

# DUBLIN



With over a thousand years of history, a cosmopolitan population, and significant transformations, Ireland's capital city, nestled between mountains and sea, offers endless dimensions to explore, experience, and enjoy. Whether you're scheduling for a day, a week or a month, this guide is brimming with ideas and recommendations – Dubliners will always share the inside scoop! Always energetic and easily accessible, Dublin boasts incredible food, culture, history and entertainment, all within a short stroll. To get an even better sense of the capital, the Dublin Coastal Trail connects villages both north and south of the city, each offering its own unique character, story, and distinctive ambiance. Among the cities voted as the friendliest in Europe, Dublin never fails to provide a warm welcome and lasting memories, whether seeking a relaxing or adrenaline-filled European city break or visiting as part of the island of Ireland holiday experience.



# DUBLIN – SURPRISING BY NATURE SAMPLE ITINERARY

## A DAY IN THE DUBLIN MOUNTAINS

TO HELP YOU PROGRAMME THIS AREA, HERE IS A SUGGESTED PROGRAMME FOR YOU TO CONSIDER WHICH WILL HELP YOUR CLIENT, BE THEY GROUP OR FIT, TO NAVIGATE THIS AREA. FOR OTHER SAMPLE ITINERARIES FOR DUBLIN PLEASE EMAIL [BUSINESSDEVELOPMENT@FAILTEIRELAND.IE](mailto:BUSINESSDEVELOPMENT@FAILTEIRELAND.IE)



### A DAY IN THE DUBLIN MOUNTAINS

Nestled just a short drive from the bustling heart of Dublin, the Dublin Mountains offer a unique escape for those seeking adventure and natural beauty. This proximity allows visitors to experience the vibrant city life and then quickly transition to the serene, rugged landscapes of the mountains. Whether you're an avid hiker, a nature enthusiast, or a thrill-seeker looking for your next adrenaline rush, the Dublin Mountains provide a perfect backdrop for a day of exploration. From panoramic views atop Ticknock Forest to the mysterious allure of the Hellfire Club, there's something to captivate every outdoor lover. Embark on a journey that seamlessly blends the urban charm of Dublin with the wild, untamed beauty of its surrounding mountains.

### DAY 1:

#### MORNING

Begin your day with a hike at **Ticknock Forest**. The trails here offer stunning views of Dublin city and the coastline. The Fairy Castle Loop is a popular choice, taking you from Ticknock Forest to the top of Three Rock and on to the summit of Two Rock Mountain. At 6km, it's a walkers treat offering exceptional 360-degree views of the capital, Dublin Bay, County Wicklow and more. You can shorten this loop by simply walking to Three Rock, which offers equally impressive views.

#### LUNCH

Continue your adventure at the **Hellfire Club**, a historic hunting lodge with a dark past. The hike up to the lodge is relatively short but steep, offering panoramic views of the city and surrounding areas. Explore the ruins and enjoy a picnic lunch at the top. Don't forget to bring your camera for some great photo opportunities!

#### AFTERNOON

Take your group on a guided walking tour with **Hilltop Treks**. They offer award-winning guided walking tours in the Dublin Mountains. Their tours are led by local, qualified guides who provide deep insights into the area's history, culture, and natural beauty. Whether you're interested in a leisurely walk, a challenging hike, or even horse riding, Hilltop Treks has something for everyone.

#### Alternatively

Experience the thrill of **Zipit** Tibradden Wood, where you can climb, swing, surf, and zip through a treetop high wire adventure course. Located in Rathfarnham, this environmentally friendly course offers adrenaline-pumping activities like zip lines, BMX treetop bridges, suspended ladders, and a base jump. Suitable for adventure lovers and families, the course features five circuits with activities ranging from 1 to 20 meters high.

