

# Your Guide to Ireland

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Dublin – Galway – Cork





# Hello!





## Are you ready for an adventure?

Welcome to Ireland, a beautiful island nation located in the North Atlantic Ocean! As you embark on your journey to Dublin, Cork or Galway, get ready to immerse yourself in a unique culture filled with history, breathtaking landscapes and friendly locals.

Ireland is a country famous for its music, dance, literature and sports, making it an exciting destination for young people looking to experience something new. With bustling cities, picturesque countryside and stunning coastal scenery, there is something for everyone here. But Ireland is more than just a beautiful place to visit. As a country that has rapidly evolved into a tech and business hub, it offers many opportunities for young professionals to hone their skills and gain valuable international experience.

As you plan your trip, keep in mind that traveling abroad can be an exciting and rewarding experience, but it can also present challenges. This flyer is designed to help you navigate some of these challenges and provide you with useful information that will make your stay in Ireland enjoyable and stress-free. So pack your bags, get ready to explore, and enjoy all that Ireland has to offer!

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# Arrival





## You've arrived at Dublin Airport

Welcome to Dublin Airport! Depending on your airline, you will arrive at either Terminal 1 (e.g., Ryanair flights), or the new Terminal 2 (e.g. Aer Lingus flights). Both terminals are in fact side by side and connected with a walkway which is a three-minute transfer.

Once you've met your first Irish person (at passport control) and grabbed your luggage from the baggage carousel, you'll enter the T1 or T2 arrivals hall. This is a good chance to use Dublin Airport's free Wi-Fi, hit the ATM or Bureau de Change to get some Euros or grab your first Irish sandwich at the Spar convenience store!





# General





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In this section you find useful general information about living in Ireland, like how to buy a bus ticket, Public Holidays and more!

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## General Information about Ireland

In this section we will provide you with some general information about the country, including how to get a bus ticket, health insurance, and more. Whether you're planning to visit for the first time or you have been here, this information will help better understand and appreciate this amazing country. So let's dive in and learn more about Ireland!

### ***Leap Card***

Our transport tip? Buy a Leap Card (similar to the London Oyster card) which allows you to use the city's bus and train services with one single card. You can buy one in most newsagents (e.g. Spar, Eason) and you'll also pocket a saving of about 15% per journey or 50% if you have a Student or Young Adult Leap Card. You can then 'top-up' your card at various charge-points across the city.



### ***Health Insurance***

There are several health care options available, should something go wrong health wise. Be prepared for every eventuality by ensuring that you have the right level of cover if it is necessary. Free cover is available depending on your nationality.

European Union citizens living in Ireland are automatically entitled to free public health care. However, private insurance (approximately €500 a year) is advised since waiting lists for those without insurance can sometimes delay treatment. The main private health care providers in Ireland are VHI ([vhi.ie](http://vhi.ie)), Aviva ([aviva.ie](http://aviva.ie)) and Laya ([layahealthcare.ie](http://layahealthcare.ie)).

Visitors from EU countries are also entitled to free urgent medical care so long as they present their European Health Insurance Card (EHIC).

## Public Holiday



There are a total of 9 public holidays in Ireland each year. On a public holiday (or bank holiday), schools and many businesses close doors. Other services, for example public transport, still operate but often with restricted schedules.

### **The list of public holidays each year is as follows:**

*New Year's Day (January 1st)*

*St. Patrick's Day (March 17th)*

*Easter Monday*

*First Monday in May, June, August*

*Last Monday in October Christmas*

*Day (December 25th) St. Stephen's*

*Day (December 26th)*

## Medical

It happens! You're away from home and suddenly suffer a cold or a bug. Don't worry, your GP (doctor) will soon look after you. When looking for a GP remember that in Ireland, clinics are also called surgeries. You can expect to pay €70 for a check-up.

### ***Pharmacies***

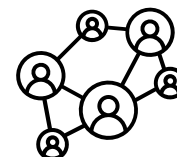
In Ireland pharmacies (also known as chemists) offer prescription and general medical advice services. Boots is one of the country's most popular chains. If you need painkillers such as Paracetamol or Aspirin, you can also buy these in any supermarket or convenience store, however you can only buy one packing per person.

### ***Emergency Services***

Like all European Union countries, the emergency number for Ireland is 112 in addition to 999. Fire, Ambulance, Gardaí, Sea or Mountain Rescue. There is also an emergency SMS service to 112 for the deaf or speech impaired community.







## Ireland Etiquette: Our 5 Tips

**One:** In Ireland, “How’s it going?” generally means “hello” and not “how are you?”. So don’t be surprised if we don’t stick around to hear your answer.

**Two:** Irish people are world champion jaywalkers (crossing streets during a red traffic light). While we’ve had years of practice, we advise you to always take care when crossing roads in our capital.

