Bridges of Cork - Heritage Treasure Hunt Trail

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www.corkheritage.ie

Instructions:

- Please social distance.
- Please cross the roads safely.
- The walk is about 2 hours and the suggested trail is clockwise from Nano Nagle Bridge up the south channel and down the north channel to cross back to the south channel again and back to the National Monument. Follow the map.

Introduction:

They say the best way to get to know a city is to walk it – in Cork you can get lost in narrow streets, marvel at old cobbled lane ways, photograph old street corners, look up beyond the modern shopfronts, gaze at clues from the past, be enthused and at the same time disgusted by a view, smile at interested locals, engage in the forgotten and the remembered, search and connect for something of oneself, thirst in the sense of story-telling – in essence feel the DNA of the place. This short trail provides insights into the city centre bridges, their stories and place in Cork.

1. Nano Nagle Bridge:

The year, 1985, was a cause for much celebration in Cork City as it was the 800th anniversary of the granting of Cork's first charter. Many events took place in the city and many developments were opened by the then Lord Mayor, Mr Liam Burke TD. One of these developments was the building of a new footbridge spanning the Lee near the National Monument on the Grand Parade to Sullivan's Quay. The bridge itself was opened on 14 June. It has a single arch design and was built by Site Services Ltd.

Agreement was reached to name the bridge after Nano Nagle who founded the Presentation Sisters on Cove Street in the South Parish in 1777. She and her associates worked to ease the hardship of the Penal Laws.

Question: At the National Monument, find Wolfe Tone - in his right hand he holds what object pointed towards the ground?

2. South Gate Bridge:

In the time of the Anglo Normans establishing a fortified walled settlement and a trading centre in Cork around 1200 AD, South Gate Drawbridge formed one of the three entrances – North Gate Bridge and Watergate being the others. In May 1711, agreement was reached by the Corporation of the City that North Gate Bridge would be rebuilt in stone in 1712 while in 1713, South Gate Bridge would be replaced with a stone arched structure. South Gate Bridge still stands today in its past form as it did over 300 years ago apart from a small bit of restructuring and strengthening in early 1994.

Question: Find the plaque to Jerome Collins, 1841-1881, who was an explorer and meteorologist, but in which destination, did he die at?

3. Frenches Quay Bridge:

The arch you are standing on is all that remains of an old bridge to a Dominican Abbey on Crosses Green. The Abbey was located on a marshy island to the south-west of the walled town. It had a church with a large steeple with an adjacent water mill built next to the river. The name of the island was Sancta Maria de Insula or St Marie's of the Isle – the area of present day Crosses Green. Archaeological excavation of the site occurred in 1993 during the placing of foundations for the Crosses Green Apartment Complex. The lower portions of the church, cloister and other domestic buildings were discovered under the watchful eye at the time of former City Archaeologist, Maurice Hurley and Cathy Sheehan. A total of two hundred medieval graves were found. Under the careful excavation of Catyrn Power, the majority of the graves were discovered within the boundaries of buildings especially within the church and cloister area.

Question: The laneway adjacent Forde's Funeral Home is called what? 900 years ago it was a laneway along which Vikings and Irish lived?

Question: Go to Meitheal Mara's white doors by the riverside; on the right hand side door, what four words are in big bold writing?

4. Clarke's Bridge:

In August 1776, Clarke's Bridge or Wandesford's Bridge as it was known then was begun to be built. The builder was Mr Samuel Hobbs who oversaw and carried out its execution. Mr Hobbs was also involved in the building of Parliament Bridge. Like all other bridges built in this era, their purpose was to join or cross over to other marshes – in this case Clarke's Marsh. However, what is peculiar about Clarke's Bridge is that it is one of very few structures in the city that has been left unaffected by modernisation and stands untouched except for being tarmacademed.

Question: Find the adjacent Lavitt Galley and its front window; who runs the gallery?

