

Bandon was established as a colony at the southern frontier of the Munster Plantations. Taking its name from the river, walls 6 feet thick were built around the town to keep settlers safe. Though you can still see remains of the wall standing today, the greater part fell in 1689. As you walk around taking in the sites, you will be staying close to the trail the original town walls would have taken. Built between 1620-1625 portions are still standing, keep an eye out as you walk around.

THE ROUTE

Starting at **1**. Allen Square, the site of the old barracks, walk down Emmet Row passing **2**. The Shambles on your left where the old market used to be. **3**. Freemason Hall began life as Bandon Savings Bank. This part of town was at the heart of life with **4**. Courthouse and **5**. Town Hall nearby. Wander down North Main St, to **6**. Christchurch now housing the West Cork Heritage Centre Bandon, pop in and take a look. Continue down towards **7**. Seán Hales statue. Cross over the 'new bridge' built in 1773 and see **8**. Methodist church built in 1821 in front of you at the corner of **9**. Bridge St. one of the oldest streets in town. Continue along St. Patrick's Quay and look up the steps at **10**. St. Patrick's Church. Follow along Market Quay and out New Road turning up Church St. to come around back of **11**. St. Peter's - can you spot the section of the old town wall? As you walk along have a look at down at **12**. Now two buildings stand where one before - the site of the house Cromwell stayed in when he rested in Bandon. Follow to **13** - remnant of the original Town Wall it continued over the river back up to where we started at the barracks. Follow over the **14**. Footbridge and look down as you pass. An imprint of design of coins that were minted in Bandon are printed onto the footbridge. Take a look up towards the building at **15**. A Mill stood here - Bandon has always used the power of the river for industry and daily life.

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



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Comhairle Contae Chorcaí
Cork County Council



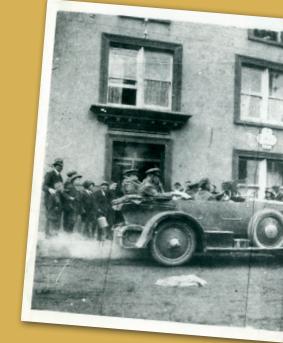
DID YOU KNOW?



■ Bandon has a twin city in Oregon. Named by George Bennet in 1873 (a native of the Irish Bandon) after his home town, and who is known especially for having introduced gorse into the US ecology with some disastrous results.

■ Seán Dearg Nash was Provost (leader) in Bandon several times between 1690 and 1725. He wasn't a very nice person. Locals had many names for him including Red Jack or Jack the Devil. He was known as a 'priest-catcher'. His reputation was so bad, local folklore said he would travel all around looking for priests and when he found them, he would chop off their heads and take them for payment.

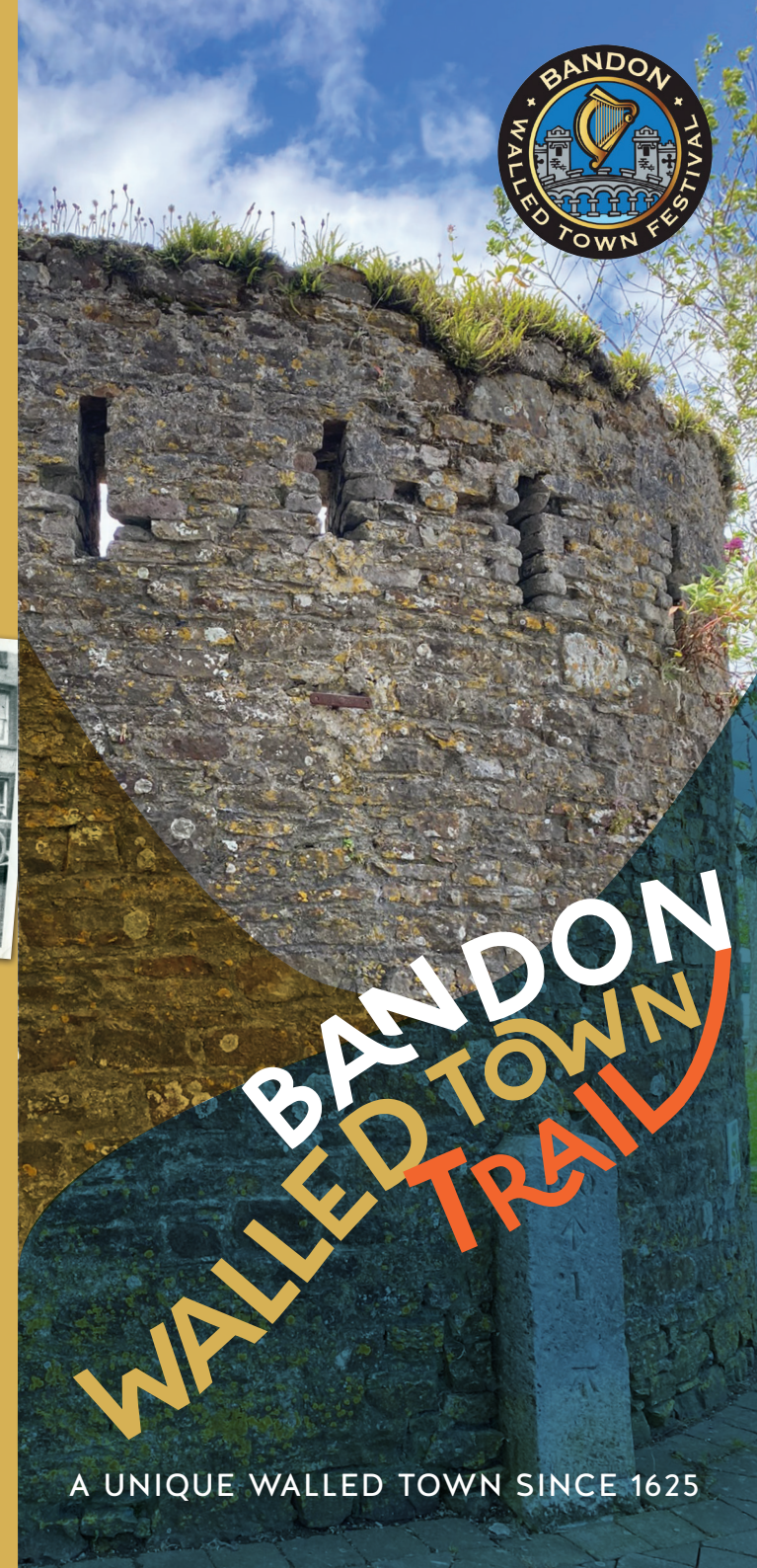
■ The local Munster Arms Hotel is known as the last spot Michael Collins stayed and he left from there on 21st August 1921 on the way to Béal na Bláth! The last known photograph of him was taken outside it.



