

CORK CITY AREA GUIDE

INCLUDING BLARNEY, CORK CITY
— & HARBOUR GUIDE —

PLUS MAPS



The River Lee, Cork City.



CORK KERRY TOURISM

CORK CITY AREA GUIDE INCLUDING BLARNEY, CORK CITY & HARBOUR GUIDE

Cork City - Cork City (*in Irish Corcaigh - a marsh*)

The second city of the Republic of Ireland has a population of over 160,000 people. Like Venice the city is built upon the waters, and Cork centre is built on an island in the River Lee, just upstream of Cork Harbour. The two channels of the River Lee which embrace the city centre are spanned by many bridges, and this gives the city a distinctive continental air. However it is often said of Cork City that it has all the amenities of a large city, but still manages to retain its pleasant atmosphere and extreme friendliness, which you will experience on your visit. Cork is a city of remarkable charm, and the visitor cannot fail to be captivated by its hilly streets, bumpy bridges, peaceful backwaters and inconsequential air.

Blarney - 10 km (6 miles)

Blarney is the home of Ireland's Crown Jewels - The Blarney Stone. Every year thousands of visitors from many countries stop off at this internationally known castle to kiss the famous Blarney Stone which, traditionally, imparts the 'gift of eloquence' to all who kiss it.

Carrigtwohill

Carrigtwohill is 16 km (10 miles) from Cork City on the main road to Youghal, and Fota Estate is a short distance away.

Cobh - 24 km (15 miles)

Cobh is situated on the southern shore of the Great Island in one of the world's natural harbours, often compared with Sydney Harbour and San Francisco Bay. The town dates from 1750 when a tiny fishing village was established on the site of the present town. As the country's premier port of call for transatlantic liners, it was for many years the point of departure for thousands of emigrants who were heading for the New World in search of a better life. The Queenstown Story Exhibition Centre is well worth visiting.

Midleton - 24 km (15 miles)

To the East of Cork City Midleton is a thriving business town which has managed to retain its old identity. Wide streets for the motorist, colourful shops and friendly people who savour the taste of unhurried life, will delight the visitor here. History has endowed Midleton with numerous castles which are easily reached from the town centre. Take time to visit the Jameson Heritage Centre.

Whitegate - 38 km (24 miles)

A major holiday centre is located some miles away at Roches Point, on the southern coastline.

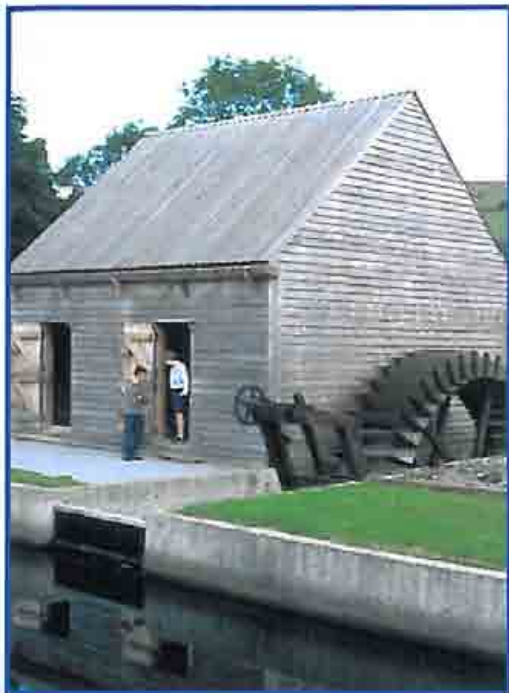
Monkstown/Passage West -

11 km (7 miles)

It was from Cork Harbour that the 'Sirius' sailed for New York on April 3rd, 1838. This vessel was the first passenger steamship vessel to cross the Atlantic, and she reached New York on April 22nd. She was under the command of Captain Richard Roberts who was born in Passage West in 1803. A memorial at nearby Glenbrook recalls this historic crossing. A Car Ferry operates from Glenbrook to Carrigaloe, near Cobh.



