



**Tim's**  
***GREATER DUBLIN***  
**ADVENTURE**

*October 7-11, 2024*

## A little about *Dublin*

Dublin, Ireland's lively capital, has a fascinating history. It began as a Viking settlement in 841 AD, when Norse invaders established "Dubh Linn," meaning "black pool," near the River Liffey. This small Viking port grew into a bustling trading hub, linking Ireland to the wider world.

By the 12th century, Dublin had fallen under Anglo-Norman control, setting the stage for centuries of English influence. Despite this, Dublin thrived, especially during the Georgian era of the 18th century, when it became a beacon of sophistication. Magnificent Georgian architecture, such as the grand townhouses and the stately squares like Merrion Square, still line the city today.

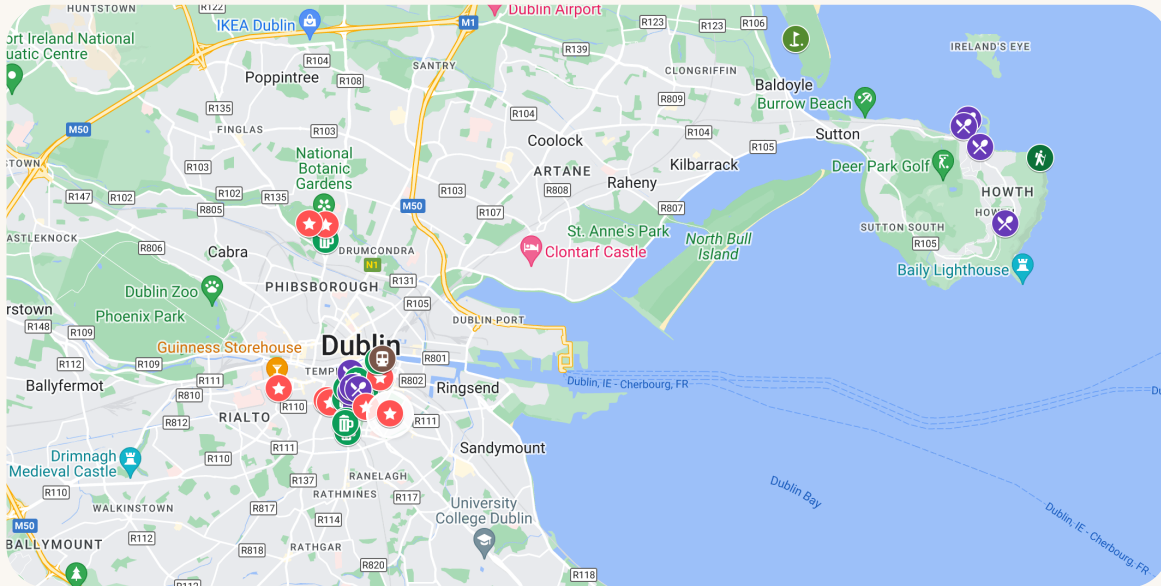
Dublin's streets became the backdrop for pivotal moments in Ireland's fight for freedom. The 1916 Easter Rising, a crucial rebellion against British rule, centered around the General Post Office, a landmark still standing today. Following years of unrest, Dublin became the capital of the newly independent Irish Free State in 1922.

Today, Dublin balances old-world charm with modern innovation.

## Know before *you go*

- Dublin is 5 hrs ahead of NY.
- Euros and USD are comparable right now (I know you know this ☺).
- Tipping is more relaxed than in the US. Tipping around 10-15% is appreciated, but it's not expected in pubs unless you're dining there. Rounding up your fare or leaving a small tip in a cab is polite but not mandatory.
- Don't forget to bring an adapter. Ireland uses Type G plugs.
- Weather is unpredictable. Don't forget to pack layers, a waterproof jacket, and good walking shoes.
- Irish people are known to be warm and friendly, and it's common practice to take turns buying rounds of drinks for one another.
- In case you don't know, Northern Ireland is part of the UK, and the rest of Ireland is its own country. Although tensions occasionally surface, the conflict between Northern Ireland and the rest of Ireland largely ended with the Good Friday Agreement in 1998.

# 5 Days in *Greater Dublin*



Click [here](#) for your interactive map of Dublin.