5. St Finbarre's Bridge:

A modern bridge for the city, St Finbarr's Bridge (1999), remembers Cork's patron saint. Finbarre reputedly established one of his earliest monasteries c.600AD on an island in the middle of the Shehy Mountains affectionately called Gougane Barra. Legend has it that he then left to walk the river valley to the mouth of which he established the monastery at what is now the site of St Finbarre's Cathedral in Cork City. Across the valley, there are churches, schools, and a hospital named after Finbarre as well as a number of memorials depicting the saint in churches in the form of stained glass windows and statues. Scholar Padraig Ó Riain outlines that Finbarre's *Life* was composed initially in Latin between 1196 and 1201 AD. His life was transmitted along three principal lines, each marking a major revision of the original text. In all, Finbarre's *Life* survives in thirty-five manuscripts.

Question: What date in December 1999 was the bridge opened?

6. Lancaster Quay Bridge (Modern):

Question: Opposite this modern bridge is the historic Reidy's Wine Vault – its outside clock was made by what famous Cork clockmaker?

7. River Lee Hotel Bridge (Modern):

Check out the sculptural map opposite the entrance to the River Lee Hotel. One of the key industrial investments in the Lee Valley was the Cork and Muskerry Light Railway, which opened in 1887 and closed in 1934. Its Cork terminus is now marked by the hotel. This railway had twenty-seven miles of track and the main line ran to Blarney, so people could visit the Castle. There were two branch lines, one to Coachford and the other to St Ann's Hydrotherapy centre, near Blarney, and then on through the Shournagh River valley to Donoughmore.

Question: In front of the hotel, find Eithne's Ring's sculptural piece adjacent the electric vehicle device on the Cork and Muskerry Light Railway – how much was the fare for first class?

8. Donovan's Bridge:

At the turn of the 20th century, land was bought by Mr Thomas Donovan in order to invest in a housing development in an area adjacent to College Road. However, according to Thomas, it was important that this land and residential areas above him be connected up to the Western Road via a bridge. His application to the Corporation was accepted and he consequently received the sum of £700 as a financial contribution by them. At 11am, on Wednesday, 7 May 1902, the new bridge was opened by the Duke of Connaught, Commander of the Crown Forces in Ireland.

Question: Just within the gates of UCC, find the history panel, apart from Cork, what two other Irish locations got a university as well in the 1840s?

9. Alumni Bridge:

Opening in 1879, the bridge entrance to the University provided an alternative entrance to the college. Its principal western entrance had been too close to the city's County Gaol off Western Road, which compromised security. The bridge entrance comprised a head porter's lodge and bridge of Oregon pine. In 1910 the bridge was replaced by a re-enforced concrete structure. In November 1916, the bridge was struck by severe flooding, which made it collapse. Due to war and the shortage of finance and material, the new bridge, was opened in 1929. In 2019, the bridge was renamed "The Alumni Bridge" after UCC's Alumni or graduates.

Question: According to the information panel, UCC is host to how many students?

10. Cavanagh Bridge (Modern):

The Cavanagh bridge was officially opened to the public on 12 December 2018 at UCC. Dr Tom Cavanagh, who graduated from UCC with a commerce degree in 1951, went on to have a successful career in the motor industry, founded his first philanthropic trust in 1987, and worked tirelessly for the university for decades.

Perrott's Inch on the Lower Grounds was depicted in the paintings of UCC as meadow land with an impressive view of the Main Quadrangle. The area was used for fishing and grazing animals and in the late nineteenth century the Lower Grounds took on a new life as a Victorian pleasure garden for the staff and students of Queens College. A gorgeous meadow in recent times has been reconstructed on the lower grounds.

Question: On the info panel near this bridge at the entrance to Western Road, the main quadrangle is what number on the big map?

11. Gaol Bridge:

In 1835, the Gaol Bridge was built in order to provide access from the newly built Western Road to the County Gaol. Up to then, the only way to get into the grounds of the gaol was via Barrack Street and through College Road, then named Gaol Road. The bridge is a single arch structure of hewn limestone and was designed by the internationally famous engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel. In 1835, the prison reports state that 978 people were put into the gaol, of which nearly a third were women and just more than a quarter were debtors. The only aspect remaining of the County Gaol is its architecturally perfect Doric entrance portico. The rest of the ruinous buildings were taken down by UCC and replaced by science and technology buildings.

Question: How many pillars are on the gaol portico?

12. Bon Secours Bridge (Modern):

The Bon Secours Health System Cork is Ireland's largest private hospital and it is also one of the largest private hospitals in Europe. The hospital was established in 1915 and has more than 300 beds. It employs more than 1,000 staff and admits about 35,000 patients every year. It is a general hospital providing an extensive range of medical and surgical specialties for adults and children.

