

3 Day Itinerary: Cork



CORK CITY BRIDGE



KINSALE



BLARNEY CASTLE

Day 1

Arrive Cork Airport. Meet your chauffer at the airport. He will bring you to the hotel, where your walking tour guide will await you.

Enjoy 3 hour walking tour of Cork.

Cork City, which is Ireland's second largest city, takes its name from the marshy land on the banks of the River Lee on which St. Finbarre founded a monastery around AD 650. The city's narrow alleys, waterways and Georgian architecture give it a distinctly continental feel.

For a wide choice of different cuisines head for the pedestrian area between St Patrick's and Paul Streets. The English Market is a covered fruit and vegetable market established in 1610. Now selling a wide range of hand-made and exotic foods as well as the original fruit and vegetables, it is a food lover's paradise.

Afternoon free to explore on own.

Day 2

Full day with the driver-guide touring Kinsale and Blarney Castle.

An ancient seaside town, Kinsale is full of style and character. It is also a winner of the National Tidy Towns Competition. In the 17th and 18th centuries it was an important English naval base, and it still has a distinct Georgian flavour. With its yacht-filled harbour, brightly painted cottages, bow-winded houses and displays of flowers in pots, tub and hanging baskets, it marks the beginning of scenic West Cork, and well deserves its booming tourist industry. Only 18 miles from Cork, it is ideally placed as a deep-sea angling and yachting centre. In 1601 Kinsale was the scene of a battle in which English troops defeated a mixed Irish-Spanish force. It was followed by the 'Flight of the Earls', when many of the Irish aristocracy surrendered their lands and fled to mainland Europe.

Continue onto the famous Blarney Castle. The story here says that Dermot MacCarthy had the gift of 'plamas', the Irish word for soft-talking flattery. MacCarthy tried to talk his way out of handing over Blarney Castle to an agent of Queen Elizabeth I. He prevaricated until the Queen declared "I will hear no more of this Blarney talk", and gave the English language a new word. The legend persists that anyone who kisses the famous stone high up on the castle parapets will be endowed with the "gift of the gab". Aside from the magic stone, the castle, added in 1446 by Cormac MacCarthy to an earlier tower, is well worth a visit.

The massive four storey keep changed hands during the Civil and Williamite Wars and was used at one point as a prison for the Protestants of Cork. The gardens known as Rock Close were laid out by the Jefferyes family in 1759. Beside the castle is the Victorian Scottish baronial home of the Colthurst family. In the village are The Blarney Woollen Mills, one of the largest and best craft shops in Ireland.

Day 3

Free day in Cork.

Day 4

Private transfer to Cork Airport

Where to stay in Cork?

• Hayfield Manor – 5 Star

Set in two acres of gardens near University College Cork, the city's premier hotel provides every comfort and a remarkable level of privacy and seclusion, just a mile from the city centre.

• The River Lee Hotel – 4 Star

The River Lee Hotel is well-located beside the university and is within a comfortable (10 minute) walk to the city centre in good weather. It is imaginatively designed to make the very most of its waterside location, with all the main public areas having balconies as well as acres of glass - the relatively low key decor is designed to last.

Prices & Inclusions

Price includes:

- 3 nights' accommodation with full Irish breakfast, service charges and taxes included
- Walking tour of Cork
- Full day with the driver-guide in a luxury vehicle
- 2 airport transfers
- 24 hours service

Price for 5* option:

From EURO €1,200 per person sharing

Price for 4* option:

From EURO €890 per person sharing