**Three:** The Irish like to small talk, a lot. In the elevator, the staff kitchen or even in the changing rooms at the gym, be prepared to discuss the weather or the Champions League at any given moment during your day.

**Four:** Hold doors, say thank you to bus drivers and always put up the “next please” sign for the customer behind you at the supermarket check-out. It’s good Irish Karma!

**Five:** If visiting an Irish home for dinner, always bring a little token of gratitude (like a bottle of wine or a bunch of flowers from Tesco). We always say “Oh! You really shouldn’t have!” – but in truth, we rarely mean it!

## Rounds

“Who’s round is it?”. That’s the phrase you’ll hear across every pub in Dublin on a Friday night. Rounds operate with one member of a group of friends or colleagues going to the bar to buy a whole order of drinks for his group. This rotates throughout the evening (regardless of the cost of individual drinks: if you like double brandies, good for you!). To be bought a round and not to offer to buy a round is considered poor etiquette so if you don’t want to be in a round, opt out!

**Note:** it’s not an exact science but usually people who drink minerals are exempt from rounds.

## Tipping

Tipping in Ireland is a common practice, but it's not mandatory. Generally, it's customary to tip around 10-15% of the total bill at restaurants, cafes, and bars. However, if you receive exceptional service or have a large group, tipping more is always appreciated.

In terms of other services, such as taxis and hairdressers, tipping is also common, but again, it's not mandatory. For taxis, rounding up to the nearest euro is a common practice. For hairdressers, it's customary to tip around 10-15% of the total bill.

It's important to note that some places may include a service charge in the bill, so it's always a good idea to double-check before tipping. Additionally, if you're unsure about whether to tip or how much to tip, don't be afraid to ask the locals or the staff for guidance.

Overall, while tipping is appreciated in Ireland, it's not expected, so don't feel obligated to tip if you don't feel comfortable doing so. However, if you receive exceptional service, it's always a nice gesture to show your appreciation through a tip.



## Ireland in Numbers / Price Index

This is a list of approximate prices in Ireland to give you an idea about how much it cost to live in Ireland.



Cappuccino	3,20 €
Irish Times newspaper	4,00 €
Pint of Guinness	7,00 €
Litre of Petrol	1,60 €
Pack of 20 Cigarettes	16,00 €
One bedroom shared-rental in Ireland (per month)	Ca. 1000 €
Cinema Ticket	12,00 €
Big Mac Meal	9,40 €
Three-course early bird menu	21,00 €

## Sport

### *Rugby*

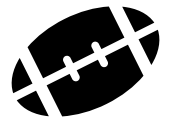
With local side Leinster having been the European Heineken Cup's maestros for the past two year, it's fair to



say rugby has developed a fanatical following in Ireland. We reckon you should check out some of the action during your stay. If you fancy something more active, without the bruises, tag-Rugby is non-contact version of the game and a super way to work your social network. Teams are usually mixed, and the Irish après-tag scene is known as one of the hottest dating grounds in town. "Try!" ([tagrugby.ie](http://tagrugby.ie)).

### *GAA*

Okay, we may not have topped the medal table at the London Olympics but this partly as Ireland's most popular sports are all uniquely Celtic. Gaelic Football (a little like Aussie Rules) Hurling (a little like hockey) and camogie (female hurling) are played throughout every village in the nation. Watching a game is quite the cultural spectacle. Croke Park is one of the largest stadiums in the world and hosts regular games. Buddy up with a local to learn the rules!



### *Soccer*

Nothing quite grips the nation however than an international soccer match, even when we're losing. Ireland has a number of soccer teams such as Shamrock Rovers and Bohemians though they haven't been knocking on the door of the Champion's League (yet!). To have your own kick-around, you'll find many companies run five-a-side nights, but, if you and a few friends or colleagues can put a dream-team together, you can register with the [leisureleagues.ie](http://leisureleagues.ie) tournament.



# Dublin

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**In this section you will find valuable tips to help you find your way in Dublin.** But we know your time in Ireland isn't all about the money and health insurance. We've also included the very best of Ireland's downtime activities, our favorite hang-outs and secret hideaways.

From finding the best pint of Guinness in Dublin City, buying a bus ticket and eating out, consider this your go-to guide for the Fair City.

*Welcome to Dublin. Your journey starts here...*

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## Here are your transport options!

### ***Bus***

**Where to buy a ticket:** on board of the bus or newsagents (Spar, Londis, Centra etc.).

The capital is served by Dublin Bus ([dublinbus.ie](http://dublinbus.ie)), which operates a labyrinth of 200 routes across the city and suburbs. To buy your ticket, simply tell the bus-driver your destination e.g. “Trinity, please” and he will charge you accordingly (from €1.65). The bus-driver does not announce the names of the bus-stops so it’s a good idea to check your route (or count the stops) beforehand!

