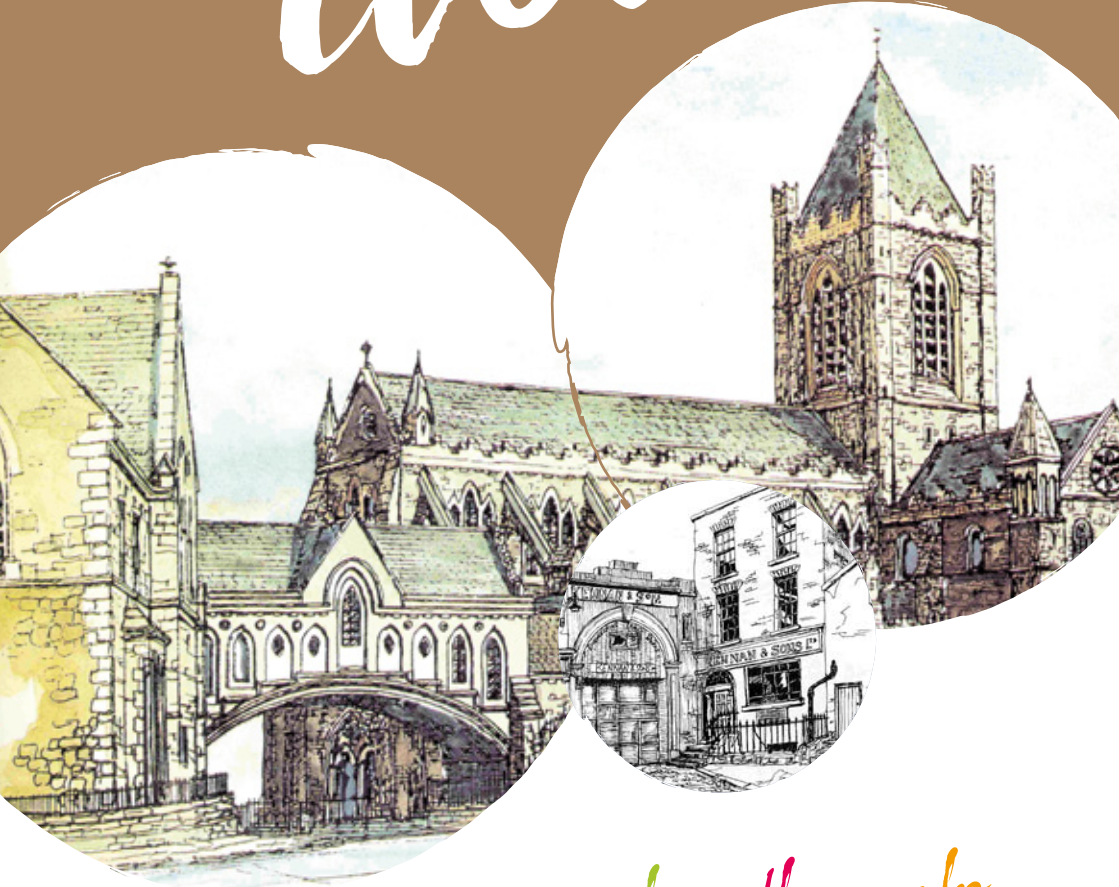




03: VIKING & MEDIEVAL DUBLIN

A self-guided walking tour

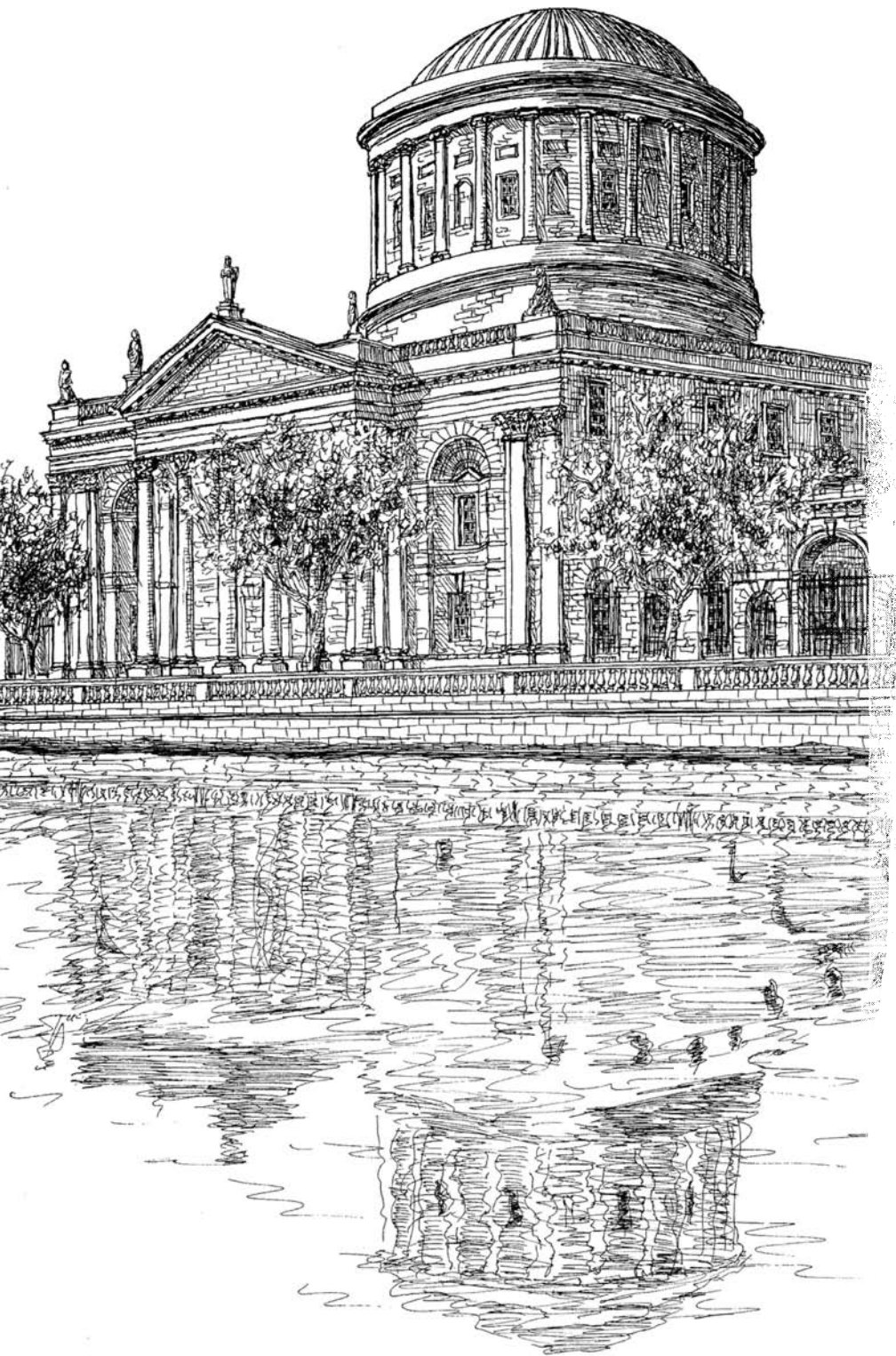
iWalk!



Dublin Tourism
DUBLIN REGIONAL TOURISM AUTHORITY

Truly Madly Deeply
Dublin

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VIKING AND MEDIEVAL DUBLIN

WELCOME TO DUBLIN.

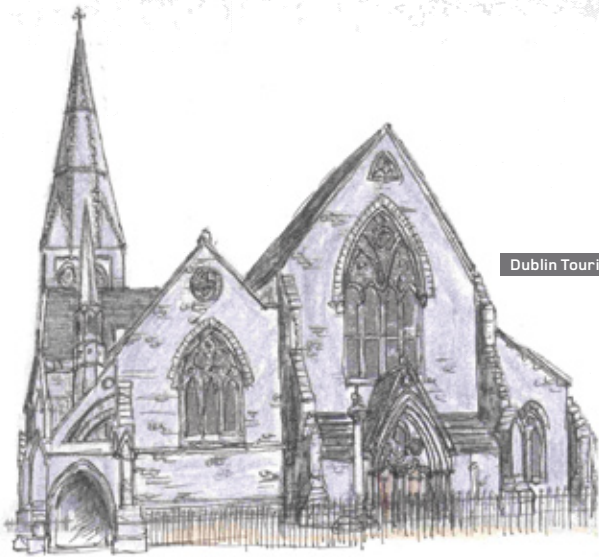
WE HOPE THAT AS YOU TAKE TIME TO WALK AROUND AND EXPLORE DUBLIN YOU WILL DISCOVER THE IRISH CAPITAL IS AT THE VERY HEART OF IRISH CULTURE AND OFFERS ENDLESS CHOICES TO OUR VISITORS. DUBLIN'S REAL APPEAL IS HER PEOPLE, SO DON'T BE AFRAID TO STOP AND ASK FOR DIRECTIONS ALONG YOUR WALK - DUBLINERS' HOSPITALITY AND WIT WILL CAPTIVATE YOU!

