LITERARY DUBLIN

Dublin is the birthplace of James Joyce and Nobel Literature Prize winners William Butler Yeats, George Bernard Shaw and Samuel Beckett. UNESCO recognises Dublin as a City of Literature, reflecting the city’s rich tradition of writers and writing, a city with words at its heart – in its river, Joyce’s Anna Livia – in its conversations, its streets and its storytelling. Dublin pays tribute to its literary heritage in the many fine statues of writers which grace the city, notably Wilde, Joyce, Shaw and many others. Streets and bridges, the newest of which is named after Samuel Beckett, also commemorate Dublin’s literary greats. Whether you want to visit the city’s literary landmarks, its literary pubs and bookshops, take a guided tour or see new work performed, Dublin won’t disappoint.

1. CHESTER BEATTY LIBRARY

An award-winning art museum and library with exhibitions of rare manuscripts, miniature paintings, prints, drawings and decorative arts from countries across Asia, the Middle East, North Africa and Europe.

Contact Details: Dublin Castle, Dublin 2.
Opening Hours: 1 May – 30 Sept: Monday – Friday 10.00am – 5.00pm, Saturday 11.00am – 5.00pm, Sunday 1.00pm – 5.00pm
1 Oct – 30 Apr: Closed Mondays

www.cbl.ie tel: 01 407 0750

2. EVENING OF IRISH FOLKLORE & STORYTELLING

Experience an enchanting evening of storytelling and folklore unfolding over a candied dinner in an intimate setting above Dublin’s oldest pub, the Brazen Head, 20 Bridge Street Lower, Dublin 8.

Opening Hours: April – November: Tuesday – Sunday 7.00pm
December – March: Wednesday and Saturday 7.00pm

www.irishfolklores.com tel: 01 492 2543

3. MILK AND COOKIE STORYTELLING SESSIONS

Milk and Cookie Stories – a free monthly storytelling group. The meetings are informal and everyone is welcome to tell a story and enjoy light refreshments. The venue is The Exchange, Temple Bar, Dublin 2.

Opening Hours: Second Tuesday of every month 6.30pm

www.milkandcookiestories.com

4. DUBLIN CITY LIBRARY AND ARCHIVE

Dublin City Library and Archive is home to the special collections of Dublin City Public Libraries and Dublin City Archives. Activities and exhibitions relating to Dublin city, its writers, artists, people and places take place regularly. The reading room is open to all and membership is free of charge.

Opening hours: Monday – Thursday: 10.00am – 8.00pm
Friday and Saturday: 10.00am – 5.00pm
Closed on Sundays and Bank Holidays

Contact Details: 138-144 Pearse Street, Dublin 2.
www.dublinlibrary.ie

5. ABBEY THEATRE/AMHARCLANN NA MAINSTREACH

The Abbey Theatre, Ireland’s national theatre was founded in 1904 by W.B. Yeats and Lady Gregory. Ireland’s national theatre, it has premiered the work of major playwrights such as J.M. Synge and Sean O’Casey, as well as contemporary classics from Brian Friel, Frank McGuinness, Marina Carr and Tom Murphy.

Openings Times: Monday – Saturday 10.00am – 6.00pm

www.abbeytheatre.ie

6. AN POST MUSEUM

Explores the influence of the Post Office in Ireland and offers an insight into the role played by Post Office staff in the development of Irish society over many years.

Contact Details: 26/27 Lower Abbey Street, Dublin 1.
www.anpostmuseum.ie

7. DUBLIN LITERARY PUB CRAWL

An engaging walking tour led by a team of professional actors who follow the footsteps of literary greats such as James Joyce, Samuel Beckett, Oscar Wilde and Brendan Behan. A wonderful evening filled with prose, drama and song. Meet upstairs in The Duke Pub, 9 Duke Street, Dublin 2.

Tours: April – December
Monday – Saturday, 7.30pm
November – March:
Thursday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday, 7.30pm
www.dublinpubcrawl.com
Tel: 087 263 0270

8. HOP ON–HOP OFF DUBLIN BUS TOURS

Experience the attractions of Dublin with a Dublin Bus Tour. All tours offer live commentary by experienced tour guides.