Grand Parade, Cork City.



Ballincollig Gunpowder Mills, Ballincollig.

Carrigaline - 13km (8 miles)

Carrigaline at the head of the Owenboy River is a busy town, and the nearest centre to the Ringaskiddy Car Ferry Terminal, which links Cork with Swansea and Roscoff.

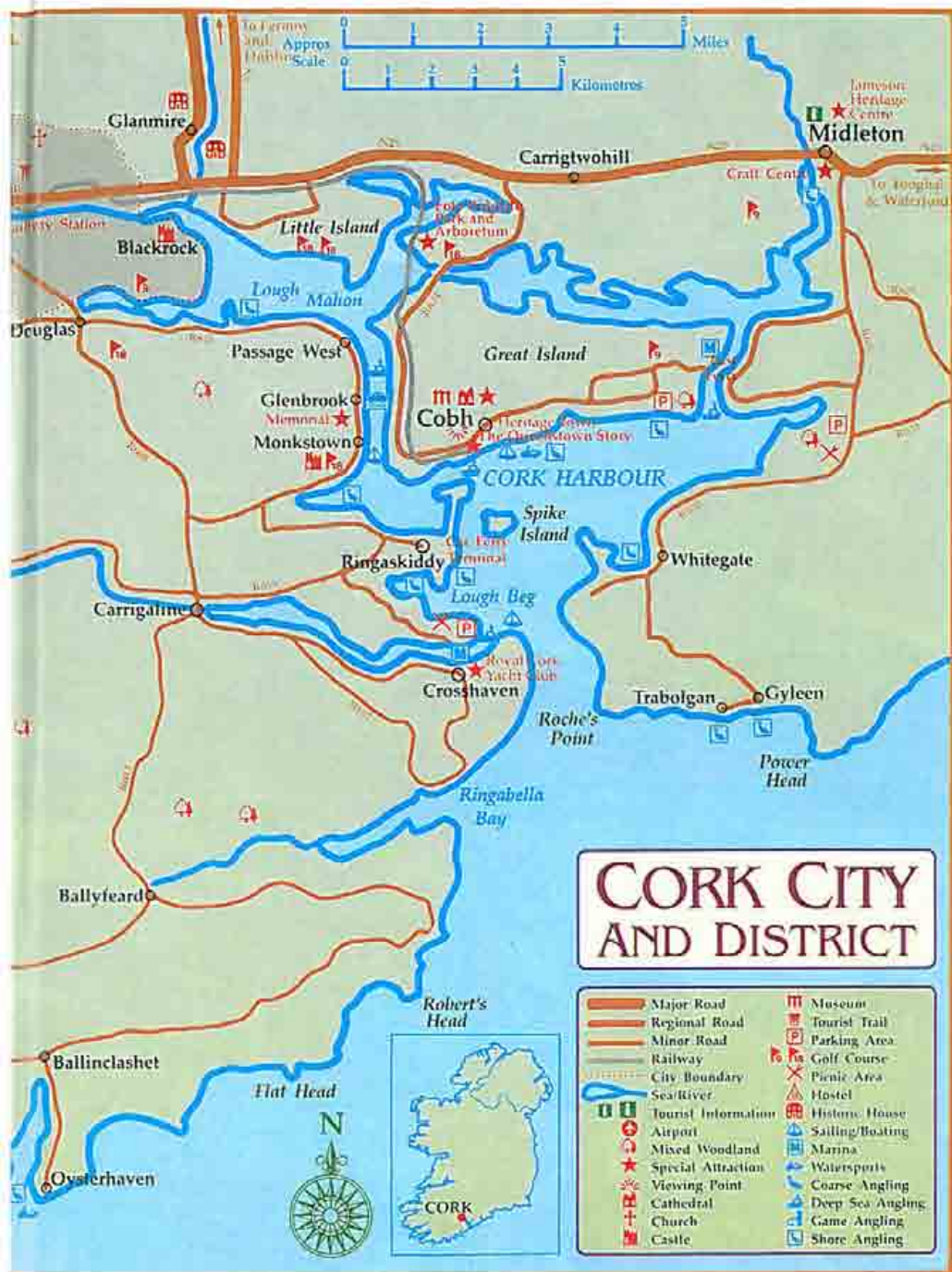
Crosshaven - 6 km (4 miles)

