

Irish Ancient East Cork Guide

Fota Island Resort

Day 1: Fota Wildlife Park

You won't have far to venture to begin exploring the beautiful East Cork Countryside; in fact you won't have to leave Your Private Island! Fota Wildlife Park is one of Europe's most progressive wildlife parks with over 90 species from five continents, with many of the species free to roam the park. Children of all ages will love to discover the many playgrounds around the Wildlife Park. Concessions are available from Concierge for all guests.

Day 2: Ireland's Alcatraz: Spike Island

Discover Ireland's Captain's and Convicts, Rebels and Rioters, Sinners and Saints at Spike Island. The Island is located off the coast of Cobh in Cork Harbour and has over 1300 years of Irish history. Your journey starts with a ferry ride before Ireland's best storytellers take you on a guided tour of the outer island and fortress. You can then self explore the prison cells, fortress, beautiful island walks and also enjoy the on-site café.

Day 3: Jameson Whiskey Distillery

The Jameson Experience at the Old Distillery is where you can learn how Irish Whiskey is crafted and be in with a chance to become a qualified 'Irish Whiskey Taster'. The Jameson Experience Tour is a fully guided tour around the original Midleton Distillery, which brings the stories of Jameson's rich heritage to life. The tour finishes with your chance to do a guided comparative tasting of three famous whiskeys, one being Jameson.

Day 4: Titanic Experience Cobh

The Titanic Experience is located in the heart of Cobh Town. Your personal tour guide will take you on a virtual journey; you will experience life aboard Titanic and learn a little about the conditions on board for third and first class passengers. When disaster strikes, you will experience the chill of the sinking, through a unique cinematographic experience. You can interact with a collection of audio-visual storyboards exploring the events that led to the tragic sinking.



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Day 5: Fota House, Arboretum and Gardens

The guided house tour will take you on a journey through the grand décor of the principle rooms and behind the scenes to the exquisite boudoir and charming Victorian nursery. There are also a wide variety of activity-based tour offerings for children; from playing detectives to digging for history and exploring the Honey Bee's Adventure, there is fun for the whole family!

Day 6: Farmer's Market, Shopping and Boat Tour

Every Saturday morning in Midleton town centre holds one of the most popular Farmers Markets in the region. The market sells a range of fresh locally produced homemade cakes, breads, gourmet snacks and woodfire pizza. Local talented musicians play at the market adding to the atmosphere. Afterwards browse around Midleton's popular clothing boutiques.

In the afternoon, catch the waves along Ireland's Ancient East coastlines and explore Cork Harbour by boat with Cork Harbour Boat Hire. An experienced tour guide will showcase the variety of sea life that lives in the waters and beautiful scenery along the way.

Day 7: Ballymaloe House and Gardens

Ballymaloe Cookery School is one of the world's most prestigious cookery schools, and the only one to be situated on its own 100 acre organic farm. Ballymaloe House serves home grown produce and a Ballymaloe Café and Craft Shop are also located close to Ballymaloe House. Activities include croquet, yoga, pilates, wine events and cycling.

Walk through the little wooden gate at the entrance to Ballymaloe Cookery School and step into a veritable Eden. Beyond the main cookery school building lie several captivating gardens - some carefully designed and highly ornate, others allowed to grow wild at certain times of the year.

