

Go Wild Dublin

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RIVERDANCE
DIRECTOR

CHATTING WITH JOHN MC COLGAN

THINGS TO
SEE AND DO

IN IRELAND'S CAPITAL CITY

DISCOVER

DUBLIN'S BEST ADVENTURES

DUBLIN-BORN
RUAIRI DOYLE

CEO PRESSREADER.COM



Ireland's Leading Tourism Magazine
Go Wild Dublin June - Sept 2023

Go Wild
Magazine

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Publisher's Note

Welcome to the bustling and vibrant city of Dublin

As the publisher of this magazine, I am thrilled to introduce you to the incredible sights, sounds and experiences Dublin offers.

Dublin is a city with a rich history, a lively culture and a thriving community. From the cobbled streets of the city centre to the rolling hills of the surrounding countryside, Dublin has something for everyone.

In this issue of Go Wild Dublin, we will take you on a journey through the city, exploring its hidden gems and must-visit landmarks. From the famous Guinness Storehouse to the charming neighbourhoods of Temple Bar and St. Stephen's Green, we'll show you the best of what Dublin offers.

But Dublin is more than just a city - it's a county with diverse attractions and activities. Whether you're interested in hiking in the stunning Wicklow Mountains,

visiting historic castles and gardens or exploring quaint seaside towns, county Dublin has it all.

We'll also introduce you to the locals who call Dublin home, from artists and musicians to chefs and entrepreneurs, and show you why this city is known for its warm hospitality and welcoming spirit.

So sit back, relax and let us take you on a journey through Ireland's capital. We hope you enjoy the ride!

Bobby Power

Publisher

Go Wild Magazine titles

Email: bobby@gowildmagazine.com **Tel:** 087 446 7007



What's Next from the Go Wild Magazine team

JULY - Go Wild Staycation Ireland

Our Summer National Staycation title will offer you insights into the best places to explore/eat/stay and enjoy across every county, in hopefully glorious sunshine! Maybe this is the year for balmy summers once again and our focus on the best beaches in Ireland is sure to have you getting the bucket and spade out!

September - Go Wild Irish Spirits

Check out Ireland's newest Whiskey and Gin magazine. Let's raise a glass to our booziest issue of the year, featuring the very best of Irish Whiskey and Irish Gins for any occasion.

OCTOBER - Go Wild Christmas

Ireland's Christmas scene has never been stronger, from the best in Irish fashion hitting the world scene to toy and craft makers creating dynamic Christmas products.





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For all the latest news, visit www.gowildmagazine.com – your official guide to Dublin

Meet the Team

Publisher, MD & Advertising Chief:

Bobby Power
bobby@gowildmagazine.com

Head of Accounts & Director:

Cleo Power
cleo@gowildmagazine.com

Creative Director:

Dave Curtin
dave@brainstorm.ie
www.brainstorm.ie

Editorial & AD Design:

Lynne Clark

Copy Editor: Keith Nicol

IT: Steven Hall

Contributors

Editorials: Meg Walker, Keith Nicol
Claire O'Mahony, Kathleen O'Callaghan

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Guinness Storehouse, Art Installation



Cocktail Culture



@ THE STEAKOUT

As the culinary landscape of Limerick city continues to evolve, it's clear that cocktail culture is on the rise. More and more, people are seeking out craft cocktails and unique libations to pair with their meals. And at our beloved 35 Year old steakout restaurant, we're proud to say that we're adapting to this trend and elevating our cocktail program to meet the demand.

At our restaurant, we've taken notice of this shift in tastes and preferences. We've put together a team of skilled mixologists who are passionate about their craft and dedicated to creating one-of-a-kind cocktails that perfectly complement our menu of mouth-watering steaks and sides.

Our cocktail menu features a carefully curated selection of classic cocktails,

as well as inventive new creations that are exclusive to our restaurant. Each drink is made with the highest quality ingredients and a keen attention to detail, resulting in cocktails that are not only delicious, but visually stunning as well.

One of the ways we're adapting to the rise of cocktail culture is by constantly updating our menu to incorporate new and exciting flavors. We're always on the lookout for the latest trends and innovations in the cocktail world, and we're not afraid to experiment with new ingredients and techniques.

In addition, we're also placing a renewed emphasis on the art of mixology. We believe that a great cocktail is more than just a drink – it's an experience. That's why we're

training our staff to be knowledgeable about the cocktails on our menu, so they can help guide our guests to the perfect drink to complement their meal.

Overall, we're thrilled to see the rise of cocktail culture in our city, and we're excited to be a part of it. We believe that our commitment to quality ingredients, creativity, and innovation sets us apart from the competition, and we're dedicated to providing our guests with a truly unforgettable dining experience.

So, whether you're a seasoned cocktail enthusiast or just looking to try something new, we invite you to come to our restaurant and experience the best that cocktail culture has to offer. We guarantee you won't be disappointed.

Texas Steakout

RESTAURANT

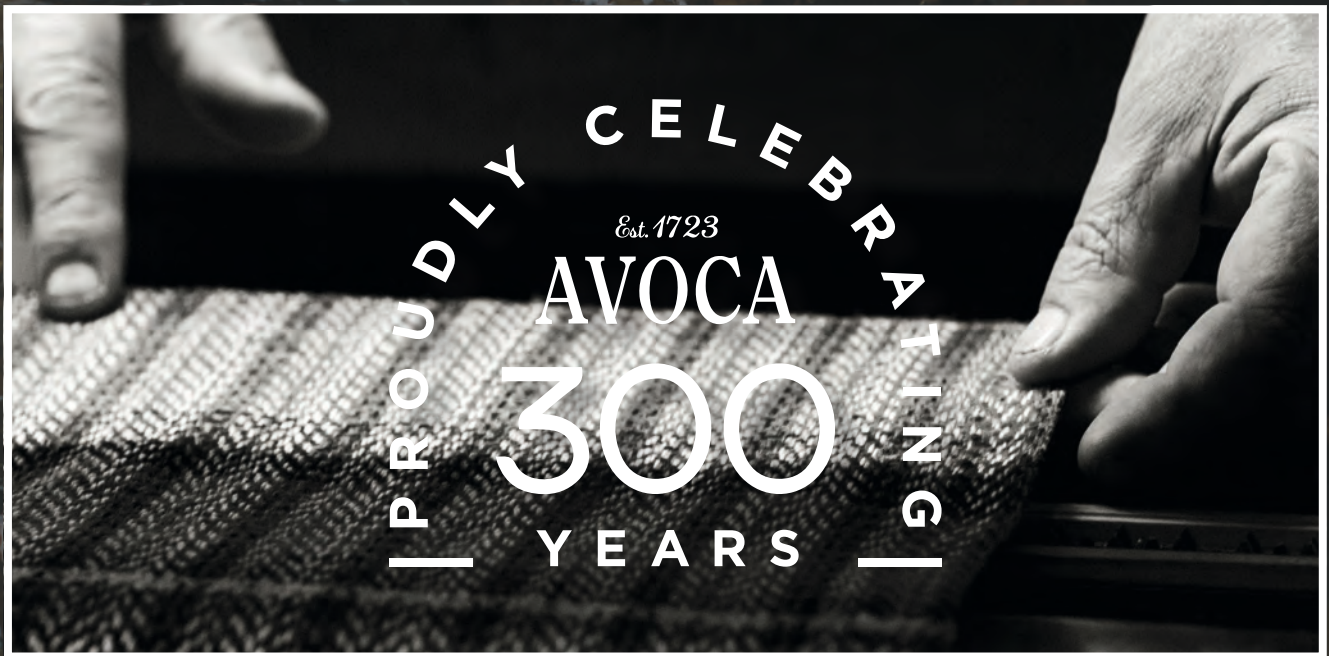
The Clover Club

The Clover Club cocktail is a classic cocktail that originated in the late 1800s and was popular during the Prohibition era. It is a gin-based cocktail that also includes lemon juice, raspberry syrup, and egg white, which gives the drink a frothy and silky texture.

The drink has a beautiful pink hue and a balanced flavor profile that is both sweet and sour. It is a refreshing and elegant cocktail that is perfect for sipping on a warm summer evening or enjoying as a pre-dinner drink.

Texas Steakout
116 O Connell Street | Limerick

Texassteakout.ie



For Avoca, it all began in our little weaving Mill in Avoca Village, Co. Wicklow, back in 1723...

Deriving from the old Irish word *abhoca* meaning 'little treasure', we have been weaving here since 1723 and are proud to say there are *skilled* third generation weavers still working here today. 300 years later in 2023, colour and craft are still at the heart of what we do, and we are *very* proud of our history, heritage, and of our talented weavers.

Speaking about our 300 year anniversary, Avoca's Managing Director Shane Flynn said,

"Avoca is a widely recognised brand associated with the *finest* of Irish produce by our customers in Ireland, and indeed across the world. Celebrating the 300 year anniversary of our Mill in Avoca Village is a historic milestone and one we are *immensely* proud of.

When visiting the weaving Mill, the hub and *heart* of our business, you get a real sense of the heritage as well as the skill and expertise of our weaving team. *Extremely* talented craftspeople have been working with us for *many* years. For some, the weaving trade has been passed down through the generations of their family and they can identify family members in the old photos adorning the walls of our Mill.

300 years on and we're proud to stay aligned to traditions, keeping colour and craft at the centre of all we do at Avoca. We look forward to continuing these traditions for many more years to come".

Avoca's Tourism and Events Manager Joanne Pollard said,

"This year is such a *special* year for the teams working across the Avoca business, in particular the team at the Avoca Mill who not only work with *tremendous* passion designing and producing all our woollen product but also share this passion with thousands of visitors to the Mill every year. It's a *huge* privilege to be part of the 300 year celebrations and to share our history and heritage through our daily guided tours with visitors from near and far".

To celebrate the 300 year anniversary of our mill, Ireland's oldest working weaving mill, our in-house design team have created six *beautiful* throws. The intention behind these designs is to honour our mill's *humble* beginnings back in 1723, when raw wool was brought here and was turned into cloth and blankets for the local community.

One *special* throw in the range is woven with custom spun yarn using wool from Wicklow Cheviot Sheep, locally sourced from wool farms close to our mill. Weaving is love and labour intensive. It takes a *lot* of patience to get perfection. Many hands play their part, from warping and tying-in to weaving, mending, finishing, washing, brushing and labelling.

Every thread in our famous throws whisper the tale of our little mill in Co. Wicklow, where we've been weaving since 1723 & today, you can still hear the clickety-clack of the looms at work.



River, rock, flower & flock, tradition in *every thread.*

The Avoca Mill is open daily for guided tours
from 10th March - 31st October.
Visit www.avoca.com for more.

TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED ON ARRIVAL FOR GROUPS 10+.
EMAIL TOURS-EVENTS@AVOCA.COM.



AVOCA



Riverdance returns



Director John McColgan talks to Claire O'Mahony about the enduring appeal of the show, and why its return to Dublin this summer is so special.

At the 1994 Eurovision Song Contest, the audience awaited the interval act. Traditionally, this is when the host country puts on a worthy, cultural performance. What the audience in Dublin and those watching the broadcast across Europe were presented with was the incredible spectacle of Riverdance, a seven-minute act that showed Irish dancing, music and culture in an entirely new way.

Riverdance director and co-creator John McColgan, whose wife and creative partner Moya Doherty was the commissioning producer for Eurovision 1994, was sitting in the 4,000-strong audience on the night. "When Riverdance came out, their jaws dropped and when it was finished, the last stamp, there was silence for three seconds and then the entire audience as one leaped to their feet with a big primal roar," he recalls. "It was an extraordinary reaction to what happened and we knew at that time, and we suspected it before, but we knew we had something special that demanded to be turned into a full show."

Fast forward to 27 years later and the Riverdance numbers speak to its phenomenal success: it's played throughout 48 countries across six continents, and has been seen live by over 28.5 million people

worldwide with over 3-million copies of the Grammy Award-winning CD sold globally. This summer, following sold-out tours throughout the USA, Europe and Dubai, Riverdance 25th Anniversary Show returns home to the Gaiety Theatre Dublin.

Ask John what the enduring appeal of Riverdance is and he points to several factors.

"I think there's no real language barrier and that has really contributed to its accessibility," he says. "I think Bill Whelan has written a magnificent score for which he won a Grammy award, so the score and the music is fantastic. And we are lucky in that we cast the best dancers from around the world."

John is just back from Los Angeles, where Riverdance was playing at The Dolby Theatre. He remains hands-on with the show but says that its day-to-day running is in the hands of associate director, Padraic Moyles, who was formerly a lead dancer in Riverdance for 18 years. "Padraic is wonderful," he says. "The cast and crew have great respect for him because they know that he knows the show intimately." John himself will go out three-times on a tour. "I love keeping in touch," he says. "We call ourselves

a Riverdance family and everyone is very supportive of everyone else."

The return of Riverdance to Dublin is something that everyone involved looks forward to, and this is its 19th year in the Gaiety Theatre. "The audiences love it in Dublin, it's a very intimate space," says John. "They feel very close to the performances. It's probably one of the smallest venues that we play in around the world; most of the venues are 2,000 or 3,000 and the Gaiety is a 1,000. The Gaiety has a special magic and the cast love being in Dublin and spending the summer months here."

He notes some of the reasons why the cast enjoy their stint so much in the Irish capital. "There are so many wonderful museums in Dublin, the National Art Gallery... There's lot to see and do. Because they're close to Stephen's Green, they love going there and to Merrion Square Park and walking around Georgian Dublin. It's a beautiful city to walk around in when the weather is nice, and the audiences are warm and friendly."

Riverdance 25th Anniversary Show is at the Gaiety Theatre, Dublin from 15th June – 10th September. www.riverdance.com



Riverdance
25
ANNIVERSARY SHOW

Composer
BILL WHELAN

Producer
MOYA DOHERTY

Director
JOHN MCCOLGAN

GAIETY THEATRE, DUBLIN

15 JUNE - 10 SEPTEMBER

[Ticketmaster.ie](https://www.ticketmaster.ie)

[Riverdance.com](https://www.riverdance.com)

In person at the Gaiety Theatre Box Office
Groups of 10 or more: groups@gaietytheatre.ie

GAIETY
THEATRE
South King Street, Dublin 2

Celebrate *Ulysses* at Dublin's Bloomsday Festival



Dublin is gearing up for its annual celebration of all things Joycean with the unique Bloomsday Festival.

Bloomsday Festival (12–18 June) celebrates James Joyce's seminal novel *Ulysses* and the city and people of Dublin where it was set. The novel follows the footsteps of its main character, Leopold Bloom, around Dublin on Thursday 16th June, 1904, and for over 70-years Dublin has marked 16th June as Bloomsday. Now the day has grown into a wider festival with an extensive multi-day programme.

With street performances, lectures, theatre, music, readings, workshops, walking tours, food and drink events, the festival brings to life the characters and places made famous in the book.

These include Sweny's Chemist on Lincoln Place, Glasnevin Cemetery and Davy Byrne's Pub on Duke Street, as well as the James Joyce Martello Tower in Sandycove, along the coast of south County Dublin. The tower, which features at the start of *Ulysses*, houses a museum containing letters, photographs and some of the author's personal possessions.

Dressing up in Edwardian garb is a great way to get into the spirit of the day as is enjoying Bloom's favourite lunch of a gorgonzola sandwich and glass of burgundy.

And it doesn't matter if you haven't read the book, you will still enjoy the atmosphere and merriment across the city.

This year's festival includes a comic adaptation of the novel, *Blooming Ulysses*, and a daring theatrical journey



into the mind and heart of James Joyce's most sensual hero, Molly Bloom, in Yes! Reflections of Molly Bloom.

There will be music performances by Irish folk music act Hibsen and A Celebration of Love: Joycean Poetry & Songs will take place in St. Andrew's church. In a unique event, the bellringers of Christ Church will ring the actual bells that feature in *Ulysses*.

