

Dún Laoghaire

Twin piers arc serenely into Dublin Bay as boats bob within the protective arms of the harbour they form. Along the shoreline, striking modern architecture compliments terraces of elegant Victorian townhouses, the harmony of old and new. Dún Laoghaire is coastal cosmopolitanism, yet you can sense the fishing village at the heart of this historic town.

Take a stroll or a cycle along the seafront – try kayaking or paddle boarding if you're feeling adventurous. There is the National Maritime Museum, theatres, galleries and exhibitions to enjoy, not to mention festivals and free heritage tours. While away a few hours in the beautifully ornate People's Park – but be warned, it gets busy during the Farmer's Market on Sunday!

Step one street in from the seafront and enjoy the hustle and bustle of a town centre where high street fashion sits comfortably alongside unique boutiques and artisan shops. Wander into one and you're as likely to leave with a first edition as you are a vintage dress or French pastry.

Stop for a bite to eat and savour the sizzle of fresh fish in a seaside restaurant, or enjoy the craic and a traditional music session in one of the many traditional pubs. Located in the UNESCO-designated Dublin Bay Biosphere, Dún Laoghaire is a coastal gem where the mountains meet the sea.



The Harbour

Dún Laoghaire Harbour largely owes its existence to shipbroker Richard Toutcher. It was Toutcher who developed the concept, rallied public and political opinion behind it, and provided, at great personal expense, most of the granite for the project. Work commenced in 1817 and, when completed in 1842, it was the biggest man-made harbour in Western Europe.



East Pier

The 1.3km East Pier is incredibly popular with walkers. On it you will find a monument commemorating the heroic Captain Boyd and a weather station. At the end of the pier is the Battery Lighthouse where you can buy refreshments and enjoy spectacular views across the bay.

Get active

Dún Laoghaire offers a range of land and water-based activities to set your pulse racing. Try paddle boarding or kayaking and get up close to resident seals and bottlenose dolphins, go sailing, go on a boat cruise, or take a powerboat trip – there's even an aqua park in the summer! For swimmers, wonderful beaches and swimming spots such as Seapoint, Sandycove, and the Forty Foot are just a short walk away. Contact the Tourism Office for more information.



Getting around?

Dún Laoghaire is the perfect size to tackle on foot – everything is within walking distance. There are also dedicated cycle lanes within the town, as well as a cycle route along the seafront which links Dún Laoghaire with all the towns and villages along the coast – including Monkstown, Blackrock, Glashule and Sandycove – and on to Dublin city centre. It really is a wonderful place to get on your bike! Contact the tourism office about Dún Laoghaire Cycle Tours, Cycling Safaris, and bike hire with www.bleeperbike.com and www.mobybikes.com.



Getting here

Travelling to Dún Laoghaire couldn't be easier, whether you're coming by train, plane, bus, bike, or car.



Trains run every five minutes from Dublin during peak times and every 20 minutes off-peak. The trip from Dublin city centre takes just 30 minutes.



You can get to Dún Laoghaire by bus from many parts of the city (see www.Dublinbus.ie for routes and times) and via Aircoach from the Airport.



There are cycle lanes from the city centre to Dún Laoghaire, with a dedicated coastal cycle route linking it with other coastal towns.



There is excellent access to Dún Laoghaire by road and lots of dedicated parking facilities in the town and harbour.

Get in touch

Tourist Information Centre
The Metals, Marine Road, Dún Laoghaire, Dublin
+353 (0) 1 280 6964

dlrtourism.ie



Shopping

Head to George's Street and a kilometre of retail therapy encompassing high street fashion, tech, unique artisan stores and everything in between – including the Dún Laoghaire and Bloomfield Shopping Centres. Love upcycling? There's a vibrant vintage scene with shops offering fashion, antiques, vinyl and even comics from yesteryear, while the Irish Design Centre offers a treasure trove of locally produced arts, crafts and textiles.

LOOKING TO STAY?

The Royal Marine Hotel and Haddington House offer luxurious accommodation, as do many fine guesthouses and B&Bs in the area. Contact the Tourism Office for information.

