

West Cork History Festival Field Trips 2019

Thursday 8 August

Field Trip 1: History and Archaeology of West Cork

Starts and ends in Skibbereen

This field trip will take you from the Bronze Age, through the Medieval and up to recent history. Along the way we will see Knockdrum Fort and the Drombeg Stone Circle as you've never seen them before, visit the private quarters of Castletownshend Castle and view the Harry Clarke windows in Castletownshend. We end with a visit to a fifteenth century tower house associated with William Penn and the Quakers. It's a taster of the complex past of West Cork, but with enough detail to satisfy the avid historian.

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Field Trip 2: History and Archaeology of the Beara Peninsula

Starts and ends in Glengarriff

This field trip is run in conjunction with Carina Jeisy of Beara Beoi, and will focus on the O'Sullivan Beres. We will visit their hidden cemetery known only to locals, explore their last stronghold in Dursey Sound and the tragic site of Dunboy Castle, where the siege was immortalised in the pages of *Pacata Hibernia*. The Puxleys come into this story too, having pirated with the O'Sullivan Beres and then built their famous mansion and went into copper mining. Along the way we will stop at various historical and archaeological sites that will bring the history of this wild and remote peninsula to life for you.

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Walking Tour 1: Walking Tour of Historic Skibbereen

Meet at the Skibbereen Courthouse, North Street.

Our guide is Philip O'Regan from the Skibbereen Heritage Centre. Philip's walking tours of Skibbereen are very popular, taking in key sites associated with the Famine, the Fenians, and the development of Skibbereen from the earliest days. Tour Takes approximately an hour and a half.

Friday 9 August

Field Trip 3: History and Archaeology of the Mizen

Starts and ends in Skibbereen

The Mizen Peninsula, known historically as Ivaha, is rich in history and archaeology. Neolithic and Bronze Age farmers have left evidence of their ritual practices, while Early Medieval saints and scholars are sensed through tantalising ruins. Ivaha was home to the O'Mahonys - discover how they got fabulously wealthy and built a string of castles around the Peninsula. The Famine times hit the Mizen hard, but one church in particular is still haunted by accusations of Souperism - was it true? The robber barons of the nineteenth century copper mines took from the area - but also provided employment in hard times. Finally, the Bohemians arrived in the 20th century, turning Ballydehob into a vibrant artistic hub.

Each Field Trip (except the Walking Tour) is a unique, full day, fully guided guided tour with breathtaking scenery and knowledgeable local archaeologists and historians as guides. Some feature exclusive access to private property.

Please wear shoes/boots suitable for a field trip - expect long grass, rough ground, some short steep sections, and mud. The field trip will go ahead no matter the weather, so please dress accordingly. No wheelchair access. No dogs allowed.