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# **GATEWAY TO WEST** CORK

Just over the Rosscarbery bridge is a west Cork gem, writes Saoirse Hanley.

The Celtic Ross Hotel em-

bodies everything this pictur-esque corner of the country is famous for - friendly hospitality, top-class food and a community spirit that can't be bought, from the warm welcome at reception to the genuine hospitality throughout the restaurant, bar and leisure centre.

Speaking of the restaurant and bar, the food served in the Kingfisher Bistro is delicious, with plenty of local produce to be sampled. Think the best of surf 'n' turf – fish freshly landed at Union Hall and local steak, lamb and burgers.
It's also well worth sampling

the bar's cocktail offerings - the west Cork espresso martini (€13)

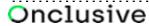
makes for a delicious end to your meal made with Irish spirits in-cluding the decadent Five Farms liqueur.

When you're not sampling nearby delicacies, there's plenty to see and do in the area, Taking a dip - or a snooze under the sun - at Warren beach or go for a nature walk with local expert and wildlife enthusiast Calvin Jones. His wildlife tours offer a new way of witnessing the west on foot, and you'll come back with newfound knowledge and appreciation for the natural

After exploring, retire to the hotel and take in the scenery from the terrace or sink into a restful sleep. Make sure to set your alarm for breakfast, though, as that's another culinary experience you won't want to miss

Rooms at the Celtic Cross Hotel start from €179 per night. Visit celticrosshotel.com





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### **DISCOVER HISTORY** IN THE BOYNE VALLEY

The Boyne Valley is the perfect one-stop shop for a day out in Ire-land this summer, writes Sarah McIntosh.

Being the birthplace of Ireland's Ancient East, you'll find fantastic food and drink, outdoor activities and cultural gems dotted around Co Meath and south Co

Start your day on the Hill of Tara, taking in the 360-degree views at this religious site. In use for more than 5,000 years as a for more than 5,000 years as a place of burital and assembly, the Hill of Tara grew to fame as the legendary inauguration site of the ancient High Kings of Ireland. From its rolling slopes, you can allegedly see one-quarter of Ireland, including Lough Crew Cairns, the Hill of Slane, Trim Castle and beautiful and the standard of the standard of the second se

From the Hill of Tara, take a From the Hill of Tara, take a 15-minute drive to Emerald Park. If you are looking for a thrill, definitely give the roller-coasters a go. Dino Dash is a good one for anyone who doesn't like heights while the legendary Cá Chulainn is not for the faint-hearted. The "World of Raptors' show - where you can watch a spectacular bird of prey flying demonstration - is a must-see.

The perfect spot for some inch is Sage and Stone, an award-winning family-owned restaurant located in Duleek. This farmhouse café and takeaway serves great-tasting hearty food using the best of local ingredients.

In Drogheda town, the High in Drogneda town, the High-lanes Gallery is worth a visit. This visual art space is situated in the former Franciscan church, known locally as the "High Lane Church". Sustain your visit with a stop off at the on-site café, Five Good Things.

## **EXPLORE IRELAND'S BAY OF NAPLES**

When thinking of a trip to Dub-

When thinking of a trip to Dub-in, people usually imagine a city break. But what about Dublin's beautiful coastal scenery too? asks Shannen Wilkin Easily accessible from the city with the DART or the M50 if driving, Fitzpatrick Castle Hotel nestled between Killiney Hill and Dalkey is a great location to expe-

nestled between Killiney Hill and Dalkey is a great location to experience the enclave of south county Dublin life.

A must-do when in this area is a walk up Killiney Hill to the obelisk which provides an unsurpassed view of Ireland's "Bay of Naples". The hill is steep, with lots of way markers so be sure to wear good footwear and stay hydrated. Dalkey village is a bustling hub of cafes, pubs and restaurants so take a walk down for a spot of people watching. Bring a towel under your arm for a dip at Bullock harbour and experience the local way of life. Pop into

ence the local way of life. Pop into Dalkey castle and heritage centre and take in the Maeve Binchy experience.



#### **CURL UP WITH** THE CATS

There is a lot to be said for park-ing the car on arrival and not thinking about it until it is time to return home, writes Caltriona

Bolger.
Checking into Pembroke
Kilkenny in the heart of this
historic city, is the ideal place to
switch off from everyday life and
return revived and rejuvenated from a getaway break.

from a getaway break.

Take in the city centre surroundings on arrival from your
spacious room; enjoy the views
over to Kilkenny Castle or onto
bustling Patrick street. Enjoy a
taste of Kilkenny with a meal at
Statham's Restaurant; named after
the site where the Statham-Ford car was designed and constructed in 1929.

Take a wander down the street to the city's centre point, The Parade, and decide to head up High street towards the museu churches and shops or veer right and take in the expanse of the

castle grounds. Kilkenny Arts Festival is cel-



ebrating its 50th anniversary this August and if you fancy adding some art – little or large - to your home, this would be a good time to visit. Exhibitions will take place throughout the city with options for all budgets. Before leaving, book some time in Mint by Pembroke for a mas-

in Mint by Pembroke for a massage, facial or spa treatment and look forward to a delicious café style breakfast in the hotel before returning to that parked car!

#### **KEEPING THE RUGBY** DREAM ALIVE

The International Rugby Experi-ence is the home of legends of the game in the heart of the Treaty city. Open seven days a week from 9:30am – 6pm, check out the fully interactive experience that tells the

story of the game of rugby and ev-erything it stands for in Limerick. Follow the game from a com-munity, grass roots level up to the players, clubs and nations that have reached legendary status. Rooted in world rugby's values of passion, discipline, integrity, solidarity and respect, discover the real neonle behind discover the real people behind the game, as well as how it has

the game, as well as how it has impacted politics, brought rivals together, transformed communi-ties and improved lives. Located in the heart of the city, on O'Connell street, make a day-trip of it or if travelling from further afield, The Savoy Limer-lish on officials More travel ick on adjoining Henry street has been known to serve a breakfast

Adults €15, children €10, family rates available Summer Breeze Dinner, Bed, breakfast and cocktail summer special breaks from €353 for two people per night at The Savoy, Henry street, Limerick.



