

---

# Travel Guide Dublin

---

02	Quick view	05	Getting around Dublin	10	Calendar of events
02	Ireland	06	Top 10 sights	13	Hotels
04	Travel etiquette	08	Shopping in Dublin		
04	Health	08	Restaurants		
05	Phone calls & Internet	09	Nightlife		





## Quick view

### Dublin – a brief overview

The days pass easily when you're in Dublin. Ireland's capital city might not bowl you over with large-scale postcard sights or gleaming skyscrapers, but it's a place with character and history in spades. It doesn't take long for visitors to get drawn in to the warren of Liffey-side laneways, green parks and hidden-away squares, and you'll find plenty to explore along

the way, from a near-peerless literary heritage to a famously convivial pub scene. There's a modern sheen to much of the city these days but traditions still run strong, and if you're embarking on a wider trip around the rest of the country, it's the ideal place to start.



## Ireland

### General knowledge

#### Country overview

Ireland is one of the globe's most singular travel destinations, a feisty, twinkling country far more famous for the sum of its parts than for any specific sight or attraction. Its landscapes are raw and extraordinary. Its cities are animated and very much its own. Its histories – both ancient and contemporary – are full of tales of adversity and resolve.

Tying all this together is the Irish character, a mythologised combination of bright-eyed bonhomie and bar-room banter: there's good reason why the planet's full of Irish pubs.

#### Geography

The Republic of Ireland lies in the north Atlantic Ocean and is separated from Britain by the Irish Sea to the west. The northeastern part of the island (Northern Ireland) is part of the United Kingdom.

There are four provinces: Leinster, which covers the eastern portion of the country around Dublin; Munster, which covers the south; Connacht, which covers the west of Ireland; and Ulster, which is predominantly in Northern Ireland but also covers the northern tip of the Republic.

Ireland has a central plain surrounded by a rim of mountains and hills offering some of the most varied and unspoilt scenery in Europe. Inland you'll find bogs, moors, forests, lakes, mountains and wetlands. Quiet sandy beaches, semi-tropical bays warmed by the Gulf Stream, and rugged cliffs make up the 5,600km (3,500 miles) of coastline.

For those who really want to make the most of the coastal scenery (and are keen to see a bit of Northern Ireland too), a full loop of the island – sticking close to the sea at all times – can be done with ease in a couple of weeks.

Together, the landscape and the offshore waters provide a good habitat for a wide variety of wildlife.

Seals and dolphins are spotted regularly, while the Cork coast even offers the chance to whale-watch over the summer months.

There are numerous rivers in Ireland, the longest of which – the River Shannon, at 360 km (224 miles) in length – is also seen as one of the country's most

picturesque. Other notable waterways include the River Liffey, which flows from the Wicklow Mountains to the Irish Sea, through the centre of Dublin.

## General knowledge

### Key facts

Population: 4775982

Population Density (per sq km): 68

Capital: Dublin.

### Language

Irish (Gaelic) is the official language. Estimates vary on the number of people who genuinely speak it as a first language (somewhere between 50,000 and 100,000), but English is the language of the majority.

### Currency

Euro (EUR; symbol €) = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of €500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5. Coins are in denominations of €2 and 1, and 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 cents.

### Electricity

220 volts AC, 50Hz. Three-pin plugs are in use.

### General business opening hours

Mon-Fri 0900-1700/1800.

## Public holidays

Listed below are the public holidays for the period January 2020 to December 2021.

### 2020

New Year's Day: 1 January 2020  
St. Patrick's Day: 17 March 2020  
Good Friday: 10 April 2020  
Easter: 12 and 13 April 2020  
May Day: 4 May 2020  
June Bank Holiday: 1 June 2020  
Summer Bank Holiday: 3 August 2020  
October Bank Holiday: 26 October 2020  
Christmas Day: 25 December 2020  
St. Stephen's Day: 26 December 2020

### 2021

New Year's Day: 1 January 2021  
St. Patrick's Day: 17 March 2021  
Good Friday: 2 April 2021  
Easter: 4 and 5 April 2021  
May Day: 3 May 2021  
June Bank Holiday: 7 June 2021  
Summer Bank Holiday: 3 August 2021  
October Bank Holiday: 25 October 2021  
Christmas Day: 25 December 2021  
St. Stephen's Day: 26 December 2021

All information subject to change.



## Travel etiquette

### How to fit in

#### Social Conventions

The Irish are renowned as an affable, easy-going people, whose conversation is liberally dosed with humour, irreverence and - if you listen carefully - a *beal bocht*, an Irish expression that translates as 'the poor mouth'. It refers to a kind of modesty where the speaker is careful to talk themselves down and never reveal how well he or she is actually doing. In short, the Irish don't really like a show-off.

