

A POCKET GUIDE TO DUBLIN



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SHOPPING FOR PACKING MISHAPS

Forgot something? [Penny's \(Primark\)](#) and [Dunnes Stores](#) are affordable Irish-owned options nationwide:

- **Penny's:** Cheapest option with a wide range of clothing but lower quality.
- **Dunnes Stores:** Slightly pricier but better quality for cozy layers and essentials.

Which is better? For quality, go to **Dunnes**. For saving money, choose **Penny's**.



Locations:

- **Penny's:** ([Mary Street](#)), ([O'Connell Street](#))
- **Dunnes:** ([Henry Street](#)), ([Stephen's Green](#))



SUSTAINABLE SECONDHAND OR VINTAGE OPTIONS

Looking for vintage clothing in Dublin? There are two main options:

- **Vintage Stores:** Offer handpicked, high-quality items at higher prices.
- **Charity Shops:** Affordable, donation-based shops similar to U.S. thrift stores. You can score great items if you're willing to dig.



Locations:

Vintage stores in Temple Bar: ([Lucy's Lounge](#)), ([Tola Vintage](#)), ([Nine Crows](#)), ([Dublin Vintage Factory](#)), ([The Big Smoke Vintage](#)).

Vintage stores on Drury Street: ([Jenny Vander](#)), ([35 Vintage](#)).

Charity Stores on George's Street: ([Enable Ireland](#)), ([Oxfam Ireland](#)), ([Irish Cancer Society](#)), ([Vincent's](#)).



SUPERMARKETS & NEWSAGENTS

Feeling peckish in Dublin? Supermarkets or Newsagents can be great options for a quick bite.

- **Supermarkets (grocery store):** There are three main ones in Dublin, **Dunnes Stores**, **Tesco**, or **Supervalu**.
- **Corner Shops/Newsagents:** These are scattered all over the city, the main ones being **Spar**, **Centra**, or **Circle K**.



Local Insight:

- A lot of Ireland's supermarkets and News Agents have a **deli counter** where you can have **fresh sandwiches made for you**. You will typically find these in Dunnes Stores, Spar's, Centra's and Circle K locations.



WHERE TO FIND AUTHENTIC SOUVENIRS

- **Carrols:** Perfect for quick, easy souvenirs like magnets, keychains, or postcards.
- **Aran Sweater Market:** Authentic Aran jumpers—great to wear during your trip or bring home.
- **Kilkenny Design Store:** Features Irish-designed gifts, from jewellery and homeware to beauty products and posters.
- **Avoca:** Similar to Kilkenny Design, with a focus on Irish creative products and unique gifts.
- **Boutique Design Shops:** Check out **Irish Design Shop** (Drury Street) or **Design Lane** (Temple Bar) for smaller-scale, Irish-made souvenirs.
- **Books:** For book lovers, visit **The Secret Bookstore**, **The Gutter Bookshop**, or **Chapters** for Irish novels and literature.
- **Supermarkets:** Add Irish tea (**Lyons** or **Barry's**) and **Tayto Crisps** to your list for tasty, authentic gifts.



Locations:

Carrols: ([O'Connell Street](#)) ([Grafton Street](#)) ([Dame Street](#)) ([Stephens Green](#)) ([O'Connell Bridge](#))

Aran Sweater Market: ([Grafton Street](#))

Kilkenny Design Store: ([Nassau Street](#))

Avoca: ([Suffolk Street](#))

Irish Design Shop: ([Drury Street](#))

Design Lane: ([Temple Bar](#))

The Secret Bookstore: ([Wicklow Street](#))

The Gutter Bookshop: ([Cow's Lane](#))

Chapters: ([Parnell Street](#))



HOW FAR IN ADVANCE SHOULD YOU BOOK ACCOMMODATION/TOURS

- **Accommodation:** Book at least **6 months in advance** to secure your preferred spot and avoid inflated prices.
- **Attractions & Tours:** Most can be booked same-day, but popular ones like **Kilmainham Gaol** ([Book Here](#)) require booking **exactly 28 days in advance** at midnight (Irish time). **Guinness Storehouse & The Book of Kells** can sometimes have same day availability but you may be left with less desirable time slots.



