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TRAVEL TO DUBLIN



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Dublin



Area Map



Activities



City Map

Historical outline 6

Tour 1: Dublin 8

Tour 2: Dublin 11

Tour 3: Dublin 15

Tour 4: Dublin 18

Day Tours from 21

Dublin

Facts about Ireland 28

Dublin

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Hello Dublin

A visit to Dublin

One of the main attractions in the Irish capital of Dublin is the Irish national spirit, which finds expression in the famous Irish pubs with live Irish music. One must not leave without memories of this unique part of Ireland.

However, there is much more to Dublin - the Vikings' historic settlement, the elegant and intellectual atmosphere of Trinity College, the expansive shopping streets, the green oases in the city centre and of course the Temple Bar District, where the song of Molly Malone still seems to linger in the streets.

Ireland is often referred to as The Green Island, a name that becomes obvious when visiting the landscape surrounding Dublin. A wonderful nature and a relaxed country life can be experienced close to the city. If one wants to experience wild nature, the hilly country near Wicklow Mountains and the Irish east coast offer many opportunities.

Enjoy your stay!

Historical outline

Dublin was officially founded in 988, although remains from earlier habitations date back to the town of Eblana around the year 100.

The Danish Vikings founded Dublin in the Wood Quay area, where many objects dating from that period have been found. The city acquired its name Dubh Linn (meaning Black Pool) from the confluence of the River Liffey and the River Poddle.

The Vikings controlled the area until the Irish attacked several times: in 1052, 1075 and 1124. The Viking era in Dublin ended when they were defeated by The English king, Henry II, in 1171.

The English settled and maintained control of the Irish east coast for centuries, despite numerous attacks made by the Irish from the expansive wastelands.

The 1300s saw several unsuccessful Scottish attempts to invade. In 1348 the plague raged in Dublin, arresting the city's development.

The 1500s brought a rebellion against England and Henry VIII, who responded by closing down the convents of Ireland.

In 1592, Trinity College was founded by the decision of Queen Elizabeth. Thus, Dublin's educational tradition began.

The reign of Queen Elizabeth also meant a greater English movement towards integrating those rural areas of Ireland that had, until now, partly been left to the local inhabitants. Until the 1600s, Dublin remained a small, fortified medieval town. In 1649 the town had about 9,000 inhabitants, and in the same year, Oliver Cromwell redistributed a number of Ireland's fertile rural areas to his soldiers, among others.

Ireland supported the Catholic James II in the 1690 Battle of Boyne, but they were defeated. and James's supporters were excluded by the parliament and protestant rule was established.

The population increased due to the large number of protestant immigrants who came to the island from several parts of Europe.

In the 1700s Dublin flourished, and the city became one of the most significant cities in the British Empire. Many Dubliners achieved considerable affluence, thus helping the city out of the Middle Ages. Many new areas were established, marked by the new Georgian houses and neighbourhoods which remain a significant feature of the city. After this prosperous century, an Irish assumption supported by the French was attempted in 1798.

The status of both Dublin and Ireland was reduced in 1801 upon the resignation of the Irish Parliament and the transfer of power to London. It was the beginning of a long period of stagnation for Dublin. Already in 1803 a new rebellion took place, but it was poorly planned and easily suppressed by the British. In the 1800s Catholics fought for increased rights in the nation, which was then still under protestant rule. A famine raged on the island from 1845 to 1851. Refugees flocked to Dublin, as it was not as badly affected as the rural areas. The increased pressure caused a decided economic decline for the city.

Charles Parnell stated the demand for Irish independence at the parliament in London, and at the turn of the century, the separatist political movement, Sinn Féin, was formed.

The Home Rule Act was passed in 1914, but suspended during World War I.

In 1916 there was once again a rebellion against British rule. It was put down at the General Post Office at O'Donnell Street, but no more than three years later, from 1919-1921, an actual revolution

took place, leading to Irish independence and the creation of the Irish Free State.

Upon independence, Dublin became the capital of the republic, since the city was its natural political, cultural, and economic centre.

In 1949 Ireland withdrew from the Commonwealth and formed a republic. In the following decades,

Dublin's development was slow and both the city and the country were among the poorest in Western Europe.

Through its membership of the European Union the Irish economy underwent a significant development from the 1980s and onwards, and Dublin quickly became one of Europe's great tourist attractions

Tour 1: Dublin

1. Bank of Ireland

Foster Place

www.bankofireland.com

This building was erected in 1729 for the purpose of housing the Irish Parliament, and as such is historically interesting. When the parliament moved to London, the Bank of Ireland took over the place and has been there ever since.

Most noteworthy is the chamber of the former Upper House, the Irish House of Lords, in which the great murals from the 1700s and the chandelier are still intact. The building is also the home of the Bank of Ireland Art Collection, which tells the story of banking through 200 years of the nation's history.

2. Trinity College



College Green

www.tcd.ie

Queen Elizabeth I founded this, the oldest university in Ireland, in 1592. However, the present beautiful buildings are of a later origin, built in the 1700s.

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Trinity College is primarily known for its magnificent library, in which some of Ireland's greatest treasures are kept. The impressive Long Room is 64 metres long and holds 200,000 antique books. The most famous ones, such as the Book of Kells, are on display in a separate room. In the Long Room one can also find Ireland's oldest harp, the country's national symbol. The chapel from 1798 is worth a visit with its fine stained-glass paintings from 1867.

3. National Library

Kildare Street

www.nli.ie

The Irish National Library was built in 1890 and especially the domed Reading Room gives an impression of a classical library. The place has a unique atmosphere.

4. Leinster House



Kildare Street

www.oireachtas.ie

The Leinster House palace was built between 1745-1748. It was originally named Kildare House after its first resident, the Earl of Kildare. The Earl of Kildare eventually became a member of the Upper House and was appointed Duke of Leinster; thus the palace's present name.

When the Irish Parliament was dissolved and transferred to London in 1800, many aristocrats sold their palaces. Leinster House was bought by the

Royal Dublin Society, which owned the house until Irish independence, when it became the home of the Irish Parliament.

Its new status as the home of the parliament was meant to be temporary, but instead of building a new place, Leinster house has gradually been expanded, and thus remains the seat of the Irish Parliament, the Oireachtas.

