Whiddy Island
In the mid 1600s Whiddy was sold to an English settler called White who, prospering on farming, fishing & port trade, also bought Bantry House (then ‘Blackrock House’), taking over the whole of the Bantry area. During the 1700s Whiddy prospered on the pilchard fishing industry, with a fleet of 150 boats, and three ‘Fish Palaces’ (large sheds where they pickled these Pilchards). The population at this time numbered 817 people. One of these ‘Fish Palaces’ was located at point 4 on your map.

At present the population of Whiddy Island stands at only 30.

Airstrip
This area, now used as an Airstrip, was, in the 1840s, occupied by a Coast Guard Station and boat house. During the building of the Gulf Oil Terminal on Whiddy Island, in 1967, this was the main construction area for all the pipe-work and was a hive of industrial activity. The Airstrip, originally 3 fields, was built in the 1970s by Rowa Pharmaceutical Company, who own the land. This is located at point 3 on your map.

Railway Pier
Located at point 7 on your map, Railway Pier was built in 1890 to connect Bantry Railway station to the Bantry Steamship Company ships, trains ran on to the pier from the nearby main station. Passengers and goods then transferred to the ships and continued to Glengarriff and Castletownbere. The pier was in use up to 1949.

TOURIST INFORMATION

As an important tourism location and a designated outdoor activity hub in West Cork, Bantry provides a wide variety of activities and events all year round.

Bantry House & Gardens
Bantry House was constructed in about 1700 on the south side of Bantry Bay. The house has been open to tourism since 1946 and now offers bed and breakfast accommodation. The beautiful gardens contain seven terraces; the house is located on the third. One hundred steps are located behind the house and are built to appear to rise out of a fountain and are surrounded by azaleas and rhododendron. The gardens are constantly tended and maintained.

Bantry Bay 18 Hotel
Championship Golf Course
A beautiful, challenging 18 hole championship parkland golf course in the sunny South West of Ireland. Course architects Eddie Hackett and Christy O’Connor Jnr have adapted some 170 acres of picturesque scenery skirting the coast, with parkland tree lined holes coupled with an abundance of perfectly positioned hazards, lakes, mounds and bunkers.

Country Market (every Friday)
Bantry Market is one of the most vibrant markets in West Cork, hosting an abundance of stalls selling a vast array of local artisan foods that will make your mouth water. The market operates from 9am – 3.30pm.

Bantry Tourist Office
Bantry Tourist Office is located in the Old Courthouse building in Wolfe Tone Square.

Bantry's Heritage Loop Walks
Bantry has a wealth of heritage, natural and built, from sea, woodlands and mountains, to Bantry House, the Kinlaurne Pillar stone and story of Wolfe Tone. The aim is to take walkers on a tour of many of the heritage points of interest in and around the town.

The walks vary from 2.5m to 5km plus, but they can be linked together to form a walk of more than 20km. Most of the walks use pavements, paths and small roads, so are suitable for all the family. For the more adventurous there is the possibility of striking out across the peak of Knocknaveagh, which provides stunning views over the town and bay. The walks are complemented by a series of interpretative boards erected by Bantry Tourism, Failte Ireland and Cork County Council.

For further information, please see www.visitbantry.ie or call +353 2750229

Accommodation
Bantry offers a range of accommodation to suit all budgets from 4 Star Hotels to Guesthouses, Bed & Breakfasts, Farmhouses, Caravans, Camping and Hostels.
**ABBLEY POINT SLIPWAY TO RAILWAY PIER RETURN**

**Green Trail:** Beginner Trail  
**Access Point:** Abbey Slipway  
**Distance:** 2 km return  
**Duration:** 1 hour return  
**Description:** Short return trail between Abbey Slipway (1) and Railway Pier (7). Beware of Ferries operating from Bantry Pier.

**ABBLEY POINT SLIPWAY TO BANK HOUSE RETURN**

**Blue Trail:** Intermediate Trail  
**Access Point:** Abbey Slipway  
**Distance:** 6 km return  
**Duration:** 2 hour return  
**Description:** Travels west to point (2) where the crossing point is marked by a signpost and flag. Beware of winds and tidal flows at the crossing, a wind flag at point (2) will indicate local wind conditions. If suitable cross 600m (15 minutes) to the Blueway flag on Whiddy Island point (3). Be careful of ferries operating between Whiddy Island and Bantry. Follow trail to Bank House on Whiddy Island (4). Return via the same Blue Intermediate Loop to Abbey Slipway.

**ABBLEY SLIPWAY TO WHIDDY ISLAND TO ABBEY SLIPWAY - LONG LOOP**

**Red Trail:** Advanced Trail  
**Access Point:** Abbey Slipway  
**Distance:** 9 km  
**Duration:** 3 hours  
**Description:** Follow the Blue Trail description to Bank House on Whiddy Island (4) continue north to point (5) where the crossing point is marked by an orange buoy and flag. This is a 2 km long (45 minute) open water crossing which requires experience to successfully complete. Beware of winds and tidal flows at the crossing, a wind flag at point (5) will indicate local wind conditions. Cross between Horse Island and Chapel Island flanked by mussel farm buoys to the green channel marker. From the green channel marker head for the Blueway flag on Reenbeg Point (6). Then cross the small bay south to reach Railway Pier (7) and on to Abbey Slipway (1).

**Disclaimer:** Users of this trail do so at their own risk.

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**TRAIL SAFETY INFORMATION**

Canoeing & Kayaking is an adventure sport. When you go canoeing follow the five points below to stay safe:

- **Planning:** Plan your trip well in advance by consulting with the Blueway website and local providers.
- **Experience:** Ensure the Blueway is a suitable match for your group’s experience. Water can be dangerous, if you are inexperienced use a local guide and seek formal training.
- **Conditions:** Consult the weather forecast and tide tables in advance of your trip and if unguided only go out in favourable conditions, clear days with low wind.
- **Equipment:** Always wear an approved buoyancy aid. Ensure your boat has adequate buoyancy. Bring suitable clothing, such as a wetsuit and equipment to deal with an emergency.
- **Emergencies:** In the event of capsize, stay with your craft, be ready and equipped to help one another. Always bring some form of communication with you, ie mobile phone - VHF. Ensure your group has a towing system in place.

For more information and safety tips, visit www.bluewaysireland.org

In case of an emergency dial 112 or 999 to contact emergency services. Use VHF channel 16 to contact the coast guard. BE RESPONSIBLE AND STAY SAFE TODAY

**LEAVE NO TRACE**

Take only pictures, leave only ripples. www.leavenotraceireland.org

**INVASIVE SPECIES**

Help stop the spread of invasive species - wash your boat before and after your paddle. www.invasivespeciesireland.com

We welcome feedback about your paddling experience. Please contact us at info@bluewaysireland.org

For further local information please contact either:

**BANTRY BAY PORT COMPANY**
- bantrybayport.com

**BANTRY TOURIST OFFICE**
- visitbantry.ie 00353 27 50229

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**Wind Flag Indicator**

Wind Flag Sagging: Slack Winds  
Favourable paddling conditions  
Wind flag extended or flapping: High Winds, not favourable paddling condition  
No Flag: Trail CLOSED.

Canoeing Ireland is an adventure sport. When you go canoeing follow the five points below to stay safe:

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- **Experience:** Ensure the Blueway is a suitable match for your group’s experience. Water can be dangerous, if you are inexperienced use a local guide and seek formal training.
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**Local Advice for Users**

Trail users must check the weather forecast and beware of the wind especially in open water crossings. In case of an emergency dial 112 or 999 to contact the emergency services. Use VHF channel 16 to contact the Coast Guard.