

Dublin has it all. A charming mix of medieval, Georgian and modern architecture; a wealth of history and culture, excellent shopping, world-class restaurants and friendly and welcoming people! There has never been a better time to visit



By far the best way to see Dublin is on foot, and whether you have a week or just a long weekend to discover its many wonders, a good pair of walking shoes (an umbrella) and a sense of adventure will ensure you leave with a few tales to tell of the emerald city.

City highlights

Anyone you ask will tell you that the best place to start is at Trinity College to see the ancient Book of Kells – written around the year 800 AD by Columban monks, it is regarded as the finest surviving example of Irish Celtic art. Whether this kind of thing interests you or not, the library and surrounding cobblestone campus is worth a visit.

Leave here and take a stroll down O'Connell Street (the widest in Europe) to Henry Street. Apart from being the centre of Dublin's shopping district, it's also where you'll find the Moore Street Markets – home to the fabled heroine of Dublin, Molly Malone.

Then it's just a short hop over Dublin's famous Ha'penny Bridge for lunch at Temple Bar. This hostelry is a must visit while in the city and the perfect place to sample its legendary black brew – if you can't make it to the St James' Brewery and the Storehouse, that is.

Temple Bar Square is also a great spot to explore regular food and book markets that take place every Saturday (weather permitting). It gets pretty busy at the food market so make sure you get there early!

Further up Parliament Street, Dublin Castle and the city's famous Christchurch Cathedral afford some spectacular photo opportunities if you still fancy a bit of sightseeing after lunch and you can drag yourselves away from the action.



On the beach

Fancy leaving the hustle and bustle of the city behind? Jump on a train and visit nearby Skerries Harbour. The scenic coastal town of Skerries is a great day out, especially during the summer months. Enjoy a walk along the coast, stopping along the way to admire the marvellous views, enjoy some fresh air, a plate of fish and chips and watch the boats (and if you're lucky members of the local colony of seals) come in.

While you're there you can also visit the famous Skerries Mills. Children love the working mills and this is a great spot for a picnic – as are Skerries beaches.

If the weather stays good, then there are plenty of other nearby beaches to explore. The Victorians turned Dublin's seaside into a network of public and private bathing places so many still have piers and promenades today.

Best for walks and views are Tower Bay Beach, Portrane and Balcarrick Beach at Donabate. A gentle cliff walk leads from Tower Bay to Balcarrick in nearby Donabate, following a coastline of shingle. You'll also hit Balcarrick's sandy 3.4-kilometre stretch and its rock pools, perfect for kids who want to catch a few crabs and starfish.

Nearby Velvet Strand North and South at Portmarnock alternatively offers vast expanses of smooth sand, making it the perfect play surface, whatever your beach pastime of choice. It gets pretty busy in summer though so get there early!





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