

A weekend in Dublin

If you're planning to spend a day or two in Ireland's capital, we've got just the trip for you

Ireland's capital is teeming with things to do and see – from the legendary Temple Bar district to bike tours and beer festivals, Dublin is sure to keep you busy for a weekend.

To save you spending the night in your hotel or heading straight back home after your meeting, we've put together a weekend guide to Dublin so that you can make the most out of your trip.

It's easy to explore most of the sights in a couple of days, but we've made it our mission to point you towards some of the lesser known treats the capital has to offer, from alternative coffee bars to historical curiosities.

So, get ready to plan an unforgettable trip to Dublin!

Day one – Friday evening

If you're looking for somewhere to eat and drink with your colleagues, spend an evening with your family or while away a Friday night solo, we've got you covered.

The **Temple Bar** district is an obvious and favourite place to go for many tourists and locals – and for good reason. Cobblestone streets and impressive architecture make up this neighbourhood, complete with an array of restaurants and lively bars. It's also home to a bar of the same name – The Temple Bar – if you're looking for a lively night on the town!

If you're hoping for somewhere a little less crowded on a Friday night, try **Mulligan's** on Poolbeg Street for excellent



The Linesman statue on the bank of the River Liffey in the financial district in Dublin

craft beer and friendly faces, or **The Lord Edward** on Werburgh Street – Dublin's oldest fish restaurant.

Sophie's Italian restaurant and bar on Harcourt Street is great for sky-high views of the city, and **Sams Bar** on Dawson Street is good for pulling in the crowds on weekends. **The Long Hall** on South Great George's Street mixes a bit more tradition and usually gets showered with praise in Dublin guidebooks.

Day two – Saturday

Depending on how active you're feeling,

hiring a bike is a great way to explore the city. Hop on, hop off bus tours are also available (citysightseeingdublin.ie) with cheaper online rates, but if you want to get away from the tourists and experience the city for yourselves, hiring a bike is the best way to do it.

Get a three-day pass for €5 or hire by the hour – although depending on how long you plan to use the bike, this can be more expensive (four hours costs €6.50); visitors can buy an annual card for €20, so if you plan on coming back to Dublin in the next 12 months, it might be worth considering!

WHAT'S GOING ON?

- 16-17 September – Identex 2016
- 24 September – IAAGDS Annual Scientific Meeting 2016
- 22 October – Irish Dental Nurses Association Annual General Meeting 2016
- 11 November – Nobel Biocare Team Conference 2016
- 19 November – Irish Association of Oral Surgeons Conference 2016

Turn to page 31 for full details on dental events in Dublin.

Start your journey anywhere in the city with the self-service bike rental system open to anyone over the age of 14, then cycle your way through the city centre and beyond, stumbling across smaller, more intimate cafés and attractions down winding side streets.

If you make your way to the southern edge of the city, coffee lovers can stop by **3fe** (3fe.com) for its quirky coffee 'trio tasting' – three cups of coffee prepared with the same type of bean but in different variations. They also serve breakfast, lunch and baked goodies – ideal for a mid-morning stopover.

In the afternoon, visit **Kilmainham Gaol Museum** for an experience like no other. This gaol was opened in 1796 and closed its doors in 1924 – it now serves as a curious haunt for those intrigued by Ireland's history, with many famous people imprisoned back in the day. A few notable movies have also been filmed here, such as *The Italian Job* (1969) and *In the Name of the Father* (1993).

If you haven't tired yourself out by the evening, catch a show like **The Commitments** playing at the Bord Gáis Energy Theatre between 12 and 29 October.



Tickets cost between €20-65, so pick up yours fast!

Day three – Sunday

Go for breakfast at the **Taste Food Company** on South William Street and wander around the shops for a lazy stroll, stopping to watch some of the best street

musicians in the world. You're only a short walk (or cycle) from **St Stephen's Green** as well as **St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin Castle and Trinity College Dublin**.

If you find yourself north of the river, the **Old Jameson Distillery** is only a 10-minute cycle ride from St Stephen's Green – or a 20-minute amble. The distillery is great if you're craving a more intimate tour than the **Guinness Storehouse**, but both are less likely to be packed out than on a Saturday!

If you still have time for one more afternoon in Dublin, **Oktoberfest** takes place on the docklands from 15 September until 2 October. Set in a marquee and resembling the original Oktoberfest in Munich, the event offers a taste of Bavaria with authentic German beer, pretzels and

gingerbread hearts – a fun getaway that'll make you feel like you're on holiday.

Check out the weather ahead of time (accuweather.com) and if bikes or open air buses aren't an option, Dublin still has closed buses or boat tours on offer (dublindiscovered.ie).

There's a little something for everyone in Ireland's capital. 

WHERE TO STAY

High price range:

The Fitzwilliam Hotel Dublin – fitzwilliamhoteldublin.com
The Marker Hotel Dublin – themarkerhoteldublin.com
The Westbury Hotel – doylecollection.com/hotels

Mid-price range:

Spencer Hotel Dublin City – thespencerhotel.com
The Morgan – themorgan.com
Drury Court Hotel – drurycourthotel.ie

Low price range:

Travelodge Dublin – travelodge.co.uk
The Harcourt Hotel – harcourthotel.ie
Hilton Dublin Kilmainham – hiltondublinskilmainham.com



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