

west cork

IRELAND



WEST CORK TOURISM
turasóireacht iarthair chorcaí

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West Cork, Ireland.
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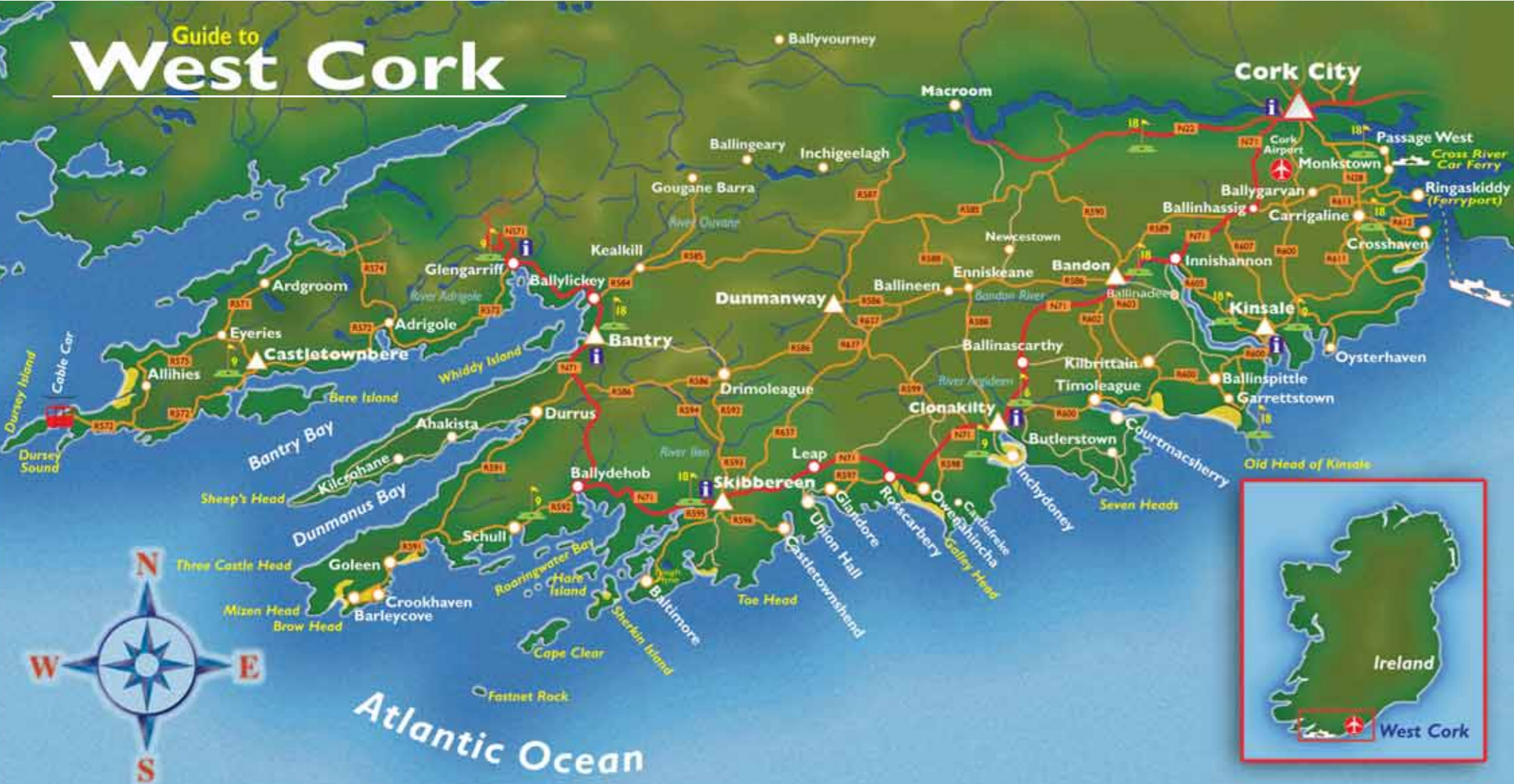


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WEST CORK TOURISM
turasóireacht iarthair chorcaí

Guide to West Cork



Symbols:

- Information/Tourist Office
- Cork Airport
- Cross River Car Ferry
- Car Ferry
- Main Towns
- Cable Car
- Golf Course
- Beach
- (N) National Roads
- (R) Regional Roads

