The best places to eat, sleep and play in Dublin this fall and winter

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INTRODUCTION

TripAdvisor, the most trusted source for where to eat, sleep and play in thousands of destinations around the world, has collected the best insider tips from its 50 million monthly visitors to produce a unique series of travel guides. In addition to the best hotels, restaurants and attractions for every type of traveler, you’ll get great advice about what to pack, how to get around and where to find the best views. Be sure to check out the guides at www.tripadvisor.com.

Inside
DUBLIN

One of the world’s liveliest cities, there’s been a buzz about Dublin for centuries. While some tales of the city and its residents are clichéd, many ring true. Dubliners are a friendly, talkative bunch, partial to frequenting the city’s one thousand pubs.

The spectacular somersault of the Irish economy in the ’90s, known as the Celtic Tiger, created a decidedly different Dublin. The city sashayed confidently into the new millennium, while managing to retain its traditional charm and exuberance.

The temperature does not vary wildly by season, nor does the propensity to rain. Cool, wet summers and mild, wet winters are the hallmark of Dublin’s climate.

The capital boasts a bevy of free museums. A crop of upscale bistrocs concocts innovative takes on Irish cuisine, and pubs serve excellent food. A constantly evolving arts scene is the city’s lifeblood. There’s always something happening in Dublin.

PACKING TIPS

1. “You will not be able to get into a lot of pubs/clubs at night with trainers (running shoes) on, so make sure you bring dress shoes! Jeans are fine, but trainers are a no-no, especially white ones!”—TripAdvisor Member, Dublin

2. “Just bring a good rain jacket and an umbrella, you’ll be fine. Nobody comes to Ireland for the weather.”—TripAdvisor Member, Dublin

3. “You could get snow in August and sunshine at Christmas. That is the beauty of Irish weather. We can get the four seasons in one day, so be prepared for all eventualities—wear layers.”—TripAdvisor Member, Dublin

4. Reading Irish authors, from James Joyce to Edna O’Brien, gives you insight into this colorful area and its inhabitants. “Dublin’s literary history is as rich as a pint of Guinness.”—TripAdvisor Member
**Top 10 Attractions**

1. Glasnevin Cemetery (Prospect Cemetery), Finglas Road, 1 830 1133
2. Kilmainham Gaol Historical Museum, Inchicore Road, Kilmainham, 1 453 5984
3. Chester Beatty Library and Gallery of Oriental Art, Clock Tower Building, Dublin Castle, 1 407 0750
4. National Botanic Gardens, Finglas Road, Glasnevin, 1 837 7596
5. St. Michan’s Church, Church Street, 1 872 4154
6. Number Twenty Nine - Georgian House Museum, Fitzwilliam St., Lower 29, 1 702 6165
7. Porterhouse Brewing Company, 16-18 Parliament St., 1 679 8847
8. Shelbourne Park Greyhound Stadium, Dublin 4, 1 668 3502
9. Trinity College, Grafton St., College Green, 1 896 1000
10. National Museum of Ireland - Archaeology, Kildare Street, 1 677 7444

**Where to PLAY**

**FAMILIES**
Take the kids to the Aquatic Centre in Blanchardstown. “There’s an indoor water complex with loads of waterslides and fun kids’ swimming pools that they might enjoy.”—TripAdvisor Member, Dublin

National Aquatic Centre, Snugborough Road, Blanchardstown, 1 646 4300

“A great place to bring kids is The Ark children’s center in Temple Bar. They have different exhibitions and activities every couple of months.”—TripAdvisor Member, Dublin

The Ark, 11a Eustace St., 1 670 7788

“Remember to roar at the Celts.”

