



Dublin Walking Tour – Final- September 2023

Hop on the LUAS RED line and ride North across the Liffey and up O'Connell Street. Get off at the top of O'Connell Street Upper. Cross the street, and head uphill toward the tall, slender spire of the Abbey Presbyterian Church, about 400 meters. Walk up the left side of the road beyond the Gate Theatre. Find the Garden of Remembrance on your left.

Enter the garden, and feel free to walk around while I tell you about this place.

THE GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE

The Garden of Remembrance was once a pleasure garden connected to the nearby Rotunda Hospital.

In 1966, 50 years after the Easter Rising, President Éamon De Valera officially opened this memorial garden to commemorate the lives of all those who died during Ireland's struggle to gain independence. It was designed to be a place of quiet remembrance and reflection. Additionally, it is constructed on the spot where some of the Easter Rising leaders were held before being carted off to Kilmainham Gaol and their execution.

Have a look at the reflecting pool. The pool is in the shape of a cross, recognizing Ireland's Christian heritage. There is even more symbolism here. Notice the wavy mosaic tiles emulating the island's many rivers. At the bottom, find ancient weapons, a sword, a spear, and a shield designed to represent the old Celtic tradition of breaking weapons and throwing them into the water as an offering to the gods to end hostilities.

The bronze statue at the end of the pool describes a pagan legend of four siblings in the agonizing process of changing from mere mortals to swans. The sculptor, Oisín Kelly, used this well-known fable to couple visually with W.B. Yeats's poem "*Easter 1916*" with the famous line, "*All is changed, changed utterly: A terrible beauty is born,*" prompting us to reflect on the atrocities of war and the birth of the Irish nation.

Nearby is a bronze plaque with the words of another poem titled "*We Saw A Vision,*" penned by Liam Mac Uistin in 1977.

"We Saw A Vision"

*In the darkness of despair we saw a vision,
We lit the light of hope and it was not extinguished.
In the desert of discouragement we saw a vision.
We planted the tree of valour and it blossomed.
In the winter of bondage we saw a vision.
We melted the snow of lethargy and the river of resurrection flowed from it.
We sent our vision aswim like a swan on the river. The vision became a reality.
Winter became summer. Bondage became freedom and this we left to you as your inheritance.
O generations of freedom remember us, the generations of the vision.*

Another notable event happened in May 2011 when Queen Elizabeth II visited the Garden of Remembrance, laid a wreath, and bowed her head at the foot of the statue. One can only imagine her thoughts at that moment, perhaps of the rebel boys who were executed and their impact on the U.K. and the Irish. In retrospect, it was a unifying moment that, over time, healed many of the pent-up pains and wounds.

Finally, let's look up at the Irish flag. This tri-colored flag became the unifying and official symbol of the Republic in 1937. Green for the Irish, Orange for the Protestants, and white for the hope of lasting peace between the two.

Exit the Garden of Remembrance through the gate near the *Children of Lir* statue. You may need to climb the stairs and exit onto Parnell Square North.

Across the street is the Irish Writer's Centre. This small museum, with only three rooms, features the history and works of some of Dublin's noted writers. If you are into writing and poetry, it's worth a quick visit. Admission ~€8.

Out the gate, turn left, walk to the corner, and turn left again—head downhill.

About halfway down the block, on the left, is the Rotunda Hospital. Built here in 1745, it is now Dublin's premiere maternity hospital.

Walk to the end of the block, cross the street, and turn left. Walk a few blocks back to O'Connell Street Upper, where you exited the LUAS. Turn right on O'Connell Street, and look back at the obelisk in the middle of the intersection.

THE PARNELL MONUMENT

The **Parnell Monument** is an obelisk soaring almost 60 feet at the top of O'Connell Street. Charles Stewart Parnell was an Irish-born Member of Parliament in the 1880s. He was known as a powerful landowner, an avid supporter of Irish Home Rule, and a promoter of independence from Britain. He was a well-liked and charismatic orator and an excellent politician. He came close to negotiating a peaceful Irish independence but was cut short by scandal. Parnell was outed carrying on illicitly with a mistress. Shortly after, he was run out of politics.

O'CONNELL STREET

Walk downhill, south on O'Connell Street. On the left, notice the venerable **Gresham Hotel**. It has recently been renovated and become part of the Riu Plaza hotel chain. Since 1817, The Gresham has been one of Dublin's finest.

Beyond the Gresham, notice the **Savoy Cinema**, where since the 1920s, Dubliners have attended special events and movie openings. Now it is a multi-cinema, offering six theatres. However, a bit of the old remains and tours of the historic theatre are available.

THE LUAS

The LUAS, Dublin's public transportation tram system, premiered in 2004, linking the suburbs with the city centre. On O'Connell Street, you'll find it running down the middle in the median. LUAS is the Irish word for speed, and it is a rather fast and economical way to get around the city.

THE SPIRE

Down the street, looking west is the Millennium Spire. This piece of art soars 398 feet to the sky. It is made of stainless steel and costs 5 million euros to plan and erect.