Arguably the best place to observe and engage with the Irish is in the pub, still a centre of social interaction in Ireland, especially in smaller communities throughout the country.

A meal in an Irish home is usually a substantial affair and guests will eat well. Dinner is the main meal of the day and is now eaten in the evening. Casual dress is widely acceptable, but people will often dress up for smart restaurants and social functions. Handshaking is usual, and modes of address will often be informal. Smoking is banned in all public enclosed/working spaces, including pubs, bars and restaurants.



## Health

### Health

**Main emergency number:** 112

#### Food & Drink

Levels of hygiene are of a high standard in Ireland, so travellers should only take precautions that they would do in any other developed country. There's no more danger of being served contaminated or undercooked food in Ireland than anywhere else. A statutory, independent, science-based body, the Food Safety Authority of Ireland, is tasked "to take all reasonable steps to ensure that food produced, distributed or marketed in the State meets the highest standards of food safety and hygiene reasonably available." The only real problems posed by the local food and drink are mild stomach complaints resulting from overindulgence. As in any other country, junk food and fast food isn't hard to come by. An over-reliance on fish and chips or the omnipresent "fry" (heaped breakfasts of bacon, fried eggs, black pudding, white pudding and so on) isn't recommended.

Tap water is generally fine to drink, although stories in recent years have suggested that in some areas the levels of fluoride might be risky, particularly to bottle-fed babies. Bottled water is readily available. And while it might be novel to be sampling Guinness in its home country, being in Ireland by no means makes you immune from crippling hangovers and related after-effects.

#### Other Risks

Ireland is not a risky destination in which to travel. A lack of temperature extremes means that sunstroke is rarely a problem, although you should be aware that summer temperatures can occasionally reach well over 25 °C. In these cases, the usual precautions apply: use a generous amount of sunscreen and be sensible about how long you spend in direct sunlight. Be aware that a breezy day can sometimes mask high temperatures.

Hikers or cyclists travelling over long distances are perhaps the most at risk from

the weather, good or bad. In warm weather it's advisable to drink – and carry – plenty of water and wear appropriate clothing, including headwear. In bad weather, have waterproof clothing to hand and, if possible, inform others where you're intending to travel.

Blisters can be another problem for hikers. These can often occur if new walking shoes are being worn across a long distance. Ideally footwear should be worn in before the trip.

#### **Contractual physician of Lufthansa**

Dr. Caraher, Michele  
53 Kilbarrack Rd.  
Dublin 5  
Ireland  
Tel. +353-1-8323921

Please note that Lufthansa accepts no responsibility for the treatment nor will it bear the cost of any treatment.



## Phone calls & Internet Phone calls & Internet

### **Telephone**

Country code: +353

### **Mobile telephony and Internet**

Since June 2017, EU citizens traveling within the EU, and also in Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein have been able to use their cell phones and surf the Net without incurring any extra charges: In other words, customers pay the same price for phone calls, text messages and data volume as they do at home. Restrictions do apply to the constant use of SIM cards abroad, however, and caps may be set on data packages. For full details, contact your mobile telephony provider in your country. Travelers using a SIM card from a non-EU state do not benefit from the new arrangement.

Free Internet access via Wi-Fi is possible in many busy tourist spots. When using public Wi-Fi networks, it is a wise precaution to ensure encryption of all passwords, credit card details and banking TANs entered. Use of a VPN app or security software to check the safety of a hotspot is recommended.



## Getting around Dublin Getting around

### **Public Transport**

It's not hard to get around Dublin by public transport – a tram system (known as LUAS), an electric rail network (known as DART) and a range of bus options make it straightforward to take in the main attractions. The city centre is compact, so getting around on foot is a realistic option too.

### **Taxis**

Taxis can be hailed in the street, found at ranks or booked by phone. The main ranks in the city centre are to be found on O'Connell Street and College Green. Companies to call include NRC Taxis (tel: (01) 677 2222) and KCR Taxis (tel: (01) 492 2233).



## Top 10 sights

### Top 10 sights in Dublin

#### Guinness Storehouse

A temple to the black stuff, this interactive attraction gives an overview of the production process and the company's long history – as well as giving you the chance to sample a pint or two.

