

What else to consider?

*"You know it's summer in Ireland when the rain gets warmer." -
Hal Roach*

Keep in mind that you are in Ireland and your clothes should definitely be waterproof and the weather circumstances can change really, REALLY fast.

You can literally get all four seasons on a single day (... or hour).

So, no matter what you decide to experience in wonderful Dublin, it's a colourful lively city whose young locals will give you a warm welcome and make sure that you will have a great time on the green island!

Day trips from Dublin

With all the famous food and craft markets, seasonal festivals, old cathedrals and tons of impressive museums (most of them have free admission!), Dublin has a lot to offer.

But you might feel like leaving busy city life behind you for a day, which is actually pretty easy to do!

Just take the Dart train to one of the lovely coastal towns just 15-30 minutes out of Dublin, like Howth, Bray or Dun Laoghaire of course and get some fresh air at the beaches.

Or get on a bus and go for a hike in the beautiful Wicklow Mountains in the south of Dublin.



From top left to bottom right: Beach Stroll in Killiney, stunning lighthouse views in Howth, Train tracks along Dublin bay, hiking in the Wicklow Mountains.

What else to drink and eat

In terms of food in general (beside the traditional Irish Stew - see below pic - and great fish dishes) you can get amazing fries in Dublin in various different types and shapes (definitely try Garlic-Cheese-Fries!). If you are into very good burgers, you should pay "Bunsen Burger" a visit.

If you have the chance to go out one night in Dublin (keep in mind that you have to be at least 18), check out "Dicey's Garden" which is popular among Dublin's students and famous for its cheap drinks and food.

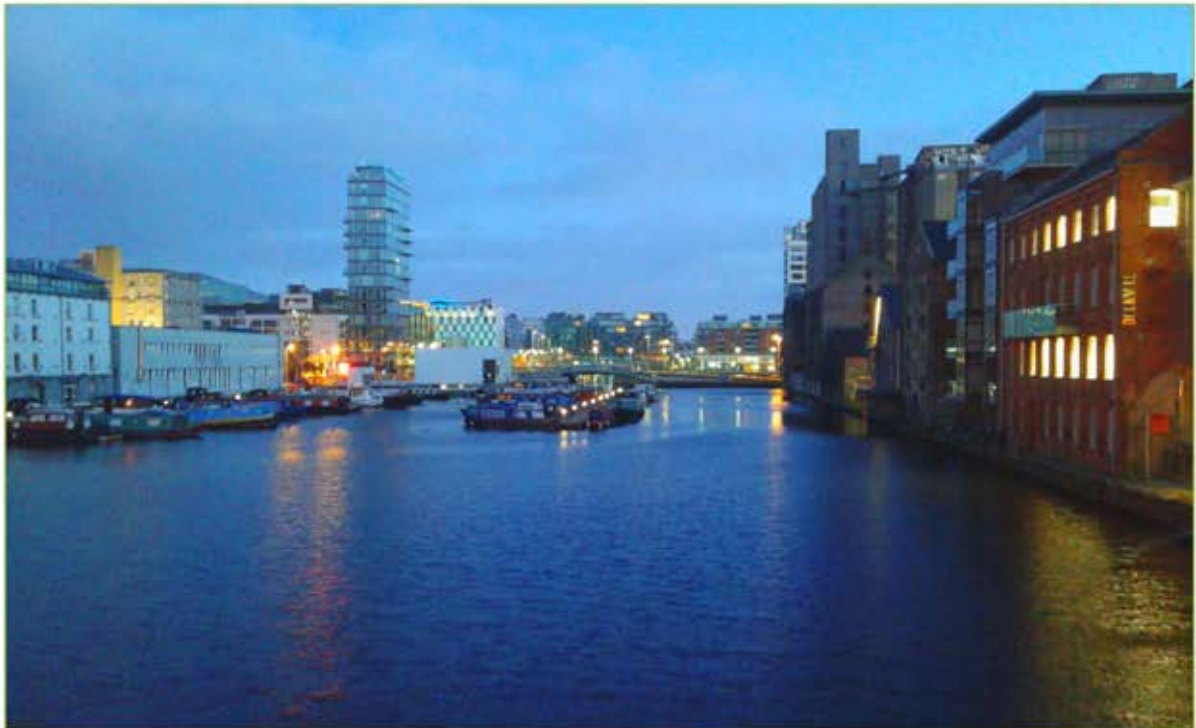
But get there early as it charges expensive admission prices at some point.

"Only Irish coffee provides in a single glass all four essential food groups: alcohol, caffeine, sugar and fat." - Alex Levine



Docklands & Rathmines

Ireland has one of the lowest corporation tax rates of Europe. That's why IT-giants like Google, Facebook and Twitter have their European headquarters located in the docklands of Dublin.



When you're having breakfast at Google's European headquarters, this is pretty much what you'll see when you look out of the window.

A little stroll around this area to see the huge glass-skyscrapers (and the various businesspeople with overpriced coffees-to-go in their hands) is surely worth it, as well as a picture of one of Dublin's most known landmark, the Samuel Becket Bridge.

Another great area worth checking out is Rathmines in the south, which is kind of hipster and very multicultural with great international restaurants.

St. Stephen's Green



St. Stephen's Green - this park is popular in Dublin because of the good location. It officially opened to the public in the year 1880.

"May you always have walls for the wind, a roof for the rain, tea beside the fire, laughter to cheer you, those you love near you and all your heart might desire." - Irish Blessing

The South

"Tír gan teanga, tír gan anam. A country without a language is a country without a soul." - Pádraig Pearse

Close to the College is one of the most popular streets of the south, the Grafton Street, which has loads of great stores, cafés and restaurants to offer. Great stop for taking a break and get some traditional Irish tea or try the world famous Irish coffee (here is [a list of four cafés in Dublin](#) that are definitely worth checking out).

Also always watch out for the numerous buskers that are playing along the street. Some of them are really popular already and can fill big concert halls around Europe but still play for their own pleasure on Grafton Street to experience the great Dublin hype. The nearby Stephens Green Park is also, like the various other parks in Dublin, worth a visit in every season of the year.



Temple Bar



The Temple Bar – One of the most popular and oldest pubs in Dublin. It was once the place of the Guinness World Record in longest marathon guitar playing by an individual: David Browne played here 114 hours 6 minutes and 30 seconds from 12 to 17 June 2011.

"An Irishman is never drunk as long as he can hold onto one blade of grass and not fall off the face of the earth." - Old Irish toast

Halfpenny Bridge

Heading to the southern part of Dublin, you can take the famous Halfpenny Bridge (yes, when it first opened in 1816 you had to pay half a penny to cross it – now you can get all the great fun for free!) and don't forget to throw a coin into the river and make a wish.



You are now entering Temple Bar, the heart of Dublin, where all the great old pubs are located and you can listen the whole day to catchy Irish live music. If the Temple Bar area gets too crowded of tourists for you, just continue exploring the southern part of Dublin.

You have the famous almost 500 years old Trinity College here, where you can get a tour by the nowadays students who have some great insider stories about their campus to tell and of course the huge library which is kind of magical Harry-Potter-like with tons of very, very, VERY old books.

The Spire



The Spire on O'Connell Street: During the world premiere of the new Starwars movie, this spire were glowing as a powerful blue laser sword.

"The Irish don't know what they want and are prepared to fight to the death to get it." - Sidney Littlewood

The Grand Tour Of Dublin

The North

Ireland and especially Dublin is way more than just the origin of very good beer though. One of the best ways to get to know a city and its people is just to wander around the streets and see where the flow takes you. Good for you - Dublin is a city where pretty much everything is within walking distance.

First of all you have to know that Dubliners divide their city in the north and the south (taking the river Liffey as a border) and don't miss a chance about telling you which side they prefer. In the "north" you have famous great shopping streets like the O'Connell and Henry Street.