#### EVENING

Wrap up your day with a visit to **Johnnie Fox's Pub**, one of Ireland's oldest and most iconic establishments, located in the serene village of Glencullen. Enjoy their renowned Hooley Show, a full evening of entertainment with traditional Irish Musicians, and the world-famous, talented Johnnie Fox's Irish Dancers, all accompanied by a four-course meal of delicious Irish Fayre. The electric ambiance sweeps you up in the excitement, with every moment offering a sensory feast, from dazzling costumes to fast-paced choreography. By the time the performers take their final bow, you'll feel exhilarated and amazed.

#### Alternatively

Finish your day with a visit to **The Merry Ploughboy Pub Traditional Night Show**. The 200 year old gastro-pub is uniquely owned and managed by traditional musicians who perform at every show. Their award-winning traditional night includes a three-course meal featuring beloved Irish dishes, followed by an engaging and authentic performance of fast-paced Irish songs, music, and dancing. The show is filled with lively interaction between the performers and the audience, with plenty of wit and humour as the band takes you on a musical journey through Ireland's rich heritage. This upbeat performance will have your toes tapping from start to finish. The Merry Ploughboy also offers a shuttle bus service from Dublin City Centre.

Head back to Dublin city, reflecting on a day well spent in the mountains.

# DUBLIN – SURPRISING BY NATURE SAMPLE 2-DAY ITINERARY

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Dalkey Castle & Heritage Centre



Howth Adventures



## DAY 1

A CITY BY THE SEA, DUBLIN'S LONG COASTLINE IS DOTTED WITH UNEXPECTED EXPERIENCES AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES.

### MORNING & LUNCH

After a hearty Irish breakfast, jump on a DART (Dublin's train network) at Connolly Station for a short 25 minute burst of scenic train travelling south to Dalkey (just one of many of Dublin's picturesque coastal villages on the Dublin Coastal Trail). You can purchase a Leap Visitor Card from any Dublin train station for unlimited travel on public transport over a selected time period from 1, 3 or 7 days.

**Dalkey Castle & Heritage Centre** is a visitor attraction which comprises of a fortified townhouse/small castle structure, an early **Christian Church and Graveyard**, a modern **Heritage Centre** and a **Writers' Gallery**.

The experience includes interactive live theatre performances with costumed actors. You can also climb to the battlements with its magnificent views of sea and mountains. In contrast to the **Living History Tour**, you can spend time browsing the interactive screens in the new state-of-the-art heritage centre. If you have a passion for literary topics, why not explore the **Writers Gallery**, where over forty writers and creative artists from Joyce and Beckett to Bono and Binky will captivate your attention.

To build your appetite before enjoying a lunch of local Dublin cuisine in one of the many literary inspired restaurants or heritage bars in the village, why not add a **literary or historical walk** to your visit (bookings through **Dalkey Castle**). Take a stroll through the centuries and enjoy the sea air in the company of a local guide and learn about Dalkey's historical and literary gems. Join the guide as they uncover the tales woven into Dalkey's streets and ancient history, sharing unique local insights you won't find in any guidebook!

**Allow approximately 1 hour 30 mins - 2 hours 30 mins for this experience.**

#### Alternatively

Take the DART 25 mins north on the Dublin Coastal Trail to the scenic village of Howth. It's a completely different world, offering a refreshing escape from the hustle and bustle, even though it's within sight of Dublin city. There are many options on how you can spend your time exploring the village. Join **Howth Adventures** and set off on a gentle exploration of this charming fishing village where you will get an insider's journey of exploration to discover the protected heathlands, meadows and awesome sea views at the heart of the Dublin Bay Biosphere. Or unleash your creativity and culinary skills at **Howth Castle & Cookery School**. Led by a team of expert chefs, they provide immersive 'hands-on' cooking classes that showcase a diverse range of flavours and recipes from around the globe.

Before you head back to the city, you can explore Howth's attractive harbour and choose from any one of its quality eateries that will include options for lunch that will be fresh from the sea!