Walking tours will introduce James Joyce's Dublin and follow the path of Leopold Bloom.

On 15th and 16th June, there will be



special events at Dalkey Castle and Heritage Centre including performances of extracts from the book and guided walks.

And as well as the organised events, there will be impromptu readings in pubs, cafes and even on the streets of the city, as locals and visitors alike create their own Bloomsday memories.

The James Joyce Centre has been the organiser of the Bloomsday Festival since 1994. The centre is open year-round providing exhibitions, courses, lectures and literary walking tours of Dublin.

Dublin is a UNESCO City of Literature and there is much to explore in the city that celebrates its writers old and new.

During your Bloomsday visit, make sure to visit the Museum of Literature Ireland (MOLI) to view exhibitions, audio-visual presentations and view literary gems including 'Copy No. 1' of *Ulysses*.

And you can visit the man himself at the National Gallery, where a number of portraits of him hang and where special tours, talks and a film are planned for Bloomsday.

Alternatively head for the James Joyce statue on North Earl Street and use your mobile phone to hear the statue "talk".

www.ireland.com

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Ruairí Doyle: CEO PressReader Vancouver

By Kathleen O'Callaghan



Ireland is rightfully proud of its iconic brand leaders like Kerrygold, Baileys and Tayto crisps. However, some of our greatest leaders and business brains are to be found heading up corporations abroad. This is true of Ruairí Doyle, who is originally from Wicklow and is now CEO of PressReader Group in Vancouver, Canada.

"My background is in news and media but mainly in the technical side," explains Ruairí. "I started out as a young software engineer in Unison.ie, part of the INM (Independent News and Media) group. Then I became more curious about the project management aspect of things and was interested in how the whole product and business side comes together.

"I set up an offshoot company called 'GrabOne' within INM in 2011. It was a successful Groupon clone at a time when bargains were popular after the downturn."

Ruairí then headed off to London to join Google before returning to Ireland in 2017 to establish the Irish operations of PressReader as the General Manager. "I made numerous trips to head office in Vancouver before I eventually transferred there as VP, Product. I was privileged to step into the boots of CEO just last year," he says, smiling and looking much younger than his 42 years.

He also met his French-Canadian wife, Kim, in Vancouver and they have a two-year-old toddler and another baby on the way. Ruairí says the transition to

Vancouver was fairly smooth, although he misses his family and friends back home.

"Kim and I love to travel," Ruairí says. "We went to Mexico City recently on a babymoon. It's a beautiful city architecturally and the food is wonderful. However, I do miss the simplicity of travel in Ireland where in a couple of hours you can be in a totally different regional culture – whether it's Belfast, Donegal or Clare."

Ruairí says the PressReader Group's primary goal is to develop technology solutions that allow individuals to access reliable content and high-quality journalism while also enabling publishers to expand their reach and connect with a global audience.

The company's flagship product, PressReader, is an all-you-can-read platform that features more than 7,000 newspapers and magazines in 120 different countries, from the world's most well-respected newspapers to niche publications covering everything from crocheting to cricket.

"We generally see PressReader referred to as 'the Netflix or Spotify of newspapers and magazines,'" Ruairí says, explaining that the bulk of PressReader's business is B2B, with the platform available in hotels, airports, libraries, and cruise ships all over the globe. "Tourists and business travellers are avid consumers of local knowledge and transnational news," he notes.

"We manage just over 500 staff globally – including 300 in the Philippines at our content processing centre in Manila," the CEO says. "I work with a fantastic team here of over 200 in Vancouver as well as a small but mighty presence in Dublin."

"Our goal is to continue to bring quality journalism and a diversity of content to a variety of contexts each and every day, solving the insatiable demand for content and helping businesses connect with customers in new and unique ways," Ruairí says. "And of course, we want to continue to grow



our business along the way."

PressReader's mission, Ruairí says, is to empower and enrich curious minds. "I believe with all the recent advances in artificial intelligence we are on the cusp of the biggest technology transformation of my generation since the introduction of the Internet. It is going to significantly change business and our responsibility is to engage, interact and utilise these advances in a responsible way."

"Our opportunity is to continue to offer a quality-content value proposition to readers," Ruairí says, "and with the advancement of AI, it's up to news aggregators such as us to demonstrate the content value chain so it can be tracked back to a respected human. We can determine if it's a well-informed, balanced point of view and not some unreliable, machine-generated information with an agenda."

"The craft of investigative journalism is key to a thriving democracy," he says. "I am an optimist, as we have predominantly used technology to propel humanity forward."

"There are lots of wonderful new content creators and amazing publications being launched every day. So, let's embrace the technology and respect it," he concludes.





Visiting Ireland? Go Wild Magazine is now available on PressReader!

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Go Wild articles in 21 different languages!





GUINNESS STOREHOUSE

Visit the Guinness Storehouse in Dublin City, to experience the history, heart and soul of one of Ireland's most famous beers.

Make your way through the Guinness Storehouse gates located in the heart of St. James's Gate, in Dublin City. Explore seven floors of the Guinness Storehouse building, which was once the fermentation plant of the brewery. Discover more about the ingredients, history and culture that tell the Guinness story before taking in the 360-degree views of Dublin City from one of Dublin's highest vantage points, at the Gravity Bar. To your right, you will see the Wicklow Mountains, where Guinness sources its fresh Irish water for brewing. To the left, you will see the Phoenix Park and the Wellington Monument.

Visitors to the Guinness Storehouse can also experience the Guinness STOUTie,

a pint of Guinness with your own selfie printed onto the head. Visit the Guinness Academy where you will learn how to pour your own pint of Guinness. Follow the legendary six-step ritual, counting the 119.5 seconds it takes to pour a perfect pint of Guinness. Witness the surge



and eventually settle and take home a certificate to show you were here.

If you would like a more private tour, the Connoisseur Experience is a journey through the tastes, smells and the story of Guinness. Here you will sample four of the most popular beers that have ever been brewed at Guinness while your guide talks you through all there is to know about each beer. Discover the origins of famous Guinness beers and gain an understanding into the craft and connection behind one of the most iconic brands in the world.

The Guinness Storehouse is also home to Arthur's Bar and 1837 Bar &



Brasserie, both offering delicious food options to perfectly pair with your pint of Guinness. From oysters to Guinness stew or a classic beef burger, there is something for everyone to enjoy.



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Information: **T** +353 (0) 1 6777 444 **E** info@museum.ie **W** www.museum.ie





What I love about Malahide



By *Pauline Matijasevich*

I feel beyond blessed to be living in Malahide – a gorgeous coastal village, with a castle that anchors the Fingal heritage trail and attracts visitors from all over the world..

There is a real community spirit here and there is so much to offer in terms of what to see, do and eat!

I love walking the coast to Portmarnock, shouting from the sidelines when my boys play football with an infinity sea view on Paddy's Hill, bringing my dog for a walk and letting him run around the dog off-leash area in Malahide Castle grounds and picking up a coffee at Avoca on the way back through the walking trails snaking through the acres of beautiful parkland.

The coastal walk from Malahide to Portmarnock sets you up for the day, a delightful 4km trail set on an elevated path with parkland on one side and the sea on the other, taking you past Velvet Strand and the Martello towers at Portmarnock and Robswall. Where else would you want to be? Look behind and you can see the boats ebbing and flowing on the marina, the yachts mooring and the boatyard in plain sight – blink and you could be in the South of France or

Bondi Beach!

I love that you can take your pick on any given day of any cuisine; be it street food on the marina to Michelin recommended restaurants in the heart of the village. There's always a vibe and for a spring in your step, you can take your pick of coffee aficionados, gelato, and chai tea purveyors. Fantastic independent boutiques and pubs with cosy rooms with craic and music on tap! Devilment guaranteed!

It would be remiss of me not to mention the 800-year-old castle that was home to the Talbot family from 1185 until 1973. Get a glimpse at how the other half lived in the Great Hall filled with antiques and paintings on loan from the National Gallery. The Walled Gardens are also home to the only exotic butterfly house in Ireland, where rare species flutter all around you in a glasshouse filled with tropical plants.

The Casino Model Railway Museum, a 5 min leisurely stroll away from the castle is set inside a thatched cottage, so quaint it could be on the cover of a children's book. Cottage orné, translated



as decorated cottage, dates back to a movement of 'rustic' stylised cottages of the late 18th and early 19th century

Inside, there are around 350 model trains, some of which run on tracks overhead. They've recently opened a Children's Education Centre where your kids can try their luck at driving a train and complete a series of fun challenges along the way!

Everything is in close proximity to each other and if you ever do feel like escaping, Dublin airport is a 15 min drive away and Dublin city is a mere half hour away on the dart. I love Malahide with its grand old castle and beautiful coastline, bracing walks in beautiful nature and soaked in heritage. I feel blessed and inspired every day. I love where I live and treat it like a travel destination! The more layers of history I uncover about it, the more interesting it becomes.



Get away from the hustle and bustle of
Dublin's centre and come to a more relaxed location.



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Visit www.newbridgehouseandgardens.com



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Visit www.malahidecastleandgardens.ie



THE CASINO
MODEL RAILWAY MUSEUM

Ireland's only Model Railway Museum



Only
10 mins
from
Dublin Airport



If you fancy a short detour from the castle take a stroll to Ireland's only model railway. Step back in time and explore one of the world's most unique model railway collections. Housed in a beautifully restored Casino cottage and located in the village you will be blown away by the workmanship and exquisite collection. If you have time indulge in one of the many award winning bars and restaurants in Malahide. Dart and bus routes to Dublin city centre.

Visit www.modelrailwaymuseum.ie





Temple Bar

awaits your discovery

1. Visit the Temple Bar:

This iconic bar is one of the most famous landmarks in Dublin. It is known for its lively atmosphere, live music and wide selection of drinks.

2. Explore the Dublin Castle:

This historic castle was built in the 13th century and was



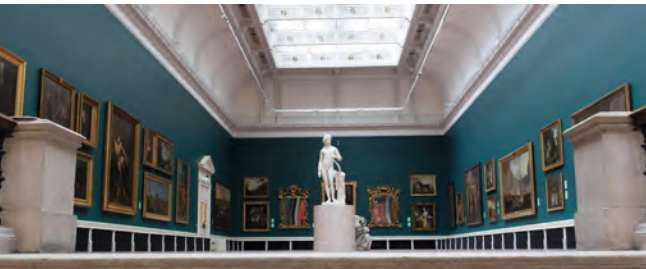
once the seat of British rule in Ireland. It is now a popular tourist attraction with beautiful gardens and impressive architecture.

3. Walk along the River Liffey:

The River Liffey flows through the heart of Dublin and provides stunning views of the city's landmarks. Take a stroll along the river and enjoy the scenery.

4. Visit the National Gallery of Ireland:

This art museum is home to a vast collection of Irish and European art, including works by famous artists such as Caravaggio, Vermeer and Monet.



5. Enjoy the nightlife:

Temple Bar is famous for its nightlife, with numerous pubs, bars, and clubs offering live music and entertainment. Check out some of the local hotspots and enjoy the lively atmosphere.

6. Visit the Irish Whiskey Museum:

Learn about the history and production of Irish whiskey at this interactive museum. Sample some of the finest whiskeys and discover the secrets behind their unique flavours.

7. Check out the street performers:

Temple Bar is home to many street performers, including musicians, dancers, and artists. Take a stroll around the neighbourhood and enjoy the free entertainment.

8. Visit the Ha'penny Bridge:

This historic pedestrian bridge was built in the 19th century



and is one of the most recognizable landmarks in Dublin. Take a walk across the bridge and enjoy the views of the River Liffey.

9. Shop at the Dublin Flea Market:

This popular market takes place every Saturday and Sunday and offers a wide range of vintage and handmade goods. Browse the stalls and find unique souvenirs to take home.



10. Visit the Book of Kells:

This ancient manuscript is housed in the Trinity College Library and is one of Ireland's most treasured artefacts. Admire the intricate illustrations and learn about the book's history and significance.



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Dublin is a swimmer's paradise and there are many excellent idyllic and safe places to take a dip. Dublin also boasts Blue Flag Beaches at Portmarnock, Seapoint, Portrane and Killiney.



Dollymount Strand

Take a stroll along this wonderful stretch of sand – a favourite haunt of walkers, cyclists and runners. The Strand also takes in amazing views of Dublin Bay. It hosts a nature reserve and also allows for a bit of kitesurfing.

Bull Island

A sandbar island, which is within a short reach of any city centre location. This beach is also a dream for anyone who loves water sports.



Forty Foot - Sandycove

An exciting promontory on the southern tip of Dublin Bay at Sandycove. It's one of the county's most popular bathing spots with a 250-year tradition among swimmers. There are plenty of handrails to help swimmers have a safe and easy access to the emerald sea. This Dublin institution was male-only and used to be popular with nudists.

Tower Bay, Portrane

Near the Forty Foot, you can view the Tower Bay, which is also near to Lambay Island. Overlooking this idyllic nook is one of the many Martello towers dotted around the coastline.

The Great South Wall

A haven for swimmers near Ringsend and the Grand Canal Dock. Close to the famous Poolbeg towers and you can also take in the chance to view the busy workings of Dublin Port.



Dublin's Best Beaches



Killiney - White Rock

This is a cool hideaway at low tide. The beach can be stony but between the White Rock Beach and the beautiful Vico Baths, this area is popular. The water depth is good and the views are spectacular as far as the Sugarloaf Mountain.



Bullock Harbour

If you wish to jump from high viewpoints, then this is the place for you. Near the Forty Foot, it is a haven for thrill-seekers. The harbour is also home to a wonderful scuba diving school.

Skerries

A Blue Flag beach on the northside, peppered with picturesque villages.



Burrow Beach

Also known as the 'Hole In The Wall' in Sutton and a good stretch of about 1.3km in one of the country's most scenic area.

The Velvet Strand

This Portmarnock flat sands beach has been kissed by fame when in 1930, aviator Charles Kindgford Smith used the sand as a runway. This brave man's flight to Newfoundland began in a calm Irish azure setting.



Flying the Blue Flag

Four of the beaches along the coast are of Blue Flag quality.

1. Seapoint - Dun Laogharie/Rathdown
2. Portmarnock/Velvet Strand
3. Bray South Promenade
4. Greystones

These beaches have achieved the Blue Flag standard - which is an international award of the highest accolade. It recognises outstanding compliance with bathing water quality.

The programme aims to raise environmental awareness and promote sound environmental management of beaches, marinas and inland bathing waters around the world.

The beaches and marinas that have achieved this accolade have complied with strict criteria relating to water quality, safety, facilities for visitors, beach management, environmental education and the provision of information.

The Ultimate Bucket List For

Dublin

Discover the top 20 things to see and do



1 Visit Trinity College and see the Book of Kells.

2 Explore Dublin Castle and its history.

3 Take a tour of the Guinness Storehouse especially the Gravity Bar

4 Visit St. Patrick's Cathedral.

5 Take a walk through St. Stephen's Green Park.

6 Visit the National Museum of Ireland - Archaeology.

7 See the famous Molly Malone statue.

8 Take a literary walking tour and visit famous authors' homes.

9 Visit the Phoenix Park and see the Dublin Zoo.

10 Witness History at the GPO Museum

11 Explore the National Gallery of Ireland.

12 Visit the James Joyce Centre.

13 Take a tour of the GAA Museum in Croke Park.

14 Visit the Dublin Writers Museum.

15 Take a trip to the Wicklow Mountains.

16 Visit the National Botanic Gardens.

17 Explore the Temple Bar neighbourhood and its nightlife.

18 Take a trip to Howth and see the lighthouse and cliffs.

19 Visit Roe & Co Distillery and discover great whiskey

20 Take a tour of the Kilmainham Gaol Museum to learn about Ireland's political history.



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How the story goes

Seanchóiche founder Ciaran Gaffney talks to Claire O'Mahony about how storytelling is in the Irish DNA, and taking his storytelling events all over the world

The tradition of storytelling in Ireland is deeply rooted. It's an ancient art form that has been practised for centuries yet one that might seem at odds with our digital age. Happily, this is not the case because in recent years, storytelling has undergone a revival with events such as Seanchóiche spotlighting the new generation of storytellers.

