.
- 33 Kinsale Museum**, Market Place, Kinsale, Co. Cork  
Housed in a 17th-century Dutch-style courthouse, it contains many items of historical interest, including memorabilia from the wreck of the Lusitania.
- 34 West Cork Model Railway Village**, Clonakilty, Co. Cork  
The Model Village depicts in miniature, life and industry in West Cork as they were in the mid-20th-century. Clonakilty is home to Michael Collins and there is a statue of him in the town square.
- 35 Skibbereen Heritage Centre**, Upper Bridge Street, Skibbereen.  
The Great Famine Commemoration Exhibition brings this tragic period in the 1840s to life in a series of exhibits, dramatizations and interactive stations. The Lough Hyne Interpretative Centre explains the unique nature of the nearby marine lake, Ireland's first Marine Nature Reserve.
- 36 Gougane Barra Forest Park** Near Ballygeary, Co. Cork  
The deep corrie lake at Gougane Barra is the source of the River Lee. It was here that St. Finbar founded his monastery in the 6th-century. It is now marked by a replica early Irish chapel. There are several attractive walks for carrying degrees of fitness around the 142 hectares of wooded land.
- 37 Bantry House and Gardens & 1796 French Armada**  
Bantry House is 18th century stately home and gardens built on an elevated terrace overlooking Bantry Bay.
- 38 Garinish Island (Innacullin)**, Glengarriff, Co. Cork  
A small island off Glengarriff was transformed into a series of gardens in the early 20th-century by Architect and horticulturist Howard Peto. He used Italian Renaissance architecture in the Italian garden to contrast with the wilderness of the surrounding mountains.
- 39 Lisselan Estate Gardens**, Clonakilty, Co. Cork  
Twelve hectares of carefully sculpted gardens have been planted in the valley of the River Argideen in the beneficial microclimate of West Cork.
- 40 Schull Planetarium**, Schull, Co. Cork  
Attached to the Schull Community College, this is Ireland's only planetarium, and will give you a guided tour of the night skies
- 41 Mizen Head Signal Station**, Near Goleen, Co. Cork  
The Mizen Head is Ireland's most southwesterly point, and the location of a dramatically-sited lighthouse above the Head's treacherous rocks. This has now been converted into an award winning visitor centre, and is an exciting and exhilarating experience for all ages.
- 42 Call of the Sea**, Castletownbere, Co. Cork  
A voyage of discovery this centre tells the story of copper mining in the area, the naval history of the Bantry Bay and the development of the fishing industry.



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**Gaeltacht Areas**  
There are a number of Gaeltacht (Irish speaking) areas throughout West Cork and these include Oileán Chléire, Béal Átha an Ghaorthaidh, Cúil Aodha and Cill na Martra. Summer colleges operate in some of these areas and as well as bringing students, these Irish Language courses also form part of family holidays. Many overseas visitors to the Gaeltacht areas very much enjoy the atmosphere of the traditions of the Gaeltacht way of life and in particular participating in traditional entertainment including Irish music, song and dance. In the case of the Cúil Aodha Gaeltacht, the area became better known through the musical genius of Seán Ó Riada.

**The Islands of West Cork**  
There are several islands off the West Cork coast, all well worth visiting for their unspoilt landscape and rich wild life. Whiddy Island in Bantry Bay is a short ferry ride from Bantry, and Bere Island also in Bantry Bay has two regular ferry services, one from Castletownbere (15mins) and one from the pontoon to the east of the town (20 mins). Oileán Chléire (Cape Clear) is an Irish-speaking island with a bird observatory at the mouth of Roaringwater Bay, about 45 minutes by ferry (foot passengers only) from Baltimore and Schull in season. Sherkin Island is famed for its monastic remains and its sandy beaches, and is only five minutes from Baltimore by ferry. Heir Island, also in Roaringwater Bay, is a small island 1.5km by 2.5km also with good beaches. Long Island has a population of ten. Dursley Island is located at the extreme south-westerly tip of the Beara Peninsula, and access is by the only cable-car in Ireland.

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