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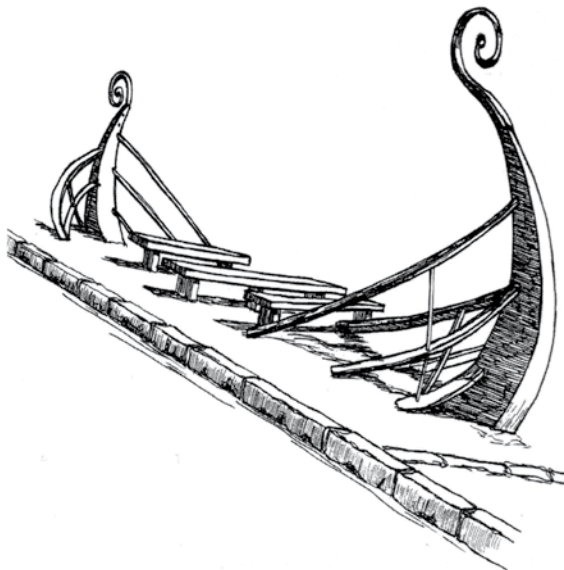
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iWalk - Viking & Medieval Dublin



Dublin Tourism Centre



Viking Ship Monument

01

Dublin Tourism Centre. The tour commences from outside the Dublin Tourism Centre on Suffolk Street. If you are wondering why the offices of Dublin Tourism are situated in a former church it is because the decline of the local population in the second half of the 20th century forced the closure of St Andrew's Church. In 1996 it was beautifully refurbished and re-opened as a tourism centre by its new owners, Dublin Tourism. The church has a direct connection to the Vikings as it stands on the site of the former Thingmote, a large mound of earth raised by the Norsemen in the 10th century as their assembly place for settling disputes and passing laws.

02

Parliament Street. Commence walking along Suffolk Street towards the direction of the Post Office on Andrew Street and cross over at the next junction and walk down the short, narrow street called Trinity Street. At the pedestrian lights when you come onto Dame Street from Trinity Street cross over to the other side of the road, turn left and head up Dame Street, leaving Trinity at your back. Walking as briskly as you can continue along Dame Street for about 300 metres passing by, on your right, the Central Bank and a series of intersecting streets which you will simply ignore. The district to your right is the famous Temple Bar area, the former 18th century docklands now turned into an entertainment, cultural and residential quarter. You will know when you have reached the next turning point as on the opposite side of the road you will see a large classical building with a green dome. This is City Hall and when you reach it then turn right to walk down Parliament Street. Walk all the way down the street until you reach the riverside but don't go any further. Now have a look around you.

03

Essex Gate. Retrace your steps back up Parliament Street until you reach the pedestrian lights and cross over to the other side and enter a short street called Essex Gate. Stop just beyond the Turk's Head pub.

04

Isolde's Tower. Ever mindful of watching out for occasional traffic, cross over Essex Gate and turn to the right into Lower Exchange Street. Walk down to a large iron grill which allows you to look into a large hole under an apartment block. This is the excavated site, left permanently on view to the public, of the base level of the 13th century Isolde's Tower.

05

Church of Saints Michael & John. Move forward 20 or 30 metres, passing a café until you are standing on a small plaza opposite to the former church of Saints Michael and John. Firstly we are now close to the River Liffey but in Viking Days the river was at least five times wider than it is today and would have covered where you are now standing.