Ciaran Gaffney is the founder of Seanchóiche, which was set up in October 2021. The name is an amalgamation of 'seanchaí' meaning a traditional storyteller in Irish, and 'oiche', which translates as 'night'.

The concept sees people gather in a venue on an evening, where around 12 people, who have signed up to speak, will tell their tales: ordinary people telling extraordinary stories. Gaffney came up with the idea for the venture after attending a similar event in Argentina. He reached out to friends asking them to contact him if they might be interested in talking part and woke up the next morning with 45 texts expressing interest.

"I didn't have a venue, I didn't even know what the name of the event was going to be," he recalls. But that first night, which took place in the Fumbally Stables in Dublin 8, turned out to be a

resounding success. Seanchóiche has now expanded to include events across Ireland, London, Amsterdam, Melbourne and Sydney, at the beginning of June, and with plans for evenings in the US and Canada later in the year. "This is an industry that isn't really being tapped into but should be tapped into because it's such an important part of our culture and our DNA," says Gaffney. Such is the success of the venture that Gaffney has left his job as a brand manager with a drinks company to concentrate full time on the business. "Storytelling is what connects us all and brings us together, after a couple of years of being quite disconnected."

While cities like London and Amsterdam have large expat communities, it's not only Irish people who are attending the events. At the second Amsterdam evening, 60% of the storytellers were Dutch. "People mightn't have a tradition of storytelling but when they're exposed to our culture, they realise that it's more of a human thing than a national thing. It's not that country-specific to be able to tell a story, everybody can do it," explains Gaffney.

But does everyone truly have a story in them?

"I think so," he says. "I can see that

we've probably all told a story in the past 24 hours whether it's a something as trivial as who you saw in the shop or something that's very important and very private. I've also heard from people who say they have benefited from the night as much as the speaker, because they felt so involved in the other person's story that was being told because it really spoke to them based on their own experiences. There is that element of unity through storytelling because we all do have one to tell but some of us just aren't ready to tell it."

Seanchóiche events will be taking place in Dublin over the summer months, and details are to be announced. Anybody interested in speaking at an event can email a summary of what they'd like to talk about – a poem, an anecdote, a piece of fiction – via the Seanchóiche website, although the evenings are proving so popular, there's no guarantee someone will get a slot. "It's so cool to go through so many applications every day; I haven't read a book in months!" Gaffney says. "It's amazing and I love it."

For information about events see seanchoiche.com and on Instagram [@seanchoiche](https://www.instagram.com/seanchoiche).



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AVONDALE

www.beyondthetreesavondale.com



There's plenty to discover on the Northside of the city, from world-class museums to historic landmarks.

With a story to be found around every corner, the Northside is the perfect place to explore when you're in Dublin. Whether you're interested in the literary heritage of the city or the sporting legends of Ireland, you won't be short of things to do north of the Liffey.

Glasnevin Cemetery Museum & Tours

More than 1.5 million souls are laid to rest in the Glasnevin Cemetery, including some of Dublin's most famous characters, from writer Brendan Behan to revolutionary leader Michael Collins. While you're free to wander around the cemetery alone, the guided tours are excellent and lead you through some fascinating tales from Ireland's history. You can also climb the O'Connell Tower (the tallest round tower in Ireland) for a great view of the city.



National Botanic Gardens

The Round Tower of St. Canice's Cathedral, is the oldest standing structure in Kilkenny and, weather permitting, you can climb to the top of its 30-metres for incredible views of the city and nearby countryside. The religious roots of the site go back centuries, evident in the tombstones and round-headed stained-glass windows.



EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum

The story of the Irish diaspora is fascinating and this state of the art museum unravels what it means to be Irish in an engaging and interactive way. You'll learn all about the different periods of emigration through Irish history and why 10-million people left Ireland. Afterwards, continue the historical theme onboard the Jeanie Johnston, the replica famine ship that's docked just a few feet away. This moving tour will give you a glimpse of what emigration was like for so many.



GAA Museum and Croke Park Stadium

If you're a GAA fan, a visit to Croke Park is more like a pilgrimage. But if you visit on a non-match day you'll get to experience it in much more depth. Take a tour of the stadium and you'll get to see the sights that are usually off-limits, from the dressing rooms to the players' tunnel. In the GAA Museum you'll

find the original Sam Maguire and Liam MacCarthy cups as well as great interactive displays. Feeling brave? Take the Kellogg's Skyline tour of the top of the stadium for incredible views from 17 storeys high.



Dublin City Gallery: The Hugh Lane

This beautiful gallery is one of the Northside's most important attractions. You'll find contemporary artworks from Ireland and around the world displayed in the beautiful light-filled gallery, as well as temporary exhibitions that change regularly. A highlight is the studio of Sir Francis Bacon, which was painstakingly transferred from London and recreated piece by piece in the gallery. This ramshackle space is filled with empty champagne bottles and open tubes of paint, giving a unique insight into the mind of the famous artist. Don't miss the beautiful stained glass room by the entrance with pieces from Harry Clarke.



GPO Witness History Museum

During the 1916 Rising the GPO (General Post Office) was the headquarters for the leaders of the rebellion. Now this historic building includes an immersive museum that tells those stories through interactive and stirring exhibits. You'll experience the events from both sides of the conflict, as seen through the eyes of bystanders caught in the crossfire.



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FREE THINGS TO DO IN DUBLIN *on a staycation*

NATIONAL GALLERY OF IRELAND

The National Gallery might be the country's most important art gallery but it doesn't forget that art is for everyone, not just grown-ups who like to nod sagely in front of their favourite paintings. There are family-friendly tours of the permanent collection on Sundays that are specially designed for young audiences, as well as a monthly tour that is exclusively for new parents and their babies. There's a dedicated space in the atrium for kids to tap into their inner artist, while on Sundays there are free, drop-in workshops, where kids are taught the basics of how to draw and paint.

NATIONAL HISTORY MUSEUM

One of the most popular museums in Dublin for families is the Natural History Museum, where prehistoric skeletons and Victorian cabinets stuffed with specimens have been enthralling visitors of all ages since Scottish explorer Dr. David Livingstone declared it open in 1857. The collections in the 'Dead Zoo' are divided between the Irish Room (where you'll find the skeletons of three 10,000-year-old elk), the World Animals Collection (highlights include chimps, apes and human skeletons as well as a 20m-long fin whale found in Sligo) and the Blaschka Collection, made up of glass models of marine creatures. At the Discovery Zone visitors can handle taxidermy specimens and rifle through open drawers.

CHESTER BEATTY

Entrance to the Chester Beatty Museum and its wonderful collection of ancient books and beautiful artefacts is free but the real draw for families is the varied selection of classes and activities. Kids and adults can learn about a bunch of fascinating subjects from how to draw the perfect horse to the music of the Middle East, while activities range from silk weaving to Qi Gong in the rooftop garden.

ST. STEPHEN'S GREEN

In the heart of one of Dublin's busiest neighbourhoods and right beside Grafton Street, leafy St. Stephen's Green is made for a family walk or picnic. Once a private park available only to those who rented keys, it was gifted to the city in 1880 and has been free to enjoy ever since. Kids can feed the ducks in the pond or run around in the playground, while the inviting paths and nicely landscaped gardens provide a leafy escape for everyone. As you wander, 15 commemorative statues and memorials dotted about the park add the odd teachable moment along the way.

To round off the day and although it's not free check out the options with City Kayaking.

CITY KAYAKING

A walk across the famous Ha'penny Bridge provides a handy way to cross the Liffey and an irresistible photo opportunity. But why be ordinary and just walk over it, when you can experience the 200-year-old span in a new way? An extra safe City Kayaking trip gives you the only chance to paddle underneath and see a different side of the capital's iconic bridges. This leisurely glide down the River Liffey on 'sit on top' kayaks is a special family adventure you'll be talking about for ages.

Courtesy of Visit Dublin.com



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Fabulous Fishers has its Customers Hooked!

Kathleen O'Callaghan chatting with Rebecca Harrison Managing Director

Fishers of Newtownmountkennedy (yes: the village does have the longest name in Ireland!), is a wonderful destination retail outlet in the heart of County Wicklow. The award-winning store has been family run for forty-four years and is a great supporter and advocate of fresh local produce and crafts. **Rebecca Harrison**, (44) is the proud Managing Director of a unique company that punches way above its weight and its original expectations.

In fact, it started out as an outdoor 'shootin'n'fishin' store, catering for country folks who went pheasant shooting and flyfishing but slowly it evolved over the years to embrace all kinds of retail supplies. They still have the great range of outdoor gear, along with directional women and menswear, plus a fantastic range of gifts and beautiful Irish products including leather bags, chic accessories and designer handknits. There is also a café, children's clothing shop, bed and bedding store and a homeware section too. Small wonder it has become a destination shop for tourists

and Irish alike as they gather there to shop for themselves or others and, for a nutritious lunch or a reviving coffee.

"Fishers is a family business that has been in existence for 44-years," says Becci, as she is better known by locals and customers alike. "Our main collections, from Ireland and Europe, offer everyday style for the way we live today. We also still stock a great range of country clothing, part of our heritage, and perfect for outdoor pursuits and hillwalking. Here, in the Garden of Ireland, our selection of Irish cosmetics are very popular with our shoppers, along with knitwear, handwoven blankets and gifting concepts."

When the Covid restrictions lifted they decided to create a Wellness Hub for visitors to enjoy. "We opened The Courtyard with therapy clinics that include a Massage therapist, a Skin specialist, as well as a Physiotherapist and a Play therapist in addition to a health food store and hairdressers, who have been with us longer," Becci explains. "Offering something for any wellbeing need to unwind, get pampered and recharge the batteries."

As well as opening the wellness hub, they introduced a farmers market on site, which, from time-to-time, offering fresh produce from the local farmers and to give economic support to small businesses in the community.

"We were fortunate we had a strong online presence before the pandemic so we maintained a steady stream of orders for our clothing, which really suited people's more casual needs and their desire to enjoy the outdoors during the Pandemic. And,

we ship all over the world. When things reopened, we found that we were busier than ever as our customers wanted to shop in person, enjoy that feelgood factor again and enjoy the pleasures of browsing and meeting friends for a bite to eat."

The treat counter is simply mouth-watering with everything made in house daily, from zesty lemon drizzle cake to delicious chocolate brownies, crisp vanilla shortbread to light fruit scones, double coffee cake, carrot cake, Bakewell tart and caramel squares.

Becci's sister also helps to run the expanding store too and together they have introduced more fun activities and events that bring inspiration and entertainment into the locality. "I love arranging the seasonal fashion shows and our models are typically members of staff as well as friends and neighbours, so it's a very enjoyable and casual occasion. Our customers love seeing the outfits on "real" people, looking fabulous!" Becci is a stunning ambassador for the fashion brands too.

She is also an experienced radio broadcaster who hosts her own radio show on Dublin City FM at lunchtimes once a month. 'Making a Difference' is a popular radio slot where she interviews people who have gone out of their way to make a difference in their community through enterprising ideas and charitable fundraisers.

Fishers certainly has a host of fascinating concepts on offer and remains a shining example of retail excellence right in the heart of Newtownmountkennedy.



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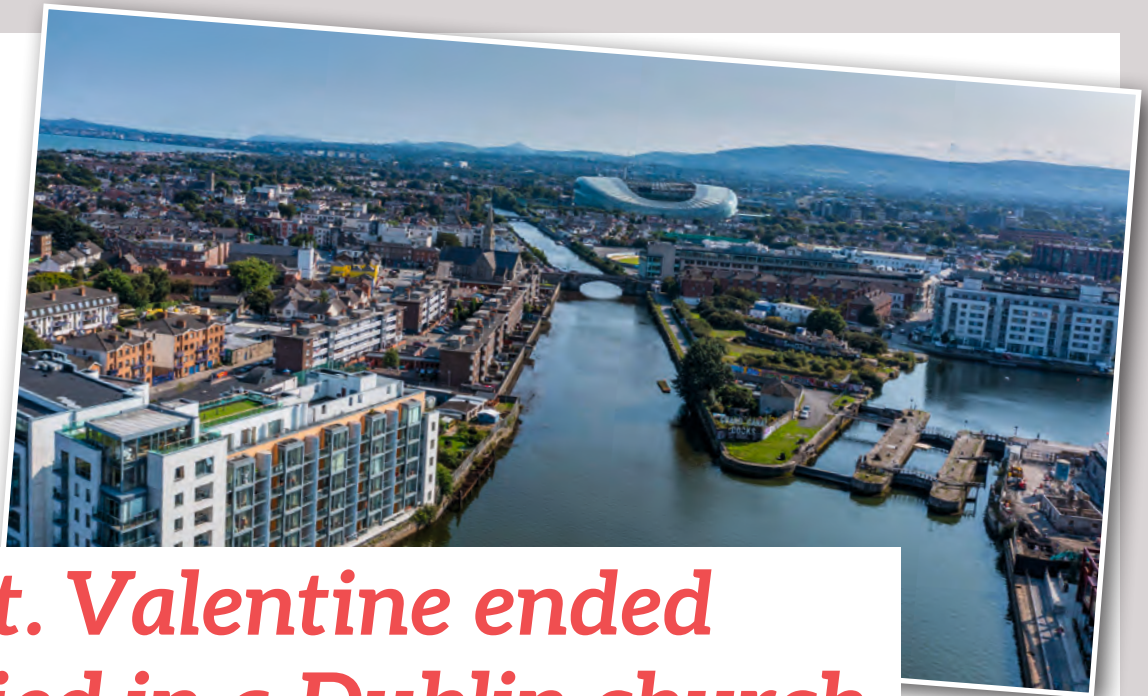
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Relics of the martyred St. Valentine are enshrined in a Dublin city-center church, thanks to a bit of Irish charm



How St. Valentine ended up buried in a Dublin church

Every year in and around St. Valentine's Day, couples from far and wide make a beeline for the Shrine of St. Valentine in Whitefriar Street Church in Dublin.

Over the last few decades the church in Aungier Street, maintained by the Carmelite order, has become a traditional place of pilgrimage for all kinds of lovers.

Complete with an altar and life-size statue of St. Valentine, the shrine contains an alarmed casket enclosing a number of St. Valentine's bones and a vial of his blood.

An inscription on the casket, or reliquary, reads: 'This shrine contains the sacred body of Saint Valentinus the Martyr; together with a small vessel tinged with his blood.'

Yes, it is true – St. Valentine is enshrined in Dublin! So just how did the relics of the patron saint of love end up in the centre of the Irish capital?

Unfortunately, the story started with a rather gruesome end to his life. It's believed that on 14 February around the year 270 AD, Valentine, then working as a holy priest, was beaten with clubs and then beheaded for defying the Emperor Claudius II, known as 'Claudius the Cruel'.

Believing that Roman men were unwilling to join the army because of their strong attachment to their wives and families,

Claudius had banned all marriages and engagements to get rid of the problem. Valentine, realising the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. The martyred remains of Valentine were buried in Rome.

Enter into the equation an Irish priest, Father John Spratt. In the 1800s he was a famous preacher, and one of his many fans was none other than Pope Gregory XVI.

One time Father Spratt was invited to speak at a church in Rome, where Pope Gregory was among those listening to him. It is said that in thanks and in admiration for the Irish

priest's oratory, Pope Gregory gifted him the reliquary of St. Valentine's remains.