5. National Museum



Kildare Street

www.museum.ie

The National Museum opened in 1890. Obviously, as the country's national museum, it houses grand collections which give one a solid and well-communicated impression of Ireland. The exhibitions show finds from various places in Ireland. Of special interest are the sections with Celtic art, effects from the Viking Age, and the so-called Gold of Ireland, which is one of Europe's finest antique collections. The building on Kildare Street is the main one, but the National Museum also has other departments in Dublin – the Department of Natural History, The National History Museum on Merrion Street and the decorative art collection in Collins Barracks.

6. National Gallery



Merrion Square West & Clare Street
www.nationalgallery.ie

The building that houses Ireland’s National Gallery was built for the purpose in 1864. It was established in order to collect and exhibit the growing collection of especially Irish art.

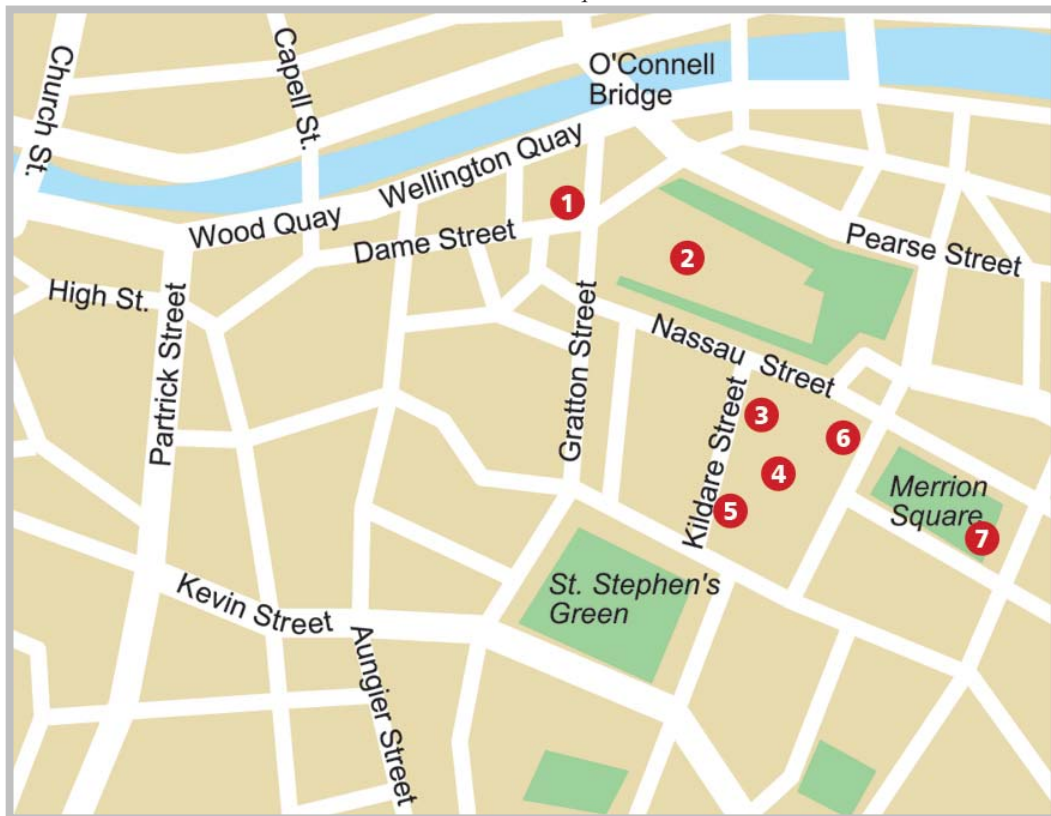
In addition to the fine collection of art produced by national artists, the gallery also dedicates several rooms to Flemish, French and Spanish masterpieces. Monet, Degas, Rembrandt and Goya are just a few examples of the represented artists.

7. Merrion Square



Merrion Square

Dublin is famous for its Georgian neighbourhoods. The terrace houses surrounding Merrion Square are some of the grandest examples. The area dates from the 1700s, when Ireland flourished economically and building activity was consequently great. Take a walk round the square and look at the houses. The north side especially is typical with its decorated entrances, the colours on the doors, the wrought-iron balconies and the other characteristics that make Georgian buildings so decorative. Merrion Square is also the home of an Oscar Wilde statue.



Tour 2: Dublin

8. St. Stephen's Green



St. Stephen's Green

This public park was laid out in 1880 and was originally one of the city's commons. Today it is a beautiful park with a pleasant atmosphere among the many flowerbeds, small lakes and busts, one of them of James Joyce.

On the north side of the large green square, we find Ireland's finest and most traditional hotel, the Shelbourne Hotel. It is a good idea to enjoy a cup of afternoon tea in the distinguished interior.

9. Mansion House



Dawson Street

www.dublincity.ie

This beautiful palace is built in Queen Anne style. It was built in 1710, and five years later, Dublin's mayor moved in. It has since been the official residence of the city's successive mayors.

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A special event occurred on 21 January 1919, when the Irish assembly, Dáil Éireann, met for the first time. The meeting took place in the Round Room and had the purpose of declaring Irish independence.

10. St. Ann's Church

Dawson Street

www.stannschurch.ie

St. Ann's Church was built in 1707. However, the Romanesque facade was not added until 1868. The church is home to beautiful stained glass paintings from the 1800s and a curiosity: a water engine organ built in 1834

11. Grafton Street



Grafton Street

Grafton Street is Dublin's most popular pedestrian shopping street. In addition to the numerous shops and restaurants you can see a statue of Ireland's most famous street vendor, the celebrated Molly Malone, at Nassau Street. The statue was erected in 1988.

12. Powerscourt Centre

South William Street 59

www.powerscourtcentre.com

Powerscourt Townhouse is originally a town house from 1774, built by Lord Powerscourt. In 1981 it was made into a large shopping centre called the Powerscourt Centre. The building still incorporates some of the original arrangements. The always-pleasant atmosphere of the place makes it a great place for shopping or merely relaxation.

13. City Hall



Cork Hill, Dame Street

www.dublincity.ie/yourcouncil/city_hall

Dublin's City Hall was originally the Royal Exchange, built in Corinthian style in the period 1769-1779. It functioned as the Royal Exchange until 1852, when Dublin bought it for the purpose of housing its City Council.

The grandeur of the building is a symbol of Dublin's wealth and capacity in the 1700s, and among the beautiful rooms is the large central rotunda. The City Hall also houses an exhibition of Dublin's development from 1170 to the present, which focuses primarily on the development and role of the City Council.

