

Beer in Dublin



Dublin has more than 750 pubs

A small city with a huge reputation, Dublin's brilliance is underpinned by its formidable collection of pubs and breweries: use this list to navigate a route to the Irish capital's best pints.

Bernard Shaw (thebernardshaw.com; 11–12 South Richmond St)

This deliberately ramshackle boozier is probably the coolest bar in town for its marvellous music and diverse menu of events. There are afternoon car-boot sales, storytelling nights and fun competitions, such as a 'tag-off' between graffiti artists.

Black Sheep (galwaybaybrewery.com/blacksheep; 61 Capel St)

One of the best places in northern Dublin to get craft beers, this is part of the Galway Brewery chain. Expect a rotating selection of Irish and international brews, as well as juicy burgers and bar snacks. A good choice of board games will keep you entertained on a rainy afternoon.

Cobblestone (cobblestonepub.ie; North King St)

It advertises itself as a 'drinking pub with a music problem', although the traditional music sessions that run throughout the week can hardly be described as problematic. Wednesday's Balaclavas session (from 7.30pm) is for musicians who are learning an instrument.

Fallon's (00 353 1 454 2801; 129 The Coombe)

Irish prizefighting legend Dan Donnelly, locally known as 'Sir Dan', pulled the pints here in 1818, though this fabulously old-fashioned bar has been serving a great draught of Guinness since the end of the 17th century. This is a local's local that you shouldn't miss.

Grogan's Castle Lounge (facebook.com/groganscastlelounge; 15 South William St)

Known simply as Grogan's (after the original owner), this pub is a city-centre institution. It has long been a favourite haunt of Dublin's writers and painters, who enjoy a fine stout here.

Guinness Storehouse (guinness-storehouse.com; St James's Gate, South Market St)

This multimedia homage to Guinness is in a converted grain storehouse that's part of the 26-hectare brewery. Across its seven floors you can discover everything about Guinness before getting to taste it in the top-floor Gravity Bar, with great views.

John Mulligan's (mulligans.ie; 8 Poolbeg St)

Another brilliant old boozier, this one has become a cultural institution. Established in 1782 and in this location since 1854, a drink (or more) here is like attending liquid services at a most sacred, secular shrine. A young John F Kennedy paid his respects in 1945, and the cast of regulars here seems barely to have changed since.

Kehoe's (louisfitzgerald.com/kehoes; 9 South Anne St)

The beautiful Victorian bar, wonderful snug and side room have been popular with Dubliners and visitors for generations, so much so that the publican's living quarters upstairs have long since been converted into another bar.

O'Donoghue's (odonoghues.ie; 15 Merrion Row)

The pub where music stalwarts The Dubliners made their name in the 1960s still hosts live music nightly, but crowds would gather anyway for the excellent pints and superb ambience.

Old Royal Oak (00 353 1 671 3967; 11 Kilmainham Lane)

Locals are fiercely protective of this gorgeous pub, which opened in 1845 to serve the patrons and staff of the Royal Hospital (now the Irish Museum of Modern Art). The clientele has changed, but everything else is the same, which

makes this one of the city's nicest pubs in which to enjoy a few pints.

Open Gate Brewery (guinnessopengate.com; St James's Gate)

All beer lovers must make a pilgrimage to this, the Guinness experimental brewery. Each ticket comes with a sample tasting board – relish the unique chance to taste beers that will probably never leave the building.

Porterhouse (theporterhouse.ie; 16–18 Parliament St)

The second-biggest brewery in Dublin, the Porterhouse looks like a cross between a Wild West bar and a Hieronymus Bosch painting. It has lots of its own delicious brews, including its Plain Porter (some say it's the best stout in town).

Toner's (tonerspub.ie; 139 Lower Baggot St)

With its stone floors and antique snugs, this is the closest thing you'll get to a country pub in the heart of the city. The shelves and drawers are reminders that it once doubled as a grocery shop.

Don't miss

When you find you need to offset your beer with some food, **Fab Food Trails** offers 2½-hour tasting walks through the city centre's choicest independent producers. You'll visit up to eight bakeries, cheesemongers, markets and delis, learning about the food culture of each area you explore (fabfoodtrails.ie).



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TOP PICKS

MAP KEY

DRINKING

Bernard Shaw

Black Sheep

Cobblestone

Fallon's

Grogan's Castle Lounge

Guinness Storehouse

John Mulligan's

Kehoe's

O'Donoghue's

Old Royal Oak

Open Gate Brewery

Porterhouse

Toner's

SLEEPING

Aberdeen Lodge

Fitzwilliam Hotel

Tinode House

Sleeping

Tinode House

Best for a B&B option
(tinodehouse.com; 170 Upper Drumcondra Rd)

This comfortable Edwardian townhouse has four elegant bedrooms, all with bathrooms. A friendly welcome and excellent breakfast, including a full Irish, are part of the package. It's in easy driving distance of the Botanic Gardens, Malahide Castle and Newbridge House. It also has a well-kept garden with a patio, mature trees and wisteria.

£ Aberdeen Lodge

Best for peace and elegance
(aberdeenedgedublin.com; 53–55 Park Ave)

Not only is this absolutely one of Dublin's best guesthouses, but it's also a carefully guarded secret, known only to those who dare stay a short train ride away from the city centre. Their reward is a luxurious house with a level of personalised service as good as you'd find in one of the city's top hotels. Rooms are spacious and have large windows.

££ Fitzwilliam Hotel

Best for a fashionable postcode
(fitzwilliamhoteldublin.com; St Stephen's Green)

You couldn't pick a more prestigious spot on the Dublin Monopoly board than this elegant and minimalist Sir Terence Conran-designed number overlooking St Stephen's Green. Ask for a corner room on the fifth floor (502 or 508), with a balcony and view. The in-house Glovers Alley restaurant serves Modern Irish cuisine.

£££



FURTHER READING

Pick up our *Dublin* city guide (£13.99) or download the eBook (£9.79) or separate chapters (£2.99 each) from shop.lonelyplanet.com.