



An insider's guide to Dublin
the way the locals live it

Insider Guides Literary

Home of The Book of Kells, birthplace of James Joyce and Nobel Prize winners William Butler Yeats, George Bernard Shaw and Samuel Beckett and now a UNESCO City of Literature, Dublin is a truly inspirational city with a literary tradition dating back over a thousand years!

Housed in the Old Library in **Trinity College Dublin**, The **Book of Kells** is one of the oldest surviving examples of Dublin's literary heritage. Dating from 800 AD it is one of the most beautifully illustrated manuscripts in the world.

The **Dublin Writers Museum** is an essential visit for anyone who wants to discover, explore or simply enjoy Dublin's immense literary tradition. Situated in a magnificent Georgian mansion its collection spans three hundred years of books, letters, portraits and personal items belonging to Swift, Sheridan, Shaw, Wilde, Yeats, Joyce and Beckett, Dublin's literary celebrities! A recent addition to the Museum is a tiny 18th century book containing the earliest known version of 'Molly Malone', almost a century older than Dublin's unofficial anthem!

If it's Joyce and the world of Ulysses you're interested in, then trips to **The James Joyce Museum** and **The James Joyce Centre** are not to be missed. **The James Joyce Museum**, located in the famous Martello Tower, houses a collection of Joyce memorabilia including letters, photographs, first and rare editions as well as personal possessions and items associated with the Dublin of Ulysses. **The James Joyce Centre** is a beautifully restored Georgian House containing exhibitions and items relating to the life and works of Joyce. Amongst the many Joyce related events throughout the year, the annual Bloomsday Festival on 16th June is a particular highlight.

Why not explore the world of Ulysses for yourself and visit the sights and scenes of the famous novel with the **In the Steps of Ulysses** iwalk, part of the **Dublin Tourism iWalk** series of free downloadable podcasts and maps.

Take a stroll along the banks of either of Dublin's Canals and see the statues of Irish literary greats Brendan Behan, at the **Grand Canal**, and Patrick Kavanagh, situated on the **Royal Canal**. **The Shaw Birthplace** is a finely restored 19th century house which gives an insight into the early life of the famous playwright George Bernard Shaw. It was here where the author began to gather the store of characters that would later populate his works.

Founded by Nobel laureate William Butler Yeats and renowned as a writers' theatre, **The Abbey Theatre** has contributed some of the world's greatest theatrical works from such writers as J.M. Synge and Sean O'Casey to the modern master playwrights - Brian Friel, Tom Murphy, Frank McGuinness, Hugh Leonard, Tom MacIntyre and Sebastian Barry. Visit the tombstone of Gulliver's Travels author Jonathan Swift in **St Patrick's Cathedral**, or the **An Post Museum** and its exhibitions to see the role the Post Office played in the development of Irish society.

Built in 1701 and with an interior which has remained unchanged since, **Marsh's Library** is Ireland's oldest public library and contains some 25,000 printed books relating to the 16th, 17th

and early 18th centuries. It is a magnificent example of a 17th century Scholar's library. A visit to **The Chester Beatty Library** offers a window into the artistic treasures of the great cultures and religions of the world with Egyptian papyrus texts, beautifully illuminated copies of the Qur'an and the Bible, and European medieval and Renaissance manuscripts amongst the highlights.

No exploration of Dublin's literary heritage would be complete without a visit to the **National Library of Ireland**. Housing books, prints, manuscripts, newspapers, music, ephemera and genealogical material it is the most outstanding collection of Irish documentary heritage in the world. And to cap off why not follow in the footsteps of Joyce, Beckett, Wilde and Behan on the **Dublin Literary Pub Crawl**, an engaging walking tour around some of Dublin's famous watering holes for an evening filled with prose, drama and song.

Read on to discover more suggestions and tips and check out www.visitdublin.com for more ideas or pop into one of our Dublin Tourist Information Offices.





top tips

Libraries

Book of Kells

Trinity College Library, College Street, Dublin 2
 Tel: 00353 1 608 2320
www.tcd.ie/library
[View online map](#)

The Chester Beatty Library

Dublin Castle, Dublin 1
 Tel: 00353 1 407 0750
www.cbl.ie
[View online map](#)

Marsh's Library

St. Patrick's Close, Dublin 2
 Tel: 00353 1 454 3511
www.marshlibrary.ie
[View online map](#)

National Library of Ireland

Kildare Street, Dublin 2
 Tel: 00353 1 603 0200
www.nli.ie
[View online map](#)

Museums

Dublin Writers Museum

18 Parnell Square, Dublin 1
 Tel: 00353 1 872 2077
www.writersmuseum.com
[View online map](#)

The James Joyce Museum

Joyce Tower, Sandycove, Co. Dublin
 T: 00353 1 280 9265
 E: joycetower@dublintourism.ie
[View online map](#)

The James Joyce Centre

35 North Great George's Street, Dublin 1
 T: 00353 1 878 8547
www.jamesjoyce.ie
[View online map](#)

The Shaw Birthplace

33 Synge Street, Dublin 8
 T: 00353 1 475 0854
 E: shawhouse@dublintourism.ie
[View online map](#)

Theatre

The Abbey Theatre

26 Lower Abbey Street, Dublin 1
 T: 00353 1 878 7222
www.abbeytheatre.ie
[View online map](#)

Tours

Dublin iWalk Series

www.visitdublin.com/iwalks

Dublin Literary Pub Crawl

1 Suffolk Street, Dublin 2
 T: 00353 1 670 5602
www.dublinpubcrawl.com
[View online map](#)

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maps

Dublin County



City centre

