

Dublin, Did you know...?

Dublin
CONVENTION BUREAU

PROMOTING DUBLIN AS A WORLD
CLASS BUSINESS DESTINATION

- Dublin is over 1,000 years old and was originally a Viking settlement.
- A UNESCO City of Literature, home to the Book of Kells, birthplace of James Joyce and home to four Nobel Prize winners: William Butler Yeats, George Bernard Shaw and Samuel Beckett and Seamus Heaney, Dublin is truly an inspirational city with a literary tradition that dates back over a thousand years.
- Ten million glasses of Guinness - the famous 'black pint' from Dublin - are produced daily all over the world.



- The Choir School in St. Patrick's Cathedral was founded in 1432, sixty years before Columbus discovered America.
- 48% of Dublin's population is under thirty five years of age.
- The phrase 'chancing your arm' originated in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, where you had to put your hand into a hole to open the Medieval Chapter House door.
- The Phoenix Park Dublin is the largest city park in Europe.
- The Irish Parliament voted itself out of existence in 1801 (when the British and Irish Governments were united in London) - the only recorded parliament in history to do so.
- The remains of St. Valentine are contained in Whitefriar Street Carmelite Church, on Aungier Street in Dublin.
- George Bernard Shaw bequeathed the royalties of his play 'Pygmalion' - better known world-wide as the musical My Fair Lady - to the National Gallery of Ireland. He is also the only person in the world to have a Nobel Prize and an Oscar, both of which he received for Pygmalion.
- The Rotunda Hospital in Dublin was the first maternity hospital in Europe.
- The first chapter of Ulysses by James Joyce is set in the Martello Tower in Sandycove, now open to the public as the James Joyce Museum.
- Ulysses has been voted Number 1 in the many of the world's Top 100 novels of the 20th century lists and it's author, James Joyce has two museums dedicated to him, a bridge across the River Liffey and features in many of the exhibits in The Dublin Writers Museum.
- Handel first publicly performed Messiah in Dublin on April 13th 1742 - in a music hall on Fishamble Street with 26 boys and 5 men from the St Patrick's Christchurch choir cathedrals taking part in the production. He nearly didn't have enough musicians to pull it off because the dean of St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin (the famed author of Gulliver's Travels, Jonathan Swift) at first refused to allow his choristers to perform music set to sacred text in a secular setting of a public music hall. Lucky for Handel he later relented. The chair is now on display in The Writers Musuem in Dublin.



- Kavanagh's pub in Glasnevin (also known as the Gravediggers) has been run by the same family since 1833. The pub gains its nickname from its location next to Glasnevin graveyard, where the gravediggers used to knock on the back wall of the pub to ask for a pint which would be then be served through a hole in the wall linking the pub and the graveyard.

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- Abraham "Bram" Stoker who wrote the famous novel Dracula, was born in 1847 in Clontarf, a suburb of Dublin. The title of the book is said to come from the Irish words droch-fhoula (pronounced "droc-ola") which means "bad blood"
- Dublin has two different names in the Irish Language. Dublin is derived from the Old Irish Gaelic "Dubh Linn", which has its literal meaning "Black Pool". The Dubh Linn was used by the Vikings to moor their trading ships. Dublin is also called "Baile Atha Cliath" in Gaelic, meaning "town of the hurdled ford and dates back to the 9th century."
- The prestigious "Oscar" statuette used at the Academy Awards was designed by MGM's art director Cedric Gibbons, who was born in Dublin in 1823.
- The lion who roars at the start of every MGM movie was born in Dublin Zoo in 1927. Although MGM called him 'Leo' his actual name was Cairbre.
- There are over 50 golf courses in Dublin City and County.



- Trinity College is built on reclaimed land from the estuary of the River Liffey.
- Some famous graduates of Trinity College are Bram Stoker, Oscar Wilde and Jonathan Swift.
- In December 1759, Arthur Guinness signed a 9,000 year lease at a rent of £45 for the Guinness Brewery.
- Dublin has five Georgian Squares: Parnell, Mountjoy, Merrion, Fitzwilliam and St Stephens Green.
- Dublin has a total of 14 Martello Towers dotting its coastline. They were originally built to withstand a Napoleonic invasion which actually never happened!

- Percy French was married in the Pepper Canister Church.
- Trinity College students, who were prohibited from playing games by the College Statutes in 1628, played bowls outside college on the present site of St. Andrew's Church – the Dublin Tourism Centre – near the Front Gate.
- The phrase 'chancing your arm' originated in St. Patrick's Cathedral, where you had to put your hand into a hole to open the Medieval Chapter House door.
- The Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral was Jonathan Swift, author of Gullivers Travels.
- Dublin's O'Connell Bridge was originally made of rope and could only carry one man and a donkey at a time. It was replaced with a wooden structure in 1801. The current concrete bridge was built in 1863 and it is the only traffic bridge in Europe which is wider than it is long.
- Croke Park's Hill 16 was constructed from the rubble left in Sackville Street (now O'Connell Street) after the 1916 Rising. Croke Park is the 4th largest sports stadium in Europe with a capacity of 82,500!
- Dublin's Ha'Penny Bridge is thus called because pedestrians had to pay a half penny toll to walk over it.
- Malahide Castle is said to be haunted by a eight different ghosts. On the morning of the Battle of the Boyne in 1690, 14 members of the Talbot family breakfasted together in the Great Hall. All 14 were dead by nightfall!
- Ireland's most famous rockers, U2, started out busking on Dublin's Grafton Street.
- Lawrence of Arabia was born in Dublin.

