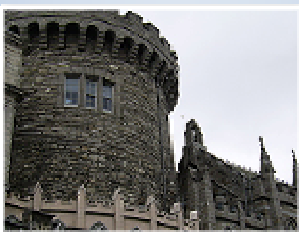
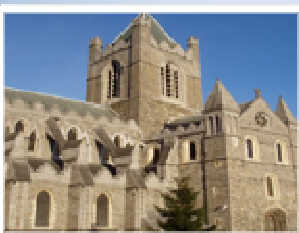


DUBLIN

Dublin (Irish: Baile Átha Cliath, meaning "Town of the Hurdled Ford", is both the largest city and **capital of Ireland**. It is located near the midpoint of Ireland's east coast, at the mouth of the **River Liffey** and at the centre of the Dublin Region. Founded as a Viking settlement, the city has been Ireland's primary city for most of the island's history since medieval times. Today, it is ranked 10th in the Global Financial Centres Index and has one of the fastest growing populations of any European capital city. Dublin is a historical and contemporary cultural centre for the island of Ireland as well as a modern centre of education, the arts, administrative function, economy and industry.



Dublin Castle is a major Irish governmental complex, formerly the fortified seat of British rule in Ireland until 1922. Most of the complex dates from the 18th century, though a castle has stood on the site since the days of **King John**, the first Lord of Ireland. The Castle served as the seat of English, then later **British government of Ireland** under the **Lordship of Ireland** (1171–1541), **the Kingdom of Ireland** (1541–1800), and **the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland** (1800–1922). Upon establishment of the Irish Free State in 1922, the complex was ceremonially handed over to the newly formed Provisional Government led by Michael Collins.



Christ Church Cathedral (The Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, commonly known as Christ Church, Cathedral of the United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough and Metropolitan Cathedral of the United Provinces of Dublin and Cashel) is the elder of the city's two mediæval cathedrals, the other being **St. Patrick's Cathedral**.

The Chester Beatty Library was established in 1950, to house the collections of mining magnate, Sir Alfred Chester Beatty. The present library, on the grounds of **Dublin Castle**, opened on February 7, 2000, the 125th anniversary of Sir Alfred's birth and was named **European Museum of the Year** in 2002. The Library's collections are displayed in two collections: "Sacred Traditions" and "Artistic Traditions". Both displays exhibit sacred texts, manuscripts, miniature paintings and art on paper from the world's great oriental and western religions as well as secular items.

The National Gallery of Ireland houses the Irish national collection of Irish and European art. It is located in the centre of Dublin with one entrance on **Merrion Square**, beside **Leinster House**, and another on **Clare Street**. It was founded in 1854 and opened its doors ten years later. The Gallery has an extensive, representative collection of Irish painting and is also notable for its Italian Baroque and Dutch masters painting.

The Irish Museum of Modern Art also known as IMMA, is **Ireland's leading national institution** exhibiting and collecting modern and contemporary art. The museum opened in May 1991 and is located in **Royal Hospital Kilmainham**, a 17th-century building near Heuston Station to the west of Dublin's city centre. The Museum concentrates on acquiring contemporary art by living artist and buys only from primary markets: studios and galleries.

The National Museum of Ireland has three centres in Dublin and one in County Mayo, with a strong emphasis on Irish art, culture and natural history.

- **Viking Splash Tours.** Tours of the city and river in World War II amphibious craft.
- **Guinness Storehouse**, St James's Gate. Retells the story of Dublin's most famous drink. The exhibition is interesting and is self-guided.
- **Old Jameson Distillery**, Bow Street Distillery, Smithfield. Factory tour and whiskey tasting.
- **Phoenix Park.** The largest enclosed urban park in Europe. Includes a polo field and **Dublin Zoo**. The residences of the President of Ireland and the US Ambassador are situated in the park, but are not open to the public.



INFORMATION

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