14. Dublin Castle



Dame Street

www.dublincastle.ie

Dublin Castle has stood on this site since the 1200s. However, only Record Tower is preserved from that time. The present castle dates mainly from the 1700s. The castle's residential areas and reception rooms are built for the viceroys of Ireland. Of special interest is the Throne Room. Today, Dublin Castle is primarily used by the official Ireland as reception rooms for large official engagements.

15. Chester Beatty Library

Dublin Castle, Dame Street

www.cbi.ie

In 1968, the American Chester Beatty bequeathed his unique collection of books and manuscripts to the city of Dublin. Among the effects in the changing exhibitions are 6000-year-old stone tablets, papyri, beautiful editions of the Bible, The Koran, and numerous Asian books, made in materials which are unusual for that purpose – for example, bark and jade

16. Temple Bar District



Temple Bar/Fleet Street

www.templebar.ie

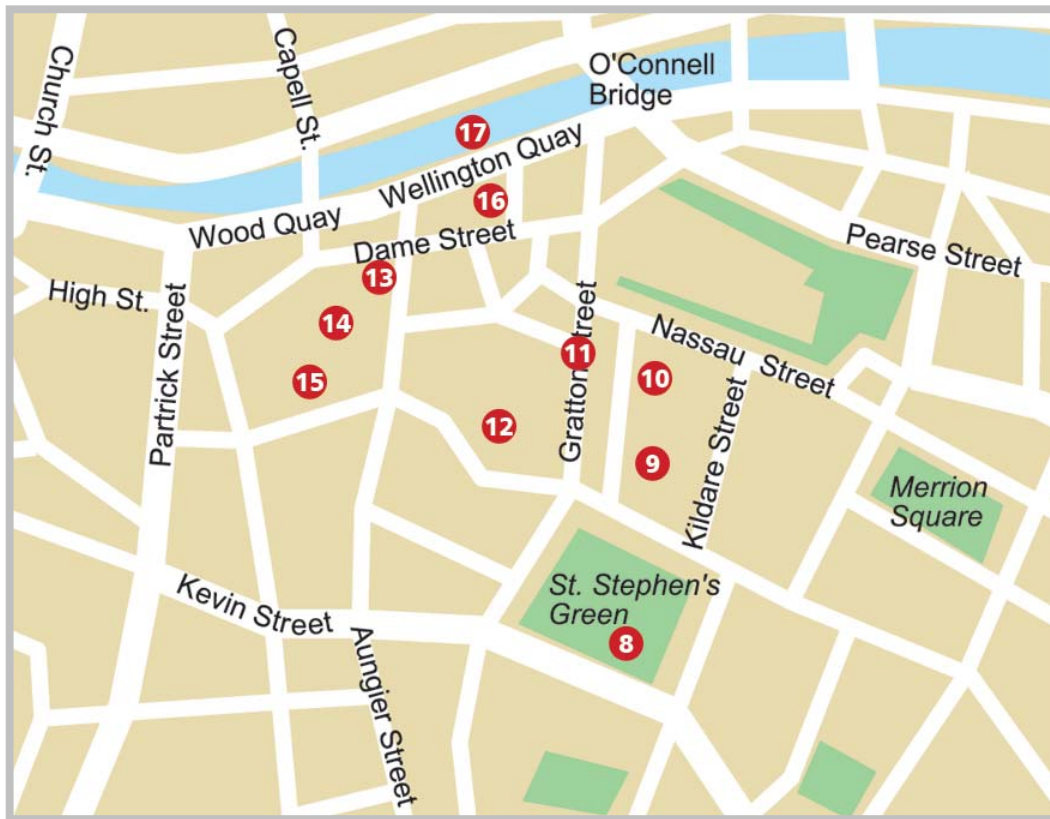
The Temple Bar District consists of relatively small houses in a number of narrow streets. It was a poor, worn-down neighbourhood until the 1960s. Today, it is one of Dublin's most popular neighbourhoods due to the cosy streets and the lively nightlife.

In the early 1990s, the area underwent an enormous transformation and renovation effort that made it what it is today. Culture flourishes, and a walk through the narrow streets offers entertainment, numerous galleries and small shops.

17. Ha'penny Bridge

Ha'penny Bridge

This lovely, cast-iron bridge over the River Liffey, Ha'penny Bridge, was built in 1816. It was originally called Wellington Bridge and later Liffey Bridge, its official name to this day. It acquired its pet name thanks to the halfpenny toll that was levied for crossing the bridge until 1919.



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Tour 3: Dublin

18. Custom House



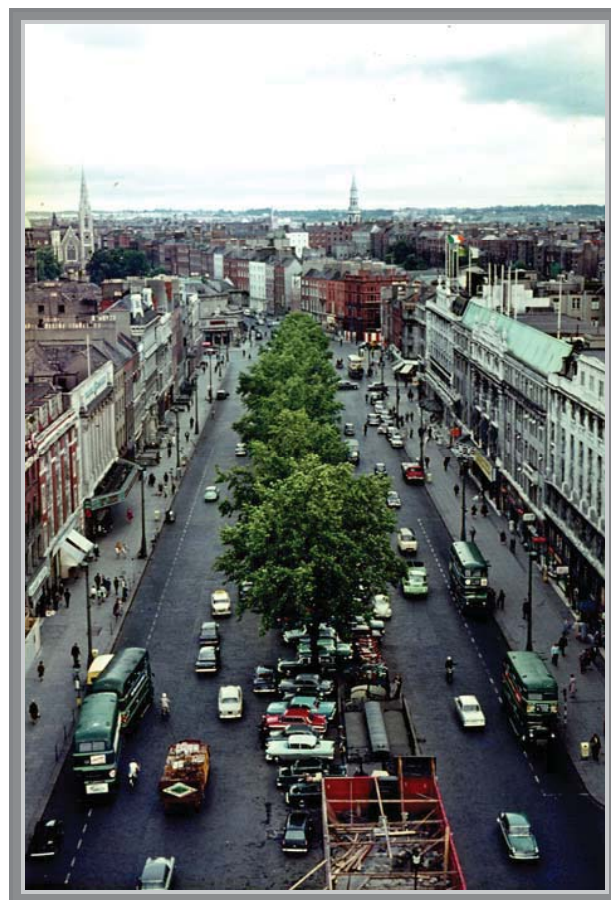
Custom House Quay

Custom House is the name of Dublin's distinguished old Custom Building, built in 1781-1791. After having been in use for only nine years, the custom functions were transferred to London in 1800. This did not, however, leave the building empty. Public offices, such as the tax police, moved into the building.