East of Carrigaline lies Crosshaven where the Owenboy River enters Cork Harbour, and is one of the major international sailing centres in Ireland. Here you will find the headquarters of the Royal Cork Yacht Club with the charter of the oldest Yacht Club in the World. There are beaches, secluded coves and cliff walks in the Crosshaven area.

Ballincollig - 10 km (6 miles)

Ballincollig is a major town on the western side of Cork City on the main road to Macroom. In 1794 the Gunpowder Mills were established by Charles Henry Leslie, a member of that well known Cork banking family. The Army Barracks was built at Ballincollig to protect the supplies of gunpowder, and it still survives today as Murphy Barracks. The Mills finally closed in 1903, and some areas of the complex have been restored by Cork County Council. A Powder Mills Exhibition Centre has been opened on the banks of the River Lee.





DAY TOURS

TOURS BY CAR

The Tourist Information Office will be pleased to advise you on interesting day tours.

CYCLE TOURS

Details are available at Tourist Information Offices, and a Cycling Guide is also available.

BUS TOURS

Ask at Tourist Information Offices for details.

PLACES OF INTEREST

CORK CITY

St. Anne's Church, Shandon - built in 1720. The pepper-pot top to the steeple is notable as is the fact that two sides of the tower are in limestone and two in sandstone. The tower contains the famous Shandon Bells, which visitors may ring. The view from the top of the steeple 37 metres (120 feet) is well worth the effort to get there.

The Butter Exchange - close-by to the church steeple at Shandon is the site of the old Cork Butter Market. In 1770 the Cork Butter Market was opened, and by 1892 the Butter Market was exporting 500,000 casks of butter all over the world, valued at £1.5 million annually. The Butter Market finally closed in 1924.

Skiddy's Alms House - Also in the Shandon area the Skiddy's Alms House was built in the 18th Century.

Quaker Meeting House, Grattan Street - This is the building of the former Quaker Meeting House where William Penn embraced the creed before going off to the new world to found Pennsylvania.

Former Mansion House, Henry Street - This building is now the Mercy Hospital, but was formerly the Mansion House for the Mayor of the City. It was erected in 1767. The building became a hospital in 1857.

Courthouse, Washington Street - Designed by Paine Brothers in the 1830's. It has a most imposing entrance from Washington Street.

St. Finn Barre's Cathedral - This is the Church of Ireland Cathedral of the City. On this site St. Finbarr founded his monastic school about 650, and this school drew scholars from many parts of Europe. The Cathedral was opened in 1870, the architect being William Burgess of London, who chose the French Gothic style.

The Cathedral of St. Mary & St. Anne - The present cathedral, built in 1808, is Neo-Gothic in style, and features an 180 ft. Tower built over the Great West Door in 1868. Extended in 1966-1967, it was renovated and re-furbished in 1995-1996, to bring it into line with modern liturgical requirements. The interior now features many items of heritage value, notably 27 wood carvings of Apostles and Saints, sculpted by the well-known Cork sculptor, John Hogan, in 1822. A number of modern artworks were commissioned during the recent refurbishment.

City Hall, Cork City.



Crawford Art Gallery - Emmet Place - This gallery has an interesting frontage of red brick dressed with limestone. It was built in 1724 as the Custom House, when this street was then the King's Dock. It operated as a Custom House up to 1832. A modern extension was opened in 2000.

South Mall - Along the South Mall on the left hand side going towards the City Hall, you will see a series of steps leading up to various offices. The arches under the steps were originally built for boats going to the warehouses behind the dwellings. This reflects an earlier period when the Mall was a branch of the River Lee, and the steps led from the water to the houses of the merchantmen.