Construction began in the 1990s, and the goal was to have its premiere at the turn of the millennium.

Unfortunately, that did not happen due to construction delays and budget overruns. It was finally completely erected in 2004, gaining some creative nicknames. "The Erection at the Intersection." The "Stiffy on the Liffey." The "Stiletto in the Ghetto." And the "Poker Near the Croker."

NELSON'S PILLAR

The Spire replaced an older monument dating from the days of British oppression. Nelson's **Pillar** was a 130-foot-tall monument dedicated to Lord Horatio Nelson and his historic win at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805.

The Pillar went up here on Sackville Street (now O'Connell Street) in 1809. The Pillar was dynamited to smithereens on Easter 1966, the 50th anniversary of the Easter Rising. No one was ever arrested for the deed, but the IRA is suspected.

O'Connell Street has changed drastically since my first march down the center. In 2005, I was a high school band director. We loaded up our marching band, flew across the Atlantic, and marched down O'Connell Street in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. Five hundred thousand people lined the streets, sometimes 8 to 10 deep, between here and St. Patrick's Cathedral. O'Connell Street was three lanes and 20 yards wide back then. Now, it is as wide as a football field and 500 meters long. Notice the street is lined with department stores, tourist shops, and plenty of fast-food joints.

O'Connell Street has long been the "main drag" in Dublin. In fact, Dublin was second only to London in the British Empire when it came to riches, culture, music, and banking. It was once lined with marble Georgian buildings, home of the rich and famous, who's who of the Empire. O'Connell Street suffered a lot of damage in the War of Independence and Civil War, and what you see here is a primarily dilapidated brick rebuild dating to the mid-twentieth century. The one remaining structure from Dublin's golden era is the GPO, The General Post Office.

THE GENERAL POST OFFICE (GPO)

This huge neo-classical building with ionic columns out front was designed by a Brit, Frances Johnson, in 1877. It is much more to the Irish than a post office. The GPO is a national symbol for the Irish because it was the site of the 1916 Easter Rising.

Outside notice, the pillars are pockmarked with English bullet holes. Have a look inside the historic old building. Much of it has been rebuilt after the 1916 fire, but the façade is the original.

Today, it is still a working post office, although much larger than most I've visited. If you have time, visit the **GPO Witness History Museum** inside the GPO. It tells a fascinating story of the Rising.

On April 24, 1916, Easter Monday, a group of revolutionaries stormed the GPO. These young men were a part of some 1200 active participants who had already taken over strategic locations across Dublin, including Stephen's Green, where this tour will end. The GPO was a strategic location for Britain, with its postal services, telegraph, and communications reaching the rest of the Empire. The revolutionaries barricaded themselves inside, took down the Union Jack, and raised the Irish green, white, and orange tri-color flag. Then, they declared Ireland a free nation. Patrick Pearse stepped outside and read **the Proclamation of the Irish Republic**. Pearse and six others declared themselves representatives of the Provisional Government of the Irish Republic and signed the Proclamation.

The battle went on for six days in the streets of Dublin. Some 19,000 British troops outnumbered the 1,200 Irish revolutionaries. They didn't have a chance of success. The British set the GPO on fire, but the fire helped the rebels escape to nearby Moore Street.

Pearse realized it was a lost cause and issued the **surrender of the Military Council** of the newly proclaimed Irish Republic to "prevent the further slaughter of the civilian population and in the hope of saving our followers, now hopelessly surrounded and outnumbered."

Initially, most Irish people were appalled by the death and destruction unleashed by the rebellion, and onlookers jeered the defeated rebels as the British led through the streets of Dublin. In all, over 450 people were killed, and 2600 were wounded during The Rising; over half of the people who died were civilians who had been caught in the fighting that occurred in the densely-populated slums on Dublin's north side.

All of those arrested were taken to Richmond Barracks for processing. The court-martials were held in the gymnasium building, and the 16 rebellion leaders were sentenced to death, including the seven signatories of the Proclamation. They were executed by firing squad at Kilmainham Gaol, and their bodies were quickly, and secretly, carried across the Liffey and buried in a mass grave at Arbour Hill.

[On the first day, (1) Padraig Pearse, (2) Thomas MacDonagh, (3) Tom Clarke, On day 2- (4) Edward Daly, (5) Michael O'Hanrahan, (6) Willie Pearse, and (7) Joseph Mary Plunkett. Then, after a pause, (8) John MacBride, (9) Eamonn Ceannt, (10) Michael Mallin, (11) Seán Heuston, (12) Con Colbert, (13) James Connolly and (14) Seán MacDiarmada.]

The British cruel response, unfounded arrests, and needless executions soon turned the tide of Irish public opinion. It wasn't long before the rebels were looked on as martyrs, not young and foolish troublemakers. Their deaths united the nation with a steady eye toward independence.

Turn around and walk back toward the Spire. Henry Street is on the east side of the GPO. Turn down this pedestrian street and head north along the wall of the GPO.