This is also where the "Spire of Dublin" is located which is a large stainless steel pin-like monument and a famous spot for photobombing tourist's selfies.

"Tír gan teanga, tír gan anam. A country without a language is a country without a soul." - Pádraig Pearse



Pubs Crawls

Photo: Irish music – one of the typical Irish instruments: the bodhran



When you are in Dublin around Christmas time, make sure, you'll join of the famous "12 pubs of Christmas" tours.

As this tradition was probably once invented by a Dubliner who was seeking for yet another reason to drink, it is now very popular among students. It's not hard to tell that the challenge here is to get one beer from 12 different pubs in Dublin on a single night.

The funny detail is that you set rules in advance for each pub. Like: "Order your drink while singing" or "Only talk to strangers". And if you really want to do it the Irish way, decide on a funny dress code for your group or wear one of the traditional Christmas sweaters!

Traditional Pubs

The closest you can get to a traditional pub experience in Dublin is at "Cobblestone" in North Dublin.



Samuel Beckett Bridge – this is a famous landmark of Dublin. And again the same symbol: can you spot the harp it wants to represent?!

Pubs are very important for Dubliners as they've always been the place to meet up after work and enjoy a cold pint with your friends. Even though you find pubs in every corner of Dublin, it's hard to find the very traditional ones:

- Where the musicians don't care if they have an audience. They just sit in a circle and play for their own pleasure
- Where the musicians gather around with Irish instruments like the fiddle, flute, bodhran (a special drum) or the uilleann pipes and not just a guitar as it is the case in most pubs in Dublin's city centre.

The Pub and Drinking

Guinness and The Government

Ok well, we all know that Ireland is famous for its beer culture. Especially for the dry stout Guinness which originated in a Dublin brewery and is now one of the most successful beer brands worldwide.

By the way, did you ever notice that the official state emblem of Ireland is the same as the famous Guinness symbol: a harp?!

In fact, Guinness trademarked its emblem first (in 1876) and therefore the Irish Free State Government of 1922 had to turn the official government harp the other way to differentiate themselves.

Pubs, however, are very important for Dubliners as it was once the place to meet up after work and enjoy a cold Guinness with your friends. Due to the economic crisis and rising beer prices in Ireland, unfortunately this tradition gets less common.

"No, I regret nothing, all I regret is having been born, dying is such a long tiresome business I always found." - Samuel Beckett

Asking a Dubliner

Photo: Dublin from above (on one of those beautiful and rare days, the sun shows up)

So, how is it like, to live in a country where the national beer brewery has more power than the government itself (will explain that later!) and the clothing retailer Primark is called Penneys?

When I asked a "real Dubliner" (born and raised there) this question he replied straightaway:

Step 1: Always have a beer in your hand.

Step 2: Get it from Whelan's (which is a famous pub in Dublin)

Step 3: Repeat step 1 and 2.



Introduction

How to live like a real Dubliner

If you call your cold pints "key", greet each other with "howya", say "sound" instead of "thanks" and "craic" is a good word for you to express "fun" – you have probably some Irish blood in you.

For everyone else, who probably just considered me loosing my mind, go on and read what else you need to know before hitting Irish borders.

"Fabulous place, Dublin is. The trouble is, you work hard and in Dublin you play hard as well."

- Bonnie Tyler



12. Docklands & Rathmines

13. What else to drink and eat

14. Day trips from Dublin

15. What else to consider?

16. Now it's your time to experience Dublin!

Table of Contents

1. Introduction
2. Asking a Dubliner
3. The Pub and Drinking
4. Traditional Pubs
5. Pubs Crawls
6. The Grand Tour Of Dublin
7. The Spire
8. Halfpenny Bridge
9. Temple Bar
10. The South
11. St. Stephen's Green

Live Like A Real Dubliner

A little tour through the Irish Lifestyle



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