St James's Gate, Dublin 8  
Dublin  
Ireland  
Tel: (01) 408 4800

Opening times:  
Daily 0930-1900 (Jul-Aug)  
0930-1700 (Sep-Jun)

[www.guinness-storehouse.com](http://www.guinness-storehouse.com)

#### Book of Kells

A ninth-century gospel manuscript located within Trinity College in the heart of town, the *Book of Kells* forms part of an exhibition that has become one of the best-known attractions in Ireland.

Trinity College Dublin, College Green,  
Dublin 2  
Dublin  
Ireland  
Tel: (01) 896 1000

Opening times:  
Mon-Sat 0930-1700  
Sun 0930-1630 (May-Sep)  
Mon-Sat 0930-1700  
Sun 1200-1630 (Oct-Apr)

[www.tcd.ie](http://www.tcd.ie)

#### National Gallery of Ireland

Home to the country's collection of Irish and European art, this free gallery has some excellent examples of Dutch masters and Italian baroque works, as well as paintings by numerous home-grown artists.

Merrion Square West, Dublin 2  
Dublin  
Ireland  
Tel: (01) 661 5133

Opening times:  
Mon-Wed, Fri, Sat 0930-1730  
Thurs 0930-2030  
Sun 1200-1730

[www.nationalgallery.ie](http://www.nationalgallery.ie)

#### Aquazone at the National Aquatic Centre

If the weather's grim, this large water park is a good option for visitors with kids in tow. It has flumes, a wave pool, a pirate ship and various other features.

Abbotstown, Dublin 15  
Dublin  
Ireland  
Tel: (01) 646 4300

Opening times:  
Daily 1000-2000 (late May-Aug)  
1000-1900 (Sep-May)

[www.aquazone.ie](http://www.aquazone.ie)

#### St Patrick's Cathedral

The largest church in Ireland, it dates back to the 13th century in its current form

and makes for an imposing place to visit, particularly during a choral performance.

Saint Patrick's Close	Opening times:
Dublin 8	Mon-Fri 0900-1700
Ireland	Sat-Sun 0900-1800 (Mar-Oct)
	Mon-Sat 0900-1700
	Sun 0900-1430 (Nov-Feb)

[www.stpatrickscathedral.ie](http://www.stpatrickscathedral.ie)

## Dublin Zoo

Open for more than 180 years, this large-scale zoo has a good conservation programme and plays home to everything from giraffes and gorillas to elephants and tigers.

Phoenix Park, Dublin 8	Opening times:
Dublin	Daily 0930-1630 (Jan)
Ireland	0930-1700 (Feb)
Tel: (01) 474 8900	0930-1800 (Mar-Sep)
	0930-1730 (Oct)
	0930-1600 (Nov-Dec)

[www.dublinozoo.ie](http://www.dublinozoo.ie)

## Kilmainham Gaol

A fascinating (if sometimes disturbing) place to visit, this now-abandoned gaol gives good insight into the turmoil that Ireland has gone through in recent centuries. Tours fill up fast at peak times, so don't leave it too late in the day.

Inchicore Road, Kilmainham, Dublin 8	Opening times:
Dublin	Daily 0930-1800 (Apr-Sep)
Ireland	Mon-Sat 0930-1730 (Oct-Mar)
Tel: (01) 453 5984	Sunday: 10:00 - 18:00

[www.heritageireland.ie](http://www.heritageireland.ie)

## Dublin Writers Museum

Dedicated to the city's great literary figures, with books, letters and personal items relating to the likes of Oscar Wilde, George Bernard Shaw, Samuel Beckett and James Joyce.

18 Parnell Square, Dublin 1	Opening times:
Dublin	Mon-Sat 1000-1700
Ireland	Sun 1100-1700
Tel: (01) 872 2077	

[www.writersmuseum.com](http://www.writersmuseum.com)

## Old Jameson Distillery

An enjoyable port of call for Irish whiskey lovers, with lots of information on the distillation of the famous spirit and a good overview of how it differs from its Scottish and American counterparts.

Bow Street, Smithfield Village, Dublin 7  
Dublin  
Ireland  
Tel: (01) 807 2355

Opening times:  
Mon-Sat 0900-1800  
Sun 1000-1800

[www.jamesonwhiskey.com](http://www.jamesonwhiskey.com)

## National Museum of Ireland – Archaeology

There's arguably no better place to delve into the country's long history than here, with its extensive collection of everything from prehistoric gold artefacts to traditional Celtic artworks.

