DUB
2027

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EUROPEAN SERIES
NORTHERN & BALTIC EXPEDITIONS

Greetings from DUBLIN

48 hours, solo, at your own pace

POCKET EDITION · 2027

48-HOUR GUIDE · SAFETY GUIDE · PLANNING CALENDAR

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Welcome to Dublin

Dublin is a compact capital on the River Liffey, with Georgian squares, old pubs, a medieval castle, and a literary tradition that is never far from conversation. The city is small enough to walk, and most of what you will want to see sits within a mile of the river.

Traveling alone here is easy. The pub is the center of social life, and the person on the next stool is often glad to talk. A quiet pint, a good book, and a corner seat make a perfectly good evening, and there is almost always music on somewhere.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Read through once before you go. Day One covers Trinity College, Grafton Street, Dublin Castle, and an evening of traditional music. Day Two covers the Guinness Storehouse, Kilmainham Gaol, and a pub in the literary quarter. Section 03 is the new-for-2027 story of the 9,000-year lease. The weather changes quickly, so carry a light rain jacket year-round.

ESSENTIAL QUICK FACTS

CURRENCY
Euro (€) · cards accepted nearly everywhere

TRANSIT
Luas tram, buses, DART · Leap Card

TIPPING
About 10% in restaurants, optional in pubs

EMERGENCY
112 or 999

MEAL TIMES
Lunch around 1 p.m. · dinner from 6 p.m.

LANGUAGE
English and Irish

01

Day One

Trinity College · Grafton Street · Dublin Castle

The first day crosses the old city south of the river, then ends in a pub with live music.

MORNING · 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

9:00 AM

Trinity College and the Long Room

Ireland's oldest university is home to the Book of Kells, an illuminated manuscript from around the year 800, and the Long Room Library, with its soaring barrel-vaulted ceiling. Book timed tickets online.

Go at opening to beat the groups.

11:00 AM

Grafton Street and St Stephen's Green

A pedestrian shopping street with buskers, leading to a Victorian park with a pond and flower beds.

Stop at Bewley's for coffee and a bun.

12:30 PM

Lunch

Try a seafood chowder, a plate of fish and chips, or a bowl of Irish stew at a café or pub near the green.

Order brown bread with the soup.

AFTERNOON · 2:00 PM – 6:00 PM

2:00 PM

Dublin Castle

A medieval castle that served as the seat of British rule for centuries. Tour the State Apartments and the Chapel Royal.

Check opening hours and tour times.

4:00 PM

Christ Church Cathedral

A medieval cathedral with a crypt, a famous set of bells, and a connection to the city's Viking origins.

Check visiting hours.

5:30 PM

Temple Bar in daylight

The cobbled quarter is crowded and expensive at night. In the afternoon it is quieter, with galleries, shops, and an old pub or two.

Visit by day, and drink elsewhere at night.

EVENING · 7:00 PM – 11:00 PM

7:00 PM

Dinner

Choose a restaurant in the city center with bar seating. Seafood, boxty, and lamb are good choices.

Reserve ahead on weekends.

9:00 PM

Traditional music in a pub

A pub such as The Cobblestone in Smithfield hosts live traditional music sessions most nights, with fiddles, pipes, and a back room full of listeners.

Order a pint, and stay quiet during the tunes.

02 Day Two

The Guinness Storehouse · Kilmainham Gaol · A Literary Pub

The second day mixes the city's most famous brewery with a sobering prison and a literary evening.

MORNING · 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM

9:30 AM

The Guinness Storehouse

The visitor experience at St James's Gate has seven floors on the story of Guinness and ends with a pint in the Gravity Bar, with a view over the city. Section 03 tells the story of the brewery's famous lease. Book tickets online.

Go at opening for smaller crowds.

12:00 PM

Lunch near the Liberties

The Liberties is an old neighborhood of markets and pubs. Pick a café or a pub with a hot lunch.

Try a bowl of soup and brown bread.

