PLACES OF INTEREST

*Specially prepared for you by The Shelbourne Hotel Dublin Concierge*

Ireland’s capital city has a wealth of attractions for the visitor and most are located within easy walking distance of each other. For an overview of the geography and history of the city we are happy to recommend the Dublin Bus City Tour, which visits all of the major attractions.

**Guinness Storehouse**
St. James’s Gate, Dublin 8
Tel: (01) 408 4800  [www.guinness-storehouse.com](http://www.guinness-storehouse.com)

Arthur Guinness acquired the brewery at St. James’s Gate in 1759 and began to brew the famous “black stuff”, a stout with a distinctive creamy-white head. The World of Guinness Exhibition is housed in a 19th century warehouse building. There is an audio-visual presentation on how the stout is made, an overview of Guinness advertising over the decades and finally a chance to taste the product in the breath-taking, glass-enclosed *Gravity Bar* where visitors can enjoy a 360-degree view of the city. A gift store sells lots of Guinness memorabilia and other souvenirs.

**Trinity College – The Book of Kells**
College Green, Dublin 2
Tel: (01) 608 2308  [www.tcd.ie](http://www.tcd.ie)

The ‘College of the Most Holy and Undivided Trinity’ was founded in 1592 by Queen Elizabeth I on the site of an Augustinian priory suppressed by her father, King Henry VIII in 1536. It is the oldest and most prestigious university in Ireland. The campus is arranged around a series of traditional quadrangles providing a haven of peace and quiet amidst the bustle of the city centre. Alumni include Jonathon Swift, Bram Stoker, Oscar Wilde and Samuel Beckett. The college is home to one of Ireland’s greatest treasures, the famous Book Of Kells – a 9th century illuminated manuscript of the Four Gospels. This and other treasures are on display in the Long Room of the Old Library Building, which also houses 200,000 volumes of old and rare books. Visitors should also view the 18th century Chapel located in the Front Square with its magnificent plastered ceiling and organ. The University also has a wonderful selection of public sculptures including a Henry Moore and Pomodoro’s Sphere outside the Berkeley Library. Over the summer months guided tours are available from the stand at the Front Gate.
This was once the principal gaol in Ireland where political prisoners and leaders of various rebellions including the leaders of the 1916 Easter Rising. Today the prison is a museum, but the tour through the cells and corridors and out into the grim exercise yard provides visitors with a poignant, atmospheric and moving insight into the harsh realities of prison life. The Gaol also possesses a fine museum giving a wonderful insight into the events that shaped modern Ireland. Please note that tickets can only be purchased on the day for the day.

This museum was founded in 1890 and houses artefacts from Ireland’s ancient past to the present day. Of particular note are the Bronze Age Celtic Gold Collection, The Ardagh Chalice, Tara Brooch and the Cross of Cong. Other worthwhile items are the artefacts taken from the excavation at Wood Quay close to Christchurch Cathedral, the site of the ancient Viking settlement in Dublin.

Known fondly by generations of Dubliners as “The Dead Zoo” the Natural History Museum provides a unique view of what a Victorian Museum was like. The museum remains virtually unchanged since it was opened in 1857 by the famous Dr. David Livingstone. Inside its walls there is a dizzying array of stuffed and preserved animals, reptiles and insects of all shapes and sizes staring out from polished wood and glass cases. The museum is a particular favourite with children!

The restoration of this fine 18th century barracks building provided the National Museum with much needed space to expand and display artefacts previously kept in storage. The museum has a fine collection of Irish silverware, furniture and costumes. It is also a prime location for touring exhibitions. Undoubtedly the highlight is the “1916-Proclaiming a Republic” exhibition which explores the events up to and including the Easter Rising.
**National Library Of Ireland**  
Kildare Street, Dublin 2  
Tel: (01) 603 0200

The mission of the Library is to collect, preserve and make available books, manuscripts and illustrative material of Irish interest. Users of the Library include those engaged in long-term research, others who may wish to view a book or newspaper article or those with a specific once off need. The National Library is open, free of charge, to all those who wish to consult the collections for material not otherwise available through the public library service or an academic library. A Reader’s Ticket is necessary in order to consult most categories of material. The Library does not lend books and reading is done in the various reading rooms. The Library has an ongoing programme of exhibitions. The Genealogical Office, the Office of the Chief Herald in Kildare Street, and the National Photographic Archive in Temple Bar are all part of the National Library.

