

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT DUBLIN

This is a comprehensive text about Dublin's tourist attractions. You can choose some fragments of it to write your email or an article for a school magazine.

TRINITY COLLEGE

Trinity College of the **University of Dublin** was founded in 1592 by Queen Elizabeth I. The college's main campus has been ranked among the most iconic in the world. The college was founded to educate rich English Protestant young men. The first woman was admitted for the first time in 1904. Nowadays there are more female students there than male students.

Trinity College has educated many famous students such as **Oscar Wilde** (author of *The Picture of Dorian Gray*), **Jonathan Swift** (author of *Gulliver's Travels*), and **Bram Stoker** (author of *Dracula*).



BOOKS OF KELLS

The most iconic place in Trinity College is the **Library of Trinity College** which has 7 million books. The most precious book there is the **Book of Kells**. It is a manuscript with 4 gospels. Its name comes from the Abbey of Kells (64 kilometres from Dublin) where the book had been kept before it arrived at the Library of Trinity College. The book is a masterwork of Western calligraphy.



THE SPIRE Dublin is the capital city of Ireland. It is located on the east coast of the island. From the airport, you can take a bus to **O'Connell Street**, in the centre of the street. In **O'Connell Street** the **Spire of Dublin** or the **Monument of Light** is located. It is one of the tallest sculptures (120 m) in the world. It looks like a big needle and replaced the Nelson Pillar.

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THE CASTLE

Dublin Castle is located at the highest point of central Dublin on **Dame Street**. It is a place where **the first Vikings** who invaded the island, built their settlement.



Under the castle, two rivers, the **River Poddle** and the **Liffey River** formed a mysterious pool of water known as the “dark pool.” In Irish it translates to “*dubh linn*,” which gave name to Dublin.

Until 1922 Dublin Castle was the seat of the British government. Since 1922 when Ireland became the **Irish Free State**, the castle has been the seat of the Irish government.

The Record Tower (picture left) is the only part of the medieval castle from the 13th century.

ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL

St Patrick's Cathedral (in Irish Ard-Eaglais Naomh Pádraig) is a magnificent religious **landmark in Dublin**.

It is a gothic cathedral dedicated to **Saint Patrick**, a missionary in the 5th century, who is the **patron saint of Ireland**.



THE PARK

St. Stephen's Green is a rectangular public park and garden in the centre of the city, surrounded by streets. It took its name after a medieval hospital dedicated to Saint Stephen and located on the nearby Stephen Street. The park was opened to the public in 1880 by **Sir Arthur Guinness**.



THE FAMINE MEMORIAL



The Irish people do not call it “Famine” but “**The Great Hunger**”. In the 19th century (from 1845 to 1852), when a fungus destroyed the potato crops, many Irish families suffered hunger. During the Famine, one million people died of starvation, and one million people fled the country. 1847 also known as "Black '47" was the worst year. Between 1845 and 1855, at least 2.1 million people left the country on so-called “death ships” (many people died during the journey to another country).

The “Great Hunger” was one of the reasons why the Irish fled their country. The other two were **absentee landlords** and the **single-crop** system. The absentee landlords were mostly English Protestant settlers who owned land in Ireland but lived in England. The Irish, who were Catholics, were not allowed to inherit the land. That is why goods produced in Ireland were exported to England, Wales and Scotland.

STREET ENTERTAINMENT

Grafton Street is one of the two main shopping streets in Dublin (the other street is **Henry Street**). The street runs from **St Stephen's Green** (park) to **College Green** which is a square in the middle of the town.



Dawson Street is famous for street entertainment also called **busking**. Ed Sheeran whose grandmother was Irish used to be a **busker** (street singer) in Dawson Street. In one of his songs, he sings that he “met a girl in front of the bar in Dawson Street”. The truth is there are no bars on that street. In the picture **Allie Sherlock** is performing. Maybe one day she will become as famous as Ed Sheeran.



TEMPLE BAR

Temple Bar is a cultural and entertainment **district in the heart of Dublin**. It's home to numerous art galleries, theatres, and cultural institutions, as well as boutique shops and craft stores. In Temple Bar there are many bars, pubs, restaurants where you can try **typical Irish dishes**. It is also a great place to find a souvenir with a shamrock.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

Christ Church Cathedral was founded in the 11th century by the Viking king **Sigtrygg Silkbeard** is the **oldest building in Dublin**. It was first built in wood then rebuilt in stone.

The **Vikings** invaded the island in the 9th century.



HA PENNY BRIDGE



Ha Penny Bridge is one of the bridges over the **River Liffey**. Before the bridge was built, people used ferries which were operated by **William Walsh**. Later he built a bridge and was allowed to take money (halfpenny) for using his bridge. The bridge was made in England and opened in 1816.

THE GUINNESS STOREHOUSE



The most popular tourist attraction in Dublin is **the Guinness Storehouse** which was opened in 2000. It is an **interactive museum** presenting **the production process of beer**. Don't miss it when you visit Dublin next time.

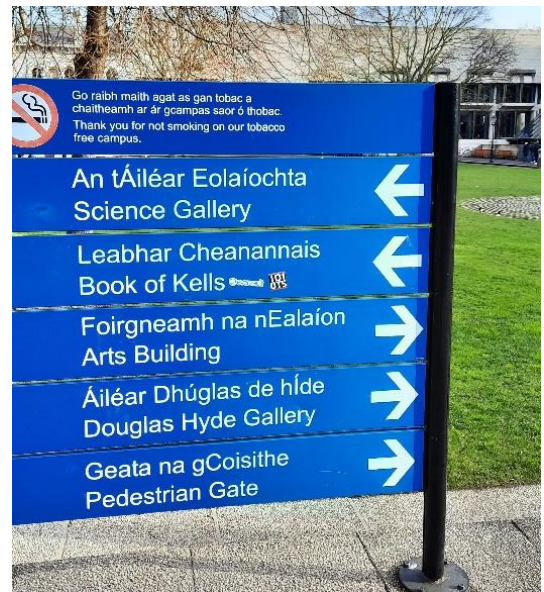
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THE IRISH LANGUAGE

Take a close look at the picture to the right.
In Ireland, both English and Irish are spoken and you will find names written both in English and Irish.

The Irish language is different from English, for example, Temple Bar in Irish is **Barra an Teampaill**. The Irish people speak English, but when they speak fast and use some Irish words, it is difficult to understand them. When Ireland was under the English government, the Irish language was forbidden.



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