Dublin Travel Guide

Discover Dublin: Ireland's Vibrant Capital

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Things to do in Dublin

Landmarks & Monuments

Dublin's iconic landmarks tell the story of over a thousand years of history, from medieval castles to elegant Georgian squares and modern architectural marvels.



Must See Book Ahead

Dublin Castle

1.5-2 hours Book Ahead

Map

This magnificent castle complex has stood at the heart of Dublin since 1204, serving as the seat of British rule in Ireland for over 700 years. Dublin Castle is closed to public visits for the EU Presidency through 31 December 2026, featuring stunning 18th-century interiors, the medieval **Record Tower**, and the beautiful **Chapel Royal** with its intricate plasterwork. The castle hosts Irish presidential inaugurations and state functions, making it a living center of Irish democracy and heritage.



Top Pick

Ha'penny Bridge

15 minutes No Booking Needed

Map

Dublin's most photographed landmark, this elegant cast-iron pedestrian bridge spans the River Liffey and dates from 1816. Originally named the **Wellington Bridge**, it earned its nickname from the halfpenny toll once charged to cross. The bridge's graceful arch and white-painted ironwork make it an iconic symbol of Dublin, particularly beautiful when illuminated at night. It connects the vibrant Temple Bar district with the shopping streets of the north side.



Notable

Spire of Dublin

10 minutes No Booking Needed

Map

Standing 120 meters tall on O'Connell Street, the Spire (officially the **Monument of Light**) is a striking stainless steel monument completed in 2003. This needle-like sculpture replaced Nelson's Pillar and has become a distinctive feature of Dublin's skyline. The Spire's reflective surface captures the changing Irish sky and city lights, serving as a meeting point and navigation landmark in the city center.



Optional

Molly Malone Statue

10 minutes No Booking Needed

Map

This beloved bronze statue commemorates Dublin's unofficial anthem about a fictional fishmonger who wheeled her cart through the streets. Located on Suffolk Street near Trinity College, the statue has become a popular photo opportunity and meeting point. Visitors traditionally touch the statue for good luck, giving it a distinctive polished patina in certain areas.

Tips for Landmarks & Monuments

- **Best photo opportunities:** Ha'penny Bridge at sunset or after dark when illuminated
- **Combined ticket savings:** Dublin Castle often offers combination tickets with other historic sites
- **Free access:** Most monuments and bridges are freely accessible for exterior viewing
- **Guided tours:** When open, the State Apartments offer guided and self-guided admission.

Museums & Galleries

Dublin boasts world-class museums and galleries, many offering free admission, showcasing everything from ancient Celtic treasures to contemporary Irish art and fascinating interactive exhibits.



Must See Book Ahead

Trinity College Library & Book of Kells

1-1.5 hours Book Ahead

Map

Trinity College's Old Library is home to the **Book of Kells**, a 9th-century illuminated manuscript considered Ireland's greatest cultural treasure. The self-guided **Book of Kells Experience** (from €26, about 90 minutes, limited availability, so book online in advance) includes the Old Library, with its Long Room, and a digital exhibition in the Red Pavilion. It is Dublin's most popular paid attraction.



Must See

National Museum of Ireland - Archaeology

1.5-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

This **free museum** houses Ireland's most important archaeological treasures spanning prehistory to medieval times. Highlights include the exquisite **Ardagh Chalice**, the **Tara Brooch**, and stunning Celtic gold jewelry. The Viking Ireland exhibition reveals Dublin's Norse origins, while the Egyptian collection surprises many visitors. The Treasury room alone makes this museum unmissable for understanding Ireland's ancient past.



Must See Book Ahead

Guinness Storehouse

2-3 hours Book Ahead

Map

Ireland's most visited attraction is a seven-story experience celebrating the world's most famous stout. Housed in a former fermentation plant, the museum traces Guinness's 250-year history through interactive exhibits on brewing, advertising, and Irish culture. The experience culminates in the **Gravity Bar** offering 360-degree views of Dublin while you enjoy a complimentary pint. The building itself is shaped like a giant pint glass.



Top Pick Book Ahead

EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum

1.5 hours Book Ahead

Map

Winner of Europe's Leading Tourist Attraction award, this interactive museum tells the compelling story of Irish emigration and the global Irish diaspora. Through immersive galleries and digital technology, visitors explore why people left Ireland, their journeys, and their impact on the world. The museum celebrates famous Irish emigrants from **John F. Kennedy** to **Che Guevara**, and offers personalized experiences including ancestral discovery stations.



Top Pick

National Gallery of Ireland

2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

This impressive **free gallery** houses over 15,000 artworks spanning European and Irish art from the Middle Ages to the 20th century. Collections include works by **Caravaggio, Vermeer, Monet,** and **Jack B. Yeats**. The Yeats Museum dedicated to Irish literary figure W.B. Yeats' artist brother is a highlight. The recently renovated galleries provide a world-class setting for masterpieces.



Notable

Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA)

1.5 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Located in the stunning 17th-century Royal Hospital Kilmainham, IMMA is Ireland's leading institution for contemporary art. The **free museum** showcases Irish and international modern art through rotating exhibitions and a permanent collection featuring over 3,500 works. The formal gardens and courtyard provide a beautiful setting for outdoor sculptures. Regular events include artist talks and performances.



Notable

Little Museum of Dublin

1 hour Book Ahead

Map

This charming museum in a Georgian townhouse tells Dublin's story through donated objects and memorabilia from ordinary Dubliners. Guided tours led by enthusiastic locals cover the city's 20th-century history with humor and insight. Highlights include U2 memorabilia, vintage photographs, and artifacts from significant events like the 1916 Easter Rising. The museum perfectly captures Dublin's character and community spirit.

Tips for Museums & Galleries

- **Free museums:** All National Museums and the National Gallery offer free admission year-round
- **Book in advance:** Trinity College Library and Guinness Storehouse sell out quickly; book online for skip-the-line access
- **Combination tickets:** Look for Dublin Pass or combination tickets for multiple attractions
- **Best timing:** Visit popular paid attractions early morning or late afternoon to avoid crowds
- **Guided tours:** Little Museum tours are excellent for understanding local culture and history

Religious Sites

Dublin's churches and cathedrals showcase centuries of religious heritage, from medieval foundations to stunning Victorian architecture, each telling important stories of Ireland's spiritual and cultural identity.



Top Pick

St. Patrick's Cathedral

45 minutes - 1 hour No Booking Needed

Map

Ireland's largest cathedral and national cathedral of the Church of Ireland, founded in 1191 beside a well where St. Patrick allegedly baptized converts. The cathedral is forever associated with **Jonathan Swift**, author of Gulliver's Travels, who served as Dean here from 1713-1745 and is buried inside. The building showcases beautiful Gothic architecture, magnificent stained glass windows, and houses Celtic grave slabs and medieval brasses. The choir performs regular services with beautiful acoustics.



Top Pick

Christ Church Cathedral

1 hour No Booking Needed

Map

Founded around 1030, Christ Church is Dublin's oldest building in continuous use. This medieval cathedral features stunning Romanesque and Gothic architecture, a magnificent floor tiled in the Victorian era, and contains the **tomb of Strongbow**, the Norman warrior who conquered Dublin in 1170. The atmospheric medieval crypt, Dublin's oldest structure, houses treasures including the mummified cat and rat known as Tom and Jerry. The cathedral's bells are featured in James Joyce's Ulysses.



Notable

St. Michan's Church

45 minutes No Booking Needed

Map

This unassuming 17th-century church on Dublin's north side hides a macabre attraction: naturally mummified bodies in its underground vaults. The constant dry atmosphere has preserved several corpses for centuries, Five displayed mummies, including the approximately 800-year-old “Crusader”, were destroyed in June 2024; the former display should not be promised. The church also features an organ that **Handel** allegedly played while composing Messiah in Dublin.



Optional

Whitefriar Street Carmelite Church

30 minutes No Booking Needed

Map

This 19th-century Catholic church houses the relics of **St. Valentine**, the patron saint of love, making it a pilgrimage site for couples, especially on February 14th. The church features beautiful stained glass, a devotional shrine to Our Lady of Dublin, and a peaceful atmosphere for reflection. Free admission makes it accessible for all visitors seeking spiritual moments.

Tips for Religious Sites

- **Admission fees:** Both major cathedrals charge admission; combined tickets available

- **Service times:** Check schedules if you wish to attend services; evensong at Christ Church is particularly atmospheric
- **Dress code:** Respectful attire recommended; shoulders and knees covered
- **Photography:** Usually permitted but check signs; no flash during services
- **Combined visit:** Both cathedrals are walkable from each other (10 minutes), making them easy to visit together

Ancient & Historical Sites

Experience Ireland's turbulent history through prisons, military sites, and historic buildings that witnessed rebellions, political struggles, and the birth of modern Ireland.