I like to call Henry Street the "local's street." This is where the Irish shop for clothes, have a coffee, visit the outdoor market, take a stroll, and meet up with friends.

You'll find Moore Street, on the right, a few blocks down. Moore Street is loaded with outdoor markets each weekday morning. It is the home to FX Buckley, a famous meat shop known even today for its all-Irish beef, pork, chicken, and lamb.

Henry Street was developed by Henry Moore, Earl of Drogheda. He named several streets in the area after himself: Henry Street, Moore Street, and Earl Street.

Continue walking and take in the crowds. The character and vibe of this street change with the time of day. Morning brings families and shoppers. Midday, you'll find the fast food and coffee shops filling up. By nightfall, it is a place for locals to rendezvous for dinner or a pub session.

Arnott's (on the left) is Ireland's oldest department store, founded in 1843. It sells everything from pharmacies to shoes, clothing, and sporting goods. Penny's Department Store, on Mary Street, began right here in 1969. It, too, is Irish-owned and sells affordable clothing.

Turn left on Liffey Street Upper. It runs west between Arnott's and the British department store Marks and Spencer.

Continue straight, cross the RED LUAS tram tracks, and jog to Liffey Street Lower. In one block, you'll come to the River Liffey.
Cross the street.

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THE HA'PENNY BRIDGE

This iconic footbridge across the River Liffey opened to the public in 1816. It was originally named the Wellington Bridge after the Dublin-born Duke of Wellington. Before the bridge's construction, seven ferries were operating on the river. William Walsh, the ferry operator, let the ferries fall into disrepair and was ordered to either fix the ferries or build a bridge. He chose to build a footbridge and was granted the right to collect a ha'penny toll from anyone crossing for 100 years. Turnstiles occupied each end of the bridge and accepted a ha'penny to open.

Initially, the toll was based on the cost of riding the ferry across the river. Another condition placed on Mr. Walsh was if the citizens of Dublin found the bridge objectional within the first year, it would have to be removed, at no cost to the city.

Obviously, it stood the test of time. Toll was discontinued in 1919. Its name has been officially changed to the Liffey Bridge in recent years, but Ha'penny has stuck.

Don't cross the bridge. We will visit the other side shortly.
Turn left and walk down the river on the dock-like walkway.
Head over to the middle of the bridge, in the pedestrian median.

O'CONNELL STREET BRIDGE

Standing at the center of O'Connell Bridge, take a look around. This city covers a lot of history. Look down the river, to the south, toward the new construction and multitude of cranes hanging in the air. The mouth of the River Liffey is that way, as well as the huge natural harbor.

Liberty Hall is the fourth tallest building in Ireland and is historically significant as the headquarters of the Irish Transportation and General Workers Union and the Irish Citizen Army (ICA). It was erected in 1965 and, until the 21st century, was Ireland's tallest building.

The large 18th-century neo-classical building with the greenish patina-copper dome is the Custom's House, built by the English in the 18th-century Georgian style.

These following few sights from O'Connell Bridge may be beyond your sight, but if you have time later, they all deserve a look.

Beyond the 3rd bridge downriver is The Famine Memorial.

In 1845, a fungal disease called 'phytophthora infestans,' or 'potato blight', struck and wiped out a third of the potato crop in Ireland. This was a disaster to the peasants who relied upon it. Those who lived near towns were better off since towns had other food sources, but things got very bad for those living in rural areas.

By 1846, the existing potato supplies had been sold out, and many began to slowly starve. The British government made some effort by importing corn from the United States to feed the starving, and this helped prevent mass death during the first year of the Famine.

Then, the 1846 potato crop also failed and, this time wiped out almost all the potatoes in Ireland. Thousands of people starve to death, particularly in the countryside. Others died of related diseases such as scurvy, typhus, and dysentery.

Again, Britain set up soup kitchens for the poor, but they drastically underestimated the scale of the disaster, and many people did not receive any aid at all. Wealthy British landlords evicted many peasants who could not pay their rent because they had no potatoes to sell.

Even today, many cannot understand why Britain, the wealthiest nation on earth at the time, and with an Empire stretching around the globe, could do nothing to help the starving Irish. Many believe that a combination of Irish overpopulation, racism, religious fanaticism, and poor economic policies all combined to allow the English to turn a blind eye to that which was going on in Ireland at the time.

A bit farther is a replica ship, The *Jeanie Johnston* is a replica of a three-masted ship that was originally built in Quebec, Canada, in 1847.

The original Jeanie Johnston was bought by Tralee, Co. Kerry-based merchants John Donovan & Sons, as a cargo vessel and traded successfully between Tralee and North America for some years. The trading pattern was to bring emigrants from Ireland to North America and timber back to Europe.

She made her maiden emigrant voyage from Blennerville, Co. Kerry, to Quebec on 24 April 1848, with 193 emigrants on board, as the effects of the Famine ravaged Ireland. Between 1848 and 1855, the Jeanie Johnston made 16 voyages to North America, sailing to Quebec, Baltimore, and New York. On average, the length of the transatlantic journey was 47 days. The most passengers she ever carried was 254, from Tralee to Quebec on 17 April 1852.