Question: What are the visitor car park hours for Monday to Friday?

13. Patrick O'Neil Crowley & Thomas Davis Bridge:

Known as Great Georges Street (now Washington Street), the lower end in the area of the Court House to where it intersects with the Grand Parade was opened in the autumn of 1824. The new street was to join up with the new King's Road (now Western Road). The construction work on this new road began in 1821 and was completed by 1831. The road was laid out parallel to the Mardyke. The road was to join with a new bridge named Brunswick Bridge (now O'Neil Crowley Bridge), which spanned the southern channel of the River Lee at the western end of the road itself. In today's context the bridge is located adjacent to Sacred Heart College and Victoria Cross. The bridge has three segmental arches and was built by brothers James and George Richard Pain.

In the mid-1820s, an extension of the King's Road was built across part of the Mardyke to the north channel of the River Lee. At this point, another stone arched bridge was built. The foundation stone of this new bridge was put in place in May 1826. It was designed by Richard Griffith and built by the Pain Brothers. Known as Wellington Bridge (later renamed Thomas Davis Bridge), it spans the northern channel of the River Lee giving access to Sunday's Well.

Question: In the centre of the bridge on the downstream side, Thomas Davis is noted being a writer and a poet but where was he born?

14. Daly's Bridge:

For almost 20 years prior to 1926, it had been suggested many times by the residents of Sunday's Well that a footbridge should be built in the locality to connect to Fitzgerald's Park. It was therefore decided by Cork Corporation to go halves on building a bridge with Mr James Daly who was a butter merchant in the city. A decision was made to construct a suspension bridge which would be supported at intervals across the river with the aid of anchored cables. A pedestrian walkway consisting of timber planks was also constructed. The building contract was awarded to a London based steel company owned by Mr David Rowell. Another major feature of Daly's Bridge is its nickname. It is more commonly known as the "Shaky" Bridge. It attained the name due to the large number of people who used the bridge to go to and from rugby matches in the Mardyke. The bridge would shake with the masses of people walking across it.

Question: At the corner of the Rose Garden of Fitzgerald's Park, find the sign *Life in an Urban River: The Lee* - what fish is depicted as an illustration?

15. Mardyke Bridge:

The North Mall to Mardyke section of the Lee Walk was officially opened on 1 February 2006. The bridge is a single span construction made of steel, The Mardyke Bridge was manufactured off site with the finishing touches and assembly done on site, upon which it was lifted into position in a single operation.

Question: Crossing over the Mardyke Bridge, upstream what famous Cork tall building can be seen?

16. Wyse's Distillery Bridge:

By 1800, it is reported that the city possessed ten distilleries, which in total could hold a capacity of 11,000 gallons. The North Mall Distillery was established in 1779 covering an area of 23 acres. The firm employed 250 hands. The whiskey manufactured there was called Wyse's Cork Old Pot-Still Whiskey and was exported over Ireland, England, the British colonies, and America. Cork Distillers Company bought the distillery in 1867. Today the site is occupied by the Zoological department of University College Cork.

Question: The Banks of the Lee Walkway opens at what time on Saturday, Sunday's & Bank Holidays?

17. St Vincent's Bridge:

In the mid-nineteenth century, many people living in the eastern Sunday's Well area were not satisfied with the North Gate Bridge and so the occupants lobbied Cork Corporation for another bridge to give access to the Mercy Hospital area. Their application was accepted. A temporary bridge was built at White Street Timber Yard. Its name, St Vincent's Bridge, was given to it because of the recent building of St Vincent's Church at the top of Wyse's Hill. In 1875, a steel lattice (Grid) Girder bridge was built on the site and this still stands there today.

Question: Otter territories can be up to how many km2?

18. North Gate Bridge:

As the northern access route into the walled town, North Gate Drawbridge was annually subjected to severe winter flooding, being almost destroyed in each instance. In May 1711, agreement was reached by the council of the City that North Gate Bridge be rebuilt in stone in 1712.