**ROMANCE**
Follow in the footsteps of Joyce’s Molly Bloom and stand with your loved one on “Howth Summit. It has a wonderful view over Dublin, Dun Laoghaire and the Dublin mountains. At night, the moon shines on Dublin Bay.”—TripAdvisor Member, Ireland

Howth Summit, Howth

Ride the train to the "seaside village of Dalkey. Take a stroll out along the coast and see the multimillion-euro homes, then have lunch and a beer in one of the old pubs. A great day if the weather’s nice.”—TripAdvisor Member, Dublin

Dalkey, nine miles south of Dublin

Make like a Viking on a noisy carouse through Dublin. Viking Splash Tours uses reconditioned World War II boats that “tour the city on road, then dive into the canal for a water tour. There are no words to describe how great this is. Just do it and remember to roar at the Celts.”—TripAdvisor Member, Essex, England

Viking Splash Tours, 64-65 Patrick St., 1 707 6000

Iveagh Gardens are "like a beautiful dream, with the sound of the rushing cascade, the romantically ruined statues and surprising vistas each time you turn a corner. This place will refresh your spirits with its rose garden, maze, fountains, and ducklings.”—TripAdvisor Member, Chicago, Ill.

Iveagh Gardens, Clonmell Street

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Where to PLAY

BUDGET

Many of Dublin’s excellent museums are free, and several are clustered in Merrion Square. *Chester Beatty Library and Gallery of Oriental Art* is “a great secret in a lovely setting.”—TripAdvisor Member, Dublin

*Chester Beatty Library and Gallery of Oriental Art, Clock Tower Building, Dublin Castle, I 407 0750"

“Stroll along the new *boardwalk* from the Ha’penny Bridge to O’Connell Street. It’s a fine way to watch bustling Dublin come to life in the morning—but not be mown down by the action.”—TripAdvisor Member, Vancouver, British Columbia

*Millennium Boardwalk, River Liffey"

ADVENTURE

“Don’t leave Dublin until you’ve done the *Traditional Irish Music Pub Crawl!* The musicians were amazing, and we didn’t stop laughing from start to finish.”—TripAdvisor Member, London, England

*Traditional Irish Music Pub Crawl, Oliver St. John Gogarty Bar, 58-59 Fleet St., I 478 0193"

“If you like the outdoors and getting away from the hustle and bustle of the city, then it’s worth spending some time exploring *Phoenix Park*. Bikes can be rented at the entrance, and on the weekend there are lots of sports. You can watch Gaelic football, hurling, cricket, polo and football. Summer brings lots of outdoor performances and events.”—TripAdvisor Member, Dublin

*Phoenix Park, Parkgate Street, I 677 0095"

EDUCATIONAL/HISTORICAL

The 11th-century *St. Michan’s church* has “a macabre display of mumified human remains in the crypt. Handel played the organ, still on display.”—TripAdvisor Member, Ireland

*St. Michan’s, Church St., I 872 4154"

Passionate guides bring bleak *Kilmainham Gaol* to life, in an experience “indispensable to understanding Irish history.”—TripAdvisor Member, Stuttgart, Germany

*Kilmainham Gaol Historical Museum, Inchicore Rd., Kilmainham, I 453 5984"

RELAXATION

“We were moved and impressed by *Christ Church*. Don’t miss the basement crypt, it’s a treasure trove of gold and silver.”—TripAdvisor Member, Virginia Beach, Va.

*Christ Church Cathedral, Christchurch Place, I 677 8099"

Dublin Literary Pub Crawl offers “one heck of a delightful tour through some of Dublin’s literary highlights and side-lights. It was especially nice to have a pint midway through the show in order to rest our legs and warm our bellies.”—TripAdvisor Member, Rome, Italy

*Dublin Literary Pub Crawl, The Duke Pub, 9 Duke St., I 670 5602"

The Francis Bacon exhibition at the *Hugh Lane Municipal Gallery* was fantastic. They have recreated his studio in its entirety, taken from London and set up in Dublin. It gives a completely different perspective on the man’s art when you can imagine him working in this studio.”—TripAdvisor Member, Ireland

*Hugh Lane Municipal Gallery of Modern Art, Charlemont House, Parnell Sq. N., I 222 5550"

*TripAdvisor members have posted more than 8,000,000 traveler photos on the site. The good, the bad and the very candid. It’s almost like being there!*
What's the TOUR

How to Get Around

In summer, teens throng bus stops on Trinity College’s south side; go to the north side to get on board. The LUAS light rail is a great way to get from O'Connell Street to museums or out to the hip neighborhood of Ranelagh.