To put this number in perspective, the replica ship is only licensed to carry 40 people, including crew. In all its years, the Jennie Johnson never lost a soul.

In 1858, en route to Quebec with a cargo of timber, she became waterlogged. The crew climbed into the riggings, and after nine days clinging to their slowly sinking ship, they were rescued by a Dutch ship. Even in her loss, she maintained her perfect safety record.

The EPIC, a museum about Irish immigration, is well worth an hour of your time.

Samuel Beckett Bridge

The architect is Santiago Calatrava, a designer of several innovative bridges and buildings. This is the second bridge in the area designed by Calatrava, the first being the James Joyce Bridge, which is further upstream.

The shape of the spar and its cables evokes an image of an Irish harp lying on its edge.

Beyond is the Docklands and Dublin's Harbour. This area laid derelict after the recession in 2008.

Unfinished, dingy grey concrete towers, facades, and decayed wooden forms littered the area. In recent years, the Docklands has seen a construction resurgence and gentrification abound.

Now turn around and look up the river to the north. Lining the river are the Quays (pronounced keys) that serve as a grand promenade. The chic Temple Bar area is to the left, and the Henry Street shops are to the right.

Farther upriver, on the right bank, you may see the green dome of Four Courts. The Four Courts is the principal seat of the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals, the High Court, and the Dublin Circuit Court. Another building in the Georgian neo-classical style, it was built between 1786 to 1796.

And beyond, on the left bank, you may see a conical stone tower with a green dome. This is located on the Guinness Brewery property and is the remnants of an old windmill.

DANIEL O'CONNELL MONUMENT

Turn and look up O'Connell Street toward the Spire. Just in front of you is the DANIEL O'CONNELL MONUMENT. Daniel O'Connell was born in County Kerry on August 6, 1775. Eventually, he became a politician, Mayor of Dublin, and Member of Parliament. He earned the nickname "The Liberator" due to his work to secure freedoms for Catholics.

O'Connell was able to attend college in France due to his wealthy parent's fortune. He acquired a good education, but because he was Catholic, he was not allowed to hold a political office or even an important job in Ireland. Britain's laws forbid anyone other than Protestants to hold important positions.

O'Connell formed the Catholic Association in 1823. It was an organization whose goal was to work for Catholic Emancipation. At Catholic Association meetings and mega-rallies, O'Connell spoke charismatically, attracting large crowds of supporters.

Then, in 1828, an election was held in County Clare. The people voted for him, and he was elected as an MP, a Member of Parliament. He argued that since he was duly elected, he should take his seat in Parliament.

His support was so vast the British realized they would have to change the law. So, in 1829, the British Parliament passed the Catholic Emancipation Act. Finally, Catholics could sit in Parliament and hold important jobs.

Later, O'Connell took on a new quest to argue that Ireland should have its own Parliament. The Irish rallied to his support. The British disapproved and threw O'Connell in prison for a time. Fighting broke out, and the Irish threatened to use violence, but O'Connell insisted on non-violent and peaceful demonstrations.

Ultimately, the British did not back down, and the movement gained little headway. Although he never succeeded with Irish self-rule, Daniel O'Connell was a charismatic leader who helped liberate the Catholics.

Now, let's look at the monument.

This marble and bronze monstrosity was unveiled on August 15, 1882. John Henry Foley and his assistant Thomas Brock designed and sculpted the monument.

Standing on the monument, O'Connell is oriented, pointing west across the river toward the Parliament Building, symbolizing his persistent insistence on the Act of Union. At his feet are a pile of books thought to represent his educated and eloquent arguments before Parliament.

Just below O'Connell is the Maid of Erin, pointing at O'Connell with one hand and holding the Act of Emancipation with her other. Laying at her feet are the broken shackles, representing her break from bondage.

Below is a frieze with over thirty people representing the Catholic Church, professions, trades, the arts, and peasantry. At the base, notice the four-winged women representing the virtues of Patriotism, Courage, Eloquence, and Fidelity.

Finally, notice the pockmarked bullet holes from the 1916 Rising and the 1922-23 Civil War. Look for them on the angels - on a wing, an arm and the chest of one - and on the man himself.

Turn around and walk across the O'Connell Bridge. When the road divides, take the right fork, Westmoreland Street. Hug the right side of the road. Soon, you'll come to Fleet Street, on your right, turn right.

TEMPLE BAR

Fleet Street defines the neighborhood in which you are standing. Now, known as Dublin's district for popular bars and pubs, traditional music, trendy nightclubs, and an artist's mecca. But, it has not always been such. In the Middle Ages, this area, along the banks of the Liffey, was St. Andrew's Parish, a suburb outside the city walls. In the 14th century, it was abandoned due to constant attacks from the native Irish via the Liffey. In the 17th century, when Dublin was thriving as Britain's second city, wealthy English families settled here and built Georgian mansions with fancy backyard gardens flowing down to the banks of the Liffey. At that time, the Liffey had no retaining wall, just a muddy "sand bar" changing with each day's tide.