Must See Book Ahead

Kilmainham Gaol

1.5 hours Book Ahead

Map

This former prison is one of Ireland's most important historical sites, where leaders of Irish rebellions from 1796 to 1924 were imprisoned and executed. The **1916 Easter Rising** leaders were executed in the stone breakers' yard here, making it a shrine to Irish independence. Guided tours through the imposing Victorian prison reveal harsh conditions and powerful stories of political prisoners. The museum explores Irish nationalism and the road to independence through personal artifacts and documents.



Top Pick

GPO Museum

1 hour No Booking Needed

Map

The General Post Office on O'Connell Street was the headquarters of the 1916 Easter Rising, and bullet holes from the battle still mark its facade. The underground museum tells the dramatic story of the rebellion through interactive exhibits, original artifacts, and personal testimonies. Visitors can see the original **Proclamation of the Irish Republic** and understand how a week-long uprising changed Ireland forever. The building remains a working post office.



Notable

Glasnevin Cemetery Museum

1.5-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Ireland's national necropolis is the final resting place of over 1.5 million people, including many who shaped Irish history: **Daniel O'Connell, Michael Collins, Charles Stewart Parnell,** and **Éamon de Valera**. The excellent museum and guided tours reveal fascinating stories of revolutionaries, writers, artists, and ordinary Dubliners. The atmospheric Victorian cemetery features beautiful monuments, including O'Connell's round tower that dominates the skyline.



Notable

14 Henrietta Street

1 hour Book Ahead

Map

This remarkable Georgian townhouse museum tells the story of Dublin's tenement life over 300 years. Once an elegant aristocratic home, it later housed over 100 people in appalling poverty. Guided tours reveal the stark contrast between Georgian grandeur and 20th-century tenement squalor through restored rooms and personal stories. The museum offers a moving perspective on Dublin's social history rarely seen in typical attractions.

Tips for Ancient & Historical Sites

- **Book ahead:** Kilmainham Gaol tours sell out days in advance, especially in summer; book online as early as possible
- **Guided tours mandatory:** Most historic sites require guided tours for safety and preservation reasons
- **Emotional impact:** These sites deal with difficult historical topics; they may be intense for some visitors
- **Combined passes:** Historic sites often included in Dublin city passes
- **Weather preparation:** Glasnevin Cemetery tours are partly outdoors; dress appropriately

Squares & Streets

Dublin's elegant Georgian squares and vibrant streets showcase the city's architectural heritage and contemporary energy, from peaceful garden squares to bustling shopping thoroughfares.



Top Pick

Grafton Street

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Dublin's premier shopping street is a vibrant pedestrian thoroughfare connecting Trinity College to St. Stephen's Green. Lined with international brands, Irish retailers, and the iconic **Brown Thomas** department store, it's also famous for its talented street performers and buskers. The street has launched careers of musicians including **Glen Hansard**. Historic pubs like Bewley's Café offer respite from shopping, and side streets hide unique boutiques and cafés.



Top Pick

Temple Bar

2-3 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Dublin's cultural quarter is a cobblestoned maze of narrow streets packed with pubs, restaurants, galleries, and street performers. While famous for nightlife, daytime Temple Bar offers vintage shops, the **Meeting House Square** market (Saturdays), artisan food stalls, and cultural venues like the Irish Film Institute. The area gets extremely crowded with tourists and hen parties at night, but retains authentic charm during daylight hours.



Top Pick

Merrion Square

30-45 minutes No Booking Needed

Map

This stunning Georgian square is surrounded by colorful doors and elegant townhouses where many famous Irish figures lived, including **Oscar Wilde, W.B. Yeats,** and **Daniel O'Connell**. The central park features a whimsical statue of Oscar Wilde lounging on a rock, beautiful flower beds, and ancient trees. The square perfectly captures Dublin's Georgian heritage and remains a peaceful oasis. Art exhibitions often line the railings on weekends.



Top Pick

St. Stephen's Green

30-60 minutes No Booking Needed

Map

This 22-acre Victorian park in the heart of Dublin offers a beautiful escape from urban bustle. Features include ornamental lakes with waterfowl, Victorian flowerbeds, tree-lined pathways, fountains, and monuments including the **Famine Memorial** and **Yeats Memorial**. The park hosts lunchtime concerts in summer and is surrounded by Georgian architecture. Free admission makes it popular with locals and tourists alike.



Notable

O'Connell Street

30 minutes No Booking Needed

Map

One of Europe's widest streets, O'Connell Street is Dublin's main thoroughfare and a monument to Irish history. The street features statues of Irish leaders including **Daniel O'Connell, Charles Stewart Parnell,** and **Jim Larkin**, the GPO with its historic facade, and the modern Spire. Though less glamorous than Grafton Street, it's where Dubliners actually shop, Clerys has been redeveloped as Clerys Quarter, including H&M and Decathlon; Arnotts is on nearby Henry Street.

Tips for Squares & Streets

- **Free walking:** All these areas are free to explore and easily walkable from each other
- **Best for photos:** Merrion Square's colorful Georgian doors are iconic; visit midday for best light
- **Street performers:** Grafton Street buskers perform throughout the day; evenings are particularly lively
- **Temple Bar timing:** Visit during daytime or early evening; late nights can be very crowded and rowdy
- **Georgian doors tour:** Many companies offer walking tours focused on Dublin's famous colorful doors

Neighborhoods & Districts

Explore Dublin's diverse neighborhoods, each with its own character, from trendy creative hubs to traditional docklands and seaside villages that feel worlds away from the city center.



Top Pick

Howth

Half day to full day No Booking Needed

Map

This charming fishing village and peninsula feels like a seaside escape despite being just 30 minutes from central Dublin by DART train. Highlights include the scenic **Howth Cliff Walk** with dramatic coastal views, a working harbor with excellent seafood restaurants, medieval **Howth Castle** grounds, and numerous pubs. The village is perfect for fresh seafood, coastal hiking, and stunning sunsets. Seals are often visible from the harbor.



Top Pick

Dún Laoghaire

Half day No Booking Needed

Map

This elegant Victorian seaside town features a magnificent harbor with the longest granite pier in Ireland, perfect for sunset walks. The promenade offers sea views, ice cream shops, and the iconic **Forty Foot bathing spot** made famous by James Joyce's Ulysses. The area includes the **National Maritime Museum**, excellent restaurants along the waterfront. The passenger ferry service to Holyhead was discontinued in 2015. Accessible by DART, it's a favorite weekend destination for Dubliners.



Notable

Smithfield

2-3 hours No Booking Needed

Map

This revitalized neighborhood combines historic whiskey distilling heritage with modern urban development. The massive cobbled square once hosted Dublin's famous horse markets. Today it's home to the **Jameson Distillery**, the **Lighthouse Cinema**, and a monthly vintage and craft market. The area showcases successful urban regeneration with a mix of historical buildings, modern apartments, and cultural venues.



Notable

Docklands & Grand Canal

2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Dublin's docklands showcase dramatic urban transformation with contemporary architecture including the **Convention Centre** and **Bord Gáis Energy Theatre**. The Grand Canal Dock area features waterfront restaurants, tech company headquarters (Dublin's 'Silicon Docks'), and peaceful canal-side walks. The area represents modern Dublin while maintaining connections to its maritime past. Great for evening strolls and contemporary dining.



Notable

Portobello & The Liberties

2-3 hours No Booking Needed

Map

These adjoining neighborhoods represent authentic Dublin character. **Portobello** along the Grand Canal features trendy cafés, vintage shops, and a thriving Jewish heritage. **The Liberties**, Dublin's oldest neighborhood, is home to the Guinness Brewery, medieval streets, antique markets at Francis Street, and traditional working-class Dublin culture. Both areas offer excellent local pubs, independent shops, and a glimpse of residential Dublin away from tourist crowds.

Tips for Neighborhoods & Districts

- **DART access:** Howth and Dún Laoghaire are easily reached by DART train; buy a Leap Card for best value
- **Coastal walks:** Bring layers and waterproof jacket; Irish weather changes quickly
- **Local dining:** These neighborhoods offer better value and more authentic dining than tourist areas
- **Market days:** Smithfield hosts monthly vintage markets; The Liberties has weekend antique markets
- **Pub culture:** Neighborhood pubs offer genuine local atmosphere without Temple Bar tourist prices

Parks & Gardens

Dublin offers exceptional green spaces, from intimate city gardens to vast Phoenix Park, one of Europe's largest urban parks, providing peaceful retreats and outdoor activities.