Approximate distances:

| | |
|---|------|
| Ringaskiddy Ferryport - Ballinhassig..... | 15km |
| Cork Airport - Kinsale..... | 20km |
| Kinsale - Clonakilty..... | 32km |
| Clonakilty - Rosscarbery..... | 14km |
| Rosscarbery - Skibbereen..... | 16km |
| Skibbereen - Bantry..... | 29km |
| Bantry - Castletownbere..... | 53km |

This map should be used only as a guide to locations and places of interest. For accurate route information consult an official Ordnance Survey map.

West Cork awaits...

Vibrant on the one hand, tranquil on the other, West Cork is a fantastic place to visit with facilities to cater for all ages and tastes, making your break in West Cork a uniquely individual experience. Okay, you would hardly expect us to say otherwise, but we stand over our claim with confident pride and this guide is our way of showing you how West Cork is an ideal holiday destination that will not disappoint.

Whether you are looking for an all-action activity holiday or a quiet and peaceful break from the stresses of modern living, the range of options are here. The West Cork region has so much to offer that people come back time after time to sample more of its delights. It is famous for its inspiring scenery, the wholesome quality of its food and the welcoming, relaxing ambiance of its restaurants, bars, and accommodation. Combine these with the hospitality of the West Cork people and you have the perfect recipe for the perfect holiday.

So read on and find out for yourself what this idyllic corner of the south west of Ireland has to offer. Wherever you choose, from Kinsale to Allihies, the breadth of experience is up to you. West Cork awaits...

area one

page 4



BANDON, KINSALE, Carrigaline,
Crosshaven, Innishannon

area three

SKIBBEREEN, Glandore,
Union Hall, Leap,
Castletownsend, Baltimore
& The Islands
THE MIZEN PENINSULA,
Ballydehob, Schull, Goleen,
Crookhaven, Barleycove



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area five

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THE BEARA
PENINSULA,
Glengarriff, Adrigole,
Castletownbere,
Bere Island, Allihies,
Eyeries, Ardroom



area two

CLONAKILTY,
Timoleague,
Courtmacsherry,
Ballinascarthy,
Inchydoney,
Rosscarbery,
Rathbarry



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area four



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BANTRY, Ballylickey, Drimoleague,
Dunmanway, Ballineen, Enniskeane
SHEEP'S HEAD PENINSULA, Durrus,
Ahakista, Kilcrohane

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West Cork Tourism is part funded by the West Cork LEADER Co-op Society which set up the Fuchsia Brands Ltd Initiative in 1998. West Cork Tourism is proud to be associated with this flagship initiative which since its inception has underlined the unique nature of the products and services found throughout West Cork.



The Fuchsia Brand Initiative



The Fuchsia, long associated with West Cork has been chosen as the symbol of origin and quality for the food and tourism products of the region and reflects positive local characteristics, such as environmental quality, as well as the richness and diversity of the heritage, culture and landscape. The Fuchsia Brand initiative was launched in 1996 and producers and providers sanctioned to utilise the "Fuchsia Logo" must adhere to strict quality criteria, thereby ensuring excellence in all aspects of product and service quality. We invite you to visit many of the wonderful destinations throughout West Cork and to sample the local produce available in local guest accommodation, restaurants, stores and supermarkets. We are pleased to invite your comments on any aspect of the Fuchsia Brand initiative, or any of the accredited companies or products. For this purpose a Consumer Response Card is available at each of the tourism members establishments. Alternatively you may register your comments at www.fuchsiabrands.com.

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www.westcork.ie



Carrigaline

The Bandon Valley has the most fertile land in the area yielding some of the regions finest natural produce, which enhances the reputation held by West Cork as the host to some of Ireland's finest restaurants. So here begins a flavourful journey for all palates!



Crosshaven Marina



Bandon is close to Cork city and is the ideal place for relaxing days out with a number of beaches, notably Harbour View and Coolmaine nearby. Sports enthusiasts have their pick of quite an extensive range of activities including gaelic football, hurling, soccer, rugby, hockey, tennis, swimming and pitch and putt as well as a full 18 hole golf course. Other amenities include the West Cork Heritage Centre and one of the highlights of the festival calendar is the Bandon Music Festival which takes place over the June bank Holiday weekend every year.

