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Pick a category to filter your recsss - \$\$\$ • Irish, Bar, Cafess\$ - \$\$\$ • Irish, European, Healthys\$\$\$ • Healthy, Vegetarian friendly\$ • American, Deli, Hungarian Cork has amazing magnetism in so many different ways. It's an immersive experience that will satisfy the needs of any visitor, whatever your interests. As well as visiting attractions or engaging in activities, many get to experience true local life, brought alive by the people that you encounter during your stay. Nestled in the South West of Ireland between the signature visitor experiences of Ireland's Ancient East and the Wild Atlantic Way, Cork offers the history, heritage and landmarks accompanied by artisan food and drink and a strong cultural, musical and artistic vibe. And we are a place of dramatic natural landscapes, riverscapes, harbours, bays and seascapes. A place of mountains, river valleys and coastlines. Cork is distinctive and it offers unmissable experiences that can be enjoyed in multiple ways. The city and county complement each other well; the coastline offers a calm escape or a sporty challenge, the hills and mountains are there to admire or climb and the rich food heritage adds an element of discovery and satisfaction to any day out. For many visitors who live in other parts of Ireland, Cork is a special place that holds nostalgic memories of their own childhood-family holidays. That's the magic of Cork that will bring people back time and time again. Visit Cork is Cork's visitor organisation, leading the way in promoting Cork to people who are about to embark on a visit to Cork. Their aim is to educate and enrich the visitor experience and their website is a central hub to find out more about what Cork has to offer, visitor attractions, places to stay, festival events and much more, please use it as a resource to build knowledge or plan your trip. The visitor experience Cork is 'made in Cork only'. The many different characters that you will meet who welcome you like an old friend and go out of their way to ensure you stay is a happy one. Our people characterised by commentators as being amiable, approachable, helpful, open and independent minded. They are free-thinking who will share their stories and their passion for what's real in life. They will want to connect with you and make you feel at home in a county that they have deep pride and passion for. Many visitors will immerse themselves in the local life of the place they are staying in. Cork is not manufactured, it is a truly authentic experience that is a rich mix of its traditional past and forward thinking focus. Visitors who have a deep appreciation for locally relevant activities and produce will not be disappointed in Cork. Community focused activities such as visiting local farmers markets, food producers or craft studios are available in most parts of Cork. Walking tours of villages or forests or a river or lake adventure are in abundance. Because of the local knowledge of the people, you will be able to discover the locality of Cork in a true and meaningful way and will never be too far from the next exciting experience. Cork is a lush coastal playground backed by rolling hills with an endless succession of ports, coves and bays that are a magnet for sailors and those who just love to be by the sea. It has a maritime history spanning over a thousand years, including the most influential periods of European exploration. Here you will discover an immersive and quirky way to experience history and heritage that will stimulate all your senses. Cork has the longest shoreline of any county in Ireland, the last sunset in Europe and one of the deepest natural harbours in the world. A Maritime Haven is the wild and rugged yet serene coastline that can be experienced through land or sea. See the colourful towns and villages; taste the abundance of local artisanal produce, savour the many stories and traditions from the locals. Hear the quirky and quick-witted Cork personality with its uplifting tone, with lyrics around every corner, and experience a local creative vibe that stimulates all five senses. It is the layering of these things together that creates a true maritime haven. The port and the coastal lands of Cork has created a wealth of maritime and outdoor activities; set in a secure and safe lifestyle that allows you to experience the beauty of coasting in a number of different ways. We are in places that's culturally rich and vibrant. A place with a wealth of cultural facilities and events as well as creating a fair that contributes to the cosmopolitan feel of the region's city and towns. There are festivals with an international reputation, all which add to the quality of life and visitor experience to be had in the region. There are many authentic experiences on offer, many of which mean exploring