Must See

Phoenix Park

2-4 hours No Booking Needed

Map

One of the world's largest enclosed urban parks at 1,750 acres, Phoenix Park is twice the size of New York's Central Park. Home to a wild herd of 400-600 **fallow deer** that roam freely since the 1660s, the park contains the **Dublin Zoo**, **Áras an Uachtaráin** (President's residence), the historic **Magazine Fort**, Victorian gardens, and countless walking and cycling trails. The **Phoenix Monument** and Wellington Monument are major landmarks. Perfect for picnics, jogging, or wildlife spotting.



Top Pick

National Botanic Gardens

1.5-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

These beautiful 19.5-hectare gardens in Glasnevin showcase The gardens hold over 15,000 plant species and cultivars. Highlights include magnificent Victorian **glasshouses** (curvilinear range), an alpine garden, rose garden, and arboretum. The gardens are internationally important for plant conservation and research. **Free admission** makes this a wonderful budget-friendly attraction. The Great Palm House, built in 1884, is particularly stunning. Peaceful riverside walks add to the experience.



Notable

Iveagh Gardens

30-60 minutes No Booking Needed

Map

Often called Dublin's 'secret garden,' these Victorian gardens near St. Stephen's Green offer a tranquil escape that most tourists miss. Features include a cascade waterfall, fountains, maze, archery grounds, rustic grotto, and woodland walks. The gardens host occasional outdoor concerts and events in summer. Despite being in the city center, they remain remarkably peaceful. **Free admission** and fewer crowds make this a local favorite.



Optional

War Memorial Gardens

45 minutes No Booking Needed

Map

Designed by renowned architect Sir Edwin Lutyens, these formal gardens commemorate Irish soldiers who died in World War I. The peaceful, symmetrical gardens feature rose gardens, fountain courts, and the **Stone of Remembrance**. Illuminated manuscripts in pavilions list the names of 49,400 Irish war dead. Located along the River Liffey near Kilmainham, the gardens are beautiful, moving, and remarkably uncrowded.

Tips for Parks & Gardens

- **Free admission:** All major parks and gardens are free, making them excellent budget-friendly activities

- **Deer spotting:** Phoenix Park deer are most active early morning and evening; maintain respectful distance
- **Bike rentals:** Phoenix Park is ideal for cycling; rent bikes at park entrances
- **Weather prep:** Irish weather is unpredictable; bring layers and rain jacket
- **Picnic spots:** All parks allow picnics; Iveagh Gardens and Phoenix Park are particularly scenic
- **Best seasons:** Spring (March-May) for flowers; autumn (September-October) for colors

Tours & Activities

Experience Dublin through guided tours, cultural activities, and unique experiences that bring the city's history, literature, and vibrant culture to life.



Must See

Traditional Irish Music Pub Sessions

2-3 hours No Booking Needed

Experience authentic **trad sessions** where musicians gather spontaneously to play traditional Irish music. Recommended venues include **The Cobblestone** (most authentic), **O'Donoghue's** (historic), and **The Brazen Head** (Ireland's oldest pub, established 1198). Sessions typically start around 9-9:30 PM. No booking needed - just arrive early for seats. Free entertainment, though buying drinks is expected. The music is participatory, unpredictable, and genuinely Irish.



Top Pick Book Ahead

Literary Pub Crawl

2-2.5 hours Book Ahead

Professional actors guide you through Dublin's pub-filled streets while performing scenes from Joyce, Beckett, Wilde, and other Irish literary giants. This entertaining two-hour tour combines literary education with pub culture, visiting famous watering holes where Ireland's writers drank and debated. The performance-based format makes Irish literature accessible and fun. Tours run nightly in summer and Thursday–Sunday in winter, starting at 7:15pm.



Top Pick Book Ahead

Whiskey Tasting Experience

1-1.5 hours Book Ahead

Multiple venues offer whiskey education and tasting. The **Jameson Distillery Bow Street** provides interactive tours with cocktail making and premium whiskey tastings. The **Irish Whiskey Museum** on Grafton Street offers blending experiences. **Teeling Distillery**, a working distillery in the Liberties, offers tours of its production. Each offers different experiences from introductory to connoisseur level, teaching the difference between Irish, Scotch, and American whiskeys.



Notable

Dublin Bay Cruise

1-2 hours Book Ahead

See Dublin from the water on a cruise around Dublin Bay. Tours pass the city's maritime landmarks including the **Poolbeg Lighthouse**, harbor areas, and coastline. Some cruises offer commentary on Dublin's maritime history and wildlife spotting opportunities (seals, seabirds). Evening sunset cruises are particularly scenic. Options range from basic sightseeing tours to dinner cruises with entertainment.



Notable

Viking Splash Tours

1.25 hours Book Ahead

A unique amphibious vehicle tour combining Dublin sightseeing with a splash into the Grand Canal. The distinctive yellow **DUKW vehicles** (World War II amphibious craft) tour city landmarks while guides share history with humor. Passengers are encouraged to wear Viking helmets and roar at pedestrians. While touristy, it's entertaining fun for families and those wanting a different perspective on Dublin. Tours run year-round weather permitting.



Notable

Dublin Food Tour

3-4 hours Book Ahead

Explore Dublin's culinary scene with guided food tours visiting traditional markets, artisan producers, and local eateries. Sample Irish specialties like **soda bread, farmhouse cheese, smoked salmon,** and **black pudding**, while learning about Irish food culture and history. Tours often include Temple Bar Food Market, historic pubs, and contemporary restaurants. Some tours focus on specific areas like The Liberties or Howth seafood.



Optional

Ghost Bus Tour

1.75 hours Book Ahead

This theatrical evening tour explores Dublin's dark history aboard a vintage-style bus. Costumed actors tell tales of grave robbers, body snatchers, and haunted sites while driving past spooky locations. The tour balances humor with genuine historical stories of Dublin's macabre past including St. Michan's mummies, Hell Fire Club, and various execution sites. More entertaining than scary, The regular Ghostbus tour is for ages 14 and over; a separate children’s tour serves ages 7–14.

Tips for Tours & Activities

- **Book popular tours early:** Literary Pub Crawl and distillery tours sell out, especially weekends and summer
- **Free walking tours:** Several companies offer tip-based walking tours; quality varies but they're budget-friendly
- **Trad session etiquette:** Don't request songs, don't talk during performances, and always buy drinks
- **Combination tickets:** Many whiskey and brewery tours offer discounted combination tickets
- **Weather considerations:** Walking tours operate in rain; dress appropriately with waterproofs
- **Evening tours:** Book evening entertainment tours early in your trip in case they're fully booked

Day Trips & Excursions

Escape Dublin for day trips to ancient monuments, stunning coastal scenery, historic estates, and picturesque villages that showcase Ireland's natural beauty and heritage.



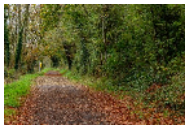
Must See

Glendalough & Wicklow Mountains

Full day (6-8 hours) No Booking Needed

Map

This stunning valley in the Wicklow Mountains contains a remarkably preserved **6th-century monastic settlement** founded by St. Kevin. The site features a perfect round tower, stone churches, Celtic crosses, and atmospheric graveyard beside two glacial lakes. The surrounding Wicklow Mountains National Park offers spectacular hiking trails, including the popular Upper Lake walk. The valley combines spiritual history with Ireland's most accessible mountain scenery. Tours often include Sally Gap and the Military Road scenic drive.



Must See Book Ahead

Newgrange & Boyne Valley

Half to full day Book Ahead

Map

Newgrange is a 5,200-year-old passage tomb older than Stonehenge and the Egyptian pyramids. This **UNESCO World Heritage Site** features a precisely engineered chamber that illuminates during winter solstice sunrise. The massive monument showcases Neolithic engineering genius with its kidney-shaped mound, decorated stones with spiral carvings, and astronomical alignment. The Boyne Valley contains two additional major tombs (Knowth and Dowth) and the historic Battle of the Boyne site. Visitor center provides excellent context.



Top Pick

Cliffs of Moher

Full day (12+ hours) No Booking Needed

Map

Ireland's most famous natural attraction features dramatic sea cliffs rising 214 meters (702 feet) from the Atlantic Ocean. The **8-kilometer cliff edge** offers breathtaking views, coastal walking paths, and diverse wildlife including puffins (April-July). O'Brien's Tower provides panoramic views on clear days extending to the Aran Islands and Connemara mountains. While far from Dublin (3.5 hours each way), it's Ireland's most iconic landscape. Tours often combine with Galway city or the Burren.



Top Pick

Powerscourt Estate & Gardens

Half day (3-4 hours) No Booking Needed

Map

One of Europe's finest estates features magnificent 47-acre Italian-inspired gardens with ornamental lakes, Japanese gardens, walled gardens, and stunning views of the **Sugar Loaf Mountain**. The estate includes a Palladian mansion (now housing shops and cafés), pet cemetery, and beautiful walking trails. The nearby **Powerscourt Waterfall**, Ireland's tallest at 121 meters, is a separate attraction. The gardens are particularly beautiful in spring (rhododendrons) and autumn (foliage). Easily combined with Glendalough.