BANDON, KINSALE Carrigaline, Crosshaven, Innishannon



the gateway

Bandon is considered the gateway to the West Cork region. The town is also one of the oldest in West Cork and boasts a wealth of historic buildings and is situated on the banks of the Bandon River, it offers some of the best freshwater angling in the area.

Bandon River



Situated 15 kms south of Cork city **Carrigaline** is very close to both Cork airport and Ringaskiddy ferry port. At the mouth of the Owenabue River, it serves as a great starting point to visit the magnificent local coastline. One of these coastal towns, **Crosshaven**, is famous for the Royal Cork Yacht Club and its internationally renown sailing festival.

Heading west beyond Kinsale is the village of **Innishannon**, with its picturesque setting on the banks of the Bandon River it provides an ideal break on the journey west.

Cork Week



BANDON, KINSALE
Carrigaline, Crosshaven,
Innishannon



The Bandon River finishes its journey flowing into the sea at Kinsale Harbour. Heralded as Ireland's Gourmet Capital, **Kinsale** has held its reputation for over 25 years since the town's pioneering first Gourmet Festival was launched by the Kinsale Good Food Circle and the many restaurants in the town continue to keep up with changing and more sophisticated culinary tastes, maintaining and improving to meet the requirements of the most discerning palate.



Kinsale is an active town with the town's hoteliers and publicans always dreaming up good excuses for festive events like the Heineken Rugby Sevens in May and the Autumn Flavours Festival in October so Kinsale is a must for those who want to eat, drink and be merry! However, it is not merely a haven of hedonism – the more energetic visitor has the choice of sailing, golf and walking or for the more leisurely visitor there are numerous craft shops and galleries displaying local talent to browse around.



Kinsale Marina

Old Head, Kinsale



The residents of Kinsale have been deriving their livelihood from the sea for centuries. Many local trawlers still ply their trade between the yacht marinas off the pier adding to the hustle, bustle and colour of busy summertime quay activities, and this special connection with the sea in is celebrated by Kinsale's annual regatta at the start of August.

It is an ancient town steeped in history; St. Multose Church dating back to Norman times and Jamesfort (1604) and Charlesfort (1670) can be found at the mouth of the harbour to the south of the town. Just over 400 years ago, the British defeat of the Irish and invading Spanish forces in the Battle of Kinsale, fought at the end of 1601, marked a major turning point in Irish history.



Milk Market, Kinsale

gourmet capital

Visitor Attractions:

Desmond Castle & The International Museum of Wine, Kinsale

Charles Fort, Kinsale

James Fort

St. Multose Church

CLONAKILTY

Ballinascarthy, Timoleague,
Courtmacsherry, Rathbarry,
Inchydoney, Rosscarbery



Most of the towns in West Cork partake in an annual competition that illustrates their civic pride; The National Tidy Towns Competition. Colourful **Clonakilty** won the top award in 1999, and for its use of flowers in its beautification, the European Entenet Florale competition in 2000, as well as the worldwide Nations in Bloom gold medal in China, in 2001. Of course no visit to Clonakilty is complete without sampling the famous Clonakilty Black Pudding available from the local butchers as well as featuring on many of the local bar and restaurant menus, that add to the towns already abundant colour and flavour.



Clonakilty

Visitor Attractions:

Michael Collins Centre, Castlevue, Clonakilty
Tel: 023-46107

Lios na gCon Ringfort, Clonakilty
Tel: 023-33302

Timoleague Abbey

West Cork Model Railway Village  Tel: 023-33224

Lisselan Gardens  Tel: 023-33249



Inchydoney



Castlefreke



Model Village, Clonakilty



Model T

The West Cork Model Railway Village gives an overview in miniature of the main West Cork towns and its railway network, which operated in the middle of the 20th century. Transport history is also featured in the nearby village of **Ballinascarthy** where Henry Ford's grandfather lived before emigrating to America in the 1840's. A beautiful replica of the Model T is sited at the side of the road in Ballinascarthy to commemorate the association.

historical

The rich heritage of the Clonakilty area may be explored through attractions such as the Michael Collins Centre which presents Michael Collins evenings, the General Michael Collins Homestead and Lios na gCon ringfort dating from the 10th Century.