1:00 PM

Walk to Kilmainham

A short taxi or tram ride brings you to Kilmainham Gaol.

Allow time to find the entrance.

AFTERNOON · 2:00 PM – 6:00 PM

2:00 PM

Kilmainham Gaol

A Victorian prison where leaders of the 1916 Easter Rising were held and executed. Tours are guided and timed, and they sell out, so book ahead.

The tour is moving and informative.

4:30 PM

Phoenix Park

One of the largest enclosed city parks in Europe, with wild deer, wide lawns, and a long avenue.

Rent a bike or walk for an hour.

EVENING · 7:00 PM – 11:00 PM

7:00 PM

Dinner

Dine at a traditional pub or a restaurant with bar seating. Try a seafood chowder, lamb stew, or boxty, a potato pancake.

Reserve ahead on weekends.

9:00 PM

A literary pub

Davy Byrnes appears in James Joyce's Ulysses, and The Palace Bar was a haunt of writers and journalists. Order a pint and a toasted sandwich.

Ask the barman for a book recommendation.

03 9,000

The 9,000-Year Lease

NEW FOR 2027

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know Guinness signed a lease on its brewery for 9,000 years?

On December 31, 1759, Arthur Guinness signed a 9,000-year lease on a disused brewery at St James's Gate in Dublin, for an annual rent of £45. The brewery grew into one of the most famous in the world, and the lease, a bold bet on the future, is now part of its legend.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE LEASE

The lease is no longer in force. As the brewery expanded beyond its original four acres, the company eventually bought the property outright, and the famous document is now a historical curiosity.

THE STOREHOUSE

The Guinness Storehouse, in a former fermentation plant at St James's Gate, tells the story across seven floors. The top floor is the Gravity Bar, with a nearly 360-degree view over the city and a pint of Guinness.

HOW TO VISIT

Book tickets online, go early or late for smaller crowds, and allow about two hours. Your ticket includes a pint, and a lesson on pouring one properly.

04 Where to Eat

Dublin's table — stew, seafood and a pint

Dublin food is hearty and honest. Pubs serve hot lunches and dinners, and cafés do good baking. A bar stool is the easiest seat for one.

€ under €15 · €€ €15–40 · €€€ over €40 — per person, excluding drinks

BREAKFAST & LUNCH

Bewley's Café €

GRAFTON STREET

A historic café with stained glass, buns, and coffee.

Queen of Tarts €

CORK HILL

A cozy bakery café with cakes, scones, and a full breakfast.

Leo Burdock €

CHRISTCHURCH

A classic fish-and-chip shop open since the early 20th century.

Gallagher's Boxty House €€

TEMPLE BAR

Boxty, stews, and traditional Irish dishes.

DINNER & LATE

The Brazen Head €€

LIBERTIES

A pub that claims to be the oldest in Dublin, with food and live music.

The Cobblestone €

SMITHFIELD

A pub known for traditional music sessions.

Davy Byrnes €€

DUKE STREET

A literary pub mentioned in Ulysses, with seafood and a toasted sandwich.

The Palace Bar €

FLEET STREET

A Victorian pub with a snug and a literary past.

05 Getting Around

Getting around Dublin

Central Dublin is compact and walkable. Trams, buses, and trains connect the rest.

Luas tram	about €2	Two lines cross the city. Pay with a Leap Card or contactless.
Dublin Bus	about €2	Buses cover most of the city. Check current fares and use a Leap Card.
Airport (DUB)	Bus	Airport buses run to the center in about 30 to 45 minutes. Check current fares.
DART	by trip	A coastal train linking the city, Howth, and Bray.
Bikes	by the ride	A public bike scheme operates across the center.
Walking	free	The center is flat and compact.

Rain is frequent. Carry a light rain jacket, and wear shoes with grip on wet cobbles.

06 *Backup Plans*

Dublin in the rain

Dublin's rain is frequent but usually brief. These are good indoor options.

Book of Kells
TRINITY
An illuminated manuscript and the Long Room Library.