Soon you'll come to the Hard Rock Café, on the right. Skip it!

Then, another block on the left, find the yellow multi-story building, Oliver St. John Gogerty. This iconic pub is in the Temple Bar district, and although OSJG had nothing to do with this building or pub, he was quite a character worthy of being remembered here.

OSJG was born in Rutland Square, Dublin, in 1878. By the way, you've visited Rutland Square on this walk, now known as Parnell Square and the Garden of Remembrance.

OSJG was a poet, author, physician, politician, and activist. If you've stumbled through reading the first chapter of James Joyces' *Ulysses*, he was the inspiration for Joyces' character, Buck Mulligan.

(Read a bit of *Ulysses* here).

The pub itself, along with The Temple Bar Pub on your left, defines the neighborhood in which you are standing.

Continue on to Fleet Street and wander while I tell you more about Temple Bar. The banks of the Liffey reached this street in the early 17th century. When mansions began to pop up here, this was the front yards. The marshy area between here and the Liffey, on your right, was filled in and transformed into backyard gardens. Sir William Temple owned one of these mansions in the early 1600s. It is thought the name Temple's Bar originated here. William Temple was the provost of Trinity College from 1609 until he died in 1627. However, William Temple living here may have contributed to its name, but another, more famous Temple Bar, in London, is probably the primary origin of Dublin's Temple Bar.

The 18th century saw a decline of those mansions along the riverbank, and Temple Bar became Dublin's Red Light District. In the succeeding centuries, it slowly declined, and by the turn of the 20th century, it was a neglected area suffering from urban decay and derelict buildings.

When the 1970 rolled around, Temple Bar was blighted, littered with crumbling buildings, and loaded with vagrants, druggies, and trash. The state-owned bus company, CIE, proposed demolishing the entire district and building a modern bus depot. CIE, purchased the old crumbling buildings, but there was a lot of red tape to navigate with the zoning and planning commission. It took years, and in the meantime, the old building were rented out to low-rent tenants. In the 1980s, this attracted small mom-and-pop shops, artists, galleries, and entertainers.

Meanwhile, plans proceed to demolish the district, put in underground parking, a multi-story shopping center, and the bus station on the third level.

Long ramps would be built up to the third story to accommodate double-decker buses.

By 1990, there was still no bus depot, and the former derelict Temple Bar was loaded with small businesses, pubs, and galleries.

Protests abound.

Finally, Taoiseach Charles Haughey stepped in and secured funding for a government not-for-profit company called Temple Bar Properties to oversee the gentrification and preservation of what became Temple Bar, Dublin's cultural quarter.

By now, you've probably walked a block or so, and arrived at Temple Bar Square, the heart of Temple Bar. Look up Crown Alley, to the left. About a half a block down is Leo Burdock's Fish and Chips, what most name as Dublin's finest Chippy, a take-a-way fish and chips shop. Next door, is my favorite pub, The Old Storehouse.

We've got about 10 minutes remaining on this tour. But maybe you'll come back here for food and a pint?

Continue walking on Temple Bar Street, the Liffey to your right.

At the end of the Square, turn left on Fownes Street Lower. Walk a block to Cecilia Street and make a right.

Along the way, notice a discrete McDonald's on the right and the UK chain Gourmet Burger Kitchen. Most of these buildings here in Temple Bar appear old, but really they've only been here a couple of decades. The cobbles were trucked in to provide an old historical feel to the area. Pre-renovation Temple Bar really looked like this, but by the 1980s and 90s, their structural integrity had disintegrated, making most uninhabitable.

Notice the graffiti and artsy ambiance along the way. Ethnic restaurants, record shops, and empty building line the streets. This place comes alive at night with people partying and hurling in the wee hours of the morning. Look left down Crow Street. About halfway, on the right, is F.X. Buckley's, a Dublin meatcutters/butcher shop institution. The original is up on Moore Street by the GPO. This once butcher shop is now a restaurant and my favorite steak and chops shop. If you want to eat here later, pop in or call to make a reservation. They only have a few tables.

Look in front of you. The red building, in the distance with pictures and murals, is the Wall of Fame. Walk up for a closer look.

There is U2, The Cranberries, Sinead O'Connor, Van Morrison, Phil Lynott, and more!

This wall is part of the Irish Rock and Roll Museum. If you are into that music scene, it is worth an hour to look around.

Speaking of music, let's not forget traditional Irish music, or Trad, for short. Just up the street, Claddagh Records has a treasure trove of records, CDs, and recordings. Plus, there is a knowledgeable staff to get into the trad scene.

OK, let's finish this walk. Turn right at the Irish Rock and Roll Museum, and walk on Temple Lane South back to Essex Street and Temple Bar Square.

We'll end the tour here for now. There is more to see in Dublin, but you might want a pint and something to eat. You'll find good choices here. All the pubs and restaurants serve good food and drink.