something new or unexpected. The storytelling festival on Cape Clear, the story of Cork harbour, the Butter Museum or a trip to Blarney Castle. The stories of anywhere you choose to visit will complement each other and add to overall experience and love for Cork. Cork's creativity energy exudes from the people of Cork, inspired by the place of Cork. To get into the mindset of our creative offering, visit the English Market or local farmer's market and hear of the local stories connected with our artisanal produce. Or why not visit a local craftserson and hear first hand of the inspiration behind their work; go a step further and engage in a creative workshop to make something, not just buy it. By evening time, you'll be ready for a live music session, often put together by a group of local people with a passion for the instrument they play. Whether you are visiting on your own, as a couple or in a group, there are some cool, exciting and energising things to do in Cork. From morning to night, there is enough to do that you will remember for a lifetime. If you are ready to try new things, Cork has a lot to offer; you can explore the city by day, on foot, by bike, kayak or curraich and then immerse yourself in the city's unique atmosphere at night. Across city and county you will be able to enjoy lots of new, quirky activities such as kayaking at night, Triskel Arts Centre, live music events and water sports. If planning your visit at festival time, you will get to enjoy the vibe of local and international entertainment in all its glory - street performers, live music, comedy tours and street art. So, if you are coming from afar on a main holiday or another part of Ireland for a long weekend, you won't be disappointed with what Cork has to offer. It's impossible to detail all that is great about Cork in one website, it's the personal experience that matters. But here's just a quick look at some of Cork's strongest assets, West Cork and the Islands Fota Island, Blarney Stone, Ballymaloe, Middleton Distillery The Blackwater and Doneraile The characterful people and progressive thinking. Strong tradition of music The artisanal producers and the English Market Second largest natural harbour in the world Marine and coastline accessibility High standard of accommodation offered in hotels and guest houses Cork is increasingly attracting business tourism as organisers recognise the attraction of hosting their conferences in the region. With world class conference facilities for up to 1,000 delegates, and internationally acclaimed hotels, set against a backdrop of 1,100 km of coastline and internationally renowned golf courses in Ireland's gourmet capital, Cork offers a compelling location for business visitors. The Cork Convention Bureau can help event organisers with practical supports and advice to ensure the smooth running and success of their event. 7. Discover the beauty and bounty of the land in West CorkIf you're looking for County Cork destinations outside the city, consider visiting West Cork—one of the 7 hidden-gem places to visit in Ireland. The region stretches from Kinsale, a town south of Cork City, to the tip of the Beara Peninsula on Ireland's West Coast, and is known for wild plant life, rocky coastal beaches, and vast farmland punctuated by charming towns. "Everything about Ireland is beautiful! Luscious green landscapes, cliffs, rolling hills, castles, quaint towns, so much history. So picturesque. My favorite town was Cork. Quiet and so beautiful," said traveler Alicia.While you explore the beautiful wilderness of West Cork, be sure to sample the land and its bounty of organic produce, artisan cheeses, and locally raised meat and fish. On our Ireland: A Feast of Culinary Flavors & Local Traditions tour, you'll have the opportunity to tour an organic farm and participate in a seasonal activity like jam making or blueberry picking. For stunning views of Sheeph's Head Lighthouse and Dunmanus Bay, add our Sheeph's Head Peninsula & Bantry House Tea excursion where you'll explore part of the coastline on foot before ending the day with a traditional tea service at the stately Bantry House and Garden. Insider tip: Visit one of the many farmers' markets or grab a bite at a restaurant to savor some of the region's abundant produce. On our A Week in Ireland, Dublin, Cork & Bantry tour and our Ireland for Solo Travelers tour, you'll have the option to visit West Cork and enjoy a traditional meal on our Evening in Kinsale excursion. Are you looking for a comprehensive Cork travel guide? Cork City is the second largest city in Ireland after Dublin. Corkians, however, refer to Cork as the "Real Capital" owing to its history. For a long period of time, Cork had a sizable seaport. It began on an island in the Lee River's swampy estuary (where the name Cork comes from the Irish word *Coraigh*, meaning "marsh") and gradually climbed both sides of the steep banks. Viking invaders expanded Cork, which had begun as a monastic settlement, around 915. Cork was once completely surrounded by fortifications, and remnants of the medieval town center can still be seen on
