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## PLACES OF INTEREST

### Cobh

**Queenstown Story** is a dramatic exhibition of the history of Cobh, occupying an unused section of the railway station, close to the Ship's berth. Emphasis is placed on the importance of Cobh as an embarkation port for emigrants to the New World. From the Great Famine of 1844 until the late 1950's, over 2 million people emigrated from Ireland, with Cobh their last sight of Mother Ireland. Reference is made to the sinking of the Lusitania in 1915, having been torpedoed by a German submarine just off Kinsale, with the loss of 1,198 lives and at which point the United States entered World War I. Cobh was also the last port of call for the Titanic on her tragic maiden voyage, and various relics from the great liner are also on display.

### Cork

**1 Crawford Art Gallery** at Emmet Place, is housed in what was once the Custom House, built in 1724, when the street was in fact the King's Dock, it remained in use up until 1832.

The Gallery now contains a collection of sculptures, including some Rodin bronzes as well as some fine paintings.

**2 Custom House** on Custom House Quay, is where all goods for import and export were invoiced during the great trading days of Cork Harbor.

**3 City Market**, also known as the English market, has origins dating back to 1610, although the present building was built in 1786. With entrances from Grand Parade, St. Patrick Street and Prince's Street, the Market provides a colorful insight into local tradition and culture with a wide range of fruit and vegetables stalls.

**4 St. Anne's Church and the Bells of Shandon**, located a good walk from the City center on Exchange Street, is noted for its 'pepper pot' steeple top and the fact that two sides of the tower are built of sandstone and two of limestone. The present building dates from 1720 and visitors may ring the famous bells and climb to the top of the 120 foot tower for a terrific view of the City.

**5 St. Finbarr's Cathedral** is situated between Bishop Street and Dean Street on the outskirts of Cork. This Church of Ireland Cathedral was built in French gothic style and opened in 1870 on the site where, in 650 A.D., St. Finbarr founded his monastic school. Of particular interest is the great rose west window, the mosaic pavements and elaborate carvings.

**6 Queen's Old Castle** on Grand Parade, was once used to guard the City's watergates, now it is a shopping arcade.

### Beyond Cobh/Cork

**Blarney Castle** is located in Blarney some 5 miles from Cork. The Castle is one of the oldest and most historic in Ireland. An ancient stronghold of the MacCarthy's, legend states that Dermot MacCarthy talked his way out of handing over the property to Elizabeth I, who referred to his excuses as 'Blarney' meaning 'pleasant talk – meant to deceive without offending'. The Blarney Stone is embedded in the parapets of the Castle and is supposed to bestow the gift of eloquence on anyone who kisses it.

**Jameson Heritage Center** in Midleton, is about 13 miles from Cobh. Built in 1794 as a woollen mill, converted to a military barracks and, in 1825, a Distillery, it remained thus for 150 years. Guided tours describe the process of traditional Irish Whiskey production and conclude with a complimentary sample. The Distillery contains a copper Pot Still with a capacity of 32,000 gallons, the largest in the world.

**City Gaol**, an impressive building, approximately 2 miles from Cork on Sunday's Well Road. Special effects help recreate the squalid conditions in which prisoners were kept during the 19th century. An audio-visual presentation portrays the contrasting life-styles of the period, which encouraged many to a life of crime.

**Gun Powder Mills** are located in Ballincollig, approximately 5 miles from Cork. A unique industrial complex on the banks of the River Lee, where Gunpowder was manufactured for over 100 years, from 1794 to 1903. The exhibition provides an insight into the lives of 19th century workers in a Gunpowder factory and the dangers to which they were exposed.

**Charles Fort**, in the small fishing town of Kinsale, was built on the site of an earlier fortification in the late 17th century. It is a 'star-shaped' fort, used as a harbor defence for Kinsale and garrisoned up until 1921.

**Muckross House and Gardens** are situated just outside of Killarney in County Kerry. A 19th century manor built in Elizabethan style, it contains period furnishings and exhibitions relating to local folklore and the history of the proprietors. A craft center occupies the basement. The house is surrounded by beautiful gardens where visitors may stroll or take a ride in a Jaunting Car.

- Admission Charges are generally in local currency.
- When going ashore, passengers are advised to take with them only the items they need and to secure any valuables.

**SHORE EXCURSIONS** To make the most of your visit to Cobh and Cork we suggest you take one of our organized Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour content and pricing consult your Shore Excursion Brochure or contact the Shore Excursion Desk.

**LOCAL CUSTOMS Bargaining:** Shop prices in Ireland are fixed.

**Tipping:** Where service charge is not included in a restaurant bill, 10-12% is a good guideline.

**Local Cuisine:** Traditional cuisine in Ireland is simple and wholesome, Irish Stew being a popular example. Colcannon is a vegetable dish of diced potatoes, fried with onions and cabbage, covered with cream. Tripe and Drisheen are local specialties, the latter being a type of blood sausage. The brown bread is excellent.

**Drink Specialties:** Irish Whiskey is perhaps the best known and then there's Irish Coffee. The local brews are Murphy's and Beamish Stouts, dark beers brewed with malt.

Bottled water is recommended.

**SHOPPING FACILITIES** The main shops are found on St. Patrick's Street in Cork and are open from 9:00 am – 5:30 pm Monday through Saturday. Local handicrafts include quality woolens, hand-knit sweaters and tweeds. Waterford crystal originates from the nearby town of the same name.

Value Added Tax (VAT), is added to most purchases. Visitors who spend over a certain amount may be entitled to re-claim some or all of the tax paid, however, regulations and conditions governing the refund of VAT are subject to change and Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd.<sup>®</sup> cannot guarantee the cooperation of local authorities.

**LOCAL CURRENCY** The unit of currency in this port of call is the Euro. There are 8 Euro coins denominated in 2 and 1 Euros, along with 50, 20, 10, 5, 2, and 1 cent pieces. Every euro coin carries a common European face. On the obverse, each Member State decorates the coins with their own motifs. No matter which motif is on the coins they can be used anywhere inside the Member States. There are 7 euro notes. In different colors and sizes, they are denominated in 500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10, and 5 euros. The notes are uniform throughout the euro area; unlike coins, they have no national side. All euro notes are legal tender in all countries of the euro area. Most major credit cards are widely accepted.

**POST OFFICE AND TELEPHONE FACILITIES** The main Post Office is at Westbourne Place in Cobh. In Cork, the Post Office is located on Oliver Plunkett Street **7**.

The Eircom Center is located on Lapp's Quay in Cork. In addition there are pay phones in all post offices as well as booths on the street. You can place a call with your personal calling card using the following access codes:

AT&T: 1-800-550-000 / MCI: 1-800-551-001 / SPRINT: 1-800-552-001