Notable

Malahide Castle & Gardens

Half day (3-4 hours) No Booking Needed

Map

This medieval castle with 250 acres of parkland was home to the Talbot family for nearly 800 years until 1976. The castle contains period furnishings, oak-beamed great hall, and fascinating family portraits. The grounds include walled gardens, a Victorian glasshouse, and woodland trails. Easily accessible from Dublin (30 minutes by train), making it perfect for a half-day trip. The neighboring seaside village of Malahide offers coastal walks and excellent restaurants.



Notable

Belfast & Giant's Causeway

Full day (13+ hours) Book Ahead

Map

Northern Ireland's capital Belfast offers Titanic Belfast museum, political murals, and Victorian architecture. The **Giant's Causeway**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, features 40,000 interlocking basalt columns formed by volcanic activity 60 million years ago. Tours typically include the scenic Antrim Coast Road, Carrick-a-Rede rope bridge, and Dark Hedges (Game of Thrones filming location). This is a long day trip (13+ hours) but showcases Northern Ireland's most famous attractions.

Tips for Day Trips & Excursions

- **Tour vs. self-drive:** Tours handle logistics but limit flexibility; car rentals offer freedom but require confident driving on narrow Irish roads
- **Book Newgrange early:** Entry to the chamber is limited and books out weeks in advance
- **Weather preparation:** Irish weather changes rapidly; bring waterproof layers even on sunny days
- **Realistic timing:** Cliffs of Moher and Belfast are long days; consider staying overnight in these regions
- **Public transport options:** Glendalough, Malahide, and Howth are accessible by public transport
- **Combination tours:** Many operators combine multiple sites (e.g., Glendalough + Powerscourt) for better value

Food & Dining

Real, highly-rated Restaurants in Dublin, sourced from Google Places (rating above 4★).



D'Olier Street Restaurant★★★★★ 4.8 (375)

1-2 hours

Map

D'Olier Street Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Dublin, rated 4.8★ from 375 reviews. Located at D'Olier Street, Dublin, D02 H589, Ireland.

Opening Hours

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: 5:00 – 11:30 PM
- Wednesday: 5:00 – 11:30 PM
- Thursday: 5:00 – 11:30 PM
- Friday: 12:30 – 4:00 PM, 5:00 – 11:30 PM
- Saturday: 12:30 – 4:00 PM, 5:00 – 11:30 PM
- Sunday: Closed



Etto★★★★★ 4.8 (916)

1-2 hours

Map

Etto is a highly-rated restaurant in Dublin, rated 4.8★ from 916 reviews. Located at 18 Merrion Row, Dublin, D02 A316, Ireland.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 5:00 – 9:30 PM
- Tuesday: 5:00 – 9:30 PM
- Wednesday: 5:00 – 9:30 PM
- Thursday: 12:30 – 2:45 PM, 5:30 – 9:30 PM
- Friday: 12:00 – 3:00 PM, 5:30 – 9:30 PM
- Saturday: 12:00 – 3:00 PM, 5:30 – 9:30 PM
- Sunday: Closed



Chapter One Restaurant★★★★★ 4.8 (1,170)

1-2 hours

Map

Chapter One Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Dublin, rated 4.8★ from 1170 reviews. Located at 18-19 Parnell Square N, Rotunda, Dublin 1, D01 T3V8, Ireland.

Opening Hours

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: 6:30 – 9:30 PM
- Wednesday: 6:30 – 9:30 PM
- Thursday: 12:00 – 2:00 PM, 6:30 – 9:30 PM
- Friday: 12:00 – 2:00 PM, 6:30 – 9:30 PM
- Saturday: 12:00 – 2:00 PM, 6:30 – 9:30 PM
- Sunday: Closed



The Vintage Kitchen★★★★★ 4.7 (1,635)

1-2 hours

Map

The Vintage Kitchen is a highly-rated restaurant in Dublin, rated 4.7★ from 1635 reviews. Located at 7 Poolbeg St, Dublin 2, D02 NX03, Ireland.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 5:00 – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 12:00 – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 12:00 – 3:00 PM, 5:00 – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 12:00 – 3:15 PM, 5:00 – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 12:00 – 3:15 PM, 5:30 – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 12:00 – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: Closed



Chequer Lane by Jamie Oliver★★★★★ 4.7 (1,429)

1-2 hours

Map

Chequer Lane by Jamie Oliver is a highly-rated restaurant in Dublin, rated 4.7★ from 1429 reviews. Located at 27 Exchequer St, Dublin, D02 A527, Ireland.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 5:00 – 9:00 PM
- Tuesday: 12:30 – 9:00 PM
- Wednesday: 12:30 – 9:00 PM
- Thursday: 12:30 – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 12:30 – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 12:30 – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 1:00 – 9:00 PM



Mr Fox★★★★★ 4.7 (1,147)

1-2 hours

Map

Mr Fox is a highly-rated restaurant in Dublin, rated 4.7★ from 1147 reviews. Located at 38 Parnell Square W, Rotunda, Dublin, Ireland.

Opening Hours

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: 5:00 – 9:15 PM
- Wednesday: 5:00 – 9:15 PM
- Thursday: 5:00 – 9:15 PM
- Friday: 5:00 – 9:30 PM
- Saturday: 12:00 – 1:30 PM, 5:00 – 9:30 PM
- Sunday: Closed



Library Street Restaurant★★★★★ 4.7 (370)

1-2 hours

Map

Library Street Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Dublin, rated 4.7★ from 370 reviews. Located at 101 Setanta Pl, Dublin 2, D02 W3Y7, Ireland.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 5:00 – 9:30 PM
- Tuesday: 5:00 – 9:30 PM
- Wednesday: 5:00 – 9:30 PM
- Thursday: 5:00 – 9:30 PM
- Friday: 2:30 – 9:30 PM
- Saturday: 2:30 – 9:30 PM
- Sunday: Closed



BANG Dublin★★★★★ 4.7 (2,349)

1-2 hours

Map

BANG Dublin is a highly-rated restaurant in Dublin, rated 4.7★ from 2349 reviews. Located at 11 Merrion Row, Dublin, D02 KW61, Ireland.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 5:30 – 9:30 PM
- Tuesday: 5:30 – 9:30 PM
- Wednesday: 5:30 – 9:30 PM
- Thursday: 12:15 – 2:30 PM, 5:30 – 9:30 PM
- Friday: 12:15 – 2:30 PM, 5:30 – 9:30 PM
- Saturday: 1:00 – 2:30 PM, 5:30 – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: Closed



Kicky's★★★★★ 4.7 (524)

1-2 hours

Map

Kicky's is a highly-rated restaurant in Dublin, rated 4.7★ from 524 reviews. Located at South Great George's Street, Dublin, D02 WK13, Ireland.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 5:30 – 9:30 PM
- Tuesday: 5:30 – 9:30 PM
- Wednesday: 5:30 – 9:30 PM
- Thursday: 12:30 – 2:30 PM, 5:30 – 9:30 PM
- Friday: 12:30 – 2:30 PM, 5:30 – 9:30 PM
- Saturday: 1:00 – 9:30 PM
- Sunday: Closed



La Caverna Restaurant and Wine Bar★★★★★ 4.7 (3,656)

1-2 hours

Map

La Caverna Restaurant and Wine Bar is a highly-rated restaurant in Dublin, rated 4.7★ from 3656 reviews. Located at 12 Fownes St Upper, Temple Bar, Dublin 2, D02 PY51, Ireland.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 4:00 – 9:00 PM
- Tuesday: 4:00 – 9:00 PM
- Wednesday: 4:00 – 9:00 PM
- Thursday: 1:00 – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 1:00 – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 1:00 – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 1:00 – 9:00 PM



Pichet★★★★★ 4.7 (1,865)

1-2 hours

Map

Pichet is a highly-rated restaurant in Dublin, rated 4.7★ from 1865 reviews. Located at 14-15 Trinity St, Dublin 2, D02 T998, Ireland.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 4:30 – 9:15 PM
- Tuesday: 4:30 – 9:15 PM
- Wednesday: 12:00 – 3:30 PM, 5:00 – 9:30 PM
- Thursday: 12:00 – 3:30 PM, 5:00 – 9:30 PM
- Friday: 12:00 – 3:30 PM, 5:00 – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 12:00 – 3:30 PM, 5:00 – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 4:30 – 9:00 PM



The Stage Door Cafe★★★★★ 4.7 (1,765)

1-2 hours

Map

The Stage Door Cafe is a highly-rated restaurant in Dublin, rated 4.7★ from 1765 reviews. Located at Apartment 3, Apartment 3, 11 Essex St E, Temple Bar, Dublin 2, Ireland.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 6:00 AM – 3:00 PM
- Tuesday: 6:00 AM – 3:00 PM
- Wednesday: 6:00 AM – 3:00 PM
- Thursday: 6:00 AM – 3:00 PM
- Friday: 6:00 AM – 3:00 PM
- Saturday: 6:00 AM – 3:00 PM
- Sunday: 6:00 AM – 3:00 PM



FX Buckley Steakhouse Crow Street★★★★★ 4.7 (2,520)

1-2 hours

Map

FX Buckley Steakhouse Crow Street is a highly-rated restaurant in Dublin, rated 4.7★ from 2520 reviews. Located at 2 Crow St, Temple Bar, Dublin 2, D02 N228, Ireland.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 5:00 – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 5:00 – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 5:00 – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 5:00 – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 1:00 – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 1:00 – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 1:00 – 9:00 PM



Trocadero Restaurant Dublin★★★★★ 4.6 (1,475)

1-2 hours

Map

Trocadero Restaurant Dublin is a highly-rated restaurant in Dublin, rated 4.6★ from 1475 reviews. Located at 4 St Andrew's St, Dublin, D02 PD30, Ireland.