South and North Main streets. The city earned the nickname "the rebel city" as a result of its support for the Yorkist cause during the Wars of the Roses. Corkonians refer to the city as "the real capital" because of its opposition to the Anglo-Irish Treaty during the Irish Civil War. Cork's city center is now an island sandwiched between two Lee River channels that meet downstream at the city's eastern end, where quays and docks connect to Lough Mahon and Cork Harbour, one of the world's largest natural harbors. Cork Travel Guide: Best Places To Stay, Eat And See (For 2024) RELATED READ: As a tourist destination, Cork has something for everyone. Numerous parks, museums, galleries, and other tourist attractions are located throughout the city. The picturesque city center provides easy access to numerous historical, natural, and cultural attractions. Are you thinking about making a trip to this southern city in the near future? This Cork travel guide will assist you in planning your visit and revealing why Cork City is referred to as Ireland's "true" capital. Best Time To Visit Cork Temperatures in the southern city of Cork are regulated by the North Atlantic Current, which travels through the Atlantic Ocean. Cork receives significantly more rain than Dublin throughout the year, with the heaviest rainfall occurring in the winter months. If you are planning to visit, make sure to check weather forecasts. From May to August is the best time to visit Cork. It's also a good idea to go in the early fall. Cork hosts an abundance of fantastic festivals. Many of them take place between Spring and autumn when Cork is at its most picturesque. The Cork Jazz Festival and the Cork Folk Festival are two of the most popular festivals to attend in October. How To Get Around Cork Cork, as a major city in Ireland, has a well-developed public transportation system. This simplifies the process of getting around Cork. If you are planning to visit the city's major tourist attractions, the city is compact enough that you may be able to walk almost everywhere. Other places of day trips, like Blarney Castle & Gardens, would require taking public transportation. If you're visiting Cork soon and want to know how to get around, check out this Cork travel guide to help you out. Walking By Car By Train By Bus Bike Where To Stay in Cork RELATED READ: Cork, one of the most popular tourist destinations in Ireland, is beautiful all year. It is a cosmopolitan college town with affordable dining and a vibrant nightlife. RELATED READ: How To Apply For Ireland Tourist Visa For FilipinosAs one of Ireland's larger cities, Cork offers a diverse selection of hostels, bed and breakfasts, hotels, and vacation rentals to suit any traveler's needs and budget. Here are some of the best places to stay in Cork City. Kinlay House Hostel Cork Cheap dormitory rooms with a bright and lively atmosphere are what make Kinlay House Hostel. Guests could enjoy a walking distance from the Cork English Market as well as the Cork Opera House. Kinlay House is one of the most flexible accommodations in Cork. It has a variety of rooms to choose from. They have private standard rooms for those who want to enjoy a room for themselves. If you want to stick to your budget, they also have dormitory rooms offered at a cheap price. CHECK HOTEL RATES | HOTEL REVIEWS IN TRIPADVISOR Hotel Isaacs Cork First on the list of mid-range hotels in Cork is Hotel Isaacs which is one of the best value accommodations in the city. Check out its affordable spacious rooms. Hotel Isaacs is a boutique hotel that offers mid-range rooms for guests who want to stay close to the city center. The English Market and Shandon Steeple are the closest attractions from the hotel but bus stops leading to other parts of Cork are also nearby. Each room has a full kitchen and a private bathroom. CHECK HOTEL RATES | HOTEL REVIEWS IN TRIPADVISOR Hayfield Manor If you're looking for a luxury hotel with a beauty spa and an elegant restaurant, Hayfield Manor is the perfect accommodation for you. They have a variety of luxurious rooms for their guests. The bedrooms are not only fancy but the toilets as well. The rooms also feature a flat-screen TV and an entertainment system. If you prefer a relaxing afternoon, the hotel also has a pretty garden for afternoon walks and beauty treatments in its spa. CHECK HOTEL RATES | HOTEL REVIEWS IN TRIPADVISOR RELATED READ: Where To Eat. Cork is dubbed the "foodie capital" of Ireland. That alone should persuade you to pay a visit to this charming city. Many of Ireland's best and most prestigious restaurants are located in the city. From cafes and