East of Clonakilty lie two villages not to be missed; **Courtmacsherry** providing shore and sea angling and historic **Timoleague** with its medieval abbey. The coastline between these two villages offers a great opportunity for bird watching, with over 200 species recorded as well as providing some breathtaking scenery and varied terrain along the Seven Heads for walking enthusiasts.



Rathbarry

The neighbouring village of **Rathbarry**, which also features annually among the national award winners in the Tidy Towns competition, is a must on any day's exploration of the hinterland.



Inchydoney

Clonakilty is close to some of the finest stretches of sandy beaches in West Cork with **Inchydoney** to the south and several idyllic little coves only the locals know best, so get chatting!

CLONAKILTY
Ballinascarthy, **Timoleague**,
Courtmacsherry, **Rathbarry**,
Inchydoney, **Rosscarbery**



coastal charm

Timoleague Abbey



Rosscarbery



The view of **Rosscarbery** as one approaches the village from the Clonakilty side is dominated by the spire of St Fachtna's cathedral. This quiet village is central to a number of sandy beaches with the Warren stretching in front of the causeway and the Long Strand further east at Ownahincha. Activities for all the family are available with a pitch and putt course, golf driving range and canoeing and paddle boating facilities in the lagoon between the village and the causeway.

Rosscarbery



SKIBBEREEN

Glandore, Union Hall, Leap, Castletownshend,
Baltimore, Sherkin Island, Cape Clear Island
THE MIZEN PENINSULA
Ballydehob, Schull, Goleen



Located 60 km west of Cork city, Skibbereen is a bustling market town with a truly cosmopolitan feel. It is central to several charming coastal villages and gateway to the Mizen peninsula.

charming

Visitor Attractions:

Dun na Sead Castle, Baltimore Tel: 028-21580

Skibbereen Heritage Centre Tel: 028-40900

West Cork Arts Centre Tel: 028-22090



Lough Hyne

Skibbereen has a long history strongly associated with the troubled times of the Irish famine. An impressive interactive audiovisual display documenting the effects of the famine on this part of West Cork can be found at the Skibbereen Heritage Centre. The centre also includes a feature on Lough Hyne, Ireland's first Marine Nature Reserve, which is 5 km from Skibbereen. It has a unique eco system harbouring species of sea life that only exist in this West Cork Lough and in the Mediterranean Sea.

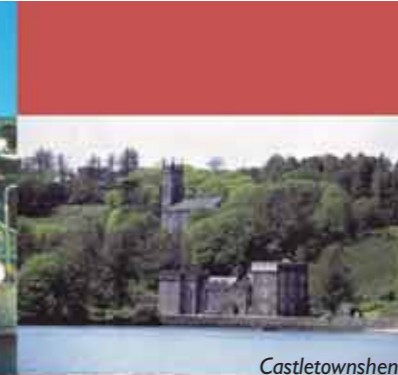
The nearby village of **Leap** has the Central Track used for Irish Harness Racing and visiting horse lovers can check out this very popular West Cork activity with events happening throughout the year.



Skibbereen Heritage Centre



Glandore



Castletownshend

variety

From sandy beaches and sailing to historic sites and superb scenery, the two neighbouring coastal villages of **Glandore** and **Union Hall** have plenty between them to keep visitors entertained. Glandore is a haven of tranquillity, a lovely place to relax by the sea and an ideal port for sailing the coastline. One of the major attractions at Glandore is the Drombeg Stone Circle, one of the most important archaeological sites in the area, which is oriented towards the Winter Solstice sunset. Union Hall is a quiet village with a thriving fishing industry that provides the local pubs and restaurants with an abundance of seafood adding to its attractive pub life. It is also a centre for summer cruises along the coastline to view the whales and dolphins and for deep-sea angling trips.

8 km from Skibbereen is one of the quaintest little villages in West Cork. Developed around the castle, which was built in the mid 1600's, **Castletownshend** is steeped in history and culture. The village church named after St. Barrahanne, a local 5th century monastic hermit contains beautiful stained glass windows and historic relics which tell the history of the founding families. The attached graveyard is the final resting place of the two Victorian writers Somerville and Ross whose works included "Tales of an Irish RM". On the short journey from Skibbereen keen eyed travellers will spot some of the remnants of our ancestors with a number of archaeological sites just a few miles from the village including a substantial ring fort.