Opening Hours: Daily 9.00am – 5.00pm
www.dublinbustours.com
Tel: 01 703 3029

9. CITY SIGHTSEEING TOUR

Hop on this tour which guides you through twenty five attractions including Trinity College and Dublin Writers’ Museum. An audio tour offers insights into Dublin’s cultural attractions. Tours depart from Step 1, 14 Upper O’Connell St, Dublin 1, outside Fáilte Ireland Office.

Office Opening Hours: 8.00am – 6.30pm
www.irishcitytours.com
Tel: 01 458 0054

10. DUBLIN CITY BIKE TOURS

An easy paced eco-friendly bike tour of Dublin’s fair city with local guides to show you the sights. The tours last for three hours, Meet in the lobby of Isaac’s Hostel, 2 – 5 Frenchman’s Lane, Dublin 1.

Tours: March 1st – April 30th
Monday – Friday 10.00am
May 1st – Nov 30th
Monday – Sunday 10.00am & 2.00pm

www.dublinbicykletours.com
Tel: 087 134 1866
11. SEVEN TOWERS Last Wednesday Series
Readings in The Box, The Twisted Pepper, 54 Middle Abbey Street, Dublin 1 showcase published writers from Ireland and abroad. An opportunity to hear different styles of writing: poetry, short stories and experimental prose.
Opening Hours: Last Wednesday of every month 7.30pm
www.seventowers.ie

12. WALKING TOURS OF DUBLIN
Pat Liddy, well-known Dublin historian, author and artist runs a unique series of walking tours of Dublin. Check online for tour details and booking information.
Operating Times: All year
www.walkingtours.ie Tel: 087 905 2480

13. DUBLIN WRITERS’ MUSEUM
At the Writers’ Museum, 18 Parnell Square, Dublin 1, Dublin’s literary celebrities from the past three hundred years are brought to life through their books, letters, portraits and personal items.
Opening Hours: Monday – Saturday 10.00am – 5.00pm (Last admission at 4.15pm)
Sunday & Public Holidays 11.00am – 5.00pm (Last admission at 4.15pm)
www.writersmuseum.com Tel: 01 872 2077

14. DUBLIN YARNSPINNERS
Grab a cosy armchair in the Teacher’s Club, 36 Parnell Square, Dublin 1 and listen to an array of tales, tall and otherwise, from members of the Storytellers of Ireland.
Opening Hours: Second Thursday of every month 8.00pm – 10.00pm
www.storytellersofireland.org

15. IRISH WRITERS’ CENTRE
Irish Writers’ Centre is a leading venue for contemporary literary events, readings, book launches, workshops and seminars. A beautiful Georgian house, it houses the impressive Buckley collection of modern Irish paintings.
Opening Hours:
Monday – Thursday 10.00am – 10.00pm
Friday – Saturday 10.00am – 6.00pm
Contact details: 19 Parnell Square, Dublin 1.
www.writerscentre.ie Tel: 01 872 1302

16. JAMES JOYCE CENTRE
Dedicated to a better understanding of the life and works of James Joyce, with exhibitions, events and workshops. The centre is located at 35 North Great George’s Street, Dublin 1 and organises a series of Joycean walking tours of the city. Booking information is available on the website.
Opening Hours:
October – March: Monday – Thursday 10.00am – 5.00pm (Last admission at 4.30pm)
Tuesday – Saturday 10.00am – 5.00pm (Last admission at 4.30pm)
April – September: Monday – Saturday 10.00am – 5.00pm (Last admission at 4.30pm)
www.jamesjoyce.ie Tel: 01 878 8547

17. NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND
The National Library of Ireland’s holdings constitute the most comprehensive collection of Irish documentary material in the world and offer an invaluable representation of Ireland’s history and heritage. Talks and major exhibitions are held throughout the year and include the award-winning exhibition Yeats: The Life and Works of William Butler Yeats.
Opening Hours:
Monday – Wednesday 9.30am – 8.00pm
Thursday and Friday 9.30am – 5.00pm
Saturday 9.30am – 1.00pm
www.nl.ie Tel: 01 603 02 00

18. OLD LIBRARY, TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN
In the heart of Dublin City, a walk through the cobbled squares of Trinity College Dublin will bring visitors back to the 18th century, when the magnificent Old Library building was constructed. Step into the breathtaking Long Room (65 metres in length) which holds 200,000 of the Library’s oldest books. The Old Library also hosts a permanent exhibition on the world famous 19th-century gospel manuscript, The Book of Kells.
Opening Hours: Monday – Saturday 9.30am – 5.00pm
Sunday (May – Sept) 9.30am – 4.00pm
Sunday (Oct – April) 12.00pm – 4.00pm
www.bookofkells.ie Tel: 01 896 2230

