

WHY SHOULD I GO TO DUBLIN



WHY SHOULD I GO TO ↓ DUBLIN

THE CITY YOU DEFINITELY NEED TO
VISIT BEFORE YOU TURN 30 (OR 130)





THIS IS WHY!

Dublin is a truly diverse city. Steeped in history – from its Viking roots to the lasting impact of the Irish Rebellion – the city's past has shaped its rich and vibrant culture. It's buzzing with creative energy and proudly holds its status as a UNESCO City of Literature.

A welcoming pub is never far away, but its food scene is also a highlight. In recent years, the city has been booming with new and trendy restaurants and bars, while you can still count on finding a hearty Irish stew or the perfect pint of Guinness. There are plenty of vintage shops and unique boutiques. And best of all, Dublin is dotted with city parks and is surrounded by amazing nature. From beaches and cliffs to mountains and meadows, it offers the perfect mix of urban life and rural escape.

Dublin isn't the cheapest destination, but travelling there doesn't have to break the bank. The city is compact and easy to get around, so walk, cycle, or use public transport rather than taking expensive taxis. Book affordable accommodation, explore the parks, dive into the sea, go for a hike, and make the most of Dublin's many free museums. You'll also find fantastic meals at fair prices if you know where to look.

Whether you're a foodie, a history buff, a bookworm, a nature-lover, or a barfly, Dublin is your city! Most of all, it's the people who make Dublin unforgettable. The Irish are famously warm and welcoming, always happy to stop for a chat. One thing is certain: once you've been, you'll want to go back for more.

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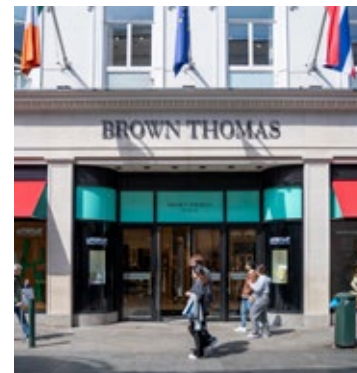
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NEIGHBOURHOODS

Dublin is divided into 22 numbered districts, indicated by their postcodes. The River Liffey separates the city into north and south, with even numbers indicating the south side and odd the north. Generally, the higher a district number, the further it is from the city centre. This chapter highlights the districts with the most to see and do. Some are just minutes from the city centre, while others lie further out, but all are well worth a visit.



GLASNEVIN
(DUBLIN 9)

DRUMCONDRA
(DUBLIN 9)

CLONTARF
(DUBLIN 3)

SMITHFIELD
(DUBLIN 7)

NORTH CITY
(DUBLIN 1)

TEMPLE BAR
(DUBLIN 2)

THE LIBERTIES
& PORTOBELLO
(DUBLIN 8)

CITY CENTRE
(DUBLIN 2)

SANDYMOUNT
(DUBLIN 4)

RANELAGH
(DUBLIN 6)

BALLSBRIDGE
(DUBLIN 4)

RATHMINES
(DUBLIN 6)

BLACKROCK

DÚN LAOGHAIRE

HOWTH

LIFFEY

DUBLIN BAY

SOUTH

City Centre & Temple Bar (Dublin 2)

Home to Dublin's main attractions – Dublin Castle, St. Stephen's Green, The Temple Bar pub, Trinity College, and the hip and happening Camden Street. Dublin 2 attracts tourists and students alike.

Ballsbridge & Sandymount (Dublin 4)

A leafy, green area, housing Dublin's embassies, Aviva Stadium, Herbert Park, and the wide coastal stretch of Sandymount Strand.

Ranelagh & Rathmines (Dublin 6)

Rathmines is a lively hub for students and young professionals, while Ranelagh charms with its red-brick

townhouses and green streets. Both feature numerous lovely neighbourhood shops, pubs, and restaurants.

The Liberties & Portobello (Dublin 8)

This area blends creativity and history, with art galleries, whiskey distilleries, and the Guinness Storehouse alongside St. Patrick's Cathedral and Christ Church. It's also a residential neighbourhood with Georgian townhouses and great brunch spots.

Blackrock (County Dublin)

A vibrant seaside town with cafés, restaurants, boutiques, and the beloved Blackrock market. Plus Seapoint, a great spot for a swim.

Dún Laoghaire (County Dublin)

A popular seaside resort in Victorian times, Dún Laoghaire is still a great place to go

sailing and swimming. Or visit the local market and walk along the harbour.

NORTH

North City (Dublin 1)

This busy area in the heart of the city is home to the Four Courts, the Spire, and Hugh Lane Gallery. You can also find a shopping area, with chain stores as well as department store Arnott's at Dublin 1.