**N.B.** Dublin Bus only accepts coins (not notes) and does not give change in cash. Change is given in a paper receipt that you can later exchange for cash at Dublin Bus Office at 59 Upper O’Connell Street.

### ***Tram***

**Where to buy a ticket:** on the platform.

The Luas (meaning “speed”) is Dublin’s excellent tram service ([luas.ie](http://luas.ie); €1.60) operating at two lines in Dublin – Red and Green. You do not need to frank (stamp) your ticket, however fines for travelling without a valid ticket are from €45.

### ***Bike***

**How to get your ticket (and bike!):** at the bike station or subscribe online.

Dublin’s recent bike sharing scheme is one of the city’s great transport successes. The eco-friendly way of getting from A to B allows you to borrow a bike from one of the city’s bike stations and return it to the bike station nearest to your destination. It’s how we get around in Dublin and we love it! (€2 for 3 days or €10 per year; [dublinbikes.ie](http://dublinbikes.ie)).



## Free time

### *Water*

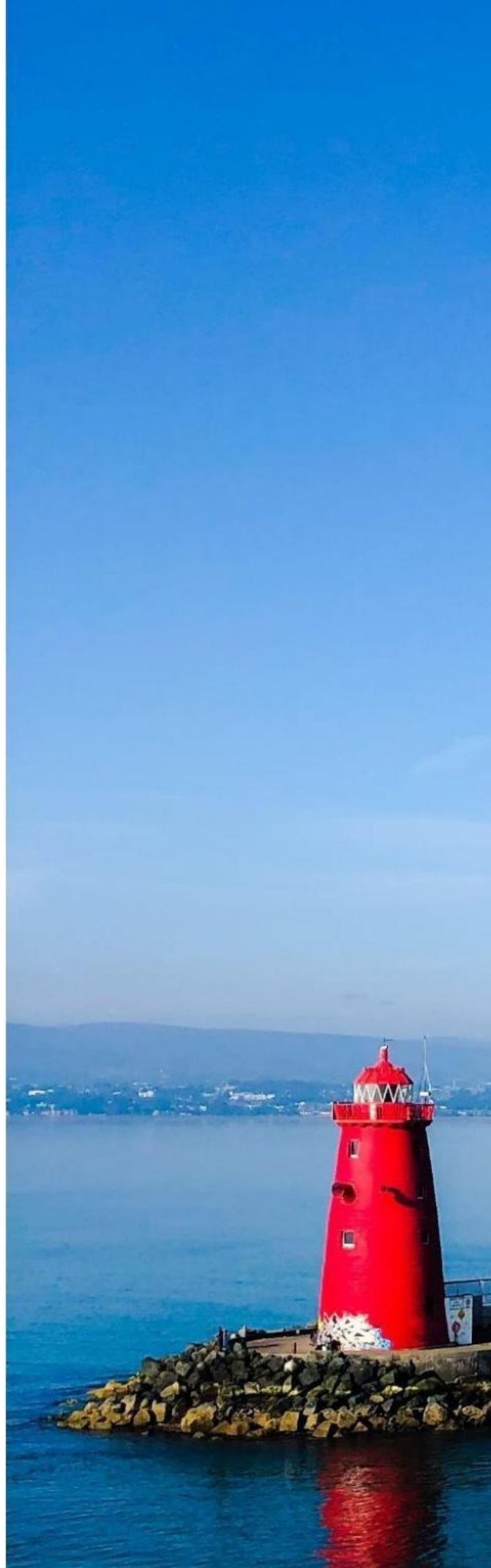
Dublin has a few good beach spots; the main place you can hang out is Dollymount, Dublin's busiest beach, which come summertime is alive with windsurfers, kite surfers and boogie boarders.

### *Hiking*

In terms of hiking, Dublin is bodyguarded by its own mountain range which adds a picturesque backdrop to the city (as well as keeping some of that rain away). The Dublin Mountain Way is a 52km trail from Shankill in the east to Tallaght in the west. The higher you climb of course the better the views and you should be able to see Wales or Enya on a fine day.

While up the mountains, you have to make a stopover at Johnny Fox's – Ireland's highest pub. It is a bit touristy, but they do pull a good pint. Closer to the city (actually in the city) is Phoenix Park – Europe's largest urban park. It's home to Dublin Zoo, the Irish President and has a beautiful herd of 500 fallow deer.

For a great way to experience outdoors Dublin we suggest you try a hillwalking group. It's a great way to take in some scenery and meet some friendly Irish folk (and hey, they won't know you just want to practice your English!). Try [bogtrotters.ie](http://bogtrotters.ie) for more.





