

Londonderry dates back to the 6th century and is the second-largest city in Northern Ireland. The city is known by many names: Doire is the Irish name meaning “oak grove,” Derry is the English version of the Irish name, King James I granted the city a Royal Charter in 1613 and added the “London” prefix to make Londonderry (its official name), and it is now fondly referred to by locals as “Legenderry.”

Whichever name you choose, this city is the only completely walled city in Ireland and the British Isles, surrounded by walls over 400 years old. The **City Walls** are completely intact and form a walkway around the inner city from which there are nice views. Derry withstood several sieges, including one that lasted 105 days, and the walls were never breached. The city also boasts Europe’s largest collection of cannons. In 2005, the 24 cannons were restored and are now displayed along the city walls.

The **Workhouse Museum** contains an exhibition about the role the city played in the Battle of the Atlantic during World War II, as well as other exhibits on Workhouse life and the Great Famine.

The **Tower Museum** has a permanent exhibition on a Spanish Armada shipwreck. It also has an exhibit on the history of the city from its geological formation millions of years ago to the present day, covering topics such as monasticism, the Plantation, the Siege of Derry and the Troubles.

The **Museum of Free Derry** in the Bogside tells the story of the city’s living history: government oppression, the struggle for civil rights, the Battle of the Bogside, Internment and Bloody Sunday.

The **Apprentice Boys Memorial Hall** was built to commemorate the anniversaries of the shutting of the gates and the Relief of the City. The Siege of Derry celebrations take place here each year.

Saint Columb’s Cathedral was built in 1633 and was the first cathedral built in the British Isles after the Reformation. It is the oldest and most historic building in Derry.



The **Guildhall** was built in a neo-Gothic style and serves as a civic center. It also has one of the largest and most striking collections of stained glass windows in Ireland, which recently underwent major restoration.

The Murals are located throughout the city and depict life through “The Troubles.” Some of the murals are located on Rossville Street and provide a window into the politics, people and history of Northern Ireland. The majority of the murals reflect events that occurred in the Bogside in the past, but the Peace Mural looks to the future with its image of a dove. The Fountain Estate is the location of one of the oldest King Billy murals, with many murals in the area linked to the famous Siege of Derry in 1689. The Bond Street area also offers an extensive range of wall murals.



History

Derry is one of the oldest continuously inhabited places in Ireland. The earliest historical references date to the sixth century when a monastery was founded by Saint Columba. The town frequently came under attack during the Tudor conquest of Ireland. In 1608 it was attacked by Sir Cahir O’Doherty during a rebellion and burnt to the ground.

In 1610 the city was transferred by the English Crown to The Honorable The Irish Society when planters arrived to establish the Plantation of Ulster. The city's walls were built to defend it from Irish insurgents who opposed the plantation.

During the Irish Rebellion of 1641, Irish insurgents made a failed attack on the city, and in 1649, the city was besieged by Scottish Presbyterian forces loyal to King Charles I. The Siege of Derry took place during the Glorious Revolution. It began on December 7, 1688 and lasted until the end of July the following year.

In the 18th and 19th centuries the port became an important location for Irish emigrants setting out for North America. It also served as a destination for migrants fleeing areas severely affected by the Irish Potato Famine.

During the Irish War of Independence (1919-21) there was extreme sectarian violence, mostly fueled by the guerrilla war between the Irish Republican Army and British forces. In 1920, during the riots, many people lost their lives and many Catholics and Protestants were expelled from their homes. With the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty and the Partition of Ireland, Derry unexpectedly became a border city.

During World War II, the city played an important role as a naval base. It was the Allies' westernmost port and a crucial location from the shipping convoys that ran between Europe and North America.

After the war, Catholics were discriminated against under Unionist government in Northern Ireland, both politically and economically. A civil rights demonstration in 1968 was banned by the government and blocked using force. The events that followed the August 1969 Apprentice Boys parade led to the Battle of the Bogside, and are often cited as the starting point of the Troubles. Catholic rioters fought the police which led to widespread civil disorder across Northern Ireland. On "Bloody Sunday," January 30, 1972, British paratroopers shot and killed 13 unarmed civilians during a civil rights march in the Bogside area.

After the Battle of the Bogside, rioting and clashes with police occurred in Derry on a somewhat regular basis. As the level of violence rose across Northern Ireland, the government introduced internment without trial in 1971. Though paramilitary violence came from both sides, the internment was directed almost exclusively at republicans, which led to more outrage and rioting. Eventually, much of the Bogside was barricaded and controlled by the IRA. This and other no-go zones lasted until the British army sent a massive force (equal to approximately 4% of its entire army) to the area to wrest control from the IRA. Riots and disputes with the British army continued through the 80s and early 90s.

Though this violent history is well documented in the city's museums, the tone in Derry is hopeful as it looks to the future to build a new image. This is symbolized by the **Peace Bridge**, a pedestrian and cycling bridge that spans the River Foyle. The two structural arms point in opposite directions and symbolize the unification of the two communities from opposite sides of the river and opposing viewpoints, the Protestant Waterside and the Nationalist Bogside. There are seats along the bridge where people stop and watch the river go by and it has become a modern day place of pilgrimage.





Map Key

	Tourist Information		Public Toilet
	Pedestrianised Area		Free WiFi
	Mural Areas		Left Luggage
	Railway Line		Riverside Walk
	Post Office		Language School
	Car Park		Accommodation Bookings
	Art Gallery		TransLink Ticket Agent
	Pedestrian Access to Walls		Bureau de Change
	Wheelchair Access to Walls		Gift Shop
	Cycle Hire		Walking Tours
	National Cycle Network		Open Top Bus Tour
	Taxi Rank		Ambassadors
			Taxi Tours