



# Navigation

<b>General Description</b>	Bantry Bay is a large sheltered Bay that stretches 15 nautical miles from the sea entrance to Bantry town. The Bay is a natural harbour with deep water throughout and has adequate navigational aids that mark official navigation channels and highlight any dangers. The prevailing wind is south westerly with very little current.
<b>Liner Anchorages</b>	Three locations within the Bay have proved both popular and safe for visiting cruise liners: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Glengarriff Harbour -Inner Anchorage, suitable for vessels up to 130m LOA (vessels should have an operating bow thruster)</li> <li>2. Glengarriff Outer Anchorage – suitable for all vessels</li> <li>3. Bantry Inner Harbour - suitable for vessel up to 170m LOA and Max draft 6.0m (larger vessels may be accommodated upon risk assessment)</li> </ol>
<b>Tender Operations</b>	Tender operations are permitted in Bantry Bay using the vessels own tenders upon application. Tender locations are sheltered with safe landing areas for passengers. Tender Distances: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Glengarriff Inner Anchorage to Landing Area = 0.5NM</li> <li>2. Glengarriff Outer Anchorage to Landing Area = 1.2NM</li> <li>3. Bantry Inner Anchorage to Landing Area = 0.4NM</li> </ol>
<b>Pilotage</b>	Pilotage is compulsory to Glengarriff Inner Harbour and Bantry Inner Harbour.
<b>Charts</b>	BA 1838
<b>Contacts</b>	Bantry Harbour Master T: +353 (0) 27 53277 E: harbourmaster@bantrybayport.com

Further detailed navigation information is available upon request from the Harbour Masters Office

West Cork is at once both very Irish and quite cosmopolitan. People here value the good things in life. It feels warm hearted and kind.



Bantry House



Sunset on Bantry Bay



Ardgroom Standing Stones

## Things to do

- Stroll through the stately homes and gardens of Bantry House
- Visit the Grecian Temple and Italian Gardens on the sub-tropical island garden of Garnish Island
- Venture across the arched bridge at Mizen Head, Ireland's most south westerly point, with the Atlantic crashing below
- Lie on your back in an Irish Sky Garden, a living art crater designed by famed artist James Turrell
- Sample award winning, artisan foods from smoked salmon to chocolates, farmhouse cheese to brown pudding
- Meet the makers at some of the areas many art galleries and craft shops



## Our Undertaking

Your business is important to us. Working with you and with your ground handlers, we pride ourselves in showcasing the very best that this region has to offer your guests. We will work with you and your partners to identify West Cork's very best tourism experiences. Local businesses and communities have been mobilised to ensure that your guests receive an even greater welcome than that for which this area is already famous.

For smaller ships, berthing in Bantry Bay provides speedy access into this unspoilt region. Surface transfers from the Port of Cork are easily and efficiently organised by your ground handler.

### For more information, contact:

- GROUND HANDLERS:**
- Specialized Travel Services**  
www.special-ireland.com
  - Excursion Ireland**  
www.excursionsireland.com
  - Harvey Travel**  
www.harveytravelwaterford.com

- PORT AUTHORITIES:**
- Bantry Bay Port Company**  
www.bantrybayport.com
  - Port of Cork**  
Captain Michael McCarthy  
Email: mmccarthy@portofcork.ie  
www.portofcork.ie

**TOURISM**  
Cork County Council  
cruises@corkcoco.ie



Photography courtesy of Fáilte Ireland, BTA Ltd. and West Cork Development Partnership



Served by direct access through **Bantry Bay Harbour** and within easy reach of the **Port of Cork**, the West Cork region of Ireland's south west corner, provides truly remarkable experiences for your cruise guests.

It's no wonder they call West Cork "A Place Apart". Nature sets the pace in this beautiful corner of Ireland - stretching from smart south coast **Kinsale**, the gourmet capital of Ireland, to two rugged westerly peninsula reaching into the wild Atlantic, **Sheep's Head** (a winner of Europe's Destination of Excellence Award) and **Beara**.



The area's temperature climate has also blessed it with sub-tropical gardens filled with exotic plants. Where else in Ireland would you find an island garden boasting **A Grecian Temple and Italian Gardens**? And as you journey around, tranquil lanes are thick with fuchsia and montbretia.

There's edge-of-the-world drama too: crossing the bridge to the end of Mizen Head with the Atlantic crashing below,

observing Ireland's "**Tear Drop**", **Fastnet Lighthouse**, the last sight of Ireland immigrants saw as they crossed to the new world.

West Cork has a wonderful food culture. Its farmers, award-winning artisan food producers and chafes are leading Ireland's culinary revolution, your guests can enjoy great food right across West Cork.