National Museum of Ireland
KILDARE STREET
Archaeology, with Viking and Bronze Age treasures; free entry.

National Gallery
MERRION SQUARE
Irish and European masters; free entry.

Chester Beatty
DAME STREET
A library of rare manuscripts and art; free entry.

EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum
DOCKLANDS
The story of the Irish diaspora.

Guinness Storehouse
LIBERTIES
Seven floors and a pint with a view.

07 *Neighborhoods*

Know your neighborhoods

Merrion Square
GEORGIAN
Brick townhouses and colored doors.

Grafton Street
CENTER
A pedestrian street of shops and buskers.

Temple Bar
OLD CITY
Cobbles, galleries, and crowded pubs.

The Liberties
HISTORIC
Markets, the Guinness brewery, and old pubs.

Smithfield
MARKETS
A square of pubs and a traditional music scene.

Phoenix Park
GREEN
A huge park with deer and long lawns.

08 Good to Know

What nobody tells you

- The pub is the center of social life. Take a seat at the bar and say hello.
- A pint of Guinness takes a couple of minutes to pour properly. Wait for it to settle.
- Temple Bar is lively but expensive. Drink elsewhere, and visit by day.
- Book Kilmainham Gaol and the Guinness Storehouse ahead. Tours sell out.
- Tip about 10% in restaurants. Tipping in pubs is not expected.
- The weather changes quickly. Carry a light rain jacket year-round.

WHEN TO GO

Best overall — **May–Sep**
Long days, mild weather, and outdoor events.

Second best — **Apr & Oct**
Cooler and quieter, with fewer visitors.

Peak season — **Jul–Aug**
Busy and bright, with festivals and long evenings.

Off-season — **Nov–Mar**
Cool, dark, and rainy, with cozy pubs and lower prices.

09 Solo Traveler Safety

Is Dublin safe?

Safe in terms of violent crime. Pickpocketing is the main concern in crowded areas such as Grafton Street, Temple Bar, and on public transport. Some areas, including parts of O'Connell Street, can feel rough late at night.

NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY AT A GLANCE

Trinity and Grafton Street	◆◆◆◆◇
Merrion Square	◆◆◆◆◆
Temple Bar (daytime)	◆◆◆◆◇
The Liberties	◆◆◆◆◇
Phoenix Park (daytime)	◆◆◆◆◇
Temple Bar late at night	◆◆◆◇◇
O'Connell Street at night	◆◆◇◇◇

COMMON SCAMS

Street charity collectors and petitioners may ask for money. Decline politely. Keep your phone out of back pockets and your bag zipped in crowds.

HEALTH & MEDICAL

For emergencies call 112 or 999. Pharmacies are marked with a green cross and can advise on minor problems. Carry travel insurance, and an EHIC card if you are from the EU.

SOLO TRAVELERS

Share your plans with someone back home and keep your phone charged. Stay on busy streets late at night, and use a taxi app if you are tired.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Emergency	112 or 999
Garda (non-emergency)	Local station
US Embassy (Dublin)	+353 1 668 8777

10 *Planning Calendar*

Dublin, month by month

A year-round look at the events that shape the city. Exact dates shift annually.

MAR 17 *St Patrick's Festival*

- A multi-day festival of parades, music, and events across the city.

JUN 16 *Bloomsday*

- Fans of James Joyce's Ulysses retrace the book's route in period costume.

JUL–AUG *Summer*

- Long days, outdoor concerts, and a lively street scene.

SEP *Dublin Fringe Festival*

- Theater, comedy, and performance in venues across the city.

OCT 31 *Halloween*

- The festival has Irish roots in Samhain, and the city celebrates with parades and events.

DEC *Holidays*

- Lights on Grafton Street, markets, and cozy pubs.

Every Stop, Mapped

Scan the code to open the free interactive Dublin map — every stop in this guide, filterable by day, food, and transport.

goingsolo.life/maps/dublin

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