Fota Wildlife Park, Co. Cork.

South Chapel, Dunbar Street - Built in 1776. Under the high Altar is the delicate sculpture of the 'Dead Christ' which is the work of Ireland's most distinguished sculptor of the last century, John Hogan (1800-1858). The marble for this piece comes from the same Carrara Quarries used by Michaelangelo.

Church of Christ the King - This Church at Turner's Cross, is striking in its design, and is elliptical in plan. Its length is exceeded by its width by 29 feet.

Red Abbey, Red Abbey Street - Here you will see the square tower of the late Medieval Abbey of the Canons of St. Augustine. This is the oldest piece of architecture surviving in the city.

Elizabeth Fort, off Barrack Street - Built in the late 16th Century and converted into a prison in 1835. A portion of the fort is open to the public, and commands fine views of the city from its walls.

Christ Church Archive Centre, South Main Street - This church was closed some time ago, and has been converted into an Archives Centre for the City. It is open Monday to Friday.

University College Cork - The Honan Chapel is situated in the grounds of the University, and the main feature is the series of stained glass windows designed by Harry Clarke and Sarah Purser. Built in 1915/1916 it is modelled on the 12th century Cormac's Chapel at Cashel. The Chapel may be closed during College holidays,

so please check with the Tourist Information Office at Grand Parade. The University was opened in 1849, and was designed by Sir Thomas Deane, on the lines of a typical Oxford College. The fine quadrangle is of special interest. Tours are available in the Summer months.

City Hall, Anglesea Street - This is the headquarters of Cork Corporation and City administration. The fine Concert Hall in the building is the venue for concerts, festivals and functions.

County Hall, near Victoria Cross - The County Hall is the administration building for Cork County Council and has seventeen stores.

Coal Quay, Cornmarket Street - This is an open air street market near the junction of Grand Parade and Patrick Street.

City Market - Entrances off Grand Parade, Patrick Street, and Princes Street. The origins of this Market may be traced back to James 1st. In 1610, but the present building dates from 1786. The market has a wide range of stalls selling fruit, vegetables, etc.

Fr. Mathew Statue, Patrick Street - This statue commemorates the apostle of temperance, Father Mathew (1790-1861), and is a focal point for the city.

National Monument, Grand Parade - The Monument remembers the Irish patriots who died during the period 1798 - 1867.

Fitzgerald's Park, off Western Road - This park 1.6 km (1 mile) from the city centre is bounded on one side by the River Lee, and on the other by the Mardyke. The Museum in the park contains a most interesting collection of exhibits which trace the history of Cork from the earliest times to the present century. Its collection of very fine silver is especially important. Check Museum opening times with the Cork City Tourist Information Office.

City Park, Grand Parade - This park was opened in 1986 during the Cork 800 celebration year. Immediately inside the gates you will see a portion of the old city walls which have been excavated and restored.

Sailing in Cork Harbour.



Cork City Gaol, Sunday's Well - the old City Gaol has been restored as a highly exciting visitor attraction which sets out to tell visitors what life was like there for prisoners in the 19th. century. The building itself is of major architectural importance. An exciting Audio Visual presentation is an integral part of the experience. Sound Guides are available. The Irish Radio Museum is also based here.

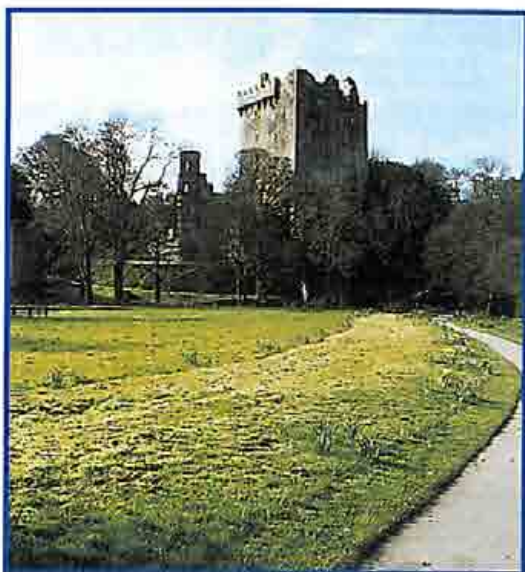
BLACKROCK

Blackrock Heritage Park near Blackrock village is well worth a visit. A number of heritage exhibitions have been developed at the Park which tell the story of the social and economic development of Cork City. The grounds at the Park are open to the public and they have been developed to a very high standard.