19. SWENY’S PHARMACY
Enjoy daily readings from the works of James Joyce, in the original pharmacy where Leopold Bloom bought his lemon soup. Admission is free.
Complete works: Monday – Friday 1.00 – 2.00 pm
Ulysses: Thursday 7.00pm
Saturday 11.00am
Contact details: Lincoln Place, Dublin 2.
www.sweny.ie

20. WALKING TOURS OF TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN
An official, student-guided walking tour of the historic campus of Trinity College Dublin. Operates on a scheduled basis daily from Mid-May to the end of September. The tours depart from a desk at the Front Arch of the College and last for 30 minutes. Please check at the desk for times of tours.
www.tcd.ie/library/bookofkells/tour-attractions/

21. MARSH’S LIBRARY
The first public library in Ireland, Marsh’s Library was opened in 1701. The library contains over 25,000 books relating to the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, covering medicine, law, science, travel, navigation, mathematics, music, surveying and classical literature. The library is open to the public and is located at St. Patrick’s Close, Dublin 8. There is a small admission fee and groups should contact the library before visiting.
Opening Hours:
Mon, Wed, Thurs, Friday 9.30am – 1.00pm and 2.00pm – 5.00pm
Saturday 10.00am – 1.00pm
(Closed Tuesday & Sunday)
www.marshlibrary.ie Tel: 01 454 3511

22. ST PATRICK’S CATHEDRAL
The writer and satirist Jonathan Swift was Dean of St. Patrick’s Cathedral from 1713 to 1745. For those interested in his work a visit to the cathedral where his tombstone and epitaph can be seen, is a must.
Opening Hours: Monday – Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm
March – October Saturday 9.00am – 6.00pm
Sunday 9.00am – 10.30am 12.30pm – 2.30pm, 4.30pm – 6.00pm
November – February Saturday 9.00am – 5.00pm
Sunday 9.00am – 10.30am, 12.30pm – 2.30pm
www.stpatrickscathedral.ie

23. POETRY IRELAND
Poetry Ireland is the national organisation supporting poetry. Its website has a comprehensive listing of literary events. Readings are regularly held at The Unitarian Church & Damer Hall, 112 St. Stephen’s Green West, Dublin 2.
For full details go to www.poetryireland.ie

24. JAMES JOYCE MUSEUM/TOWER
Located in Sandycove, eight miles south of Dublin, the Martello tower immortalised in Ulysses is the perfect setting for a museum dedicated to James Joyce. Contact the Dublin Writers’ Museum for opening hours.
www.visitdublin.com Tel: 01 280 9265 / 872 2077

25. NATIONAL PRINT MUSEUM
The National Print Museum collects, documents, preserves, exhibits, interprets and makes accessible the material evidence of printing craft and fosters associated skills of the craft in Ireland. The National Print Museum is located at Garrison Chapel, Beggar’s Bush Barracks, Haddington Road, Dublin 4.
Opening Hours: Monday – Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm
Saturday – Sunday 2.00pm – 5.00pm
Closed bank holiday weekends
www.nationalprintmuseum.ie Tel: 01 660 3770

26. SHAW BIRTHPLACE
The first home of the renowned playwright George Bernard Shaw. Located at 33 Synge Street, Dublin 8 the house has been restored to its original Victorian elegance and charm and gives the impression that the family has just gone out for the afternoon.
Opening Hours: June 1st – August 31st:
Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday 11.00am – 3.30pm
www.visitdublin.com Tel: 01 476 0364

27. NARRATIVE ARTS GROUP
"Forget what storytelling was, and find out what it might be.” By developing and presenting stories in some of the city’s most atmospheric venues, the group strives to recapture some of the ground that storytelling has lost to other art forms, such as comedy, theatre and the cinema. Please check website for event details.
www.narrativeartsclub.com Tel: 086 060 3018

28. ULYSSES WALKING TOUR DUBLIN WALK SERIES
A self-guided walking tour available as a downloadable PDF and/or audio podcast on Dublin Tourism’s website www.visitdublin.com. This guide, accompanied by a map, highlights the places in the city which played an important role in Ulysses.