YOUR ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO DUBLIN

Top places to go, where to eat, what to drink, on a budget, how to get there…and everything you need to know to make your stay in Dublin and at SMACC one to remember!

TOP ATTRACTIONS

1. You can’t stop off in Dublin without visiting Europe's Best Tourism Attraction 2015, Guinness Storehouse. The prefect place to try your first pint of the black stuff! The Gala Dinner will be held here and we have exclusive use of the building, but this top attraction is more than worth a separate visit at a more leisurely pace! [guinness-storehouse.com/en](http://guinness-storehouse.com/en)

2. For any history buffs, you’ll have to make a stop at the world-famous Trinity College to see the Book of Kells, an ancient manuscript dating back to 384AD [tcd.ie/visitors/book-of-kells](http://tcd.ie/visitors/book-of-kells).

3. For all you cultural folk, why not check out the National Gallery of Ireland, and see some of the masterpieces created by Irish artists including Jack B. Yeats, brother of William B. Yeats. [nationalgallery.ie](http://nationalgallery.ie)

4. If you want to get some fresh air, you should visit Phoenix Park ([phoenixpark.ie](http://phoenixpark.ie)). Stretching over 1,752 acres, this urban park is one of the largest enclosed recreational spaces within any European capital city. It’s also Beyonce’s favourite place in Dublin! Other fantastic open air spaces include St Stephen’s Green ([ststephensgreenpark.ie](http://ststephensgreenpark.ie)) and Merrion Square ([merrionsquare.ie](http://merrionsquare.ie)).

5. The annual James Joyce Bloomsday Festival runs from 11th - 16th June 2016. Don’t be surprised if you see some interesting folk wandering around the streets of Dublin during #smaccDUB! See [Bloomsday](http://bloomsday)

6. Home to Gaelic Games, Croke Park is Ireland’s national stadium where football and hurling is played. Drop by and learn how to use a hurley and sliotar! [crokepark.ie](http://crokepark.ie)
7. If you like beautiful architecture and grandeur, look no further than **Dublin Castle**, a key landmark in Irish Society ([dublincastle.ie](http://dublincastle.ie)).

8. If Guinness isn’t for you, you might be more interested in trying a shot of whiskey. **Old Jameson Distillery** is certainly worth a stop off during your visit to Dublin ([jamesonwhiskey.com](http://jamesonwhiskey.com)).

9. Dating back to 1030, **Christ Church Cathedral** is Dublin’s oldest building. Renowned for its beauty, architecture and exquisite floor tiles it is home to the famous 12th Century crypt, one of the oldest and largest in Britain and Ireland ([christchurchcathedral.ie](http://christchurchcathedral.ie)). **Saint Patrick's Cathedral** is a stone’s throw distance away and is another fine example of medieval architecture in Dublin ([stpatrickscathedral.ie](http://stpatrickscathedral.ie)).

10. If you want to escape from it all, visit one of Ireland’s principal music venues, the **National Concert Hall** for summer time classical music ([nch.ie](http://nch.ie)).

### GETTING AROUND

#### FROM THE AIRPORT

**Public Transport:**

- Dublin Bus - Airlink 747 service to/ from the Convention Centre Dublin ([dublinbus.ie](http://dublinbus.ie))

- Aircoach - express transfer coach to/ from Dublin city centre ([aircoach.ie](http://aircoach.ie))

**Taxis:**

Cost €30 - €35 city centre to/ from airport

#### AROUND DUBLIN

- Dublin Bus - public bus network ([dublinbus.ie](http://dublinbus.ie))

- Luas - light-rail transit service ([luas.ie](http://luas.ie))

- Leap Visitor Card - public transport ticket for visitors/ tourists ([leapcard.ie](http://leapcard.ie))

1 day (24 hours) – €10.00

3 days (72 hours) – €19.50

7 days (168 hours) – €40.00
FOOD, DRINK & NIGHTLIFE

RESTAURANTS

Fine-dining:
- Restaurant Patrick Guilbaud, restaurantpatrickguilbaud.ie
- L’Ecrivain, lecrivain.com
- ChapterOne, chapteronerestaurant.com
- Cliff Townhouse, theclifftownhouse.com

Casual:
- Fade St Social, fadestreetsocial.com
- Rustic Stone, rusticstone.ie
- Super Miss Sue, supermisssue.com
- Las Tapas de Lola, lastapasdelola.com

Coffee shops:
- Clement & Pekoe, clementandpekoe.com
- 3FE, 3fe.com
- Kaph, kaph.ie

BARS

Sophisticated:
- Shelbourne Bar, shelbournedining.ie
- Fallon & Byrne Wine bar, fallonandbyrne.com
- Odessa Club, odessa.ie

