INTRODUCTION
Take a tour around the Ring of Cork Bird Trail, a driving route of over 100km, stretching from Rocky Bay in South Cork, to Pilmore Strand in East Cork. The trail can be enjoyed by everyone, young and old alike; from complete beginners to bird watching enthusiasts, as it takes you on a journey through a region of national and international importance for birds.

Remember too that the type and number of birds you can see here will change with the seasons, so there is something different to see all year round. Don’t forget your binoculars; essential for those real close-up views!

SECAD
South & East Cork Area Development (SECAD) is a local non-profit-making partnership group. Our overall objective is to promote greater sustainability across the communities that live in South and East Cork through investments promoting balanced enterprise, social and environmental development.

The Ring of Cork Bird Trail is one example of SECAD’s multi-dimensional strategy to encourage a greater awareness of our most precious environment, whilst also promoting eco-education and eco-tourism across South & East Cork.

To learn more about our work please find us at www.secad.ie

Visit www.secad.ie or www.ringofcork.ie or scan the QR code

ROCKY BAY

History - Many shipwrecks have been recorded here, as far back as 17th century, the most notable being that of the paddle steamer Killarney which left Cork for Bristol in 1838 when survivors clung to a pinnacle of rock for two days awaiting rescue.

MINANE BRIDGE

History - The second oldest Roman Catholic Church in the diocese of Cork and Ross, built in 1755 was completely destroyed by fire in 1817. It was beautifully restored in 1836. Nearby is the ancestral home of 1916 GPO patriot, Diarmuid Lynch, who is buried in the graveyard of Tracton Abbey.

KILNAGLEARY

Habitat & Species - The area is home to great crested grebe, which allows you to get a good close up view of different species.

GOLDEN ROCK

History - Dramatically situated on headlands at opposite ends of the entrance to Cork Harbour, Fort Camden and Fort Carlisle, you can access Fort Camden on this side of the water by going through the village of Crosshaven.
RAEVEN CREEK
Habitat & Species: During the winter months, many species of wildfowl and waders flock to the estuarine mudflats at the northern end of Carrigtwohill, to avoid the harsh conditions of Northern Europe and Iceland.

History: Irregularly it was a small fishing village until 1795 when John Heywood, a pharmaceutical company, constructed a critical and public use for the inhabitants of this area began. For panoramic views of Cork Harbour, walk up the coastal footpath between the site of the Old Carrigtwohill and Creggery.

KENNEDY PIER
Habitat & Species: While some gulls are present year-round, Gulls in summer for visits are rare. At the end of the pier and looking out to the distant, period Brandt'suar calls of the winter visitors are heard daily.

History: Kennedy Pier, originally known as Victoria Pier, was built in the 1800s. After a succession of formal and informal names, it became known as Admiralty Pier, before being renamed Kennedy Pier in the 1960s in memory of the US President.

ROSSLIN  
Habitat & Species: Many large numbers of waders and wildfowl feed here during the autumn and winter months. A large number of cafes and seafood restaurants are still visible today on the western edge.

AGHADA PIER
Habitat & Species: During the winter the southern aspect of Aghada Pier is subject to severe weather conditions. Black Guillemots and other seabirds, such as Puffins, can be seen here throughout the winter, including Oystercatchers, Curlew, Sandpipers, and many Terns.

History: Aghada Pier was named after the Aghada River, which flows into Cork Harbour from the north, and the Aghada Wood, around the lake's edge. Many shipwrecks have been recorded here. The Great Fruit Kirks, named Queenstown in her honour, became better known as Admiralty Pier, before being renamed Kennedy Pier in 1960 in memory of the US President.

HARTYS QUAY
Habitat & Species: Several thousand tonnes of wildfowl and waders winter on the Stonorrey Estuary between the mudflats and the lagoon. On the eastern side and east of the village is the Stonorrey Lagoon. Habitation here and if you are lucky occasionally a Bufflehead.

