

The best MARCO POLO Insider Tips

Our top 15 Insider Tips



INSIDER TIP Dining with Jesus

Dublin's answer to Leonardo da Vinci: *Dublin's Last Supper* by John Byrne is on a wall in the Italian Quarter and can be admired day and night free of charge → p. 44

INSIDER TIP Satisfy your fashion desires

You can't afford top international designers like Galliano and company? No problem – hire your dream designer outfit from *Covet – The Borrowers Boudoir* → p. 66

INSIDER TIP The expert's choice

Museum curators display and discuss their favourite pieces in the *Curator's Room* at the National Museum – Decorative Arts → p. 45

INSIDER TIP Where Irish roughnecks meet

A live hurling match or a rowdy Gaelic football game at *Croke Park* will certainly be an experience to remember (photo above) → p. 23

INSIDER TIP A world of books

Marsh's Library, opened in 1701, is Ireland's oldest public library and well worth a visit, even if you don't want to borrow a book → p. 40

INSIDER TIP Getting to know the city, bite by bite

On the *Dublin Tasting Trail* you can do some unusual sightseeing when you visit local fresh markets, fishmongers and cheese specialists with plenty delicious food to taste along the way – you will not go hungry on this tour → p. 113

INSIDER TIP Where the Dubliners pray

The lavish *Augustinian Church* is the parish church for the residents of Liberties and is a neo-Gothic jewel → p. 48

INSIDER TIP Ease up on the credit card

A great way to save money is to take advantage of some of Dublin's excellent pre-theatre *set menus* → p. 52

INSIDER TIP From grave robbers to national heroes

The *Glasnevin Museum* at the huge cemetery of the same name reveals the secrets of Dublin's 'City of the Dead' → p. 49

INSIDER TIP The Backroom

There is no secret gambling in The Backroom at Cobblestone – as one might suspect from looking at the name – instead it plays host to famous and up-and-coming *live bands* → p. 74

INSIDER TIP One for all

Whether vegetarian, meat-eater, calorie-counter or coeliac disease sufferer – *Le Bon Crubeen* will satisfy all tastes. And from 5pm to 7.30pm you can even save money → p. 59

INSIDER TIP Bus ride with panoramic views

For a splendid ocean view take the bus *route 31B* along the coast to the fishing village of Howth (photo below) → p. 51

INSIDER TIP An alternative to Guinness

If you only ever drink the famous black in Dublin, you will be missing out. The popular *Porterhouse* pub has their own in-house micro-brewery so they have their own top quality and tasty beer on tap → p. 76

INSIDER TIP Fine ingredients for a picnic

Fashion above, food below: at the *Avocas Food Hall* they have both beautiful clothing and some extremely delicious goodies on offer. Freshly baked bread, Irish cheese and tasty pies, all perfect for a marvellous picnic on St Stephen's Green just around the corner → p. 66

INSIDER TIP Peaceful hostel for the hungry

A bit more peaceful than other hostels, Internet access and garden – but the biggest bonus at the *Globetrotters* hostel is their lavish Irish breakfast → p. 84



BEST OF...

GREAT PLACES FOR FREE

Discover new places and save money

FOR FREE

● *Wide view across the city*

The view from *Howth Head* over the Dublin Bay, the mountains and many other parts of the city is free and peaceful. The short ascent isn't too much effort, provided you leave your high heels in your suitcase. It begins behind the Deer Park Hotel → [p. 80](#)

● *On the trail of the rock legends*

Dublin's music scene has produced any number of other famous rock musicians besides U2. The *Rock 'n' Stroll Trail* lets you follow in their tracks for free. The brochure and podcast are available on the Internet at no extra charge: download, print and off you go → [p. 113](#)

● *An ecologically friendly option*

If your feet hurt from all the sightseeing, then why not let the comfortable and eco-friendly *Ecocab* take you anywhere within Dublin's city centre. The rickshaw-like tricycles are a free service, thanks to corporate sponsorship (photo) → [p. 112](#)

● *A long night of Dublin culture*

Dublin has followed the same trend as other European capitals and holds a *Culture Night* every September. The entire city joins in with music, art, readings, and workshops until dawn, museums, theatres, pubs... and best of all is that everything is for free → [p. 105](#)