Opening Hours

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: 5:00 – 10:30 PM
- Wednesday: 5:00 – 10:30 PM
- Thursday: 5:00 – 10:30 PM
- Friday: 5:00 – 10:30 PM
- Saturday: 4:30 – 10:30 PM
- Sunday: 3:00 – 8:00 PM



WILDE Restaurant★★★★★ 4.6 (920)

1-2 hours

Map

WILDE Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Dublin, rated 4.6★ from 920 reviews. Located at Harry St, Dublin 2, D02 CH66, Ireland.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 12:30 – 9:30 PM
- Tuesday: 12:30 – 9:30 PM
- Wednesday: 12:30 – 9:30 PM
- Thursday: 12:30 – 9:30 PM
- Friday: 12:30 – 9:30 PM
- Saturday: 12:30 – 9:30 PM
- Sunday: 12:30 – 9:30 PM

Practical Information

Seasonal Guide to Dublin

Spring (March-May): Ideal visiting season with mild temperatures (8-15°C), blooming flowers in parks and gardens, and fewer crowds than summer. **St. Patrick's Day (March 17)** brings massive celebrations but also inflated prices and packed accommodations. Easter offers long weekends but variable weather.

Summer (June-August): Peak tourist season with longest daylight hours (sunset around 10 PM), warmest temperatures (15-20°C), and numerous festivals. Expect higher prices, crowded attractions, and advance booking essential. Weather remains unpredictable with frequent rain despite being 'summer.' Best for outdoor activities and coastal day trips.

Autumn (September-October): Excellent shoulder season with comfortable temperatures, beautiful foliage in parks, fewer tourists, and lower prices. September often has better weather than summer. **Culture Night (September)** offers free access to museums and venues. October brings Halloween festivities (Samhain origins) but increasing rainfall.

Winter (November-February): Low season with shortest days (sunset around 4:30 PM), cold temperatures (4-8°C), and frequent rain. Significant savings on accommodation and flights. Christmas markets and New Year's celebrations add atmosphere. Phoenix Park's deer are particularly visible. Museums and indoor attractions are less crowded. January sales offer shopping bargains.

Weather Reality Check

Dublin's maritime climate means weather is **famously unpredictable**. Expect rain year-round (average 730mm annually), often as sudden showers rather than all-day downpours. The saying goes: 'If you don't like the weather, wait 15 minutes.' Pack layers, waterproof jacket, and comfortable waterproof shoes regardless of season. Rarely freezing or extremely hot.

Getting Around Dublin

Public Transportation

Leap Card: Essential for all public transport. This reloadable smart card offers significant savings (30-40% vs. cash fares) and works on buses, DART, Luas, and commuter trains. Available at convenience stores, airports, and stations (€5 refundable deposit). Tap a physical Leap Card. Bank-card and phone contactless fare payment across Dublin bus, Luas and rail services is planned from 2028.

Dublin Bus: Extensive network covering the city with over 100 routes. Buses run approximately 6 AM-11:30 PM, with limited Nitelink services on weekends. Exact change required if paying cash (no change given). Real-time arrival information available via app. Useful routes: Route 16 connects Dublin Airport and Ballinteer. Routes 11 and 11b serve Phoenix Park, Route 145 was withdrawn in January 2025 and did not serve Malahide; use the DART for Malahide, #7 (city center to Dún Laoghaire DART).

DART (Dublin Area Rapid Transit): Coastal railway connecting Malahide/Howth (north) to Greystones (south) via city center. Excellent for reaching seaside areas, particularly Howth and Dún Laoghaire. Trains every 10-20 minutes during peak times. Stunning coastal views along southern route. Stations include Connolly, Tara Street, and Pearse.

Luas (Tram): Two lines (Red and Green) connecting suburbs to city center. Red Line: Connolly Station to The Point/Tallaght. Green Line: St. Stephen's Green to Brides Glen/Broombridge. Lines don't connect directly; transfer via short walk or bus. Runs approximately 5:30 AM-12:30 AM.

✈ Airport Transfer

Airlink Express: Direct buses (Airlink routes 747 and 757 are suspended; use a current airport service such as Dublin Express or Aircoach.) operating 24/7 every 10-30 minutes. Journey: 20-40 minutes depending on traffic. Most convenient for central hotels.

Aircoach: Private coach service to city center and suburbs running 24/7. Slightly more expensive than Airlink but more comfortable with luggage space.

Taxi: Taxis are metered (Budget approximately €30–45; the metered fare depends on destination, traffic and time, 30-40 minutes depending on traffic). Use official taxi rank or apps like FreeNow or Bolt. Avoid unlicensed cabs.

Dublin Bus route 16: Cheapest option (Leap Card fare) but slower with many stops. Good for budget travelers with time.

Walking & Cycling

Walking: Dublin's compact city center is highly walkable. Most major attractions within 30-minute walk of each other. Wide pavements but watch for aggressive drivers at pedestrian crossings.

Dublinbikes: Bike-sharing scheme with 100+ stations. First 30 minutes free, then small charges apply. Requires credit card registration. Useful for quick trips but city cycling requires confidence due to traffic and limited bike lanes.

Taxis & Ride-Sharing

FreeNow (formerly MyTaxi) and **Bolt** are primary apps. Traditional taxis also plentiful. Meters must be used within city limits. Tips not expected but appreciated (round up fare). Surge pricing during events and late nights.

Car Rental

Unnecessary for Dublin city (parking expensive and limited), but useful for exploring countryside. Irish roads are narrow, rural signage inconsistent, and driving on left may be challenging. Manual transmission standard; automatic cars cost more. International driver's license may be required for non-EU visitors.

Shopping in Dublin

What to Buy

Aran Knitwear: Authentic Irish wool sweaters with traditional cable patterns. Each pattern historically identified fishing families. Quality varies; look for 100% wool and authentic Irish makers. Shops on Grafton Street and Nassau Street stock genuine articles.

Irish Whiskey: Bring home bottles from **Jameson, Bushmills, Redbreast, Teeling,** or **Midleton**. Distillery gift shops offer exclusive bottlings. Duty-free at airport but better selection at Celtic Whiskey Shop (Dawson Street).

Waterford Crystal: World-famous Irish crystal glassware. Genuine pieces are hand-cut and expensive. Available at department stores and specialty shops. Verify authenticity with maker's mark.

Irish Jewelry: Claddagh rings (traditional Irish ring), Celtic designs, and contemporary Irish designers. Weir & Sons (Grafton Street) is Ireland's oldest jeweler. Authentic claddagh rings from Galway artisans available in Dublin boutiques.

Irish Food Products: Kerrygold butter, Tayto crisps, Barry's or Lyons tea, traditional brown bread mix, Irish smoked salmon, farmhouse cheeses. Available at supermarkets (Dunnes, Tesco, SuperValu) for authentic local prices.

Books & Literature: First editions, Irish literature, and contemporary Irish authors. Hodges Figgis (Dawson Street) is Ireland's oldest bookshop. Ulysses Rare Books specializes in antiquarian Irish books.

Irish Craft & Design: Contemporary Irish craft, design objects, and artisan products. Kilkenny Shop (Nassau Street) showcases quality Irish makers. Industry Design Store features cutting-edge Irish design.

Shopping Areas

Grafton Street: Premier shopping street with international brands (**Brown Thomas** luxury department store, Zara, H&M) and Irish retailers. Street performers add atmosphere. Connected pedestrian streets include Duke Street, Wicklow Street, and South William Street with independent boutiques.

