



St. Patrick's Cathedral

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

Truly Madly Deeply
Dublin
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Insider Guides **Dublin's Royal Connection**

A republic since 1949, Ireland separated from the United Kingdom in 1922 and Dublin, after 750 years of rule from London, lost its position as a viceregal seat of the British monarchy.

Nevertheless, there are still many visible signs of the royal tradition to be found on the streets, on the buildings and in the institutional legacy.

The inauguration in 1592 of **Trinity College** was enthusiastically supported by Queen Elizabeth I who saw it as a convenient tool to encourage native Irish men (women were only admitted in 1904!) to abandon Roman Catholicism in favour of Protestantism. Despite its legacy of 'Englishism' Trinity College today is embraced and respected by all strands of Irish society and is now among the top universities of the world.

Across the road from Trinity College in College Green, stands the magnificent **Bank of Ireland**, built in 1729 as the Irish House of Parliament. Note the sculpture of the British Royal Coat of Arms still situated in the pediment above the main entrance portico. Inside the bank, the preserved **House of Lords** has marble busts to two English kings, **George III and George IV**. Decorating the walls of this room is a pair of 18th century tapestries celebrating victories of King William III over his rival James II.

Further up neighbouring Dame Street lies **Dublin Castle**, the seat of British power in Dublin for over 700 years. The State Apartments are much as they were when the British vacated the castle in 1922. The royal throne, on which sat various royal personages including Queen Victoria, still occupies its prominent position. Nearby is the **Chapel Royal**, where the Coats-of-Arms of every Viceroy to serve in Ireland are emblazoned along the galleries and windows.

In nearby **St Patrick's Cathedral** British Army regimental flags, war memorials and the banners of the Most Illustrious Order of St Patrick, a knightly order similar to the Order of the Garter, decorate the interior.

Many institutions in Dublin still carry the 'Royal' prefix on account of receiving their majesties' support and charters. These include **the Royal Dublin Society, the Royal Irish Academy, the Royal Irish College of Music, the Royal Automobile Association, the Royal Dublin Golf Club, the Royal St George Yacht Club** and so on.

The red **post boxes**, so familiar on English streets, still adorn the pavements of Dublin and many of them carry the royal coat-of-arms of various monarchs including Queen Victoria, King George V and King Edward VII. The only difference in Dublin is that they are painted green!

On the most hallowed republican plot in Ireland, the grounds of **Dáil Éireann** or the Irish Parliament, unexpectedly but proudly stands the exquisitely sculptured statue of Prince Albert, the husband of Queen Victoria! The Government Buildings commenced construction in 1903 and took so long that in the courtyard the Walls bear the inscription of 2 monarchs, George VI and Edward VII.

The Dublin **Lord Mayor** has, for over 300 years, worn the effigy of King William III, known irreverently in Ireland as King Billy, who appears on the medallion of the gold Chain of Office.

Two important advocates of the British connection with Ireland were both born in Dublin. **Edward Henry Carson** (1854-1935), a founder (in 1905) and leader of the Ulster Unionist Party, was born at No. 4 Harcourt Street, near to St Stephen's Green. Also closeby St. Stephens Green on Dawson Street is a plaque marking the first meeting in 1795 of the Grand Orange Lodge. In 1769, **Arthur Wellesley** (1759-1862), later to become the **1st Duke of Wellington**, victor over



Napoleon at Waterloo and Prime Minister of England, was born at 24 Upper Merrion Street, now part of the **Merrion Hotel**.

In 1821 the seaside town of **Dun Laoghaire** was named 'Kingstown' in honour of a visit from King George IV. One hundred years later, on the eve of independence, the ancient name pronounced 'dunleery' was restored. In 1900 Queen Victoria visited and the Queen Victoria Fountain was commissioned featuring an elaborate crown at the top. During her stay in 'Kingstown' Queen Victoria stayed in the hotel that is now known as the Royal Marine Hotel.

Living within Irish society are members of the British-appointed aristocracy, including lords, earls and knights whose lineage can often be traced back hundreds of years to the Norman or English conquerors. Around the city are monuments to those Irishmen who served King and Country in the British Army, admittedly to earn a wage to support their struggling families. Prominent among these memorials are the **Dublin Fusiliers' Arch** on St Stephen's Green and the **Irish National War Memorial Gardens** at Islandbridge.

