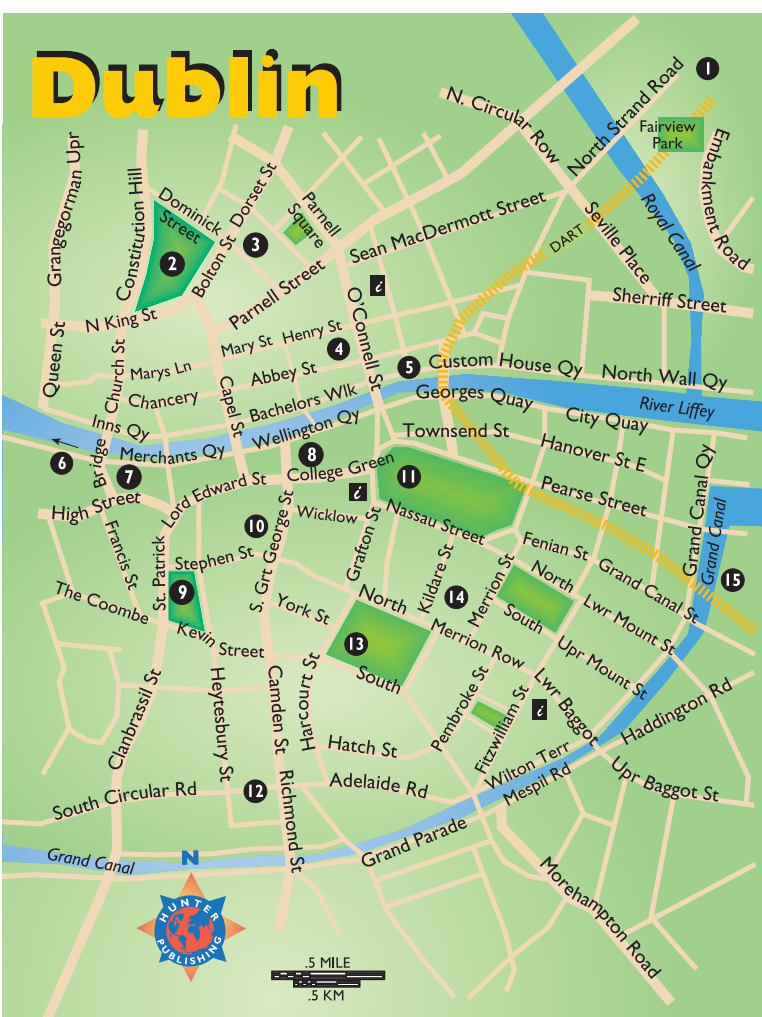


# Dublin



- |                            |                                     |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Malahide Castle         | 9. St. Patrick's Cathedral          |
| 2. King's Inn              | 10. Dublin Castle                   |
| 3. Dublin Writers' Museum  | 11. Trinity College,<br>Old Library |
| 4. General Post Office     | 12. Shaw Birthplace                 |
| 5. Halfpenny Bridge        | 13. St. Stephen's Green             |
| 6. To Kilmainham Gaol      | 14. Leinster House                  |
| 7. Christ Church Cathedral | 15. James Joyce Museum              |
| 8. Temple Bar              |                                     |

# Dublin

**D**ublin is the Republic of Ireland's capital and largest city, named from the Irish "*dubh linn*" meaning black pool. The name comes from the fact that the site of the city was formerly a black, slimy expanse of mud, through which the River Liffey flowed sluggishly to the sea. It now has a pleasant setting on the east coast of the Irish Sea, looking out over Dublin Bay, with a long sandy shoreline to its north. Granite mountains form the southern boundary of the county, and the city is bisected by the River Liffey.

It's a cultural city with theaters, cinemas, galleries and museums, as well as many historic sites worth seeing. It also has an excellent range of shops, restaurants, pubs, clubs, plus all types of accommodation.

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## City of Dublin

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### ◆ History



Dublin appeared as **Eblana** on Ptolemy's map of 140 AD. The **Vikings** arrived around 841, set up a trading post on the south bank of the Liffey, around Islandbridge and Kilmainham, and were defeated by Brian Boru at Clontarf in 1014. After the **Anglo-Norman** conquest of 1169 the city became their seat of power, with a castle near where Dublin Castle stands today.

