

The beautiful city of Cork and its stunning surrounding county have long attracted the interest, and investment, of the rich and famous. The new Cork Convention Bureau can now offer organisers all the help they need to bring events to this buzzing region. And with 1000 kms of glittering coastline and some of Ireland's most glorious scenery, the area makes an impressive backdrop to every event

Ten reasons to come to

CORK

Tourism Ireland
David Boyce
T: 020 7518 0800
E: gbbt@tourismireland.com
W: www.irelandinspires.co.uk

Cork Convention Bureau
Ann Cronin
T: 00 353 21 431 8036
E: ann@corkconventionbureau.com
W: www.corkconventionbureau.com

1 Access

Cork Airport is conveniently located just 7 km from the city. There are eight flights daily from the UK's main airports, including five flights daily from London Heathrow, two from London Stansted and one from Gatwick amongst other destinations. There are 10 flights daily between Cork and Dublin and direct access from 16 UK airports and 19 European cities. The new Cork Airport opened last year making it a pleasurable experience both on arrival and departure. With its improved access, Cork couldn't be easier to get to



2 Hotels

Cork City and County has more than 3800 beds available. Fabulous five-star properties include the city's Hayfield Manor and the Sheraton Fota Island Golf Resort & Spa amongst others. There are more than 2000 rooms in four-star properties such as The Imperial, The Kingsley, The Clarion and Jury's Hotel in the city, the Trident and Carlton Hotel in Kinsale and the Lodge and Spa at Inchydoney. Key conference hotels include the Rochestown Park and Silverspring Morans Hotel. There are also more than 1300 three-star hotel bed nights across the region



3 Conference & events

There is an impressive list of world-class venues available in Cork to suit any occasion from product launches to conferences, exhibitions and meetings. Whatever the size of the event, be it 10 or 1000, Cork is sure to have a venue to fit the requirements. The city's University is ideal for large conferences, along with the County Hall and its 17th floor dining venue, Cork City's Gaol and The Jameson Distillery for that authentic Irish evening



4 Food

Cork is a food lover's paradise. The restaurants are renowned for the quality of their cooking, making the most of the wonderful local produce including fantastic seafood. The Old English Market in the city centre offers the chance to sample some of the county's culinary expertise at your leisure. A proud tradition of culinary expression abounds throughout the city and county, and Kinsale, the oldest town in Ireland, is recognised as the gourmet capital of Ireland



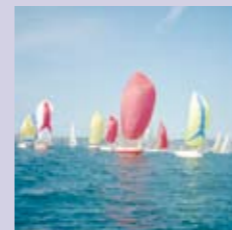
5 Culture

Cork City and County is famous for the huge variety of its cultural wealth. Art exhibitions and fairs, theatrical performances and opera take place all year round. Kiss the Blarney stone and become endowed with 'the gift of the Gab' - the ability to persuade others to do what you will. Well worth a try!



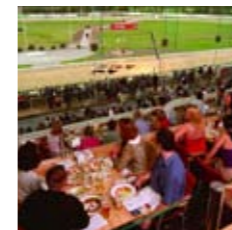
6 Activities

The stunning countryside makes the region ideal for walking, cycling, angling, sailing, diving, horse-riding, trekking, sea kayaking and windsurfing. Take a group whale or dolphin watching for a truly memorable experience, or enjoy a stroll along the peaceful beaches. Cork city centre is a shopper's delight. And towns such as Kinsale, Macroom, Clonakilty, Bantry and Midleton are treasure troves of things to do and enjoy and are within easy reach of the city centre



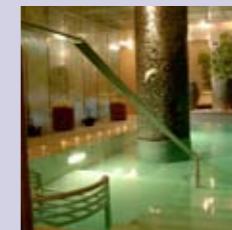
7 Sports

Golf, of course, is a passion here and the Fota Island Golf Club has previously hosted the Irish Open. Horses, too, are important to the region and groups can go trekking, trail riding or attend a specialised training course in dressage, show jumping and cross country riding. County Cork Racecourse plays host to several high profile events throughout the year. For betting enthusiasts there is Curraheen Park Greyhound Stadium. Cork also plays host to the annual Cork City Sports event which attracts top international athletes and takes place in June every year



8 Spa breaks

For those in need of some serious de-stressing, why not indulge and relax in one of the County's many glorious spas and beauty treatment centres? Just minutes from Cork city centre, the delightful Maryborough Hotel and Spa offers a tranquil retreat. The new Capella Castlemartyr is a grand 17th-century manor house nestling in a 220-acre estate. Alongside its luxurious Auriga Spa is a links-style golf course – offering something for everyone. All hotels within the city centre boast spa facilities from famous names such as Aveda and Espa amongst others



9 Team building

Cork offers a multitude of team-building opportunities from evening tours of the Cobh heritage centre, where your guests can attend a reproduction Irish wake, to an evening of ghostly encounters at historic Cork Gaol. For the artistically minded, the Stephen Pearce Pottery in Shanagarry offers instruction in pottery making and teams can even compete against each other. A great night out is promised at an old-fashioned shindig at the Old Jameson Distillery; a true showcase of a traditional Irish night out



10 Cork CB

Ann Cronin is the recently appointed Business Development Manager for the Cork Convention Bureau, which opened in January this year. With many years of experience in the M&IT sector, Cronin says, "The Cork Convention Bureau is an initiative of Cork Marketing Partnership, and brings together many organisations working to bring business to Cork and helping to market this glorious region. "The role of the recently established Cork Convention Bureau is to stimulate interest and position Cork City and County as a destination for meetings, conferences, incentives and sporting events."

