

A Walk around James Joyce's Dublin



This is a stroll around central Dublin, concentrating on places that are associated with James Joyce or with the characters in his novels and stories.

The route shown is about 3.5 miles in length and there are a lot of places to stop along the way, so real enthusiasts might like to split it over two days – one for the north side and the second for the south side of the Liffey.

It is by no means a definitive Joycean walk (that would be considerably longer) nor is it a recreation of the walk taken by Leopold Bloom. We chose this route because even if you are not a hard-core Joyce fan it's a good walk with plenty to interest you along the way.

James Joyce Statue by [Phil Guest](#)

The tour starts at the home of Leopold Bloom at No. 7 Eccles St, which can be reached on the No. 10 bus from the city centre.

Joyce Walk – The Northside

A. No 7 Eccles St

This is where Leopold Bloom began his epic day in **Ulysses**, eating a breakfast of:

“mutton kidneys which gave to his palate a fine tang of faintly scented urine”

It's also the location of the famous closing scene, where Leopold's wife Molly Bloom enjoys the company of her lover Blazes Boylan, finally concluding the book with the line:

“..and yes I said yes I will Yes.”

Eccles St. is akin to a place of pilgrimage for many, but something of a disappointment as the house was knocked down some years ago, a private hospital stands in its place, but it once stood directly opposite No.76 on the other side of the street.

B. St George's Church, Hardwick Place

A lovely Georgian building, built between 1802 and 1813, and probably one of the best Georgian buildings in Dublin. It is no longer a church and was for a time used as a party venue.

The carved Greek inscription on the portico reads 'Glory To God In The Highest'.



Photo by Fergal Claddagh

St George's is mentioned in **Ulysses**, its bells can be heard from the Blooms' house in Eccles Street, and in the story **Dubliners** where

"The belfry of St. George's Church sent out constant peals"

on a Sunday morning.

In recent times some [preservation and cleaning](#) has been carried out, but it is not open to the public

currently. It would be wonderful to see it fully restored to its original state and to hear those bells pealing out again.

C. Belvedere College, Denmark St.



Image by bloomsday616

An exclusive Jesuit school, where Joyce was a pupil on a scholarship.

Stephen Dedalus, Joyce's alter ego in **Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man**, struggles with feeling ashamed of his poor background while attending Belvedere and it was here he was terrified into vowing to live a life of purity after hearing a rousing sermon about hell.

He was not long about abandoning the notion.

D. James Joyce Center, Nth Great Georges St.



Are you in Mr Joyce? By Squish_E

and you will often find some special event going on.

A useful stop to pick up some literature and learn a little about Joyce's background and work.

The original front door of No. 7 Eccles St is here, salvaged by a quick thinking Joyce enthusiast when the building was destroyed.

In addition to Joyce, the centre has a wealth of information and some fascinating exhibits about other writers with connection to Dublin

E. Parnell Statue, O'Connell St.



Parnell Statue by mariusstrom

Joyce was greatly influenced by his ideals and his story, and he appears over and over again in his writing, notably at the Christmas Dinner scene at the

Keeping guard at the top of O'Connell St, Charles Stewart Parnell was the leader of the late 19th century Home Rule movement, which demanded a measure of self-government for Ireland.

He was an heroic figure at the time, but was brought down by a scandal over a love affair with a married woman.

start of Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man.

F. Rotunda Hospital, Parnell Sq.



Rotunda Hospital by James Stringer

The Rotunda has been a maternity hospital since 1745, the first such hospital in the world, and has delivered many of Dublin's babies every year since.

In Joyce's time it also had a renowned concert hall. It was somewhat obliquely referred to in Ulysses in the phrase

"Accouching the Rotundaties"

as Bloom passed while attending the funeral of Paddy Dignam, who died in a drunken stupor.

G. Writer's Museum, Parnell Sq



Writers Museum by infomatique

A fascinating repository of artefacts, portraits and information about Dublin's many writers.

James Joyce is in there of course, but also Oscar Wilde, Jonathon Swift, Samuel Beckett, W.B. Yeats, Patrick Kavanagh and many more.

The building is a wonderful example of Georgian architecture and is worth a visit in itself.

H. Gresham Hotel, O'Connell St.



Gresham Hotel by UggBoyUggGirl

A well-known hotel which was from its beginnings in 1817 until quite recently an important centre of Dublin social life.

In the **The Dead** Gabriel and Gretta Conroy spend the night at the Gresham after a party given by his two aunts. They arrive with Gabriel full of anticipation of the night ahead, but his world is shattered by Gretta's revelations and weeping about the death of her

former love. He stands looking out the window as she sleeps:

“His soul swooned slowly as he heard the snow falling faintly through the universe and faintly falling”.

I. GPO (General Post Office), O'Connell St.



“Under the porch of the general post office shoeblacks called and polished”.

