



BRENDAN
VACATIONS

REGIONAL GUIDE

Dublin



Your Celtic Story Starts Here

Diverse & Dynamic

Iconic experiences to get the most out of the city

Dublin. The 'black pool'. The place where all roads lead (at least while in Ireland). For visitors starting a Celtic vacation, this is often where the adventure begins. The iconic city on the River Liffey is an amazing amalgamation of perfect parks, elegant Georgian architecture, stately monuments, world-class museums, brilliant nightlife, arts and inspiring cuisine.



St. Patrick's Cathedral

The largest cathedral in the country is a stunning work of gothic architecture and was the one-time post of Jonathan Swift, author of Gulliver's Travels.

Time it right

- St Patrick's Day
March 17
- Samhain (Halloween)
October 31-November 3
- Pride
Last Saturday in June



Dublin City Bike Tour

Small, guided bike tours through the streets of the Irish capital.



Golf at Pormarnock

One of the most respected venues in world golf is located in a picturesque curve of Dublin's coastline, just 10 miles north of the city.



Georgian Dublin Walking Tour

The bright, vivid colors on Georgian doors have become visual symbols of the city.

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As a Local Host, I meet some wonderful people and I love to share my knowledge and make them feel very welcome. But above all that, I get to hear their stories which allows me to guide them towards the best places to go, the best things to do in Dublin or give tips to enhance their visit and make the experience truly personal.

SORINTHA BRADY | LOCAL HOST, DUBLIN



The Book of Kells

A 9th-century masterpiece that documents the four Gospels of the life of Jesus Christ and offers a unique insight into a rich part of Ireland's culture.

Free & fantastic

- National Gallery of Ireland
- Ha'Penny Bridge
- Molly Malone's Statue



Dublin Castle

Built on the site of a Viking settlement, it represents some of the oldest surviving architecture in the city.



Dublin Literary Pub Crawl

Since 1988 the Dublin Literary Pub Crawl has been celebrating saints and scholars from Yeats to Larkin and Behan to Beckett, bringing Dublin's literary history to life with laughter, language and the unique welcome of your guide.



Guinness Storehouse

Originally a disused brewery, Arthur Guinness signed a 9,000-year lease in 1759 and began the story that has become a world-renowned legend. 'The black stuff' is deeply intertwined with the culture of Ireland and there's nowhere better to experience it than at its spiritual home.



A legacy in motion

For 250+ years, Guinness has shifted, innovated, changed and adapted to become the icon it is today. That story shows no signs of going flat as the brewery continues to find new modes of operation, sustainable production methods and new technology.



From past to presentation

From the glass-encased 1794 land deed set into the ground floor, to the Gravity Bar overlooking the Dublin skyline, this immersive experience will have you walking through time, learning the production process, exploring interactive archives of historic art and of course, learning the craft of pulling the perfect pint.



Hands-on history

Walk through immersive halls where history is written on the walls (and everywhere else) at EPIC - The Irish Emigration Museum. This award-winning experience contextualizes the impact of Irish emigration on the world through fully interactive exhibits, channeling the spirit of Irish storytelling and highlighting the power of a name.



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Connect with traditions

A toe-tapping Celtic Nights Irish Night is a triumphant and bold showcase of Ireland's *sean-nós* (traditional) dancing, jaw-dropping choreography and deeply moving Irish music and song. Enjoy a three-course dinner and perhaps the opportunity to take to the stage with the dancers for a traditional *céilidh*.