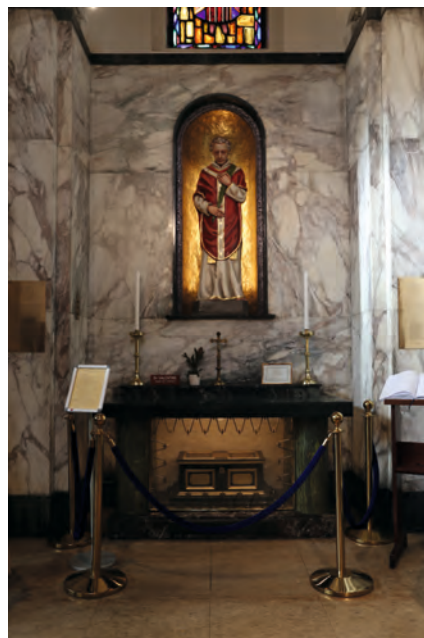
Duly taken to Ireland, the reliquary arrived in Dublin on 10 November 1836, in a wooden casket with Pope Gregory XVI's coat of arms, accompanied by a letter attesting to the contents of the casket.

Over time, the saint's remains were gradually forgotten about, until a new shrine to Valentine was constructed in the 1950s. Its popularity has continued to grow ever since.

Throughout the year, the Whitefriar Street Church regularly hosts visitors paying their respects to the patron saint of love – but there is always a notable rise in pilgrims around St. Valentine's Day. If you can, visit St. Valentine's Shrine on 14 February itself, as the church holds special sermons and blessing of rings ceremonies.

After your visit, enjoy more Dublin city sites including Trinity College Dublin, Dublin Castle, the Guinness Storehouse, EPIC The Irish Immigration Museum and more. Dublin is filled with cosy pubs and restaurants where you can enjoy a romantic evening for two. The Celt pub offers an experience like no other – an evening of folklore, fine food, traditional Irish music, and dance. Or head to The Woollen Mills Eating House and dine with a lovely view of the Ha'penny Bridge over the River Liffey.

www.ireland.com



FROM PRISON ISLAND TO MILITARY FORTRESS: THE MULTI-FACETED HISTORY OF SPIKE ISLAND

Spike Island, steeped in over four centuries of history, has been utilized as a prison island on four distinctive occasions. The island's first stint as a prison dates back to the 1600s, when it was used to confine Cromwellian prisoners.

In the 1840s, Spike Island's prison reached a remarkable milestone, becoming the largest in the world. Even today, this record remains unbroken, with no other prison in Britain or Ireland ever surpassing its size before or since.

By 1921, the island saw its third phase as a prison. During the turbulent times of the Irish War of Independence, over 1200 Irish Republican prisoners were held within its austere walls.

The island's final reincarnation as a prison began in 1985. Remarkably, this facility remained in operation until a mere two decades ago, finally closing its doors in 2004. Today,



visitors to Spike Island in Cork can explore hundreds of years of penal history and development within its compelling confines.

The formidable fortifications of Spike Island tell a tale of not only a prison but also a fortress. The sheer size of the fort is staggering — so vast that it could enclose the entirety of Alcatraz Island within its walls!

The island's strategic location within the vital Cork harbour and its first fortification dates back to

1779, during the American War of Independence. This was a period when the Kingdom of Great Britain was on high alert and in need of defenses.

Over the ensuing centuries, numerous global powers, lured by the strategic importance of southern Ireland, attempted invasions. To fortify against such threats, the current Spike Island fortress was erected in 1804. Today, it stands as one of the largest military structures in the world, a testament to the island's storied past and strategic importance.



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Advance booking highly recommended

Dun Laoghaire is a beautiful coastal town located in County Dublin, Ireland. It's known for its stunning views of Dublin Bay and its charming seaside promenade. There are many tourist attractions in Dun Laoghaire that visitors should check out during their stay. Here are some of the top tourist attractions in Dun Laoghaire:

1. Dun Laoghaire Pier:

One of the most popular attractions in Dun Laoghaire is its pier. The pier stretches out into the bay and offers visitors breathtaking views of the surrounding area. The pier is a great place to take a stroll, go fishing or enjoy a picnic.

2. The National Maritime Museum of Ireland:

This museum is located in the former Mariners Church, which is a beautiful building that dates back to 1837. The museum has a wide range of exhibits that explore Ireland's maritime history, including shipwrecks, fishing and the role of Irish sailors in both World Wars.

3. James Joyce Tower and Museum:

This museum is located in the Martello Tower, which was made famous by James Joyce in his book, "Ulysses." The tower is now a museum dedicated to Joyce's life and works, and visitors can see the living quarters where he stayed with his friend, Oliver St. John Gogarty.

4. The Forty Foot:

This is a popular spot for swimming and diving, and is a well-known landmark in Dun Laoghaire. The Forty Foot is a famous spot where people come to jump into the sea, even in the colder months.

5. The Pavilion Theatre:

This theatre is located in the heart of Dun Laoghaire and offers visitors a range of performances, from plays and musicals to comedy and dance shows.

6. The East Pier:

The East Pier is another popular spot for visitors to Dun Laoghaire. It offers stunning views of the bay and is a great place to take a stroll or go for a jog.

7. The Sunday Market:

Every Sunday, a market is held in People's Park, where local vendors sell a range of goods, including crafts, jewellery, and food.

8. The Dun Laoghaire Baths:

This newly renovated seafront attraction is a must-visit for visitors to Dun Laoghaire. The Baths, which originally opened in 1895, have been restored to their former glory and now feature a modern leisure centre, swimming pool and fitness studio.

9. The James Joyce Walk:

For literature lovers, the James Joyce Walk is a must-do when visiting Dun Laoghaire. This guided tour takes visitors on a journey through the town, visiting locations that were significant to Joyce's life and work, including the Martello Tower and the Forty Foot.

Dun Laoghaire is a fantastic destination for those seeking a mix of history, culture and natural beauty. With its picturesque coastline, charming parks and rich cultural heritage, there is something for everyone to enjoy in this vibrant and welcoming town.



Things to discover in

Dun Laoghaire



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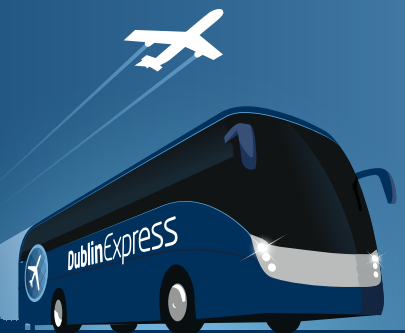
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Pints of PERFECTION

A unique Dublin tour allows visitors to find the best Guinness in Dublin in the most iconic of pubs. Tour founder David Beirne chats to Claire O'Mahony



The question of where the best pint of Guinness can be found is commonly debated amongst Irish people. Opinions naturally vary however, David Beirne and Keith McGovern want to make the search for the ultimate taste of the black stuff easier for visitors to Dublin with their tour, 'The Perfect Pint'. The duo launched this unique experience in June last year and it's all about providing Guinness enthusiasts and travelers with an authentic Irish pub experience, where the quality of the Guinness is assured. It's proving to be hugely popular, especially with the American market, with Irish celebrity chef Kevin Dundon and his crew recently taking the tour.

The two childhood friends are themselves Guinness aficionados, who also have backgrounds in the trade – Beirne worked in events, marketing and advertising and his father is a publican, while McGovern has been in the hospitality industry since he was 16. "Keith and I have trialled 450 pubs tasting Guinness in Dublin. A lot of market research has gone into this and a lot of fun as well," says Beirne. "What we do is a unique Guinness-themed tour experience, but not only that, we are trying to hero Irish pub culture as well because there are lots of reasons why we should be proud of our pubs."

The three-and-a-half hour experience includes luxury private transport, (meaning that inclement Irish weather is never a concern) and a visit to four iconic pubs around Dublin. These are celebrated



establishments but to find out what they are, you'll have to take the tour. "We've strategically picked these pubs around their style, their history and their pint of Guinness. We're trying to take visitors out of the tourist traps and get them to real Irish local pubs," Beirne explains. A local guide is also on hand to offer an in-depth history of each pub visited, as well as provide information about what makes the perfect pint of Guinness, from its manufacture, to how to drink it.

Beirne and McGovern have also recently developed some add-ons to the original 'Perfect Pint Tour', including one with a food pairing; a tour that incorporates a visit to the Guinness Storehouse and another featuring a tour of the city via luxury horse drawn carriage.

There are several reasons why Beirne believes Irish pubs are so appealing. "There's the *c ad mile failte* aspect, where Irish people are very welcoming in general. Secondly a lot of our pubs on the 'Perfect Pint Tour' are conversational pubs, with no music and TVs," he says. "In Irish culture as well, whether it's a celebration or a funeral, we flock to a pub and create a lot of unique memories in them. Also, Irish pubs take a lot of pride in what they do. A publican dropping a pint to your

seat doesn't happen in other countries."

As to what constitutes the perfect pint of Guinness, Beirne says that various components are at play. The kegs must be allowed to settle when they are delivered and need to be stored at the correct temperature. The closer the keg is to the tap, the better the pint, the lines must be clean and glassware is a vital consideration. "Then of course the pour is important too, and ensuring that the person who is pouring the pint takes pride in it and lets it settle correctly. All of those things are the main factors as to what makes a good pint," he advises.

For more information about the Perfect Pint Tour, see theprecetpinttour.com



UNCOVER THE CHARM OF DONEGAL FROM THE ABBEY HOTEL

We're thrilled to share that the charming County Donegal has been named the "Coolest Destination" for 2017 by the renowned National Geographic Magazine, as also featured on BBC. Perfectly positioned amidst key signature points on the captivating Wild Atlantic Way, Donegal offers an immersive Irish experience like no other.

Nestled in the heart of historic Donegal Town, the Abbey Hotel Donegal Town, one of the oldest established hotels in the North West, stands as an inviting gateway to this beautiful county. Overlooking the stunning Donegal Bay, our hotel is merely minutes away from some of Ireland's most impressive coastal drives, pristine beaches, and the iconic discovery points of the celebrated Wild Atlantic Way.

At the Abbey Hotel Donegal Town, your stay extends beyond comfortable accommodations. As a premier live



Music Events venue, we regularly host a range of events including Country & Western Weekends, Comedy Shows, and performances by Live Bands. The Abbey Bar, known for its vibrant traditional Irish Folk Music, promises an authentic and lively atmosphere.

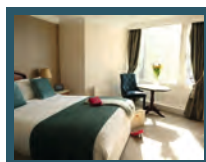
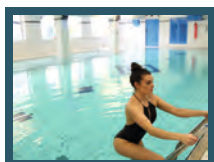
For food lovers, the Abbey Bar serves a variety of dishes to suit every palate, establishing itself as a bustling hotspot in Donegal Town. As night

falls, our SKY nightclub comes to life, offering the perfect space to celebrate special occasions or simply dance the night away to the best Dance, Chart, R&B, and Hip-Hop tracks.

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From Cork to San Diego

A People Person

Andrew Fitzgerald is a Cork man from the rebel county, the home of Murphy's Irish stout, Beamish, known for its rugged coastline and the starting point for the Wild Atlantic Way. Fitzgerald is a husband, father, golfer, global beverage sales expert and international best-selling author.

Fitzgerald's mother ran a small bakery business from their kitchen. His first job was as a nine-year-old lad, helping write labels. When Saturday rolled around, it was up early and off with his dad to deliver cakes to local supermarkets. When customers called to the house to pick up their special orders, Fitzgerald saw how the perfect cake and friendly face made people happy. He quickly learned relationships are at the heart of everything, and the seed was sown for his future.

He studied Marketing and embarked on a career merchandising for Cadbury in Ireland. A quick learner, his skills and tenacious spirit became his trademark. He later added brands such as Diageo Ireland, Heineken Ireland to his resume. Fitzgerald secured a role with Heineken USA and a few moves later, is regarded as the top beverage expert in California and beyond.

Successful in the Green Card Lottery, he and his wife left Ireland in 2012 with



\$17,000 to follow their dreams. They found it difficult to settle and after a few months, set out on a major road trip. Thousands of kilometers later, the heartstrings for home beckoned and they headed back to Ireland.

Breaking cloud on the approach to Shannon on a misty morning, he wondered if coming back was a mistake. Despite being back it didn't take long for the gnawing feeling of regret to set in. Fitzgerald mantra is "not having regrets in life and if you feel regret, you meet it head on and do something about it." So, once again they packed and took off for San Diego. Not many leave, go away, come back and leave again!

Fitzgerald's mantra stems from a serious heart issue suffered as a teenager which saw him flatline twice, be successfully resuscitated and

ultimately receive a heart procedure to save his life. After the first flatline, when he opened his eyes, he remembers asking the nurse "How did I get here?" which would later become the title of his International Best-Selling Book of the same name. The experience shaped Fitzgerald's life, leaving him with a deepened awareness of how to overcome challenges and adversity, which tested his spirit over the course of the following years in profound ways.

Fitzgerald is a glass half full sort of guy, always ready to help. He's a giver not taker, as my late mother would say. Fitzgerald's are now three on this earth and flourishing. He is an avid golfer and in 2015 played eighteen holes with one of his sporting heroes, Padraig Harrington. Fitzgerald is and will always be, a Cork man to his core.



A pot of gold at the end of the rainbow at Glencolmcille Folk Village
 Photograph courtesy of Margaret Rose Cunningham



As we open our doors for the 56th year we are delighted to welcome you to the Glencolmcille Folk Village. Glencolmcille Folk Village is located in one of Donegal's most idyllic valleys, situated along the dramatic coastline of Glen Bay with its spectacular views of Glen Beach and Glen Head.

We stock the best variety of local hand crafts in the County. When you visit the Folk Village, you will experience a genuine Irish welcome with the thatched cottages offering an authentic glimpse into rural Ireland from 1750 onwards.

Tour booklets are available in several languages.

The Folk Village is an ideal attraction to visit on your excursion to Slabh Liag cliffs we are only 20 minutes along the coast. Tá fáilte an Ghleanna romhat nuair a thugann tú cuairt ar Chlachán Ghleann Cholm Cille.

Insítear scéal an phobail stairiúil seo agus cuirfidh tú aithne ar bhunadh na háite atá ag obair anseo chomh maith le fíosa a fháil ar scéal saoil an Athair Mhic Daidhir.

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Our top ten

DUBLIN ADVENTURES

If you're looking to get your pulse racing, the capital is full of high energy ways to rev up days of sightseeing.

Whether you're paddling under iconic bridges or cantering through a forest, there's a thrill to suit you. Choose your own Dublin adventure and you'll be making a splash in the city centre or heading for a nearby mountaintop before you know it.

1. KAYAKING

Dublin's waterways are its lifeblood. With City Kayaking you can get to know the River Liffey aboard 'sit on top' kayaks, good for both novices and old hands. Enjoy a unique perspective of the city on the trip, your only chance to travel underneath the Ha'penny and O'Connell bridges. Alternatively, go further afield with Kayaking.ie and their tours of Dublin Bay. Suitable for complete beginners, join a guided paddling tour to Dalkey Island. As you glide along, keep an eye out for the famous local seals who might just swim over to say hello. For something extra special, try a sunset outing.

2. STAND-UP PADDLE BOARDING

Just a short stroll from Trinity College and Temple Bar, Dublin's Docklands are chock full of adventure on the water. For beginners and improvers, SurfDock Watersports is the go to for stand-up paddle boarding (SUP) in the heart of the city. With their SUP equipment rentals and expert lessons, you'll have everything you need to quickly find your balance on the capital's waters.

3. SAILING

Learn your lines and what knot to do on a sailboat in Dublin Bay. The Start Sailing Course in Dún Laoghaire with the Irish National Sailing and Powerboat School covers all the basics, from what to wear to setting the sails and negotiating all kinds of wind. The school runs more advanced courses at the marina

in Malahide, including a one day crash course in how to crew a modern yacht and five-day programme on how to skipper a boat.

