

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

# Insider Guides **Dublin Music & Dance**

Dublin has long been regarded as a musical Mecca, which attracts people from all over the world.

There seems to be an innate rhythm in us, inherent from our ancestors from a time of famine and poverty, when all we had was our music. Just stroll along the streets of Dublin, and you'll soon be walking to the melody of the city.

A huge draw to Dublin for people is to experience real Irish traditional music, or as the locals call it; 'Trad'. You will be enchanted by the diverse musical sounds as you stroll through Temple Bar and Grafton Street as buskers and street performers entertain and enliven the streets. Remember to look twice as regular 'buskers' on Grafton Street can include Rodrigo y Gabriela, Damien Rice, Glen Hansard, Sinead O'Connor and Bono!

Irish traditional music is fast paced and 'toe tappingly' lively incorporating many of Ireland's wonderful and unique instruments. With the use of tin whistle's, fiddles, accordions, guitars and Irish circular drums called Bodhráns (pronounced Bow-Rahn) you'll be mesmerized and thrilled by the intricate skill and rhythm of the musicians and dancers. If you want a good old trad session pop into **Oliver St. John Gogarty's in Temple Bar**, or **O'Donoghues Bar** on Merrion Row. Venture a little further afield to **Johnnie Fox's Pub** and not only will you enjoy one of the best trad sessions in Dublin, but you will also have visited the highest pub in Dublin! The Dublin **Traditional Irish Music Pub Crawl** offers visitors and locals alike the opportunity to get hands on in this musical trek across the city complete with two professional musicians as your hosts. For a truly unique introduction to one of Ireland's most sacred of traditions of music and song you won't be disappointed on one of the most memorable nights in Dublin.

Since its first performance in the 1994 Eurovision Song Contest held in Dublin, the world has been captivated by 'Riverdance', an astounding spectacle

of Irish music and dance. The show now returns to the **Gaiety Theatre** every summer to entertain audiences. Other enchanting performances of Irish dancing, accompanied by traditional Irish dinner may be enjoyed at the **Arlington Hotels** seven nights a week or at the **Merry Ploughboy Pub**, located south of the city.

Regardless of your musical taste, in Dublin you're definitely spoiled for choice for music venues. Dublin city has one of the highest concentrations of pubs and clubs in the world many of which on a regular basis will be packed to the rafters enjoying some of the many sounds of the city. Favourite spots amongst the locals are the old styled **O'Neills** on Suffolk St, and **Whelan's** or **The Village** where up and coming bands often test their material and their musical merits to enthusiastic audiences! Or why not check out **The Session with the Pipers** in The Cobblestone Pub in Smithfield for some trad music recitals.

Dublin is home to more than a few musical legends, and our pub scene is indicative of this. **Ronnie Drew** from the Dubliner's began his career as a regular pub performer. **Phil Lynott** has been immortalised as his statue stands proudly outside **Bruxelles** just off Grafton Street, so when you're enjoying a pint, al fresco, you can raise your glass to Phil! **U2** have a very special relationship with Dublin city, as the band has been as good to the city, as Dubliners have been to U2. We are as proud of them as we would be our brother, nephew, father or friend, and the city's heart beats just a little louder when they come home to perform! The original **Windmill Lane Studios** or 'U2 studios' as they are often known, have long since relocated but the original studios, although derelict, are still a popular cult symbol for U2 fans to visit.

The Irish culture is greatly influenced by our love of all things musical whether its dance or song. Every year, Dublin becomes the pinnacle hot spot for the musical festival circuit bringing in some of the best talent in the country and even Europe. **Dublin City Soul Festival**, **Dublin Dance Festival**, **DLR Festival of World Culture**, **The Waltons Guitar Festival** and **Temple Bar Tradfest** are just to name a few.

Dublin is a prime European city for concerts, most of which are held in the newly refurbished O2 arena. A large variety of well-known international singers and bands perform here on a regular basis. As well as pop and rock concerts, Dublin has two of its own opera festivals, the **DLR Glasthule Opera Festival** held in the Pavilion Theatre every June and the **Anna Livia Opera Festival** held in the Gaiety Theatre every September. For lovers of classical music, the **National Concert Hall** stages enchanting performances every evening.

So whatever type of musical genre you want to sample, Dublin is sure not to disappoint. So make sure you pack your dancing shoes, and be ready to engulf yourself in the music that the streets inspire and the people evoke.