Kildare Street, Dublin 2  
Dublin  
Ireland  
Tel: (01) 677 7444

Opening times:  
Tues-Sat 1000-1700  
Sun 1400-1700

[www.museum.ie](http://www.museum.ie)



## Shopping in Dublin

### Shopping in Dublin

#### Key Areas

Central Dublin is full of shops and stores, a lot of them aimed squarely at tourists, but you'll find some good outlets on Grafton Street and its surrounding lanes. North of the Liffey, O'Connell Street and Henry Street both offer plenty in the way of high-street names.

#### Markets

Dublin has markets by the dozen. Among the best – and most central – are the Temple Bar Food Market, which runs at weekends, the Ha-Penny Flea Market (Lower Liffey Street), which takes place each Saturday, and the Moore Street Market, which gives a blast of daily Dublin life six days a week.

#### Shopping Centres

Good malls to try include Stephen's Green Shopping Centre (Stephen's Green West), which has more than 100 outlets in the city centre, and the Blanchardstown Centre in the northwest suburbs, where you'll find more than 180 stores and 25 restaurants, as well as three nearby retail parks.



## Restaurants

### Restaurants in Dublin

Dublin's food scene is today one of its most obvious assets, with a whole slew of fresh and innovative options to choose from. Quality Irish produce figures large, but there are some fine international restaurants too.

### Coppinger Row

Serves up simple Mediterranean food in the city centre, and has a good cocktail list.

Off South William Street, Dublin 2  
Dublin  
Ireland

Price: Expensive

## Restaurant Patrick Guilbaud

The country's only two-Michelin-starred restaurant – book well in advance.

21 Upper Merrion Street, Dublin 2      Price: Expensive  
Dublin  
Ireland

## Pig's Ear

A good place to try classic Irish food with a contemporary twist.

4 Nassau Street, Dublin 2      Price: Moderate  
Dublin  
Ireland

## Hugo's

A classy, enjoyable restaurant with more than 40 wines by the glass.

6 Merrion Row, Dublin 2      Price: Moderate  
Dublin  
Ireland

## Jo'Burger

Fast food with a difference, producing what many consider to be Dublin's best burgers.

4/5 Castle Market, Dublin 2      Price: Cheap  
Dublin  
Ireland



## Nightlife Nightlife in Dublin

A trip to Dublin has always been as much about enjoying the nights as the days, but there's more on offer than the city's famous pubs, with some excellent cafés, arts venues and nightclubs to complement the Guinness snugs.

### 4 Dame Lane

A laid-back, fashionable DJ bar with a busy roster of events.

Dame Lane, Dublin 2  
Dublin  
Ireland

### The Cobblestone

One of the city's more traditional pubs, and a good place to catch live music.

77 King Street North, Dublin 7  
Dublin

Ireland

### The Church

An old church reinvented as a café, bar, restaurant and nightclub.

Junction of Mary Street and Jervis  
Street, Dublin 1  
Dublin  
Ireland

### Café en Seine

An atmospheric café bar with décor inspired by 19th-century Paris.

40 Dawson Street, Dublin 2  
Dublin  
Ireland

### The Palace Bar

Open since 1823 and decked out in mahogany, this is one of the most enjoyable of the city centre pubs.

21 Fleet Street, Dublin 2  
Dublin  
Ireland



## Calendar of events Calendar of events

### Temple Bar Trad - Irish Music and Culture Festival

This is Dublin's premier celebration of traditional Irish music and culture. For five days and nights, Temple Bar in the heart of the city, comes alive to the sound of jigs and reels from the many pubs and cultural centres in the area. Nowhere else in the city do audiences get the chance to see masters of the tradition perform up close in small intimate venues. With live music concerts, pub sessions, workshops, children's events, festival club and much much more, prepare for a barrage of flutes, accordions, bodhráns, mighty sessions and great craic.

**January 22 - 26, 2020**

Venue: Various venues and locations around Temple Bar

### Dine in Dublin Restaurant Week

Intended to showcase Dublin's fantastic eateries, this week-long event includes special offers for diners, a unique mix of demonstrations, competitions, prosecco evenings, wine-tastings, trad sessions, belly dancing events, and much more.

**February 26 - March 8, 2020**

Venue: Various venues

### Audi Dublin International Film Festival

A celebration of the best in contemporary world cinema with over 100 film premieres during 10 days.

**February 26 – March 8, 2020**

Venue: Various venues throughout the city

## St. Patrick's Day Festival

The annual St. Patrick's Day Festival runs over the course of a three day event. There will be a vibrant selection of live music from home grown talent and visitors can let their feet do the talking at the large Céilí or learn how to pour the perfect pint from the Guinness experts. There will also be family fun, film, sport, comedy and much more.