4. KITESURFING

With plenty of breezes to catch and many long stretches of beach to choose from, Dublin is a natural spot for kitesurfing. Make your way to Pure Magic in Clontarf for tuition and equipment hire. Their home base at Dollymount Strand is the ideal sheltered spot for beginners tackling the basics and more seasoned kites brushing up on their skills. With fun for everyone from total newbie to advanced freestyler, surf's up on the Northside.



5. MOUNTAIN BIKING

Fancy getting the blood pumping on two wheels? Mountain biking is your gateway to fresh air and gorgeous scenery. Glencullen Adventure Park (the GAP) is a gravity bike park with trails most suitable for intermediate to expert bikers. Visitors can rent a bike and pre-book a 'pedal up pass' for a day packed full of mountain based adventure. Ticknock Mountain Bike Trail takes you around the Dublin Mountains for unfolding views of the city and bay. The shortest route takes about an hour and requires a basic level of fitness, but if you're looking for a bigger challenge, head off on optional extra loops where more experienced riders can extend the route to up to two hours. Along with the scenery you'll come across some cool rock formations at the foot of Three Rock Mountain, so be sure to bring your camera.



6. HIKING

It's hard to match the feelgood factor of a brisk trek through nature. You can get your fix of panoramic views (and give your legs a proper stretch) on the Cliff Path Loop in Howth, a 30-minute DART ride north of the city centre or venture a little further out of the city to the Dublin Mountains, where a climb is rewarded by a new angle on the cityscape, as you pick out landmarks like the Poolbeg chimneys. Hilltop treks provide options from day tours to guided walking holidays, giving you the chance to hit the heights of Dublin at your own pace.

7. ZIPLINING

While you're in the mountains, kick the adrenalin up another notch when you zoom through the Tibbradden Wood canopy. Zipit has five circuits ranging from one to twenty metres high, and up to four hours of fun for all ages and abilities. Their Treetop Ropes Adventure Course will have you clambering through the pines, swinging into cargo nets and flying down one of their many zip lines.

8. GAELIC GAMES

With Croke Park being the home of Gaelic games (and the GAA Museum dedicated to them), Dublin celebrates these sports with their roots in the ancient past. To get hands on, Experience Gaelic Games provides a chance to try hurling, Gaelic football, and handball in a lively group session. Learn traditional sporting skills that are fun for all and easy to pick up, and you'll be feeling like a Celtic warrior in no time.

9. RAFTING

Make a splash with some river rafting on the capital's doorstep. Just twenty minutes outside Dublin, Rafting.ie arranges exciting group trips on the River Liffey that will get you out into the great outdoors and unlock the city's natural world. On the trip downriver you'll float through the Strawberry Beds (named after the fruit that once grew here), as you paddle and splash your way through the peaceful scenery.

10. HORSE RIDING

Saddle up and seize the reins at Coolmine Equestrian Centre in Saggart, near the foothills of the Dublin Mountains. Their horse riding tours and riding holidays give you plenty of opportunities to get out and explore the countryside. Outings on horseback cover hill and forest, introducing you to local wildlife including deer and birds like the great spotted woodpecker.



top attractions
and activities in

Dublin City Centre

Dublin is a vibrant and historic city that offers a wide range of experiences for tourists. From exploring ancient castles and museums to enjoying the lively nightlife and traditional Irish music scene, there is something for everyone in the heart of the city. Here are some of the top attractions and activities to see and do in Dublin's city centre.

Guinness Storehouse:

This iconic attraction is located in the heart of Dublin and is a must-visit for any beer enthusiast. The Guinness Storehouse is home to a seven-story museum dedicated to the history and production of Guinness beer. Visitors can learn about the brewing process, enjoy a pint of the black stuff, and take in panoramic views of the city from the rooftop Gravity Bar.

Trinity College and the Book of Kells:

Trinity College is one of the oldest and most prestigious universities in Ireland, founded in 1592. The campus is home to the famous Book of Kells, a beautifully illuminated manuscript created by Irish monks in the 9th century. Visitors can explore the college's historic buildings, take a guided tour, and view the Book of Kells in the Old Library.

Dublin Castle:

Dublin Castle is a historic landmark that dates back to the 13th century. Visitors can explore the castle's state apartments, learn about the building's history, and view the stunning gardens and grounds.

St. Patrick's Cathedral:

St. Patrick's Cathedral is the largest church in Ireland and has been a



place of worship for over 800 years. Visitors can admire the cathedral's stunning architecture, attend a service, or take a guided tour.

National Museum of Ireland:

The National Museum of Ireland has three locations in Dublin and is home to an impressive collection of artefacts that showcase the country's rich history and culture.

Dublin Zoo:

Located in the beautiful Phoenix Park, Dublin Zoo is a popular attraction for families and animal lovers. The zoo is home to over 400 animals from around the world.

Grafton Street:

Grafton Street is a popular shopping district in the heart of Dublin that is known for its lively atmosphere and street performers. Visitors can browse the many shops, cafes, and restaurants, or simply take in the sights and sounds of the bustling street.

Kilmainham Gaol:

Kilmainham Gaol is a former prison that has been turned into a museum dedicated to the history of Ireland's struggle for independence. Visitors



can take a guided tour of the prison, learn about the lives of the inmates, and explore the museum's exhibits.

Phoenix Park:

Phoenix Park is one of the largest urban parks in Europe and offers visitors a peaceful escape from the city. The park is home to a herd of wild deer, as well as the Dublin Zoo, Áras an Uachtaráin (the residence of the President of Ireland), and a variety of walking and cycling trails.

Ha'penny Bridge:

The Ha'penny Bridge is an iconic symbol of Dublin and is one of the city's most photographed landmarks. The bridge, which spans the River Liffey, was built in 1816 and offers stunning views of the city skyline.

Overall, Dublin city centre offers a diverse range of attractions and activities that are sure to appeal to all kinds of visitors. From historic landmarks and museums to lively nightlife and outdoor spaces, there is something for everyone to enjoy in this vibrant and welcoming city.



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13

GREAT IRISH FOREST WALKS

Sprawling woodlands, rushing waterways and wildlife spotting make Ireland's forests the perfect escape from the everyday. Whether it's a laid-back family stroll or something a little more strenuous, wandering the country's trails is a fantastic way to immerse yourself in nature. Here's our guide to Ireland's most inspiring forest walks.



1: ARDS FOREST PARK, CO. DONEGAL

With its varied trails, Ards Forest Park's habitats range from beaches with Atlantic views to oak woodland. Pick a family-friendly walk like the 0.5km Salt Marsh Trail or rise to the challenge of the 13km Red Trail. To make a day of it, stitch together the paths to complete a full circuit. As you tour around the park you can see ringfort ruins, a holy well and megalithic tombs or visit the playground with its wheelchair-friendly swing.

2: HAZELWOOD FOREST, CO. SLIGO

In a beautiful spot by Half Moon Bay, the Hazelwood Forest trail hugs the shore of Lough Gill. This nature walk for all abilities can be taken as the full 3km loop or enjoyed over shorter distances. As you follow the track past wooden sculptures by Irish and international artists, enjoy the unfolding lake views. When it's time for a snack, unpack your picnic and relax for a spell.



3: PORTUMNA FOREST PARK, CO. GALWAY

Gather the gang and follow the Forest Friendly Walking Trail to the viewing platform overlooking Lough Derg. You can include your furriest family members as it's also dog friendly. This is a gentle stroll, but for more of a workout try the Rinmaher, Woodland or Bonaveen trails. Whichever you choose, be on the lookout for deer, red squirrels, foxes and badgers along the way.

4: DROMORE WOOD LOOP, CO. CLARE

Wind through a nature reserve with a rich diversity of life. On the easy Dromore Wood Loop keen-eyed walkers can spot hares, stoats and dozens of other creatures. This dog-friendly trail at the Burren's edge takes you from the woods to the lake shore, with views of the spectacular O'Brien Castle and Dromore Lake as added highlights. Look out for the unique features of the region as you pass turloughs (disappearing lakes), callows (flooded meadows), and limestone pavement.



5: CURRAGH CHASE GLENISCA TRAIL, CO. LIMERICK

The moderate Glenisca Trail with its century-old yews and rugged cliffs provides a dramatic backdrop for reconnecting with nature. Along with lakes and mixed woodland, the forest also holds surprises like the remains of Irish poet and author Aubrey de Vere's old home, an arboretum and pet cemetery.



6: GOUGANE BARRA FOREST PARK, CO. CORK

One of Irish nature's wildest landscapes, Gougane Barra also has a place in history. At the park entrance, look out for the lake and its tiny island. It's here in the 6th Century that St. Finbarr, Cork's patron saint, founded his monastery. With six walks to choose from, for an easy option try the Slí Dhoire na Coise by the River Lee that takes you to the lake shore. The strenuous 2.5km Slí na Sléibhe is the toughest of the park's trails but also the most majestic as it takes you high into the mountains for amazing views. callows (flooded meadows), and limestone pavement.



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7: AVONDALE FOREST PARK CENTENARY TRAIL, CO. WICKLOW

The Centenary Trail at Avondale Forest Park celebrates 100 years of Irish forestry. Feel the age of the place as you walk through a collection of specimens from the four corners of the globe. The easy, family-friendly trail can be walked in either direction and there are 20 stops along the way. This showcase of the most impressive trees on the Avondale estate delights with stunning views across the Vale of Avoca and the Avonmore River.



8: DONADEA FOREST PARK, CO. KILDARE

The diversity of Donadea Forest Park makes every turn of the trail interesting. See the remnants of Donadea Castle and its walled gardens or reflect at the 9/11 Memorial with its scaled limestone replica of the Twin Towers. The Lake Walk is a lovely wheelchair-accessible option that clocks in at around 1km, while the Aylmer Walk with its lime tree avenue leads you all around the park. In your wanderings, you can take a break at the onsite café.

9: MULLAGHMEEN FOREST, CO. WESTMEATH

At peaceful Mullaghmeen, lose yourself in Ireland's largest planted beech woods with three looped walks and a multi access trail. On the easy 3km Red Walk there are wonderful views of Lough Sheelin and in springtime you'll be treated to a carpet of bluebells. For a trip into history, along the moderate 8km White Walk you'll find relics dating back to the Famine period of the 1840s.



10: LOUGH KEY FOREST AND ACTIVITY PARK, CO. ROSCOMMON

With trails for all fitness levels, Lough Key Forest and Activity Park has a scenic multi-access path by Lough Key with a loop around Drummans Island. You can try a different kind of walking experience on the 300m long Tree-Top Walk or get pulses racing with zip lining. To cap off the excitement, tuck into something sweet at the onsite Lakeside Café and Food Truck.



11: DÚN NA RÍ FOREST PARK, CO. CAVAN

Along the banks of the River Cabra, steeped in legend Dún na Rí is said to be where Cú Chulainn once camped overnight. Four signposted paths from a River Walk to an Access for All Trail take you through Norway spruce and oak. Watch for glimpses of hares, stoats and otters and you can also see the ruins of the original Cabra House near the Wishing Well.

12: KILLYKEEN FOREST PARK, CO. CAVAN

At an idyllic locale by the shores of Lough Oughter you'll find Killykeen Forest Park. Ringed around the lake are woodlands of spruce, ash, oak and beech where you can choose from four walks. Each signposted trail is a pleasant, family friendly route with areas for picnicking and swimming.



13: TICKNOCK FAIRY CASTLE LOOP, DUBLIN

The views from the 5.5km Ticknock Fairy Castle Loop are as magical as its name. A moderate climb of 210m summits at Three Rock where you're rewarded by sweeping panoramas of Dublin City and the bay. You'll also pass the trail's namesake Fairy Castle, an ancient passage tomb under a mysterious stone cairn.

*Get out and enjoy
Ireland's incredible walks*



Croke Park Skyline Tour, Drumcondra, Co Dublin





Ireland revs up for summer sports thrills

If you're a motorcycle enthusiast, rally fan, horse racing buff or football fanatic, the island of Ireland is the place to be this summer

Five adrenaline-pumping sports festivals take place over the summer on the island of Ireland, making it a go-to destination for those who enjoy the thrill of competition..

Tattersalls Irish Guineas Festival

This thrilling three-day flat racing meeting for thoroughbred horses is held at the famous Curragh Racecourse in County Kildare in Ireland's Ancient East. The festival kicks off on Friday 27 May and as well as the sound of thundering hooves, there will be the sounds of live music and partying throughout the weekend.

The world-class Curragh Racecourse is home to Ireland's five most important flat races each year known collectively as the Classics. Sunday 29 May is Ladies Day featuring the first fillies Classic race of 2023 and is a great social occasion.

Whether you are a horse racing fan or just want to soak up the party atmosphere, the Curragh Tattersalls Irish Guineas Festival is the perfect destination.

Ireland Bikefest Killarney

One of Ireland's most picturesque towns hosts this annual 'bikefest' is billed as a three-day "motorcycle and rock music extravaganza".

Ireland Bikefest Killarney (2-5 June)

includes ride-outs along a spectacular section of the Wild Atlantic Way as well as a motorcycle parade through the streets of

Killarney and lots of activities in the Bike Village. There will be a custom bike show and the opportunity to take part in demo rides in the Harley-Davidson® Experiential Zone.

A mega programme of live music performed across three stages keeps the atmosphere jumping and ensures bikers and non-bikers alike are entertained.

One of Europe's premier free open motorcycle festivals, Ireland Bikefest is an action-packed, fun-filled festival not to be missed.

Donegal International Rally

The only three-day tarmac rally in Ireland, the Donegal International Rally (16-18 June) boasts 300km of lightning fast, twisting, narrow roads through gorgeous scenery.

Beginning and ending in the lively town of Letterkenny, the route follows coast roads, passing lush farmlands and skirting open bog landscapes. Broken into several challenging stages, the rally is one of the toughest routes for drivers and teams and is among the most popular in Europe.

More than 70,000 spectators will flock

to County Donegal to enjoy the races and the event also attracts drivers from around the world.

SuperCup NI

Taking place 23-28 July, SuperCup NI is one of the biggest international youth football tournaments in the world. The renowned event sees teams from the island of Ireland and around the world line up to have a crack at six competition titles, which include two female categories.

You'll get the chance to watch some of the world's most talented young players in action, knowing that some of them are destined for top clubs. Previous years have seen teams such as Manchester United, Valencia, Arsenal, Rangers, Leeds United, Celtic and Ghana's Right to Dream team, take part.

The competition takes place in one of Northern Ireland's tourist hot spots, the stunning Causeway Coast, location of Northern Ireland's UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Giant's Causeway and famously the backdrop for Game of Thrones.

Galway Races Summer Festival

An unmissable event in the Irish equestrian calendar, the Galway Races Summer Festival (31 July - 6 August) is an action-packed week of racing, live entertainment and stunning style.

Regarded as Ireland's largest horse racing festival, the hugely popular event boasts superb competition and an electric atmosphere that draws people from all over the world.

Notable races include the historic Tote Galway Plate Day on Day 3, which is a great example of top-class national hunt racing. Days 4 and 5 combine hurdle racing with the Ladies Day fashion extravaganza and the Friday's Most Stylish event.

The festival rounds off the entertainment on Sunday 6 August with the Mad Hatter's Family Fun Day, bringing to an end one of the island's most popular sporting events.

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Family Fun

on a day out in Dublin



The capital is calling with loads of interesting family activities. Whether it's museum visits with mini historians, bouncing together on a trampoline or feeding baby animals, there's something for all ages. With choices from city to coast and ideas for any weather, here are some of our top fun family things to do in Dublin.