Traditional Irish:
- Grogan’s Pub, groganspub.ie
- O Donoghue’s Pub, odonoghues.ie/index.htm
- Irish Whiskey Museum, irishwhiskeymuseum.ie
- Kehoe’s Pub, louisfitzgerald.com/kehoes
- The Stag’s Head, louisfitzgerald.com/stagshead

Gay-friendly
- Panti Bar, pantibar.com
- The George, thegeorge.ie

Rooftop bars
- Sophie’s @ The Dean, sophies.ie
- Rooftop @ The Marker, themarkerhoteldublin.com/rooftop_lounge

Trendy:
- The Market Bar, marketbar.ie
- P Mac’s, facebook.com/P-Macs
- Drury Buildings, drurybuildings.com
- Exchequer Bar, theexchequerdublin2.ie
- Cafe en Seine, cafeenseine.ie

Cocktail Bars:
- Peruke and Periwig, peruke.ie
- The Marker Hotel, themarkerhoteldublin.com
- The Bling Pig, theblindpig.ie
- Vintage Cocktail Club, vintagecocktailclub.com

Wine bars:
- Olyessa, olesyaswinebar.com
- Ely Wine Bar, elywinebar.ie
- Fallon & Byrne, fallonandbyrne.com
Dublin’s shopping scene is centralised around **Grafton Street** where you will find all the classic high street retailers along with as many buskers and street performers as you can shake a stick at. It's a nice experience to hear a variety of musical and artistic influences mix on the streets as you peruse the shops and you'll be sure to find some tourist fare here (graftonstreet.ie).

Apart from this, there are many boutiques and independent shops and stalls to be found around the city. Try **Powerscourt Townhouse** (powerscourtcentre.ie) for a different shopping experience to the high street. Also head to **Meeting House Square** in Temple Bar (dublintown.ie) to sample some of their food, fashion and book markets to grab yourself a deal.

Meanwhile, for high end retailers try **Brown Thomas** (brownthomas.com) on Grafton Street or **Kilkenny Shop** (kilkennyshop.com) on Nassau Street which are the two main, Irish luxury retailers and provide a sumptuous shopping experience, perfect for bringing gifts home to loved ones.

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**OUTDOORS IN DUBLIN – MAKING THE MOST OF IRELAND’S SUMMER**

**Weather:**

Ireland’s climate is influenced most by the Atlantic Ocean. As a result, it doesn’t have the extreme temperatures than other countries with a similar latitude would have.

June is a perfect time to visit Ireland as the summer season brings average temperatures between 18ºC and 20ºC (64ºF - 68ºF)

During the summer months, Ireland gets about 18 hours of daylight and it gets dark only after 11pm. Hence the well-worn Irish phrase, “There’s a grand stretch in the evenings”.

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**A weather-friendly wardrobe:**

While June has the potential to offer lots of sun, you would be well advised to be adaptable with your wardrobe choices. Opt for layers that you can put on or take off as the temperature changes.

It is recommended to pack for all seasons. Just to be sure, it’s also worth packing sunglasses, comfortable walking shoes, an umbrella and sunscreen.
Outdoor activities:

As one of very few European ‘Cities by the Sea’, Dublin offers visitors some beautiful coastal views and mountains that are perfect for adventure seekers.

Surf Dock (surfdock.ie) is perfect for anyone that wants to try their hand at water sports and is conveniently located in Grand Canal Docks, beside the Marker Hotel and close to The Convention Centre Dublin.

If water isn’t your thing, there are plenty of options based on land too. Sandymount Strand is just a 15 minute stroll from the Grand Canal Docks area where you can go for a run or fly a kite!

Lovin Dublin’s list of best walking routes is worth a look and includes routes around Howth Head, The Great South Wall Walk, Ticknock Hill, Dalkey, The Grand Canal and Bray to Greystones (lovindublin.com).

If you like to cycle, Dublin Bikes (dublinbikes.ie) are a good option. The Dublin Bike Scheme is a public bicycle rental scheme with stations conveniently located across the city. If you’re feeling a bit too lazy, Lazy Bike Tours (lazybiketours.com) offer a good alternative- a fun way to tour Dublin city without having to tire yourself.

If you just want to sit in the park and enjoy Dublin’s summer atmosphere, take yourself along to Iveagh Gardens (iveaghgardens.ie) or Merrion Square (merriionsquare.ie) in the heart of Dublin city.

