

Destinations - Ireland - Dublin

IRELAND – Dublin

Dublin is split into four administrative units. These are, Dublin City, Fingal, Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown and South Dublin County.

Dublin City

Dublin is one of Europe's oldest cities. As well as retaining its historical and cultural charms, Dublin offers trendy bars, elegant restaurants and stylish, cosmopolitan shops and hotels. There's never been a better time to visit Dublin, a city that is rivaling Europe's elite for hip appeal.

Fingal

On the doorstep of Dublin City, Fingal boasts tranquil hamlets in a rolling country landscape, picturesque seaside villages surrounded by sandy beaches and rugged coastline. Vibrant urban towns of ancient heritage offer excellent accommodation, fine restaurants, and friendly pubs.



Fingal offers the **best** of Ireland, old warm charm, scenery and a rich heritage. Fingal boasts tranquil hamlets in a rolling country landscape, picturesque seaside villages surrounded by sandy beaches and rugged coastline and vibrant urban towns of ancient heritage all offering excellent accommodation, fine restaurants, and friendly pubs.

The majestic **Malahide Castle** and **Talbot Botanic Gardens**, with the **Fry Model Railway Museum** located within the castle grounds, provide a wonderful day out for all the family. **Skerries** is a particularly scenic coastal town which is renowned for its safe bathing, pleasant walks and friendly atmosphere, offshore islands with an abundance of wildlife and a harbour where the famous Skerries seals are often seen to relax.

The **National Transport Museum** in Howth houses Ireland's only comprehensive assembly of public and commercial road transport. A century separates the oldest of the exhibits from the newest. **Newbridge House** is a magnificent 18th century Georgian mansion set on 350 acres of parkland. The grounds also contain a 29 acre traditional farm, complete with farmyard animals. **Ardgillan Demesne Castle and Gardens** consists of an impressive castle, lovely rose and walled gardens, rolling pastureland and woodland walks. It is situated on the elevated coastline between Skerries and Balbriggan.

With over 25 courses dotted throughout the county, Fingal is regarded as one of Europe's foremost **golfing** destinations. Both experienced and novice golfers will find a course to suit their ability taste and pocket. Championship standard courses are complemented by top quality golf courses, driving ranges, public courses and pitch and putt courses.

Fingal's rich heritage and long history is evident in the many famous buildings, churches, castles, great houses and archaeological sites located in the area. This wealth of monuments, some dating as far back as 5,000 years, reflect the various periods of Fingal's history from Viking occupation to the diversity of Anglo-Irish history through to modern day Fingal. Fingal is home to a wealth of monasteries, churches and towers. Some of the finer examples include the 6th century **Lusk Round Tower** with its attached tower house of 16th century origin. **Swords Round Tower** in the grounds of the Church of Ireland in Swords is all that remains of

an early Christian foundation. **St. Doulagh's Church**, Kinsealy occupies the site of a 7th century monastic settlement founded by St. Doulagh. The twelve **Martello Towers** which once formed a coastal defence system against invasion along Fingal's shores during Napoleonic times, still present vivid reminders of that era.

Dun Laoghaire - Rathdown

Situated just south of Dublin City, Dún Laoghaire Rathdown offers an ideal balance between the vibrant capital and unspoilt countryside. Explore many a delightful village and town, enjoy a magnificent coastline, relax in spectacular countryside or enjoy numerous leisure pursuits.

Dalkey Castle & Heritage Centre is a must visit attraction for anyone interested in the heritage of the area. This medieval tower is one of the original seven tower houses of Dalkey, and dates back to 1429. It includes a murder hole, barizan, garderobe and battlements. A short walk along the coast from Dún Laoghaire brings you to Sandycove where James Joyce opened his masterpiece Ulysses in the Martello Tower. This was his home for a short while and now houses a museum in his honor. The **James Joyce Museums'** collection includes letters, photographs, first and rare editions and personal possessions of Joyce as well as items associated with the Dublin of Ulysses. People come from all over Dublin to walk Dún Laoghaires two piers, the East Pier is 1,290 m long, and the West Pier 1,548m long, each ending in a lighthouse. Stroll out here at any time of the day and you will see a tremendous cross-section of people, particularly on a Sunday when the pier is fairly crowded

The waterfront houses four yacht clubs and there is a wide choice of water related activities including **sailing, wind surfing and diving**. The clubs frequently host regional, national and international events but there are also a variety of courses available for beginners and the more advanced.