Henry Street & O'Connell Street: North side shopping with more affordable chain stores. Arnotts department store, Penneys (Irish Primark), and Jervis Shopping Centre. More locals than tourists.

Powerscourt Centre: Elegant Georgian mansion converted to upscale shopping arcade with boutiques, galleries, and cafés. Beautiful courtyard and architecture worth visiting even if not shopping.

George's Street Arcade: Victorian covered market (1881) with vintage shops, record stores, palm readers, and quirky boutiques. Authentic alternative shopping experience. Excellent for vintage clothing and vinyl.

Temple Bar Markets: Saturday Food Market (Meeting House Square) offers artisan foods, organic produce, and street food. Weekend Book Market (Temple Bar Square) for secondhand books. Cow's Lane Designer Market (Saturdays) features Irish fashion and craft designers.

Francis Street (The Liberties): Antiques quarter with numerous dealers selling furniture, art, silver, and collectibles. Best for serious antique hunters.

Shopping Tips

VAT Refunds: Non-EU visitors can claim VAT refunds (23%) Qualifying goods must have an export voucher value of at least €75 and be exported within the required deadline. Request Tax Free form at purchase, get stamped at airport customs before check-in, claim refund at airport office.

Bargaining: Not customary except at flea markets and some antique shops. Prices generally fixed in retail stores.

Sales Periods: Major sales in January (post-Christmas) and July/August (summer clearance). Black Friday increasingly popular in November.

Opening Hours: Typically 9/10 AM - 6 PM Monday-Saturday, later on Thursdays (until 8/9 PM). Sunday opening: 12-6 PM (limited). Many independent shops closed Sundays.

Annual Events & Festivals

Major Festivals

The 2026 festival ran for four days, 14–17 March: Ireland's national holiday features massive parade through Dublin, street performances, concerts, fireworks, and citywide celebrations. The city turns green with decorations and Guinness flows freely. Book accommodation months in advance as prices skyrocket. Over 500,000 visitors attend annually.

Bloomsday (June 16): Celebrates James Joyce's Ulysses, which takes place entirely on June 16, 1904. Literary events, walking tours, period costumes, readings, and performances at Joyce-related sites. Participants often dress in Edwardian clothing. Free and paid events throughout the day.

Dublin Theatre Festival (September/October): Ireland's premier theatre festival showcasing international and Irish productions across multiple venues. The 2026 festival lasts 18 days, 24 September–11 October, from experimental to mainstream. Tickets go fast for popular shows.

Culture Night (September): Free access to museums, galleries, historic buildings, and cultural venues typically closed or charging admission. Live performances, workshops, and special exhibitions. One night only with extended hours until 11 PM.

Dublin Fringe Festival (September): Alternative performing arts festival featuring experimental theatre, comedy, music, and visual arts. Over 100 shows in multiple venues. More adventurous than mainstream Dublin Theatre Festival.

Bram Stoker Festival (October): Halloween weekend festival celebrating Dublin's gothic heritage and Dracula author. Macabre entertainment includes street spectacles, haunted tours, horror film screenings, and family activities. Dublin embraces Halloween as Samhain originated in Ireland.

St. Patrick's Day Parade (March 17): Spectacular parade along O'Connell Street featuring international bands, floats, performers, and community groups. Free viewing but arrive early for good spots. Parade starts noon and lasts 2-3 hours.

TradFest (January): Temple Bar TradFest celebrates Irish traditional music with concerts, sessions, and workshops. Indoor venues perfect for dark January nights. Mix of established artists and emerging talent.

Sporting Events

Six Nations Rugby (February-March): Ireland's home matches at Aviva Stadium create electric atmosphere. Tickets extremely difficult to obtain. Pubs packed with supporters wearing green jerseys.

The 2026 senior hurling final was on 19 July and football final on 26 July, at Croke Park: At Croke Stadium. These finals are Ireland's biggest sporting events. Hurling is one of the world's fastest field sports. Atmosphere unmatched; tickets sell out immediately.

Dublin Marathon (October): Over 20,000 runners participate in one of Europe's friendliest marathons. Spectators line the streets creating party atmosphere. City center disrupted but entertaining for visitors.

Food & Drink Festivals

Taste of Dublin (June): Taste of Dublin took place in Merrion Square on 11–14 June 2026. Cooking demonstrations, tastings, and artisan products. Ticketed event.

Dublin Whiskey Festival (Various dates): Tastings, masterclasses, and distillery tours celebrating Irish whiskey renaissance. Events at distilleries and bars citywide.

Public Holidays

Most shops, banks, and some attractions closed on: **New Year's Day** (Jan 1), **St. Patrick's Day** (Mar 17), **Easter Monday**, **May Bank Holiday** (first Monday), **June Bank Holiday** (first Monday), **August Bank Holiday** (first Monday), **October Bank Holiday** (last Monday), **Christmas Day** (Dec 25), and **St. Stephen's Day** (Dec 26). Pubs and restaurants typically open except Christmas Day.

Sample Itineraries

Day 1: Historic Dublin & Literary Heritage

Morning (9:00 AM): Start at **Trinity College** for Book of Kells and Long Room (pre-book online). Allow 1.5 hours. Walk through Trinity's beautiful campus and Front Square.

Late Morning (11:00 AM): Walk Nassau Street browsing shops, then enter **National Museum of Archaeology** (free). Focus on Treasury room with Celtic gold. 1 hour minimum.

Lunch (12:30 PM): Sandwich at Avoca on Suffolk Street or traditional pub lunch at The Hairy Lemon.

Afternoon (2:00 PM): Stroll through **Merrion Square** viewing Georgian doors and Oscar Wilde statue. Walk to **St. Stephen's Green** for park break. Continue to Grafton Street for shopping and street performers.

Late Afternoon (4:30 PM): Visit **Little Museum of Dublin** for excellent guided tour of 20th century Dublin history (1 hour).

Evening (6:30 PM): Dinner in Temple Bar area, then join **Literary Pub Crawl** at 7:30 PM for entertaining tour of Dublin's literary history through pubs.

Day 2: Guinness, Kilmainham & The Liberties

Morning (9:30 AM): Kilmainham Gaol guided tour (pre-book essential). Powerful experience exploring Irish revolutionary history. 1.5 hours.

Late Morning (11:30 AM): Walk through adjacent **War Memorial Gardens** or IMMA modern art museum if interested.

Lunch (1:00 PM): The Fumbally Café in Liberties for excellent casual lunch, or traditional Irish stew at nearby pub.

Afternoon (2:30 PM): Guinness Storehouse experience (pre-book). Take your time exploring seven floors, culminating in Gravity Bar pint with 360° views. 2-3 hours.

Late Afternoon (5:30 PM): Explore **The Liberties** neighborhood, browsing antiques on Francis Street.

Evening (7:00 PM): Traditional Irish dinner at The Brazen Head (Ireland's oldest pub), then stay for **trad music session** starting around 9 PM.

Day 3: Coastal Dublin & Seaside Villages

Morning (9:00 AM): Take DART to **Howth** (30 minutes). Start with **Howth Cliff Walk** – either full loop (6km, 2 hours) or shorter cliff path with stunning coastal views.

Late Morning (11:30 AM): Explore Howth village and harbor, watching fishing boats and seals.

Lunch (1:00 PM): Fresh seafood at harbor restaurants – fish and chips at Beshoff Bros or sit-down meal at Octopussy's or Aqua.

Afternoon (3:00 PM): DART to **Dún Laoghaire** Allow approximately one hour by DART; published direct services take around 52–55 minutes. Walk the East Pier for sea views, visit Forty Foot bathing spot, explore Victorian seafront.

Late Afternoon (5:00 PM): DART back to city center.

Evening (7:00 PM): Dinner at modern Irish restaurant like Chapter One or The Woollen Mills. Optional: catch performance at Abbey Theatre or enjoy cocktails in trendy bar.

Day 4: Cathedrals, Whiskey & Georgian Dublin

Morning (9:30 AM): Visit **Christ Church Cathedral** exploring medieval crypt and cathedral. 1 hour.

Mid-Morning (11:00 AM): Walk to nearby **St. Patrick's Cathedral** (10 minutes), Dublin's largest church and Jonathan Swift connection. 1 hour.

Lunch (12:30 PM): Lunch at Queen of Tarts (excellent baking) or Leo Burdock's for traditional fish and chips.

Afternoon (2:00 PM): Jameson Distillery Bow Street or **Teeling Distillery** tour with whiskey tasting (pre-book). 1.5 hours.

Late Afternoon (4:00 PM): Walk through **Smithfield Square**, then north to **National Museum of Decorative Arts** (Collins Barracks) if time permits, or relax at café.