Must Do's Tours/Attractions

Guinness Store House: ([Book](#)) ([Location](#))

Book of Kells Experience (Trinity College): ([Book](#)) ([Location](#))

Jameson Distillery Tour: ([Book](#)) ([Location](#))

EPIC Museum: ([Book](#)) ([Location](#))

The Little Museum of Dublin: ([Book](#)) ([Location](#))

Big Bus Hop On - Hop Off: ([Book](#))



Local Insight: If you plan to do all or some of the above tours then it is worth buying the Dublin Explore Pass ([Book on Get Your Guide](#)) as it will save you money!

Kilmainham Gaol: <https://kilmainhamgaol.admit-one.eu/> (Book 28 days in advance at midnight Irish time)



Often Missed Tours/Attractions

Claddagh Ring Workshop: ([Book](#)) ([Location](#))

Forge Your Own Ring Workshop: ([Book](#)) ([Location](#))

Dublin Food Tours: ([Book](#))

Skyview Tower (Smithfield): ([Book](#)) ([Location](#))

Marsh's Library: ([Book](#)) ([Location](#))

Croke Park Skyline Tour: ([Book](#)) ([Location](#))



MOST POPULAR DAY TRIPS FROM DUBLIN

Make the most of being in Dublin by using it as your base to explore the rest of Ireland, there are many day trips that you can take both by using organised tour companies, driving or on public transport.

The Cliffs of Moher: ([Location](#)) ([Day Tour](#))

The Giants Causeway: ([Location](#)) ([Day Tour](#))

Belfast/Titanic Museum: ([Location](#)) ([Transport](#))

Kilkenny: ([Location](#)) ([Day Tour - includes Wicklow too](#)) ([Public Transport](#))

Wicklow National Park: ([Location](#)) ([Day Tour](#))

Glendalough (Wicklow): ([Location](#)) ([Public Transport](#))

Blarney Castle & Gardens: ([Location](#)) ([Day Tour](#)) ([Public Transport](#))

Blarney Castle & Rock of Cashel: ([Day Tour](#))

New Grange: ([Location](#)) ([Day Tour](#)) ([Public Transport - Not Great but possible](#))



SCENIC PLACES IN DUBLIN THAT ARE OFTEN MISSED

- 📌 **Howth Town & Cliffs Walk:** ([Location](#)) ([Public Transport Options](#))
- 📌 **Dun Laoghaire:** ([Location](#)) ([Public Transport Options](#))
- 📌 **Kiliney:** ([Location](#)) ([Public Transport Options](#))
- 📌 **Royal Hospital Killmainham Gardens:** ([Location](#)) ([Public Transport Options](#))
- 📌 **Farmleigh House & Gardens:** ([Location](#)) ([Public Transport Options - Walking Required](#))
- 📌 **Botanical Gardens:** ([Location](#)) ([Public Transport Options](#))



Navigating Dublin's Public Transport Like a Pro

Dublin is compact, and you can get around easily by **foot** or **public transport**.

I advise [purchasing a LEAP card](#) ahead of time for convenience, they will ship internationally. Or, you can pick one up in most Newsagents in the city.

Dublin Bus: Covers most of the city and surrounding area's. Best way to pay is using **LEAP card** *OR* you must have **exact change in coins!** Handy apps include the **Transport for Ireland (TFI)** app ([iOS/Android](#)), LEAP card top up app([iOS/Android](#)) and Google Maps([iOS/Android](#)).

The DART: Connects the city to towns along the Dublin Coastline. Ideal for visiting coastal areas like Howth, Dún Laoghaire, or Bray on a day trip from the city. They are pretty frequent arriving every 10-20 minutes depending on the time of day. Handy apps include **Iarnród Éireann** ([iOS/Android](#)) and Google Maps([iOS/Android](#)).

The LUAS: is Dublin's tram service, it has two lines the Green and Red and they connect a wide range of suburbs with the city centre. It is also convenient way of getting across the city and travelling to Heuston/Connolly Station if you plan on taking any day trips by train. Handy apps include LUAS APP ([iOS/Android](#)) and Google Maps([iOS/Android](#)).



