

25 BEST THINGS TO DO IN DUBLIN

If the 'luck of the Irish' is on your side and you find yourself in the infamous city of Dublin, there will be countless things for you to do and see while you're there. Not only is Dublin deeply rooted in their incredible history, culture and - well, booze - the people of Dublin are all such characters, as well. Whether they are sharing long-winded stories, singing local songs or telling the odd joke here and there to make you laugh, the locals never fail to put a smile on your face. And, because the city is located right on the east coast, day trips and excursions to the mountains or cliff sides are just a bus ride away, where you can witness some of the most vast and beautiful sceneries in all of Ireland.

Here's a list we compiled of the **top 25 things to do in Dublin**:

1. Party like the Irish at The Temple Bar



The Temple Bar is quite possibly one of the most iconic bars in all of Dublin, with tourists flocking from all over the world to have a drink inside its famous walls. Although the history of the bar dates back to the early 1300s, it still remains popular to this day due to its famous red exterior, its great location in the heart of the city, as well as being a huge part of Dublin's central nightlife scene. At present, The Temple Bar is the most popular bar frequented by young tourists - and even some locals alike - looking to have a glass (or two, or three) of strong Irish whiskey and enjoy a hell of a night.

2. Drink Inside a Restored Cathedral at The Church



One of the most unique and beautiful bars in the city, The Church is not what its name may make it seem. In fact, The Church used to originally be called St. Mary's church; however, it closed in 1964 and was eventually restored and converted into a popular bar and nightclub in 2007. On the main floor, you can find a magnificent island bar that almost spans the length of the church, complete with booths, tables and bar stools for guests and a small stage that plays live traditional Irish music from 7pm - 9pm on Sunday - Wednesday. Downstairs, you can find the nightclub - open every Friday & Saturday night from 10pm until 3am - with a resident DJ that plays all the latest popular music and Rn'B tracks.

3. Visit the Guinness Storehouse Factory



Located in the heart of St. James' Gate Brewery, the Guinness Storehouse is one of the most popular tourist attractions in all of Ireland. In fact, the interior is designed to look exactly like a pint of Guinness itself and is known to be the largest pint in the world. A ticket to the Guinness factory (roughly €18) will take you on a tour through seven floors of Irish brewing history, where you will learn all about the Guinness family, as well as how the beloved stout beer is meticulously crafted to perfection. At

the end of the tour, you will be dropped off at the Gravity Bar on the 7th floor, where you can enjoy a refreshing pint of Guinness with a 360 degree view of the Dublin skyline.

4. Take a photo with The Spire of Dublin



One of the easiest monuments to spot from afar, The Spire stands proudly in the center of O'Connell street towering approximately 120 meters above ground. This completely stainless-steel structure is about 3 meters in diameter at the base and 15 centimeters at its apex. On sunny days, you can notice its exterior being gently illuminated by the sun - lighting up the monument for all to see. The tip of the structure is also lit up by an external light source at nighttime in order to act as a beacon in the night sky.

5. Marvel at the Beauty of St. Patrick's Cathedral



Known as the largest church in all of Ireland, St. Patrick's Cathedral is actually one of two cathedrals that were built on Dublin soil. However, St. Patrick's Cathedral still remains the most popular of the two when it comes to tourists. The cathedral was originally founded in 1191 and is rife with over 800 years of Irish history and culture. A brilliant architectural wonder, its beauty can be noticed both inside and out. It is also the final resting place of Jonathan Swift, author of Gulliver's travels and Dean of the Cathedral.

6. Go Back in Time to Dublin Castle



Take a trip back to prehistoric Dublin by visiting the famous Dublin Castle. With over 800 years of Irish memories encapsulated within its walls, this incredible structure has borne witness to some of the most pivotal events in all of the country's history. Spanning an area of over 11 acres, the Castle stands proudly on the highest ridge in the locality and offers self-guided and guided tours of the grounds, including the Castle's many rooms, gardens and museums such as the Chapel Royal, the Chester Beatty Library, the Garda Museum and the Revenue Museum.

7. Take a Walk over Ha'penny Bridge



A strikingly unique white-picketed beauty, the Ha'penny Bridge is famously known as the first pedestrian bridge to span over the river Liffey. Its name was derived from the price pedestrians had to pay (a "halfpenny") to cross the bridge back when it was built in 1816. Today, it has become one of the main "monuments" or structures that identify Dublin - appearing on postcards, tourism brochures, books and memorabilia.



8. Take a day trip to Northern Ireland

Spend a day visiting some of Northern Ireland's most scenic attractions. See the Giant's Causeway and walk across the Carrick-a-Rede rope bridge.