# Culture & Arts







Dublin is the true cultural hub of Ireland (Galway or Cork might think otherwise) and has been drawing Ireland's cultural spirits for decades. The National Gallery of Ireland should be your stop if you want to combo up the works of Irish painter Jack B. Yeats with art from the likes of Picasso and Monet, while the IMMA is a haven for modernist aficionados. For a kicked back Sunday activity, check out Francis Bacon's exhibits at the Hugh Lane gallery, which also hosts classical music concerts on Sundays.

## LGBT Dublin

Tell us. How could the home of Oscar Wilde not be a gay capital? Dublin is one of Europe's most vibrant gay cities where conservative attitudes, like Elton John's wardrobe, have been left in the 1980's.

Civil partnerships are legal in Ireland and Dublin's councils have recently backed a bill supporting gay marriage in Ireland. Although Dublin 8 (around Portobello) is the unofficial gay village, the scene in the city is not very ghettoized - you'll find a strip of gay-friendly business running from Capel St. on the Northside though to Temple Bar and George's Street on the Southside. Dublin's main LGBT hang-out is the Front Lounge on Parliament Street where you'll find the girls flirting in the front room, the boys in the back. The Dragon & The George meanwhile are the city's two main late-night spots where you can expect the usual mix of bingo, go-go dancing and Eurovision parties. For a list of all the happening events in the LGBT Dublin, check out the Gay Community News ([gcn.ie](http://gcn.ie)).

## Food & Drink

Dublin dining? What can we say. With an explosion of pop-up restaurants mixed with old Dublin institutions like Bewley's on Grafton Street, Dublin's dining scene is both irresistibly retro and tantalizingly entrende. Our current favorites include the very funky Foam on Strand Street who serve incredibly imaginative salads (with a décor to match) and Mother Hubbard on Capel Street for their quirky gourmet sandwiches and friendly community vibe.

Vegetarians can bask in chickpea heaven at Cornucopia on Wicklow Street, sushi lovers can head to Yamamori on Great George's Street.

Finally, no night out in Dublin is complete without a late-night chaser to the "chipper" (fish & chip shop). Our fish and chips faves include Beschoff's on O'Connell Street, Burdocks in Christchurch and Ireland's very own Supermacs located across the city (try the cheesy chips!).

Fancy that great Dublin pint? Amid Dublin's thousands of bars we suggest you head to some of our old classics: The Lord Edward on Christchurch Place, the Long Hall on George's Street or Mulligan's on Poolbeg Street which dates from 1782 is where you'll find us supping.

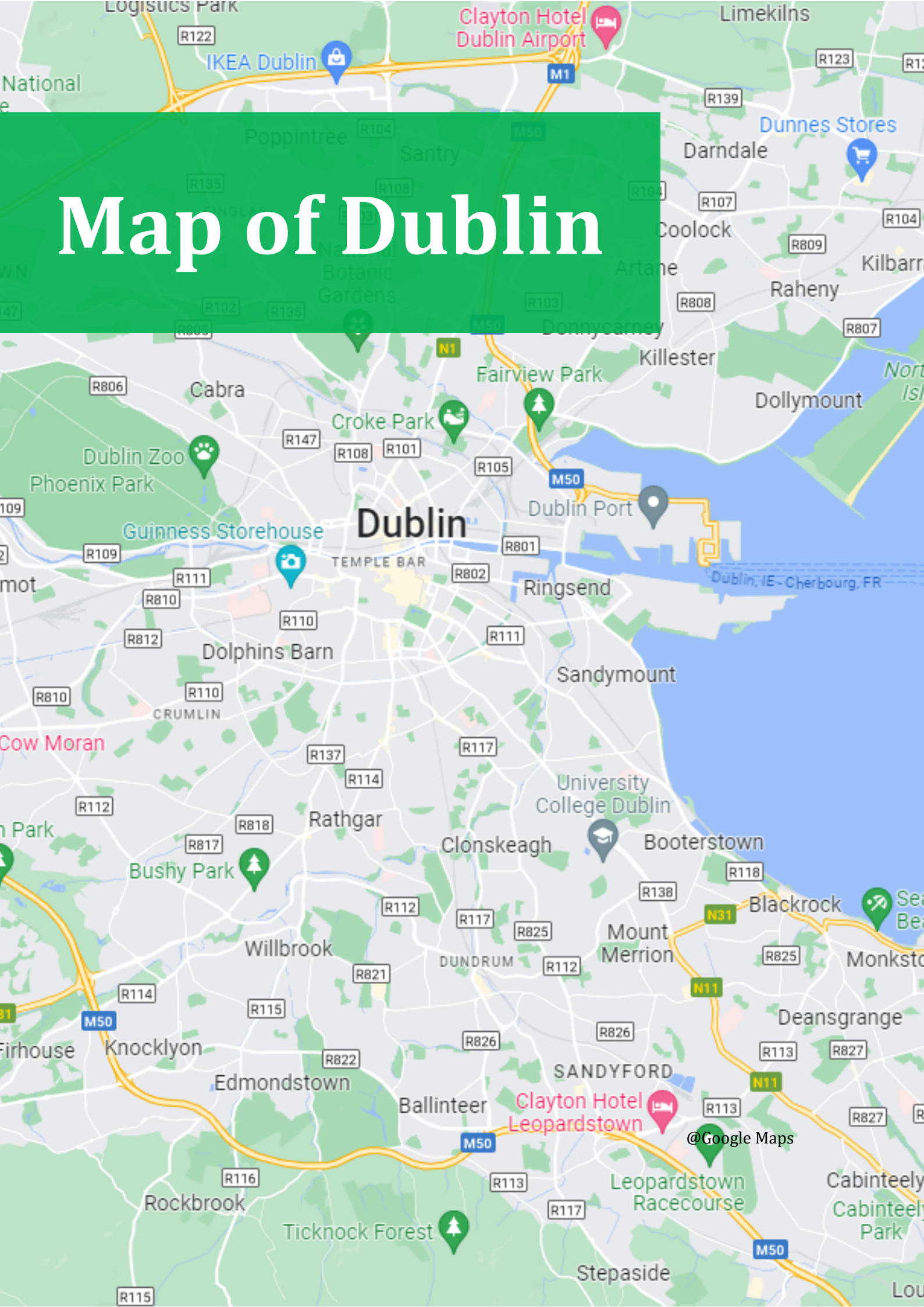
**Come swing by – and we'll buy you a pint!**