British royal intervention in Ireland has left an indelible legacy which has become part and parcel of everyday republican life in Ireland in a way that may be unique to the Irish.

top tips

Places of Interest

Trinity College Dublin

College Green, Dublin 2
Tel: 00353 1 896 1000
www.tcd.ie
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Bank of Ireland & House of Lords

Foster Place, Temple Bar, Dublin 2
View online map

Dublin Castle & Chapel Royal

Royal
Dame Street, Dublin 2
Tel: 00353 1 645 8813
www.dublincastle.ie
View online map

St. Patrick's Cathedral

Saint Patrick's Close, Dublin 8
Tel: 00353 1 475 4817
www.stpatrickscathedral.ie
View online map

Royal Dublin Society

RDS, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4
Tel: 00353 1 668 0866
www.rds.ie
View online map

Royal Irish Academy

19 Dawson Street, Dublin 2
Tel: 00353 1 676 2570
www.ria.ie
View online map

Royal Irish College of Music

36-38 Westland Row, Dublin 2
Tel: 00353 1 676 4412
www.riam.ie
View online map

Royal Irish Automobile Club

34 Dawson Street, Dublin
Tel: 00353 1 677 5141
www.riac.ie
View online map

Royal Dublin Golf Club

North Bull Island, Dollymount, Dublin 3
Tel: 00353 1 833 6346
www.theroyaldublingolfclub.com
View online map

Royal St George Yacht Club

Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin
Tel: 00353 1 280 1811
www.rsqyc.ie
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Dáil Éireann & Leinster House

Kildare Street, Dublin 2
www.oireachtas.ie
View online map

Mansion House/Lord Mayor

Dublin City Council/Lord Mayor's Office
Dawson Street, Dublin 2
Tel: 00353 1 676 1845
www.mansionhouse.ie
View online map

Dublin Fusiliers' Arch

St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2
www.visitdublin.ie
View online map

Irish National War Memorial Gardens

South Circular Road, Island-bridge, Dublin 8
Tel: 00353 1 475 7816
www.irishwarmemorials.ie
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Merrion Hotel site

Birthplace of 1st Duke of Wellington, Upper Merrion Street, Dublin 2
www.merrionhotel.com
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Royal College of Surgeons

123 St. Stephens Green, Dublin 2
www.rcsi.ie
View online map

Royal Marine Hotel Dun Laoghaire

Marine Road, Dun Laoghaire, Dublin
Tel: 00353 1 230 0030
www.royalmarine.ie
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Map key

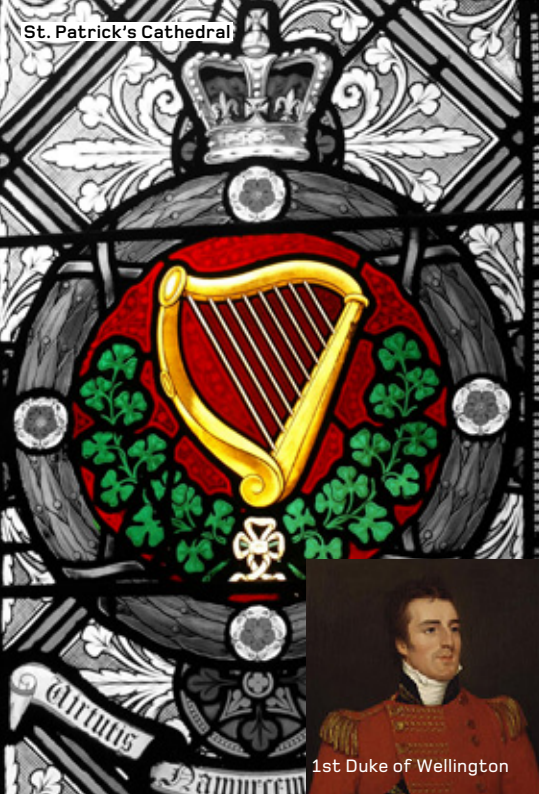
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Dublin County



City centre



1st Duke of Wellington