**DUBLIN ON A BUDGET**

Here’s a list of some pocket-friendly activities to do while you’re in town:

1. **Go on a tasting tour of Dublin**

   Visit some of Dublin’s best bakeries, food halls, street markets and cheesemongers on this culinary walking trail, see fabfoodtrails.ie

2. **Search for Street Art**

   Dublin has some pretty amazing street art – some more obvious such as the murals in and around Temple Bar and the Italian Quarter, and others hidden away on back streets and down side alleys. You could dedicate an afternoon to doing a fun, and free, photo tour of Dublin to find all the best street art!

![Image](image.jpg)

3. **Visit the Garden of Remembrance**

   This beautiful garden in the heart of the city is intended as a place of quiet remembrance and reflection and is a beautiful place to stop by while in Dublin (opwdublincommemorative.ie).

4. **Have a picnic at the National Botanic Gardens**

   Located on the North side of the city centre, the National Botanic Gardens are an oasis of calm and beauty, and like all the others, entry is free. A premier scientific institution, the gardens also contain the National Herbarium and several historic wrought iron glasshouses (botanicgardens.ie).
5. **A walk in St Stephens Green**

Located close to Grafton Street, Saint Stephens Green is a picturesque park, offering a peaceful oasis from the hustle and bustle of city life. In nice weather, this is a great place to chill out with a good book or have a picnic ([ststephensgreenpark.ie](http://ststephensgreenpark.ie)).

6. **Check out the IMMA**

The 17th-century Royal Hospital Kilmainham is home to the Irish Museum of Modern Art and features free exhibitions of modern Irish and international art ([imma.ie](http://imma.ie)).

7. **View some art at the National Art Gallery**

The National Art Gallery exhibits fine art from Ireland and around the world, has a pretty nice cafe and offers free admission ([nationalgallery.ie](http://nationalgallery.ie)).

8. **Do some reading in the Chester Beatty Library**

This is a fantastic free museum and is a must-see for anyone visiting Dublin. Established in 1950, to house the collections of mining magnate, Sir Alfred Chester Beatty, the Library is one of the premier sources for scholarship in both the Old and New Testaments and is home to one of the most significant collections of Islamic and Far Eastern artefacts ([cbi.ie](http://cbi.ie)).

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**KIDS**

For delegates planning to bring children to smaccDUB, there are lots of fun activities that will keep the little ones busy!

1. **A room full of trampolines!** Trampolining at Jumpzone is very popular with children and adults alike ([jumpzone.ie](http://jumpzone.ie)).

2. **Imaginosity** is Dublin's own Children’s museum. The Ark is a purpose-built children’s arts venue located in Dublin city centre. The Science Gallery Dublin is fantastic creative zone where art & science meet. It is located on the campus of Trinity College Dublin ([imaginosity.ie](http://imaginosity.ie)).

3. While in Dublin, you're likely to see or hear a bright yellow boat on wheels filled with shouting ‘Vikings’. The Viking Splash Tour is a really fun way to tour the city while on-board an amphibious vehicle, dressed in a plastic Viking hat and screaming at passersby! ([vikingsplash.com](http://vikingsplash.com))

4. **Dublin Zoo** in Phoenix Park is the largest zoo in Ireland and one of Dublin's most popular attractions ([dublinzoo.ie](http://dublinzoo.ie)).

5. **Airfield Farm** is a working farm which offers visitors an opportunity to enjoy and learn about food, farming and the natural world ([airfield.ie](http://airfield.ie)).

6. The **National Leprechaun Museum** is an ideal place for children. The attraction is dedicated to Irish mythology and offers some great photo ops! ([leprechaunmuseum.ie](http://leprechaunmuseum.ie))
DID YOU KNOW?

1. The Irish rock band U2 - were born and bred in Dublin. At the site of their original recording studio on Windmill Lane, close to the smaccDUB Convention Centre, you can visit a section of the original graffiti wall in their honour.

2. The Messiah by George Frideric Handel was first performed in public in Dublin on 13th April 1742 at the Great Music Hall in Fishable Street.

3. The Guinness brewery was founded in 1759 at St James’s Gate, Dublin. Arthur Guinness was a very wise man. He negotiated a 9,000 year lease from the city of Dublin and exclusive access to the river Liffey for his brewery! (guinness-storehouse.com)

4. The Brazen Head is Dublin’s oldest pub dating back to 1198 (brazenhead.com). The Dawson Lounge is Dublin’s smallest bar and seats only 40 people! (dublintown.ie)

TOOLS & DOWNLOADS

Check out these free online guides to Dublin city

Visit Dublin: visitdublin.com

Lovin Dublin: lovindublin.com

Totally Dublin: totallydublin.ie

Download the “Visit Dublin Discovery Trails” app: