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PORT EXPLORER



DUBLIN

IRELAND

Dublin, the capital city of Ireland and of Dublin County, is located in east-central Ireland at the head of Dublin Bay, on the Irish Sea. Behind the City to the south, rise the Dublin Hills and Wicklow Mountains. The River Liffey winds its way through the City on its way eastward into Dublin Bay, and is spanned by 11 bridges. The name Dublin comes from the Irish 'Dubh Linn' meaning 'Black Pool', but it is also known locally by the much older Gaelic name of 'Balle Atha Cliath' which means 'Town of the Hurdle Ford', as it was once a place to ford the River Liffey.

Dublin has a population of close to one million and is the Irish Republic's chief port and center of financial and commercial power. Originally, Dublin was famous for its textile industries, especially woolens, cotton, silk and poplin. Today however, it has food processing industries, manufactures glass and cigarettes, and exports agricultural products and alcoholic beverages. The Guinness Brewery, producer of beer and stout, is the largest industrial exporter, the nation's largest private employer and one of the world's biggest breweries.

A municipal ordinance limits the height of buildings in the City and, although a few 17th century buildings remain, the City's architectural heritage is mainly from the 18th century when spacious squares, elegant streets and many fine buildings were erected. Dublin was the birthplace and home of several influential writers in the 19th and 20th centuries, including; William Butler Yeats, James Joyce, Sean O'Casey, Samuel Beckett and George Bernard Shaw.

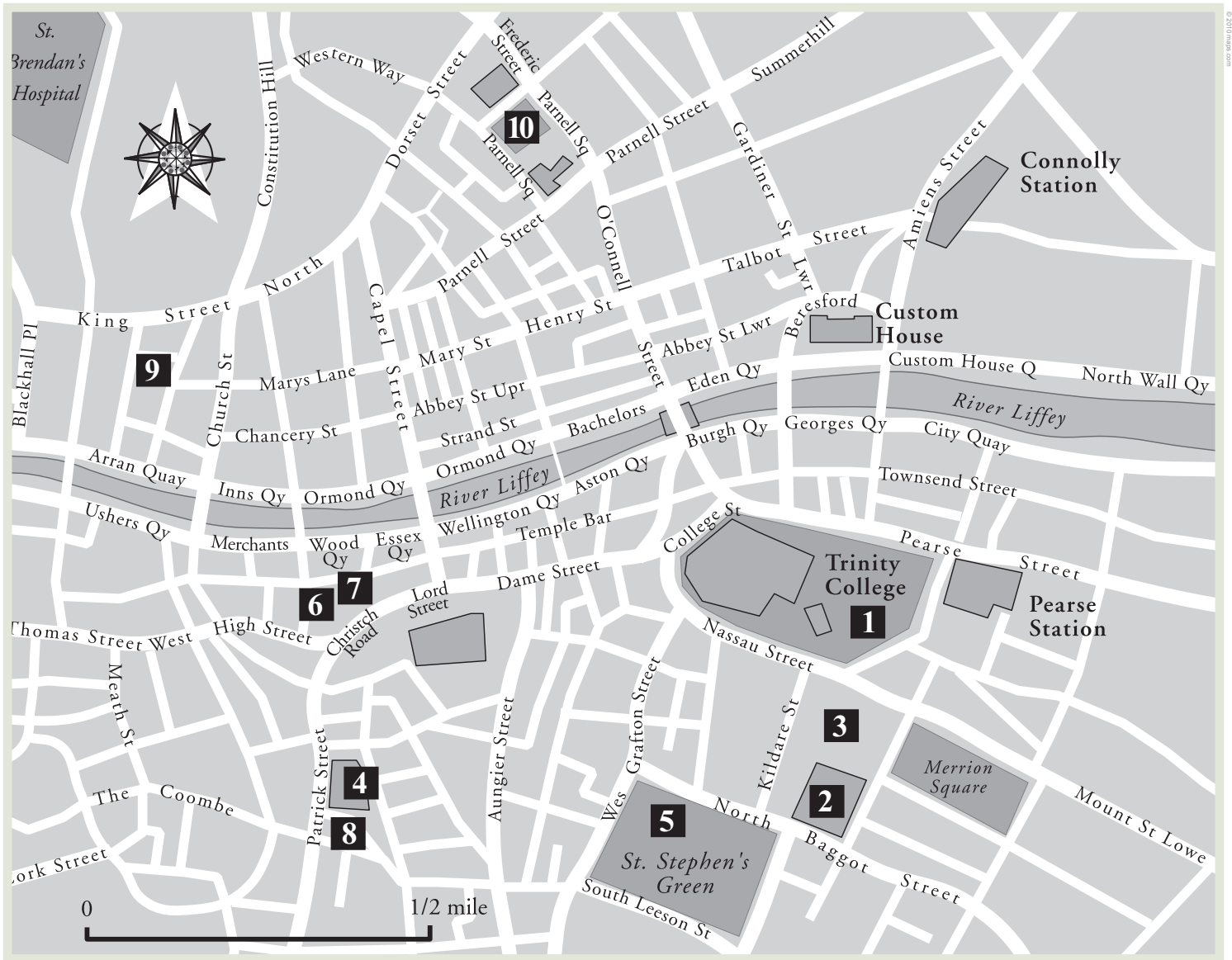


HISTORY

Pre-historic hill forts have been discovered in the area, but little is known of these settlements. As Celtic tribes arrived, they created villages and towns in the area, introducing their language and iron technology. In the 9th century, Vikings conquered the area and Dublin became the focal point of the Viking invasion of Ireland, and later a base for their European trade. The Norsemen were converted to Christianity and built a cathedral in Dublin in 1034. Normans landed in Ireland in 1139 and captured Dublin from the Vikings. This time Dublin became the center of the English conquest of Ireland. A castle was built and the City fortified and surrounded by walls. In the 16th century new bridges were built over the River Liffey and many streets created.

Dublin's importance as a seaport grew during the 17th century, and in the 18th century the City flourished. At this time, great public buildings were built, while a movement for parliamentary independence began. Independence was granted to Ireland, by Britain in 1782, but in 1801 the Act of Union abolished Ireland's parliament and Dublin's political and social life suffered. The great potato famine struck Ireland in 1845 and almost one million people perished, and another million emigrated, mainly to America. Nationalist groups emerged and an Irish Republic (Eire) was proclaimed in 1916 after the Easter rising, but it soon fell and the leaders were executed.

A war of independence broke out and Ireland was partitioned in 1921, with 6 Protestant counties (Ulster) remaining within the United Kingdom, while the others were united as the Irish Free State. Ireland stayed neutral in World War II and more recently joined the mainstream of modern life, with membership in the European Economic Community.



DUBLIN PLACES OF INTEREST

1 Trinity College is the University of Dublin. Founded in 1591 by Elizabeth I, it originally offered education to Catholics who adopted the Protestant faith. Right up until 1966 it was necessary for Catholics studying here, to obtain a dispensation from their Bishop or face excommunication. The Library constitutes one of the oldest college buildings, a copyright library containing over 2 million volumes, it is the largest collection in Ireland. The 'Book of Kells' is the greatest treasure of the collection, a beautifully illuminated manuscript of the Gospels dating from the 8th century.



2 National Museum, located off Kildare Street, contains a remarkable collection of Irish antiquities including: decorative arts, exhibits relating to folk-life and artifacts of Irish Gold, some dating from as long ago as 6,000 B.C.

3 National Gallery on the west side of Merrion Square, contains more than 2,000 exhibits, including a major collection of Irish landscapes. Natural History Museum, also in

Merrion Square, contains a collection of mounted and preserved animals, with the remains of some extinct mammals and birds representing the world of pre-history.

4 St. Patrick's Cathedral, of Protestant denomination, is located on Patrick Street. The Cathedral is said to have been built on the site where St. Patrick baptized many converts in the 5th century. Dating from 1190, the Cathedral was used during the 17th century by Oliver Cromwell to stable his troops horses. Reparations were not carried out until the 19th century. Jonathan Swift, author of *Gulliver's Travels*, was Dean (1713-1745) and in addition to his tomb, various memorabilia are on display.

5 St. Stephen's Green, a pleasant enclosed public garden with ornamental lake and waterfowl, is the venue for bands to play during the summer months.