**March, 2020**

Venue: Throughout the city

## St Patrick's Day Parade

Ireland's largest street party consists of parades, fireworks, family carnivals, street performances and ceiliidh dancing throughout the city in honour of the patron saint of Ireland.

**March 17, 2020**

Venue: Various venues

## Bloomsday Festival

A walk around the city (starting at the James Joyce Centre, 35 North Great George's Street) in celebration of the life of James Joyce, as part of the annual Dublin Writers' Festival. The event is named after the main character in Ulysses - Leopold Bloom. Fans of the author dressed in Edwardian costume follow the route around Dublin taken by Bloom and usually have a breakfast of sausages, beans, black and white pudding and toast at some stage along the way. Davy Byrne's Pub usually figures on the route. Readings and dramatisations from the novel take place, as well as traditional Irish music. Many celebrations are hosted by the James Joyce Centre.

**June 16, 2020**

Venue: Throughout the City

## Dublin Horse Show

A celebration of Ireland's affinity with the horse, the Dublin Horse Show is something of an institution in the city and is one of the highlights of summer in Dublin. With guests often dressed in their finest suits and dresses, the show is a prestigious affair which sees over 1,400 horses and ponies competing in more than 100 competitions and classes for big prize money. In addition to the many horse displays, visitors are entertained with theatre, live music and magic shows and there is also a shopping area where visitors can pick up a memento of the day. Steeped in tradition, Thursday is usually Ladies' Day during which a cash prize is awarded to the best dressed lady. Each year, the glittering show attracts over 100,000 visitors from all over the world.

**July 15 - 19, 2020**

Venue: RDS Arena

## The Liffey Swim

Since 1920, spectators turn out to watch swimmers race in the River Liffey from Rory O'More Bridge to the Custom House. Over 250 men and 100 women swim in the historic race, with the Liffey Boardwalk providing a great viewing point.

**September 2020**

Venue: River Liffey

## Dublin Fringe Festival

Ireland's largest festival for the performing arts has grown from its modest beginnings in 1995 to become one of the city's best-loved events. It now puts on about 750 performances in 30 venues throughout the city in places as diverse as St Stephen's Green and Mounjoy Prison as well as a variety of pubs and smaller venues. The festival aims to deliver a programme of 'fantastic, beautiful, exciting, head-bending live performances' in the fields of modern theatre, dance, comedy and visual arts. Total audiences exceed 45,000 in what has become a festival of international importance.

**September 5 - 20, 2020**

Venue: Various Venues in Dublin

## Dublin Theatre Festival

The best time to experience Dublin's many theatres is during the city's annual October Theatre Festival. The programme promises 'a bold, diverse, and entertaining international programme, with dominant themes of passion, politics, and betrayal'. For 16 days, stages across Dublin come alive with a range of productions ranging from puppetry to live theatre. As well as plenty of home-grown talent, visitors have the opportunity to see acts from all corners of the world.

**September - October 2020**

Venue: Various Dublin theatres

## Dublin City Marathon

More than 10,000 runners have participated over recent years in the Adidas Dublin City Marathon. The 42.2km (26.2 miles) race starts at Baggot Street and finishes in Merrion Square West, both near the city centre. The route passes through many of Dublin's most historic Georgian streets, with Trinity College, Herbert Park, St Stephens Green and Phoenix Park among the highlights of a mainly flat single-lap course. Thousands of spectators line the route to watch the race and cheer on the runners. The winners receive the Noel Carroll Memorial Trophy, while all those that cross the finish line get an engraved medal and a commemorative marathon T-shirt. The day before the marathon an International Breakfast race is run to welcome overseas athletes with traditional Irish music.

**October 25, 2020**

Venue: Streets of Dublin

## Samhain Halloween Festival

One of the city's few genuinely Celtic traditions, with parties and celebrations climaxing in fireworks and a thrilling night-time procession of witches, devils, druids and dragons.

**31 October 2020**

Venue: Venues throughout the city

### Leopardstown Races (Christmas Festival)

The Christmas Festival is one of the annual horse-racing highlights of Dublin's prestigious racecourse, attracting riders from around Europe.

**December 2020**

Venue: Leopardstown Racecourse



## Hotels Hotels in Dublin

Dublin's reputation means it draws a lot of business travellers and affluent international tourists, so there's much in the way of high-end accommodation. Mid-range and budget options are also in good supply.

### The Gresham

Drawing all sort of famous guests over the decades, this is a central four-star hotel.

23 Upper O'Connell Street, Dublin 1      Category: Moderate  
Dublin  
Ireland