

# Ring of Cork Heritage Trail

 IRELAND'S ANCIENT EAST™  
Wander Through Time



Connecting & Supporting  
Tourism businesses  
through marketing,  
training & networking  
Membership Open. Come Join Us.  
Contact info@ringofcork.ie or phone  
021 4813432 or visit www.ringofcork.ie

Built on a deep heritage, the Ring of Cork is the place to be for a unique & memorable holiday. Come explore the Ring of Cork Heritage Trail, part of Ireland's Ancient East. This map highlights some examples of the rich heritage to visit in East Cork, Cork Harbour & the greater Cork region. For more, visit [www.ringofcork.ie/heritage](http://www.ringofcork.ie/heritage) and see overleaf



**1 The Ballincollig Royal Gunpowder Mills.**  
Opened in 1794 by Charles Henry Leslie. Eleven years later, the barracks were built to protect the supply of gunpowder from Napoleon. The Mills are now in ruins but there are over sixty visible buildings scattered within 130 acres of Ballincollig Regional Park to explore by looped trails, all year round.  
[www.ringofcork.ie/ballincollig](http://www.ringofcork.ie/ballincollig)

**2 Camden Fort Meagher** is internationally recognized as one of the finest remaining examples of a classical coastal Artillery fort in the world. Located in the scenic village of Crosshaven Cork harbour, the fort is steeped in history from its early fortifications in 1550. Open at weekends from May to September.  
[www.camdenfortmeagher.ie](http://www.camdenfortmeagher.ie)

**3 Fortress Spike Island, Prison and Fort.** The Fortress built to defend an empire that became the largest prison in the world. Set on a beautiful 104 acre island, join Ireland's best storytellers as they reveal 1300 years of Irish history. Open March-November. Tel: 021-4811485  
[www.spikeislandcork.ie](http://www.spikeislandcork.ie)

**4 Cobh Museum.**  
Built in 1854 in an early English Gothic style to serve the local Presbyterian congregation. It remained as a Church until 1963. Open daily April-Oct displaying artefacts, images & models illustrating Cobh's history. Tel: 021 4814240  
[www.cobhmuseum.com](http://www.cobhmuseum.com)

**5 Cobh The Queenstown Story.** The story of Irish emigration; the journeys, hardship and individual stories of those who left from Cobh/Queenstown from the 17th to 20th century. An interesting, educational and emotional journey through History. "Walk in the footsteps of our emigrant ancestors". Tel: 021 4813591  
[www.cobhheritage.com](http://www.cobhheritage.com)

**6 Titanic Experience Cobh** is the departure point for the last 123 passengers who boarded Titanic on its fateful maiden voyage. Experience an immersive and emotive journey that brings to life the stories of triumph and tragedy behind the Irish passengers on board the ship. Open Seven Days a Week. Visit [www.titanicexperiencecobh.ie](http://www.titanicexperiencecobh.ie) for more details Tel: (021) 4814412

**7 Titanic Trial Titanic Trail** historical walking tour of Cobh. This internationally acclaimed tour takes visitors on a gentle 60 minute stroll through the town. Amazing insights into the stories of emigration, Titanic, Lusitania and much more are presented in an entertaining and enjoyable way. Operating every day at 11am since 1998. Book online at [www.titanic.ie](http://www.titanic.ie) or call for private tours +353 87 276 7218  
Meeting point: Commodore hotel.

**8 Fota House, Arboretum & Gardens** is an exclusive and historic property owned by the Smith-Barry family since 1183. Set on the green and leafy Fota Island, we offer a unique visitor experience with guided tours of both the House and Victorian Frameyard Garden delivered by local guides in a setting reminiscent of Downton Abbey. Open March-September, see [www.fotahouse.com](http://www.fotahouse.com) for details or call 021 481 5543

**9 Jameson Experience.** Surrounded by green fields, barley farmers and flowing fresh water, Middleton Co. Cork is a whiskey maker's dream. The Jameson Distillery, Middleton is the beating heart of Ireland's leading whiskey brand and has become a sort of spiritual home for self-proclaimed whiskey nerds. Open all year. Guided tours. Tel 021 4613594  
Book online [www.jamesonwhiskey.com](http://www.jamesonwhiskey.com)