BLARNEY

Blarney Castle - The present Castle with its 26 metres (85 feet) high keep was built by the McCarthy's in 1446. It replaced an earlier castle on the same site. The famous Blarney Stone is kissed by many visitors each year, and tradition says that those who kiss the stone will receive the gift of eloquence. The word 'Blarney' was introduced into the English Language by Elizabeth I, and is described as pleasant talk, intended to deceive without offending.

Blarney Castle House - This Great House completed in 1874, is open to the public. Blarney Castle House is a Scottish baronial-type house, with some extremely interesting furnishings. The gardens and lawns are well presented and Blarney Lake is a treat not to be missed.



Blarney Castle, Co. Cork.

The Rock Close - This forms part of the grounds of Blarney Castle. This is a curious place of ancient trees and far more ancient stones.

Round Tower - The round tower at Waterloo outside Blarney was built in the middle of the 19th. century by Fr. Matt Horgan, the then parish priest of Blarney. Such structures were used for defensive purposes.

CARRIGTWOHILL

Fota Wildlife Park - Fota Estate is located off the main road to Cobh and contains two major visitor attractions. Fota Wildlife Park is Ireland's only Wildlife Park, and is set in gently rolling pasture land, and is an area of special interest to the visitor. In this rural setting one can view rare and endangered species of wildlife, in surroundings which have been developed as close as possible to their natural environment. Dogs and other pets are not allowed into the wildlife park. The park is usually open from April to October on a daily basis, but please check in advance with the Tourist Information Office. Fota House is due to open in 2001.

Fota Arboretum - The Fota Arboretum is possibly the finest in Ireland and contains an excellent collection of trees and shrubs from the temperate and sub-tropical regions of the world. Of special interest are the collections from Japan, China, South America, Australia and New Zealand. There are also collections of trees from the Himalayas and North America. The Arboretum is open normally from April to October on a daily basis. Fota House opens to the public in 2001.

Barrysourt Castle - The area surrounding this castle has been developed as a crafts centre, using the existing castle out-buildings. Part of the castle is undergoing on-going restoration.

MIDLETON

The Middleton Distillery - was founded in 1825 and modernised in 1975, and manufactures spirits for distribution worldwide. The Old Distillery was closed in 1975 and has the largest potstill in the world. The Jameson Heritage Centre has been developed as a visitor attraction. This tells the story of the whiskey manufacturing process. The guided tour of the site and buildings ends with a whiskey tasting.

COBH

The Queenstown Story - in a portion of the Railway Station building. This major visitor attraction was opened in early 1993. It tells the story of emigration from Ireland and Cobh to America and Australia in the period from the famine up to the 1950s. Items of special interest include sections on the loss of the Liners "**Lusitania**" and "**Titanic**". A Cobh Town Trail has also been developed.

St. Coleman's Cathedral - Dominating the town of Cobh, this is a large Gothic revival Church by Pugin, and its carrillion of forty seven bells is the largest in Ireland, and is known worldwide. Carrillion recitals are given from time to time. The exterior is of blue Dalky Granite, and Newry Granite is used for the entrance doorway and other areas. The interior columns are of Fermoy, Middleton and Connemara polished Marble.

Lusitania Memorial - The Liner Lusitania was torpedoed off the Old Head of Kinsale in 1915, and the Memorial by Jerome Connor recalls the incident, and the fact that many of the survivors were landed at Cobh. The last port of call for the Titanic before she sailed to disaster was at Cobh.