## **THE GRAFTON HOTEL**

32 Stephen Street Lower, Dublin 2, D02 WV05, Ireland

## *Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup>*

*Arrive in Dublin & start exploring*

**Land in Dublin at 5:55am and make your way to **The Grafton**.**

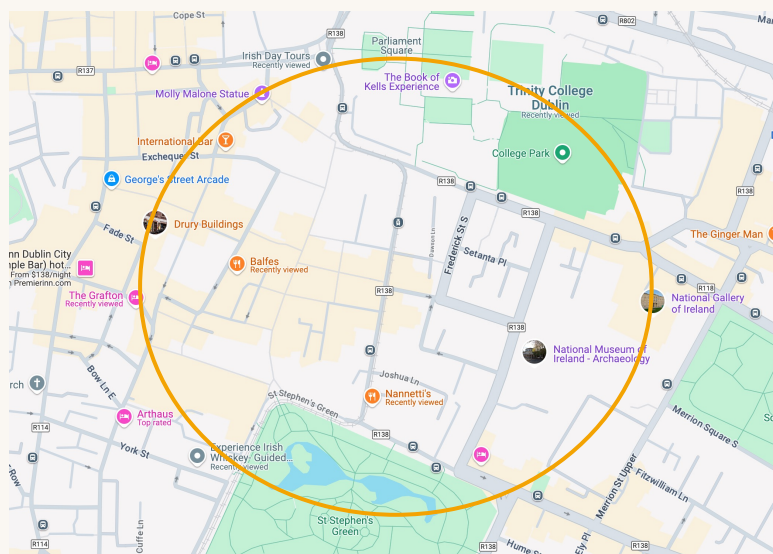
- Either hop in a 25-min cab ride that will cost you 30 USD or take the Dublin Express, a coach bus service that makes several drop-offs in Dublin city. The bus service is 8 USD and you can buy tickets in advance [here](#). Make sure to choose the correct terminal and drop-off location.
- Either check in or drop your luggage off and start exploring.

Enjoy a full Irish breakfast at **The Hairy Lemon** and then walk through The Liberties, a historic neighborhood, on your way to the **Guinness Storehouse** for a self-guided tour.

- The Hairy Lemon is an eclectic bar built in a 19<sup>th</sup>-century house, across the street from your hotel.
- On your way to the Guinness Storehouse (a 25-min walk), check out the famous 800-year-old **St Patrick's Cathedral**. It costs 11 USD to enter, and you can buy tickets at the door or in advance [here](#). Don't forget to check out the beautiful gardens surrounding St Patrick's.
- Right next to the cathedral is a hidden gem, **Marsh's Library**, which when opened to the public in 1707 was Ireland's first public library. It feels like a journey back in time.
- Book your ticket for the Guinness Storehouse in advance [here](#). There are various options, but I suggest the general, self-guided tour. It includes a pint of Guinness and entry to the Gravity Bar, which has great views of Dublin.

**Head back to your hotel (walk or take a 7-min cab ride) to check in before heading out to explore Dublin's city center.**

- Stick to the area outlined in orange below where you'll find quintessential Irish pubs, side streets, and local shops.
- Walk down Drury Street, Wicklow Street, and Exchequer Street, and explore traditional pubs like **Kehoes Pub**, **Neary's**, **Swan Bar**, and **The Long Hall**.



**Have dinner at one of the following spots.**

- Steakhouse: **F.X. Buckley Steakhouse** Pembroke Street or **Shanahan's on the Green**
- Seafood: **SOLE Seafood & Grill** or **Matt The Thresher**
- Indian: **Pickle Restaurant**

**If you're up for it, have a nightcap at **International Bar** which has live music and an upstairs theatre with drama and comedy.**

*Temple Bar District is famous but extremely touristy and crowded. It may be fun to quickly check it out, but I wouldn't spend the evening there.*

## **Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>**

*Explore Trinity College before heading to Howth*

**Enjoy a leisurely breakfast at **Bartley's Restaurant & Bar** at your hotel.**

**Walk 10 min to **Trinity College** and explore as much or as little of the campus as you'd like before taking the DART (Dublin Area Rapid Transit) to Howth.**

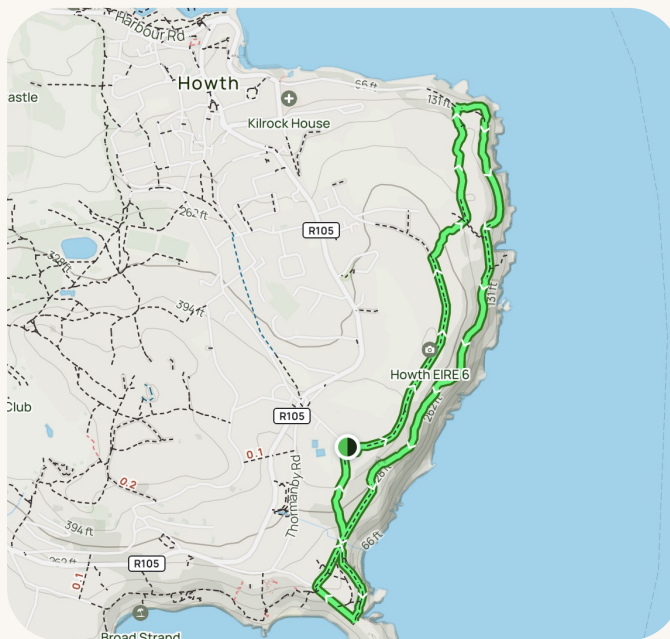
- Founded in 1592, Trinity is Ireland's oldest college. The Book of Kells (one of the most important medieval manuscripts in the world) and the Long Room in the Old Library are the highlights. You can either book tickets [here](#) to see the sights or simply stroll through the campus. If you book tickets, choose the self-guided tour.
- Once done, walk 10 min to **Tara Street Station** to catch the 30-min DART ride to Howth. Trains run frequently (you can check train times [here](#)), and you can purchase tickets at a ticket machine or ticket counter at the station.