Drombeg Stone Circle

SKIBBEREEN

Glandore, Union Hall, Leap, Castletownshend,
Baltimore, Sherkin Island, Cape Clear
THE MIZEN PENINSULA
Ballydehob, Schull, Goleen



The Mizen Peninsula reaches out from Skibbereen and culminates in some of the most spectacular scenery at Ireland's most southwesterly point, Mizen Head. Down the 99 steps across the awesome bridge is the enlightening Mizen Head Visitor Centre adjoining the lighthouse which provided detailed information on the operations of the lighthouse.



Mizen Head

Schull is a cosmopolitan seaside village. Like many of the other coastal villages Schull is a great sailing centre and its proximity to the beaches at the end of the peninsula make it a popular family destination. The local Planetarium features regular showing of galactic activity and is a popular attraction for both locals and visitors.

Schull



Ballydehob



Cape Clear

Cape Clear is the biggest of the nearby islands and its hilly, rugged terrain is great for energetic walkers. Known in Irish as *Oilean Chléire*, it is a designated Gaeltacht area where Irish is the first language of the natives. **Sherkin Island** renowned for its sandy beaches, is also accessible by ferry from Baltimore all year round. One of its main features is the 15th century Franciscan Friary and ruins of the O'Driscoll clan fort.

Visitor Attractions:

Schull Planetarium

Tel: 028-28552

Ceim Hill Museum, Union Hall

Tel: 028-36280

Drombeg Stone Circle, Glandore

Mizen Head Visitor Centre



Tel: 028-35115

Baltimore is a busy coastal village which provides ferry access to the two main off shore islands. It is a popular venue for water sports enthusiasts providing facilities such as scuba diving, windsurfing, canoeing, sailing and deep-sea angling.

Ballydehob has a marvellous twelve arch viaduct across at the village entrance, which was part of the West Cork Rail network in the early part of the 20th century. The village is noted for its quaint pubs and good restaurants and its rural surrounds are home to many retreating artists, writers and actors who succumbed to its truly West Cork charms.

At the southwestern end of the Mizen Peninsula there are two villages **Goleen** and **Crookhaven**, ideally positioned alongside the spectacular beaches of **Barleycove** and **Ballyrisode**. This stretch of coastline also provides some spectacular cliff walks.



The Beacon, Baltimore

small is beautiful

BANTRY

Ballineen & Enniskeane, Dunmanway
Drimoleague, Ballylickey

SHEEP'S HEAD PENINSULA

Durrus, Ahakista, Kilcrohane



Bantry is primarily a market town with a wealth of amenities to supplement the natural beauty of its idyllic setting. It has a full range of accommodation from budget to luxury, a cinema, a number of restaurants catering for a wide variety of tastes as well as lively pubs and nightclubs.



Bantry Harbour

En route from Bandon to Bantry are the twin villages of **Ballineen** and **Enniskeane** dating back to about 1790. The villages have a range of sporting facilities open to visitors and just north of the villages you can see Kinneigh Round Tower built in 1014. This intriguing 80-foot tall hexagonally based tower is the only example of its kind in Ireland.



East from Bantry heading away from the coast is the village of **Drimoleague**. A refurbished corn mill in the village centre houses a stained glass enterprise.

Visitor Attractions:

Bantry House & Gardens

Tel: 027 51796

Sam Maguire Birthplace, Dunmanway

Carriganass Castle, Kealkil

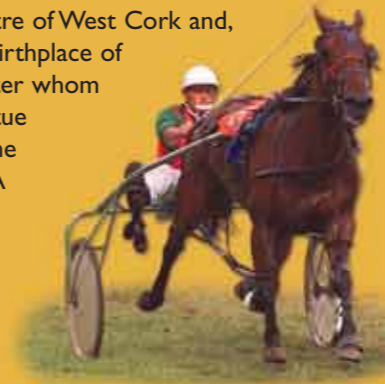
cosmopolitan

The major tourist attraction in the town is Bantry House, built by the White family in the first half of the 18th century with its notable gardens, fine furnishings and art collection. It is also host to the audio visual display of the Armada Centre, which charts the events leading to and resulting from the attempts by the French Armada to land in Bantry Bay in 1796 and the involvement of the famous Irish patriot Wolfe Tone. It is also the main venue for the internationally renowned West Cork Chamber Music Festival each summer, when some of the top exponents of classical music entertain in this intimate venue.



