



For over 700 years, Dublin lived under foreign domination. But that is no longer the case. In 1921, Ireland became an independent Republic and Dublin became its political and economic capital. In 1973, Ireland joined the European Economic Community and Dublin became a center of international commerce. Irish



immigration, which had seen the departure of over a quarter of the island's population, went into reverse. Irish men and women whose families had lived abroad for generations started coming home. Today, Dublin is a fashionable destination for tourists from all over the world and in 2005 it had the highest per capita income in Europe.

Dublin's history goes back for over 7,000 years. Stone Age hunters and gatherers had been living in the neighborhood for over 5,000 years when Celtic tribes arrived in 300 BC. The Celts were barbarian tribes that had taken over most of Europe. To this day, Gaelic, which is one of the ancient Celtic languages, is the second language in Ireland. Street signs are in both English and Gaelic.

As the Celts spread out over Ireland they built their Dublin settlement at the point where the Poddle River joined the Liffey River. The spot was marked by a dark pool of water or black pool which in Celtic was called a dubh-linn, and it is from this black pool that Dublin takes its name.



HERE COME THE VIKINGS

Starting in the 7th century, the population of Scandinavia expanded so quickly that the land could no longer feed the people living on it. The Scandinavians solved the problem by raiding other communities and Ireland was a favorite destination. They became notorious as the Vikings.

Their flat-bottomed boats made it possible for them to travel up shallow rivers where undefended Irish monasteries were easy targets.

It's not that the Vikings had anything special against Christian monks; it was simply that the Irish monasteries had all the good stuff. The hit and run raiders who specialized in the Dublin area came from Norway. They enjoyed the hitting part but the running part was really not that interesting.

So in 842 they captured the harbor of Dublin, built a fort on the ridge that is now the site of Dublin Castle and made the transition from raiding to trading. Dublin became the largest Viking settlement in the North Atlantic and strategically important to their trade between Russia and the Mediterranean.

Viking history is central to Dublin's past and The National Museum of Ireland has an impressive collection of Viking objects.

Vikings would take pieces of Christian artwork and chop them up for re-use. The Vikings were particularly interested in silver and used it in their jewelry as well as more utilitarian objects.

Over the years, the Viking warriors married local Celtic women and blended their Nordic gods into Christianity. The craftwork of the period shows the interaction of both Christian and Celtic symbols.

ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL

Dublin's St. Patrick's Cathedral was founded in 1191 and is one of the oldest Christian sites in



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The Royal Dublin Society was founded in 1731 to promote the development of agriculture, the arts, science and industry in Ireland. And at the edge of the society's gardens is the Four Seasons Hotel which is where I stayed while I was in Dublin.

The public rooms are rather elegant and designed for informal gatherings. The Lobby Lounge offers a traditional afternoon tea. In 2003, the hotel commissioned one of the largest private collections of original art by leading Irish artists. The work was then translated into tapestries that are on permanent display in the bar called ICE. The other art on display is the art of Irish Whiskey. The hotel has one of the largest Irish whiskey collections in the country.

The rooms are elegant which is what you would expect in a truly deluxe hotel, but they have an assortment of special things that I get a kick out of. The mattress in every Four Seasons Hotel is made to a unique set of specifications as are the comforters and pillows.

They have become so popular that many guests have purchased them and brought them home.



Ireland. The land where it stands was originally an island where two branches of the Poddle River came together.

A Celtic cross preserved in the southwest corner of the nave once marked the site of an ancient well used by St. Patrick to baptize converts.

By the middle of the 1800s the building had become rather dilapidated and was restored by Sir Benjamin Guinness of the Guinness brewery. Inside there is a stained glass window—a gift from the Guinness family. At the bottom of the window are the words, "I was thirsty and ye gave me drink."— Clearly a reference to the role of religion, but not a bad thought for the owner of the world's most famous brewery.



PULLING THE PERFECT PINT

St. Patrick has a very special relationship with Guinness. During the 5th century St. Patrick marked a series of wells as holy and used their waters in his rituals. The one called St. James's well fed into the Grand Canal which was the source of water for Guinness. Its unusually pure water was believed

to be the secret ingredient in Guinness.

The St. James's Gate brewery opened in 1759. Arthur Guinness was only 34 at the time but he must have had a sense of destiny—the lease he signed for his original building ran for 9,000 years at an annual rate of 45 pounds which today would be about \$50.



Today, Guinness is available in 150 countries and 70 million glasses are sold every week. And they still have over 8,750 years left on their lease.

The Guinness Storehouse, a museum devoted to the story of Guinness has become the number one attraction for visitors to Ireland.

There is a detailed explanation of how Guinness is brewed. How it became a world-wide export. And the story of Arthur Guinness.

The tour concludes on the top floor, where the bar offers a 360 degree view of the city and a pint of what is probably the world's best tasting Guinness, having made the shortest trip possible between production and consumption. In the world of Guinness, drawing a glass from a tap is called "pulling a pint" and there is an art to the task.