This was also the place where *“trams slowed, shunted, changed trolley, started for Blackrock, Kingstown and Dalkey”*, though Joyce marked the location with reference to Nelson's Pillar, which stood opposite from when it was built in 1808, to honour Admiral

GPO, by miguev-maps

Nelson following the Battle of Trafalgar, until it was blown up in 1966.

The GPO was also the central site in the Easter Rising of 1916, and the place from which Padraig Pearse read the Proclamation of Independence.

J. O'Connell Monument, O'Connell St.



The huge cloaked liberator, by DearbhlaS

Standing dramatically overlooking the entrance to the street which bears his name, Daniel O'Connell was the leader of the Catholic Emancipation movement in the early 19th century, campaigning for Catholics to be allowed to vote.

During Paddy Dignam's funeral procession Leopold Bloom remarked on

"the huge cloaked liberator's form"

It is worthy of remark.

In this picture though, a bird perched on O'Connell's head has made a different kind of comment!

K. Bachelor's Walk

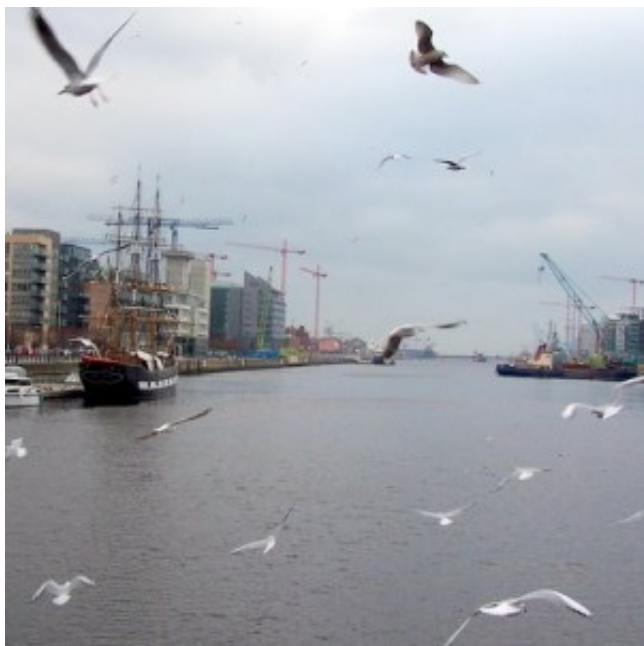
"I'm just running round to Bachelor's walk, Mr Bloom said, about this ad of Keyes's"

While there he see Dilly Dedalus at Dillon's auction house and presumes she has been trying to sell her impoverished family's possessions.



Bachelor's Walk by luiginter

L. O'Connell Bridge



Gulls on the Liffey, by diluvi

day.

O'Connell Bridge was originally built in the 1790s but was widened in 1888 and is now almost an exact square, as wide as it is long.

The Bridge is the main crossing point between the north and south of the

“Good Lord, that poor child’s dress is in flitters. Underfed she looks too.”

Dillons was one of several auction houses that once operated in this area, all now closed. There is a wonderful bookshop along here though, The Winding Stair”, that is worth dropping into. You can walk back to O’Connell Bridge on a boardwalk by the river.

As Leopold Bloom crossed the bridge he bought some Banbury cakes from a street trader to feed to the gulls.

“Aware of their green and cunning he shook the powdery crumb from his hands. They never expected that. Manna.”

You’ll still see plenty of greedy gulls here, but the views from the bridge are much changed since Joyce’s

city, so if you are splitting this walk over two days, it's the end of part one.

Joyce Walk – The Southside

After crossing O'Connell Bridge, walk up Westmoreland St towards Trinity College.

This was the street where Leopold Bloom's taste buds were aroused as he passed Harrison's Restaurant, now long gone.

“Hot mockturtle vapor and steam of newbaked jampuffs rolypoly poured out of Harrison's”

M. Bank of Ireland, College Green



Bank of Ireland, by infomatique

“Before the huge high door of the Irish house of Parliament a flock of pigeons flew. Their little frolic after meals. Who will we do it on? I pick the fellow in black.”

Bloom thinks as he passes the bank.

Once the seat of the Irish Parliament, it was a bank by Joyce's time, and was where

Stephen Dedalus went to cash the prizes he won at Belvedere College, with the intention of treating his family to various expensive gifts.

As you cross the road to Trinity, look out for the statue of Thomas Moore on the traffic island.

“He crossed under Tommy Moore's roguish finger. They did it right to

put him up over a urinal; meeting of the waters”

Thomas Moore was famed for his songs, collectively known as “Moore’s Melodies”. One of the best loved was “The Meeting of the Water”, about a place where two rivers join in Co Wicklow. At the time there was a urinal in this area.

Thoughtfully Bloom adds:

“Ought to be places for women.”

N. Trinity College



Trinity main entrance, by jcorrius

Alma Mater of many Irish writers, including Swift, Beckett, Wilde and Goldsmith, but not of Joyce.

