



BLARNEY CASTLE
THE HOME OF THE BLARNEY STONE

BLARNEY CASTLE
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MAIN GROUNDS

- 1 Blarney Village and Square
- 2 Entrance
- 3 Castle
- 4 Blarney Stone (At top of castle)
- 5 Battlements
- 6 Caves
- 7 Dungeons
- 8 Poison Garden
- 9 Tunnel
- 10 Rock Close
- 11 Stable Yard
- 12 Look out Tower
- 13 Victorian Septic Tank House
- 14 Belgian Beds
- 15 Blarney House
- 16 Herbaceous Border and Climbing Plant Wall
- 17 Old Limekiln
- 18 Icehouse
- 19 Fern Garden
- 20 Horses Graveyard
- 21 Walled Kitchen garden (Private)
- 22 Lake

ROCK CLOSE

- A Board Walk and Water Garden
- B Waterfall
- C Dolmen
- D Wishing Steps
- E Witches Kitchen
- F Druids Cave
- G Witches Stone
- H Druids Circle
- I Woodland Walk
- J Sentry Post
- K Sacrificial Altar
- L Fairy Glade

Wheelchair Access to Base of Castle
Where you can see the Blarney Stone

Lake Walk (45 minutes)

Woodland Walk (1 hour 30mins)

WELCOME TO BLARNEY CASTLE AND GARDENS

The Castle is 10minutes walk from the entrance along the banks of the River Martin. The world famous Blarney Stone is at the top, so be prepared to climb the 100 steps! Kiss it and you will have the gift of eloquence bestowed upon you. Official photos and certificates can be purchased from the shop in the castle and you may visit the dungeons and caves nearby.



*When in Ireland visit
Blarney Castle and Gardens*

BLARNEY CASTLE GARDENS



Welcome to Blarney Castle Gardens where there is a lot more than meets the eye. Take your time to make a journey through diverse surroundings from tranquil to serene, to mystical and magical places. From the top of the Castle you can take in the wonderful views of over 60 acres of sprawling parklands which include gardens, avenues, arboretums and waterways. Find a touch of danger entwined with the beauty, as you look out for one of the few Poison Gardens in Ireland. We hope you enjoy your visit to the gardens where you will find, the beauty is ever changing with the seasons, so that no visit will ever be the same.

THE ROCK CLOSE & WATER GARDEN

The Rock Close is a mystical place, said to be on the site of an ancient druidic settlement. The trail here will lead you through a leafy canopy of ancient yew and oak trees. It will bring you to the water garden where you will be greeted with two flowing waterfalls. Don't be surprised if you get a feeling of magic as you explore the Rock Close. Here you will find the 'Wishing Steps' and story has it if you walk down these backwards with your eyes shut, all your wishes will come through. You may get a fright, when you see what we call 'The Witches Stone' when you see this you will know why it is so aptly named. There seems to be a bit of magic attached to this stone as people often leave sacrifices on top.

POISON GARDEN

Hidden behind the Castle battlements, you will find the poison garden. This part of the grounds contrasts largely with the bright green scenes that greet you everywhere else in the grounds. This educational collection of poisonous plants contains interesting plants from around the world including ones from Harry Potter like the Wolfsbane and the Mandrake. All the plants here



are sign posted with information, about their toxicity, traditional and modern day uses. The old expression 'It will either kill you or cure you could not have been more apt.'

FERN GARDEN

In the heart of the Castle gardens lies the magnificent sight of the fern garden. Follow the grassy path lined with wild flowers, you will find yourself standing on a limestone cliff overlooking the ferns. Continue to follow the path and under the jungle like canopy you will find over 80 varieties of ferns including a 204 inch high *Dicksonia antarctica* which happens to be the tallest of it's kind of in Ireland.



ARBORETUMS

Blarney Castle's arboretums and Pinetum contain a collection of specimen trees, some of them being the largest of their kind in Ireland. Many of them are rare and unusual such as the Wollemi Pine *Wollemia nobilis*, Foxglove Tree *Paulownia tomentosa*, and Tree of heaven *Ailanthus altissima*. They were mostly planted in the 1980's and 1990's but some already existing mature trees such as Yews, Limes and Spanish Chestnuts are much older, maybe up to 600 years old. New specimens are being added every year to further enhance the collection.

WOODLAND WALKS, THE LAKE AND THE WILDLIFE

The peaceful woodland walk is quiet, secluded area that leads to a circuit of the 21 acre Blarney Lake. Throughout the walk you may hear rustling from the red Squirrels and Jays that call the woodlands home. On the lake be sure to look out for the resident family of Swans, as well as Otters.



THE CHANGING SEASONS

Carpets of bulbs throughout the grounds create a vibrant spring show. The gardens also boast a fine collection of Azaleas and Rhododendrons which add a wealth of colour. In summer the herbaceous borders and rose beds provide the visitor with a splendid display of colour and structure. Autumn is the time for the arboretums to shine, with trees taking over the show. Looking from the top of the castle provides an exceptional view. Winter is traditionally the quiet time of year, but the winter scenery around the estate, particularly the lake and woodlands provides endless interest. For the less adventurous, the winter border alongside the stable yard is well worth a visit. There is something to see all year round in what is a constantly changing and evolving environment. Your visit need never be the same.