GUINNESS BOOK OF WORLD RECORDS

Guinness is famous for its porter but perhaps

Dublin, Ireland

even more famous as the publisher of The Guinness Book of Records.

It was the idea of Sir Hugh Beaver who was the Managing Director of Guinness in the 1950s.

One day Sir Hugh was out hunting birds and missed his shot. Later that evening he got into a discussion as to which game bird flew the fastest, which gave him the idea of compiling a book of facts that would serve as a definitive reference book.



A book that would settle the nightly debates that took place in the 81,000 pubs scattered throughout Britain and Ireland. The first edition was published in 1955 and contained thousands of interesting facts; however, they forgot to include the fastest flying game bird.

That error was corrected in the second edition. Ducks and geese are the fastest flying land birds. Since then the Guinness Book of Records has sold more copies than any other copy written book. Only the bible beats it on a regular basis.

For sheer delight you might want to know that the largest group hug was undertaken by 5,117 students, staff and friends from St. Matthew High School in Ontario, Canada on April 23rd, 2004. They

hugged each other for at least 10 seconds. It was a tribute to the love Canadians feel for their fellow man, or a response to the cold spring weather or a publicity stunt for a deodorant—your call.

HERE COME THE NORMANS

The Normans were the grandchildren of the Vikings who had settled in northwestern France, a part of France which is still called Normandy. In 1066, the Normans popped across the channel and conquered England.

A century later, an Irish regional king named Dermot MacMurrough lost his throne to a neighboring chief. Dermot was a distant relative of King Henry of England and he called Henry for help.



Henry had been thinking about extending his realm into Ireland so Dermot's request was perfectly timed. On the 1st of May 1169, the Anglo-Norman invasion took place.

The lightly armed Irish were no match for the heavy cavalry, highly trained infantry and crossbows of the Normans. Dublin was captured by the English and held for the next 750 years.

In return for Henry's help, Dermot promised to let Henry rule Ireland. And to sweeten the deal, Dermot threw in his eldest daughter, Aoife. I understand it was an offer you couldn't refuse.

Henry granted all of Ireland to his son John, naming him "Lord of Ireland". John is remembered for his oppressive government, perpetual dishonesty, and boundless ego. And those were his good qualities.

DUBLIN CASTLE

Most of Henry's men had come from the southwest of England and Wales. In order to keep them loyal, Henry exempted Dublin's tradesmen from tolls and taxes. The city soon became the hot spot to make a buck.

But the Anglo-Norman inhabitants or Old English as they had come to be called were afraid of the Irish who surrounded their city and reluctant to

THE PERFECT PINT

- 1 USE A CLEAN COOL PINT GLASS.**
- 2 TIP THE GLASS AT A 45 DEGREE ANGLE.**
- 3 PULL THE TAP THE WHOLE WAY DOWN TOWARDS YOU.**
- 4 STRAIGHTEN THE GLASS UP AS IT FILLS, AND STOP WHEN IT REACHES THE 1759 MARK ON THE GLASS (ABOUT 75%).**
- 5 LET IT SIT AND SETTLE (ABOUT 2 MINUTES).**
- 6 AFTER THE GLASS SETTLES, FILL THE GLASS TO THE RIM BY PUSHING THE TAP AWAY FROM YOU.**
- 7 SERVE.**



share any of their newly acquired wealth. They instituted a system of racial segregation that discouraged traditional Irish culture.



In 1204 in order to keep his treasure in and the Irish out Henry authorized the construction of a Dublin fortress. It was situated at a strategically important site that guarded the harbor and the four long-distance roadways that converged nearby. It was known as Dublin Castle.

Recent excavations on the castle grounds have unearthed an ancient Viking embankment and a section of a tower that was built during the 13th century.

In 1537, Henry VIII realized that political authority and religious authority were so tightly intertwined that one could not be exercised without the other. To reduce Papal authority over the Catholic Church in Ireland, Henry VIII introduced the Act of Supremacy which made him the head of the Church in Ireland. Then he dissolved the monasteries and gave their lands to his Anglo-Irish supporters.

By the middle of the 1600s, the Castle had become the control center for a group of powerful, experienced and able Protestant-English



Lords who were determined to benefit from the spoils of the reformation. The term "Dublin Castle" came into general use as a

metaphor for the English administration, and the building itself as the prime symbol of English misrule in Ireland.

Standing at the entrance to the castle is a statue representing Justice holding her scales. Dubliners are quick to point out that she faces the Castle having turned her back to the nation.

Catholics were not the only group to be persecuted, the English government extended its discriminatory laws to all non-Anglicans including Presbyterians and Quakers who immigrated to the

North American colonies by the thousands. In fact, eleven American Presidents were descendants of Ulster Protestant pioneers. Plus one American king—Elvis Presley.