As a catholic he would have been forbidden to attend without permission from his bishop, which was virtually impossible to get. He probably never passed through those doors, but you should.

Perhaps it was pique that led Bloom to ponder while passing the

building where the Provost of the University lived and still lives to-day:

“The reverend Dr Salmon: tinned salmon. Well tinned in there. Wouldn’t live in it if they paid me.”

Many consider it to be the finest house in Dublin, and certainly No 1 Grafton St is an unbeatable address.

O. Nassau St

This was where, in 1904, James Joyce met his future wife, the red-haired Galway girl, Nora Barnacle, and asked her for a date. It's a good street to do some shopping for souvenirs to-day.

Though some of the shops are a bit overpriced, the long established Kevin & Howlin is a good place to buy tweed and woollens.

P. Finn's Hotel & Sweny's Chemist



Finns Hotel, by Jack_Dawkins

This was where Nora Barnacle worked as a chambermaid. It's a long time closed, but if you stand on Clare St you can still make out the name written on the gable end of the building. Look out for this as you near the top of Nassau St.

Bloom was right about chemists:

*“Sweny's in Lincoln place.
Chemists rarely move.”*

Not only is Sweny's Pharmacy still there, it has changed little and still has its black-and-white exterior and an interior crammed with potions and vials.

And yes, like Bloom, you can buy handlotion and lemon soap!

Q. Merrion Square

Number 1 Merrion Square, the first house on your left as you turn into the square, was where Joyce arranged to meet Nora Barnacle for their first date. She stood him up. It was also where Oscar Wilde's father, a doctor, practiced.



Oscar Wilde, photo by infomatique

Inside the gate of the park opposite that house is a rather unusual statue of Oscar Wilde, lolling on a rock. As many people hate this statue as love it – make up your own mind!

There are many other literary and historic associations here, including No. 58, former home of Daniel O’Connell, Nos. 52 and 82 where W. B. Yeats lived and No 84 which was the office of George Russell

(A.E.).

The National Art Gallery, where Bloom and Stephen pass briefly in the entrance portico, has several portraits of Irish writers and other notable figures and is worth a visit.

At the other end of Merrion Sq (but not worth detouring to) is The National Maternity Hospital, known commonly as Holles St Hospital, where Bloom visited the unfortunate Mina Purefoy, who had been in labour for three days!

“Send us, bright one, light one, Horhorn, quickening and wombfruit.”

R. St Stephen’s Green

A fine and much loved city park which has a bust of Joyce in its centre, close to the bandstand. It was memorably described in Ulysses:

“the trees in Stephen’s Green were fragrant of rain and the rainsodden earth gave forth its mortal odour”



Stephen's Green by Janine de Azevedo

and delis on Baggot St after you leave Merrion Sq.

The hotel opposite, The Shelbourne, is mentioned several times in Joyce's books. Then, as now, it was an expensive hotel and a popular place for well off Dubliners to socialise.

There is a bust of James Joyce in the Green and it is a very pleasant place for a picnic or an alfresco lunch on a sunny day. If you are going to have a picnic, pick up some food at one of the many shops

S. The National Museum, Kildare St.



Bloom detoured into the museum to avoid a meeting with his wife's lover, Blazes Boylan, who he saw coming down the street.

“Straw hat in sunlight. Tan shoes. Turnedup trousers. It is. It is. His heart quopped softly. To the right. Museum.”

While there he expounds to a captive audience of Dublin intellectuals on his theories about Shakespeare and Hamlet.

T. Molesworth St & Dawson St

In Ulysses Bloom helped a blind man across Dawson St and into



Photo by Squish_E

various points of Leopold Bloom's walk, keep an eye out for them as you go.

U. Davy Byrnes, Duke St



Davy Byrnes's Moral Pub by Tom Harpel

V. Grafton St

Molesworth St.

“He touched the thin elbow gently: then took the limp seeing hand to guide it forward.

Say something to him. Better not do the condescending. They mistrust what you tell them. Pass a common remark.”

The plaque pictured is set into the pavement where they crossed. It is one of several such plaques at

“He entered Davy Byrnes's. Moral pub.”

Bloom stopped here for lunch – a gorgonzola sandwich and a glass of Burgundy wine. The pub is still going strong and you can order the same lunch to-day, but it will cost you a lot more than Leopold Bloom paid!

Look out for another plaque set in the pavement outside.



Bewleys, by jcorrius

buying a pin cushion for Molly.

James Joyce was known to be fond of a trip to Bewley's Oriental Cafe, further up the street, and referred to it as :

“the Lofty Clattery Café”

By now you are surely in need of a cup of coffee, so this is a good place to finish your tour.

Map of James Joyce Walk

Then, as now, an busy shopping area

“gay with awnings”

As he passed

“the windows of Brown Thomas, silk mercers. Cascades of ribbons. Flimsy china silks. Gleaming silks, petticoats on slim brass rails, rays of flat silk stockings....”

Leopold Bloom thought about