*If it's after 12pm and you're in the mood for a Guinness prior to catching the train, **Mulligan's** is an iconic establishment right near Tara Street Station.*

## Enjoy the incredibly scenic **Howth Cliff Walk**.

- To get there, walk along Harbour Road (the main road). You'll pass shops and restaurants before reaching Balscadden Rd. Take a right and continue walking until you see signs for the cliff walk. I suggest the [Baily Lighthouse and Nose of Howth Loop](#) which is the shortest and easiest loop but is still 3.6 miles. It should take 2 hrs to complete, and it offers incredible views of the cliffs and Dublin Bay.
- If a 2-hr walk doesn't sound appealing, walk as far as you'd like for some great views and then turn back around.

*If you opt for the full loop, stop at [Summit Inn](#) halfway through for a bite and a boozy drink.*



**If you're still hungry after stopping at Summit Inn, enjoy a fresh seafood meal in Howth Harbour before heading back to Dublin.**

- Either check out one of the top seafood spots like [Aqua Restaurant](#) or [Octopussy's Seafood Tapas](#) or stop by [The Abbey Tavern](#) for a cozier pub feel.

**Head back to Dublin and either relax at your hotel or hit the town for more pub shenanigans.**

## *Wednesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>*

### *Explore Wicklow Mountains National Park*

**Wicklow Mountains National Park** is 45 min south of Dublin and is one of Ireland's most stunning natural areas with its glacial valleys, lakes, forests, and mountains. I suggest taking one of the following top-rated tours to explore the highlights.

- Wild Rover's Kilkenny, Wicklow Mountains, Glendalough Day Tour (includes sheep farm & dog trials)
- Hilltoptreks' Day tour to Wicklow Glendalough & Powerscourt

#### **What's the difference?**

Wild Rover's tour is longer (12 hrs), but it brings you to Kilkenny, a historic city known for its well-preserved medieval architecture and rich culture. Expect a larger group, more stops, and more structure.

Hilltoptreks' tour is a bit shorter (8 hrs), and although it doesn't bring you to Kilkenny, it makes a stop at Powerscourt Gardens, named one of the top 3 gardens in the world by National Geographic. Expect smaller groups, more active stops (like guided walks or horseback riding through the Wicklow Mountains), and more free time at each location to explore at your own pace.

Wild Rover's tour is 45 USD and Hilltoptreks' tour is 68 USD (because of the smaller group setting).

**\*\*I would book with Hilltoptrek because it's a shorter, more intimate tour, and you will still see stunning scenery.**

Book with Wild Rovers [here](#) or Hilltoptreks [here](#).

**When you're back from the tour, enjoy dinner at one of the suggested spots from Mon evening or try **Drury Buildings**.**

## *Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup>*

### *Golf and a final afternoon in Dublin*

**Enjoy breakfast at your hotel or nearby before heading to [Portmarnock Golf Club](#) for your 9:30am tee time.**

- Catch a cab from your hotel at 7:45/8am to be there for 8:30am. The cab ride will be 30 USD.

**After golfing, either enjoy a quick bite and drink at the club or head straight to [John Kavanagh The Gravediggers](#) (pub) for lunch, a few drinks, and an off-the-beaten-path experience.**

- The Gravediggers was established in 1833 and has retained its old-school charm with no music or TV and a perfectly poured Guinness. It got its nickname because it's built into the wall of Glasnevin Cemetery, and gravediggers used to come in for a few pints after a hard night of digging. It's been run by the Kavanagh family since its inception.
- The pub is a 25-min cab ride from Portmarnock and should be an interesting juxtaposition compared to the more high-end golf vibes.
- While there, enjoy a simple but hearty Irish meal.

**Stroll around the [National Botanic Gardens](#) and/or [Glasnevin Cemetery](#) before heading back to Dublin's city center.**

- Both the gardens and the cemetery are free of charge. The cemetery is one of the most famous in Ireland because it holds the graves of many people who played key roles in Irish history, especially in the fight for independence.

**Take a 15-min cab ride back to your hotel for a pit stop prior to enjoying a final evening of fun on [Camden Street](#).**

- Camden Street is also lively (like Temple Bar District), but it has a more local, less touristy vibe.
- Stop at places like [Devitts Pub](#), [The Bleeding Horse](#), and [Tucker Reillys](#) or whatever catches your fancy and has live music!



## *Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup>*

### *Departure*

**Enjoy a leisurely morning packing up and indulging in a final Irish breakfast before heading to the airport.**

- You should aim to get to the airport at 11am (3 hrs before your flight since it's international). The cab ride is 20–30 min from The Grafton, so you should leave by 10:30am.
- If you're up for it, grab a bite at **Balfes** and enjoy a stroll in **St Stephen's Green** (if you haven't already). If you're feeling ambitious, check out **The Little Museum of Dublin** (directly east of the park).

**If you're not sick of Guinness, enjoy a final pint while waiting for your flight and reflecting on your time in the warm and friendly city of Dublin!**