Clontarf (Dublin 3)

A peaceful coastal suburb with scenic spots like Bull Island, Dollymount Strand, and the large St. Anne's Park.

Smithfield (Dublin 7)

An up-and-coming area where Victorian terraces meet modern apartment blocks, known for the iconic Jameson Distillery tower and the indie favourite Lighthouse Cinema.

Glasnevin & Drumcondra (Dublin 9)

This area offers a mix of nature, history, and sports, with highlights like the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin Cemetery, and Croke Park stadium. Drumcondra, home to a university, is known for its affordable bars and restaurants.

Howth (Dublin 13)

Just 25 minutes from the city centre by train, Howth offers fresh seafood by the harbour and beautiful cliff walks with sweeping ocean views.

**PRACTICAL
INFO**

TRAVEL

Airport transfers

Dublin's international airport is found seven kilometres north of the city. You can travel into the city by bus or taxi. If you're travelling alone or as a pair, the bus is the most affordable option. However, if you're in a group of three or more, taking a taxi might be cheaper and more convenient. There are several bus operators that will bring you to Dublin city and the greater Dublin area. Check which bus route works best for you and prebook your ticket on dublinairport.com/to-from-the-airport/by-bus. Some operators allow you to purchase a ticket on board, but it's best to confirm this in advance.

Travelling by ferry

For a more spectacular way to arrive in Dublin that will allow you to bring your own car, taking the ferry is an ideal choice. Dublin Port offers regular ferry connections with England, Wales, and even France. Conveniently located near the city centre, the port provides easy access to town by taxi, bus, or tram (Luas).

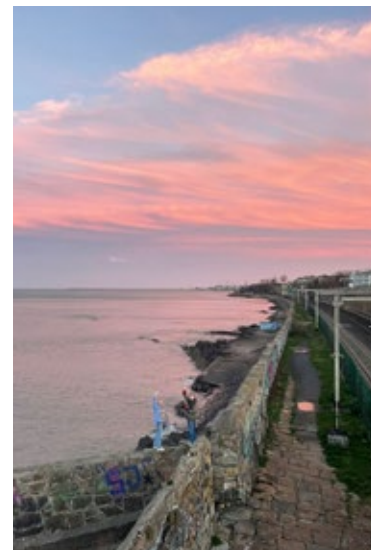
Public transport

Dublin has a reliable public transport system with various options for getting around the city. You can either take a green-and-yellow double-decker bus (TFI), the Luas tram, or – if you want to visit the surrounding areas – the DART, Dublin's coastal train. The best way to never miss a bus, tram or train is to download the free Transport for Ireland *TFI Live* app.

The bus generally operates between 5.30am and 11.30pm. However, some routes run 24 hours. The tram, called Luas, connects the city centre with Dublin's suburbs. There are two lines: the Green Line, which runs from north to south, and the Red Line, which runs from east to west.

The DART has several stations in central Dublin and runs along the coast. It's a great way to explore the beautiful coastline near Dublin, with access to great hiking (and cycling) spots like Howth in the north and Greystones in the south. It's good to know that bicycles are allowed on board during off-peak travel times.

The easiest and cheapest way to travel is by using the TFI Leap Card. This can be used on buses, trams, and trains – and even for renting a Dublin Bike. You



can purchase the Leap Card at many PostPoints and all post offices. Young adults (aged 19-25) and Dublin based students can hop around Dublin for just €1 per ride with a Leap Card, but Young Adult and Student Leap Cards must be ordered online. You can easily top-up your card with Travel Credit and/or Tickets. For more information, check out leapcard.ie. Contactless payment is not yet available on public transport.

On buses or trains, you just touch in as you enter, but on the Luas, you must also touch out as you exit.

Cycling

Why not explore Dublin by bike? Dublin Bikes, the city's shared bike system, is easy to use and available at over a hundred stations throughout the city. You'll need to register for an account online (dublinbikes.ie) or through the *Dublin Bikes*

app. Once registered, you'll receive a code that unlocks bikes at the stations. There are several plans available, from 1-day and 3-day passes to an annual subscription. The first 30 minutes of each ride are free, after that, charges apply based on the duration of your journey. Just be extra cautious if you are not used to cycling on the left side of the road. Whenever possible, use dedicated cycling routes for a safer and more comfortable ride.

Taxis

You can either hail a taxi or use one of the taxi apps. Just make sure the car has an official taxi sign, as there are unlicensed taxis driving around. Taxi drivers in Dublin are known for being very friendly and they are always up for a good chat.