*Temple Bar: Dublin's most famous pub*



# Map of Dublin





# Web Guide





## **visitdublin.com**

Dublin's official tourism website - telling you about all our top attractions.

## **dublintown.ie**

Pinterest style photo-guide to dining and culture in the city.

## **totallydublin.ie**

Alternative social guide to some of Dublin's best-kept secrets.

## **entertainment.ie**

Gig guides, cinema listings, and theatre reviews: Ireland's social go-to.

## **expatexchange.com**

Social network forum for the international community in Dublin.



# Galway

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## Are you ready for an adventure?

Get ready to explore the stunning landscapes and vibrant culture of Galway. As a young person, you'll have the opportunity to immerse yourself in the beauty and excitement of this city, while making new friends and learning valuable skills. You'll feel right at home in Galway. Come join us and make memories that will last a lifetime!

*Welcome to Galway. Your journey starts here...*

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## You've arrived in Galway!

**Welcome to Galway!** Upon your arrival, you'll find a variety of transportation options available to help you get around the city. If you're flying into Ireland, you can take a taxi or shuttle bus from the airport to Galway, which takes approximately 2 – 3 hours. Once you're in the city, there are several modes of transportation to choose from, including buses, trains, and taxis. If you're feeling adventurous, you can even rent a bike or take a walking tour to explore the charming streets and scenic waterfront. Whatever your transportation needs may be, Galway offers a wide range of transportation options to explore the city and make most of your stay.



## Transport



### ***Bus***

**Where to buy a ticket:** on board of the bus or newsagents (Spar, Londis, Centra etc.).

Bus Éireann is the primary bus service in Galway and provides regular services to major towns and cities in Ireland. The city also has a local bus service that operates within the city limits, with frequent routes to popular destinations like Eyre Square, Salthill, and Galway Cathedral.