PAYMENT TIPS FOR DUBLIN

1. **Card/Contactless payments** are accepted all across the city with the exclusion of Dublin Bus.
2. You may want to **take out some cash** for the likes of tipping (not compulsory in Ireland) and Dublin Bus (If you don't [preorder a LEAP card](#))
3. When paying with a foreign card, decline the **currency conversion option**—it's usually cheaper to pay in euros.

4. **Avoid currency exchanges** when **taking out cash**, instead go to an ATM associated with official banks (non bank ATMs tend to have much higher fee's). Below are some central options:

- **AIB Locations:** ([Capel Street](#)) ([Dame Street](#)) ([Grafton Street](#))
- **Bank of Ireland Locations:** ([Stephens Green](#)) ([Camden Street](#)) ([O'Connell Street](#))
- **Permanent TSB Locations:** ([O'Connell Street](#)) ([Grafton Street](#)) ([Stephens Green](#))

If you want to be able to download the location of all of these ATMs/Banks to your Google Maps, [Click Here](#).



Mobile SIM Card Options for Dublin

Avoid asking your home provider for a roaming plan this is usually **far more expensive than** to below too options:

Option 1: Buy a Pay-As-You-Go SIM

You can buy a SIM card from local providers **Vodafone** ([Grafton Street](#)), **Three** ([Grafton Street](#)), or **Eir** ([Grafton Street](#)) once you're in Dublin. However, you'll need to, remove your home SIM and you will not have access to your phone until you arrive in the city.

Option 2: An eSIM

The best option is an eSIM, I **recommend Airalo** ([Check Plans Here](#)) as you can Pre-activate it before you land, Keep your home SIM installed, It's affordable, offers great coverage using all 3 major networks, and saves you time! (Check [Youtube Description](#) for Promo codes, they are not always active so I didn't want to post them in here)



USEFUL APPS, WEBSITES & TIPS

- **Eircodes:** A **7-digit code** unique to every address in Ireland, simplifying navigation. You don't need a full address—just the **Eircode** is enough. When looking for directions to a tour, hotel or restaurant you can ask for the Eircode to make things easier.
- **Where to Leave Luggage:** Use [Radical Storage](#) to securely store luggage in various Dublin locations for €5 per bag/day.
- **How to Stay Safe:** Avoid areas like Merchant's Quay and Talbot Street at night. For emergencies, call **999** or **112**. The Police (Known as the Guards) are often around for assistance.
- **Health Tips:** If you feel a little under the weather then **Boots** is a great pharmacy to go into, they are located all over the city including these locations: ([Grafton Street](#)) ([Stephens Green](#)) ([Henry Street](#)). And they also sell your everyday drugstore products.
- **Where to Find Public Bathrooms:** You'll typically find public bathrooms in the likes of tourist attractions, shopping centres and public spaces like library's. [Pee.ie](#) is a handy website that lists various locations across the city.
- **Water Filling Stations:** [Refill.ie](#) app shows places to refill water bottles for free. Tap water is free in restaurants, cafes, and bars.

- **How to Order Takeaway Food:** Use **Deliveroo** ([IOS/Android](#)) or **JustEat** ([IOS/Android](#)) apps for food delivery in Dublin.



HOW TO GET TO DUBLIN AIRPORT TO THE CITY

There are a few ways of getting to and from Dublin Airport. Below are your options

1. **Taxi:** This is one of the most expensive options. There is a taxi rank right outside the Airport Terminals but I recommend ordering using the FREE NOW App ([IOS/Android](#)) for added protection.
2. **Coach Transfer:** There are two companies that offer a coach service from Dublin Airport, the [Aircoach](#) and the [Dublin Express](#). Both services can be booked online in advance and offer varies stop offs around the city.
3. **Public Transport:** Dublin Bus operates two services to and from the Airport and that is the 14 and 41 route. The 41 bus operates 24 hours. You will need to [preorder a LEAP card](#) or have euro coins to use this option.