

THE MOST BEAUTIFULLY PEACEFUL PLACE IN IRELAND

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St. Finnbar's Oratory, Gougane Barra, County Cork. St. Finnbar (550-623) is the patron saint of the city of Cork, now Ireland's second largest city, on the south coast of the Emerald Isle. He established this tiny church in the late 500s, and has been built and rebuilt on a small island on Lake Gougane, with the one you see finished some 150 years ago.

Gougane Barra is a remote valley distant from Cork, almost uninhabited, of legendary beauty. The oratory or chapel has been a holy place of summer pilgrimage for Christians for fifteen centuries, revered for its complete serenity and peacefulness. Rarely visited outside of summer due to its remoteness, you may have this holy place all to yourself. Here is where you come to rest and reinvigorate your soul. (*Glimpses of Our Breathtaking World #218* photo ©Jack Wheeler)

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