### ***Bike***

**How to get your ticket (and bike!):** at the bike station or subscribe online.

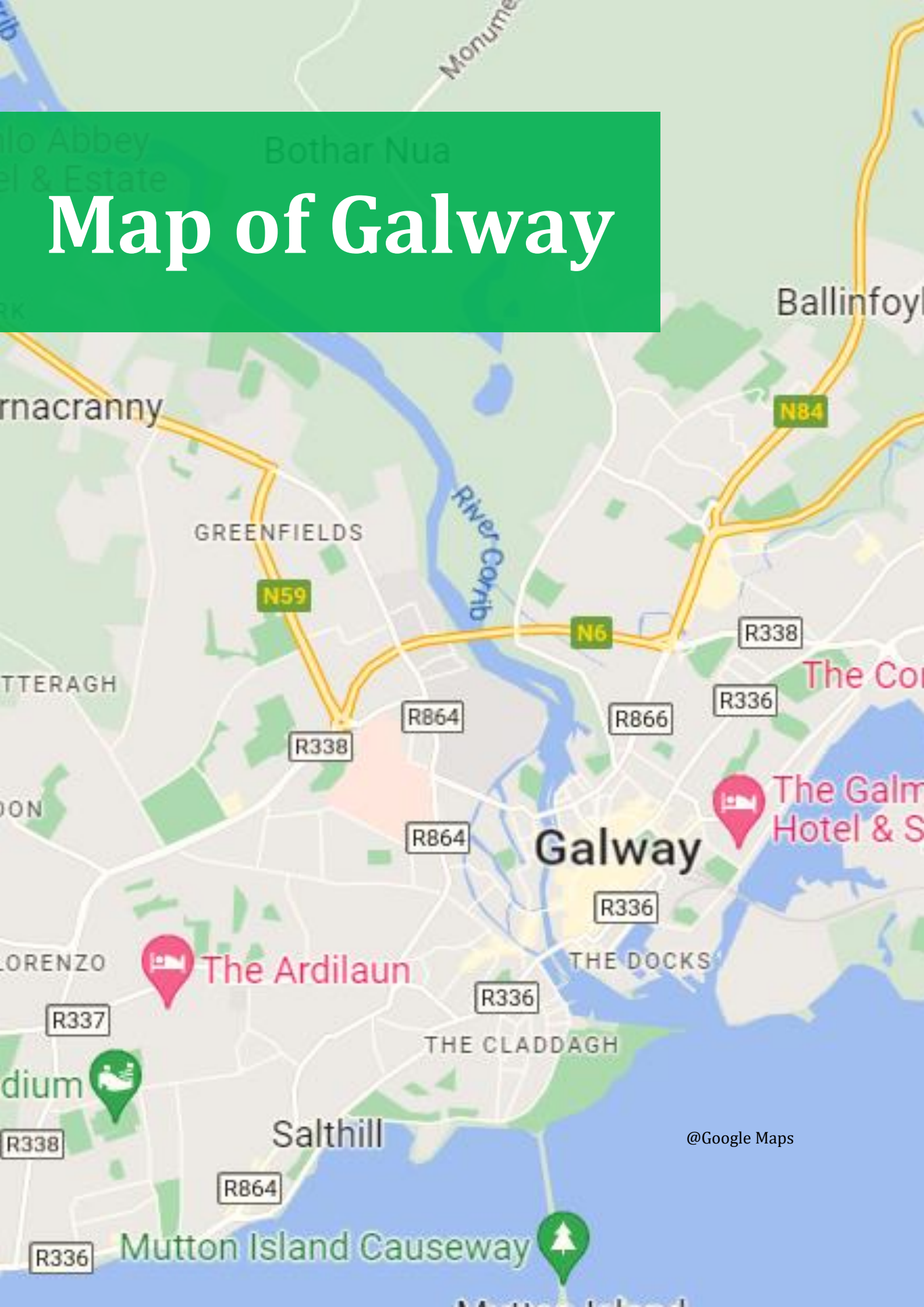
Galway Bike Sharing is a popular program that allows locals and visitors to rent bicycles for short-term use in the city. The program has several stations located throughout Galway, making it easy to pick up and drop off bikes as needed. Users can sign up for the program online or at a kiosk, and then use a bike for a set period before returning it to a station. The program is an affordable and environment friendly way to get around Galway and is a great option for tourists who want to explore the city on two wheels. For more information visit:

[galwaytourism.ie](http://galwaytourism.ie)



No matter your preferred mode of transportation, getting around Galway is easy and convenient, making it the perfect destination for your next adventure!

# Map of Galway



@Google Maps





## 5 Facts about Galway

1. Galway is known as the “City of the Tribes” named after the 14 merchant families who ruled the city in The Middle Ages.
2. The Spanish Arch in Galway was originally built in 1584 as a defensive structure for ships in the city's harbor.
3. Galway is home to Ireland’s Smallest Museum – The Nora Barnacle House. The museum gives great insight into one of Ireland’s most world-renowned artists.
4. The Galway Arts Festival is one of the largest arts festivals in Europe, attracting artists and performers from around the world.
5. Galway is the only city in Ireland with its own Irish-speaking community. It is known as the Gaeltacht where the Irish language is still spoken as a first language.



# Explore Galway





## Free Time

### *Water*

Galway is home to several excellent beaches, including Salthill Beach, Silverstrand Beach, and Trá na bhForbacha. These beaches offer opportunities for swimming, surfing, kayaking, and other water sports.



*Galway Street Musician*

### *Music*

The city has a vibrant music scene, with many live music venues and festivals throughout the year. Some popular venues include Monroe's Live, The Roisin Dubh and the Black Gate Cultural Centre. Galway is known for its street performers, who can be found entertaining crowds on Shop Street and other popular areas. These performers include musicians, magicians and circus artists.

### *Art*

The city is home to several museums and galleries, including the Galway City Museum, the Nora Barnacle House Museum and the Kenny Gallery. These museums offer opportunities to learn about the history and culture of Galway and Ireland.