Plan ahead. On weekend nights, taxis can take hours to arrive. Crammed and often chaotic, night buses are not for the faint of heart.

DART Commuter Rail Network
Visit irishrail.ie for travel information

Irish Rail
For further information

SPECIAL EVENTS

Showcasing artworks from over 100 galleries and independent artists, Art Fair 2011 will represent some of the best new works by Irish and international artists. (November 4 – 6)

Art Fair 2011, Main Hall, Royal Dublin Society (RDS), Ballsbridge, http://www.rds.ie

Find those one-of-a-kind gifts and sample some tasty treats at the National Crafts and Design Fair. (November 30 - December 4)

National Crafts and Design Fair, Main Hall, Royal Dublin Society (RDS), Ballsbridge, I 670 2186, http://www.nationalcraftsfair.ie

Experience a traditional Irish Christmas with a carol sing, sung by the famous Palestrina Choir during the Christmas Eve Vigil at St Mary’s Pro-Cathedral. Arrive early to get a seat. (December 24)

Christmas Eve Vigil, St Mary’s Pro-Cathedral, 83 Marlborough St., I 874 5441, http://www.procathedral.ie

Celebrate the patron saint of horses at the Christmas Festival Race Meeting, four days of horse racing that begins on St. Stephen’s Day. (December 26 – 29)


Ring in the New Year with the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra during the New Year’s Day Viennese Matinee, a program featuring the music of the Johann Strauss family. (January 1)

New Year’s Day Viennese Matinee, National Concert Hall, I 417 0000, http://www.nch.ie

Catch a flick or two at the Jameson Dublin International Film Festival, showcasing new releases, premieres, low- and high-budget films from Irish and international filmmakers. (February 16 – 26)

Jameson Dublin International Film Festival, Various venues, I 662 4260, http://www.jdiff.com

Is there anywhere else to be on St. Patrick’s Day? The celebration lasts six days, with family carnivals, street performers, music, dancing, a treasure hunt, food and much more, ending with the renowned St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 17. (March 12 –17)

St. Patrick’s Day Festival, Various venues, I 676 3205, http://www.stpatricksday.ie

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WHERE to eat

FAMILIES

“The food and the entertainment were excellent” at The Merry Ploughboy Pub. “The band was amazing, so talented and entertaining. Everyone was tapping their toes and joining in the singing.”—TripAdvisor Member, Worthing, U.K.

The Merry Ploughboy Pub, Rockbrook, Edmonston Road, I 493 1495

“The food was amazing at Lemon Crepe, particularly the Banana Supreme Crepe with Nutella, and their Crispy Complete Breakfast Crepe, as well! It’s a great place to grab a quick meal.”—TripAdvisor Member

Lemon Crepe and Coffee Co., 66 S. William St., I 672 9044

Reasonably-priced Gotham Cafe "is always packed." Its varied menu stars "everything from pizza to Coconut and Chili Chicken.”—TripAdvisor Member, Dublin

Gotham Café, 8 S. Anne St., I 679 5266

ROMANCE

Queen of Tarts is “a very small and cozy tea shop with a mouth-watering variety of cakes, biscuits and baked goods. Perfect for a romantic date!”—TripAdvisor Member, Zurich, Switzerland

Queen of Tarts, 4 Cork Hill, Dame Street, I 670 7499

"Pearl Brasserie has it all—great location, great ambiance, great service and, most importantly, great food! The dining rooms are intimate, and the individual tables inside alcoves are perfect for a romantic meal.”—TripAdvisor Member, Kansas

