

One Day in a City

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-Gina

GETTING INTO DUBLIN

A key to making the most of your day in Dublin is getting into the city center as quickly as possible. Most people arrive to Dublin via three different methods.

By Air: Dublin's Airport is located just 10 miles from Dublin's city center and is served by the world's largest airlines and budget European airlines. Once arrived, the easiest and quickest way into the city (if not taking a taxi, which costs around €25) is the Aircoach.

By Ferry

If coming to Dublin from Great Britain or France, you may wish to do so via ferry, which can be a cheaper way to get to the city rather than flying (though not always thanks to budget airlines like Ryanair and EasyJet). Once you arrive in Dublin, you'll already be in the city center and can take an easy train or taxi ride to your starting destination. Ferry's typically leave from Holyhead or Pembroke in Wales, or Cherbourg or Roscoff in France.

By Car

If coming from a different area of Ireland, or arriving on a car ferry from one of the nearby countries across the sea, you'll find Dublin to be a surprisingly car-friendly city compared to other European cities. Since Dublin has been mostly rebuilt since the 1960s, the roads aren't as narrow as some European cities and the roadways are well marked. Note that when driving into Dublin on the M50, you'll be charged a toll fee without possibly knowing it since instead of having a toll both, Dublin takes a photo of your car and you have to pay the €3.10 toll charge online (www.eflow.ie) by 8 p.m. the following day.

GETTING AROUND DUBLIN

LUAS

Dublin's light rail tram system, the LUAS, isn't as extensive as most city rail systems in Europe, but that's because it's not really needed. Dublin is a bit more car friendly than most cities in Europe plus it's easy to walk around. Still, if you need to get from one side of the city center to the other, the LUAS tram is much cheaper than a taxi and you may be glad to hop on it to get around quickly and avoid aching feet. The LUAS has two lines: the Green line, which operates on the eastern side of the city and runs from Brides Glen in the outskirts of the city to St. Stephen's Green in the heart of Dublin. The Red line operates on the western and northern ends of Dublin, and will conveniently take you to the city's harbor. One-way tickets for the LUAS range from €1.70 to €2.90 depending on the zones crossed.

DART

The Dublin Area Rapid Transit (DART) is the main railway connecting the center of Dublin with the surrounding coastal counties. You most likely won't need to use this method of transportation unless staying outside the city center (which if you love rugged ocean views may be the ideal choice for you). If you are staying in one of these coastal towns, then the DART is often an extremely convenient method to get to and from the city center. A day ticket for the DART, which also includes the LUAS which you can hop on while in Dublin's city center is €11.80.

Walking

Dublin is a very walkable city. Most top sites are within a 25 minute walking distance radius. When walking, remember to look right, left, right before crossing the street as Ireland drives on the left hand side of the street.

A NOTE ON DRIVING IN DUBLIN

Though driving is relatively easy in Dublin, parking (as in most big cities) can be a bit more complicated. To save yourself the hassle of driving around looking for parking or getting stuck in some traffic congestion, keep your car parked at your hotel and walk or use public transportation to get around Dublin's city center.

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