### *Daytrips*

Galway is a great base for exploring the scenic west coast of Ireland, including the Cliffs of Moher, The Burren and Connemara National Park. These areas offer opportunities for hiking, biking and other outdoor activities.



# Web Guide







## **[galwaytourism.ie](http://galwaytourism.ie)**

Galway tourism website, here you will find a lot of useful information like Daytrip ideas, the map of Galway and much more.

## **[discoverireland.ie/galway](http://discoverireland.ie/galway)**

Another info website about Ireland - telling you about all our top attractions.

## **[eventbrite.ie](http://eventbrite.ie)**

Looking for events in your city? Visit [eventbrite.ie](http://eventbrite.ie) to check out all events in Ireland.

## **[bikeshare.ie/galway](http://bikeshare.ie/galway)**

Here you can find all important information about bike sharing in Galway.

# Cork

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## Are you ready for an adventure?

Cork is a vibrant city located in the south-west of Ireland. It's a hub for culture, entertainment, and innovation, making it an exciting destination for young people. The city is famous for its friendly locals, picturesque architecture and its world-renowned food and drink scene. As a student-friendly city, Cork offers plenty of opportunities for networking, professional development and personal growth. With its stunning countryside and coastline, Cork is also an ideal location for exploring the great outdoors. Whether you're interested in history, art, music or sports, Cork has something for everyone. Get ready for an unforgettable experience in this dynamic city!

*Welcome to Cork. Your journey starts here...*

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## You've arrived in Cork!

**Welcome to Cork**, Ireland's second-largest city, and a vibrant destination that's perfect for young people embarking on a language course. Cork is known for its friendly locals, rich culture, and beautiful natural surroundings, making it an exciting place to study, learn and explore. As you arrive in Cork, you'll be greeted with a warm Irish welcome and a vibrant atmosphere that's sure to make you feel at home. With its lively music scene, bustling streets and a renowned food and drink scene, Cork offers a unique and enriching experience that will help you improve your language skills while having fun and making new friends. Get ready for an unforgettable journey that will enhance your language learning and broaden your horizons!



## Transport



Cork has an efficient and affordable public transport system that makes it easy to network, with frequent services that operate throughout the day and night.

### *Bus*

**Where to buy a ticket:** on board of the bus (just with coins) or newsagents (Spar, Londis, Centra etc.).

Cork has an extensive bus network that covers the city and its surroundings. The buses are operated by Bus Éireann and offer frequent services throughout the day and night. The fares are affordable and you can pay using cash or a Leap Card.

### *Train*

Cork has a train station that provides connections to other cities in Ireland, such as Dublin, Galway and Limerick. The station is located in the city center and is easily accessible by bus or on foot. Irish Rail operates the train services, and fares are dependent on the destination and time of travel.