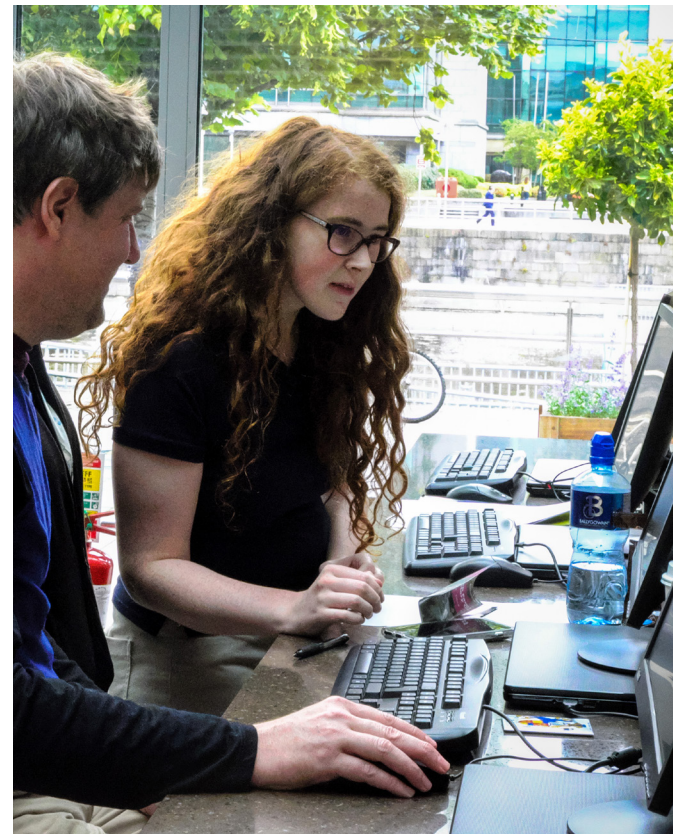


A city alive with History & Culture

History stretches out along every street of the Irish capital, seamlessly blended with the vibrant, modern pace of urban life. The connections between the present and the past are what truly makes Dublin special.

Dive into your past

A private genealogy appointment at the Irish Family History Centre allows you to connect with a special part of Irish history - your own. Coordinated in advance, you'll have a one-hour private consultation to sift through vast records and documents to uncover your Irish connections.



Immerse in culture, family style

Gather your group and try your hand at Ireland's oldest sport at Experience Gaelic Games. Focused on preserving Gaelic culture through heritage sports. EGG fosters community engagement, support of local clubs and increases the value of open and green spaces for community usage.



“““

We're a nation of storytellers and Ireland has perhaps one of the best stories to tell in the world. Our history is still happening and changing all the time and as a Local Specialist, I get to see it come alive through the eyes of the guests, making it truly a joy for me, as much as it is for them.

PAT LIDDY | LOCAL SPECIALIST, DUBLIN

ACCOMMODATION SPOTLIGHT

The Merrion

In a city known for excellence in hotels, The Merrion stands out for its dedication to history, complimented by its modern passion for quality and high service.

Situated in the heart of Dublin near Merrion Square, and opposite Government buildings, this exquisite 5-star luxury hotel is housed in a collection of exquisitely restored Georgian townhouses, it effortlessly combines timeless elegance with modern comfort.

Its gracious halls are home to a world-class collection of private 19th and 20th -century art featuring works by renowned Irish artists, adding a one-of-a-kind cultural dimension to the guest experience.

The hotel boasts individually designed rooms and equally impressive fine dining options including the Garden Room and the 2-star Michelin Restaurant, Patrick Guilbaud as well as an intimate, drawing-room-style bar that serves craft cocktails and afternoon tea.

Guests can opt to rejuvenate with a Tethra Spa treatment. With its central location, exceptional service and artistic ambiance, The Merrion is a luxurious haven for those seeking a refined and culturally rich experience in Dublin.



Food & Drink

Where to sip, savor & *sláinte*

The city's appetite for innovative cuisine is only matched by its dedication to quality classics, employing the very best of local produce that make familiar flavors shine. From fine dining to food tours, whiskey tastings to cocktail making, the roster of Dublin's culinary experiences is an absolute feast.



If you're angling towards pub food and drink and perhaps some entertainment to go with it, the city is filled with options. **O'Donoghue's Pub** at 15 Merrion Row is historically significant in the city and has music, and of course there is the iconic **Temple Bar**, an absolute must-visit at 47-48 Temple Bar.