Cobh Museum - The museum is located in Scots Church on the road into Cobh from Rushbrooke. This is a converted church and contains many interesting displays which relate to the Lusitania disaster, Cobh and its maritime history.

The Ringaskiddy Car Ferry Terminal - is approximately 8 km (5 miles) away and provides links from Cork to Swansea and Roscoff.

MONKSTOWN - PASSAGE WEST

Monkstown Castle - This is now the clubhouse for Monkstown Golf Club, and is said to have been built by Anastasia Goold, who stipulated that her workmen must buy all their food from her. When the budget was balanced on completion of the castle it is said that the building cost her one penny!

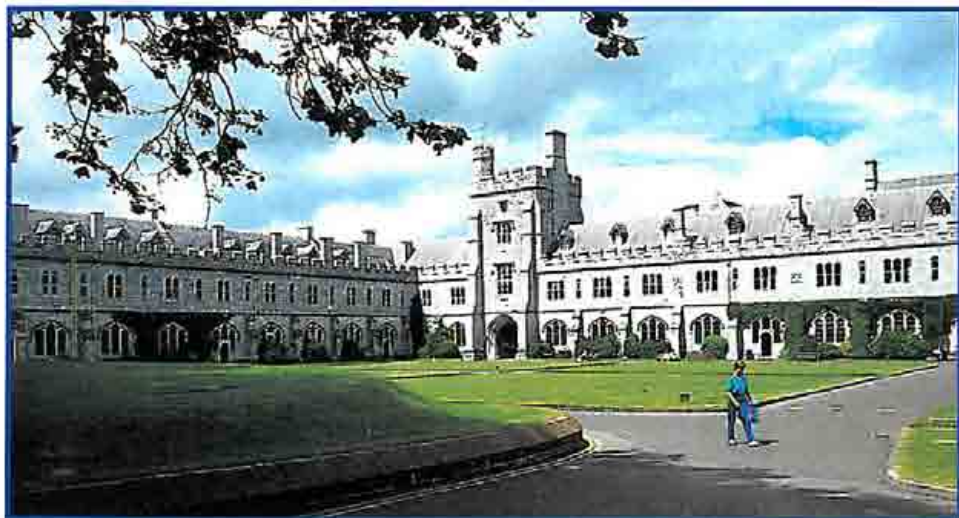
CARRIGALINE

Currabinny Wood - close to Carrigaline is worth visiting, and commands some fine views of the harbour area. The wood has a gazebo or summerhouse where the original owners once took afternoon tea.

