

HISTORICAL POINTS OF INTEREST



Whiddy Island

In the mid 1600s Whiddy was sold to an English settler called White who, prospering on farming, fishing & port trade, also bought Bantry House (then 'Blackrock House'), taking over the whole of the Bantry area.

During the 1700s Whiddy prospered on the pilchard fishing industry, with a fleet of 150 boats, and three 'Fish Palaces' (large sheds where they pickled these Pilchards) The population at this time numbered 817 people. One of these 'Fish Palaces' was located at point 4 on your map.

During the Great Famine the population decreased to about 250 and Lord Bantry introduced deer farming to the island - taking over much of the good tillage ground. Civil unrest ensued and many people were tried in the courts or hung on the infamous 'hanging tree', near the site now known as Gallows Hill.

In 1918, the Americans built a seaplane base on the eastern end of the island to keep watch on German submarines &

shipping. This was closed in 1919 and little remains of it today. Whiddy Island holds its infamous first WW1 aviation casualty for Ireland. At the end of a routine patrol flight lookout for German submarines, Petty Officer Walford August Anderson died when the plane crashed-landed. A memorial ceremony was held in 2014 at the Bank House Pontoon (point 4) where a sculpture was unveiled to mark this petty officers tragic death. This site can also be seen on the kayaking trail at point 5 on your maps.

At present the population of Whiddy Island stands at only 30.

Airstrip

This area, now used as an Airstrip, was, in the 1840s, occupied by a Coast Guard Station and boat house. During the building of the Gulf Oil Terminal on Whiddy Island, in 1967, this was the main construction area for all the pipe-work and was a hive of industrial activity. The Airstrip, originally 3 fields, was built in the 1970s by Rowa Pharmaceutical Company, who own the land. This is located at point 2 on your map.

Railway Pier

Located at point 7 on your map, Railway Pier was built in 1890 to connect Bantry Railway station to the Bantry Steamship Company ships, trains ran on to the pier from the nearby main station. Passengers and goods then transferred to the ships and continued to Glengarriff and Castletownbere. The pier was in use up to 1949.

TOURIST INFORMATION

As an important tourism location and a designated outdoor activity hub in West Cork, Bantry provides a wide variety of activities and events all year round.



Bantry House & Gardens

Bantry House was constructed in about 1700 on the south side of Bantry Bay. The house has been open to tourism since 1946 and now offers bed and breakfast accommodation. The beautiful gardens contain seven terraces; the house is located on the third. One hundred steps are located behind the house and are built to appear to rise out of a fountain and are surrounded by azaleas and rhododendron. The gardens are constantly tended and maintained.

Bantry Bay 18 Hotel Championship Golf Course

A beautiful, challenging 18 hole championship parkland golf course in the sunny South West of Ireland. Course architects Eddie Hackett and Christy O'Connor Jnr have adapted some 170 acres of picturesque scenery skirting the coast, with parkland tree lined holes coupled with an abundance of perfectly positioned hazards, lakes, mounds and bunkers.

Country Market (every Friday)

Bantry Market is one of the most vibrant markets in West Cork, hosting an abundance of stalls selling a vast array of local artisan foods that will make your mouth water. The market operates from 9am – 3.30pm.

Bantry's Heritage Loop Walks

Bantry has a wealth of heritage, natural and built, from sea, woodlands and mountains, to Bantry House, the Kilnaurane Pillar stone and story of Wolfe Tone. The aim is to take walkers on a tour of many of the heritage points of interest in and around the town.

The walks vary from 2.5m to 5km plus, but they can be linked together to form a walk of more than 20km. Most of the walks use pavements, paths and small roads, so are suitable for all the family. For the more adventurous there is the possibility of striking out across the peak of Knocknaveagh, which provides stunning views over the town and bay. The walks are complemented by a series of interpretative boards erected by Bantry Tourism, Fáilte Ireland and Cork County Council.



Eating Out

Bantry offers a wide variety of restaurants and cafes to suit all tastes. Local specialities include mussels which are harvested in Bantry Bay.

Accommodation

Bantry offers a range of accommodation to suit all budgets from 4 Star Hotels to Guesthouses, Bed & Breakfasts, Farmhouses, Caravans, Camping and Hostels.

For further information, please see www.visitbantry.ie or call +353 2750229

Bantry Tourist Office is located in the Old Courthouse building in Wolfe Tone Square.