Malahide Castle and Gardens

Head north of the city to coastal Malahide village to find Malahide Castle and Gardens. You can tour the medieval castle, roam 260 acres of parkland and visit the Talbot Botanical Gardens to see plants from around the world. The West Lawn is the big draw for little ones, with its Fairy Trail and enchanting Butterfly House.

Newbridge House and Farm

Only a 30-minute drive from the city centre, Newbridge House in Fingal mixes history and outdoor adventure. Here the only intact Georgian mansion in Ireland features mostly original furniture, family portraits spanning generations and cool quirks like the Cabinet of Curiosities. On the traditional working farm, meet piglets, goats and Connemara ponies along the Farmyard Discovery.

Aquazone at the National Aquatic Centre

The indoor water park at Aquazone is a blast for all the family. Try some indoor surfing at the FlowRider or just float along the lazy river. The Masterblaster, Green Giant and Black Hole (three of Ireland's most thrilling water slides) will keep the energy up.



The Jeanie Johnston and EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum

Head for the two tall masts in the Docklands and you'll find the Jeanie Johnston. This replica famine ship tells the stories of those fleeing the Great Hunger (with a happy ending, as uniquely no lives were ever lost on board). Next door at the CHQ Building, EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum will also send you back into Ireland's history. Get involved with interactive displays about the country's emigrants and learn how they became scientists, novelists or even outlaws in the wider world. Make a full day of it with combo tickets providing entry to both experiences.

St. Patrick's Cathedral

Afterwards, stroll to St. Patrick's Cathedral where, since 1432, the pupils of the Choir School have sung at services. Unwind in the lovely park next door with a picnic while the kids explore the playground.

Dublin Castle

It's been all go at Dublin Castle over the centuries. First a Viking settlement, then a Norman fortress, before becoming a Georgian palace and seat of government. Eventually handed over to the newly independent Irish state in 1922, the grounds can be visited for free at this major landmark in Irish history.

Dublin Zoo

No getaway to Dublin is complete without popping into the Phoenix Park, Europe's largest enclosed city park. Rent a bike, spot herds of wild deer and enjoy refreshments in the quaint little tea house. While you're here, why not go wild at Dublin Zoo? Spot giraffes and rhinos on the African Savanna or visit the Gorilla Rainforest.



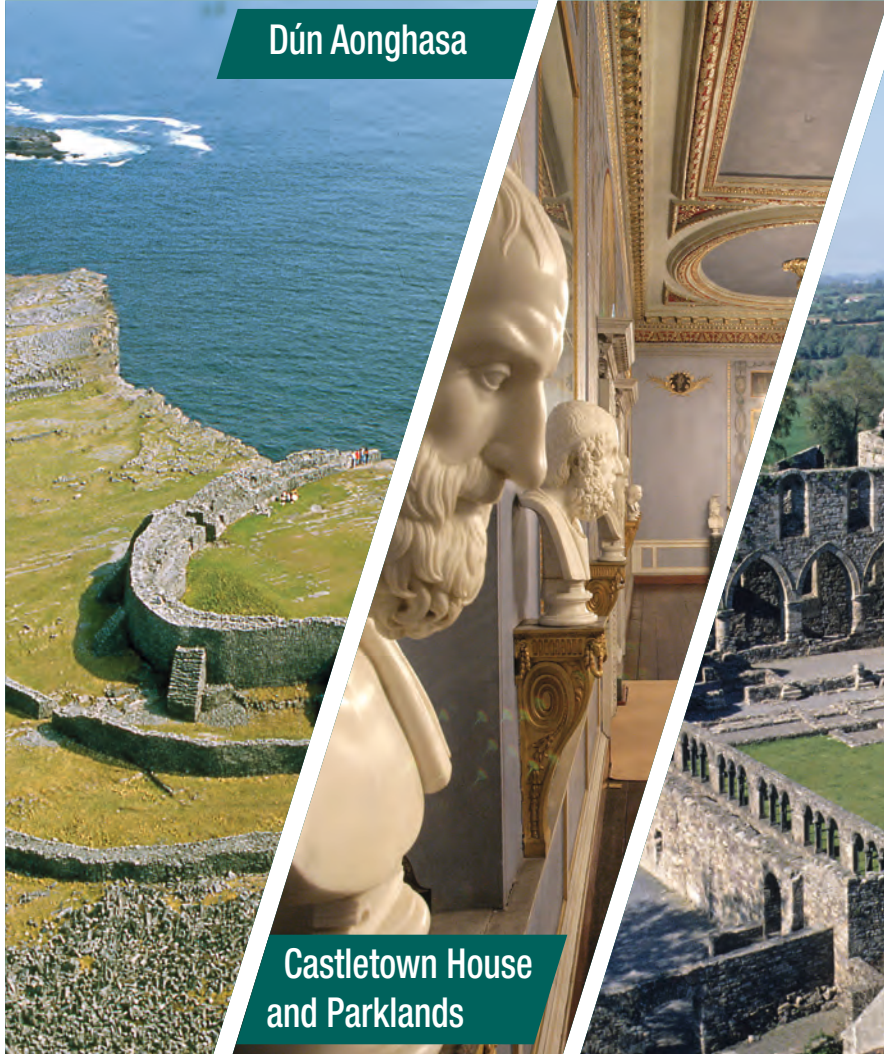
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The Best of Irish Cuisine in Dublin:

TRADITIONAL DISHES AND WHERE TO FIND THEM

When it comes to Irish cuisine, there's no shortage of hearty and delicious traditional dishes that are sure to satisfy your taste buds. From classic stews to fresh seafood, Ireland's culinary landscape is rich with flavour and history. Here are some of the best traditional Irish dishes and where to find them for an unforgettable food tourism experience.

IRISH STEW

A classic Irish stew is a must-try for any foodie visiting Ireland. Made with lamb or beef, potatoes, onions and carrots, this hearty dish is perfect for a cold day. One of the best places to try Irish stew is at The Brazen Head, Dublin's oldest pub. This cosy pub has been serving traditional Irish dishes since 1198 and is the perfect place to warm up with a steaming bowl of stew.

BOXTY

Boxty is a traditional Irish potato pancake that can be served with a variety of toppings, including smoked salmon, bacon or even cheese. For a unique twist on this classic dish, head to Gallagher's Boxty House in Dublin.

FISH AND CHIPS

Fish and chips may not have originated in Ireland but this dish has become a beloved staple of Irish cuisine. For the best fish and chips in Ireland, head to Beshoff Bros's renowned for their crispy and flavourful fish and chips

CODDLE

Coddle is a traditional Irish stew made with sausages, bacon, potatoes and onions. It's a comfort food that's perfect for a chilly evening.

SEAFOOD CHOWDER

Ireland is known for its fresh seafood and one of the best ways to enjoy it is in creamy seafood chowder. For a

taste of the best seafood chowder in Ireland, head to The Seafood Bar by Wrights Findlater Howth in Dublin. This restaurant sources its seafood directly from the nearby fishing village of Howth, ensuring that every bowl of chowder is packed with fresh and flavourful ingredients.

BANGERS AND MASH

Bangers and Mash is a classic comfort food made with sausages and mashed potatoes. For a delicious and authentic version of this dish, head to The Brazen Head in Dublin. This pub has been serving up bangers and mash since 1198, making it the perfect place to try this traditional Irish dish.

IRISH BREAKFAST

For a hearty and filling breakfast, try an Irish breakfast. This meal typically includes eggs, bacon, sausages, black and white pudding, and toast. You will find lots of places offering you the "full Irish" so go on, you're on holiday! Ireland's culinary landscape is full of hearty and delicious traditional dishes that are sure to satisfy any foodie's cravings. From classic stews to fresh seafood, there's something for one and all in Ireland's culinary scene.



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The insider's guide to the **DUBLIN DOCKLANDS**

Whether you're seeking a challenge on the water or simply want to get immersed in history, Dublin's Docklands has plenty to inspire.

In this vibrant and rapidly changing part of the city you can discover everything from the stories of 19th century emigrants to modern microbreweries. Thrilling watersports, fascinating museums and delicious food and drinks. Read on to plan your perfect day in the Dublin Docklands.

CULTURAL HOTSPOTS

On this trip into Irish emigration history, the past is revived through imaginative exhibits at EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum in the historic vaults of the CHQ Building. Experience crossings into the unknown with interactive displays. Put yourself in the intrepid travellers' shoes and go back in time listening to 100-year-old recordings. You'll be transported by this testament to the Irish diaspora's challenges and triumphs worldwide.

Located in the same building as EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum, you can trace your ancestors at The Irish Family History Centre. If you've ever wondered about your past, this is the place to potentially uncover centuries of hidden heritage. To get the most out of your visit, details on dates of birth and marriages will help staff give you a deeper understanding of your family tree.

Aboard the Jeanie Johnston follow in the footsteps of those who fled the Great Famine and sailed to North America on an extraordinary replica famine ship. Travel back in time as you hear the stories of the thousands of Irish people who risked the treacherous journey in the hope of a better life. Though the trip was far from easy, no lives were ever lost at sea on the original ship during its 16 transatlantic crossings. In fact, just a few days into its maiden voyage, the Jeanie Johnston passenger list increased by one when a healthy baby boy was born on the high seas.

The iconic recording space, Windmill Lane Recording Studio, is home to some of the most celebrated albums and songs of the past 40 years. Take the tour and learn the amazing history of these world famous studios used by everyone from U2 to Metallica to Lady Gaga. It's still a working studio too, so if your luck is in you might catch your favourite artist recording the day you visit.



ON THE WATER

Cruise along the Dublin Bay coastline to see some of the city's charming villages including Howth, Dún Laoghaire, Malahide and Dalkey. Dublin Bay Cruises takes in Irish cultural and natural landmarks including the Martello Tower of the James Joyce Museum, the unspoilt beauty of Ireland's Eye and the impressive Howth Head. For keen wildlife fans, keep an eye out for seals and otters.

Surfdock Watersports in Grand Canal Dock provides a unique combination of activities including paddle boarding, kayaking and windsurfing. Whether you've never tried a water sport or can't wait to get back to it, the top class instructors are on hand to get you suited up and splashing in no time.

Get ready for a good laugh from the moment you hop aboard Escape Boats, Ireland's first escape room on the water. With two games to test you, prepare for deep thought and intense concentration as you crack codes and solve mysteries to escape the Zorg Ella boat. Suitable for groups as small as two and as big as ten, you'll need all the help you can get to break out inside of 60 minutes.

FOOD AND DRINK

Built within a former 1830s harbourmaster's house, Harbourmaster Bar & Restaurant's original character and contemporary design make for a gorgeous combination between George's Dock and the Inner Dock. There's a stylish cocktail bar and lots of cosy nooks and crannies to discover. Famed for its seafood dishes, this lock side eatery has spicy chicken wings that are also a hot ticket.

Urban Brewing creates unique beers on site in the CHQ Building and serves them alongside a vast menu of over 200 selected international brews. Can't decide on just one beer? Grab a tasting tray and try out a few local choices or explore their expertly paired 'Taps and Tapas' menu if you're feeling peckish.

The Outpost is the Irish base for BrewDog, and a haven for beer lovers. There are two great outdoor areas to choose from, complete with roaring fire pits. If you're looking to take in views of the water below and kick back with a craft beer and a monster burger, this is the place. For keen students of brewing knowledge, enrol in Beer School for some tasting and an inside peek into the microbrewery.

It would be a crying shame to depart the Docklands without grabbing a coffee at 3FE Coffee, one of Dublin's original and most well-known coffee houses. Famous for their tasty espressos, you'll be hard-pressed to leave without a savoury or sweet treat to accompany your perfect brew.

DISCOVER THE WILD

Wildlands in Moycullen, just 10 mins from Galway city centre, is the perfect adventure paradise. With a host of indoor and outdoor activities for all ages, it's the ideal entertainment experience, whatever the weather.

Wildlands offers 14 unique, architecturally designed detached cabins with luxury interiors throughout. It has five styles of cabins now available - studio cabins, two bed family cabin; large studio cabins; large studio cabins with kid's room; and a large accessible cabin. All cabins are centrally located, a minute's walk from Wildlands' adventure hub and the award-winning Olive Tree Kitchen.



These cabins can welcome up to 70 guests during each break. Each cabin has been designed with families in mind and is fully equipped with all your family needs while providing comfort and quality. They are the perfect home away from home.

Test your wits on our Zip 'n' Trek course. It is our most popular activity standing 15 metres above the ground, stretching for over 1 kilometre, with spectacular views of Ballyquirke Lakeshore along the way. Up to 3 hours to complete 4 circuits with climbing tower and free fall jumps.



Conquer your fears on the Fun Walls, in the safety and comfort of colourful surrounds. Here, you can climb to the ceiling and discover your strength and agility in a new and exciting way.

Go head-to-head with your teammates in the Celtic Challenge Rooms. Discover the extent of your critical thinking skills in a relaxed and fun environment. With 24 fully automated challenge rooms, this is the perfect way to prove your team building talent by navigating the time-sensitive rooms, which are fully customised to reflect Irish myths and legends

Not only that, but you can be your own warrior on the Ninja Course as you navigate rope swings, incline steps, a spin cycle and so much more.



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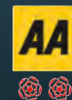
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TRAD FEST

TOP 8 PUBS FOR

Irish traditional music

Nothing gets hearts racing faster than an authentic Irish trad session, and Dublin's selection of pubs and venues has something for everyone. Traditional music is played in all kinds of places, from the back room of a pub to the main stage of a dedicated venue. And, depending on where you are, you can opt to join in (if you dare) or just sit back and take it all in.

The Merry Ploughboy

In the leafy suburb of Rathfarnham, The Merry Ploughboy draws an audience of tourists, local residents and dedicated music lovers. The pub is owned by a group of traditional musicians and is the only venue in the country where the proprietors take the stage at every show.

The Cobblestone

One of the most intimate venues for small but mighty trad bands is The Cobblestone in Smithfield, a classic pub that hosts skilled musicians led by renowned uilleann piper Néillidh Mulligan each weekend.

Johnnie Fox's

High up in the Dublin Mountains, Johnnie Fox's is one of the city's most popular music venues, drawing crowds in from all over with a nightly show that is equal parts traditional music, Irish dancing and storytelling.

O'Donoghues

The pub was at the heart of Dublin's blossoming folk and traditional music scene in the 1960s, and today that tradition lives on through the tourists, musicians and locals who come to hear a mixture

of classic and modern interpretations of the musical genre in a pub that played a central role in launching the career of folk superstars The Dubliners.

Darkey Kelly's

As the name suggests, Darkey Kelly's is a pub with a macabre history. A word of warning to the faint of heart - bar staff here are known to share stories of the pub's bone-chilling past which includes witchcraft, ghosts and even murder.

The Brazen Head

Is there anything more atmospheric than a traditional seisiún (session) in a pub that dates back to 1198? The Brazen Head is Dublin's oldest pub, its low ceilings and walls lined with historical keepsakes and mementoes that date back almost as far as its origins.

Gogarty's

One of Temple Bar's most popular pubs is the Oliver St. John Gogarty, which serves up a daily session of traditional music to a usually jam-packed audience of visitors. Live Irish music, ballads and laments fill the upstairs bar from early afternoon each day before trad-pop sessions erupt downstairs in the evenings.

Pipers Corner

A relatively new addition to the trad scene is Seán Potts' Pipers Corner on Marlborough Street. The primary focus here is on the uilleann pipes, which explains the large mural of legendary piper Séamus Ennis that adorns the front.