eateries serving food made with the famous Cork butter (visit the museum, too!) and cheese to seafood restaurants, here are some of the best dining places in Cork. Strasbourgo Goose View this post on Instagram A post shared by Stein Halvorsen (@gtevatar) A restaurant in Cork known for its unbeatable value for money, Strasbourgo Goose should be on top of your must-visit places to eat here.They have the popular three-course menu that costs 21, with a varied menu for each course. If you avail of this, there's also an option to trade one course for a glass of wine. Regular customers recommend that you try their seafood offerings as a starter, then go for the steak and finish with a decadent dessert. The food is delicious and the portions are quite generous, so make it a point to visit this restaurant when you're in Cork. RELATED READ: 11 Best Honeymoon Destinations In Ireland Cafe Gusto View this post on Instagram A post shared by Cafe Gusto (@cafegusto) A classic example of a small place but big in taste, Cafe Gusto serves casual dining fare that are hearty and delicious. This is the Cork restaurant that's known for its rolls, salads, and wraps, as well as tapas and hot dishes. Try their filling sandwiches as well as dishes like Italian meathalls or Iberico Chorizo & Chickpea Stew. Cafe Gusto also serves good coffee and if you're going here in the evening, you may bring your own drinks for a minimal corkage fee. Farmgate Cafe Farmgate Cafe is among the best restaurants in Cork for a reason, and it starts with its location. It is in the mezzanine of the English Market, and you can even choose a seat where you can watch the hustle and bustle in the area. If you prefer a quieter atmosphere, the dining room boasts of artsy walls that feature works by local artists and even poetry. This poetry wall features poems from Irish and international poets, carefully curated by the cafe. A lovely place to visit any time of the day, Farmgate Cafe serves local dishes, using quality ingredients sourced from local producers. A must-try is their tripe and onions with drisheen, Irish lamb stew, and their hearty sandwiches. Where To Drink/Party If you're in Cork for a visit and want to experience the nightlife, you're in for a treat! Owing to Cork's university status, expect to see a large number of young, energetic students in search of cheap drinks and a good time! This is the crowd you want to be around when you're in the mood to party, and this Cork nightlife guide should assist you in planning your ideal pub crawl. Thus, here are some of Cork's best drinking and partying establishments. Costigan's Pub Costigan's dates back to 1849 when it first opened its doors for business, making it one of Cork City's oldest pubs. Visitors to the city often stop by to sample the pub's extensive selection of gins and whiskeys. With its prime location on Washington Street, Costigan's managed to hold on to much of its historic charm. The bar counter, cozy snug, and parlor area with fireplace are all part of the establishment's offerings. The Corner House The Corner House offers a glimpse into more traditional Irish nightlife, which may be too, laid back for professional partygoers. It's a convenient location for a night out in the Victorian Quarter. The Corner House has a wide selection of beverages, from wine to craft beer, on its menu. Local bands and singers perform traditional Irish music in the early evenings and into the wee hours of the night. This is a great spot to unwind with a cold beer. Sin E View this post on Instagram A post shared by Sin E (@sin_ebarcock) "Sin E" (Gaelic for "this is it") is a fitting name for this pub, which truly does have it all. With over 150 years of continuous service, this bar is not short on history or character. Downstairs is always crowded, so if you prefer to sit, you'll want to arrive early. RELATED READ: Dublin To Cork: How To Travel To Cork From Dublin The atmosphere at Sin E remains vibrant, with a long-standing tradition of good music and beer to keep things going strong. The bartenders are enthusiastic and attentive as they serve up a wide selection of spirits and local craft beers to their customers. This folk music joint's relaxed atmosphere makes it easy to strike up a conversation with the locals. Things To Do in Cork There are almost innumerable things to do in Cork City. The city is home to a number of Cork county's most popular tourist attractions. There is something for everyone, from historical landmarks and world-famous restaurants to museums and bustling little pubs. This Cork travel guide includes a variety of activities that will ensure that you get the most out of your visit. Fancys The 16th-century art in the Crawford Art Gallery, Cork The Crawford Art Gallery holds an array of art pieces from the 16th century until the present. It features paintings, sculptures, and prints on all three floors of the building. While there are permanent exhibits, the gallery also has open doors for special exhibits which are only available for a certain season. It also offers presentations and hands-on experiences. Revisit the city's history in Cork Public Museum This Georgian House in one of the most popular parks in Cork City hosts a variety of artifacts which could help you take a tour back to the city's past. The Cork Public
