

## **“A Short Guide to Dublin City”**

### **A-St Stephen’s Green**

Ireland's best known Victorian public park. Re-opened by Lord Ardilaun in 1880 for the citizens of Dublin. This 9 hectare / 22 acre park has been maintained in the original Victorian layout with extensive perimeter tree and shrub planting, spectacular spring and summer Victorian bedding. The herbaceous border also provides color from early spring to late autumn. Sanctuary from inclement weather can be obtained in the Victorian lakeside shelter or in the Victorian Swiss shelters in the center of the park.

### **B-National Gallery of Ireland**

The National Gallery of Ireland houses the Irish national collection of Irish and European art. It was founded in 1854 and opened its doors ten years later. The Gallery has an extensive, representative collection of Irish painting and is also notable for its Italian Baroque and Dutch masters painting. The current director of the gallery is Sean Rainbird. Entry to the gallery is free.

Current exhibits include:

- Essential Ireland: a mini tour For over three centuries, the cities and beauty spots of Ireland have attracted visitors. This selection of paintings and drawings includes views of Dublin, Cork, Galway, Waterford and Derry, with the Cliffs of Moher, Glendalough, Lakes of Killarney and other well-known places, offering a one-room tour of the Island. Some of these works have not been exhibited for over a century and others have been recently acquired. A series of associated talks will take place in May.
- From Galway to Leenane: *Perceptions of Landscape* 15 June - 29 September 2013  
In 2008 the National Gallery of Ireland acquired a collection of 41 watercolors of West of Ireland scenes by the English topographical artist William Evans of Eton (1798-1877) who taught at the famous public school. These rare watercolors will be included in an exhibition for the first time since they were acquired.

### C-The National Concert Hall

The National Concert Hall, based in Dublin's city center, is rated by performing artists as one of the finest concert halls in Europe and boasts a thrilling line-up of some of the world's greatest performers both nationally and internationally.

### D-St Andrew's Street

Location of The Pen Corner-For lovers of fountain pens, this stationery store has been selling stylish writing gear since 1927. It also has a lovely collection of unusual, arty cards, and notepaper.

### E-Royal Hospital Kilmainham/Museum of Modern art

One of the finest 17th-century buildings in Ireland.

The hospital was built in 1684 by Sir William Robinson, official State Surveyor General for James Butler, 1st Duke of Ormonde and Lord Lieutenant of Ireland to King Charles II, as a home for retired soldiers and continued in that use for over 250 years. The style is based on Les Invalides in Paris with a formal facade and a large courtyard.

The Royal Hospital is also the home of the Irish Museum of Modern Art-also known as IMMA, it is Ireland's leading national institution for the collection and presentation of modern and contemporary art.

### F-The Westbury Hotel

### G-Trinity College

Trinity College, formally known as the College of the Holy and Undivided Trinity of Queen Elizabeth near Dublin, is the sole constituent college of the University of Dublin in Ireland. The college was founded in 1592 as the "mother" of a new university modeled after the collegiate universities of Oxford and of Cambridge, but, unlike these, only one college was ever established; as such, the designations "Trinity College" and "University of Dublin" are usually synonymous for practical purposes. It is one of the seven ancient universities of Britain and Ireland<sup>1</sup>, as well as Ireland's oldest university. Home of the Book of Kells-one of the great treasures of medieval Europe, produced around 800AD, it presents a text of the gospels, employing illustration which is not only rich, colorful, but also in places deeply enigmatic.

### H-Christ Church Cathedral

Christ Church Cathedral (or, more formally, The Cathedral of the Holy Trinity) is the cathedral of the United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough and the cathedral of the Ecclesiastical province of the United Provinces of Dublin and Cashel in the Church of Ireland. It is the elder of the capital city's two medieval cathedrals, the other being St Patrick's Cathedral.