In 1921 the building was burnt to the ground. A reconstruction was begun during the following five years, but was only partial, and the building was not fully restored until 1991.

Today, the characteristic building houses exhibitions on the history of the Custom House and the architect James Gandon's buildings in Ireland.

19. O'Connell Street



O'Connell Street

O'Connell Street is Dublin's main thoroughfare. Luke Gardiner designed it in the 1750s. He wished to create a tree-lined boulevard with beautiful mansions and townhouses. There are only a few original houses left today, but many of the present buildings are fortunately also worth a look. On the paved median space stands a large statue of Daniel O'Connell, the man behind the first liberties given to Irish Catholics in 1828.

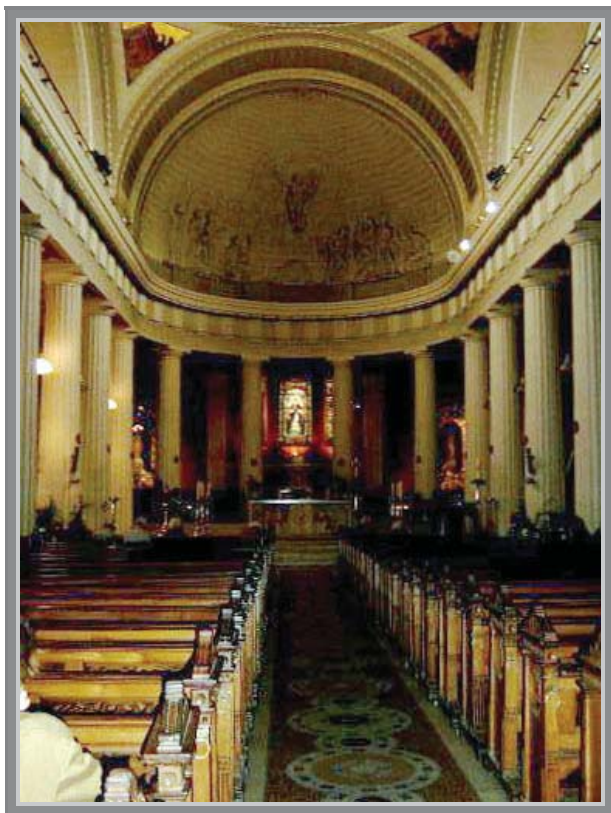
20. General Post Office



O'Connell Street

Dublin's General Post Office was built in 1818. The building has historical significance, since it was the location of the Easter Rising in 1916. During the rebellion, the Irish declared Ireland a republic from the front stairs of the building, but the rebellion was put down under fire from gunboats on the River Liffey.

21. St. Mary's Pro-Cathedral



Marlborough Street 83

www.procathedral.ie

St. Mary's Pro-Cathedral was built in 1815-1825 in a beautiful neo-classicist style. The church was quickly accepted as the Catholic Cathedral, but it was not until 1886 that it officially acquired the title of Pro-Cathedral. The cathedral is the home of the Palestrina Choir that regularly performs for audiences there.

22. James Joyce Centre

North Great George's Street 35

www.jamesjoyce.ie

The world-renowned author James Joyce was born in Dublin, where all of his great stories take place. Most famous is his novel Ulysses, which was based on real life in Dublin on 16 June 1904.

The James Joyce Centre occupies the Earl of Kenmare's townhouse from 1784. It showcases a beautiful Georgian interior. The actual exhibition in the centre illuminates the author's life and naturally, his work. Joyce enthusiasts can receive information on walks in the neighbourhoods where James Joyce or the fictional characters of Ulysses used to walk.

23. Rotunda Hospital

Parnell Square

www.rotunda.ie

In 1745, Bartholomew Mosse founded the Rotunda Hospital, which was the first to be specifically designed as a maternity hospital. In 1757 the hospital moved to its present location, and in 1764 the rotunda that gives the hospital its name was opened. The rotunda was used for large gatherings to collect money for hospital management, and a concert with Franz Liszt took place here. The rotunda showcases beautiful stained-glass paintings, impressive stuccoes and other plasterwork.