**National Gallery Of Ireland**  
Merrion Square and Kildare Street, Dublin 2  
Tel: (01) 661 5133 www.nationalgallery.ie

The gallery is home to over 2,500 paintings and 10,000 other works that make up the National collection. There is an extensive display of Irish works including the paintings of Jack B. Yeats, brother of the poet W.B. Yeats. In addition every major European school is represented. Pride of place is given to the Beit Collection of paintings generously donated to the gallery by Lord and Lady Beit of Russborough House. The gallery has an excellent self-service café and gift shop.

**Number Twenty Nine**  
29 Lower Fitzwilliam Street Dublin 2  
Tel: (01) 702 6165

This Georgian townhouse re-creates the living conditions of a typical middle-class family in the period 1790-1820. The exhibit is designed to be as authentic as possible with carefully chosen artworks, artefacts, carpets, curtains, plasterwork and even working bell-pulls. The kitchen has period crockery, utensils and the nursery is filled with toys from the time. Surrounding this, there is an educational and beautifully presented exhibition.
Bank Of Ireland (formerly The Old Parliament Building)

College Green, Dublin 2.
Tel: (01) 661 5933

This beautiful building dating from 1729 was the seat of the Irish Parliament until its union with the Westminster Parliament in 1801. The Bank of Ireland acquired the building in 1808 and although much of the interior was changed, the Old House of Lords Chamber remains intact and may be visited during banking hours. The chamber is notable for its 18th century tapestries and magnificent crystal chandeliers dating from 1765.

Temple Bar

Fleet Street to Parliament Street, Dublin 2
Tel: (01) 677 2255 www.templebar.ie

Temple Bar is situated between Dame Street and the river Liffey, and stretches from the Bank of Ireland (Old Parliament) building to Christchurch Cathedral. The area was earmarked for demolition in the 1980s to make way for a central bus and rail station, but through concerted effort and protest was saved and redeveloped as an entertainment and cultural quarter. The 18th century cobbled streets are home to a variety of bars, restaurants, theatres, cinemas and galleries. The Irish Film Institute, the Project Arts Centre and the Gallery Of Photography / National Photographic Archive are all very worthy cultural enterprises. Meeting House Square is home to a farmer’s market on Saturdays. The square is also used regularly over the summer months for outdoor film screenings. (See the website for details.) The more recently developed Cow Lane / Old City area close to Christchurch Cathedral showcases the latest trends in Irish fashion and interior design. All in all, the area holds something for every visitor and is a rewarding area to wander in for a morning or afternoon any time of year.

Dublin Castle

Palace Street, off Dame Street, Dublin 2
Tel: (01) 677 7129 www.dublincastle.ie

For over 700 years Dublin Castle was the symbol of Anglo-Norman then British rule in Ireland. It was the official residence of the Lord Lieutenant or Viceroy. Some vestiges of the original 13th century castle and moat can be viewed in the undercroft during the course of the excellent guided tours. Today the Upper Yard of the castle conforms to the original medieval layout but has been rebuilt and modified in various architectural styles over the centuries. On view are the State Apartments, the 19th century Chapel Royal and the Undercroft. We can also recommend “The Silk Road” Café located in the Chester Beatty Library on the Castle grounds.
**Dublin City Hall / The Royal Exchange**  
Cork Hill, Dame Street, Dublin 2  
Tel: (01) 672 2204  
This magnificent Neo-Classical building was built to a design by Tomas Cooley in 1779 as the home of the Royal Exchange. Today it is the home to Dublin City Council and the location for the excellent *Story of the Capital* exhibition. The exhibition traces the evolution of Dublin as a city from the Anglo-Norman invasion of 1169 to the present day. Visitors can also see the beautiful Rotunda room under the central cupola.