● *Celtic gold*

Despite the economic crisis, the entrance to state museums is still free. Visit the *National Museum* and admire the precious collection with Viking era exhibits and a gold collection from the prosperous days of the Celtic tribes → [p. 33](#)

● *Live music at the pub*

The cost of tickets for live concerts can quickly dent your wallet but that is not the case in Dublin. There are still pubs here where you can enjoy live Irish music for free. Good venues are *The Brazen Head* and *Hughes' Bar* → [p. 73, 74](#)

● ● ● Dots in guidebook refer to 'Best of...' tips

ONLY IN DUBLIN

Unique experiences

● *Dublin's poets and the thirst*

If you would like to follow in the footsteps of poets, you need not worry about getting thirsty on the way. On the *Literary Pub Crawl* actors lead you from pub to pub and as they go along they recite verses, sing ballads, act out melodramas and talk about the authors' works → [p. 113](#)

● *Georgian style Merrion Square*

The brightly coloured doors of the *Merrion Square*, built in Georgian style, will make quite an impression on you. In the middle of the beautiful park there is a collection of historic street lamps and a few sculptures, one of Oscar Wilde, who lived at no. 1 (photo) between 1855 and 1876 → [p. 32](#)

● *The rich and famous*

If you want to keep an eye out for celebrities, the best place to go is the *Horseshoe Bar* at the Shelbourne Hotel. This is the place to see and be seen and the hotel and its bar are a Dublin institution, quite a few scandals have played out here → [p. 81](#)

● *Favourite number game*

Nowhere is Ireland more Irish than at bingo. The Catholic Church first introduced the lottery game as a fundraiser. Bingo evenings take place in the community halls and at the *National Stadium*. Try your luck! → [p. 72](#)

● *The heart of old Dublin*

The district known as *The Liberties* got its name during the period when it was a customs-free zone. The small shops and antiques dealers' in Thomas Street and Meath Street are particularly popular with people on low incomes, and the influence of immigrants from eastern Europe is clearly felt. The Guinness Brewery is also located in The Liberties → [p. 48](#)

● *Train trip along the coast*

Get to know Ireland starting from Dublin: the *DART* (Dublin Area Rapid Transport) will take you once around Dublin Bay. The commuter train goes from Howth and Malahide in the north of Dublin along the coast up to Greystones in county Wicklow → [p. 51, 111](#)



ONLY IN



DISCOVERY TOURS

1

DUBLIN AT A GLANCE



START: ① Bewley's Café
END: ⑭ Temple Bar

1 day
Actual walking time
2 hours

Distance:

→ 21 km/13,05 mi (7 km/4,35 mi on foot)



COSTS: 75 euros/pers. for breakfast, picnic, evening meal, bicycle hire and admission fees (⑥ St Michan's Church 5 euros, ③ Book of Kells 10 euros, ⑩ Kilmainham Gaol 7 euros)

IMPORTANT TIPS: ③ Book of Kells: Long waiting times in high season
⑥ St Michan's Church: Note opening times of the vaults
⑩ Kilmainham Gaol: Book in advance; often crowded

In terms of surface area Dublin is large, but the inner city is compact and easy to cover on foot. Take this day tour to give you a good first glance at the most important attractions Dublin has to offer. But uncover a few seemingly not-so-

Cities have many faces. If you want to get behind the scenes and explore their unique charm and head off the beaten track or find your way to green oases, handpicked restaurants or the best local activities, then these tailored Discovery Tours are just the right thing. Choose the best route for the day and follow in the footsteps of the MARCO POLO authors – well-prepared to navigate your way to all the many highlights that await you along the tour.

important details, too, which are just as exciting and feature among the many facets of the Irish capital.

09:00am The walk begins with breakfast at ① Bewley's Café → p. 54 in Grafton Street. Ernest Bewley opened the café in 1927, taking his inspiration from the Viennese coffee houses and oriental tea rooms of the day. Bewley's has been CO₂-neutral since 2008 and serves up many organic products. Give the organic porridge or the sweet pancakes a try.

① Bewley's Café