WHERE TO STAY

Places to stay in Dublin are generally 'at the higher end of affordable', as in any of the more expensive European cities. That means either saving up or booking a hostel. And even then, don't necessarily count on stylish or trendy accommodation. However, it does help to visit Dublin off-season, and sometimes you can find good last-minute deals.

Dublin 2 and the south side of the city are where much of the action happens – most pubs, restaurants, and cultural highlights can be found there. While accommodation there can be a bit pricier, you're right in the heart of the action. That said, there are also good options in other neighbourhoods, such as Dublin 1, which is just across the river and close to the city centre.

HOSTELS

Abbey Court Hostel

*29 Bachelors Walk,
North City, Dublin 1,
abbey-court.com*

Abbey Court has been a fixture in the Dublin hostel scene for over 25 years. As it's not a chain, but family-run instead, a personal experience is guaranteed. As is the cheapest pint of Guinness in Dublin.

Clink I Lár

*35-36 Abbey Street Upper,
North City, Dublin 1,
clinkhostels.com/dublin*

Pink, orange, light blue, yellow: the ambience at Clink I Lár is as colourful as the cocktails in its bar. The built-in box beds make for a cosy experience, even in the dorm rooms.

Latroupe Jacobs Inn

*21-28 Talbot Place,
Mountjoy, Dublin 1,
latroupe.com/en/latroupe-jacobs-inn/hostel*

The look and feel of a hotel with the vibes of a hostel; look no further if you're looking for the best of both worlds. Its bar, known for creative cocktails and good quality beers, attracts locals and visitors alike.

Ashfield Hostel

*19-20 D'Olier Street,
City Centre, Dublin 2,
ashfieldhostel.com*

It doesn't get much more central than this. Ashfield offers private rooms, eighteen-bed mixed dorms, and everything in between.

The Dawson Hostel

*35 Dawson Street,
City Centre, Dublin 2,
thedawsonhostel.ie*

The Dawson claims to be your key to Dublin. Given its central location, you will indeed find much of what this city has to offer not far from its front door. Having St. Stephen's Green a stone's throw away is another asset.

Abigail's Hostel

*7-9 Aston Quay,
Temple Bar, Dublin 2,
abigailshostel.com*

Abigail's ranks among the top hostels in Dublin and beyond, overlooks the river Liffey, and provides a fully equipped kitchen. What is not to like?

Generator Dublin

*Smithfield Square,
Smithfield, Dublin 7,
generator.com/hostels/
dublin*

A very hip hostel in the Smithfield neighbourhood. With events every night, a lot is going on, but should you want to leave the premises, Jameson Distillery is next door, and the beating heart of Dublin is not far away.

HOTELS

Temple Bar Inn

40-47 Fleet Street,
Temple Bar, Dublin 2,
templebarinn.com

The Ferryman Townhouse

35 Sir John Rogerson's
Quay, Docklands, Dublin 2,
theferrymantownhouse.ie

Blackrock B&B

16 Booterstown Avenue,
Blackrock, County Dublin,
blackrock-bb.hotel-inn-dublin.com

Ariel House

50-54 Lansdowne Road,
Ballsbridge, Dublin 4,
arielhouse.ie

If you want to be in the middle of everything, and enjoy a nearby swimming pool with a great discount, this is your hotel. Unfortunately, the Temple Bar Inn doesn't come cheap.

The pub is traditionally Irish, the fifteen rooms above it stylish, yet affordable. After a nightcap in one of its three bars, frequented by locals, it's an easy 'commute' to your room.

While it's not right in the city centre, this charming two-room B&B is nestled in the seaside village of Blackrock, known for lovely restaurants and shops, and the popular swimming spot Seapoint. With Booterstown DART and bus station just around the corner, getting into the heart of Dublin is quick and easy.

Housed in three elegant Victorian townhouses dating back to 1850, once home to a wealthy shipping merchant and his family. Ariel House combines historical charm with a touch of luxury, though that luxury comes at a price.

↓ GENERATOR DUBLIN



Maples House Hotel

79-81 Iona Road,
Glasnevin, Dublin 9,
mapleshousehotel.ie

From its red-brick residential appearance to its homey decorations and wallpaper, this family-run hotel in the northern part of Dublin does have every intention of making you feel right at home. Even the room prices are welcoming.



GOOD TO KNOW

Money

The currency used in Dublin and the Republic of Ireland is the euro. Credit and debit cards are widely accepted, and contactless payment is commonly used. Dublin is not the most budget-friendly city to visit. It ranks among the top ten most expensive cities to stay in across Europe, but there are still plenty of budget-friendly options for eating out and accommodation.