Just as lively is **The Brazen Head**, which claims to be the oldest pub in Ireland over at 19-20 Bridge Street. If you want aesthetics and traditional pub life, head to **Doherty & Nesbitts**, 'Probably the most photographed pub in Dublin' at 5 Baggot Street.

If it's fine dining you're after, we recommend **Fallon and Byrne** for a contemporary Irish food gastropub experience over at 11-17 Exchequer Street. Try **Gallaghers Boxty House** for perfect takes on classic Irish fare at 20 Temple Bar or for elevated, gastropub style seafood, visit the famed **Matt the Thresher** at 32 Pembroke Street.

Teeling Distillery

Based in the historic Liberties district is the official home of the 'Spirit of Dublin'. The distillery played an important part in reviving the traditional style of Dublin whiskey distillation by being the first to open its door in the city in 125 years. Experience history in real-time as you come to understand the inner workings of an operational distillery, then enjoy a cocktail at The Bang Bang Bar overlooking the city.



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Whiskey Shakers Tour at Jameson Bow Street

Immerse in a bustling slice of culture and *craic* as you go behind the scenes of 200 years of whiskey making at the Bow Street Distillery in Smithfield. Be 'whiskeyed' away on a premium whiskey tasting experience where you'll learn how to blend your own whiskey, make cocktails, and draw whiskey straight from a Jameson cask. A must for whiskey aficionados.



Delicious Dublin Food Tour

Roam the streets of the Irish capital in the company of a knowledgeable Local Specialist. Taste your way around restaurants, local markets, shops and pubs, meeting owners and artisans ready to give you the backgrounds behind every delicious bite. As you sample delicious treats, learning about the history of the places you visit and the culinary style of Dublin.

Coffee & treats

Kaph - 31 Drury Street
Murphy's Ice Cream - 27 Wicklow Street
Butlers Chocolate - 4 Liffey Street

Dublin Whiskey Trail Tour

Enjoy a luxury tour in executive transport as you experience the best Dublin distilleries accompanied by an expert whiskey host.

“““

The Irish Whiskey Renaissance is in full swing and there's no better time to immerse in *uisce beatha* (the water of life) on our premium experiences.

JOHN CALLELY | WHISKEY ISLAND

FROM THE EXPERTS

24 Hours in...

What to do if you only have one day in Dublin as recommended by one of our Celtic Experts.



There's Georgian Merrion Square, the somewhat hidden Iveagh Gardens or the slightly larger Phoenix Park (home to the Irish President's House and Dublin Zoo).



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My ideal day out in Dublin would kick off with a visit to my favourite museum, EPIC - The Irish Emigration Museum. I've always had an interest in my own Irish heritage, so EPIC is a no-brainer. Plus, I love their interactive displays and the journey you take within the museum. It's no wonder it's won so many awards!

En route to my next destination, I'd grab a sandwich or 99 ice-cream (or both!) and relax in one of Dublin's city parks and squares. I love the little patches of nature dotted throughout the city.

Next stop, Guinness Storehouse. Always the top of my list of favourite things to do in Dublin for two reasons. Firstly, the Guinness, which I love, and second, the 360° views of my home city from the Gravity Bar at the top of the Storehouse are unbeatable.



With an appetite built up from my pint in the Gravity Bar, I'd head to Leo Burdocks for the best fish & chips in town. I'd stroll through the cobbled streets of Temple Bar, taking in the hustle and bustle, and make my way across the River Liffey, via the iconic Ha'Penny Bridge.



I'd want to finish off my day in Dublin with a trip to the pub, so I'd be faced with a very tricky dilemma... where to go when the choice is so abundant? After careful deliberation, knowing a trad music session is always great *craic*, I'd head for The Cobblestone in Smithfield, famous for their Irish music!