Between 1713 and the early 1800s, the only structural work completed on North Gate Bridge was the repairing and widening of it by the Corporation of Cork. It was in 1831 that they saw that the structure was deteriorating and deemed it unsafe as a river crossing for horses, carts, and coaches. Hence in October 1861, the plans by Cork architect Sir John Benson for a new bridge were accepted. In April 1863, the foundation stone for the new bridge was laid. The new bridge was to be a cast-iron structure with the iron work completed by Ranking & Company of Liverpool. An ornate Victorian style was incorporated into the new structure with features such as ornamental lampposts and iron medallions depicting Queen Victoria, Albert the Prince Consort, Daniel O' Connell, the Irish Catholic Emancipator, and Sir Thomas Moore, the famous English poet.

On 6 November 1961, the new and present day bridge of concrete slabs was opened by Lord Mayor, Antony Barry TD. The new bridge was named Griffith Bridge in honour of Arthur Griffith who was a famous Politician / Republican in Ireland in the early 1920s.

Question: Above Studio 64 is what ghost sign inscribed?

19. Shandon Bridge:

This footbridge was opened in 2004. In the eighteenth century there was a ferry across the River Lee here. The beautiful quay walls of cut limestone were installed from the 1820s onwards.

The Shandon Quarter was the immediate northern suburb of the city in medieval times. A tight knit community, it witnessed the development of major economic assets for the city in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Once the home of the city's cattle butcheries and the Butter Market, and the spin off industries of both, thousands of people were employed there. The area is also home to some of Cork's historic landmarks from the early eighteenth century Protestant St Anne's Church, Shandon and graveyard to the beautiful interior of SS Mary's and Anne's Roman Catholic Cathedral.

Question: What is the name of the laneway, which stretches from the bridge to

Shandon?

20. Christy Ring Bridge:

In December 1985, the year of Cork 800, plans for another bridge in the city were drawn up by the Corporation of Cork. It was suggested that its location be at the end of Mulgrave Road and crossing over to the Opera House side. Traffic was a major problem as all traffic bound for the North Side had to cross St Patrick's Bridge. The temporary Bailey Bridge was used to help the traffic situation. It was placed near the allocated area for the new bridge. The building of the new bridge took eighteen months. On Friday, 13 February 1987 the bridge was opened and named after the famous Cork hurler, Christy Ring.

Question: Find the otter trail sign - otters can live up to how many years of age?

21. St Patrick's Bridge:

In the late 1700s, the butter and beef trade made Cork a wealthy City but getting access from the city's southern hills was an issue. A new bridge was proposed by the expanding population.

There was opposition though from the ferrymen near the proposed site (i.e. on the northern side of Patrick Street) who operated ferry boats on the River Lee. Their petition to the Corporation of Cork was turned down and in 1786, the go-ahead for the raising of money for the project was given. The Corporation took out financial loans and tolls would be placed on the bridge to repay the debt. Mr Michael Shanahan was chosen to be the architect and chief contractor of the operation. From 1788, he set about planning the project and on 25 July of that year, the foundation stone was laid. It took a half a year to nearly complete the whole job.

Unfortunately, on 17 January 1789, disaster occurred as a flood swept through the Lee Valley. A boat tied up at Carroll's Quay (then Sand's Quay) broke loose and crashed against the uncompleted centre arch or keystone and destroyed it. The bridge was rebuilt and christened on 29 September 1789.

In November 1853, disaster happened again when St Patrick's Bridge was swept away by another flood. The rebuilding of the new bridge was conducted by architect John Benson. In November 1859, the new St Patrick's Bridge was opened and christened. Disaster struck again when the bridge had to be reconstructed due to a ship which struck it. It was built back up again and was opened on 12 December 1861 for public traffic. The bridge has undergone maintenance work over the last number of decades.

Question: Who was the Mayor of Cork in 1859? He was also the creator of famous drapery stores in Dublin.

22. Mary Elmes Bridge:

The Mary Elmes Bridge was opened on 27 September 2019. It was dedicated to Mary Elmes who was born in Cork in 1908. She studied at Trinity College and at the London School of Economics, before volunteering as an aid worker in the Spanish Civil War and later in France during the Second World War, where she is credited with saving the lives of hundreds of Jewish children and adults. After the war, she was awarded the Legion of Honour, but did not accept it. She was posthumously honoured as 'Righteous Among the Nations' by the State of Israel for her work. Funded by the EU and the National Transport Authority ARUP Consulting Engineers and Wilkinson Eyre Architects were chosen to design the bridge. It was manufactured off-site by Thompsons of Carlow.