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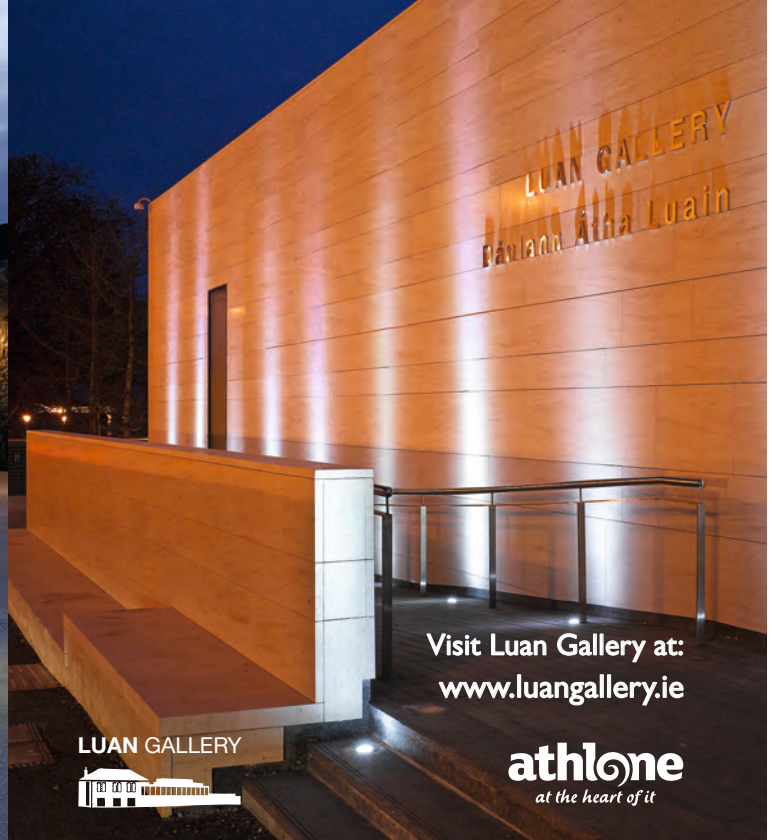
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Capture culture AT IRELAND'S SUMMER FESTIVALS

The island of Ireland's summer festivals are joyful celebrations of literature, art, music, dance, theatre and more.

In May, June and July, the island of Ireland is awash with wonderful arts and culture festivals. Here are 11 to add to your to-do list.

BLUEGRASS OMAGH (26-28 MAY)

One of the largest bluegrass events outside of North America, BlueGrass Omagh is a celebration of the music that was forged in the melting pot of North America. Set in the unique surroundings of the Ulster American Folk Park, the festival pays homage to the heritage of the emigrants from Ulster who settled in Appalachia and whose music influenced the evolution of bluegrass.

LISTOWEL WRITERS WEEK (31 MAY-4 JUNE)

Ireland's oldest literary and arts festival brings together writers, artists and poets in the beautiful heritage town of Listowel, County Kerry. With a mix of creative writing workshops, poetry readings, guided literary tours, book launches and talks by renowned literary figures, there is something for both experienced writers and those seeking to advance their skills.

RORY GALLAGHER INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL, DONEGAL (1-4 JUNE)

Ballyshannon on the Wild Atlantic Way, where Rory Gallagher was born, proudly stages this international tribute festival every year to celebrate the music of one of the world's greatest guitarists. With 25-hours of free open-air concerts, guitar workshops and exhibitions as well as big top gigs, the festival is a don't miss destination for Rory fans.

BELSONIC, BELFAST (3-30 JUNE)

Featuring some of the world's top bands and singers, Belsonic is Belfast's big summer music bash. This year's headliners include superstar veterans Tom Jones and Lionel Richie, as well as chart toppers Lizzo, George Ezra, Sam Fender, Paolo Nutini, Florence and the Machine, The Prodigy, Ben Nicky and David Guetta.

CORK MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL (14-25 JUNE)

Cork City will stage an exhilarating mix of theatrical performances, art installations, music, dance, circus, spectacle and street arts events in its Midsummer Festival. Featuring some of Ireland's most exciting artists, award-winning international companies and emerging talent, this playful festival also encourages public participation.

WEST CORK CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL (23 JUNE-2 JULY)

One of the leading chamber music events in Europe, the festival attracts an international line-up of musicians. This year's festival is



headlined by four outstanding violinists: Alina Ibragimova, Viviane Hagner, Nurit Stark and Mairéad Hickey. With six concerts a day and a multitude of masterclasses, it's a delight for chamber music aficionados.

STENDHAL FESTIVAL, LIMAVADY (6-8 JULY)

Stendhal is an independent music and arts festival set on a farm along the gorgeous Causeway Coast. Organised and run by local volunteers, the festival presents music, comedy, poetry, visual arts and a dedicated family programme. Highlights this year include Bob Marley's legendary band The Wailers, Mercury Music Prize-nominated Turin Brakes and Irish singer Cara Dillon.

EARAGAIL ARTS FESTIVAL, DONEGAL (8-23 JULY)

A bilingual (Irish and English) festival set on the spectacular Wild Atlantic Way in County Donegal, Earagail Arts Festival presents music, theatre, visual arts, film, literature, circus and carnival events. Traditional Irish music features strongly but innovative live performances of acrobatics and physical comedy also abound.

GALWAY FILM FLEADH (11-16 JULY)

This week-long international film festival is a platform for the boldest new films making it the perfect destination for cinephiles. Taking place in Galway City, a UNESCO City of Film, it brings together industry professionals, new talent and experienced filmmakers to share their experience as well as screening over 100 movies and shorts from around the world.

SEA SESSIONS, DONEGAL (16-18 JULY)

Ireland's surf capital, Bundoran, is the setting for this dynamic music festival where waves provide the background beat to the performances on the beach. As well as a packed programme of music events, there will be surfing competitions, beach rugby and soccer events and beach yoga.

GALWAY INTERNATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL (17-30 JULY)

Theatre, music, comedy, visual art, dance, and literary events performed by artists from Ireland and around the world make up this fabulous festival programme. It's one of highlights of the festival calendar and will include music performances by Kaiser Chiefs and The Coronas and theatrical performances by world-renowned Steppenwolf.

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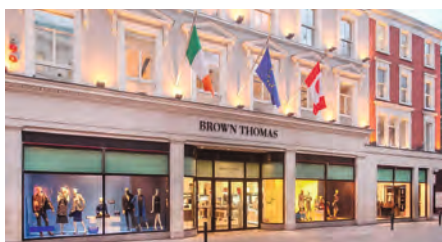
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Dublin's best shopping streets and districts

Shopping in Dublin is as much about soaking up the atmosphere of the historic streets as it is about browsing boutiques. Grafton Street and Henry Street might be the two main pedestrianised shopping thoroughfares, but it's the side streets and back alleys that make it an eclectic and interesting city to shop. Venture a little further afield to Dundrum, Blackrock and Dun Laoghaire for your pick of markets and malls.



Grafton Street

Grafton Street is the hub of mainstream shopping south of the Liffey, with a good mix of high street chains, department stores and independent boutiques.

At the famous Brown Thomas department store you'll find cosmetics, designer threads and high-end homewares. Across the road is Marks & Spencer (M&S), which has both a basement food hall and a rooftop café. A few doors up is the historic Bewley's Café, an institution since it opened in 1927. Grafton Street is anchored by Trinity College at one end and Stephen's Green Shopping Centre at the other, a bright glass-domed mall with a glut of big-brand chains and smaller stores with an Irish bent.

Henry Street

Amble across the Ha'penny Bridge and onto pedestrianised Henry Street on the north side of the River Liffey. Many of the high street chain stores are represented here as well as Arnotts department store, a Dublin institution



Dundrum Town Centre

The largest mall in Ireland, Dundrum Town Centre is a good bet for a rainy day. There's a huge number and variety of shops to browse. Other high-end stores sit alongside affordable consumer favourites across the mall's four levels.

Marvellous markets

Bargain hunter or browser, there's nothing like a market for atmosphere and affordable, eclectic finds. Liberty Market, on Dublin's Meath Street, has been selling everything from trainers to toys since 1973. You can hop on the DART to Blackrock Market, a haven for bric-a-brac and The nearby Dún Laoghaire CoCo Market on Sundays.

George's Street Arcade

The delightfully bohemian George's Street Arcade, housed in an elegant Victorian Gothic building, has been a fixture on the Dublin shopping scene since 1881.

City centre discoveries

Ramble down Drury Street and you'll discover contemporary design including pottery, textiles and prints at the Irish Design Shop. Next door at Industry & Co, you can pick up everything from furniture and ceramics to stationery, then take a pit-stop at



their café-cum-deli. There are one-of-a-kind designer dresses at the pocket-sized Costume boutique around the corner on Castle Market, the artery that connects George's Street Arcade and the Powerscourt Townhouse Centre.

Powerscourt Townhouse Centre

Small, elegant and somewhat refined, the Georgian Powerscourt Townhouse Centre is a lovely place to spend an afternoon. Pick up quirky and sophisticated homewares from Article, a bouquet or plant from The Garden, or minimalist jewellery and leather goods from MoMuse.

Cow's Lane

On a weekday, you can wander down this cute pedestrianised street near Temple Bar into offbeat stores, where you're likely to discover all manner of knickknacks from vintage Italianate mirrors to Edwardian cabinets and taxidermy.

Antiques on Francis Street

One of Dublin's most historic areas is also the city's art and antiques corner – and a hub for vintage finds. Antique emporiums sit side-by-side along Francis Street, selling everything from oil paintings and French porcelain to decorative objects and curios.

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DUBLIN WALKING TOURS



Dublin Highlights and Hidden Corners Tour offered by Pat Liddy's Walking Tours of Dublin takes in many of the popular and also less well-known historic attractions in Dublin both north and south of the river Liffey.



tours in the grounds of Dublin Castle.

Pat Liddy's Walking Tours offer an extensive variety of award-winning walking tours (scheduled or private) through the various historical areas in Dublin by renowned historian Pat Liddy's team of professional guides. The tours offer a unique and memorable experience and show where Dublin has come from and where it has arrived to. Dublin City has a 2,000-year-old history that spans from the Celts to the Vikings, from the Normans and early English colonisation to the struggle for independence right up to the modern day. The very streets are alive with this history. What better way to experience this living history than by walking through the streets of the city guided by expert knowledge and insight? These tours will often bring you to places of interest rarely seen by the average tourist.

This exceptional tour will take in hidden gems and surprises that visitors often miss. Starting from Dublin's main street, O'Connell Street, travelling North to South, this 1 hour 45 minutes stroll will take in many Dublin icons such as the General Post Office, Henry Street shopping district, the early 18th century St. Mary's Church (now a famous café/bar!), the Italian Quarter, the River Liffey, the Ha'penny Bridge, Temple Bar, City Hall, Dublin Castle and the 18th century former Houses of

Parliament before going inside Trinity College campus. Your guide is available to answer any questions you might have to help enhance your visit to Dublin.

At the end of the tour your ticket will offer you discounts in The Church Café/Bar (20% of bar menu), the Abbey Theatre (10% off Abbey Theatre Productions, Merchandise and Back Stage Tours) and Bewley's Café (10% off menu). *Pat Liddy's Walking Tours are an approved tour company authorised to conduct



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IRISH FESTIVALS AND EVENTS:

Something for Everyone

by Keith Nicol

From music to literature, from food to culture, there is something for everyone to enjoy in Ireland. As a lover of live music, I am proud to say that Ireland is a land of festivals and events. Throughout the year, the country plays host to an abundance of festivals and events that celebrate the best of Irish and international culture.

Another festival that has gained popularity in recent years is the Galway International Arts Festival. This two-week event showcases the best of international and Irish arts, including theatre, dance, visual arts, and music. The festival attracts over 200,000 visitors each year, making it one of the largest arts festivals in Ireland. The city of Galway comes alive during this time, with street performances and outdoor concerts adding to the festive atmosphere.

For those interested in literature, the

Dublin International Literary Festival is a must-see event. This festival brings together some of the best-known authors, poets, and playwrights from around the world to participate in readings, discussions, and debates. It is a chance for literature lovers to meet their favourite writers and hear them discuss their work in person.

The All-Ireland Fleadh is another festival that celebrates Irish culture. This festival is dedicated to traditional Irish music and dance, with competitions held throughout the event. The festival attracts thousands of musicians and dancers from all over the country, who come to compete for the title of All-Ireland champion. It

is a great way to experience the best of Irish music and dance and witness the incredible talent that exists in the country.

For those who love food, the Taste of Dublin festival is a must-attend event. This four-day festival brings together some of the best chefs and restaurants in Ireland, who showcase their culinary skills and offer visitors the chance to sample some of the country's finest food and drink. The festival also includes live cooking demonstrations, wine tastings, and other food-related activities.

There are many other festivals and events that take place in Ireland throughout the year, each offering something unique and special. From the Cork Jazz Festival to the Kilkenny Arts Festival, from the Galway Races to the Puck Fair, there is always something going on that is worth experiencing.

In addition to being great entertainment, festivals and events are also a boost to the local economy. They create jobs and bring in tourism revenue, which is vital to many communities across Ireland. They also help to promote Ireland as a vibrant and exciting place to visit, which in turn helps to attract even more visitors to the country.



Ireland is a land of festivals and events, with something for everyone to enjoy. Whether you are interested in music, literature, food, or culture, there is always something going on in Ireland that will appeal to you. Festivals and events are a great way to experience the best of Irish and international culture and to meet new people from all over the world. They are a celebration of everything that makes Ireland such a special place to live and visit.

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Is the Irish language having a 'moment'?

Following the whirlwind success of Oscar® nominated Irish film 'An Cailín Ciúin', why not immerse yourself in Irish culture and language with The Trailblazery's Scoil Scairte, or 'Hedge School'?



The online event will journey into the heart and soul of Irish culture, heritage and language. It will focus on the inspirational people and places of County Galway (Gaillimh), which has the largest Irish speaking population of any county in Ireland, including a number of 'Gaeltacht' areas where people

use Irish as their daily language.

Situated on the west of Ireland in the heart of the Wild Atlantic Way, Galway stretches from the Atlantic Sea to the wilds of Connemara, through to the Aran Islands, home of some of Ireland's finest archaeology, heritage,

culture and tradition. On the other side of Lough Corrib is East Galway with lush farmland and a great collection of abbeys and other medieval ruins.

Scoil Scairte is a dynamic Irish cultural experience that weaves creativity, language, heritage, folklore and indigenous wisdom with individual, social and ecological wellbeing.

Throughout the online course participants learn a *cúpla focail* (few words) with a host of guides from Galway who will explore ideas about cultural heritage including place, language, identity and wellbeing through storytelling and music to dancing, folklore, hip hop, hurling, knitting, sean nós singing and other creative practices.

And if you want to watch the Oscar® nominated *An Cailín Ciúin*, which translates as *The Quiet Girl*, you can view via Apple TV or Google Play.

www.ireland.com



Dublin Castle is located on Castle Street, in Dublin City Centre. The Castle houses the magnificent State Apartments, the Chapel Royal, a 13th-century Tower and some of its Medieval structures.

DUBLIN CASTLE

Dublin Castle is the heart of historic Dublin. It is one of the most important buildings in Irish history. The city gets its name from the Black Pool - 'Dubh Linn' - which was on the site of the present Castle garden where the River Liffey met the River Poddle. The original fortification may have been an early Gaelic Ring Fort. Later a Viking Fortress stood on this site. From 1204 until 1922 it was the seat of English, then British rule in Ireland.

After a fire in 1684 destroyed much of the Medieval Castle, the magnificent State Apartments were built as the residential quarters of the Viceregal court. They are now the venue for presidential inaugurations, official state visits, state functions, exhibitions and other events.

The State Apartments may be explored by guided tour or self-guided. Brochures are available in 17 languages. Paintings are a particular strength of the Dublin Castle collection, but it is also rich in sculpture, furniture, clocks, china, glassware, prints, tapestries, stained glass and textiles from the 17th century to the present day. On occasion, the State Apartments may be closed for official purposes.