Bantry House

Geographically, **Dunmanway** would be the centre of West Cork and, therefore, an ideal base for touring. It was the birthplace of Sam Maguire, a local and national sports hero after whom Gaelic football's coveted trophy is named. A statue commemorating his local association stands in the centre of the town's main square, while the GAA Park is called after him. The town is also famous for its annual Ballabuidhe Races and Horse Fair every August. Dunmanway has a number of pubs and restaurants as well as the public indoor heated swimming pool which adjoins a playground and pitch and putt course.



Dunmanway



Sheep's Head

Visitor Attractions:

Carraig Abhainn Garden, Durrus

027-61070



Leaving Bantry and heading west one travels through Ballylickey and to the left of the road are some panoramic views of Bantry Bay and Whiddy Island with the Sheep's Head Peninsula on the far side.

tranquility



A more rugged peninsula, the Sheep's Head is the second of the three major land jetties in West Cork. Its three villages, **Durrus**, **Ahakista** and **Kilchrohane** are in a veritable world of their own and mark good stops along the scenic drive which boast fabulous panoramic views of both Bantry and Dunmanus Bays. However getting out and about on foot may be a more attractive alternative, if so, the highly recommended Sheep's Head Way is the ideal option. All three villages have friendly pubs ideal for rest and refreshments and can be lively spots for impromptu traditional music sessions, making this a rural yet cosmopolitan place.

BANTRY
Ballineen & Ennisakeane, Dunmanway
Erimoleague, Ballylickey
SHEEP'S HEAD PENINSULA
Durrus, Ahakista, Kilchrohane



THE BEARA PENINSULA Glengarriff, Adrigole Castletownbere, Bere Island Allihies, Eyeries, Ardgroom



No visit to Glengarriff would be complete without taking the short ferry trip to **Garnish Island** to enjoy the beauty of its famous Italian gardens. The village has hotels, craft centres and restaurants and its setting at the head of the Beara Peninsula makes it an ideal base for short tours.

Calling it Glorious **Glengarriff** would not be an abuse of alliteration, because the gateway to the Beara Peninsula is indeed that and more. Once favoured even by British royalty as an idyllic holiday retreat, Glengarriff is a small village that nestles amongst ancient woodlands, historic sites and subtropical gardens.



Garnish Island

The **Beara Peninsula** is a rural gem. Beyond Glengarriff the rugged mountains, Sugar Loaf and Hungry Hill, lead you to the village of **Adrigole**, which harbours a fully equipped sailing centre, and onwards into the heart of Beara life and its main town of **Castletownbere**.

One of the country's premier fishing ports, Castletownbere is kept busy servicing the needs of both Irish and foreign fishing vessels. The town has a selection of pubs and restaurants, serving the best of locally landed fresh fish and self-catering, hotel and B & B accommodation. For the culturally minded there is an Art Trail around the numerous galleries and studios in the area. An accompanying map is freely distributed in various venues all along the route.



Hungry Hill Waterfall

natural beauty



There are a number of historic ruins in the Castletownbere area, notably Dunboy Castle built in the 13th century, home of the ancient local chieftain O'Sullivan Bere, and Puxley's Castle dating from the 15th century. There are a number of events commemorating this local history to mark in your diary when visiting, including the Battle of Dunboy commemoration.

Bere Island is one of the larger inhabited islands off the coast of West Cork, near the mouth of Bantry Bay and is just a short ferry ride from the fishing port of Castletownbere it provides an alternative walking route tracing the archaeological sites and features.



Copper Mines, Allihies

The picturesque villages of **Allihies**, **Eyeries** and **Ardgroom** further along the Ring of Beara illustrate why the area has become a haven for so many artists and writers.

Allihies, with its cheerfully colourful buildings is a cosmopolitan village, with the welcoming Dzogchen Buddhist Centre nearby to complete the heady experience. Contrasting this contemporary side of village life are the striking remnants of the copper mines perched on the baron hillsides, echoing the now defunct industry operated by the Puxley family.