**Chester Beatty Library**  
Clock Tower, Dublin Castle, Dublin 2  
Tel: (01) 407 0750  
www.cbl.ie  
The American mining magnate Sir Alfred Chester Beatty generously bequeathed this exquisite collection of Middle Eastern and Oriental manuscripts and art to the nation. The collection was relocated to its present site in the Clock Tower building in the 1990s. The collection, comprised of manuscripts, icons, prints and paintings, opens a window on the artistic treasures of the great religions and cultures of the East.

**Christchurch Cathedral**  
Christchurch Place, Dublin 8  
Tel: (01) 677 8099  
www.christchurchcathedral.ie  
The Danish King Sitric Silkenbeard built the earliest church on this site in 1038. The current, much-restored building mirrors the Anglo-Norman Cathedral built in stone by Strongbow in 1172. It is the Metropolitan Cathedral of the Church of Ireland and the seat of the Archbishop of Dublin. Having fallen into a state of serious disrepair in the 19th century, a restoration project was undertaken by the Roe family of distillers. The cathedral possesses the largest and finest crypt in Ireland. There are regular sung services by the very fine Cathedral Choir.

**St. Patrick’s Cathedral**  
St. Patrick’s Close, Dublin 8  
Tel: (01) 475 4817  
www.stpatricks cathedral.ie  
Rather uniquely, Dublin possesses two medieval cathedrals! St. Patrick’s, which lay outside the original city walls, was built in 1191 as a rival to Christchurch. It is built on the site of an ancient spring where it is said St. Patrick baptised some of the first Christian converts in Ireland. The cathedral fell into great disrepair in the 19th century but was restored thanks to the great generosity of the Guinness brewing family. It is now the National Cathedral of the Church of Ireland. A permanent exhibition entitled *Living Stones* celebrates the place of St. Patrick’s in the life of the city. The cathedral also has an ancient choir school founded in 1432. The choristers sing services daily in the cathedral.
Built between 1815 and 1818 the General Post Office stands in O’Connell Street as a symbol to Irish Freedom. It was from here that Padraic Pearse read out the proclamation of the Irish Republic on Easter Monday of 1916. The siege that ensued greatly damaged the building and much of O’Connell Street. The interior contains several paintings depicting the 1916 Rising and a particularly fine statue of the legendary warrior Cuchulainn.

The Dublin Writers Museum
18-19 Parnell Square, Dublin 1
Tel: (01) 872 2077

This small museum located in a Georgian house that was once the home of John Jameson of the eponymous distilling family, celebrates the rich literary heritage of Dublin. Lovers of Irish literature will enjoy exhibits of letters and artefacts from writers such as Joyce, Yeats, O’Casey and Behan. The excellent café at the museum is under the management of the wonderful Chapter One restaurant, which is itself located in the basement of the building.

Hugh Lane Municipal Gallery
Charlemont House, Parnell Square N. Dublin 1
Tel: (01) 874 1903  www.hughlane.ie

Named after the millionaire and art collector who died on board the ocean liner R.M.S. Lusitania which was sunk off the coast of Kinsale in Co. Cork in 1915 by a German U-Boat, this small gallery has an exquisite collection of Impressionist paintings, including works by Degas and Manet, and sculptures by Rodin. There is also a fine collection of stained glass by Harry Clarke. One exhibition room houses the actual studio of the Irish-born artist Francis Bacon that was moved in its entirety (including dust and debris!) to the gallery from London after the artist’s death. This is a real hidden gem among Dublin museums.

James Joyce Centre
35 North Great George’s Street, Dublin 1
Tel: (01) 878 8547  www.jamesjoyce.ie

The Joyce Centre is located a short distance away from the Writers Museum on what was once one of the grandest addresses in the city. The exhibit caters to Joyce fans and is devoted to a greater understanding of and interest in his life and works with displays on the structure of his great novel Ulysses. The centre also organises walking tours to locations in the city associated with Joyce. For more details, please call the centre for exact dates and times.
**Old Jameson Distillery**

Bow Street, Smithfield, Dublin 7

Tel: (01) 807 2355  www.jamesonwhiskey.com

From 1780 Bow Street was the original home of the world-famous Jameson Whiskey known as “uisce beatha” or “water of life” in the ancient Irish language. The museum tours provide visitors with all the information they could ever need on the making of this product. There is also an opportunity to taste this whiskey and buy souvenir bottles.