### *Bike*

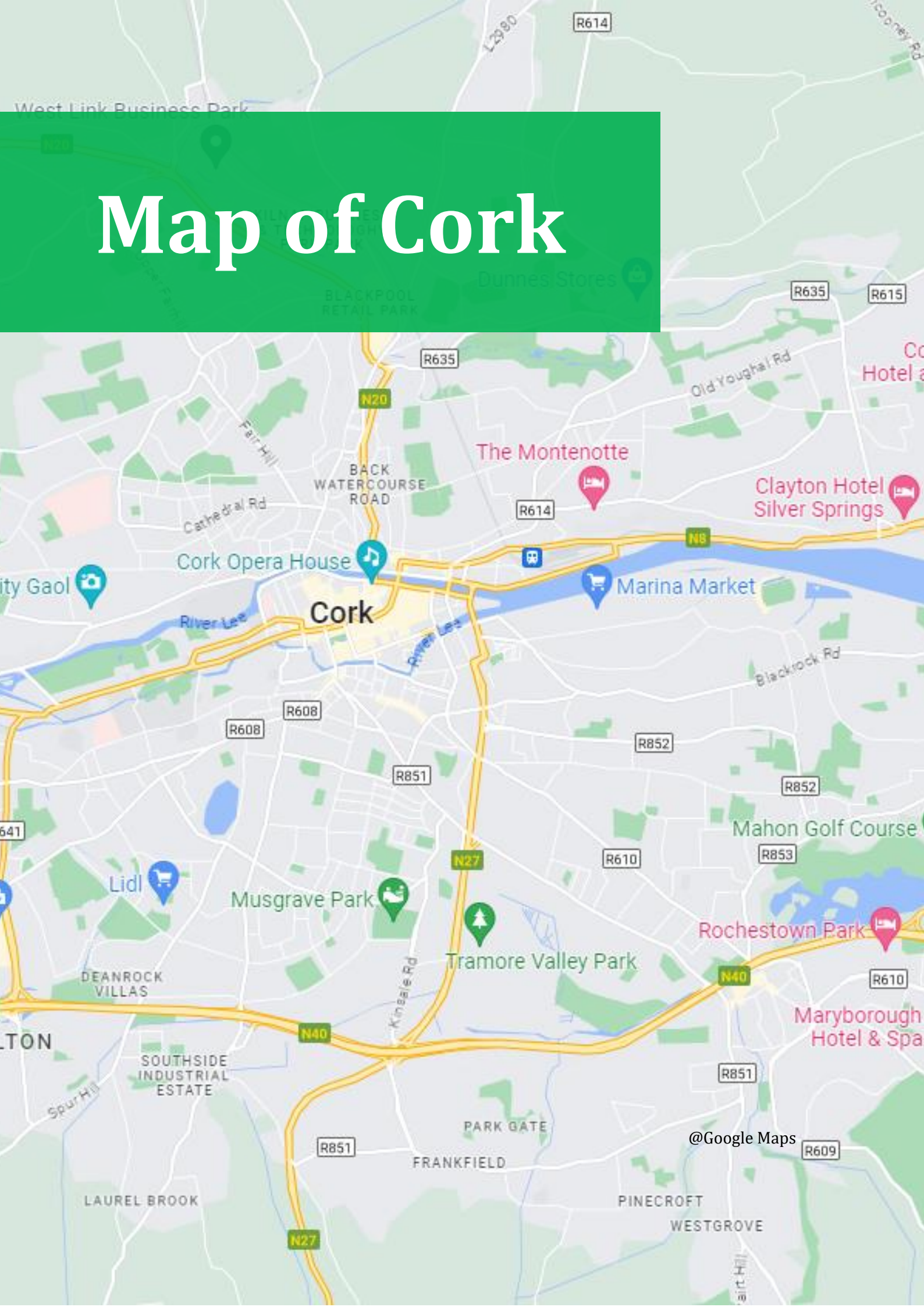
**How to get your ticket (and bike!):** at the bike station or subscribe online.

For those who prefer a more active mode of transport, Cork has a bike-sharing scheme called Coca-Cola Zero Bikes. The bikes are available for rent at various locations throughout the city, and you can use them for short journeys or for the day. The scheme is affordable and the bikes are well-maintained, making it a great way to explore the city while keeping fit.

**Overall,** Cork has an efficient and affordable public transport system that provides a range of options for getting around the city and its surroundings. Whether you prefer buses, trains, or bikes.



# Map of Cork



@Google Maps



An aerial photograph of a coastal town, likely Cork, Ireland. The image shows a harbor with several boats, a beach, and a hillside with colorful houses. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds. A white box with a green border is overlaid on the image, containing text.

## 5 Facts about Cork

6. Cork is home to the world's second-largest natural harbor, which can accommodate even the largest cruise ships in the world.
7. Cork is home to the famous Blarney Stone, which is said to give you the gift of eloquence if you kiss it. The stone is located at Blarney Castle, a medieval fortress that attracts millions of visitors each year.
8. Cork is famous for its food culture, with a wide range of delicious local dishes to try. Some of the most popular include traditional Irish stews, seafood chowder, and the famous Cork delicacy: tripe and drisheen.
9. Cork is known for its vibrant music and arts scene, with numerous festivals and events taking place throughout the year. Some of the most popular include the Cork Jazz Festival, the Cork Film Festival, and the Cork Midsummer Festival, which showcases a wide range of music, theatre, and dance performances.
10. Cork is also known as the “Rebel City” due to its history of rebellions against English rule. In fact, the city played a significant role in the Irish War of Independence, which led to the establishment of the Irish Free State.



# Explore Cork







## Free Time

1. Discover the vibrant nightlife of Cork with its trendy bars and clubs.
2. Take a stroll through the historic streets of the city and explore the stunning architecture.
3. Visit the famous English Market and indulge in some delicious food and drink.
4. Enjoy a relaxing day in one of Cork's beautiful parks or gardens! Get your adrenaline pumping with outdoor activities such as kayaking, surfing or rock climbing.
5. Take in some local culture with a visit to the Cork Opera House or one of the city's many art galleries.
6. Explore the nearby countryside and take in the stunning scenery with a day trip to places such as Kinsale, Blarney Castle or the Ring of Kerry.
7. Shop till you drop in one of the city's many shopping centers, independent boutiques and vintage stores.

# Web Guide





## **[purecork.ie](http://purecork.ie)**

Cork's tourism website, here you will find a lot of useful information like Daytrip ideas, places to eat and much more.



## **[discoverireland.ie/cork](http://discoverireland.ie/cork)**

Another info website about Ireland - telling you about all our top attractions.

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