



Out and about in Dublin

In preparation for **Identex 2014**, *Irish Dentistry* looks at some of the best places to visit in Ireland's capital for the weekend

The mere mention of Dublin conjures up fantasies of cobblestone pathways, delicately lit alleyways and reams of overflowing bars, restaurants and cafés.

It's a city that has given the world plenty to celebrate throughout its lifetime, inviting visitors to indulge in its fine architecture, music, literature, food and much more.

This year, Identex is set to take place on 19 and 20 September at the Citywest Hotel, located on the outskirts of Dublin.

To make your stay worthwhile, we've picked out the best spots in the city to while away a weekend, whether it's discovering Dublin's secret history, exploring its meandering streets or just relaxing in a friendly pub – there's something for everyone.

MUSEUMS, THEATRES AND GALLERIES

Steeped in history, Dublin has plenty to offer those looking to learn more about the story of the city.

Visit Dublin Castle to experience 18th century architecture in all its beauty, and revel in the castle's dazzling interior and courtyards.

VISITOR INFORMATION

- Dublin Castle – www.dublincastle.ie
- Trinity College Dublin – www.tcd.ie
- The Little Museum of Dublin – www.littlemuseum.ie
- James Joyce Centre Dublin – www.jamesjoyce.ie
- Dublin Literary Pub Crawl – www.dublinpubcrawl.com
- The Cobblestone – www.cobblestonepub.ie
- National Botanic Gardens of Ireland – www.botanicgardens.ie
- Irish Dance Party – www.irishdanceparty.com

Alternatively, take a tour around the prestigious Trinity College Dublin and its innovative Science Gallery – and even catch an exhibition, if you're lucky.

The Little Museum of Dublin offers visitors a glimpse into the city's history, in case you don't fancy too much walking around. But it also offers guided tours – on the hour, every hour – in case you do.

Otherwise, experience the bleak history of the Kilmainham Gaol, the National Museum of Ireland – Archaeology, or William Butler Yeats' very own Abbey Theatre.

LITERARY WANDERINGS

Dubliners love literature; the city has given birth to some of the greatest writers of our time: James Joyce, Yeats, Samuel Beckett, George Bernard Shaw and Oscar Wilde, to name but a few.

To make the most of the city's greats, you can explore the home of James Joyce at the James Joyce Centre Dublin on 35 North Great George's Street, and soak in the literary finesse at every book lover's dream – Marsh's Library, located on St Patrick's Close.

Other literary opportunities in the city are the Berkley Library, the Dublin Writers Museum and the award-winning Dublin literary pub crawl, if you're in the mood for a bit of street theatre.

LIVE MUSIC

Without a doubt, Dublin is a city famous for its bustling atmosphere. Temple Bar is still one of most charming neighbourhoods in the city, well known for its charismatic and welcoming atmosphere.

The area's cobblestone streets boast delightful cafés, bars, restaurants, art galleries, and shops. Not to mention, of course, excellent live music.

Explore Ruby Sessions in Doyles Bar, D'Olier Street – which, if you're extending your trip, plays host to a folk night every Tuesday, and recently welcomed musician Ed Sheeran through its big wooden doors.

Or experience traditional Irish folk music at The Cobblestone, located on 77 King St North, home to a cosy downstairs musicians' corner, where you may even be asked to join in the song yourself.

PARKS AND GREENS

A visit to Dublin wouldn't be complete without experiencing St Stephen's Green, Ireland's best known Victorian public park.

The park boasts 22 acres of land, spectacular flowers and shrubbery and even a children's playground. Lunchtime concerts regularly take place, and the park is also situated near a choice of eateries.

The National Botanic Gardens of Ireland is a great choice for the green-fingered enthusiast, as is the Blessington Street Basin (also known as Dublin's secret garden), a quiet haven for both visitors and local wildlife.

COMEDY AND DANCING

If you're looking for something to do in the evening, pop by The Comedy Crunch, located at 1 Dame Court, for a night of entertainment from some of the city's best-loved comedy acts.

The Irish Dance Party (16-18 Lord Edward Street) is open seven days a week, and offers visitors the chance to experience traditional music and dance performed by professional Irish dancers and musicians.

You can choose to watch or take part in the dancing, on top of singing Irish songs, playing instruments and finding out about the history behind Ireland's favourite music, instruments and dances. **ID**