### I-Dublin Castle

Until 1922 Dublin Castle was the seat of British rule in Ireland, and is now a major Irish government complex. Most of it dates from the 18th century, though a castle has stood on the site since the days of King John, the first Lord of Ireland. The Castle served as the seat of English, then later British government of Ireland under the Lordship of Ireland (1171–1541), the Kingdom of Ireland (1541–1800), and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland (1800–1922). After the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty in December 1921, the complex was ceremonially handed over to the newly formed Provisional Government led by Michael Collins.

### **J-National Library**

Ireland's national library is in a building designed by Thomas Newenham Deane. The mission of the National Library of Ireland is 'To collect, preserve, promote and make accessible the documentary and intellectual record of the life of Ireland and to contribute to the provision of access to the larger universe of recorded knowledge'

The library is a reference library and, as such, does not lend. It has a large quantity of Irish and Irish-related material which can be consulted without charge; this includes books, maps, manuscripts, music, newspapers, periodicals and photographs. Included in their collections is material issued by private as well as government publishers.

### **K-General Post Office (GPO)**

The GPO is the headquarters of the Irish Post Office, *An Post*, and Dublin's principal post office. Sited in the center of O'Connell Street, the city's main thoroughfare, it is one of Ireland's most famous buildings, and was the last of the great Georgian public buildings erected in the capital.

### **L-Leinster House**

The seat of the Oireachtas-the national parliament of Ireland.

Leinster House was originally the ducal palace of the Dukes of Leinster. Since 1922, it is a complex of buildings, of which the former ducal palace is the core, which house Oireachtas Éireann, its members and staff. The most recognizable part of the complex, and the 'public face' of Leinster House, continues to be the former ducal palace at the core of the complex.

### **M-Merrion Square Park**

AGeorgiansquare on the southside of Dublin city center. It was laid out after 1762 and was largely complete by the beginning of the 19th century. It is considered one of the city's finest surviving squares. Three sides are lined with Georgian redbrick townhouses; the West side abuts the grounds of Leinster House (seat of the Oireachtas), Government Buildings, the Natural History Museum and the National Gallery. The central railed-off garden is now a public park.

### N-Natural History Museum

Ireland's Natural History Museum, sometimes called the 'Dead Zoo', a branch of the National Museum of Ireland, is housed on Merrion Street in Dublin, Ireland. The museum was built in 1856 for parts of the collection of the Royal Dublin Society and building and collection were later passed to the Irish State.

The Museum's collection and building have changed little since Victorian times, and it is sometimes described as a "museum of a museum".

### O-Dublin Writers Museum

The Dublin Writers Museum was opened in November 1991 at No 18, Parnell Square, Dublin, Ireland. The museum occupies an original 18th-century house, which accommodates the museum rooms, library, gallery and administration area. The annex behind it has a coffee shop and bookshop on the ground floor and exhibition and lecture rooms on the floors above. The Irish Writers' Centre, next door in No 19, contains the meeting rooms and offices of the Irish Writers' Union, the Society of Irish Playwrights, the Irish Children's Book Trust and the Irish Translators' & Interpreters' Association. The writers featured in the Museum are those who have made an important contribution to Irish or international literature or, on a local level, to the literature of Dublin. It is a view of Irish literature from a Dublin perspective.

### P-The Guinness Storehouse

Also known as 'The Guinness Hop Store', the Storehouse is laid out over seven floors surrounding a glass atrium shaped in the form of a pint of Guinness. The ground floor introduces the beer's four ingredients (water, barley, hops and yeast), and the brewery's founder, Arthur Guinness. Other floors feature the history of Guinness advertising and include an interactive exhibit on responsible drinking. The seventh floor houses the Gravity Bar with views of Dublin and where visitors may drink a pint of Guinness.

### Q-Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland was granted a Charter on 11th February 1784. This Charter gave the College the power to control the practice of surgery and to make provision for surgical education.

Prior to that time the surgeons were grouped with the barbers and the Barbers Surgeons Guild. The founders had no premises so the earliest meeting was held in the boardroom of the Rotunda Hospital in Dublin. Subsequently, a disused hall in Mercer Street beside Mercer's Hospital was acquired and subsequently moved to the present site on St Stephens Green.



