

An insider's guide to Dublin  
the way the locals live it

# Insider Guides **Georgian Dublin**

From her humble beginnings as a Viking trading port to a walled medieval city and then, in a glorious century of expansion, to an elegant Georgian metropolis with wide streets, gracious squares and great houses, neatly bordered by its two canals, Dublin is a city that will capture your heart.

In the 18th century the city acquired this beautiful and distinctive style of architecture. Dublin Georgian architecture is so called as this was a style developed between 1714 to 1830. Four King George's reigned in this period, hence the adaption of the name Georgian Dublin.

Dublin experienced rapid growth during the 1700s both in size and population. The medieval walls were swept away and the development of grand broad streets and squares as well as the development of residential areas began. Dublin prospered over this period and it is so reflected in the grandeur and architectural qualities of the public and private buildings constructed.

Many of today's major public buildings date from this period and the architect James Gandon is the man responsible for several of the most impressive buildings of the time. **The Custom House**, today used as government offices, is considered one of the most important architectural buildings in the capital. The exterior of the building is richly adorned with sculptures and coats-of-arms.

**The Four Courts**, on Inn's Quay, the **Rotunda Hospital**, Europe's first maternity hospital built in 1750, as well

as **King's Inns** at the top of **Henrietta Street**, the oldest Georgian Street in Dublin, are just some of Gandon's Georgian architectural triumphs.

**The Georgian door** is a well recognized symbol of 'Welcome' in Dublin and probably the most commonly known element of the style. Dublin is abundant with colourful Georgian doors and many still survive with their polished brass fittings. The vibrant colours used on the doors was to add some individual flair and to counteract the strict architectural rules of the style. Although the Georgian Door can be seen throughout the city the best examples can be seen on the sweeping terraces of houses in areas such as **Baggot Street** and **Leeson Street** as well as **Merrion Square** and **Mountjoy Square**.

**The Phoenix Park**, the largest enclosed urban park in Europe, is one of the most impressive legacies of our Georgian heritage. Lord Chesterfield laid out the park in the 1740s and there are a number of stately homes within, including the official residences of the President of Ireland and the US ambassador.

Originally the townhouse for the Fitzgerald family, the Dukes of Leinster, **Leinster House**, now the Irish Parliament,



sits facing Merrion Square. It is claimed the plans for the White House in Washington were influenced by Leinster House.

The exterior architecture of the Georgian style can be readily seen throughout the city and you can also view the creative skills of the craftsmen who shaped the interiors. Rich and elaborate plasterwork, outstanding woodwork, beautiful marble fireplaces and graceful staircases were feature of both great and modest Georgian homes. **The James Joyce Centre** on **North Great George's Street**, **Newman House** and the **Dublin Writer's Museum** are just some of the visitor attractions that are open to the public and housed in beautifully restored past Georgian residences.

*Truly Madly Deeply*  
**Dublin**  
visitdublin.com



Dublin Writer's Museum

# top tips

## Public Buildings & Places of Interest

<p><b>The Custom's House</b>                  Custom House Quay, Dublin 1                  T: 00353 1 888 2538  <a href="#">View online map</a></p>
<p><b>Rotunda Hospital</b>                  Parnell Square West, Dublin 1                  T: 00353 1 873 0700  <a href="#">www.rotunda.ie</a>  <a href="#">View online map</a></p>
<p><b>The Four Courts</b>                  Inns Quay, Dublin 7  <a href="#">www.courts.ie</a>  <a href="#">View online map</a></p>
<p><b>King's Inn</b>                  Henrietta Street, Dublin 1                  T: 00353 1 874 4840  <a href="#">www.kingsinns.ie</a>  <a href="#">View online map</a></p>
<p><b>The Phoenix Park</b>                  Dublin 8  <a href="#">www.heritageireland.ie</a>  <a href="#">View online map</a></p>
<p><b>Leinster House</b>                  Merrion Square, Dublin 2                  T: 00353 1 618 3000  <a href="#">www.oireachtas.ie</a>  <a href="#">View online map</a></p>
<p><b>Powerscourt Townhouse</b>                  59 South William Street, Dublin 2                  Tel: 00353 1 679 4144  <a href="#">www.powerscourtcentre.com</a>  <a href="#">View online map</a></p>
<p><b>Central Bank, Bank of Ireland</b>                  College Green, Dublin 2  <a href="#">View online map</a></p>
<p><b>Mansion House</b>                  Dawson Street, Dublin 2  <a href="#">View online map</a></p>
<p><b>St. Mary's Pro Cathedral</b>                  Marlborough Street, Dublin 1                  Tel: + 353 1 874 5441  <a href="#">www.procathedral.ie</a>  <a href="#">View online map</a></p>
<p><b>St. Mary's Church</b>                  Mary Street, Dublin 1  <a href="#">View online map</a></p>
<p><b>St. Werburgh's Church</b>                  Werburgh Street, Dublin 2  <a href="#">View online map</a></p>

## Visitor Attractions

<p><b>James Joyce Centre</b>                  35 North Great George's Street, Dublin 1                  T: 00353 1 878 8574  <a href="#">www.jamesjoyce.ie</a>  <a href="#">View online map</a></p>
<p><b>Dublin Writer's Museum</b>                  18 Parnell Square North, Dublin 1                  T: 00353 1 872 2077  <a href="#">www.writersmuseum.ie</a>  <a href="#">View online map</a></p>
<p><b>Newman House</b>                  85/86 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2                  T: 00353 1 716 7422  <a href="#">View online map</a></p>
<p><b>Dublin Castle</b>                  Dame Street, Dublin 2                  T: 00353 1 645 8813  <a href="#">www.dublincastle.ie</a>  <a href="#">View online map</a></p>
<p><b>Trinity College</b>                  College Street, Dublin 2                  T: 00353 1 896 2320  <a href="#">www.tcd.ie/library</a>  <a href="#">View online map</a></p>
<p><b>Dublin's City Hall</b>                  Dame Street, Dublin 2                  T: 00353 1 222 2204  <a href="#">www.dublincity.ie</a>  <a href="#">View online map</a></p>

1. The Customs House
2. The Four Courts
3. Rotunda Hospital
4. Kings Inn
5. Henrietta Street
6. Baggot Street
7. Leeson Street
8. Merrion Square
9. Mountjoy Square
10. Phoenix Park
11. Leinster House
12. The James Joyce Centre
13. North Great George's Street
14. Newman House
15. Dublin Writer's Museum
16. Number Twenty Nine

# maps

## Dublin County



## City centre