■ Joseph Brennan Chairman of the Currency Commission and Governor of the Central Bank of Ireland, came from Bandon. it was his signature that appeared on the Irish Pound note and he was known locally as 'Joe Pound Note'.

■ Cornelius O'Sullivan, The founder of 'bio-chemistry' was born in Bandon in 1842. He became head brewer of Bass and Co.

■ Brewing and Distilling were synonymous at one stage with Bandon. Allman's Distillery was the second largest producer of Irish Whiskey up until the onset of prohibition. In 2016, an extremely rare, unopened bottle of Allman's Whiskey dating from 1916 sold for €6,600.



BANDON
WALLED TOWN
TRAIL

A UNIQUE WALLED TOWN SINCE 1625

1 SITE OF THE OLD BARRACKS:

In 1775 the Courtyard of Bandon's Barracks stood where Allen Square stands today. Occupied by the British army and Black and Tans until after the Irish War of Independence, today all that is left is the side wall. Later this area became the Fair Green, where fairs were held before the Mart was established. In 1940, it was renamed Allen Square in memory of William Philip Allen, one of the Manchester Martyrs who grew up in Bandon. The Maid of Erin you see was originally built on the main bridge in 1901 to commemorate uprisings in 1798, 1848 and 1867. Destroyed in 1921 it was replaced in 1925 and moved to Allen Square in 1986.

2 THE SHAMBLES: was once an open-air meat market. Built in 1817 the name Shambles comes from the tables that were used by stallholders in the enclosed meat market. The tables were in poor condition for most markets and hence they were 'a shambles'.

3 FREEMASON HALL: originally Bandon Savings Bank founded same year as The Shambles. It was rebuilt in 1835 and operated here until 1901, it became a Masonic Hall which operated here until 1988. The first Orange Lodge in County Cork was in Bandon Lodge no. 84.

4 COURTHOUSE: built in 1806 by the Duke of Devonshire who leased it to the County Grand Jury, subsequently remodelled in 1840 and 1886, partially burned in 1922, repaired in 1927 and refurbished in 1989.

5 TOWN HALL: built in 1862 it has played a significant role in the local social fabric for many years. It is said it is built on the site of one of the original 3 castles of Bandon.

6 CHRISTCHURCH: site of former church built in 1610 on site of old Danish fort - was the oldest site of Protestant worship in Ireland, now houses Bandon's West Cork Heritage Centre.

7 SEÁN HALES STATUE: C.O in the Old I.R.A (1918-22), T.D. for South Cork (1921) and Brigadier in the Free State Army (1921). Assassinated in Dublin in 1922.

8 BRIDGE ST.: one of the oldest streets in Bandon, as you pass over Bandon Bridge look at the signs, built in 1773 and extended in 1838, this bridge replaced the original one which lay beside it and connected straight across from Bridge St. - where the street got its name and holds to this day.

9 METHODIST CHURCH: built in 1821 and is the oldest of all the churches still in use in Bandon today. One of the original gas lights of the town can be seen above the entrance.

10 ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH: After Catholic Emancipation in 1829, Catholics began building small churches. In Bandon, the first was built on Chapel St. This was replaced by St. Patricks which was built 1856-61.

11 ST. PETER'S CHURCH: the current building was built in 1847 to replace an earlier church from 1614. Part of the walls of the grounds makes up a portion of the original town wall. Can you tell which part?

12 BROOKES /MURRAYS: site of house that Cromwell stayed in when he stayed in Bandon.

13 PORTION OF OLD WALL: it's hard to imagine that this wall once stood 6 metres tall! It extended along here across the river back up to the barracks in Allen Square (have a look behind the green rail (only if it is safe to do so) to see how tall it was.

14 FOOTBRIDGE: Look down as you cross the footbridge, at each of the viewing points, you will see a symbol imprinted on the surface. These are symbols of old Bandon minted coins, Bandon was granted the license to mint their own money in 1646.

15 MILL: The river has always given support and industry to Bandon. This is site of Brennan's Mill - built in the 18th century for use as a cornmill / mill and burnt down in 1968.