9. Visit Christ Church Cathedral



The second of Dublin's medieval cathedrals, Christ Church Cathedral, is yet another of Dublin's architectural wonders. More formally known as The Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, this fully-operational church is the cathedral of the United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough. Although it is open to tourists who wish to marvel at its Romanesque interiors, the staff of the cathedral do charge admission and ticketing fees, as the building receives no support from the state. However, the fee is definitely worth the visit and will help contribute to maintaining this beautiful piece of Irish history.

10. Read a Book at Trinity College Library



An incredible architectural wonder, and a room most bibliophiles would only dream of finding themselves in, the Trinity College Library is the largest library in all of Ireland. It is also home to the famous Book of Kells - an ornate, beautifully-illuminated manuscript containing all of the four Gospels of the New Testament that's over 1000 years old. Its most famous section, known as The Long Room, has been known to resemble the Jedi Archives in Star Wars. Unfortunately, the main library is only open to staff, graduates and students of the university, but that doesn't stop tourists from taking a gander at the Old Library that's open to visitors and located within its quarters.

11. Learn about the Abandoned Prison of Kilmainham Gaol



An absolute must-see destination for all history lovers, Kilmainham Gaol is an abandoned prison that offers guided tours of its restored quarters. With a cheap ticket fee of €4 per person, each tour includes a 45-50 minute tour of the facilities where your knowledgeable guide will take you through the history of the jail, detailing the extremely poor treatment of inmates during that time, along with countless other interesting facts about the politics and restoration of the prison. You will leave this tour with a much broader understanding of this devastating time in Irish history.

12. Take a Day Trip to The Cliffs of Moher



Another spectacular trip that awaits you just beyond the city is a tour of the marvelous Cliffs of Moher. These natural wonders have also been used for various film shoots, such as Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince and The Princess Bride, and are an absolute breathtaking experience to view in person. You can visit any tourism center in Dublin to arrange a day tour to the Cliffs of Moher, which will cost anywhere between €15 to €40. A must-see.

13. Peruse the Dublin Flea Market

Although you can probably find a flea market happening on almost any corner and sidestreet in Dublin (especially on the weekends), the Dublin Flea Market is a huge indoor flea market that happens on the last Sunday of every month and has become one of the most beloved in Dublin. With over 60+ stalls selling everything from reusable household items to baby supplies to furniture to old clothes, there's a chance you'll find exactly what you're looking for here.

14. Discover the Unique Doors of Dublin



Since most of the housing complexes are built to look the same (and each individual house has little room in between each other), most home owners will paint their door an original color in order to set them apart from their neighbor's house. Although it was previously used to identify the home, it has now become a significant characteristic of Dublin itself. Photos of these colorful, unique-looking doors can be found on postcards and calendars in souvenir shops around the city.

15. Relax at St. Stephen's Green



Another popular Dublin park to relax in is St. Stephen's Green, filled with lush green grass, a variety of plants and flowers and some marvelous bodies of water. If that's not enough, there are even some monuments scattered around for you to see and many paths for you to walk, bike or jog. Bring a book, a packed lunch, or stop at a café before heading to St. Stephen's Green to enjoy a brisk, beautiful day at the park.

16. Have a History Lesson at the National Museum of Ireland



One of the best free museums in all of Dublin is definitely the National Museum of Ireland. Some of the most notable exhibits in the museum include the Viking exhibit, the exquisite gold artifact display or the remarkable collection of "bog men" - bodies found and recovered from bogs all over Ireland. Each body comes with a story that will give you spectacular insight into the lives of these men who once lived in the country and have now become a permanent part of Irish history.

17. Listen To Buskers On Grafton Street



You never know what you are going to find on Grafton Street, but you are guaranteed a great show! From traditional Irish music, to rock and pop, this free entertainment is the perfect soundtrack to your Irish trip.

Grafton Street has also been known to bring out the busker in everyone, including people like Bono, Hozier, The Script, Damien Rice and Glen Hansard to name a few.

18. Oscar Wilde Statue



The Oscar Wilde Statue sits at a corner of Merrion Square Park, just opposite where this famous Irish poet and playwright lived for some years. It consists of a statue and two pillars; a statue of Oscar Wilde, his wife Constance Lloyd and a statue of Dionysus.

Each detail shows the attention to detail given to the entire sculpting process. For instance, the statue of Oscar Wilde reclines on a rock hewn from Wicklow Mountains. To add personality and color, the sculptor used a variety of colored stones.

