

Tourist Information

A brief history of Dublin

Dublin is believed to be over 1,000 years old and has enjoyed mixed fortunes as the economic and political capital of the Republic of Ireland throughout its first millennium. Dublin was settled by Vikings from Denmark and Norway at the turn of the 10th century and was later settled by Norman English invaders in 1169. Since the foundation of the Irish Republic in 1922 Dublin has developed tremendously, particularly in the last 10 to 15 years. Ireland has enjoyed remarkable economic growth in this time which has paved the way for unprecedented economic and cultural development. The Ireland of today, whilst facing the challenges of economic change, is a place of unbridled opportunity and cultural diversity.

Attractions

Historical Places

Dublin oozes culture and history and the city is brim full of buildings of great significance to the cultural psyche of Ireland. A list and brief history of places like Dublin Castle, the Four Courts, the Customs House, Leinster House, the GPO and the Office of An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern is available at http://www.dublintontourist.com/directory/places_to_visit/historic_buildings/city_centre/ as well as directions on how to get to these and other places of interest.

Museums & Galleries

Dublin is also home to many of Ireland's finest museums and galleries. For a comprehensive list of Museums & Galleries in the Dublin city area please visit http://www.dublintontourist.com/directory/places_to_visit/museums_and_galleries/city_centre/ and also www.museum.ie – the homepage of the National Museum of Ireland which is home to many of the best examples of ancient Irish historical artefacts.

Theatre

Being the capital city, Dublin boasts the most vibrant and diverse theatre scene in Ireland. Dotted around the city centre, and further a field, are theatres and venues of great significance to the heritage of Irish Arts. For more on such venues please visit <http://www.dublintonlinks.com/index.cfm/loc/14/pt/11.htm>

Music & Opera

Dublin is a hive of activity when it comes to live music performances. As well as venues you will find at the link above please visit http://www.discoverdublin.ie/guide_livevenues.html for lists of the quintessential live music venues in Dublin as well as Traditional Irish music venues.

FIVS General Assembly, Clontarf Castle, Dublin – June 6-9 2007

Ireland's National Symphony Orchestra, in collaboration with State broadcaster RTE, has enjoyed major success in recent years. Through popular Classical music sessions staged throughout Ireland and collaborations with other international labels the Orchestra has won international acclaim. Find out more at <http://www.rte.ie/music/nso/index.html>

For the opera fanatic in you please visit www.operaireland.com to find a comprehensive overview of events and news related to the opera scene in Ireland.

Bars & Restaurants

Dublin boasts a veritable feast of bars and restaurants to choose from, making your dining choice a truly difficult one, whilst being ultimately memorable. As culturally diverse as the groups of tourists you will see on the streets, Dublin's many restaurants are complimented by a healthy ratio of traditional Irish Bars, providing you with opportunity to sit back and absorb that world renowned atmosphere. For a list of well-frequented watering holes and eateries log on to <http://www.dublinevents.com/dublin-restaurants.php>

Shopping

For that requisite dose of retail therapy Dublin lists many of Europe's top retailers as some of its tenants. And for those looking for that something unique Dublin's side streets and cobbled alley ways are dotted with tasteful boutiques and quaint design houses to provide you with a taste of haute-couture, Irish Style! Please log on to <http://www.dublinks.com/index.cfm/loc/5/pt/2.htm> for more on shopping in Dublin.

Outdoor/leisure activity

As well as man-made attractions Dublin is a capital city of distinct natural beauty. To the north of the River Liffey (the river on which Dublin was founded) the Phoenix Park boasts over 700 hectares of natural parkland. It is home to Áras an Uachtaráin, the residence of our President, Mary MacAleese, Dublin Zoo, one of the oldest zoos in the world, and Farmleigh, the State Guest House which is used to welcome foreign dignitaries and also for Opera festivals.

Dublin Bay proves a year round attraction also, not just to tourists but to residents of the many towns and villages that dot the coastline to the north and south of the mouth of the River Liffey. Some of these towns include, Dun Laoighre, Dalkey and Greystones to the south and Malahide, Portmarnock, Howth and indeed Clontarf to the North.

For the Tiger Woods in you, Dublin and the Greater Leinster area are home to some of the finest links championship golf courses in the world. Ireland was the most recent host of the Ryder Cup, back in September of last year. For everything golf related please visit www.golf.ireland.ie . Here you will find comprehensive information on the best courses, green fees and information on the game of golf in Ireland.

FIVS General Assembly, Clontarf Castle, Dublin – June 6-9 2007

Nestled in the woodlands and remote parklands of the Dublin and Wicklow Mountains are some of Ireland's most breathtaking hiking trails. Whether you are the serious *outdoorsy* type or more interested in examining the native flora and fauna, this area of real natural beauty provides an excellent showcase of the wildlife native to Ireland in a truly magical setting that attracts keen hikers year-round also.

Dublin is also home to some spectacular parks and gardens. Information on these can be found at <http://www.heritageireland.ie/en/ParksandGardens/> . Ireland's temperate climate makes it ideal to support the growth of many unique and wonderful species of plants and shrubs from around the world.

Public transport in the city centre:

Dublin City centre is served by Dublin Bus and the LUAS, a light urban tram system akin to many seen in some of Europe's major cities.

Please visit these websites for information on route maps, fares and timetables:

www.dublinbus.ie
www.luas.ie

For a detailed city centre map please visit:

www.maps.google.com and type *Dublin, Ireland* for a comprehensive overview of the city centre and its environs.

Hopefully, these pages have been somewhat informative as you prepare to make your journey to Ireland. If there is any further information you require please do not hesitate to contact Martin Burke of First Ireland Spirits at mburke@first-ireland-spirits.com and he will be delighted to inform your requests, whether they concern events or activities surrounding the Conference or an extended stay in Ireland.

The following websites provide useful information on vacationing in Ireland also, should you wish to extend your stay:

www.visitdublin.ie
www.discoverireland.com

The Hotel Concierge also provides a service to guests answering any queries/questions you may have about your stay.

There will also be an information desk in the direct vicinity of the Conference registration area for the duration of the Conference.

FIVS General Assembly, Clontarf Castle, Dublin – June 6-9 2007