Charging

It's a good idea to bring a travel adapter, as Ireland uses a 230-volt power supply and a type G plug, which features three rectangular pins.

Walking around

The best way to explore Dublin is on foot, as it's a relatively compact city. Many restaurants, shops, and attractions are located in the city centre within easy walking distance of one another. In fact, walking is often quicker than taking the bus, especially given the frequent traffic congestion.

Language

As soon as you arrive in Dublin, you'll notice that all the signs are in both English and Irish (Gaelic). This is quite remarkable, given that only a small percentage of the Irish population still speaks Gaelic as a first language. English, as the primary language, will easily get you around anywhere.

Weather

Dublin has a temperate climate, with summer temperatures rarely exceeding 23°C and generally mild winters. However, the weather can be quite unpredictable, so always pack some warm clothes, even in summer. An umbrella might also come in handy. You might think Dubliners spend most of their time indoors because of the weather, but don't worry, whenever the sun comes out, so do the locals!

Look left, look right

Traffic in Ireland drives on the left side of the road, so be cautious when crossing the street if you're not used to it. Thankfully, most pedestrian crossings are clearly marked with instructions on which way to look.

Museums

One of the best things about Dublin is that most major

cultural institutions are free to visit. The National Museum of Ireland, The Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA), Hugh Lane Gallery, The Photo Museum Ireland, and many others welcome visitors free of charge.

Dublin pass

If you're planning to visit Dublin's top tourist attractions and want to explore the city with a hop-on, hop-off bus tour, the Dublin Pass might be a good option. It can save you up to 50 per cent compared to buying individual tickets, depending on how many attractions you decide to visit. Check out dublincitypass.com for more information.

Restaurants

Dubliners love to brunch, lunch, or dine out and it's best to make a reservation if you want to be sure to have a table. Many restaurants have 'early bird' offers; discounted meals, especially for dinner if you arrive



before a specific time. Tipping varies by venue, but around 10% is standard. However, many restaurants include a service charge in the bill, which covers service and is shared among the staff. In this case, tipping is not necessary but of course appreciated.

Food

The Irish love their traditional dishes: hearty Irish stew, full Irish breakfast, and classic fish and chips are still popular staples. These traditional meals are most often found in pubs. Of course, modern and international cuisine is also widely available throughout town. Chefs across Ireland take pride in using local ingredients, from fresh seafood and high-quality dairy to succulent lamb, flavourful sausages, oats, and a variety of Irish cheeses. With such a rich culinary landscape, Ireland has plenty to offer.

Nightlife

The official drinking age in Ireland is 18, but many clubs in Dublin have a minimum age of 21, and sometimes even 25, so be sure to check in advance. Dublin has a vibrant nightlife scene, with many pubs open seven days a week. You'll find locals having drinks both after work and after dinner (which is usually around 8pm). Pubs and clubs close relatively early due to licensing laws, typically around 2.30am.

Shopping

The best place for shopping is south of the River Liffey, which runs through the centre of Dublin. There you'll discover a wide variety of interesting shops, from independent boutiques and vintage shops in Temple Bar to bookshops, home décor stores, Irish design shops, and high-end retailers in and around Grafton and Henry Street. On the north

side of the river, you'll mostly find large chain stores. There are some smaller, charming shops in neighbourhoods like Ranelagh, the Liberties, and Rathmines. The surrounding villages of Dublin, like Sandymount, Blackrock, and Monkstown also offer a selection of quaint little shops.

Hiking & Cycling

Dublin is renowned for its stunning surroundings, including beaches, parks, and mountains. No visit to the city is complete without exploring these beautiful green landscapes. Hike the scenic Howth Cliff Walk north of Dublin or climb to the summit of Killiney Hill for breathtaking views. For a more relaxed experience, go cycling through Phoenix Park, which has plenty of trails. And if you're feeling adventurous, try mountain biking in the Wicklow Mountains. Most of

the green surroundings are easily accessible by public transport.

Swimming

One of Dublin's main attractions is its location on Dublin Bay, along the Irish Sea. A short ride by bus or DART train will quickly take you to the coast. Although the sea can be icy cold, the Irish are known for taking dips year-round. Seapoint, Vico Baths, Bull Island, and the Forty Foot are popular spots for a swim nearby. The official bathing season runs from 1st June to 15th September, during which the water quality is regularly monitored by the Dublin Council. Due to occasional pollution, swimming is sometimes prohibited. For the latest updates, visit beaches.ie.



WHEN TO TRAVEL