19. Trad Sessions



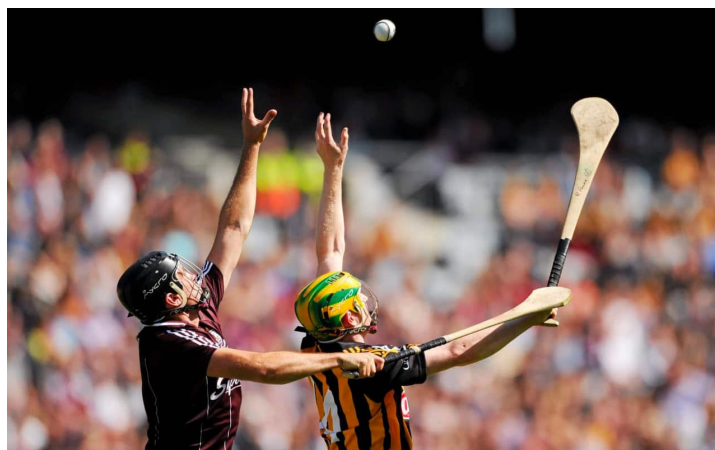
Traditional Irish music, or *trad*, is one reason many people visit Ireland. If you have never been to an [Irish Trad Session](#), prepare yourself for an unusual experience, it can get pretty wild especially when the Guinness is flowing. You can grab a seat, but you won't be sitting for long – Irish dancing on the tables in no time.

20. Have a traditional Irish meal



Most Irish pubs are also known for their traditional Irish food like Dublin Coddle, Cottage Pie and Irish Stew.

21. Watch A Hurling Match



You may have never heard of Hurling before, but I can guarantee the moment you sit down to watch this ancient Gaelic and Irish sport, you'll instantly become a fan.

And where better to watch, than in Croke Park ('Croker' as the Irish say). Hurling has been played in Ireland for well over 3000 years and is said to be 'the fastest game on grass'.

It involves a wooden stick called a *hurley* and a small hard ball called a *sliotar*, and players must wear helmets at all times - this is high speed, high impact and high adrenaline for everyone watching!

22. Taste Some Irish Whiskey



Guinness isn't the only alcohol Ireland is famous for. Ireland has been making whiskey for well over two hundred years, so it doesn't get much richer than this when it comes to taste and history.

The most famous whiskey tour in Dublin is the former [Jameson Distillery on Bow Street](#), but it's really just a museum now, no longer a working distillery. Instead, I'd recommend stopping by the fully functional [Teeling Distillery](#) to see an actual distillery in action.

Prepare yourself for a sensory overload, because after the tour you're invited to try out their premium whiskey tasting experience, where you will learn the tricks of the trade, how to blend your own whiskey or master the craft of whiskey cocktail making.

23. Samuel Becket Bridge



If you love iconic architecture, you'll love the Samuel Becket Bridge design. Built in 2009, Santiago Calatrava, the architect, brought out the shape of the Irish harp with cable suspension forming strings from one edge of River Liffey the other.

With its white color, you can see right over the bridge to the other side of the river. This bridge serves both vehicular and pedestrian traffic, and you can see it as you head from the airport. Take a walk over the bridge to enjoy a meal or a drink on the other side of the river.

24. Have An Irish Breakfast



They say drinking a pint of Guinness is akin to eating a meal... so why not start your day with a drink? There is an old motto that says "Eat breakfast like a King, lunch like a prince and dine like a pauper" which basically means you should start your day with a large breakfast. The Irish take this to heart. A traditional Irish breakfast consists of cooked meat (bacon, sausages and black/white puddings), eggs, tomatoes, mushrooms, and potato all fried in butter with brown bread. It was used to prepare you for a full day's work on the farm on a cold winter morning.

25. Go for a run and enjoy the views



Dublin is a culture-loving, vibrant capital, but in amongst the pubs and cobbled streets you'll also find plenty of fine places to stretch your legs. The Irish capital is home to runners galore, hardy folk who hammer out their miles both right in the heart of the city and in its rugged, emerald-green surrounds. There are hundreds of possible routes to pick from, but to get you started, here are eight of our favourite spots to power through on foot.

What NOT To Do In Dublin..

- Never tell an Irish person that YOU are also Irish. Maybe your great, great, great, grandmother was, but YOU are American/British/South African.
- Try avoiding a selfie with the statue of Molly Malone. This is probably the most touristy thing you can do in Dublin..
- Stay away from *Sheriff Street*. Despite the name, it's one of the most dangerous parts of the city. The rest of Dublin isn't too bad!
- Never call an Irishman (or Irish woman) British. In fact, try not to mention the UK at all. The Irish are fiercely independent.
- Don't expect to drink all night. Most pubs in Dublin actually close at 11:30pm on weeknights and 1am on weekends.