We'll catch up on part two of this walk later. But for now

Slainté

TEMPLE BAR TO CHRISTCHURCH

Continue walking in the same direction (north) on Essex Street West. You are in the heart of Temple Bar.

The Temple Bar Pub, all decked out with a shiny red paint job and white Christmas lights, is often confused with the name of this area. The Temple Bar Pub was licensed in 1840 as a public house. Although ownership has changed, as has the building and location, this building is the most famous. In 1992, the Cleary Family purchased this building, cleaned up the area, spruced up the building, and has been serving good food, great beer, and traditional music ever since.

You've got a bit of walking to do on Essex Street West. The street winds and jogs, but keep on it. Soon, cross Parliament Street and watch out for the automobile traffic.

Across the street, Essex Street West becomes a small walking lane. Continue one more block to Fishamble Street and turn left.

Ahead, you'll see the white modern façade of Dublin's City Council Building. There was quite an uproar in the 1970s when the Dublin City Council decided to build here. This was the sight of the *Dubh Linn*, the original Viking settlement dating back to 800. The Scandinavian warriors arrived in longboats in 795 and ruled with an iron fist for almost three centuries before being defeated at Clontarf.

If you have time, take a detour to the river and walk around the City Council grounds, known as Wood Quay, to find the old Viking city wall and several plaques and artifacts discovered during the excavation process.

Fishamble Street is famous!

The noted composer, George Frederick Handel, lived in Dublin in the mid-18th century. He premiered THE MESSIAH right here on Fishamble Street. It burst onto the stage of Musick Hall in Dublin on April 13, 1742. The audience swelled to a record 700, as ladies had heeded pleas by management to wear dresses "without hoops" to make "room for more company."

The Musick Hall is in the building marked "Kennan & Sons Ltd."

CHRISTCHURCH

Across the street is Christchurch Cathedral.

The original cathedral was founded in the 11th century by the Sitric Silkenbeard, the Viking King. Made of mostly wood, it only lasted about 150 years. In the late 12th century, the cathedral was completely rebuilt of stone under the leadership of the Norman leader, Strongbow. It saw further remodels and improvements through the centuries, and what you see here today dates from the late 19th century.

The tower, flying buttresses, and stone-covered footbridge all date from the last renovation.

Interestingly, Christchurch is officially claimed as the Cathedral of both the Anglican Church of Ireland and the Roman Catholic archbishops of Dublin. Remember that there was only one Christian "Church" until the English Reformation in the 16th century. Nowadays, the Roman Catholic archbishop of Dublin uses Saint Mary's Church in Marlborough Street as his acting cathedral.

From the entrance door of Christchurch, walk on the street, heading south, toward Dublin's other Cathedral. You'll arrive after about three blocks on your left.

ST PATRICK'S

The first church is reported to be built here on the site where Patrick baptized pagan converts to Christianity. The building you see today dates from the 13th century, with many renovations, rebuilds, and improvements. After the reformation, St. Patrick's passed on to the Anglican Church. Then, when Oliver Cromwell and his Puritan Calvinist troops invaded Ireland in 1649-1653, the church became a stable for horses.

Jonathan Swift, of "Gulliver's Travels" fame, was the Cathedral Dean for 32 years, beginning in 1713. He is buried near the front door on the right side of the nave. From the outside, notice how far the front door and foundation are below the current street level. This indicates how much the city has been built up in just 300 years.

Leave St' Patrick's, heading right, to the north, back toward Christchurch. Feel free to wander in the adjacent St. Patrick Gardens for a peaceful stroll and good photo locations.

At Christchurch, turn right on Dame Street. Curve left and then right, and walk two more blocks until coming to Dublin Castle.

DUBLIN CASTLE

This castle was the seat of British rule for over 700 years. It sprawls over several acres in many different architectural styles.

Originally, the Rivers Liffey and Poddle came together here to make a black pool, or *dubh linn* in Irish, hence the city's name.

Dublin Castle was the official residence of the British Viceroy. BTW, Viceroy is a blend of the Latin word *vice* and the French word *Roy* for King. So vice-king, or the monarch's representative.

Visiting the interior and the State Apartments is lovely, but there are much better castles in Europe to pay for a tour. I suggest walking through the courtyard, turning left, passing the old medieval tower, and exiting to the left back to Dame Street.

CITY HALL

Dublin City Hall now occupies what was the first Georgian building built in the city. The former Royal Exchange was built in 1779. It has been city hall since 1852. Pop inside if you can. It's free. Notice the 18-foot statue of Daniel O'Connell. Downstairs is an exhibit, Story of the Capital, which tells Dublin city's history via placards and film.

Exit right, walking along Dame Street. After about ½ mile, notice the big white multi-story building across the street on the left.

CENTRAL PLAZA

This is Central Plaza, and from 1979 to 2017, the Central Bank of Ireland was its primary tenant. Some say it is ugly and out of place amongst Trinity Bar and the adjacent Georgian architecture. But look closer. The floors of the building are not touching one another. They are hanging from a central structural core. A one-of-a-kind structure. It is likely under renovation for the next few years. When complete, it will be a mighty work of art, connecting Dublin's North and South with shops, restaurants, offices, cafes, and a glass-enclosed rooftop venue.