THE BEARA PENINSULA Glengarriff, Adrigole Castletownbere, Bere Island Allihies, Eyeries, Ardgroom



rugged beauty



Allihies

Dursey Island is a rugged piece of land just off Dursey Sound It is a must for any birdwatching enthusiast and apart from the wildlife and breathtaking scenery it is bound to add novelty to any day trip as it is reached from the mainland by cable car.



Eyeries Village

Castletownbere Pier



The picturesque village of Eyeries, which has deservedly won national Tidy Towns awards, overlooks the Atlantic Ocean and is home to the tallest Ogham Stone in the world (17.5 ft/5.3m). Another example of Ireland's heritage is the stone circle near the village of Ardgroom. Ardgroom is also a great base for anyone interested in trout fishing with the the two lakes Glenbeg and Derryvegal in its immediate vicinity.

Visitor Attractions:

Dunboy Castle

ACCESS BY AIR – FLIGHTS TO CORK

As the premier gateway to the south of Ireland, Cork Airport offers excellent new route opportunities for scheduled and charter services. The airport is situated just 8 km south of Cork City, on the Kinsale Road and a bus service is available to and from the city centre with departures every 25 - 45 minutes.

Scheduled Air Services to Cork Airport

There are direct year round services to / from the following destinations:

| | | |
|------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Alicante | Gdansk | Manchester |
| Amsterdam | Jersey | Nantes |
| Barcelona | Katowice | Newcastle |
| Belfast | Krakow | Newquay |
| Berlin | Lanzarote | Nice |
| Birmingham | Leeds Bradford | Paris |
| Bristol | Liverpool | Prague |
| Budapest | London Gatwick | Rome |
| Cardiff | London Heathrow | Southampton |
| Dublin | London Stansted | Tenerife |
| Edinburgh | Lorient | Warsaw |
| Faro | Madrid | Wroclaw |
| Galway | Malaga | |

For flight information contact
Cork Airport Tel: 021-4313131
Website: www.corkairport.com

The West Cork region is also easily accessible to other airports, the city being only 76 miles from Shannon Airport and 63 miles from Farranfore (Kerry) Airport.



BUS & RAIL TRANSPORT

| | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|--|
| Bus Éireann | Tel: 021-4508188 | www.buseireann.ie |
| Iarnród Éireann- Irish Rail | Tel: 021-4506766 | www.irishrail.ie |

CAR HIRE COMPANIES AT CORK AIRPORT

| | Telephone | Website |
|---------------------|-------------|--|
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| Budget | 021-4314000 | www.budget.ie |
| Hertz | 021-4965849 | www.hertz.ie |
| Irish Car Rentals | 021-4318644 | www.irishcarrentals.com |
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| Enterprise | 021-4327031 | www.enterprise.com |
| Murrays Europcar | 021-4917300 | www.europcar.ie |
| Thrifty Car Rental | 021-4977884 | www.thrifty.ie |

FERRIES TO CORK

The Ferryport for the West Cork region is located at Ringaskiddy, southeast of Cork City. With its natural sheltered deepwater harbour, the Ringaskiddy Ferry Terminal is the ideal entry point for visiting ferry and cruise passengers to Cork. It accommodates car ferry services to Britain and Continental Europe.

The Cork region can also be accessed easily from Rosslare, Dun Laoghaire and Dublin Ferry ports.

Brittany Ferries: Tel.021-4277801 Website: www.brittanyferries.ie operates a service from Roscoff – Ringaskiddy (Cork) from April to October.

Stena Line: Tel. 0044 8705 707070 or 021-4272965 Website: www.stenaline.com operates a service from Fishguard - Rosslare all year 'round.

Irish Ferries: Tel. 0044 8705 171717 or 0818-300400 Website: www.irishferries.com operates a service from Pembroke - Rosslare all year 'round - two sailings a day and from Cherbourg – Rosslare from February – December.



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Fernhill House Hotel

A family owned and managed hotel set in the tranquil surroundings of Clonakilty, West Cork, Ireland. Teresa and Michael O'Neill look forward to welcoming you to Fernhill House Hotel, Clonakilty.

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 Email: info@baltimoreharbourhotel.ie

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