Pearl Brasserie, 20 Merrion St., I 661 3572

BUDGET

“The Larder serves homemade food of very high quality at extremely good value. The service is first rate, the atmosphere is very relaxed, the wine is good and I couldn’t recommend it any more.”—TripAdvisor Member, Glasgow, Scotland

The Larder, 8 Parliament St., I 633 3581

"Boojum is my number one choice for healthy Mexican food in Dublin. The food is so fresh and tasty and at €6, it's a steal!”—TripAdvisor Member, Dublin

Boojum, Millennium Walkway, I 872 9499

"If you’ve ever thought of trying Malaysian food, Proton House is where you should go. Great food at a cheap price!”—TripAdvisor Member, Limerick, Ireland

Proton House, 101 Upper Dorset St., I 444 8879

HEALTH-CONSCIOUS

“Cornucopia is a great vegetarian place for lunch or a light menu. I am not vegetarian, but I crave this place sometimes.”—TripAdvisor Member, Ireland

Cornucopia, 19 Wicklow St., I 677 7583

"Wow, what food—fresh healthy and exotic! The sushi was extraordinarily delicious. The sake was sake, and the bill wasn’t too big, especially considering the quality.”—TripAdvisor Member, Dublin

Yamamori's bento boxes are the perfect lunch after a long day exploring Dublin.—TripAdvisor Member

Yamamori, 71 – 72 S. Great Georges St., I 475 5001

"Govindas is an excellent place to eat vegetarian Indian meals. It’s centrally situated and cheap, with big portions and friendly service.”—TripAdvisor Member, Belgium

Govindas, Middle Abbey Street, I 872 7463

HIDDEN GEMS

Tucked in a corner of the square, Il Baccaro has “a lovely intimate atmosphere.” The food is “rustic Italian and yummy!”—TripAdvisor Member, Dublin

Il Baccaro, Meeting House Square, I 671 4597

The Chameleon is a fabulous find. “Lounge amid the cushions in the Opium Room, in this Indonesian delight just off Temple Bar’s main drag.”—TripAdvisor Member, Vancouver, British Columbia

Chameleon, I Lower Fownes St., Temple Bar, I 671 0362

Silk Road Café in Dublin Castle is a delight. "Sumptuous Middle Eastern dishes are as much of an attraction here as the amazing art upstairs.”—TripAdvisor Member, Vancouver, British Columbia

Silk Road Café, Chester Beatty Library, Dublin Castle, I 407 0770

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**Where to STAY**

**FAMILIES**

“The **Maldron Hotel** is modern and well maintained, and the dining room and other public areas were clean and cared for. The staff were all very helpful and friendly and the restaurant food was tasty and had good sized portions for teenagers with hollow legs!”—TripAdvisor Member, Newark, U.K.

**Maldron Hotel Parnell Square, Parnell Square West, I 871 6800**

The kids won’t mind going back to this school—the **Schoolhouse Hotel**, a 31-room converted school. “Both our room and the central staircase were childproofed, and there is a lovely playground and park (which opens at 10 a.m.) down the street.”—TripAdvisor Member, Copenhagen, Denmark

**Schoolhouse Hotel, 2-8 Northumberland Road, I 667 5014**

“We’ve stayed at other child-friendly hotels, but nothing like the **Four Seasons**. Our daughter was given coloring books, crayons and child-size cutlery at every meal. She even had her own set of soaps in the bathroom and her own little dressing gown.”—TripAdvisor Member, Solihull, U.K.