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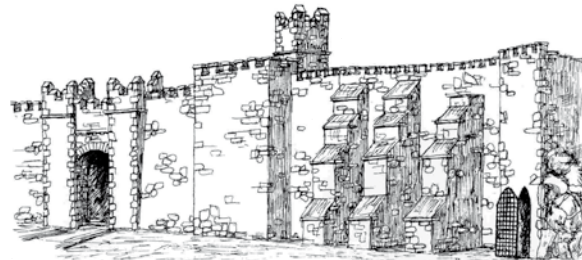
The Crypt, Christ Church



St Audoen's Church



The Brazen Head



Cook Street

- 06** Fishamble Street. Your next destination is reached by continuing along Lower Exchange Street and turning left into Fishamble Street. Cross over to the far side and stand opposite a Georgian-looking house with your back to the entrance between two modern office blocks. Fishamble Street, along with neighbouring High Street, is the oldest street in Dublin.
- 07** Christ Church Cathedral. The passageway between the office blocks is usually open to the public so enter here, passing a neat park and a performance auditorium where concerts and mini operas are held for free during the summer months. This might be a good point to look up the hill beyond the park and take in Christ Church Cathedral.
- 08** Adam & Eve's Church. When you exit the park and reach the next road, Winetavern Street, turn right until you reach the river, then, with the aid of the lights, cross Winetavern Street and walk along Merchants' Quay. About 30 metres further up stop at some gates which will be nearly opposite to the great classical building on the far side of the river, the Four Courts.
- 09** The Brazen Head. Continue along by Merchants' Quay, which is named from the medieval merchant houses which used to line it, and at the next junction turn left into Bridge Street and stop in front of The Brazen Head, Dublin's oldest pub.
- 10** St Audoen's Church. You have reached the furthest point in your itinerary and now you will be circling back via a different route which will bring you to a couple of ancient sites including a substantial section of the old walls of Dublin. First proceed up Bridge Street, cross Cook Street but be careful, there are no pedestrian lights here and the junction is a bit complicated. Then walk up the opposite steps and under a small arched gate into a park. Ahead of you lies the Norman church of St Audoen.
- 11** Cook Street. Exit the park through the gateway beside the church and turn left to walk down an ancient medieval route which will bring you down below the crypt level of the church and out under a 13th century city gate. As you descend you will see an archway at the base of St Audoen's church where once a medieval passage led down to the river. Remains of this passageway have been preserved and can be viewed inside the church. When you reach Cook Street stop and look back at the gate and the stretch of city wall on either side of the gateway.

iWalk - Viking & Medieval Dublin



Christ Church

12 Winetavern Street. Head towards Winetavern Street again and when you reach it cross over at the lights and walk up on the park side until you almost reach Christ Church Cathedral. Then move in off the footpath and onto a slightly higher paved area. Here, set into the stones, is the outline of a Viking house marked out with red-coloured paving stones.

13 Christ Church Chapter House. Now walk around to the front of Christ Church Cathedral. You will pass under an overhead bridge which connects to the former Synod House, built in the mid 1800s for the meeting of bishops and senior clergy, and now housing Dublinia, an extraordinary interpretative centre displaying Dublin's Viking & Medieval history. This is an essential must-see for visitors. When you reach the corner with Christchurch Place enter the cathedral compound via a small gate and walk down a number of steps and cross over to an excavated ruin in the centre of the courtyard.

14 Handel's 'Messiah'. With only two more stops remaining leave the precincts of the cathedral by the far gate and turn again into Fishamble Street. The road curves first to the right and then to the left. At the first curve and inset into the far corner is an arched gateway. Behind this was the site of an 18th century music hall and the venue for the world's first performance of Handel's 'Messiah', with the composer himself conducting.

15 Cow's Lane. For our last stop cut up into West Essex Street and halt at the next intersection; the pedestrianised Cow's Lane, a modern street with a medieval name.

You have now reached the end of this guided tour. You are still very close to a number of important visitor centres which you might like to visit after some refreshment. The nearby sites include St Audoen's, Dublinia, and, of course, the very popular Christ Church Cathedral.



Fishamble Street

We hope that you enjoyed this walk which was narrated by its author, Pat Liddy, who may be visited on his website www.walkingtours.ie and brought to you by Dublin Tourism on www.visitdublin.com

For the latest updates on walking tours of Dublin, check out our website: www.visitdublin.com/iwalks.

Our offices are located at:
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Thank you for visiting our city.