EPIC Ireland



St Ann's Church

### AFTERNOON

Hop on the DART back along the Dublin Coastal Trail to Dublin's Docklands and delve into Irish heritage at **EPIC – The Irish Emigration Museum**. **EPIC** is a state-of-the-art visitor experience that showcases the unique journey of the Irish nation, where stories of old are told through the technology of now. Through 20 galleries, visitors can immerse themselves in the stories of the most remarkable tales of sacrifice, endurance, adventure and discovery. Located in the **CHQ Building** in the heart of Dublin's docklands, EPIC brings these amazing stories to life in a unique and spectacular way.

**Allow approximately 1 hour 30 mins for this experience.**

#### Alternatively

Looking for a completely unique perspective on Dublin and really get under its skin? **City Kayaking** brings you Dublin by kayak. Paddle through the heart of the urban landscape, gliding past iconic landmarks and hidden gems along the waterways. The trips are led by experienced local guides and ideal for anyone new to kayaking.

For an extra special experience, join their 'Music Under Bridges' tour. These tours combine the joy of kayaking with live music performances. Imagine a concert, under a bridge, on the river Liffey in the heart of Dublin city – with a kayak as your seat. Now that's a unique experience!

**Allow approximately 2 hours for this experience.**

### EVENING

#### Dining & Entertainment

##### Traditional

Experience the magic of Irish culture at the **Celtic Nights** show at the Arlington Hotel. This captivating performance features World Championship dancers and All-Ireland winning musicians. It showcases traditional Irish dance styles like sean nós (old style) and the famous Brush Dance. Enjoy a delicious three-course meal of traditional Irish cuisine while being entertained by the vibrant energy and passion of the performers. Located in the heart of the city, next to O'Connell Bridge, Celtic Nights offers an unforgettable evening of music, dance, and Irish hospitality, running seven nights a week all year round.

##### Contemporary

Want to hang out where the Dubliners go?

Explore the labyrinth of streets connecting the long, straight stretch that connects the city centre with the suburbs of **Portobello** and **Rathmines**. This area of the city is buzzing and is home to an eclectic mix of independent shops, cafés, galleries, restaurants and bars.

Find your way through **George's Street's Victorian red-brick indoor market**, then continue to Rathmines and enjoy a truly unique cinema experience in the beautifully restored **Stella Theatre**, an iconic cinematic landmark which originally opened its doors in 1923. The cinema itself has been sympathetically restored to reflect the glamour and glitz of the 1920s for an entire new generation of movie-goers.



Merrion Square



Fabulous Food Trails



Silver Works



14 Henrietta Street

Select from the latest blockbuster hits or timeless classics. Pick your seat, whether it's the luxurious red armchairs, cosy sofas for two, or the spacious double beds in the front row. Sit back, relax, and enjoy.

Is a trip to the movies complete without some indulgence? Choose from a menu full of mouth-watering food, delivered right to your seat at the beginning of each film. A selection of fine delicious cocktails and your staple cinema favourites; popcorn, confectionery, soft drinks and nachos, all of which you can pick up at the refreshments bar in the lobby.

Later, you can make your way to [The Stella Cocktail Club](#) located upstairs in its former ballroom.

**Allow as little or as much time as you like.**

## DAY 2

### MORNING

Begin your day by delving into Dublin's rich history with a visit to [14 Henrietta Street](#), nominated for European Museum of the Year 2020, it captures over 300 years of family and city life within the walls of one address. Intimate guided tours bring visitors on a truly moving journey from the house's grand Georgian beginnings to the tenement dwellings of its later years. Originally built in the 1720s for wealthy Dublin families, by 1911 over 850 people lived on the street, over 100 of those in 14 Henrietta Street. Discover their personal stories on this tour and walk in the footsteps of those who called 14 Henrietta Street home.