Meanwhile, the whole coast echoes with history - ancient sites, ruined castles, coastal forts and copper mines.

West Cork is a boutique destination and some of our most popular shore excursions are listed here. But where we excel is in delivering bespoke experiences for your guests – birdwatching on the Old Head of Kinsale, a private piano recital in the home of a New York concert pianist, kayaking along the trail of Baltimore's Pirates.

**Contact your ground handler or cruises@corkcoco.ie to explore ideas.**



An Teach Beag Pub, Clonakilty



The Fastnet Lighthouse



The Beacon, Baltimore



# Excursions

**Tour 1 - Scenic journey including Clonakilty & Gougane Barra**

## West Cork - A Place Apart

It's no wonder they call West Cork "A Place Apart". Nature sets the pace in this beautiful south west corner of Ireland. This is the place many Dubliners head for – leaving hurried city lives behind to play along the long zig-zagging coastline, and walk or ride through peaceful inland woods and valleys.

This tour introduces visitors to one of West Cork's most popular towns, Clonakilty, bedecked in floral hanging baskets and home to the unique Random Acts of Kindness festival – affirmation, if it were needed, of the exceptional friendliness of the people in this picturesque town.

It also includes the wonderfully beautiful and tranquil Gougane Barra, a place of historical interest that combines great natural beauty with a prevailing spirituality making it a popular choice for weddings.

**Duration:** Full Day

### Highlights:

- Scenic journey through West Cork's beautiful countryside.
- Picturesque traditional town of Clonakilty, a mix of cosmopolitan and traditional stores. One of the few Georgian Squares outside Dublin, historical connections with Irish hero, Michael Collins.
- Gougane Barra - area of outstanding beauty.
- Ruins of 6th Century monastery, picturesque Oratory on an island on a lake.
- Historical association with St. Finbarr and Cork Cathedral bearing his name.
- National Park with challenging walking trails for active groups.
- Charming, family run Gougane Barra hotel with exceptionally friendly management and staff.



Club Med 2 anchored in Glengarriff

**Tour 2 - from Bantry Bay**

## Ring of Beara

Arriving into the scenic harbour of Glengarriff, the cruise guest will be struck by the beauty and ruggedness of this exceptional peninsula. Not as well known perhaps as some of the neighbouring peninsulas, the unspoilt Beara Peninsula nonetheless offers the visitor scenery, history and nature as good as any to be seen elsewhere – but without the crowds.

The village is the gateway to the unspoilt Beara Peninsula which has a mixture of market towns and working fishing ports, colourful villages with curious names like Allihies and Eyeries and boasts more ancient monuments than anywhere else in Ireland. Its spectacular scenery is framed by the Caha Mountains that form a spine along the peninsula and the remote beaches and rugged coastline on either side.

Ireland's only working cable car connects the tip of the Peninsula with nearby Dursey Island. It is one of the Signature Discovery Points on the Wild Atlantic Way – a place of particular interest.

The Healy Pass is one of Ireland's Great Drives, a serpentine road that climbs to 334m above sea level and rewards visitors with views of two counties and two bays at its summit – Bantry to the east and Kenmare to the West. Not to be missed.

The tour returns via neighbouring County Kerry and the town of Kenmare where the Ring of Kerry and Ring of Beara meet. Return via the scenic Caha Pass to Glengarriff enjoying the spectacular views from the mountains down into Bantry Bay.

**Duration:** Full Day

### Highlights:

- Drive along the Wild Atlantic Way.
- Beautiful, unspoilt, rugged Beara Peninsula. Less well known than neighbouring peninsulas but equally, if not more, stunning.
- Colourful little towns and villages with houses painted red, green, yellow, purple.
- One of Ireland's Greatest Drives – the Healy Pass, a serpentine road rising to 334m above sea level with views of two bays, either side – Kenmare and Bantry.
- Allihies Copper Museum, Café and Gallery.
- Kenmare, popular town, where Ring of Kerry and Ring of Beara meet.

*The Healy Pass is one of Ireland's Great Drives*

**Tour 3 - from Bantry Bay**

## Gougane Barra – the Oratory on an Island

In the 6th century, in this inspiring, very beautiful location situated in the heart of a peaceful valley, legend has it that St. Finbarr, patron saint of Cork, was led by an angel to the source of the River Lee. Here, he founded a monastery, the remains of which and its ancient prayer cells can still be seen.

Today, a tiny oratory built on an island, surely one of Ireland's most photographed, greets the visitor as they arrive to this breath-taking place.

This is a truly magical, peaceful setting.