Question: Complete the sentence on the adjacent banner – "Cork. Where Building..."?

23. Brian Boru Bridge:

In 1905, the city's primary railway company was given royal permission and given the equipment to build railway sidings on the quays to facilitate ships and their cargoes.

Unfortunately, two major problems existed at the time. The first problem arose with regard to the link between the sidings. The two points to be linked were the National Network at the Great Terminus and Western Terminus and the West Cork Railway Terminus at Albert Quay.

Secondly, if a crossing was built, there would be an issue for the the shipping industry in Cork. At this time it was essential for cargo ships to operate right up as far as St Patrick's Bridge on the North Channel and beyond Parnell Bridge on the South Channel. The bridges built would have to let shipping through. Many types of bridges were discussed especially the centre-arch moving bridge.

Eventually a design was picked. After many discussions, the proposed bridge was to be a "Scherzer Rolling Lift Bascule Bridge", consisting of four sections resting on steel piles with a concrete overlay. This type was chosen because it would not take up any quay space and it was relatively fast opening in its centre.

Brian Boru Bridge on the North Channel was to be approximately 66 metres long and Clontarf bridge on the South Channel was to be 56 metres approximately in length – each would have an opening span of approximately 18 metres. They were to be painted red because as a bright colour ships would be able see the bridges clearly.

Small engine rooms were built on elevated platforms to control the operations of the bridges and the equipment installed was both electric and manually operated. The two bridges were built in an upright position and it was only upon completion that they were lowered to the horizontal. Both bridges began operation in January 1912.

Question: Find the info panel on Brian Boru Street, next to the bridge; in 1858 what Portuguese ship keeled over at the receding of the tide and eventually had to be destroyed?

24. Bridge Michael Collins Bridge:

In the 1970s, the city of Cork, economically and population-wise, was expanding at a rapid rate. Industrial expansion and the provision of transport routes were important issues. In 1978, a new report, the Land Utilisation and Transportation System (LUTS) was issued by the planning departments for both City and County Councils; two initiatives were drawn up and put forward. These were as follows – to put a Ring Road leading into the City, and that two bridges be planned and be built downstream from the Clontarf and Brian Boru Bridges.

The result was the opening on 19 November 1984 of Michael Collins and Éamon de Valera Bridges. Their cost was in the region of £3m and they were built by Ascon. The Lord Mayor, Liam Burke TD had the honour of opening the two new bridges and naming them in memory and in honour of two Irish Statesmen, Éamon de Valera and Michael Collins.

Question: Find the plaque, the SS Ardmore sailed from this Quay on 11 November 1940 for Fishguard; it struck a mine off where?

25. Éamon de Valera:

Question: Over the door of the Port of Cork building, what three words are inscribed?

26. Clontarf Bridge:

Adjacent the Board Walk find the mural on the traffic switch box to botanist Ms Ellen. Ellen was a field botanist who was plant hunting in the Bantry Bay area of West Cork, Ireland in the early 1800s. She specialised in seaweeds, lichens, mosses and liverworts. She discovered a great many plants 'new to science' and 'new to Ireland' and helped develop our understanding of seaweeds and the other non-flowering plants.

Question: What is Ellen's surname?

27. Parnell Bridge:

During the century preceding before 1830, the corn industry in Cork was an extensive market and most of its trade took place on Corn Market Street. It was decided by the Corporation of Cork in the 1820s, that a new building should be built to deal with the demand. It became known as the Corn Exchange and was located on an unreclaimed marshy island called Sleigh's Marsh where Cork City Hall stands today.

A key problem was access to the new building. The go-ahead was given and the project began. Thomas Deane was given the job of engineer. On 3 June 1830, that the keystone of the new bridge was put into place. The new bridge was named Anglesea Bridge in honour of the Marquis of Anglesea, a Viceroy for Cork. It had two oval shaped arches with a large waterway, spanned by a drawbridge which would let shipping through.

In December 1863, Mayor John Francis Maguire (founder and patron of the *Cork Examiner*) called for a replacement of the old Anglesea Bridge at a Cork Harbour Commissioner's meeting. The main problem was space for ships to come through.

In one such case, a ship got stuck between the two secure parts of the bridge and held up traffic for days until it was finally freed. The suggested new bridge was to be a swivel-swing one.

On 2 August 1875 Anglesea Bridge was given the go-ahead by law to be removed. It took three years to raise funds for the removal and the rebuilding of the structure. London Engineer T Claxton Fiddler was appointed engineer of the new bridge in March 1879.

As the years went on, the time came again for the replacement of Parnell Bridge. It was first looked for by Cork Corporation in 1946 but it was twenty years before Parnell Bridge could be rebuilt. On 10 January 1968 that the real problems arose. Mr Seán McCarthy, the City Engineer at the time, found a crack in the road surface at the southern end of the bridge. Parnell Bridge was closed.

Built of cement and stone the new Parnell Bridge was opened on 24 May 1971 by Lord Mayor, Peter Barry TD. The lamp standards that were on the "Swing Bridge" are now historical monuments in the City and are located at the eastern end of the South Mall near the present bridge.

Question: Find the adjacent Lily or Lilíoch sculpture by Mick Wilkins at the top of the South Mall; it commemorates Cork's part in the 1916 Easter Rising in Dublin; walk around it; what famous Cork historical character is inscribed as Brigade O/C (Officer-in-Command)?

28. Trinity Bridge:

Trinity Bridge was built in 1977 to cross from Union Quay to Morrison's Island. It hails its name from Holy Trinity Church and was opened on 14 October 1977 by Lord Mayor Gerald Goldberg. It was designed by Cyril Roche of O' Connell Harley on the South Mall and the construction was carried out by a company called Public Works Ltd under the supervision of the City Engineer, Mr Sean McCarthy. It took 24 weeks to complete and still serves its purpose as a foot-bridge today as it did when it was first built.

Question: Visit the entrance of the College of Commerce. The College is older than its 1938 building; The first location was on the South Mall on Jameson's Row, what year was it originally established?

29. Parliament Bridge:

Due to the development of the city and the reclamation of the marshlands in the mid-1700s, the need for more river crossings was growing. In 1761 an act was passed by the English Government to build a stone bridge on the site of present day Parliament Bridge. On 22 September 1764, the first Parliament bridge was opened.

Forty years on, a warning appeared in the local newspaper condemning the bridge. On the 16 May 1803, the newspaper reported that the state of the pavement in the main streets and on Parliament Bridge was truly alarming. Disaster struck. On 28 May 1804, the bridge was severely damaged when the wooden part of the structure collapsed due to heavy rainfall which had caused flooding the previous night.

William Hargrave, who had been involved with St. Patrick's Bridge, was asked to design the new bridge. At a cost of £4000, the new Parliament Bridge and the present day one was opened to the public in 1806 limestone structure, hump-backed bridge with a well-designed balustrade on each side.

Question: What is the name of the pub at 24 George's Quay? Look up and see the early 19th century street name stones.

Congratulations**
on completing the
Bridges of Cork – Heritage Treasure Hunt Trail

Questionnaire Answers (Please Fill In & Print Clearly)

Name		Contact email or phone number	
	1	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Bridge	Answer	Bridge	Answer
1. Nano Nagle Bridge		16. Wyse's Distillery Bridge	
2. South Gate Bridge		17. St Vincent's Bridge	
3. Frenches Quay Bridge		18. North Gate Bridge	
4. Clarke's Bridge		19. Shandon Bridge	
5. St Finbarre's Bridge		20. Christy Ring Bridge	
6. Lancaster Quay Bridge		21. St Patrick's Bridge	
7. River Lee Hotel Bridge		22. Mary Elmes Bridge	
8. Donovan's Bridge		23. Brian Boru Bridge	
9. Alumni Bridge		24. Eamonn de Valera Bridge	
10. Cavanagh Bridge		25. Michael Collins Bridge	
11. Gaol Bridge		26. Clontarf Bridge	
12. Bon Secours Bridge		27. Parnell Bridge	
13. Patrick O'Neil Crowley & Thomas Davis Bridge		28. Trinity Bridge	
14. Daly's Bridge		29. Parliament Bridge	
15. Mardyke Bridge			