THE BANTRY BLUEWAY



Bantry Bay Port Company



Bantry Bay Port Company

Harbour Office: Wolfe Tone Square, Bantry, Co. Cork, Ireland



ABBEY POINT SLIPWAY TO RAILWAY PIER RETURN

1

Green Trail: Beginner Trail
Access Point: Abbey Slipway
Distance: 2 km return **Duration:** 1 hour return
Description: Short return trail between Abbey Slipway (1) and Railway Pier (7). Beware of Ferries operating from Bantry Pier.



ABBEY POINT SLIPWAY TO BANK HOUSE RETURN

1

Blue Trail: Intermediate Trail
Access Point: Abbey Slipway
Distance: 6km return **Duration:** 2 hour return
Description: Travels west to point (2) where the crossing point is marked by a signpost and flag. Beware of winds and tidal flows at the crossing, a wind flag at point (2) will indicate local wind conditions. If suitable cross 600m (15 minutes) to the Blueway flag on Whiddy Island point (3). Be careful of ferries operating between Whiddy Island and Bantry. Follow trail to Bank House on Whiddy Island (4). Return via the same Blue Intermediate Loop to Abbey Slipway.



ABBEY SLIPWAY TO WHIDDY ISLAND TO ABBEY SLIPWAY - LONG LOOP

1

Red Trail: Advanced Trail
Access Point: Abbey Slipway
Distance: 9km **Duration:** 3 hours
Description: Follow the Blue Trail description to Bank House on Whiddy Island (4) continue north to point (5) where the crossing point is marked by an orange buoy and flag. This is a 2 km long (45 minute) open water crossing which requires experience to successfully complete. Beware of winds and tidal flows at the crossing, a wind flag at point (5) will indicate local wind conditions. Cross between Horse Island and Chapel Island flanked by mussel farm buoys to the green channel marker. From the green channel marker head for the Blueway flag on Reenbeg Point (6). Then cross the small bay south to reach Railway Pier (7) and on to Abbey Slipway (1).

Disclaimer: Users of this trail do so at their own risk.



MAP LEGEND

- You are here
- Cafe\Restaurant
- Fresh Water
- Harbour
- Historical building\ruins
- Hotel
- Parking
- Public House
- Put in\take out points
- Shop
- Shower
- Slipway
- Toilets
- Tourist Info
- Warning

Local Advice for Users

Trail users must check the weather forecast and beware of the wind especially in open water crossings. In case of an emergency dial 112 or 999 to contact the emergency services. Use VHF channel 16 to contact the Coast Guard.

- 200m Exclusion Zone
- Local Ferry Route

TRAIL SAFETY INFORMATION

Canoeing & Kayaking is an adventure sport. When you go canoeing follow the five points below to stay safe:

Planning - Plan your trip well in advance by consulting with the Blueway website and local providers.

Experience - Ensure the Blueway is a suitable match for your group's experience. Water can be dangerous, if you are inexperienced use a local guide and seek formal training.

Conditions - Consult the weather forecast and tide tables in advance of your trip and if unguided only go out in favourable conditions, clear days with low wind.

Equipment - Always wear an approved buoyancy aid. Ensure your boat has adequate buoyancy. Bring suitable clothing, such as a wetsuit and equipment to deal with an emergency.

Emergencies - In the event of capsize, stay with your craft, be ready and equipped to help one another. Always bring some form of communication with you, ie mobile phone - VHF. Ensure your group has a towing system in place.

For more information and safety tips, visit www.bluewaysireland.org

In case of an emergency dial 112 or 999 to contact emergency services. Use VHF channel 16 to contact the coast guard. BE RESPONSIBLE AND STAY SAFE TODAY

LEAVE NO TRACE
Take only pictures, leave only ripples.
www.leaveontraceireland.org

INVASIVE SPECIES
Help stop the spread of invasive species - wash your boat before and after your paddle.
www.invasivespeciesireland.com

We welcome feedback about your paddling experience. Please contact us at info@bluewaysireland.org

For further local information please contact either:

BANTRY BAY PORT COMPANY
- bantrybayport.com

BANTRY TOURIST OFFICE
- visitbantry.ie 00353 27 50229

WIND FLAG INDICATOR



Wind Flag Sagging: **Slack Winds favourable paddling conditions**
Wind flag extended or flapping: **High Winds, not favourable paddling condition**
No Flag: **Trail CLOSED.**



Bantry Bay Port Company