In the 18th century the city was one of the most elegant anywhere, with its Georgian squares and architecture. Ireland's Parliament met in Dublin in the elegant building opposite Trinity College, now the Bank of Ireland (you had to be a Protestant and male to be elected to

Parliament). Handel performed his *Messiah* for the first time in Dublin in 1742.

All changed with the **Act of Union** (1800) when the city, as a reaction to the French Revolution and the United Irishmen rising, lost its political power to London. Agitation for Home Rule increased over the next 100 years or so, leading to the **Easter Rising** (1916), when the Irish Republic was proclaimed at the General Post Office on O'Connell Street.

## Recent Times

Dublin has become a very cosmopolitan city, the economy has greatly improved, and there's been a huge increase in immigrants. Although planning decisions in less prosperous times led to the destruction of many fine buildings and ugly replacements, Dublin is still an attractive city, particularly along the river. There are many wonderful examples of Georgian architecture, along with some good examples of more contemporary design.

### TOURIST INFORMATION

**Dublin Tourism Center**, in a lovely old church on Suffolk Street, off Dame Street, has information on the entire island, and there's a 24-hour touch screen outside. Open July-August, Monday-Saturday, 9 am - 7 pm; Sunday to 3 pm; September-June, Monday-Saturday, 9 am - 5:30 pm; bank holidays, 10:30 am - 3 pm.

## ◆ Getting Here

**Dublin Airport** is 10 km (about 6 miles) north of the city center (via N1/M1/E01). The main **railway stations** are Connolly and Heuston.

## By Bus



**Busárus** is the bus station. The **Stationlink** bus connects the railway stations and Busárus, stopping in the city center. There are also frequent buses from Heuston into the center.

**Airlink Express Bus** links O'Connell Street, Busáras, Connolly Station, Temple Bar and Heuston Station.

**Dublin Bus** operates other services to the airport. Reach them at 59 Upper O'Connell Street. ☎ (01) 873-4222; info@dublinbus.ie; www.dublinbus.ie.

**Aircoach** runs every 15 minutes from the airport with 15 stops near main hotels. It also operates to and from Cork, Belfast and Portlaoise. ☎ (01) 844-7118; fax 844-7119; www.aircoach.ie.

## By Taxi

Traveling from the airport to the city takes 20-50 minutes, depending on traffic. A taxi stand is outside the airport's Arrivals Hall on the right; rates are displayed in the taxis.

## ◆ Getting Around

Seeing the city is best done on foot or bus. The county is best explored by bus, DART or car.

**Dublin Bus Office**, 59 Upper O'Connell Street. ☎ (01) 873-4222; www.dublinbus.ie.

## By Rail



**DART** (Dublin Area Rapid Transit), an electrified train service, runs parallel to the coast from Howth, north of the city, to Bray in Co. Wicklow to the south, with plenty of stops and connections with bus routes. There are three DART stops in the city center – Tara Street, Pearse Street and Connolly Station. It's a cheap and pleasant way of getting around, but avoid peak times when trains are crammed.

**Suburban Rail – Arrow Services** connect satellite towns in the surrounding counties of Kildare, Louth and Wicklow with the city, from Connolly or Heuston stations.

**The Luas** – the latest development in Dublin transportation (*Luas* is Irish for speed) – is an on-street light rail/tram system with two branch lines. The **Green Line** connects Sandyford to St. Stephen's Green; the **Red Line** connects Tallaght to Connolly Station. Note that the two lines do not intersect, and there is a 15-minute walk from Abbey Street (Red Line) to St. Stephen's Green; however, tickets for a journey starting on one line and ending on the other are valid for the whole journey. For a route map and more information, see www.luas.ie.

## By Bus



**Bus tours** are the easiest way to explore, especially if time is limited. You can hop on and off, and your ticket gives you reduced entry to some sites. Tickets can be purchased on board, online, from the Tourism Centre and offices, or major hotels. Tours are run by Dublin Bus (see above) and by Irish City Tours, 33 Batchelor's Walk. ☎ (01) 872-9010; [www.irishcitytours.com](http://www.irishcitytours.com).

Take a breather in one of the city's open spaces. **Phoenix Park**, founded in 1662, is the largest city park in Europe, and **St. Stephen's Green**, laid out as a public park in 1890 by Sir Arthur Edward Guinness, of the drink family, is very close to the center.

## ◆ Sightseeing

### O'Connell Street



*O'Connell Bridge*

The city's main thoroughfare is wide, flanked by interesting buildings, as well as some unattractive ones.