AOIFE WARD | LIFE-LONG DUBLINER



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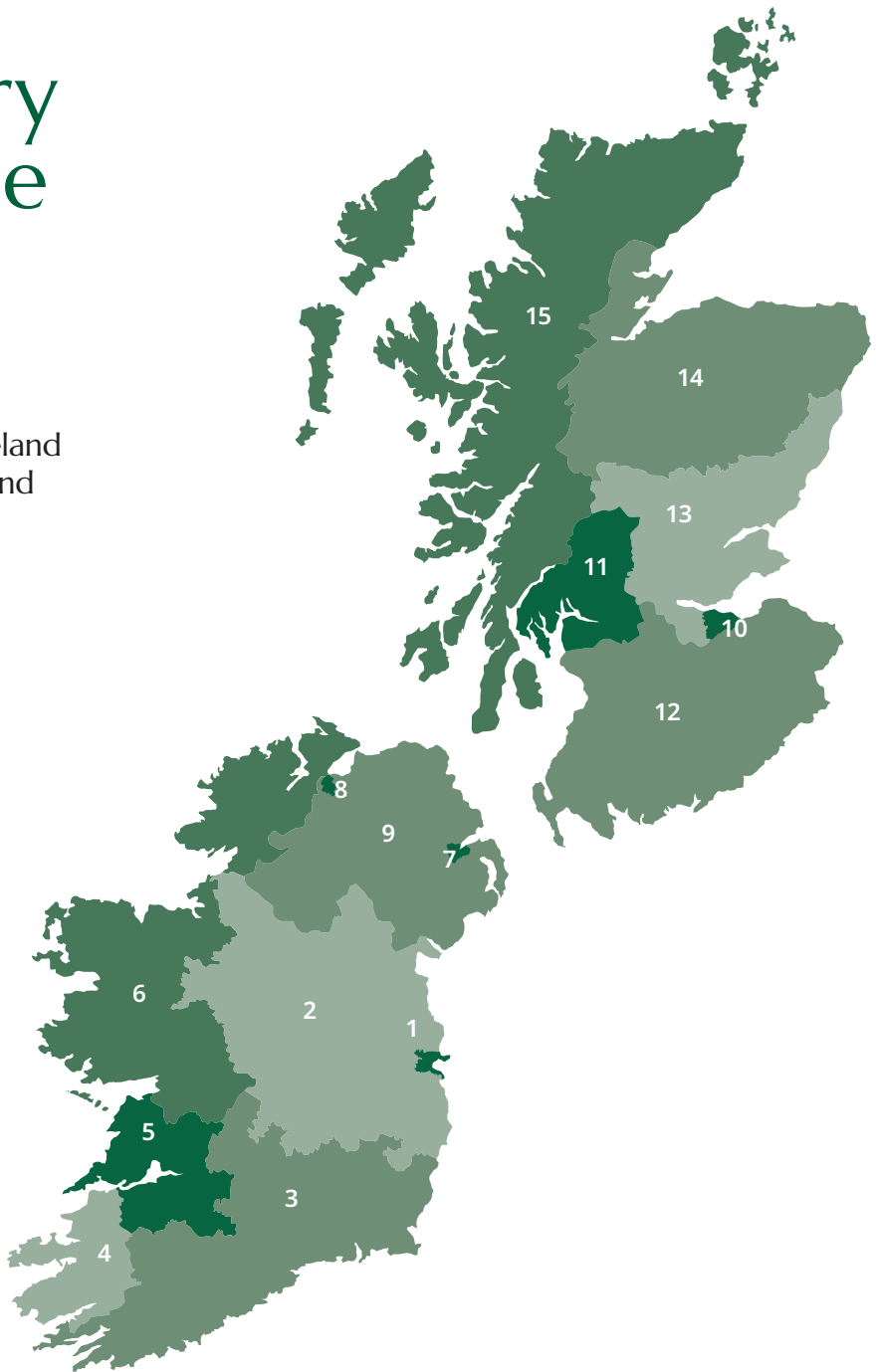


Explore every corner of the Celtic Isles

Excitement, connection, history, romance and more than a little Celtic magic. Every region of Ireland & Scotland has its own stories and we're here to help tell them.

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