Keep walking along the opposite side of Dame Street from Central Plaza. Just beyond, turn right on Trinity Street and walk to the end.

Turn left on St. Andrew's Street.

The old St. Andrew's Church now stands deconsecrated and derelict. But in front is a significant bronze statue, Molly Malone, a Dublin legend.

MOLLY MALONE

Molly Malone is a local legend, and her story was captured in song in the 1800s. The first verse goes like this.

In Dublin's fair city, where the girls are all pretty.

I first say my eyes on sweet Molly Malone.

She wheeled her wheelbarrow, through streets wide and narrow,

Singing Cockles and Muscles, alive, alive-o

From Molly, turn around, notice the pretty O'Neill's Pub and Kitchen with its seemingly always blooming flowerpots. Walk to the left of O'Neill's, down Church Lane. Return to Dame Street. Across the street is...

PARLIAMENT

Up ahead, you'll come to a large neo-classical building on the right. Westmoreland Street curves to the right and turns into College Green Street.

This building is the former home of the Irish Parliament, built in 1792 and remodeled to what you see today in 1796. It is now the Bank of Ireland, so getting inside is often a chore with security and locked doors.

Recently, they have taken to placing a sign at the door warning tourists that the House of Lords is closed. But, if you can get in, it is worth a look around.

Looking at the building from the front, the entrance is through the black wrought iron fence along the portico to the right.

The Irish had been oppressed and occupied in one form or the other since 1168, when Henry II claimed the island as his own. There had been plenty of Irish rebellions over the years, but none had succeeded in independence. By the late 16th century, there was some hope of independence, fostered by politician Henry Grattan (that's him out there in the middle of College Green Street with his right hand raised to the sky). Grattan and others pushed for parliamentary reforms, and by 1782, Ireland's legislative independence was restored. But that was short-lived. It was here in 1800 that the Act of Union was signed into law, and Ireland was granted nation status. But the downside was the Irish Parliament had to move to London and join Parliament there. The Irish Parliament Building was left empty and sold to the Bank of Ireland.

Across the street is the west front of Trinity College. Imagine this busy intersection you see here, being, in the 1790s, a peaceful and grand college green dominated by Parliament House on the north and Trinity College on the east. An expansive tree-lined pedestrian boulevard stretched north for a mile to the Dublin Castle.

TRINITY COLLEGE

Cross College Green (Street) and walk through the black wrought-iron fence into the main entrance of Trinity College. Trinity College was founded in 1592 by Queen Elizabeth to bring civility to the Irish and impress the Tudor ideals of Protestant religion and learning. Dublin was a rich and gleaming city at the time, second only to London in culture, education, and Protestant beliefs. Beyond the pale of Dublin (about a 50 radius), the rest of Ireland was dirty, poor, uneducated Catholics.

Entering the arched doorway, and have a look at the gatehouse. Notice the floor made from expertly carved hexagonal pieces of wood. Notice, too, notice boards dotted with student notices, rooms for rent, and posters for coming events. Continue through and exit the opposite door.

You are in Parliament Square, a symmetrical rectangle framed by Georgian buildings. The English Georgian period parallels the reign of the English Hanover King George I, II, III, and IV. Roughly 1714 to 1830. This was the era of Baroque music, symmetry, balance, and order. The Greeks and Romans first introduced this style—columns supporting triangular pediments, all equally planned and mathematically correct. This style is known as neoclassical in the USA and other parts of the world. Think of all the monuments and buildings in Washington DC and you have the picture.

In front of you is the most recognized icon of Trinity College. The Campanile, or bell tower, is 100 feet tall and was built in 1853. It is also in the Georgian style with arches, columns, and domes, all in symmetrical and harmonious.

Notice the keystones of the four arches at the base.

The carved heads of Socrates, Plato, Homer, and Demosthenes represent the Liberal Arts. Higher up, the four classical figures are those of Divinity (with a cross), Science (with a staff), medicine (with a prescription tablet), and Law (with a fasces).

What's a fasces? An ancient Etruscan symbol, passed down to the Romans. A bundle of sticks, some with an axe protruding from the bundle. It represents a magistrate's power and jurisdiction.

Flanking Parliament Square are two buildings with Georgian features. The one on the left is the Chapel, and on the right is a Theatre. Behind the Campanile are a few red-brick buildings, the oldest on campus, built in 1712.

To the right of the Campanile is the Old Library. It houses many books, an old Irish harp, and the Book of Kells, an ancient illuminated manuscript of the four Gospels. We'll not go in now, but you should purchase a ticket online and return later.

Take the sidewalk running between the Theatre and the Old Library. Soon, you'll come to another grassy-green mall called Fellow's Square. The Book of Kells entrance is over to the left. Walk down the sidewalk past the people standing in line. Continue straight to the building in front of you, The Berkeley College Library. To the left of the library is a paved area, or forecourt of the library. Here, find a polished bronze sphere.