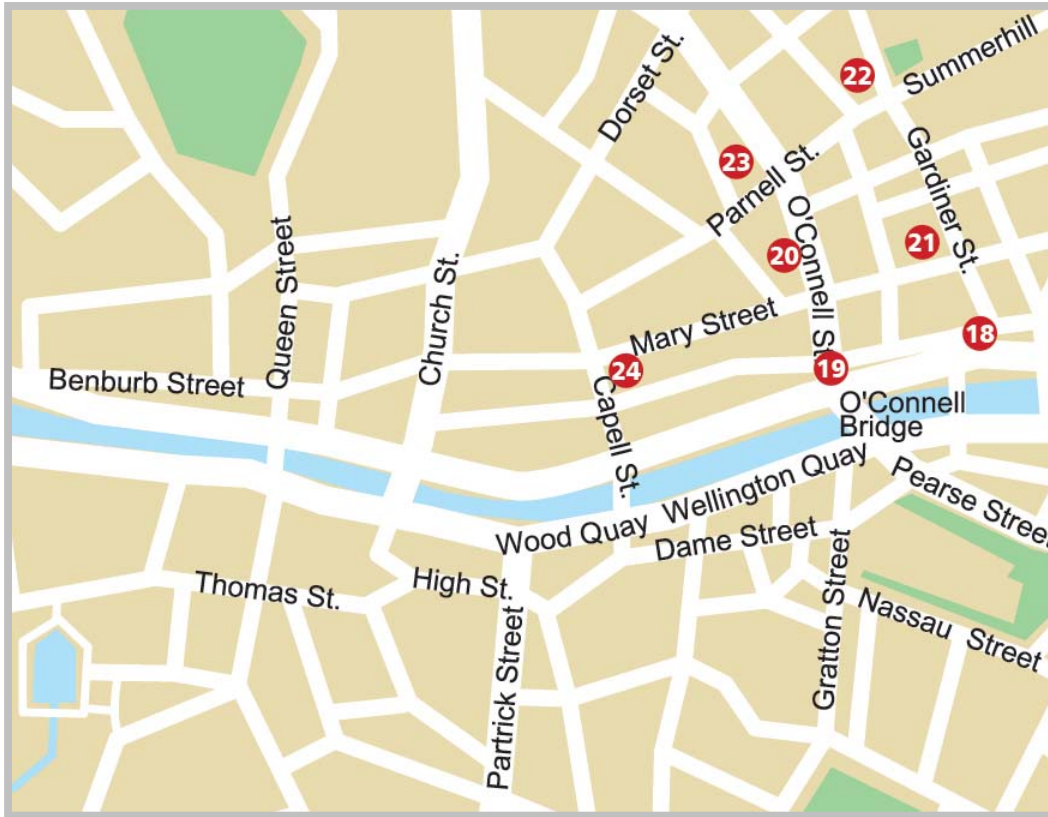
24. St. Mary's Abbey

Meetinghouse Lane

The Benedictines founded St. Mary's Abbey in 1139, but already in 1147 it was handed over to the Cistercians. It was Ireland's largest and most

significant convent until it, along with the other convents in Ireland, was dissolved by King Henry VIII in 1539. The materials from it were

consequently used to build other monuments. Only a vaulted hall remains, but it displays a model of the original convent.



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Tour 4: Dublin

25. Old Jameson Distillery

Bow Street

For whiskey enthusiasts, a visit to the Old Jameson Distillery is a must. The tour through John Jameson's old production machinery goes through the production process from the raw materials to the finished drops. The difference between Irish and Scottish whiskey is explained and the tour ends – naturally – with a complimentary glass of whiskey. Irish whiskey dates back to the 500s. The Jameson Distillery was in use from 1780-1971.

26. The Chimney Viewing Tower

Smithfield Village

At the top of the former chimney of the Old Jameson Distillery a glass platform offers a magnificent 360-degree panoramic view of Dublin.

27. Four Courts



Inns Quay

In 1802, James Gandon, who also designed Custom House, finished the Four Courts building, built to house the four courts – hence the name. Its quiet existence as the home of administrative offices changed significantly in the first half of the twentieth century. In 1922 a group of Irish Republicans occupied the building to protest the Anglo-Irish

Treaty that had established Ireland as part of the British Empire. During the occupation, Four Courts was bombed and ruined. In the following years, Four Courts was rebuilt according to the original drawings. One can see and read about the history of the place under the large dome of the building.

28. Wood Quay



Wood Quay

The riverside area Wood Quay is where the Vikings settled after sailing along the River Liffey. It is thus the site of origin for Ireland's capital. Excavations have unearthed finds from the Viking Age, which dates from 841. Today, the Dublin City Council has erected administration offices at the site.

29. Christ Church Cathedral



Christchurch Place

www.cccdub.ie

In 1038 the Vikings built a wooden church at the site of the present Christ Church Cathedral, but

when the Norman leader Strongbow conquered the area in 1172, he initiated the building of Christ Church Cathedral. The church building was finished in 1240, but it has been rebuilt and expanded all the way until the 1800s. A large reconstruction took place in 1870. Since the Reformation, the church has functioned as the Protestant community's cathedral.

In the 25-metre-high Gothic interior of the church, one finds the tomb of Strongbow. Of interest are the crypt, the remains of the original Viking church and parts of the church from the 1200s.

30. Dublinia

St. Michael's Hill

www.dublinia.ie

The Dublinia exhibition is organized in Synod Hall, which previously housed the leading assembly of the protestant Church of Ireland. The bridge leading to the cathedral was built in 1870. The exhibition presents the life of the city and its inhabitants from the 1100s to the 1500s. It is possible to climb up into the tower and enjoy a fine view of Dublin.

31. St. Audoen's Church

High Street

St. Audoen's Church is the oldest existing church in Dublin. However, only the twelfth-century tower is from the original building, while the present church building stems from the fifteenth century. Behind the church one finds the last remaining city gate of Dublin, St Audoen's Arch. One can also see parts of the city wall from the 1200s.

32. Guinness Storehouse

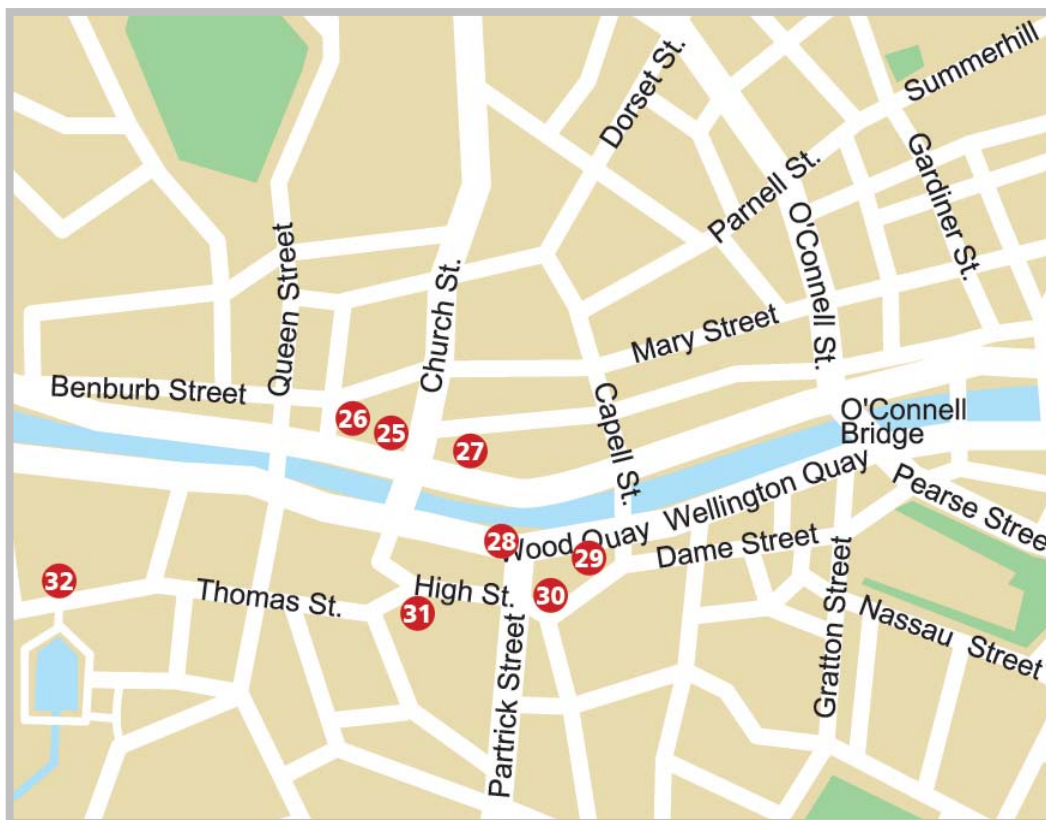


St. James's Gate

www.guinnessstorehouse.com

Ireland is famous for many things around the world, and one of them is the dark Guinness beer with its fine, foamy head. The brewery is located near the city centre and is open to visitors.