Evening (6:30 PM): Explore **Portobello** neighborhood for dinner at trendy restaurants like Herbstreet or 3FE for coffee culture.

Day 5: Day Trip to Glendalough & Wicklow

Early Morning (8:00 AM): Join organized tour or rent car for Wicklow Mountains. Stop at **Powerscourt Estate** first – explore magnificent gardens and mansion (1.5 hours).

Late Morning (11:00 AM): Drive through **Sally Gap** and Wicklow Mountains National Park scenic roads with photo stops.

Lunch (1:00 PM): Wicklow Heather restaurant near Glendalough or picnic at scenic spot.

Afternoon (2:00 PM): Glendalough monastic site – explore round tower, cathedral ruins, and Celtic crosses. Walk to Upper Lake for stunning valley views (allow 2-3 hours total).

Return (5:00 PM): Drive back to Dublin via different scenic route or with tour bus.

Evening (7:30 PM): Relaxed dinner in city, perhaps final trad session at The Cobblestone (Smithfield) – Dublin's most authentic music venue.

Alternative Day Trip Options

Newgrange & Boyne Valley: Ancient passage tomb (older than pyramids), Knowth, Battle of Boyne site. Full day.

Belfast & Giant's Causeway: Early start (7 AM) for long day (returns 9 PM). Titanic Museum, political murals, dramatic causeway basalt columns.

Cliffs of Moher: Very long day (6 AM-10 PM) but Ireland's most iconic natural landmark. Often combined with Galway city.

Best Instagram & Photography Locations

Iconic Dublin Photos

Ha'penny Bridge: Dublin's most photographed landmark. Best shots from south riverbank capturing full bridge arch reflection in Liffey. *Timing: Blue hour (just after sunset) when bridge illuminated. Morning light also excellent with fewer people.*

Georgian Doors of Merrion Square: Colorful doors are quintessential Dublin. Numbers 1-3 Merrion Square particularly photogenic. Frame shots showing door details with fanlight windows above. *Timing: Midday for best light on doors; overcast days work better than harsh sun.*

Trinity College Long Room: Stunning library hall with books and busts. Photography permitted without flash. Capture symmetry from entrance or detail shots of book stacks. *Timing: Early morning visits (9 AM) avoid crowds for clearer shots.*

Temple Bar Area: Iconic red Temple Bar pub with hanging flower baskets. The cobblestone streets and colorful buildings create perfect urban shots. *Timing: Early morning (7-8 AM) for empty streets; evening when pubs lit up.*

Grafton Street Buskers: Talented street performers create dynamic photos. Always ask permission and tip if photographing performers closely. *Timing: Afternoons and early evenings (2-7 PM) for best performers.*

Elevated City Views

Gravity Bar (Guinness Storehouse): 360-degree panoramic views from top floor. Capture cityscape with pint of Guinness in foreground. *Timing: Late afternoon (4-5 PM) for golden hour light; sunset particularly beautiful.*

Christ Church Cathedral Roof Tours: Unique perspective over medieval Dublin. Limited tour spaces; book ahead. *Timing: Special roof tours check website for schedule.*

Croke Stadium Skyline Tour: Rooftop views from Ireland's largest stadium. *Timing: Clear days essential for distance views; check weather before booking.*

Atmospheric Locations

Cobblestone Streets of Temple Bar: Crown Alley and Fownes Street Upper offer authentic cobblestones without crowds. Capture pub facades, street art, and Victorian lampposts. *Timing: Morning light (9-11 AM) for soft shadows.*

St. Patrick's Cathedral Exterior: Gothic architecture with park setting. Include surrounding trees and gravestones for atmosphere. *Timing: Late afternoon side-lighting enhances architectural details.*

Kilmainham Gaol: Stark Victorian prison architecture creates dramatic photos. Interior shots of East Wing particularly striking. *Timing: Interior lighting constant; exterior best afternoon light.*

Glasnevin Cemetery: Atmospheric Victorian monuments, O'Connell's round tower, and tree-lined paths. Respectful photography only. *Timing: Autumn for golden leaves; misty mornings for dramatic atmosphere.*

Coastal & Natural Spots

Howth Cliff Walk: Dramatic coastal views, lighthouse, Ireland's Eye island. Capture rugged cliffs meeting sea. *Timing: Sunset facing west toward city; morning light for cliff details. Warning: windy affects tripods.*

Forty Foot, Dún Laoghaire: Rocky coastline with brave swimmers year-round. Capture waves crashing on rocks, Victorian bathing spot. *Timing: Early morning swimmers (7-9 AM) or stormy days for dramatic waves.*

Phoenix Park Deer: Wild fallow deer roam freely. Maintain respectful distance; use zoom lens. *Timing: Early morning (7-9 AM) or late afternoon when deer most active. Autumn rut season (September-October) for action shots.*

Poolbeg Lighthouse: Iconic red lighthouse reached by long breakwater walk. Dramatic photos with Dublin Bay backdrop. *Timing: Sunset position perfect for silhouette shots; blue hour for twilight glow.*

Hidden Gems

Iveagh Gardens: Secret Victorian garden with cascade, fountains, and formal gardens. Few tourists, great for peaceful garden photography. *Timing: Spring flowers (April-May); autumn colors (October).*

Grand Canal Locks: Colorful canal boats, lock mechanisms, and urban waterways. Portobello area particularly photogenic. *Timing: Golden hour (evening) for warm light on water.*

St. Michan's Vaults: Ancient church crypts with mummified remains (photography policies vary; ask permission). *Timing: Atmospheric interior lighting; low light photography skills needed.*

National Botanic Gardens Glasshouses: Victorian glass palm houses create beautiful light patterns. Tropical plants inside ornate architecture. *Timing: Overcast days for even light through glass; direct sun creates harsh contrasts.*

Photography Tips for Dublin

- **Weather:** Irish light changes rapidly. 'Four seasons in one day' means carrying rain cover for camera. Overcast skies actually flatter Georgian architecture.
- **Golden Hour:** Summer sunset around 10 PM provides very long golden hour. Winter sunset 4:30 PM.
- **Permissions:** Most churches, museums require no flash. Privately owned pubs may restrict photography. Always ask.
- **Crowds:** Major attractions (Trinity, Temple Bar) packed midday. Arrive early (9 AM) or late afternoon for fewer tourists in shots.
- **Respect:** Avoid photographing rough sleepers, private residential areas, or pub patrons without permission.
- **Equipment:** Compact cameras fine; Dublin is walkable but cobblestones and hills make heavy equipment tiring. Waterproof bag essential.

Electricity & Adapters

Voltage: Ireland uses 230V/50Hz electrical system, same as UK and most of Europe.

Plug Type: Type G (UK-style three rectangular prongs). This is different from continental European two-pin plugs.

Adapters Needed: Visitors from North America, Asia, Australia, and most other regions need adapters. Continental Europeans also need UK-style adapter despite being in Europe.

Where to Buy Adapters

- **Before You Travel:** Amazon, travel shops at home generally cheaper than buying in Dublin
- **Dublin Airport:** Available in airport shops but expensive (€10-15)
- **City Center:** Boots pharmacy, Argos, hardware stores, convenience stores (€5-10)
- **Hotels:** Many hotels lend adapters at reception (ask); some rooms have USB charging ports

Voltage Converters

Most modern electronics (phones, laptops, camera chargers) have built-in voltage converters (100-240V) and only need plug adapters. Check device specifications before travel.

High-wattage items (hair dryers, curling irons, electric shavers) may need voltage converters if not dual-voltage. Consider buying cheap hair dryer in Dublin rather than bringing converter.

USB Charging

USB charging increasingly available: many hotel rooms have USB ports, cafés offer charging points, buses equipped with USB sockets. Bring USB cables for convenient charging without adapters.

Practical Tips

- **Bring multiple adapters** if traveling with several devices
- **Universal adapters** with UK setting work for Ireland
- **Check appliance ratings:** Look for '100-240V' labels on devices

- **Irish plugs have switches:** Remember to flip wall switch 'ON' – common oversight for visitors
- **Fuses in plugs:** Irish plugs contain fuses (usually 3A or 13A); if adapter stops working, fuse may need replacing

Irish Food & Dining

Must-Try Traditional Dishes

Irish Stew: Hearty lamb or mutton stew with potatoes, onions, and carrots. Comfort food perfection, especially on rainy days. Best at traditional pubs.

Fish & Chips: Fresh fish (usually cod or haddock) in crispy batter with thick-cut chips. Authentic experience at Leo Burdock's (since 1913) or Beshoff Bros. Traditional accompaniment: salt and vinegar, no ketchup.

Irish Breakfast: Full Irish includes bacon, sausages, eggs, black pudding, white pudding, grilled tomato, mushrooms, baked beans, and toast. Massive meal traditionally served until noon. Try at traditional café or hotel breakfast.