**Áras an Uachtaráin (Residence Of The President Of Ireland)**

Phoenix Park, Dublin 8

Tel: (01) 670 9155  www.president.ie

Áras an Uachtaráin, started as a modest brick house for the Phoenix Park Chief Ranger in 1752. It was subsequently acquired as an “occasional residence” for the Lord’s Lieutenants and gradually evolved to a large mansion. After Ireland gained independence, it was occupied by three Governors General between 1922 and 1937, prior to the first president Dr Douglas Hyde taking up residence there. 19th century architects Francis Johnston, Jacob Owen and Decimus Burton, and more recently, Raymond McGrath, as well as stuccodores Michael Stapleton and Bartholomew Cramillion contributed to its gradual expansion, gardens and interiors.

**Dublin Zoo**

Phoenix Park, Dublin 8.

Tel: (01) 474 8900  www.dublinzoo.ie

A day at Dublin Zoo offers visitors a voyage of discovery in the heart of the city. Where else would you be able to see elephants in the forests of India, lions on the plains of Africa and penguins feeding on the fringes of the Arctic? For younger visitors the highlights of any visit will be the keepers’ talks - check online for more details and availability. Follow the footprints and spot our Asian elephants herd on the Kaziranga Forest Trail. A unique experience in Ireland, the restaurant includes a small colony of inquisitive meerkats observing unsuspecting visitors! Dublin Zoo works in partnership with zoos worldwide, making a significant contribution to the conservation of the natural diversity of life on earth. Visit Dublin Zoo for a unique, fun, wild experience close to the city centre!
Farmleigh House
Phoenix Park, Castleknock, Dublin 15.
Tel: (01) 815 5900 www.farmleigh.ie

Farmleigh is an estate of 78 acres situated to the north-west of Dublin's Phoenix Park. It was purchased on behalf of the Government in June 1999 and developed in order to provide accommodation for visiting dignitaries and guests of the nation. Farmleigh remains a unique representation of its heyday, the Edwardian period. Edward Cecil Guinness first Earl of Iveagh, the great-grandson of Arthur Guinness, built Farmleigh around a smaller Georgian house in the 1880's. Many of the artworks and furnishings he collected for Farmleigh remain in the house on loan from the Guinness family to the State. The Benjamin Iveagh collection of rare books, bindings and manuscripts is held in the Library. The extensive pleasure grounds are a wonderful collection of Victorian and Edwardian ornamental features with walled and sunken gardens, scenic lakeside walks and a range of plants that provide both visual and horticultural interest throughout the seasons.

Royal Hospital Kilmainham / IMMA
Military Road, Kilmainham, Dublin 8
Tel: (01) 612 9900 www.imma.ie

Just across the street from Kilmainham Gaol is the splendid 17th century building known as the Royal Hospital. The building was originally a home for pensioned soldiers but lay unused for over 60 years after Independence in 1922. The building was beautifully restored in 1988 and now houses the permanent collection of the Irish Museum of Modern Art. Visitors can also view the Master's Quarters, the splendid Dining Hall and the exquisite Baroque Chapel. In the grounds the formal gardens have also been restored to their former glory.

National Botanic Gardens
Tel: (01) 804 0300

The National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, were founded by the Royal Dublin Society in 1795. The Gardens, 19.5 hectares on the south bank of the Tolka river, contain many attractive features including an arboretum, sensory garden, rock garden and burren area, a large pond, extensive herbaceous borders, student garden and annual display of decorative plants including a rare example of Victorian carpet bedding. Glasshouses include: the beautifully restored curvilinear range, Great Palm House, Alpine House, Cactus House and Fern House. Notable specimens include a fine weeping Atlantic cedar, a lofty Zelkova from the Caucasus, native and hybrid strawberry trees and the “Last Rose of Summer” of the famous ballad.