The surrounding area is a national park, Ireland's first, and is set in the forested hills around the lake that lend to its tranquillity. But once on the park's waymarked trails, the pounding heartbeat takes over as the walker is faced with a variety of trails suited to all levels of fitness. It is hard to avoid the mountaintops but the reward is the spectacular scenery of this area of outstanding natural beauty.

The park is teeming with wildlife and birdlife, including a white tailed sea eagle that has made this park its home.

Back below, the charming, family run Gougane Barra Hotel serves lunches, Irish Coffees and other refreshments, in cosy surroundings overlooking the lake.

**Duration:** Half Day

### Optional extension to full day:

- For active groups, include light lunch at the hotel and hike in the surrounding national park.

### Highlights:

- Scenic journey through West Cork's beautiful countryside.
- Gougane Barra - area of outstanding beauty.
- Ruins of 6th Century monastery, picturesque Oratory on an island on a lake.
- Historical association with St. Finbarr and Cork Cathedral bearing his name.
- National Park with challenging walking trails for active groups.
- Charming, family run Gougane Barra hotel with exceptionally friendly management and staff serves Irish Coffees, lunches and other refreshments overlooking the lake.



**Bantry Bay Port Company**

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

**Tour 4 - from Bantry Bay**

## Bantry House & Gardens and Bantry Town

Stunningly situated on the southern shores of Bantry Bay and surrounded by formal gardens, this 18th century mansion was once the home of the Earls of Bantry. The house is privately owned by their direct descendants who still reside here.

It contains an eclectic mix of furnishings, paintings, artefacts and antiques from around the world, gathered by the 2nd Earl and his wife as they travelled on their grand European and Russian tour in the 1820's. A pair of tapestries made to celebrate the marriage of Marie Antoinette to the Dauphin of France adorns the drawing room.

The nearby town of Bantry is an attractive, bustling town built around a large square that commemorates its long association with the sea. A large anchor at one end is from a ship of the French Armada that ran aground near here in 1796

The town is an historical one and a heritage trail guides the visitor around its main sites.

Bantry is famous for its mussels and the town is the centre of West Cork's famous food culture. A bustling food market takes place each week in the square featuring artisan food producers from the region.

**Duration:** Half Day

### Highlights:

- Stunningly situated overlooking Bantry Bay, 18th century Bantry House & Gardens.
- Eclectic collection of tapestries, furnishings, antiques and artefacts.
- Formal gardens, Ireland's largest Wisteria Circle, Parterre, Walled Garden.
- Bantry Town, welcoming mix of traditional and cosmopolitan shops, galleries, cafes and restaurants.
- Historical town associated with French Armada, Irish Hero Wolfe Tone and St. Brendan The Navigator who legend has it, discovered America before Columbus.
- Bantry Bay Mussels famous throughout Ireland and for sale in local pubs accompanied by pint of Murphy's stout.

*Bantry is famous for its mussels*

**Tour 5 - from Bantry Bay**

## Garnish Island – An Island Garden

Situated in the sheltered harbour of Glengarriff in Bantry Bay, Garnish Island is a small island of 37 acres known to horticulturists and lovers of trees and shrubs all around the world as an island garden of great beauty.

Because of the island's sheltered situation and the warming oceanic influence of the Gulf Stream, the climate is in some respects almost sub tropical, and is favourable to the growth of ornamental plants from many parts of the world.

Even for those not interested in gardens, the island is a must-see visit in itself. The views from the island back to the mainland are superb.

Access is by a short ferry ride from Glengarriff, sailing past the colonies of seals that make the harbour their home. Watch out for the resident Sea Eagles nesting on one of the small islands.

**Duration:** Half Day

### Highlights:

- Island Gardens, exotic plants and shrubs from around the world. Grecian Temple, Italian Garden, Martello Tower and Walled Garden.
- Ideal for non-gardeners. Stunning views both on and from the island.
- Pleasant, short ferry ride from Glengarriff, past seal colonies and nesting place of resident Sea Eagles.

*Watch out for the resident Sea Eagles*



Picturesque Gougane Barra



The Ring of Beara



Garnish Island

Distance & Time from/ to	Bantry Bay	Port of Cork
Kinsale	89km (1hr 30mins)	49km (45mins)
Glengarriff (Garnish Island)	17km (15mins)	120km (1hr 50mins)
Bantry House & Gardens	18km (17mins)	110km (1hr 40mins)
Clonakilty	64km (1hr)	75km (1hr 7mins)
Skibbereen	45km (45mins)	107km (1hr 35mins)
Baltimore	58km (36mins)	129km (1hr 50mins)