6 Christ Church Cathedral on Christ Church Road is also of Protestant denomination and unusually close to St. Patrick's. The reason for this being, that St. Patrick's once lay beyond the City walls. Christ Church was founded in 1172 by Strongbow, a Norman Baron and Conqueror of Dublin for the English Crown. The vast and impressive crypt is Dublin's

oldest structure.

7 Dubliona, next to Christ Church, contains an historical portrayal of life in Dublin during the medieval period, from 1170 to 1540, and includes a scale model of Dublin in the 1500's.

8 Archbishop Marsh's Library is located on Patrick Street. Built in 1701 the interior remains unchanged in almost 300 years, retaining the cages used for scholars wishing to study a particularly rare book.

9 Irish Whiskey Corner on Bow Street, occupies a 90 year old warehouse that has been converted into a museum. and features an audio-visual presentation of the process of Irish Whiskey production and visitors receive a complimentary tasting.

10 Parnell Square and Writer's Museum occupies one of Dublin's earliest Georgian Squares. The Writer's Museum, opened in 1991 in two 18th century restored buildings, contains a collection of paintings, letters, manuscripts and photographs relating to Dublin's numerous literary geniuses. No less than three Nobel Prize winners originate from Dublin; Samuel Beckett, George Bernard Shaw and William Butler Yeats.

Beyond Dublin

Powerscourt Gardens, approximately 14 miles from Dublin, form part of a majestic estate. The beautiful gardens, originally designed between 1731-40, encompass 34,000 acres on both sides of the River Dargle. Circular terraces descend to Lake Triton with its 100 foot high fountain. There are also Italian and Japanese Gardens.

Malahide Castle and Gardens are located some 9 miles from Dublin, dating from 1185, the former seat of Lord Talbot de Malahide, it is the oldest castle to be continually inhabited by the same family. Only in 1976 was the chain finally broken. The Castle, set in 268 acres of parkland, retains the original medieval Great Hall and contains period furnishings and a fine display of family portraits.



SHORE EXCURSIONS

To make the most of your visit to Dublin and surrounding areas we suggest you take one of the organized Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour content and pricing, consult your Shore Excursion Order Form or contact the Shore Excursion Desk. When going ashore, be advised to take only necessary items and secure any valuables onboard.

LOCAL CUSTOMS

Bargaining: Shop prices in Ireland normally are fixed.

Tipping: Where a service charge is not included, 10 – 12% is a good guideline.

LOCAL CUISINE AND DRINK SPECIALTIES

Traditional cuisine in Ireland is simple and wholesome, Irish Stew being an example. Shellfish, home made vegetable soups, fish and chips are typical fare. Boxty is a traditional Irish potato bread, made pancake thin and often served with a savory filling.

Irish Whiskey is perhaps the most famous, and then there's Irish Coffee. In Dublin the local brew is Guinness, established here since 1759. Bottled water is recommended.

SHOPPING

The main shops are centered around Grafton Street, Henry Street and O'Connell Street. There is a shopping center at St. Stephen's Green and Temple Bar offers an interesting selection of small art galleries and specialty shops complete with buskers and street performers. General opening hours are from 9:00 am – 5:30 pm, Monday through Saturday. Local handicrafts include quality woolens, hand-knit sweaters and tweeds. In addition to the famous Waterford crystal, the Dublin Crystal Glass Company produces its own collection.

Value added Tax (VAT), is added to most purchases. Visitors who spend over a certain amount may be entitled to re-claim some or all of the tax paid; however, regulations and conditions governing the refund of VAT are subject to change and RCCL cannot guarantee the cooperation of local authorities.

LOCAL CURRENCY

The unit of currency in this port of call is the euro. There are 8 euro coins denominated in 2 and 1 euros, along with 50, 20, 10, 5, 2, and 1 cent pieces. Every euro coin carries a common European face. On the obverse, each Member State decorates the coins with their own motifs. No matter which motif is on the coins they can be used anywhere inside the Member States. There are 7 euro notes. In different colors and sizes, they are denominated in 500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10, and 5 euros. The notes are uniform throughout the euro area; unlike coins, they have no national side. All euro notes are legal tender in all countries of the euro area.

POST OFFICE AND TELEPHONE FACILITIES

The main Post Office is located on O'Connell Street.

There is a 'Telecenter' located at College Green, from which international calls can be placed. There are plenty of public phone booths that accept local coins or phone cards, available in various denomi-