A tour through the Guinness Brewery is a journey through the history and making of the dark beer. The impressive exhibition ends with a complimentary pint in the panorama bar on the top of the brewery, which offers a magnificent view of Dublin.



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Day Tours from Dublin

33. Phoenix Park



Phoenix Park, 3 km W

On the Western outskirts of Dublin you will find the 712 hectare (1,760 acres) park, Phoenix Park. The popular park is the home of the Dublin Zoo. It is also the location of three of the city's well-known monuments.

The Wellington Monument can be seen at the entrance to the park. The 62 metres (210ft) tall obelisk was raised in commemoration of the Duke of Wellington's victories during the Napoleonic wars.

The Phoenix Monument consists of a central column with a phoenix rising from the ashes at the top. Lord Chesterfield had the Phoenix Monument erected in 1747.

The Papal Cross was erected at the exact spot where Pope John Paul II celebrated mass in the park in 1979 for more than one million Irishmen.

34. National Botanic Gardens

Glasnevin, 5 km N

www.botanicgardens.ie

The National Botanic Gardens are Ireland's most wonderful botanical gardens. They were founded in 1795 and contain, among the numerous different species, a large collection of orchids, cacti, and the famous rose garden.

The large greenhouses and the cast iron palm house, which was built in the mid-1800s, give the place a special atmosphere as one strolls through the garden.

35. Malahide Castle



Malahide, 15 km N

www.historic.irishcastles.com/malahide.htm

Malahide Castle is situated near the seaside town of Malahide and looks like a real baronial castle with its characteristic towers. The castle itself is from the 1300s, whereas the towers and walls are of a later origin.

Through the centuries, the castle was in the possession of the Talbot family, who lived here until 1973. Since then the castle has housed different exhibitions. One can experience typically Irish interior design from the eighteenth century and several portrait paintings. The castle also houses the great miniature railway, Fry Model Railway, which can bring a smile to the faces of boys of all ages.

36. Waterways Visitor Centre

Grand Canal Quay, 2 km E

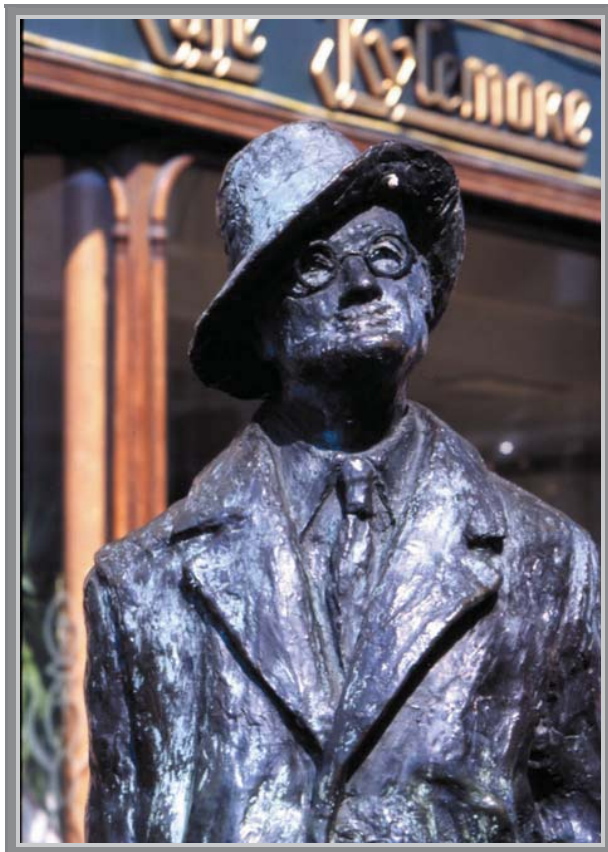
www.waterwaysireland.org

Ireland is traversed by many canals, which can be seen in and outside Dublin. Close to the city centre you will find the exhibition Waterways Visitor Centre, which gives a fine impression and general view of the many canals and their functions.

The canals were laid out in the affluent 1700s, when they served as modern ways of transportation that connected Ireland's rural areas with the capital, thus contributing to increased trade.

For Dublin, it meant a connection by water to the rest of the rivers all the way to Shannon and the West Coast.

37. James Joyce Tower



Dalkey, 17 km SE

www.dun-laoghaire.com/dir.jjtower.html

South of Dun Laoghaire on the southern outskirts of Dublin, the James Joyce Museum is located in one of the old Martello towers, which was built in the beginning of the 1800s to withstand invasion by Napoleon.

The museum in the tower, where James Joyce briefly stayed, exhibits some of the author's work and personal belongings. From the gun platform at the top of the tower one has a magnificent view of Dublin Bay, where the ferries from Dun Laoghaire connect Ireland to Holyhead in Wales.

38. Killiney

20 km SE

On the way south from Dun Laoghaire one can enjoy the beautiful view of the lengthy coastline to the Wicklow Mountains. The picturesque scenery gives one an impression of the rugged cliffs which can be experienced all around the green island.

39. Powerscourt

25 km S

www.powerscourt.ie

The Powerscourt House mansion was built as a manor house in 1731. A fire destroyed it in 1974, but parts of the old building have now been rebuilt. The building houses an exhibition of the history of the house.

The main attraction is the garden, which is among the most beautiful in Ireland. It was laid out in the same year as the building, but has been further embellished upon during the 1800s.

A walk through the gardens provides the possibility of enjoying the terraced Italian Garden, which leads down to the wonderful Lake Triton that takes its name from the fountain in the centre of the lake. You will also encounter the Japanese Garden as well as the Dolphin Pond as you walk through the park.