FOOD

Dún Laoghaire began life as a fishing village and you don't have to look very far to find scrumptious seafood today. From beer batter catch of the day to crab claws and home smoked salmon crostini, the sea will give you an appetite and cull it too. Of course, seafood isn't the only show in town. Dún Laoghaire is bursting with relaxing restaurants, bustling bistros, and family-friendly gastro pubs boasting a range of cuisine. There's even a chocolate café!



Culture and Heritage

National Maritime Museum

Embark on a voyage of discovery with enthralling maritime stories of exploration, heroism, history, technology, war, Irish wildlife and disasters at sea. Ireland's National Maritime museum is situated in the old mariners Church – one of the few custom-built places of worship for sailors still intact in the world today. www.mariner.ie



dlr Lexicon

This striking cultural centre overlooking Dún Laoghaire Harbour attracts more than 500,000 visitors annually. Numerous events and exhibitions are held in its public library spaces, municipal gallery, studio theatre and performance spaces – including the long-running Mountains to Sea dlr Book Festival and the dlr Library Voices series. www.libraries.dlrcoco.ie

Pavilion Theatre

With a carefully selected programme that includes theatre, comedy, literature, opera, dance, workshops, festivals, and local arts, the Pavilion provides the cultural heartbeat for Dún Laoghaire. Come and see internationally renowned artists performing in this friendly intimate theatre space. www.paviliontheatre.ie

DON'T MISS

People's Park

An oasis of peace and tranquility for more than 130 years, the People's Park features ornate fountains, bandstands, shelters and tearooms, and an excellent playground among beautifully maintained flowerbeds and lawns. It comes alive on Sundays when the popular Farmers Market hosts more than 50 stalls selling local and international cuisine, arts, crafts, hand-made jewellery, and much more. www.dlrcoco.ie/en/markets



FREE HERITAGE TOURS

There are free guided heritage tours in Dún Laoghaire and its surrounding areas. Churches, cemeteries, castles, museums, nature trails, and stately homes – there's something to suit everyone. Check out www.events.dlrcoco.ie to find out what's on during your visit and to book. @dlrheritageevents @dlrheritevents



HIDDEN GEM

The Oratory

This gem of Celtic renaissance art houses a statue of the Sacred Heart donated by a French town to commemorate Dún Laoghaire men who fought and died during World War I. Entry is free but all visitors must book in advance. www.events.dlrcoco.ie



FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

Dún Laoghaire offers a roller coaster programme of events all years round – ranging from music festivals and regattas, to concerts shows, literary festivals and exhibitions. Find out what's on @dlrevents.



Dún Laoghaire Town Map



Go one street in...

Go one street in...

Go one street in from the seafront and experience the hustle and bustle of Dún Laoghaire town. There are endless options for shopping and dining among the boutiques, artisan shops, cafes and restaurants which line the handsome Victorian streets of this old and proud town.



West Pier

The East Pier



MUST DO
Some 1.5 million people walk Dún Laoghaire's East Pier every year, touching or kicking the 19-century battery at the harbour mouth before turning back towards shore. The views are stunning on the way out and back.



Harbour Splash



Sailing in Dún Laoghaire

East Pier

Seapoint Beach
12 mins

DID YOU KNOW?

The Dublin to Dún Laoghaire line was Ireland's first railway. Opened in 1834, the original track ran some 10 miles from Westland Road to the West Pier in what was then Kingstown.



The Oratory

ST MICHAEL'S HOSPITAL

BLOOMFIELDS SHOPPING CENTRE

BUS TERMINUS
COUNTY HALL

PAVILION THEATRE

IRISH DESIGN GALLERY

dlr LEXICON

NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM

ROYAL MARINE HOTEL

HADDINGTON HOUSE

James Joyce Museum,
Sandycove Beach
and Forty Foot
15 mins

DID YOU KNOW?

The name Dún Laoghaire comes from an old fort (Dún) that belonged to a chieftain called Laoghaire. 2020 marked 100 years since Dún Laoghaire returned to its original Irish name, having been called Kingstown from 1821-1920 following a visit by King George IV.

M50
17 mins



dlr Lexicon and East Pier



The People's Park

Dalkey Castle
30 mins

MAP KEY

Water Activity Area

Shopping & Food Areas

Cycle Lanes

Dart and Train Lines

Find out what's on in Dún Laoghaire

Visit dunlaoghairtown.ie

or follow @dunlaoghairtown on