Museum exhibits items from the Bronze Era, War of Independence, etc. You can also find examples of Cork silver and needlepoint lace in this museum. Take a trip to the Cork City Gaol Of course, Cork City also has unusual tourist attractions which turned out to be one of the best experiences in the city. The Cork City Gaol used to be the city's home for lawless citizens until it was closed in 1923. From 1824 until 1923, this prison witnessed a lot of history which is now the main highlight of the guided tours in Cork City Gaol. It also has a picnic area for families who want to stay after the tour, a souvenir shop for those who want to take home badass pieces of the prison's history, and a cafe for those who want to take a break. Be mesmerized by St. Fin Barre's Cathedral Saint Fin Barre's Cathedral is a neo-Gothic cathedral built for the devotees of the city's patron saint. This cathedral is surely difficult to miss most especially when you're walking along Dean Street at night. The three spires of the cathedral and its architectural style in English Gothic is truly a sight to behold. Drop into the markets for delicious dishes made from the market's wares. A mixture of grand Gothic and classical architecture, Cork City Gaol looks more like a castle than a penitentiary. But don't be fooled by the castle facade. The building has a long and colorful history. The island that stands today is the original, but it adds to the history-like surroundings at Gougane Barra. 8. The Jameson Distillery Photos courtesy Hu O'Reilly via Faillte Ireland. If you're looking for things to do in Cork with a group of friends, a French New Year's masterpieces, this site is very, very well, either. If you consider one frosty night in 1923 when no less than 42 prisoners led clothes and sheets together and snuck over the walls in batches of 14, fleeing silently into the night on stockinged feet. This was chiefly a women's prison, where many republican women were held during the War of Independence. Take a tour through the gloomy cells and corridors to be transported back to those tough and turbulent times. Built almost 400 years ago, this cruiser regularly caught the eye of attacking forces, right up until the Irish Civil War of the 1920s. In fact, after the original structure took shape in 1601, locals were so worried by the potential for invasion that they destroyed it. Bad idea: when order was restored, the people of Cork were made to rebuild it again at their own expense. The fort was replaced in 1624 and Oliver Cromwell is said to have added improvements while besieging the city, resulting in roughly what we see today. Take a stroll along the ramparts - many claim this offers the best view over Cork city. The weight of Cork's lengthy history adds a certain richness to this city, not least of all to its strong tradition of brewing, reinvigorated today at the Franciscan Well. The brewery is named after the site itself, where a medieval Franciscan monastery once stood - complete with a healing well. While the beer brewed onsite today may not technically have curative powers, it's still pretty good! Patrons can choose from a range of specialist lager, ale, stout and wheat beers, as well as various tipples from micro-breweries all round the world. Relax with a pint in the beer garden, where tunes from local musicians often fill the rafters. Cheers! There's nothing quite like a stroll through University College Cork, along the leafy banks of the River Lee. The trees adorning this verdant campus lend it a stately air; in the President's Garden, there even stands one of that was brought back from the trenches of the First World War as a sapling that had sprouted in the pocket of a fallen soldier. Indoors, the award-winning Lewis Glucksman Gallery hosts regular exhibitions and shows. Drop into the markets for delicious dishes made from the market's wares. A mixture of grand Gothic and classical architecture, Cork City Gaol looks more like a castle than a penitentiary. But don't be fooled by the castle facade. The building has a long and colorful history. The island that stands today is the original, but it adds to the history-like surroundings at Gougane Barra. 8. The Jameson Distillery Photos courtesy Hu O'Reilly via Faillte Ireland. If you're looking for things to do in Cork with a group of friends, a French New Year's masterpieces, this site is very, very well, either. 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