Despite negative aspects, it is worth seeing the **General Post Office (GPO)**, where on Easter Monday, 1916, a group of rebels led by Pádraig Pearse, proclaimed the Irish Republic.

British forces shelled it and most of the street from a gunboat in the Liffey. The rebels held out for five days. Eventually, 16 of their leaders were executed and 200 imprisoned; you can still see bullet holes in the building. Inside there's a sculpture by Oliver Sheppard of the mythical Celtic warrior Cúchullain in memory of the Easter Rising heroes.

Dominating the skyline is the **Spire**, seven times the height of the GPO, erected in 2003 to mark the Millennium, standing on the site of Nelson's Column which was blown up by the IRA in 1965. The Spire's tip sways when the wind is strong, but don't worry – that's part of its design.

## College Green

Cross O'Connell Bridge – on the right is the pedestrian Halfpenny Bridge, named for the toll charged from 1821 until the early 1900s. Pass the **Bank of Ireland** on College Green, opposite Trinity College, the home of the Irish Parliament from 1783 to 1801, a marvelous building in neo-classical style. The **Arts**



*Bank of Ireland, College Green*

**Center** in Foster Place next to it houses an interactive museum, also a venue for recitals, exhibitions, and theater. Open Tuesday-Friday, 10 am-4 pm. ☎ (01) 671-1488.

## Trinity College

This is the oldest university in Ireland, founded in 1591 by Queen Elizabeth of England. Its cobbled quadrangles are surrounded by cream-colored stone buildings. Famous alumni include Oliver Goldsmith, Edmund Burke, Dean Swift, J. M. Synge, Samuel Beckett, and the author of *Dracula*, Bram Stoker.



*Trinity College*

The **Douglas Hyde Gallery**, at the Nassau Street entrance to Trinity College, hosts exhibitions of contemporary art. They are open Monday-Friday, 11-6; Thursday, 11-7; Saturday, 11-4:45. ☎ (01) 608-1116.

**The Book of Kells**, an illuminated manuscript of the gospels, dating from about 806, is now the center of an exhibition on the third floor of the Main Library. Open daily. Monday-Saturday, year-round, 9:30 am-5 pm. Sunday, October-May, noon to 4:30 pm; June-September, 9:30 am-4:30 pm. A combined ticket is available with *The Dublin*

*Experience*, multimedia audio-visual show telling the city's story (May-September, daily, 10 am-5 pm).

## St. Stephen's Green

Sadly, many of the buildings around the Green were demolished to make way for ugly ones in the 1960s, but some older ones remain. **Newman House** on the south side of the green is actually two houses built around 1738 and now named after the cardinal who was the first Rector of the Catholic University of Ireland when it was founded in 1853. Gerald Manley Hopkins, the Jesuit priest and poet, was Professor of Classics here from 1884-89 and his room has been restored. James Joyce was the university's most famous student, here from 1899-1902.



*Pond, St. Stephen's Green*

## Kildare Street

**Leinster House**, built as the home of the Duke of Leinster in 1745, houses the Oireachtas (the two houses of government), as well as the **National Library** and **Natural History Museum**.

The Archaeology & History branch of the **National Museum** is also on Kildare Street.

### THE NATIONAL MUSEUM

There are three branches of the National Museum – Archaeology & History on Kildare Street, Natural History behind it on Merrion Street, and Decorative Arts & History in the former Collins Barracks, away from the center off Ellis Quay, across the river from Heuston Station.

Admission is free except during special exhibitions, and they have free lunchtime and evening lectures too. Open Tuesday-Saturday, 10 am-5 pm, Sunday, 2-5 pm. Guided tours available. ☎ (01) 677-7444; fax 677-7459, [marketing@museum.ie](mailto:marketing@museum.ie). Admission free.

You can travel between the three branches on the Museumlink bus, for a small charge. Tickets are sold in the museums. Service hourly, Monday-Saturday, 8 am-5:30 pm, Sundays, 1-5 pm.

Learn about the country's history and see examples of artifacts, including gold ornaments from the Bronze Age, hoards dating from the Celtic Iron Age, as well as some of the most famous Christian treasures – among them the Ardagh Chalice, the Tara Brooch and the Clonmacnoise Crozier. There's a café as well as a book and gift shop.