While visiting Powerscourt, you can make a trip to the Powerscourt Waterfall, a few kilometres from the gardens. With its 121 metres (400 ft) it is the highest waterfall in Ireland

40. Wicklow Mountains

50 km S

www.wicklow.ie

If one longs for the wild nature of Ireland, the great hilly area of the Wicklow Mountains is an excellent choice. It gives a fine impression of the splendour of Ireland's diverse landscapes.

Windswept, wasteland pastures lie side by side with soft hills, rugged mountains, and picturesque lakes. It is a beautiful and very different landscape to experience. Visit the different vantage points: for instance, the Military Road, a route of just under 100 kilometres, laid out in the year 1800 in order to make the area more passable.

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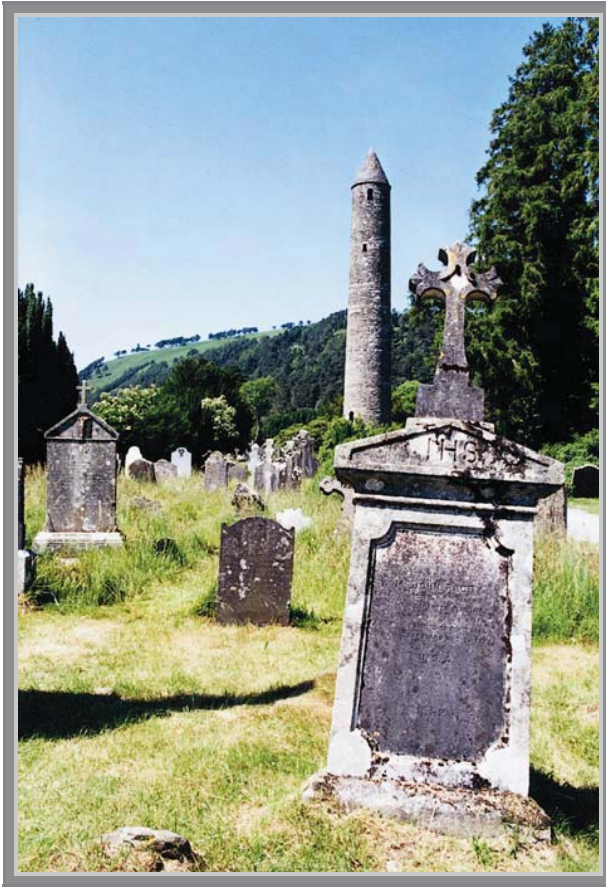
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41. Glendalough



Glendalough, 55 km S

Glendalough is incredibly beautifully situated in a long valley near two lakes in Wicklow Mountains. In Glendalough one can see the ruins of convents dating back to St. Kevin's first buildings in the 500s.

The convent weathered several Viking attacks, but still managed to flourish for centuries until English troops attacked the area in 1398. This began a period of decline for the convent, which was eventually dissolved during the general dissolution of Irish convents in 1539. The majority of the ruins that are left today are believed to stem from the eighth to the eleventh century, among them is the characteristic 30-metre-high Round Tower, which is the best kept of its kind in Ireland.

The Round Tower is situated in the graveyard, where one can see the ruins of the twelfth century cathedral. Notice St. Kevin's Cross, which dates from the same period. The cross is a typical Celtic High Cross.

The ruin by the next lake, Upper Lake, is presumed to have been the place where St. Kevin lived. St. Kevin's Cell is believed to have been the home of St. Kevin.

42. Castletown House

40 km W

www.irish-architecture.com/castletown

Castletown House was built in 1722-1732 for the Speaker of the Irish House of Commons, William Conolly. The style is Italian, as is the mansion's Florentine architect, Alessandro Galilei. The interior dates from the 1700s and a tour of the place offers a good impression of the life of well-to-do people of the time.



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Inés Aréizaga Esteva (Spain), 25 years old
Education: Chemical Engineer

– You have to be proactive and open-minded as a newcomer and make it clear to your colleagues what you are able to cope. The pharmaceutical field is new to me. But busy as they are, most of my colleagues find the time to teach me, and they also trust me. Even though it was a bit hard at first, I can feel over time that I am beginning to be taken seriously and that my contribution is appreciated.

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With children in Dublin

Dracula Experience (Clontarf Road):
www.thebramstokerdraculaexperience.com

Dublin Zoo (Phoenix Park):
www.dublinzoo.ie

Fry Model Railway (Malahide Castle, Malahide):
www.castlesireland.com/fry-railway.html

Wax Museum (Granby Row, Parnell Square)

Shopping in Dublin

Grafton Street, O'Connell Street, Henry Street,
Temple Bar District

Blanchardstown Centre (Blanchardstown):
www.blanchardstowncentre.com

Dundrum Town Centre (Sandyford Road/Dundrum
Bypass):
www.dundrum.ie

Jervis Shopping Centre (Henry Street):
www.jervis.ie

Liffey Valley Shopping Centre (Coldcut Road/N4):
www.liffeyvalley.ie

Powerscourt Centre (South William Street 59):
www.powerscourtcentre.com

Stephen's Green Shopping Centre (St. Stephen's
Green):
www.stephensgreen.com

Public transportation in Dublin

Dublin city transportation:
www.luas.ie

Dublin Airport:
www.dublin-airport.com

Irish Rail (incl. DART in Dublin):
www.irishrail.ie

Metro Map



Facts about Ireland



Political

Official name	Ireland (Éire)
Capital	Dublin (Baile Átha Cliath)
Form of government	Republic
Head of state	President Mary McAleese
Head of Government	Prime Minister Bertie Ahern
National Day	17 March
Achieved independence	6 December 1922, from Great Britain
Primary religions	Christianity
Language	English, Gaelic
Area	70 273 km ²
Population (1999)	3 744 000

Borders on

North	Northern Ireland, The Atlantic Ocean
South	The Celtic Sea
East	Northern Ireland, The Irish Sea
West	The Atlantic Ocean

Highest mountains

Carrantuohill	1 041 meters
Beenkeragh	1 010 meters
Caher	1 001 meters
Cnoc na Péiste	988 meters
Caher West Top	975 meters
Maolán Bui	973 meters
Carrauntoohil Tooth	959 meters
Cnoc an Chuillin	958 meters
Brandon Mtn	952 meters
The Big Gun	939 meters