SFERA CON SFERA

Officially known as the *Sfera con Sfera* or sphere within a sphere.

It was produced and donated by the artist Arnaldo Pomodoro in 1992.

Pomodoro has produced and displayed similar spheres at the United Nations Plaza in New York, the University of California at Berkeley, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Tehran, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Rome, and the Cortile del Belvedere at The Vatican Museums.

Retrace your route and exit Trinity College. Turn left and follow the stone Trinity College fence to the next intersection. Cross the street, towards the Blue Boyle's Sports Bookmaker's, look up and find the Engraved Stone Placard, "Irish Permanent."

GRAFTON STREET

Grafton Street and Henry Street, on the other side of the river, are Dublin's liveliest pedestrian streets. Grafton Street links Trinity College with Stephens Green with a 10-minute walk. But you'll want to linger, and we will take a short detour as well. On Grafton Street, you'll find two department stores, the all-Irish Brown Thomas and the English Marks & Spencer.

Also, check out Bewley's Oriental Café and Coffee, about halfway down on the right. First opened in 1927, Bewley's Café is renowned for its high quality of its foods, coffee, and tea, its priceless Harry Clarke stained glass windows, and its art and sculpture.

The centerpiece of the café remains to this day the six magnificent stained glass windows commissioned from the renowned artist Harry Clarke, who completed them just before he died in 1931.

Coffee beans are still hand-roasted on site, guaranteeing a fresh cup of coffee. Additionally, Bewley's has a full license, with wines available by the glass and cocktails, beers, and ales.

At Johnson Court, a short lane to the right leads to Powerscourt Townhouse Shopping Centre, a remodeled Georgian Mansion with lots of ambiance and shops. At the end, near Stephen's Green, is the Stephen's Green

Shopping Centre with turn-of-the-century art nuovo charm. Lining Grafton Street, you'll find buskers and street entertainers who make a decent living performing for the crowds.

Take a detour onto Anne Street South.

In front of you is St. Ann's Church, known for its beautiful stained glass and hosted concerts.

At the church, turn right onto Dawson Street.

MANSION HOUSE

Mansion House has been the official residence of the Lord Mayor of Dublin since 1715. It was built in 1710 by the merchant and developer Joshua Dawson, after whom Dawson Street is named.

Either turn around and walk back to Grafton Street or continue on Dawson Street to Stephen's Green. Enter Stephen's Green through the Marble Arch.

ST. STEPHEN'S GREEN

Enter the park through the white Marble Arch near Grafton Street.

Turn left and follow the bank of the lake while I tell you a bit about this 22-acre lush refuge in the heart of Dublin's bustling city.

As you've learned on this walk, Dublin is a big city. 1.4 million live in the Dublin metro area. That's a little more than ¼ of Ireland's total population. BTW, the population of Ireland is just over 5 million. Coupled with Northern Ireland, almost 2 million, that adds up to about 7 million living on this island.

Follow the lake's edge, curving to the right, cross the bridge, and enter the grassy formal gardens at the park's center.

When these gardens were conceived in 1663, there was little here but a marshy area used for grazing animals. The Dublin Corporation bought the site and sold 96 plots of land around the perimeter, leaving this park as a private space for the tenants. By the middle of the 18th century, most of the original homes were demolished to make room for new buildings built in the Georgian style. So when you exit, look at the 96 buildings surrounding Stephen's Green, noting the symmetrical red-bricked exteriors with various colored doors and lintels.

The park remained private, just like nearby Merrion and Fitzwilliam Squares, for hundreds of years. In July 1880, it was officially opened to the public and has been a place of solitude and refuge ever since.

On sunny days, you'll find office workers enjoying a bit of free time and eating their lunches. You'll see school kids playing, floating boats in the lake, or jumping on playground equipment. At the center of the green is a beautiful park, manicured and planted with whatever flower blooms at the time. Find a bench, have a seat, and let's wrap up the Dublin walk.

In 1916, Stephen's Green was one of the battleground areas, just like the GPO. During that Easter Monday clash, young rebels dug trenches here, WWI-style, to make a stand against the British troops. There were not as many trees here then, and entrenched rebels were sitting ducks for the British forces who positioned themselves on the rooftop of the nearby Gresham Hotel and mowed down the rebels.

When you exit the park, turn around and look at the marble arch. Over on the left side, find bullet scars and pockmarks for that tragic day in 1916.

We've covered Dublin from the Garden of Remembrance to O'Connell Street, The Liffey, Temple Bar, two cathedrals, a castle, Parliament House, Trinity College, Grafton Street, and more. I hope you've learned a bit about the Irish and what makes them the way they are today.

Soon, you may be leaving Dublin to head out into the countryside. With this walk, you've already experienced a bit of what's in store out beyond "the pale." Enjoy the forty shades of green here in Stephen's Green. There is a lot more of it out there.

Your Adventure Starts Here!