*A visit here will save you a lot of reading, as the displays cleverly tell you enough about the country and its people to aid your enjoyment as you venture farther afield.*

## THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM



Quaint and delightful, founded in 1857, the NHM houses a collection of animals from all over the world, some now extinct. Personal favorites are the rabbits and hares, the grizzly bear, the basking shark and the giant Irish elk.

Anyone interested in fishing will love these exhibits. There's a book and gift shop.

## THE MUSEUM OF DECORATIVE ARTS & HISTORY

Displays cover everything from folklife to silver ceramics and glassware to weapons and costume. It's housed in the beautifully restored Collins Barracks and will entertain and enthrall you for hours. There are special events and temporary exhibitions, plus a café and book and gift shop.

## THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF IRELAND

The gallery is on Merrion Square with its extension, the **Millennium Wing**, and a second entrance on Clare Street. Admission is free, except for special exhibitions. It has 54 galleries and more than 11,000 works of art, including many examples of Western European art and the most important collection of Irish art.



**Greene's Bookshop** at 16 Clare Street, behind Trinity and close to the entrance to the Millennium Wing of the National Gallery, is worth a stop. It's especially good for books by Irish authors, and you may even bump into a writer or two. ☎ (01) 676-2554; [www.greenesbookshop.com](http://www.greenesbookshop.com).

### TIME SAVER

If your time is limited, concentrate on the Irish art – from the 18th and 19th centuries in the Milltown Wing; modern in the Millennium Wing and the Yeats Museum and Shaw Room, both in the Dargan Wing. The Gallery has a café, a restaurant, and two shops.

Open Monday-Saturday, 9:30 am-5:30 pm, Thursday, to 8:30 pm; Sunday, noon-5:30 pm. ☎ (01) 661-5372; fax (01) 661-5372; [artgall@eircom.ie](mailto:artgall@eircom.ie); [www.nationalgallery.ie](http://www.nationalgallery.ie). Free public tours are offered on Saturday at 3 pm and Sunday at 2, 3 and 4 pm; there's also a series of events, and a free brochure gives details.

## Temple Bar



*Carriage, Temple Bar*

Close to the city's center, the area has been developed as a cultural quarter, with the **Irish Film Center**, the **National Photographic Archive**, **Arthouse Multimedia Center**, **Temple Bar Galleries**, plus lots of bars, restaurants, shops. It can be very busy, especially in the evening and on

weekends. It attracts young people from all over the country and the UK, who spill out onto the streets with drinks in their hands.

During the summer a free outdoor festival called **Diversions** is held in **Meeting House Square**. It has films, music and other live performances. Pick up a copy of the free guide locally or check the Web site: [www.templebar.ie](http://www.templebar.ie); [info@temple-bar.ie](mailto:info@temple-bar.ie), ☎ (01) 677 2255.

You'll probably need to take a taxi or bus to do more sightseeing, although some of the following are within walking distance of the center.

**Christ Church Cathedral**, on Christchurch Place, is Dublin's oldest building, erected in 1038 by the Danish King Sitric, although most of what remains is Norman. Services take place at least three times a day, and all are welcome to attend. Open daily except December 26. Monday to Friday, 9:45 am to 4:30 pm; Saturday, 10 am to 4:30 pm; Sunday, 12:45 to 2:45 pm. Donation requested; tours available.



*Christ Church Cathedral*

The cathedral's unique crypt features an exhibition, Treasures of Christ Church. Admission charge. ☎ (01) 677-8099; welcome@cccdub.ie; www.cccdub.ie.

### MY FAVORITE & IT'S FREE

The **Chester Beatty Library** is in the Clock Tower building on the grounds of Dublin Castle, and is a very attractive and stimulating place to visit. The collection was donated by American Chester Beatty, who had made his fortune in mining and retired to live here in 1950.

The collection includes manuscripts and objets d'art, as well as early printed books. One floor is devoted to Beatty and his collection and the other to the great religions of the world. There's a peaceful Roof Garden, a gift shop and café, plus special events and temporary exhibitions.

Weekdays, 10 am to 5 pm; Saturday, 11 am to 5 pm, Sunday, 1 to 5 pm; free tours; closed on holidays and on Mondays from October to April; ☎ (01) 407-0750; fax 407-0760; info@cbl.ie; www.cbl.ie.

**Marsh's Library**, close to Christ Church, was founded in 1701 by Archbishop Narcissus Marsh. It's the oldest public library in the country and holds about 250,000 books, most from the 16th to 18th centu-