**Four Seasons Hotel Dublin, Simmonscourt Road, I 665 4000**

**ROMANCE**

“We spent a decadent afternoon lounging in bed, ordering room service and just chilling out. And that sums up the **Dylan**—it was a treat to hang out at the hotel, not simply a place to flop at the end of a hard day’s sightseeing.”—TripAdvisor Member, London, England

**Dylan Hotel, Eastmoreland Place, I 660 3000**

At **Brooks Hotel** the staff is “very friendly and exceedingly helpful... the pillow menu was brilliant and the chance to use a foot spa in the comfort of your own room was just wonderful! The location of the hotel was ideal. I have earned serious brownie points with my boyfriend who adored this hotel!”—TripAdvisor Member, West Sussex, England

**Brooks Hotel, 59 - 62 Drury St., I 670 4000**

“After a hectic week traveling, the **Marine** was just what we needed to relax and come down. We were welcomed warmly and felt at home from the moment we arrived. The room had a sea view and was well equipped. The staff were really friendly and caring—nothing seemed too much trouble.”—TripAdvisor Member, Malaga, Spain

**Marine Hotel, Dublin Road, Sutton Cross, I 839 0000**

**BUDGET**

“You will be made to feel very welcome at **Willowbrook**. Mary is a real ‘people person’ and makes you feel at home in her home. The location is excellent and tranquil.”—TripAdvisor Member, Valencia, Spain

**Willowbrook Bed and Breakfast, 14 Strandville Ave. E., I 833 3115**

“If you want to avoid the high prices, and bustling noise of the inner city hotels, then the **Ashling House** is perfect! Our room was not huge, but it was nicely decorated, spotlessly clean, and the bed was lovely.”—TripAdvisor Member, Stoke-on-Trent, U.K.

**Ashling House, 168 Upper Drumcondra Road, I 837 5432**

**ABC** “is run by a friendly, welcoming couple and located in a nice area outside the city center. The Irish breakfast they serve in the mornings is opulent. The service was fabulous! The hosts were open to the little extra wishes and needs of their guests.”—TripAdvisor Member, Aachen, Germany

**ABC Guest House, 57 Upper Drumcondra Road, I 836 7417**

**LUXURY**

**Merrion Hotel** “is so very welcoming, with bags of charm and individuality, that you loathe having to check out at all. A true home away from home.”—TripAdvisor Member, Madrid, Spain

**Merrion Hotel, 21 - 24 Upper Merrion St., I 603 0600**

“I cannot overstate the superiority of the **Westbury**. It’s an oasis in a business where quality service is generally forgotten.”—TripAdvisor Member, Dubai, U.A.E.

**The Westbury Hotel, Grafton Street, I 679 1122**

“**an oasis!”**

“I have stayed in many, many, many expensive hotels and none had the service available at the **Fitzwilliam**. The location is FANTASTIC—shopping, parks, great restaurants nearby. Chocolates on the pillows, great shower and huge bath. Wonderful shampoo, luxe bathrobes, heavenly bed. Delightful all around!”—TripAdvisor Member, Paris, France

**Fitzwilliam Hotel, St Stephen’s Green, I 478 7000**

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Where to STAY

HIDDEN GEMS

““There’s something about the Azalea Lodge that reminded me of home. I don’t know if it’s because of the cleanliness, the constant smell of food cooking, the candles in the living room or just Bernadette’s hospitality and delicious breakfasts. I can only say that the tiny details were what won me over.”—TripAdvisor Member, Portugal

Azalea Lodge, 67 Upper Drumcondra Road, 1 837 0300

Number 31 “is a charming place, in a Georgian house with comfortable rooms. But the best is breakfast: real fresh fruit, homemade marmalade, freshly cooked sausages and eggs. People working there are simply magnificent. They make you feel like a special customer.”—TripAdvisor Member, Badalona, Spain

Number 31, 31 Leeson Close, 1 676 5011

Aberdeen Lodge is a “little gem in Dublin. It has loads of character, is in the Ballsbridge area, which is very upmarket, and there is a lovely village a short walk away with some excellent restaurants.”—TripAdvisor Member, United Kingdom

Aberdeen Lodge, 53 Park Ave., Ballsbridge, 1 283 8155

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