**10 Ballycotton Island Lighthouse Tours.**  
A unique & magical experience. Travel in "Yassy", an open topped boat. Set foot on an unspoiled, wild and natural Island. Visit the Ballycotton Island summit and enjoy the stunning views from the lighthouse lantern balcony. Explore the Lighthouse. Learn what life was like for the keepers who manned the lighthouse for 141 years. Seasonal tours. Book (021) 4646875  
[www.ballycottonislandlighthouse.com](http://www.ballycottonislandlighthouse.com)

**11 The Raleigh Quarter.** A gem of Ireland's Ancient East encompassing St. Mary's 13th Century Collegiate Church, Graveyard Trail, 13th Century Town Walls Walk and Medieval Gardens. This carefully restored historic Quarter tells many stories, the good, the bad and the never before told. Guided tours of Church available all year round.  
Tel: 024 81814 [www.youghal.ie](http://www.youghal.ie)

**12 Youghal Clock Gate Tower** is a unique building in Ireland's Ancient East that holds many stories – stories of pain, tragedy and rebellion, but also stories of love, friendship and generosity. Stories that are universal and timeless. Open all year round.  
Tel: 024 20769.  
Book online [www.youghalclockgate.ie](http://www.youghalclockgate.ie)





# Ring of Cork Heritage Trail

More historical places of interest



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[www.ringofcork.ie](http://www.ringofcork.ie)  
**Town History**

## BALLINCOLLIG & SURROUNDS

Ballincollig is steeped in military history. From 18th c to the start of the 20th c, gunpowder was manufactured in The Gunpowder Mills <sup>1</sup>, now on the site that is Ballincollig Regional Park. It is Ireland's largest industrial archaeological site. For more details on heritage, activities, where to eat and where to stay [www.ringofcork.ie/ballincollig](http://www.ringofcork.ie/ballincollig)

## CARRIGALINE & SURROUNDS

Despite appearances, Carrigaline is quite an old settlement dating to pre Anglo - Norman arrival in 1177. A thriving town with a family run hotel. Carrigaline is the gateway to Crosshaven. For more details on heritage, activities, where to eat and where to stay [www.ringofcork.ie/carrigaline](http://www.ringofcork.ie/carrigaline)

## MIDLETON & SURROUNDS

"Mainistir na Corann" meaning "The Abbey of the Choir" Founded by Cistercian monks in the 12th century. It is full of historical buildings. For more heritage, activities, award winning restaurants and accommodation [www.ringofcork.ie/midleton](http://www.ringofcork.ie/midleton)

## COBH & SURROUNDS

Cobh meaning "Cove" was formerly known as Queestown and has become famous for its stories of emigration, famine and sea tragedy. For more details on heritage, activities, where to eat and where to stay [www.ringofcork.ie/cobh](http://www.ringofcork.ie/cobh)

## YOUGHAL & SURROUNDS

Youghal comes from a Gaelic word meaning "yew wood" It has the best preserved wall town in Ireland. For more details on heritage, activities, where to eat and where to stay [www.ringofcork.ie/youghal](http://www.ringofcork.ie/youghal)

**13 Oriel House, Ballincollig.** Built shortly after the Gunpowder Mills in 1794. In 1935 Thomas Tobin built an Oriel within the house, thus giving it its name. Now a luxury hotel. [www.orielhousehotel.ie](http://www.orielhousehotel.ie)

**14 Crosshaven House.** An 18th century home belonging to the Hayes family who lived on this site from 1656- 1973. Now a historic house with accommodation. [www.crosshavenhouse.ie](http://www.crosshavenhouse.ie)

**15 Keneficks Hotel, Crosshaven.** Built by William Kenefick in 1892. The original glass door bearing the Kenefick name is still in use. Now home to Cronin's Pub & Mad Fish restaurant. [www.croninspub.com](http://www.croninspub.com)

**16 Maryborough House, Douglas.** Richard Newenham, a Cork merchant built Maryborough House in the early 18th century. Now a luxury hotel. [www.maryborough.com](http://www.maryborough.com)

**17 Cork Golf Club, Little Island.** Founded in 1888. At present location since 1897, a championship golf course built on limestone quarries. [www.corkgolfclub.ie](http://www.corkgolfclub.ie)

**18 Ditchley House, Little Island.** A 19th century house, once resident to Albert Beamish. Now home to the Radisson BLU Hotel & Spa, Cork. [www.radissoncork.ie](http://www.radissoncork.ie)

**19 Glanmire Heritage Walks.** Explore the history of Glanmire by following heritage walks developed by Glanmire Heritage Society; the Sallybrook, the Glashaboy & the Rathcooney. [www.glanmireareacork.com](http://www.glanmireareacork.com)

**20 Cobh Railway Station.** Built in 1862. It once served as Ireland's largest emigration port. Home to both Cobh Heritage Centre <sup>5</sup> & Cobh Maritime building, a vibrant exhibition & tourism information space on the platform.