Boxty: Traditional potato pancake, served with various toppings. Sweet or savory options available at specialist restaurants.

Coddle: Dublin specialty of boiled pork sausages, bacon, potatoes, and onions. Working-class traditional dish, hearty and filling.

Seafood: Fresh oysters, Dublin Bay prawns, mussels, smoked salmon, and mackerel. Coastal towns like Howth famous for seafood restaurants. Try seafood chowder.

Soda Bread: Traditional Irish bread made with buttermilk and baking soda instead of yeast. White or brown varieties; delicious with butter.

Colcannon & Champ: Mashed potatoes with cabbage (colcannon) or scallions (champ). Traditional side dishes, simple but delicious.

Dairy & Cheese

Kerrygold Butter: Ireland's famous butter, rich and golden from grass-fed cows. Export version pales compared to Irish domestic butter.

Irish Farmhouse Cheese: Award-winning artisan cheeses including **Cashel Blue** (blue cheese), **Gubbeen** (washed rind), **Durrus** (semi-soft). Available at markets and specialty shops.

Sweet Treats

Tea & Scones: Afternoon tea tradition with scones, jam, and cream. Barry's Tea or Lyons most popular brands.

Guinness Cake: Rich chocolate cake made with Guinness stout. Available at bakeries and restaurants.

Porter Cake: Traditional fruitcake made with Guinness, dark and rich.

Where to Eat

Traditional Pubs: Most pubs serve food, especially lunchtime. Quality varies but atmosphere authentic. Try: The Brazen Head, The Hairy Lemon, O'Neill's. Expect €12-18 for main course.

Contemporary Irish: Modern takes on Irish ingredients. Michelin-starred options (Chapter One, Patrick Guilbaud) or mid-range (The Woollen Mills, Etto, Bastible). €25-45 for main courses at contemporary restaurants.

Markets: Temple Bar Food Market (Saturdays) offers artisan foods, baked goods, international street food. Fresh produce, cheeses, and ready-to-eat options. George's Street Arcade has food stalls.

Cafés: Dublin's café culture excellent for coffee and casual meals. Try: The Fumbally (healthy, creative), 3FE (specialty coffee), Queen of Tarts (excellent baking), Brother Hubbard (Middle Eastern-Irish fusion).

Seafood: Howth village for harbor-fresh seafood. Dún Laoghaire waterfront restaurants. City center: Klaw (oysters), Fish Shop (sustainable seafood).

Budget Options: Boojum or Pablo Picante (Mexican), Neon (Asian), Zaytoon (late-night kebabs popular with locals). Supermarket meal deals at Tesco, Dunnes, SuperValu (€4-6).

Dining Customs & Tips

Tipping: 10-15% in restaurants if service charge not included. Check bill first as some add automatic service charge. Pub counter service requires no tip; table service deserves €1-2 per round or 10%.

Meal Times: Lunch typically 12:30-2:30 PM. Dinner service starts early (6 PM) compared to Mediterranean Europe. Kitchens often close 9-10 PM. Book popular restaurants ahead, especially weekends.

Pub Food Hours: Many pubs serve food only until 8-9 PM. Sunday roast dinners popular 12-5 PM.

Reservations: Essential for upscale restaurants, especially weekends. Casual spots and pubs usually walk-in.

Dietary Requirements: Vegetarian options increasingly common. Vegan options available at modern cafés and restaurants but traditional pubs limited. Gluten-free awareness growing; celiac-friendly restaurants certified by Coeliac Society of Ireland.

Drinks Culture

Guinness: Irish stout takes 119.5 seconds to pour properly (two-part pour). Don't rush your bartender. Tastes different (better) in Ireland due to freshness and proper pouring. Guinness Draught is normally served chilled, at approximately 6–7°C.

Irish Whiskey: Smooth triple-distilled whiskey (spelled with 'e' in Ireland). Popular brands: Jameson, Bushmills, Redbreast, Tullamore Dew, Powers. Order neat, with water, or in Irish coffee.

Irish Coffee: Coffee, Irish whiskey, sugar, topped with cream. Invented in Ireland (1940s). Many pubs claim to make the best.

Craft Beer: Growing craft beer scene. Irish breweries: Galway Bay Brewery, Porterhouse, Eight Degrees, O'Brother. Many pubs now stock craft alternatives to macro lagers.

Tea: Irish drink more tea per capita than almost anywhere. Barry's vs. Lyons debate divides the nation (Barry's generally preferred). Served strong with milk.

Supermarkets & Self-Catering

Major Chains: Tesco (most common), Dunnes Stores (Irish chain, good quality), SuperValu (Irish-owned), Lidl/Aldi (budget), Marks & Spencer (upscale convenience).

What to Buy: Kerrygold butter, Irish cheeses, Barry's tea, Tayto crisps, Irish smoked salmon, soda bread, farmhouse sausages. Supermarket own-brands often excellent quality.

Locations: Tesco on Parnell Street (large), Dunnes on Grafton Street, multiple small Tesco Express/SuperValu throughout city center.

Food Allergies & Restrictions

Labeling: EU regulations ensure clear allergen labeling. Restaurants must provide allergen information on request.

Celiac-Friendly: Growing awareness; many restaurants offer gluten-free options. Look for Coeliac Society certification.

Halal: Limited halal options; some Middle Eastern restaurants certified. Ask specifically.

Kosher: Very limited; Dublin's small Jewish community centered on Adelaide Road area with one kosher restaurant/shop.

Tourist Passes

Dublin Pass

The comprehensive sightseeing pass offering **free entry to over 40 attractions** The included Big Bus ticket provides same-day hop-on-hop-off access; a two-day upgrade costs extra. Includes Guinness Storehouse, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin Zoo, Jameson Distillery, and many museums. Available for 1, 2, 3, or 5 consecutive days. **Best value for intensive sightseeing** visiting multiple paid attractions daily. Digital pass on smartphone; no physical collection needed. Includes fast-track entry at select attractions (skip queues). Check the current prices on the Dublin Pass website before buying. Calculate if savings justify cost based on your itinerary – generally worthwhile if visiting 3+ major paid attractions. EPIC is included in the Go City Dublin All-Inclusive Pass.

dublinpass.com

Leap Visitor Card

Public transportation card for **unlimited travel on Dublin Bus, Luas tram, DART, and commuter rail** within specified zones. Available for 1-day, 3-day or 7-day periods (check about.leapcard.ie for the current prices). Includes airport transfers and coastal trips to Howth/Dún Laoghaire. Big savings compared with individual tickets. Purchase at airport, convenience stores, or online. Activated on first use. Essential for visitors using public transport. Also available as standard Leap Card (pay-as-you-go) with better value for longer stays – auto-calculates best fare and caps daily spending. **Highly recommended** for all Dublin visitors planning multiple public transport journeys.

www.leapcard.ie

Heritage Card

Irish national monuments pass providing **free admission to over 50 heritage sites** managed by OPW (Office of Public Works) across Ireland for one year. Dublin sites include Dublin Castle, Kilmainham Gaol, Casino at Marino, and Rathfarnham Castle. Best value for visitors exploring beyond Dublin or returning to Ireland within 12 months. Adult €40, Senior €30, Child €10, Family €90. Calculate cost vs. individual site entries – worthwhile if visiting 3-4 OPW sites. **Kilmainham Gaol alone** Kilmainham Gaol adult admission is €8. Dublin Castle’s listed adult prices are €8 self-guided or €12 guided, when open, making the card excellent value for history enthusiasts planning multiple heritage site visits.

heritageireland.ie

DoDublin Card

Flexible attraction pass offering **The DoDublin Days Out Card includes six fixed attractions, including EPIC and both cathedrals; it excludes Guinness and Teeling.** Choose your attractions including Guinness Storehouse, EPIC Museum, Teeling Distillery, Christ Church Cathedral, Irish Whiskey Museum, and more. Digital pass activated on first use. Check the pass website for current prices. **More flexible than Dublin Pass** as attractions don't need to be consecutive days – use over a month. Good for visitors wanting major attractions without daily commitment. Calculate specific attractions you want to visit; often cheaper to buy individual tickets unless hitting expensive venues.

dodublin.ie

Dublin Bike Share

Bike-sharing scheme with **over 100 stations** throughout Dublin city center. Short-term and annual options are available; the first 30 minutes of each journey are free, then small charges apply. Perfect for quick trips between attractions, along canals, or to coastal areas. Requires credit card registration and deposit. Bikes basic but functional; helmets not provided (not legally required in Ireland). **Great eco-friendly option** for confident urban cyclists. Note: Dublin traffic can be challenging; cycle lanes limited. Return bikes to any station; app shows availability.

www.dublinbikes.ie