Largest islands

Ireland*	84 079 km ²
Achill Island	148 km ²
Arranmore	km ²
Clare Island	16 km ²

* partly located in Great Britain

Largest lakes

Lough Corrib	200 km ²
Lough Derg	118 km ²
Lower Lough Erne	110 km ²
Lough Ree	105 km ²
Lough Mask	89 km ²
Lough Conn	57 km ²
Upper Lough Erne	43 km ²
Lough Allen	36 km ²
Lough Sheelin	19 km ²
Lough Carra	15 km ²

Longest rivers	
Shannon	340 km
Barrow	190 km
Suir	183 km
Nore	140 km
Liffey	125 km
Blackwater	120 km
Erne	120 km
Boyne	112 km
Suck	80 km

Largest cities (2002)	
Dublin	1 046 000
Cork	190 000
Limerick	91 000
Galway	73 000
Waterford	49 000
Kilkenny	22 000

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Administrative divisions		
Countries	Capital	Area
Carlow	Carlow	896 km ²
Cavan	Cavan	1 931 km ²
Clare	Ennis	3 147 km ²
Cork	Cork	7 457 km ²
Donegal	Lifford	4 841 km ²
Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown	Dun Laoghaire	127 km ²
Fingal	Swords	448 km ²
South Dublin	Tallaght	223 km ²
Dublin	Dublin	123 km ²
Galway	Galway	6 148 km ²
Kerry	Tralee	4 746 km ²
Kildare	Naas	1 693 km ²
Kilkenny	Kilkenny	2 061 km ²
Laois	Portlaoise	1 719 km ²
Leitrim	Carrick-on-Shannon	1 588 km ²
Limerick	Limerick	2 686 km ²
Longford	Longford	1 091 km ²
Louth	Dundalk	820 km ²
Mayo	Castlebar	5 397 km ²
Meath	Navan	2 342 km ²
Monaghan	Monaghan	1 294 km ²
Offaly	Tullamore	1 999 km ²
Roscommon	Roscommon	2 547 km ²
Sligo	Sligo	1 837 km ²
North Tipperary	Nenagh	2 046 km ²
South Tipperary	Clonmel	2 257 km ²
Waterford	Waterford	1 837 km ²
Westmeath	Mullingar	1 764 km ²
Wexford	Wexford	2 352 km ²
Wicklow	Wicklow	2 024 km ²

Heads of state since 1938

Douglas Hyde	1938-1945
Seán T. O'Kelly	1945-1959
Éamon de Valera	1959-1973
Erskine H. Childers	1973-1974
Cearbhall Ó Dálaigh	1974-1976
Patrick Hillery	1976-1990
Mary Robinson	1990-1997
Mary McAleese	1997-

Prime Ministers since 1937

Éamon de Valera	1937-1948
John A. Costello	1948-1951
Éamon de Valera	1951-1954
John A. Costello	1954-1957
Éamon de Valera	1957-1959
Seán Lemass	1959-1966
Jack Lynch	1966-1973
Liam Cosgrave	1973-1977
Jack Lynch	1977-1979
Charles Haughey	1979-1981
Garret FitzGerald	1981-1982
Charles Haughey	1982-1982
Garret FitzGerald	1982-1987
Charles Haughey	1987-1992
Albert Reynolds	1992-1994
John Bruton	1994-1997
Bertie Ahern	1997-

Holidays and commemoration days

1 January	New Year's Day
17 March	St. Patrick's Day
Easter day/Easter Sunday -2 days	Good Friday
Varying dates	Easter Day
Easter Day + 1 day	Easter Monday
First Monday in May	May Day
First Monday in June	June Day
First Monday in August	August Day
Last Monday in October	October Day
25 December	Christmas Day
26 December	Boxing Day

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Various facts

Currency	Euro
Currency code	EUR
Time zone	Western European Time (UTC+0)
Country postal code	IRL
Internet domain	.ie
Telephone country code	+353

Climate - Dublin	Mean temperature (°C/°F)	Precipitation (millimetres/inches)
January	5.0	64
February	5.0	51
March	6.4	52
April	8.0	49
May	10.6	56
June	13.5	55
July	15.2	65
August	14.9	77
September	13.2	62
October	10.6	73
November	7.1	69
December	5.9	69

Source: WorldClimate (www.worldclimate.com)

Climate - Cork	Mean temperature (°C/°F)	Precipitation (millimetres/inches)
January	5.2	125
February	5.1	94
March	6.3	86
April	7.9	67
May	10.3	68
June	13.1	62
July	15.0	68
August	14.7	82
September	12.8	83
October	10.4	106
November	7.2	112
December	6.1	127

Source: WorldClimate (www.worldclimate.com)

Climate – Shannon Airport	Mean temperature (°C/°F)	Precipitation (millimetres/inches)
January	5.3	100
February	5.5	74
March	7.2	69
April	8.9	58
May	11.4	60
June	14.1	65
July	15.7	74
August	15.5	90
September	13.7	83
October	11.1	96
November	7.6	97
December	6.3	108

Source: WorldClimate (www.worldclimate.com)

A man wearing a wide-brimmed hat, a tropical print short-sleeved shirt, and shorts stands on a brick-paved platform next to a silver train car. He is looking towards the right. The background shows a clear blue sky and the side of the train with several windows.

About the Author

Stig Albeck (1969) is the author behind the travel books at OnLibri.com. Stig writes the way you travel the destinations!

The books often take their departure in the world's most exhilarating cities and evolve to the attractions and sights in their vicinity. Stig is a devoted traveller and a passionate explorer which brings him around the world several times each year to search for new exciting destinations.

Going to big cities or more adventurous destinations, Stig writes his travel guides to help and inspire readers to get the full benefit of their destination of choice.

Travelling is about enjoying the moment, but also about taking home memories and gaining new knowledge. No matter how far or near by the destination might be there sure are great experiences waiting to be unveiled.

Stig holds a masters degree in marketing and tourism from Copenhagen Business School in Denmark. He has been working in the tourism industry and with global marketing of tourist destinations.

If you have questions or perhaps made a discovery that you would like to share, then send Stig an email to travelstig@gmail.com (if you attach photos you agree to letting us use these for future travel guides).

Stig offers lectures on his travel experiences, or any specific tour that you might be about to head out for. To learn more about things like touring Australia, visiting the Mongolian capital Ulan Bator, or enjoying a fresh smoked omul at the Lake Baikal in February, visit www.stigalbeck.com.

Bonne Voyage!