1. Town Walls, built 1620-25. The line of the walls can still be traced and upstanding remains can be seen in the grounds of St Peter’s Church and in the Riverview Shopping Centre.

2. St Peter’s Church of Ireland, designed in the Gothic Revival style by George Goldie. Following Catholic Emancipation in 1829, Catholics began building small churches. Here in Bandon, the first RC church was built on Chapel St. It was replaced in the mid 19th century by St. Patrick’s, which occupies a more prominent site.

3. The former Fair Green was also the site of the town gallows.

4. St. Patrick’s Catholic Church (1856-61), designed in the Gothic Revival style by Joseph Welland and built in 1847-9 on the grounds of St Peter’s Church and in the Riverview Shopping Centre. The 17th century town stocks are on display in the centre.

5. Former Methodist Meeting House, built c.1820, extended 1881.

6. Bridge Lane Bridge, dated 1858, spanning the Bridewell River.

7. Irish Town Bridge, built in 1864. It leads to what was known as Irish Town, a native settlement located to the east of the original walled town.

8. Bank of Ireland, built in 1882.


10. Weir, built c.1750 using stone from the town wall. It was originally used to divert water to power Bandon Corn Mill and today is used to power electricity generating turbines. Bandon Corn Mill and today is used to power electricity generating turbines.

11. Footbridge, built in 1908.

12. Methodist Church built in 1821. A classically inspired building which was partly funded by the Duke of Devonshire.

13. Goods Store, built in 1865 to serve the Cork and Bandon Railway which opened in 1849.

14. Former railway station built in 1894 to serve the Cork and South Coast Railway, it now houses Cork County Council offices.

15. Bandon Bridge, built in 1773 and extended in 1838. It replaced an earlier bridge located a short distance to the west.

16. The Allin Institute, a former school built in 1847 by James Allin of Youghal for Protestant young men. It was rebuilt in 1924 in the Arts and Crafts style.

17. Catholic Emancipation in 1829, Catholics began building small churches. Here in Bandon, the first RC church was built on Chapel St. It was replaced in the mid 19th century by St. Patrick’s, which occupies a more prominent site.


20. Christ Church, built in 1610 and extended in 1625. It is reputed to be the first church to be built in Ireland for Protestant worship. It now houses the West Cork Heritage Centre. The 17th century town stocks are on display in the centre.

21. Town Hall, built in 1863.


24. Kingdom Hall, built as a bank in 1855. Became a Masonic Lodge in 1890.

25. Unique 16-sided former Shambles or Meat Market, built in 1818.

26. Site of a Cavalry Barracks built in 1706 and improved in 1712. A tower and part of the wall survive.

27. The Maid of Erin, originally erected on the main bridge in 1901 to commemorate the 1798 rebellion and the uprisings of 1848 and 1869. The statue was destroyed in 1921, a replacement was erected in 1945. It was moved to its present site in 1986.


BANDON: Today, Bandon (pop. 6000) is a vibrant commercial market town with attractive residential settlement. It was founded in the early 1600’s as part of the Munster Plantation following the defeat of the Irish at the Battle of Kinsale (1601). The town began as two distinct settlements on either side of the Bandon River and was occupied by English Protestants only. In 1617, the fledgling settlements were bought by the powerful Earl of Cork, Richard Boyle, who built the town walls to protect the inhabitants and set about developing the town. The walls were up to 3.5m thick and 8m high and included at least four gates, six bastions and three watch towers. Apart from Derry, Bandon is the only plantation town with walls intact and is proud to be part of the European Walled Towns Network. It hosts a successful Walled Towns Festival every year.

In 1753 the Boyle estates, including Bandon, passed through marriage to the Dukes of Devonshire who funded the construction of many fine public buildings, terraces, markets and quays and maintained a system of wells. Bandon, like many Irish towns, was substantially rebuilt in the early 19th century with elegant, well-proportioned Georgian streetscapes, best seen on Kilbrogan Hill. From its foundation, the town was known for the manufacture of wool with linen and cotton in the late 18th/early 19th centuries when it also had five breweries, two distilleries, a flour mill and nine tanneries.

The town has a wide variety of places of worship reflecting its interesting historical past. John Wesley, one of the founders of the Methodist Movement, visited the town 18 times. Up until the mid-20th century, women of the town could be seen wearing the traditional West Cork hooded cloak.