The Castle was an indispensable part of the town's defense and the most important fortification in Ireland. For seven hundred years it functioned as the seat of English colonial rule and the center of military, political and social affairs.

In 1922, it was the site for the hand over to the new Irish State.

TRINITY COLLEGE

In 1592, Queen Elizabeth I established Trinity College. On the surface it looked like a generous contribution to the intellectual life of the city. But in reality, it was an attempt to keep the Anglo-Irish nobles from sending their children to Catholic schools in Europe. At the heart of the college is its great library.

The English Copyright Act gave the college the right to claim one copy of every book, pamphlet, map and periodical



published in the British Isles. And this privilege has continued—the library receives over 100,000 books each year, which means that almost every work of value is permanently preserved for use by future generations.

THE BOOK OF KELLS

The most valuable item in The Trinity Library, and the reason hundreds of thousand of visitors come here each year, is the Book of Kells.

The Book of Kells is considered to be Ireland's greatest cultural treasure and contains the Latin text of the four Gospels. It was created in 810 by a group of monks who used it as an aid to devotion. The inks used came from many parts of Europe and Asia which means that the monks were involved in a fare amount of international trade. They were also more interested in the quality of the illustrations than the accuracy of the text.

The book is filled with errors which are marked off with boxes and dots. It was difficult to produce a perfect page in the years before spell check.



The book has a great emphasis on the symbols of the Evangelists.

Matthew shown as a man, Mark as a lion, Luke as a calf

and John as an eagle.

Each Gospel opens with an elaborate ornamental page in which the text is submerged in the design. Brightly colored animals and human figures are woven into the capital letters at the beginning of the text.

A second manuscript of importance in the Trinity Library is the Book of Armagh which was written in 807. It is the only example of the entire Latin text of the New Testament in the form in which it was used in the Celtic Church. The Book of Armagh also contains St. Patrick's Confession in which he tells his life story.

THE IRISH HARP

In addition to its books, the Library contains a classic carved Irish harp. It was thought to have belonged to Brian Boru, a High King of Ireland during the 11th century.

Scientific analysis of the instrument, however, marks it as having been put together about 400 years after Brian's death so it is somewhat unlikely that he owned it.



The harp became the national symbol of Ireland. You find it on Irish coins, on Irish passports, and even on bottles of Irish lager.


PUB CULTURE

The places where people come together are divided by sociologists into three categories. The first is your home, the second is the place where



you work and the third is a neighborhood hangout where people from the area come to talk, to reduce the stress of

WHERE'S THE CRAIC?



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daily life and to be together with other people.

In Ireland the third group is made up primarily of public houses commonly known as pubs. Very often the local pub is a focal point in the community—the secular counterbalance to the church. Of course, the spirit one confronts in a pub is considerably different from the spirit you find in a church but the sense of group can be similar.

Paul O'Toole is the director of the organization responsible for promoting tourism to Ireland and part of his responsibility was taking me on a tour of the pubs of Dublin.

We started in the Temple Bar district which is a maze of narrow winding streets that run up from the bank of the Liffey River and was the site of a 10th century Viking settlement.



The area is named after Sir William Temple who was the provost of Trinity College in the 17th century.

The objective of our meandering was the Auld Dubliner which is famous for its music.

We ended our tour at The Stag's Head which was

opened in 1770 and refurbished in 1895. It is a perfect example of a Victorian pub: bottle glass windows, wrought iron chandeliers, red leather seats, the mounted stag's head, and partitioned areas for those who prefer privacy.

THE TIME OF THE FOUR GEORGES

The 18th century was a great time for Dublin, especially when it came to architecture. It was a period known as the time of the Four Georges—a reference to four kings of England all named George who ruled from 1711 to 1830. The areas around St. Stephens Green, Marion and Fitzwilliam squares date to this time. Georgian architecture was a reaction to the ornate designs of the baroque—a return to the simpler styles of classical Greece and Rome.

In 1756 the government of Dublin established the Wide Streets Commission which was probably the first modern committee for town planning. The commission had the authority to purchase any property which they deemed essential for their task. If the residents of a building did not cooperate with the commission, the commission's



workmen would arrive in the middle of the night and "unroof" the building.

The Georgian architects who

worked in Dublin were unusual—they not only built private homes like the Georgian architects in England and the American colonies, but in Dublin they also designed magnificent public buildings. The Customs House was built in 1791 and is considered to be a magnificent example of 18th century architecture.

It was also a golden age for music. In 1742, the composer Fredrick Handel arrived in Dublin and presented his Messiah. It was first offered at the Charitable Music Society's Hall. Because so many people planned to attend that first performance, and the space was so small, a public announcement was made, requesting



ladies not wear hooped petticoats, and gentlemen to leave their swords at home.

Dublin has become one of the most important cities in Europe and is more attractive for tourists than ever before.

The accommodations are world class, the food is excellent, the social life is compelling, and Irish hospitality is as welcoming as ever.

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