**Allow approximately 1 hour 15 mins for this experience.**

#### Alternatively

For those who love exploring the city on foot and getting their steps in, join [Fabulous Food Trails](#) for a walking food tour around Dublin. Experience the city through its food, led by an expert local guide on the Dublin Tasting Trail. Enjoy a variety of unexpected culinary treats with six to eight tastings to reflect both the traditional and Irish table today. Discover where the locals go, and learn fascinating snippets about the city's history and architecture. You'll have the chance to meet local artisan producers, hear their stories, and learn about their craft. And here's a fun twist: the trail stops are never revealed in advance!

**Allow approximately 2 hours 30 mins for this experience.**

### LUNCH

For lunch, the options are endless. On the Northside of the city, experience a unique dining atmosphere at [The Church Café Bar & Restaurant](#). This iconic venue, housed in a beautifully restored 18th century church, offers a delightful blend of history and modernity. Enjoy a delicious lunch featuring traditional Irish dishes and contemporary cuisine. The Church's stunning architecture, complete with stained glass windows and a grand organ, provides a memorable backdrop for your meal.

South of the Liffey, enjoy some local Irish foods and international culinary delights in one of the many eateries off St Stephen's Green such as Dame Street, Wicklow Street, Exchequer Street, Fade Street or George's Street.

Alternatively, savour your culinary options in one of Dublin's unique city squares; at the top of Grafton Street – St Stephen's Green, a charming Victorian square, Merrion Square, an exemplary Georgian square with fascinating literary history; or St Patrick's Park, located beside St Patrick's Cathedral.

### AFTERNOON

After lunch, enjoy a visit to the [GPO Museum](#), a must-see attraction in Dublin. Located in the historic General Post Office (GPO) building on O'Connell Street, it served as the headquarters of the 1916 Easter Rising, a pivotal moment in Irish history. This award-winning, immersive experience vividly brings to life the events of the 1916 Easter Rising. Through interactive exhibits, electronic touch screens, videos, and authentic artefacts, visitors can explore the aftermath of the rebellion and the development of modern Ireland. The museum also features a specially created film that places you right in the middle of the action during the Rising. Don't miss the chance to compose newspaper reports, send morse code messages, and engage with history in a unique and engaging way. The Rebel Rising Tour is ideal for those who wish to explore the 1916 Easter Rising and the major events of modern Irish history.

**Allow approximately 1 hour - 1 hour 30 mins for this experience.**

#### Alternatively

If you're looking to get your creative juices flowing, why not finish the day with a visit to [Silver Works](#). Located in the heart of Dublin's creative quarter, Silver Works is part of The Collective Shop on Drury Street in Dublin 2. This unique venue offers vibrant, immersive jewellery-making workshops led by a talented group of goldsmiths. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced jewellery-maker, you'll enjoy creating your own stunning piece of jewellery. The "Forge a Silver Ring" workshop allows you to learn the basics of silversmithing, from sawing, soldering, filing, and hammering to polishing, to create a beautiful, handmade silver ring. Under the guidance of expert instructors, you will craft a meaningful keepsake to remember your time in Dublin.

**Allow approximately 2 hours for this experience.**

### EVENING ENTERTAINMENT

No visit to Dublin would be complete without immersing yourself in its renowned literary heritage as a UNESCO City of Literature. Enjoy a [Dublin Literary Pub Crawl](#) starting at the [Duke Pub](#) on Duke Street with a song – "Waxies Dargle." From there, you'll be guided through Trinity College and several nearby pubs, with quotes from Joyce, Beckett, Yeats, Heaney, and James Larkin. The tour highlights the rich lore of Dublin's pubs and their role as social centres for writers and journalists. The performance includes songs, anecdotes, and photographs of the city, delivered with wit and enthusiasm. Advance booking is required.

**Allow 2 hours for this experience.**

#### Alternatively

[The Perfect Pint Tour](#) is a one-of-a-kind experience to discover the perfect pint of Guinness. Led by local guides and with luxury transport, enjoy some of the most iconic pubs in Dublin and experience Ireland's pub culture, with scenic sites and traditional music along the way. Sample only the finest pints (as they should really taste!) and step behind the bar to pour your own.

**Allow approximately 3 hours for this experience.**