History: In 1885, a small fishing village, known as the Great King's Park, was founded. It was the site of the Stonorrey Lagoon and the Stonorrey Bridge.

ROSSLEAGUE
Habitat & Species: Large numbers of waders and wildfowl feed here during the autumn and winter months. A large number of cafes and seafood restaurants are still visible today on the western edge.

History: Rosslea is an ancient settlement that has been occupied since the 1st millennium BC. The stone fort here and the remains of the circular tower are still visible today. The village was known as Rosslea and was the site of the Rosslea Bridge. Today, it is known as Rosslea Bridge.

GLASHABOY ESTUARY
Habitat & Species: The estuary walk is a real gem for birds, as the variety of species found in the Glashaboy Estuary, an area where the river joins the sea, is quite large. The estuary is a rich source of food for many of the birds that visit the area.

History: In the 18th century, Glanmire was nothing more than a small village, with only a few very small houses. However, as the town grew, so did the population. Today, the village is a bustling community with a population of over 3,000 people.

BALLINTUBBRID
Habitat & Species: Sporting some ducks and geese, it is a good place to see the variety of species that inhabit the area. These birds are often quite regularly abundant, and although they are not as common as some of the larger species, you have a chance of seeing Great Crested Grebes.

History: Ballycotton's Mary Stanford Lifeboat was the first, and to date, the longest-serving lifeboat in the world. It is named after the famous British sailor who led the first records of the Great Fruit Kirks.

GLOUNTHAUNE PLAYGROUND
Habitat & Species: There is a particularly fine area of woods here for birds to nest in during high tide, you will see large flocks of wildfowl and waders feeding here. The largest population of Black Guillemots in the region have been recorded here. Look through the reeds and you will see the distinctive, peculiar squealing call of the Black Redstarts, often heard here.

History: In the 19th century, Ballycotton was a thriving fishing village, home to the Mary Stanford lifeboat. Today, it is a popular destination for bird watchers and nature enthusiasts.

SLATTY'S BRIDGE
Habitat & Species: This is an important area for a variety of species, including gulls, terns, and wildfowl. The bridge over the Lough Beg Road to the site of Saleen Creek is a particularly important area for birds to roost at during high tides; you will see large flocks of Black-Tailed Godwits and Redshank using the eastern side and east of the village is the Stonorrey Lagoon. Habitation here and if you are lucky occasionally a Bufflehead.

History: In 1807 and is the only bridge linking Great Island to mainland Ireland. The bridge is named after the island of Great Island, which lies just off the mainland.

SALEEN CREEK
Habitat & Species: The north-western cliffs of Saleen Creek, at the northern end of Cork Harbour, are a Shielded Site of Special Scientific Interest. Saleen Creek is a special site for the protection of the internationally important population of the Ruddy Turnstone.

History: Saleen Creek is a special site for the protection of the internationally important population of the Ruddy Turnstone. It is also the site of the Great Fruit Kirks, named Queenstown in her honour, became better known as Admiralty Pier, before being renamed Kennedy Pier in 1960 in memory of the US President.

LOUGH ADERRA
Habitat & Species: The 18th century Gaelic poet Piaras Mac Piarais composed the poem ‘Tus sofrais bhua’ (The War Song of Munster) which has been set to music. The lake is known for its excellent fishing, particularly for salmon and trout.

History: The distinctive, peculiar squealing call of the Black Redstarts, often heard here. The bridge is named after the island of Great Island, which lies just off the mainland.

BALLYCOTTON CLIFF WALK
Habitat & Species: This site is excellent for both bird and marine life. The Ruddy Turnstone is the only common gull of its kind in Ireland to occur in good numbers.

History: Many ships have been recorded here, as far back as the 17th century, the most famous being the French frigate Hermione which left Cork for Brest in 1815 when Hermione, carrying a garrison of soldiers for a free pose, was accompanied.