For more information on music and dance venues, as well as festivals and events check out our website at:

[www.visitdublin.com/events](http://www.visitdublin.com/events)

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DUBLIN DANCE FESTIVAL



DANCERS ON STAGE AT OLD JAMESON DISTILLERY



BONO



TRAD SESSION



TEMPLE BAR TRAD FEST

# top tips

## Places of Interest

### Oliver St. John Gogarty's

Fleet Street and Anglesea Street, Temple Bar, Dublin  
Tel: 00353 1 671 1822  
www.gogarty's.ie  
View online map

### The Session with the Pipers

The Cobblestone Pub, Smithfield, Dublin 7  
Tel: 00353 1 873 0093  
www.pipers.ie  
View online map

### The Brazen Head

20 Bridge Street Lower, Dublin 8  
Tel: 00353 1 677 9549  
Fax: 00353 1 670 4042  
www.brazenhead.com  
View online map

### Arlington Hotels

23-25 Bachelor's Walk, O'Connell Bridge  
Tel: 00353 1 804 9100  
Fax: 00353 1 804 9152  
Lord Edward Street, Temple Bar  
Tel: 00353 1 670 8777  
Fax: 00353 1 670 8787  
www.arlington.ie  
View online map

### Merry Ploughboy Pub

Rockbrook, Edmonstown Road, Rathfarnham  
Tel: 00353 1 493 1495  
View online map

### Johnnie Fox's Pub

Glencullen, Co. Dublin  
Tel: 00353 1 295 5647  
Fax: 00353 1 295 8911  
www.jfp.ie  
View online map

### Bruxelles

7/8 Harry Street, Dublin 2  
Tel: 00353 1 679 0525  
Email: info@bruxelles.ie  
www.bruxelles.ie  
View online map

### U2 Studios

Windmill Lane, Dublin 2 (Original location)  
20 Ringsend Road, Ringsend, Dublin 4 (New location)  
Tel: 00353 1 6685567  
www.windmillanerecording.com  
View online map

### Temple Bar Trad Fest (Every January)

www.templebartrad.com  
View online map

### Dublin Dance Festival (Every May)

www.dublindancefestival.ie  
View online map

### Street Performers World Championships (Every June)

www.spwc.ie  
View online map

### McNeill's Music Shop

140 Capel Street, Dublin 1  
Tel: 00353 1 872 8530  
Email: mcneils2010@live.com  
View online map

### Musical Pub Crawl

Oliver St. John Gogarty's, Temple Bar, Dublin 2  
Tel: 00353 1 4753313  
www.discoverdublin.ie/musicalpubcrawl.html  
View online map

### Irish House Party

The Landsdowne Hotel, 27 Pembroke Road, Dublin 4  
Tel: 01 6618410  
www.theirishhouseparty.ie  
View online map

### Irish Dance Party

Oliver St. John Gogarty's, Temple Bar, Dublin 2  
Tel: 00353 (0)87 6560952  
www.irishdanceparty.com  
View online map

### Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Eireann

32 Belgrave Square, Monkstown, Co. Dublin  
Tel: 00353 1 2800295  
Fax: 00353 1 2803759  
www.comhaltas.ie  
View online map

### Shindig Night at the Old Jameson Distillery

Bow Street, Smithfield, Dublin 7  
Tel: 00353 1 8072355  
Fax: 00353 1 8072369  
www.jamesonwhiskey.com/ojd  
View online map

### National Concert Hall

Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2  
Tel: 00353 1 417 0000  
Fax: 00353 1 478 6008  
www.nch.ie  
View online map

## Map key

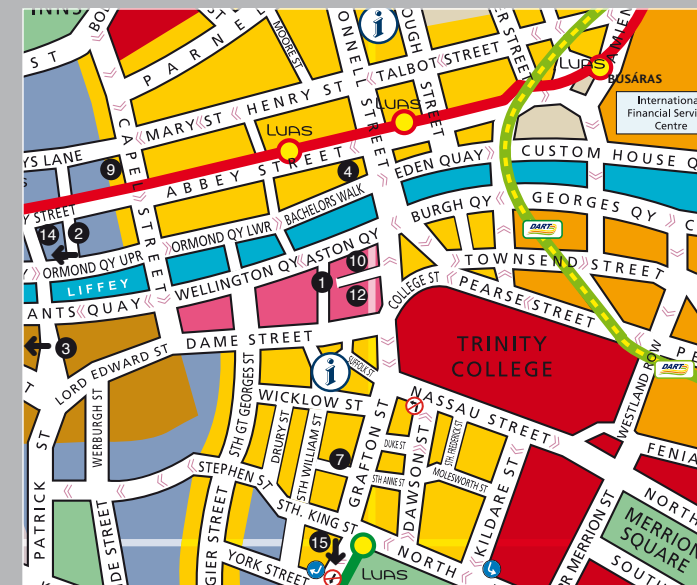
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# maps

## Dublin County



## City centre



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See www.visitdublin.com/gettingaround for information on transport links.