**21 St. Coleman's Cathedral, Carillon, Cobh.** Constructed between 1868 and 1915. The Cathedral contains the only church carillon in the Republic of Ireland which with 49 bells is one of the largest in the British Isles.

**22 Former Cunard Line Ticket Office, Cobh.** This building was used as a temporary morgue for victims of the Lusitania which was torpedoed and sank in May, 1915. Now home to a fun indoor activity, Escapade Cobh. [www.escapadecobh.com](http://www.escapadecobh.com)

**23 Bennetts Court, Cobh.** Built circa 1840, was the former residence of the Landlord of Ballymore is now Cuskinny Court Activities and the home to Halloween & Christmas Theatrical experiences [www.cuskinnycourt.ie](http://www.cuskinnycourt.ie)

**24 Fota Island.** Owned by the Barry (later Smith-Barry) family for nearly 800 years, it became their residence when their hunting lodge was transformed into Fota House <sup>8</sup> Today, it is also home to Fota Wildlife Park [www.fotawildlife.ie](http://www.fotawildlife.ie) and the Fota Island Resort including Golf Club [www.fotaisland.ie](http://www.fotaisland.ie)

**25 Barryscourt Castle.** Seat of the Barry family from the 12th century, although the present castle was rebuilt in the 15th century.

**26 Dungourney 18th Century Farm Cottage.** 300 year old cottage now home to Leahy's Open Farm activities and rural farm museum. [www.leahysopenfarm.ie](http://www.leahysopenfarm.ie)

**27 Cistercian Abbey Site, Midleton.** St John the Baptist's Church and Coach Horse Square stand on the site of the Cistercian abbey founded in 1180. Around the square are situated Wallis's Town Hall Bar, Finin's Restaurant and the Granary Café & Foodstore. [www.ringofcork.ie/midleton](http://www.ringofcork.ie/midleton)

**28 The Pugin Building.** Designed by AWN Pugin for Lord Midleton in 1847-1851 as two adjoining townhouses with shops on the ground floor. Now a modern bar: [www.jjcoppingers.ie](http://www.jjcoppingers.ie)

**29 Rostellan Dolmen.** The only megalithic tomb built on a tidal estuary in Ireland, it can only be seen, or visited, at low tide.

**30 Trabolgan.** The Roches, ancestors of Diana, Princess of Wales, built a house here about 1700. A gate lodge built as a triumphal arch remains. A burial tomb containing the remains of Princess Diana's maternal great-great-grandfather, Baron Edmond Roche, can be found in nearby Corkbeg graveyard. Trabolgan is now the site of a holiday village. [www.trabolgan.com](http://www.trabolgan.com)

**31 Roches Point.** The lighthouse was built in 1835 to replace an earlier tower employed as a lighthouse from 1817. The last stop of the RMS Titanic before its fatal voyage!

**32 Cloyne Round Tower and Cathedral.** Site of a 6th century monastery, the Round Tower stands opposite the 13th century St Colman's cathedral. The philosopher George Berkeley, was bishop here. Berkeley, California, is named after him.

**33 Ballymaloe House.** The much extended 15th century tower house of the Fitzgeralds is now a famous guest-house. [www.ballymaloe.ie](http://www.ballymaloe.ie)

**34 Shanagarry Medieval Tower.** Late medieval tower house of the De la Poer family. Visible ruin adjacent to Shangarry Design Centre. [www.kilkennyshop.com/shanagarrydesigncentre](http://www.kilkennyshop.com/shanagarrydesigncentre)

**35 Castlemartyr Castle.** The majestic ruins of the 12th Century castle built by the Knights Templar, situated in Castlemartyr Resort. [www.castlemartyrresort.ie](http://www.castlemartyrresort.ie)

**36 Youghal Heritage Centre & Town Walking Trail.** The centre exhibits artefacts, images and models, illustrating the history of Youghal. Open all year round. Free entry. Located in the Tourist Office. Guided heritage walking tours. Tel: 024 92447