The Tower and Medieval 'Undercroft' remain from the original 13th century Castle. The Tower is not currently open to visitors but offers great photo opportunities and adjoins the Chapel Royal. The Medieval Undercroft excavations and the Chapel Royal are only available to visit on a



guided tour, which is very interesting.

The Dublin Gardens on the South side of the Chapel Royal are very popular with visitors and residents. You will find a lawn, interesting sculptures and a 'four seasons' garden with four smaller gardens beyond. The Garda Memorial garden is a tribute to the Irish police who lost their lives on duty.

The Terrace Café is situated in the State Apartments on the ground floor overlooking the Castle Gardens, open Monday to Sunday. You will also find a gift shop on site.



2022 NYE, New Year's Festival, Family, Dublin City





My first trip to Dublin

by Gabrielle de Susa

As I stepped out of Dublin airport, the cool breeze hit my face, and I knew that I was in for an unforgettable experience. As a 21-year-old journalist living in Spain, I was thrilled to be visiting Dublin for the first time. The city's rich history, culture, and friendly people had always intrigued me, and I couldn't wait to explore it all.

My first stop was the famous Temple Bar area, known for its lively atmosphere, traditional pubs, and colourful street art. Walking through the cobbled streets, I was greeted by the sound of live music coming from the pubs, and the smell of Guinness in the air. It was as if the whole city was alive and buzzing with energy.

One of the things that struck me about Dublin was the incredible sense of community. Everywhere I went, people were eager to share their stories, their culture, and their love for the city. Whether it was the pub owner who took the time to explain the history behind his establishment or the street artist who showed me his latest mural, I felt like I was part of something special.

As I continued to explore Dublin, I couldn't help but notice the city's rich history. From the medieval castles to the Georgian architecture, every corner of Dublin seemed to have a story to tell.

One of the highlights of my trip was visiting the Guinness Storehouse, where I learned about the history of Ireland's most famous beer and even got to pour my own pint.

But Dublin's history is not just about the past. The city is also a hub of innovation and creativity. From the thriving tech industry to the world-renowned Trinity College, Dublin is home to some of the brightest minds in the world. As a journalist, it was exciting to be in a city that was at the forefront of so many important conversations.

Of course, no trip to Dublin would be complete without sampling the local cuisine. From traditional Irish stews to fresh seafood, I was blown away by the quality and diversity of the food on offer. Whether I was grabbing a quick lunch at a local cafe or sitting down to a fancy dinner at a Michelin-starred restaurant, every meal was a culinary adventure.

But what really stood out to me about Dublin was the people. From the taxi driver who gave me a tour of the city to the bartender who recommended the perfect pint of Guinness,

everyone I met was warm, welcoming, and eager to share their love for their city. As a journalist, I'm used to keeping my guard up, but in Dublin, I felt like I could let my guard down and just enjoy the moment.

As my time in Dublin came to an end, I couldn't help but feel a sense of sadness. I had fallen in love with this city and its people, and I knew that I would miss it dearly. But at the same time, I was grateful for the experience. Dublin had shown me a side of Ireland that I had never seen before, and it had left an indelible mark on my heart.

Whether you're interested in history, culture, food or just having a good time, you won't be disappointed by visiting Dublin. But what really makes Dublin special is its people. Their warmth, humour and hospitality are what make this city truly unforgettable. If you're planning a trip to Dublin, be prepared to fall in love. I know I did.



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'What I love about Howth'

by Doug Gordon



A must see in Dublin for me is Howth and in particular the Howth Head walk. This is a beautiful spot that even Prince William and Princess Kate made the trip for a walk on the cliffside when they were over.

I go up for either a walk, a run, a swim or just to meditate and revitalise at least once a week; sometimes four times.

From the summit car park, you can see right across Dublin, where you can see all of Dublin as far down as Bray Head, plus the Wicklow and Dublin mountains in the background. The scenery on a clear day is spectacular. From the Howth town end facing north, you can two Islands; Lambay Island and Ireland's Eye. The latter is accessible through a boat trip from Howth Harbour.

Many tourists travel from the centre of Dublin to Howth town and then walk up to the cliff walk, while others enjoy the fantastic restaurants alongside the fishing port. Some of my favourites include Crabby Jo's, Aqua and House Restaurant.

The cliffside walk from the Howth town to the lighthouse is the most popular, but if

you are willing to trek the extra distance from the lighthouse to the Sutton end of Howth Head, you will get the true beauty. There is lush vegetation, the sound of the sea and lovely beaches, which you can trek down to, along the way. I love to find a quiet spot to sit and recharge while looking out to the beautiful sea, often catching a glimpse of a seal popping up or sunbathing on a rock. There are marked routes of 6km, 8km and 12km. Personally, I like to stick to the cliffside and walk from one end to the other and back, which is around 18km.

Howth Head is where I got my inspiration for the title of my International Bestselling book "Charge Yourself Up For Success – Energizing your life, work and Relationships" as I tend to recharge while out in the beautiful nature in Howth. After you experience the fresh air, the beautiful views and the nature you will feel energized and ready for the evening fun.

Quite often I bump into one of my testimonies in the book, Eamonn Quinn, who is one of Ireland's most famous entrepreneurs and philanthropists. He is also a super photographer and he loves to photograph beautiful sunsets and sunrises, which again are a sight for all to see.

Doug D. Gordon is a five-times-award-winning, executive coach, professional speaker and consultant. His book has testimonials from three NY Times Bestsellers, and many others. The book will inspire you to a better life, be more energized and help you find real success in life, not just money. Doug interviewed 300 NY Times bestsellers, CEOs, sports stars and people who cured themselves naturally of ailments, to understand what makes people successful and fulfilled in life.

If you are looking for an energizing and fulfilling day, make your way to Howth... Enjoy!



Hugh Lane Gallery

Hugh Lane Gallery has an exceptional history centred around the ground-breaking vision of Sir Hugh Lane himself, who gathered an exceptional collection of modern art, including the first impressionist paintings in a public collection in Britain and Ireland. The collection was donated to Dublin City in 1908, and the Gallery has since built on this exceptional foundation and spirit, focusing on international and Irish modern and contemporary art.



EPIC

You won't find leprechauns or pots of gold at EPIC, but you'll discover what it means to be Irish expands beyond Ireland through the stories of emigrants who became scientists, artists and even outlaws. Then step aboard the Jeanie Johnston and learn about life on a Famine ship through the stories of those who made the gruelling voyage.



Avoca Mill

Plan a day discovering Wicklow, and stop off at the beautiful Avoca Mill. Enjoy a guided tour and learn about the artisanal weaving process from third generation weavers, with lunch, coffee or a sweet treat in the Avoca café afterwards. Guided tours daily March-Oct see Avoca.com for more information.



Texas Steakout

Hearty food, great cocktails and friendly staff are what we dish out in abundance at the Texas Steakout. We have everything covered for meat eaters and vegetarians alike with our menu including, juicy steaks, sizzling fajitas, sticky pudding, and luscious chocolate brownies. At the Texas Steakout we are passionately committed to supporting local Irish produce and only serve the freshest selection of produce that Ireland has to offer.



The Casino Model Railway Museum

Housed in a beautifully restored Casino cottage and located in the idyllic seaside village of Malahide and within easy walking distance of Malahide Castle, step back in time and explore one of the world's most unique model railway collections.

The Cyril Fry Collection offers a close-up look at the exquisite workmanship of his hand-crafted models.

For more information visit www.modelrailwaymuseum.ie



Connemara Coast hotel

The Connemara Coast Hotel, located only minutes from Galway City on the Wild Atlantic Way, has 141 luxury bedrooms, a choice of restaurants & bars including the Coast Club Leisure Centre. A resort hotel, it is the perfect location for exploring the West of Ireland. Tel: 091 592108 Email: info@connemaracoast.ie Web: www.connemaracoast.ie



Shannonferry Group Ltd.

Shannonferry Group Ltd. operates the Killimer-Tarbert Car Ferry, linking the main tourist routes of Ireland's Shannon Region on the 'Wild Atlantic Way', from Killimer, Co. Clare to Tarbert, Co. Kerry. With scheduled sailings every day, this pleasant twenty-minute journey across the Shannon Estuary saves 137-km from ferry terminal to ferry terminal, providing a staging point for the many attractions of Clare, Kerry and adjoining counties. On disembarkation, enjoy the majestic scenery on either side of the Shannon Estuary, from Killarney and The Dingle Peninsula to the Burren and the famous Cliffs of Moher.



National Museum of Ireland

The National Museum of Ireland is home to the world's greatest collection of objects related to Irish history and heritage. The collection spans from prehistoric times to the present day and is on display across four museums in Dublin (Decorative Arts & History, Collins Barracks, Archaeology, Kildare Street, Natural History, Merrion Street- closed for renovations - and Mayo (Country Life). Exhibitions explore a diverse range of themes from Bronze Age gold and extinct Irish mammals to 20th-Century revolution and contemporary design. The main aim of the NMI is to preserve, share, explore and celebrate Ireland's history and culture and its place in the wider world.

The museum offers a year-round programme of workshops, talks and tours for all ages and a changing programme of temporary exhibitions on historical and contemporary themes.

Website:
www.museum.ie



Newbridge House & Farm

Newbridge House & Farm is an 18th Century hidden gem located in Donabate, North County Dublin, just 10 minutes from Dublin Airport.

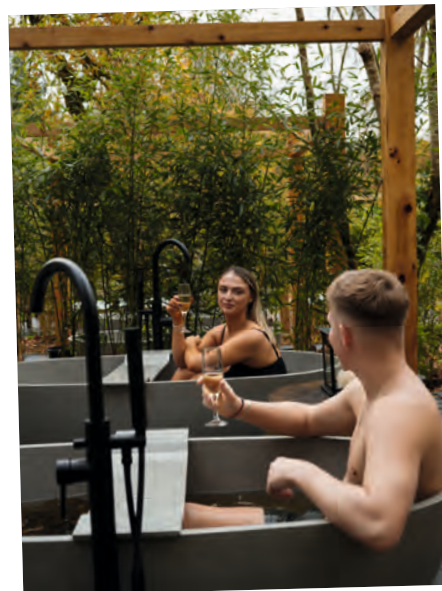
Nestled on 350 acres, Newbridge House was built back in 1736 by the Archbishop of Dublin, Charles Cobbe, as his country residence. The house and the 30-acre working farm are open daily for tours.

For more information visit www.newbridgehouseandfarm.com



Drumhierney Hideaway

"Drumhierny Woodland Hideaway Outdoor Wellbeing Sanctuary is a true haven of tranquillity, tucked away in the original walled garden of the estate and protected by historical walls and large oak trees that have been stewards of the estate for hundreds of years, this really is an escape where you can close the doors on the rest of the world. Take time out to disconnect and enjoy the facilities featuring seaweed baths, outdoor hot tubs, sauna & loungers"



Sheen Falls Lodge

Sheen Falls Lodge - One of Ireland's finest hotels, with stunning views of Kenmare Bay, cascading waterfalls and ideal for touring the South West of Ireland. A Traditional hunting lodge set on a 300-acre estate with five thatched cottages for rental. Estate activities include tennis, clay pigeon shooting, beautiful walks, spa treatments, fishing, horse riding and golf.



GPO Museum

The GPO Museum is a must-see award-winning experience located within the historic GPO (General Post Office) in the heart of Dublin City. Explore the fascinating story of the 1916 Easter Rising and modern Irish History in an interactive and immersive setting. For bookings and further information visit www.gpowitnesshistory.ie



Abbey Hotel

“Looking for the perfect getaway for your golden years? Look no further than the Abbey & Central Hotels in Donegal Town! Our Active Retirement package is designed with our senior guests in mind, offering a relaxing and affordable two to four-night stay starting at just €180 for two nights.”



Beyond The Trees

Beyond the Trees, Avondale is an exciting new visitor destination at Avondale Forest Park, County Wicklow featuring a spectacular 1.4km treetop walk. Journey through the forest above the canopy of the trees to reach the magnificent 10-storey high viewing tower. Enjoy a guided tour of Avondale House, the birthplace of Charles Stewart Parnell. Visitors can experience the Coillte Pavilion, the Seed Cafe overlooking the beautiful restored walled garden and multiple forest trails.



Beshoffs

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Malahide Castle

Enjoy a guided tour of Dublin's most loved medieval castle just 10 minutes from Dublin Airport and 13km from Dublin City centre. See the splendour of Lord Milo Talbot's walled botanical garden, The Butterfly House and West Lawn. Take a break and breath of fresh air on Avoca's café terrace overlooking the walled garden, or engage in some retail therapy in the Museum Shop in the visitor centre. For more visit www.malahidecastleandgardens.ie



Spike Island

Spike Island in Cork has been home to captains and convicts, rioters and rebels and sinners and saints. The former prison and fortress island is now a premier visitor attraction having been named 'Europe's Leading Tourist Attraction' in 2017. Discover 1,300 years of history, see www.spikeislandcork.ie for more information.



Dublin Express

Enjoy airport travel by coach for less with Dublin Express. Discover the benefits of coach travel with Dublin Express, the convenient and cost-effective way to travel between Dublin and Dublin Airport. With 119 services a day between Dublin City and the airport, you can rely on a Dublin Express coach to get you to the airport or city with ease.

Glencolmcille Folk Village

Glencolmcille Folk Village is a thatched cottage coastal village in South West Donegal. Established in 1967, it tells the story of Glencolmcille through the ages. Original artefacts are on display in the cottages, which were constructed from stone taken from period cottages throughout the parish.

The tours are currently self-guided and are available in more than eight languages. There are three audio-visual programs that tell the story of Father McDyer, the local fishing tradition and cinefilm from the 1950's.

They have adapted a beautiful outdoor dining area and have a great family orientated eating area within this, with a safe area for children to play. They are world renowned for their beautiful vegetable soup and Irish breakfast.

On special occasions you can Meet local crafts people and have a go at making a St. Brigid's Cross or mending a fishing net.



Lough Boora Discovery Park

Get away from it all and explore the unique beauty of Lough Boora Discovery Park. Relax with friends and family amidst breathtaking landscapes. Enjoy the simple things and spend quality time making memories to treasure. Connect with nature to revitalise mind and body. <https://www.loughboora.com/>



GAA Museum

If you really want to get under the skin of the Irish, a visit to Croke Park, the home of Gaelic Games, is a must. Try our trio of experiences – the Croke Park Stadium Tour, GAA Museum and Kellogg's Skyline Tour – and discover the heart of who we are.

For more information, visit crokepark.ie/tours.



Carrygerry Country House

Are you looking for the perfect place for your upcoming nuptials? Then look no further than Carrygerry Country House. Set in the peaceful, idyllic countryside of County Clare, located just minutes from Shannon International Airport, Carrygerry Country House offers you a warm, elegant, classic setting for your perfect wedding day. 061 360500





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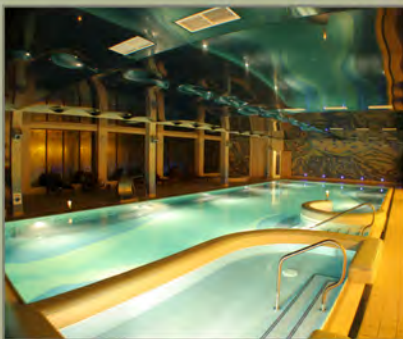
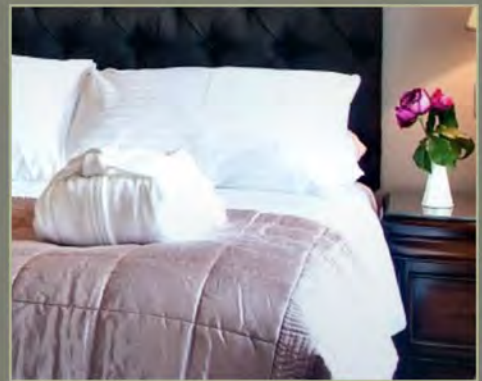
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