



OPW

Oifig na
nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works



Charles Fort, Summercove, Kinsale, Co. Cork, P17 AY18.

Social Guide - A trip to Charles Fort.



September to December 2020.

Introduction

We are going on a trip to Charles Fort.

It is an amazing old military site.

Charles Fort is located at Forthill, approximately three kilometres from the historic and beautiful town of Kinsale. It was built in 1682 by the British Army. Charles Fort overlooks Kinsale Harbour.

In this story we will learn where to park the car before entering Charles Fort. We will discover how to enter the fort and we will meet the people who work there. They will tell us what we can expect to see and hear during our visit.

Where to park the car?



This is a picture of the car parking area outside Charles Fort. Sometimes this area can be busy, especially during the Summer. This is a free car park.

Why are there signs?

As you walk towards Charles Fort you will see signs painted on the ground and also free standing signs. These are a friendly reminder to everyone to maintain their social distance from other visitors when they are on site.



How to enter Charles Fort?



This is a picture of our queueing area outside Charles Fort.

We must wait here to speak with a Guide before entering the fort.

They will assist us with our visit. They will tell us about the walk way within the fort and which areas we can visit. They will also talk to us about social-distancing and health and safety to help us have a safe and fun visit.

We are allowed to enter Charles Fort every day between 11am and 4pm.

If we are visiting before the end of 2020 then we do not have to pay an admission fee. We also do not need to pre-book our visit.

From here we walk over the bridge and enter through the main gate.



Information Point

When we pass through the main gate we will see the old Gate House building on our right side. Another friendly Guide is waiting here to greet us. They will show us the path-way around Charles Fort.



They will assist us with our visit and provide us with an information map to help us find our way around.



Charles Fort Staff

The staff at Charles Fort are friendly, welcoming and helpful. They are Tour Guides. Some of the Tour Guides we might meet at Charles Fort are shown below.



Tour Guides will show us how to explore Charles Fort. They can also help us with any questions we may have.

All of the Tour Guides wear a yellow high-vis jacket and will have a name badge.

Health and Safety

Charles Fort is a large site. There are 12 acres to explore. As most of the site is outdoors the Tour Guides recommend that that we bring a rain jacket, in case it rains, and comfortable walking shoes. We will see a notice outside the Ticket Office informing us of the Health and Safety rules of Charles Fort.



At the Ticket Office you will find a First Aid station.

Charles Fort is nearly 350 years old. Important restoration and maintenance works are in progress. We may see carpenters and stonemasons working on site. We may also hear noisy lawn mowers as we walk around Charles Fort.



Do I need to wear Face Masks or Face Visors/Shields?

As our visit to Charles Fort will be all outside then it is not compulsory to wear either a face mask or a face visor/shield.

However, if it makes us feel more comfortable during my visit then we are very welcome to wear one as we walk around the grounds of Charles Fort.

Getting Around

We can find our way around by using our Charles Fort Map and following the signs and arrows.

Keeping to our left side and walking in a clockwise route around the grounds.



On the main green there is a large colourful plan of Charles Fort. This is very helpful as it shows us the layout of the fort (star-shape) and how all the buildings were used.



Buildings

Though we cannot enter the buildings we can get a very good view of them from the outside. Some of the buildings that we will see are:

1) The Barrack Stores



2) Fire Engine House



This is the old Fire Engine House. Inside is an original fire engine dating from 1850. There are also information panels for us to read about Charles Fort during the First World War.

3) The Gunpowder Magazine



This strongly fortified building was where all the gunpowder was once stored. This is one of the oldest buildings in Charles Fort.

Getting Around Charles Fort

There are two walkways around Charles Fort, an upper grass walk and a lower gravel walk. Some of these buildings that we can see on our journey are pictured below.



Ships Cannon



Soldiers Quarters



Sentry Box



Sally Port -Tunnel



Parade Ground



Lighthouse

It is best to walk and not to run around Charles Fort. Following the pathways is a good idea. There are many steps, grass slopes and uneven surfaces. There are high walls around the fort. It is important that we must not climb onto these unprotected areas.

Leaving Charles Fort



When we are ready to leave Charles Fort we can wait in this area.



We exit Charles Fort the same way that we entered. If we are leaving just before 4.30pm, we might hear a bell. One of the Tour Guides is ringing this bell to let all the visitors know that it is time to leave Charles Fort.