Experience the unique fun and excitement of horse racing in Ireland at Dublin's only racecourse **Leopardstown Racecourse**. Located just six miles due south of the city centre, Leopardstown is one of Europe's premier race courses offering both national hunt and flat racing.

The county has a long history and rich heritage. Recently designated a heritage town Dalkey retains an old world atmosphere with its many historical buildings. The castle contains a new heritage centre with a varied collection relating to the history of Dalkey and a 7th century church dedicated to the local saint, St. Begnet. Today the medieval town of Dalkey is a charming, quaint village with narrow winding streets, fascinating gift shops and small restaurants and pubs with plenty of atmosphere. Monkstown, situated half a mile from Dún Laoghaire, derives its name from Cistercian Monks who founded Monkstown Castle in the 12th century. Monkstown Church, right in the centre of the village, is built in a Moorish Gothic style and plenty of Edwardian houses are scattered throughout the area.

South Dublin County

South Dublin County offers the visitor a unique opportunity to obtain an experience of both city and county. Whether you are looking for a relaxing break or an action packed stay there is wide array of attractions and activities waiting to be discovered in South Dublin County!

Rathfarnham Castle has a very colourful and interesting history. Visitors to the castle can view 18th century interiors by Sir William Chambers and James 'Athenian' Stewart. The visitor can see tantalizing glimpses of the layers of the castle's earlier existence uncovered during research. Pearse Museum, once a school run by patriot and educationalist Padraig Pearse, is now a museum in beautiful grounds. Attractions include exhibitions, a nature study room with attractive displays on Irish Flora & Fauna and an audio visual show titled 'This Man Kept a School'.

With almost 1,400 hectares of public parks and open spaces within the county, South Dublin County caters particularly well for sports and leisure enthusiasts with facilities covering golf, equestrian, angling, cycling,

walking and many water sports. And when the weather doesn't permit, there are plenty of indoor and all weather sport facilities to be found in the South Dublin area.

South Dublin County has some of Dublin's most charming and atmospheric parks, with riverside walks, colourful gardens and mountain scenery. The Griffeen River, tributary of the Liffey, enhances the gentle rolling Griffeen Valley Park of Lucan. The visitor here can cross King John's bridge, claimed to be the oldest bridge in Ireland, and enjoy many pleasant walks through the 120 acres.

Sean Walsh Memorial Park in Tallaght is an oasis at the heart of a densely populated urban area, providing landscaped parkland, ornamental formal gardens and a recreation area for visitors. And on the eastern edge of Tallaght, the River Poddle meanders through Tymon Park, which supports large colonies of wildfowl and boasts many fine water features such as the four ornamental lakes.

Rathfarnham Castle Park forms part of the original demesne of the adjacent castle. Recently restored to its former glory the park supports a rich variety of birds and animals.

Corkagh Park, close to Clondalkin, boasts a rich heritage of mature trees, extensive woodlands, beautiful water features and a lovely park. Camac Valley Tourist Caravan and Camping Park is located here where nature enthusiasts and those fond of the outdoor life can relax in the midst of it all.

The Dublin region contains some of the country's premium angling centres. A visit to Corkagh Park Fishery will satisfy any angling devotee. This superb fishery comprises of two lakes, a coarse lake and a trout lake, that together form approximately 7 acres of fishing space. The Liffey Valley has been developed into a major amenity where angling, canoeing, boating, golfing and riverside walks can all be enjoyed by the visitor.

South Dublin County has a number of picturesque and historic villages. Sites of importance include Rathfarnham Castle, the monastic Round Tower in Clondalkin Village, St. Maelruains Church in Tallaght and the historical village of Lucan. Other villages of interest include Newcastle, Palmerstown, Rathcoole, Saggart and Templeogue.