CROSSHAVEN

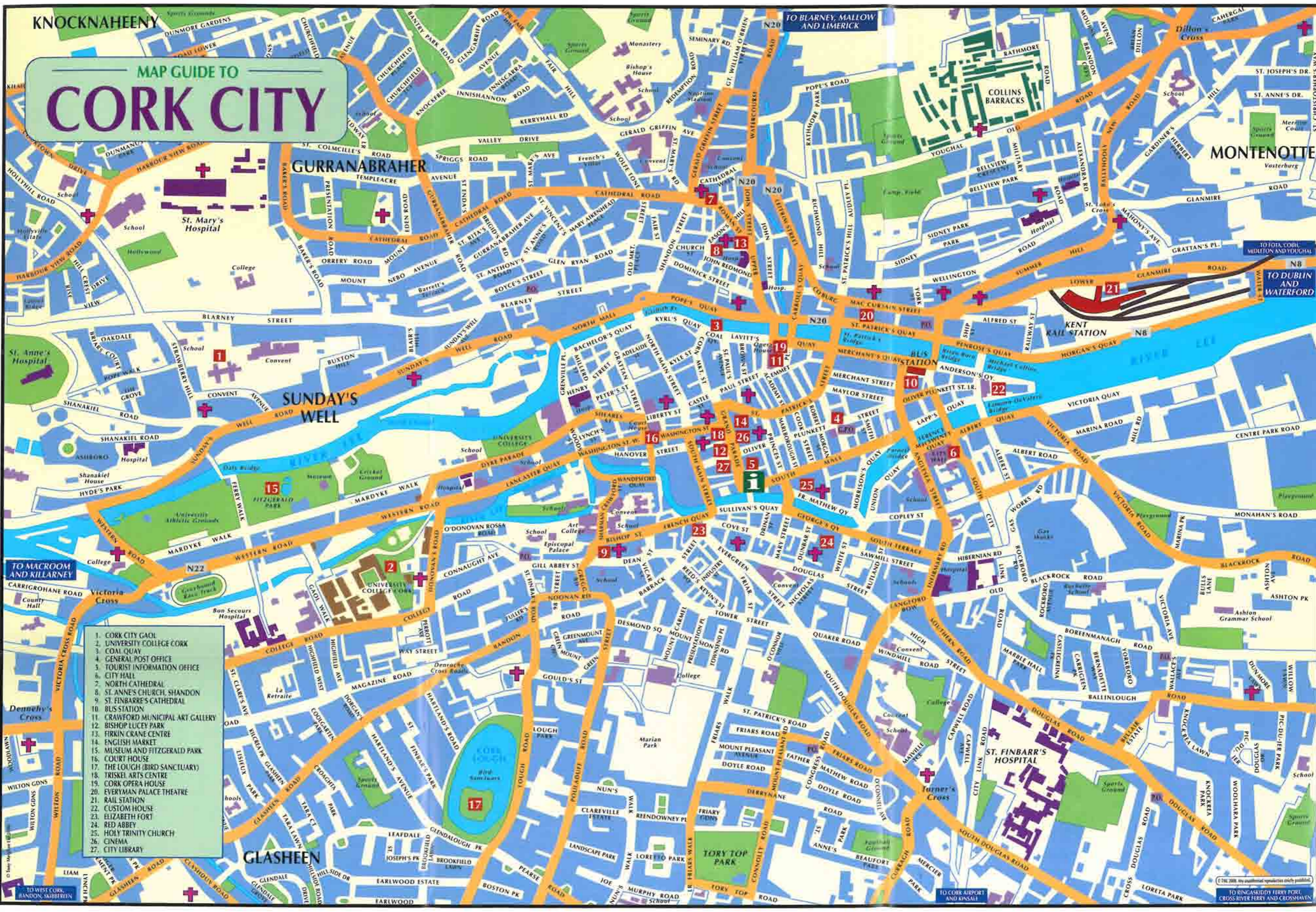
The Royal Cork Yacht Club - is the oldest in the world, and was originally established across the harbour at Cobh in 1720. The Yacht Club is now the venue for many national and international yachting events. Ford Cork Week, a major international regatta is held every second year - next in 2004.

University College, Cork.



KNOCKNAHEENY

MAP GUIDE TO CORK CITY



1. CORK CITY GAOL
2. UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK
3. COAL QUAY
4. GENERAL POST OFFICE
5. TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICE
6. CITY HALL
7. NORTH CATHEDRAL
8. ST. ANNE'S CHURCH, SHANDON
9. ST. FINBARR'S CATHEDRAL
10. BUS STATION
11. CRAWFORD MUNICIPAL ART GALLERY
12. BISHOP LUCEY PARK
13. FIRKIN CRANE CENTRE
14. ENGLISH MARKET
15. MUSEUM AND FITZGERALD PARK
16. COURT HOUSE
17. THE LOUGH (BIRD SANCTUARY)
18. TRISKEL ARTS CENTRE
19. CORK OPERA HOUSE
20. EVERYMAN PALACE THEATRE
21. RAIL STATION
22. CUSTOM HOUSE
23. ELIZABETH FORT
24. RED ABBEY
25. HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
26. CINEMA
27. CITY LIBRARY

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TO RINGASKIDDY FERRY PORT CROSS RIVER FERRY AND CROSSHAVEN

ANGLING

Blarney - Trout angling on the Rivers Shournagh and Martin.

