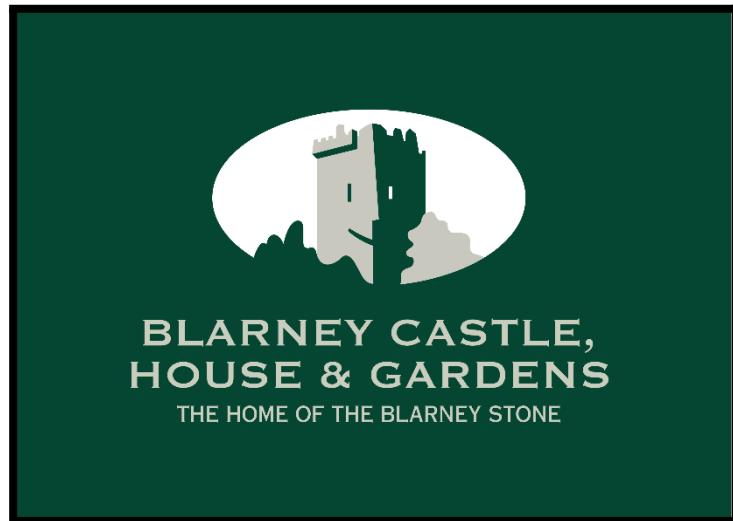




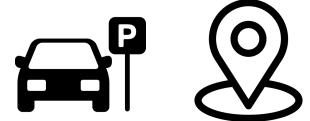
Blarney Castle & Gardens

Visual Guide



Visiting Blarney Castle & Gardens

This guide will help you know what to do and what to expect when you visit our Tourist Attraction.



Arriving at our Car Park

When you arrive, you can park in our designated car park. Our Ticket office entrance is sign posted and is less than 100 meters from our car park.



Entering the Ticket Office

We have two lanes in our ticket office when you approach. We advise you to use the right-hand lane.

The ticket office can be a very busy location. Our peak time is between 10am – 2pm.



Entry is free for autistic visitors who have a carer with them (with valid carer's ID), or another form of disability identification.

Our ticket office staff are very friendly and helpful.

If there are any issues, please discuss this with them or ask to speak to Paul who has completed the autism awareness training.



The Coffee Stop

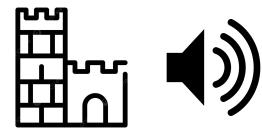
Inside the Coffee Shop, you will see a large counter with two coffee machines and an ice cream machine.

You will also see some fridges, shelves with souvenirs and a seating area.



You can pay at the cashier's desk located at the large counter in the middle of the café.

This coffee shop has low background music playing



Visiting Blarney Castle

Before you enter Blarney Castle, you might encounter a queue especially between the hours of 10am – 2pm.

Once inside you will encounter our photography shop.

This is where we sell photos of people kissing the stone.

This area might be loud with printer noises when the photos are being printed or people reacting loudly to seeing their photo.



You will then enter the Castle.

It is dimly lit so it can be quite dark.

There is a TV playing a video, the audio and music might be loud.

You will then climb 128 steep and narrow steps to the top of the Castle.



At the top of the Castle, is the Blarney Stone.

You have the option to kiss the Blarney stone.

This involves lying down on your back and holding two bars to kiss the stone. A member of staff will hold you during the process. Another member of staff takes two photos so there will be two flashes during this process.

After kissing the stone, you will use a different stair to descend the Castle and exit.



The Coach House Café

Inside the Coffee Shop, you will see a large counter with two coffee machines and ovens to the right.

You will also see some fridges, shelves with souvenirs and a seating area. The cashier where you pay is located at the large counter in the middle of the café.

This coffee shop has low background music playing. We have a mix of indoor and outdoor seating.

You will see signs for toilets next door to the coffee shop.



The Main Gift Shop (And Exit)

The exit for all visitors is through our gift shop. Even though it is a large building, it can feel quite tight if it is busy inside.

There is music playing and the lights can be bright.

If you are having an issue exiting the shop, you can ask our ticket office staff if you can exit there. If it is busy there, ring Paul on 0214385252 and he will be able to assist you.



The Gardens

We have 100 acres of gardens including the Poison Garden, Rock Close and Fern Garden.

The gardens are generally a lot quieter and more peaceful than the Castle. It is possible you may encounter noisy equipment like a lawn mover or large vehicle.

We also have two playgrounds on site.

More Sensory Information

- There may be other people queuing to pay for tickets in our ticket office and for food and souvenir items in our cafés and shops.
- Customers and staff may be talking out loud
- We do play music in our shops and cafés
- Tills making a beeping sound
- The hand dryer in the bathroom may be loud if activated
- There may be a queue for the Castle and the stairs inside is quite narrow and dark
- There is a TV in the Castle playing a video with audio and music playing

We hope that this visual guide was helpful.

If you have any feedback or recommendations on how we can improve this visual guide – please email

autismfriendlyblarney@gmail.com

or socialmedia@blarneycastle.ie

Thank you!