Cobh - Deep sea angling boats are available out of Cobh. The normal fishing grounds are outside the harbour mouth. However the inner harbour can provide some excellent sea angling also. Shore angling is available from the pier, and along the shore of Great Island.

Crosshaven - Deep sea angling boats are available at Crosshaven and these boats have returned some excellent catches, over a very long fishing season.

Ballincollig - The River Lee is an excellent salmon angling river, and angling permits may be available from the Cork Salmon Anglers, and the Lee Salmon Anglers.

Monkstown/Passage West - Deep sea angling boats are available out of Glenbrook.

Ballinacurra (near Middleton) - There is one deep sea angling boat available from the Ballinacurra area.

ANGLING - GENERAL

It is suggested that visitors check with one of our Tourist Information Offices with regard to licences, and permits (where necessary) for angling.

ENTERTAINMENT

Cinema - Nightly cinema is available in many of the areas covered by this area guide and local newspapers will have the up-to-date programmes.

Night Clubs - Discos are available in many centres, especially at weekends.

Theatre - Cork City has a very strong tradition for good drama. Venues in the city include the Cork Opera House, the Granary Theatre, the Everyman Palace, and the Cat Club.

Singing Pubs - Many bars and lounges provide evening entertainment during the season, and you should never feel shy about contributing a song or two yourself!

Cabaret - Cabaret is available in some centres during the visitor season.

Blarney - Special programmes of visitor entertainment are provided in Blarney during the Summer season, using a variety of different venues in the village.

ACCOMMODATION

There is a very wide range of visitor accommodation throughout the areas covered by this area guide. This includes hotels and guesthouses, town homes, country homes and farmhouses, self-catering and caravan & camping. There is also a youth hostel and private hostels in Cork City. Private hostels are also available in other towns. Our Tourist Information Offices will be happy to make your reservations for you. During the main visitor season advance bookings are recommended.

Cork Airport - Cork Airport is located on the Cork/Kinsale Road 6 km (4 miles) from the city centre, and serves national and international routes.

Railway Station - Cork Railway Station is located on the Lower Glanmire Road, 5 minutes walk to the city centre.

Bus Station - The Bus Station is located at Parnell Place, a short walk from Patrick Street.

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TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICE SERVICES

To get the most out of your holiday in the Cork City area, call to one of our Tourist Offices.

Cork City Tourist Office (All Year)

Aras Fáilte, Grand Parade, Cork.

Tel: (021) 4255100 Fax: (021) 4255199

Skibbereen Tourist Office (All Year)

Town Hall, Skibbereen.

Tel: (028) 21766 Fax: (028) 21353

Bantry Tourist Office (Seasonal)

The Courthouse. Tel: (027) 50229

Blarney Tourist Office (All Year)

In Co-operation with Blarney Tourism.

Tel: (021) 4381624

Clonakilty Tourist Office (Seasonal)

25 Ashe Street. Tel: (023) 33226

Cork Airport

Freefone in Airport Terminal.

Glengarriff Tourist Office (Seasonal)

The Village. Tel: (027) 63084

Kinsale Tourist Office (Seasonal)

Pier Road. Tel: (021) 4772234

Macroom Tourist Office (Seasonal)

Castle Gates. Tel: (026) 43280

Midleton Tourist Office (Seasonal)

c/o Jameson Heritage Centre.

Tel: (021) 613702

PUBLICATIONS

- Guest Accommodation Guides
- Self Catering Guide
- Cork County Guide
- Beara Way Walking Map
- Walking Routes in County Cork
- Blackwater Valley Area Guide
- Blarney Area Guide
- East Cork Area Guide
- West Cork Area Guide
- Activity Guide
- Cycling Routes Guide
- Kinsale Tourist Trail
- Youghal Tourist Trail
- Regional Brochure
- Time Tables
- Golf Guide
- Posters, postcards and much more.

SERVICES

- Bureau de Change
- Accommodation Reservations
- Car hire reservations
- Cabin cruiser reservations
- Booking service for tours.
- Local information on entertainment, things to do, places of interest and day trips from Cork.

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