So, now that you know how to get around Dublin, what's good to see and do? Colum Cronin of UCD's International Office has a wealth of ideas, so read on...

Guide to Dublin

Day one following arrival: You're going to be pretty useless from the jetlag on day one so I wouldn't have high expectations of what you'll do. If you arrive early enough sleep, but not beyond lunchtime, if you don't arrive until later then power through, explore city centre, have a nice meal and go to bed early. Then the following morning hit the ground running - consider a hop on / hop off bus that will give you the general lay of the land and you decide what sights you want to spend more time in. Do the official Dublin bus tour: https://www.dublinsightseeing.ie as the drivers are always really fun, super Irish characters!

Weather Advice

Unless it is a very sunny day, always take some rain gear and a jumper (sweater) with you, the winds from the sea can be freezing and wet and the weather changes frequently and quickly in Ireland. It's often bright enough that you'll need sunglasses and yet at the same time cold enough to require a coat.

Some Recommendations

Book of Kells and Old Library at Trinity College

This 9th century manuscript is not something to be missed! Admire the intricate insular art and then be inspired by the sheer magnificence of the Long Room Library.

Opening Hours & Prices:

June- Sept: Mon- Sat: 8.30- 17.00; **Sunday:** 9.30- 17.00
Oct-Dec: Mon-Sat: 9.30- 17.00; **Sunday:** 12.00- 16.30

Adult: €13
Child: Free
Family (2 Adults and 2 Children under 16): €22
Student/Senior: €9

Kilmainham Gaol

Visit the haunting building where the leaders of the 1916 rising were executed. Follow your tour guide around one of Ireland's most famous gaols. Our tip: BOOK IN ADVANCE!

Opening Hours: 9.00 - 17.45

Adult: €7.00
Child: €3.00
Family: €15.00
Student: €3.00
Senior: €5.00

Literary Pub Crawl

A walking tour of Dublin's historic pubs in the company of two actors who introduce Irish writers (Joyce, Beckett, Behan, Oscar Wilde) and perform scenes from their works.

When:
Summer (1 April- 31 October): Every Evening at 7.30pm
Winter (1 November-31 March): Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday at 7.30pm

Where: Meeting point is The Duke Pub, Duke Street (off Grafton Street). Doors open at 7pm, tour starts at 7.30pm.

Cost: €12 Adults, €10 Students

More info at: http://www.dublinpubcrawl.com

1916 Freedom Tour

Travel to key locations of the 1916 rising in a specially modified 1916 vehicle. Starting from Merrion Square, learn how the Rising affected the people of Dublin on this highly engaging tour.

Opening Hours & Prices:

Closed Mondays and Tuesdays.
Tours at 10am, 12pm, 2pm and 4pm.

Adult: €20
Teenager: 15
Child: €12
Family (2 Adults & 2 Children): €60
Military: €15
Student/Senior: €16

More info at: http://www.1916tour.ie/

Traditional Irish Sports

If you come during the summer months then go and see a game at Croke Park. Ireland has two national sports: Gaelic football and hurling, both of which are played in Croke Park. Croke Park is the home of Gaelic games and the headquarters of the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) and with a capacity for 82,300 people; it is the third largest stadium in Europe.

Museums

All the museums and galleries are free in Dublin City, one that is pretty crazy and unique is the Natural History Museum. It's kind of a museum of a museum, fully preserved Victorian taxidermy animals in glass cases. I know it sounds weird (and it is) but it's worth spending 10-15 minutes in if you are in the area. It's around the corner from Stephen's Green Park and really near the National Gallery and Merrion Square. http://www.museum.ie/Natural-History

Parks around Dublin

St. Stephen's Green

Located right at the very heart of the city centre and landscaped with flowerbeds, trees, a fountain and a lake, the green is dotted with memorials to eminent Dubliners. The bandstand is still the focal point for free daytime concerts in summer.

Phoenix Park

The Phoenix Park is the largest urban Park in Europe! It is home to Dublin zoo, Áras an Uachtaráin (the president's house), coffee shops, and bicycle hire. It was originally known as Deer Park in the 17th century, and you can often see wild deer.

Iveagh Gardens

The Iveagh Gardens is a hidden haven within a busy city, located behind the National Concert hall it is amongst the finest and least known of Dublin's parks and gardens.

Day trips from Dublin

Consider something slightly further afield from Dublin reachable by public transport as a day trip. Dublin's coastal rail service, the DART (Dublin Area Rapid Transit), runs along the coast of Dublin, from Malahide and Howth southwards as far as Greystones, Co Wicklow. It's cheap and scenic.

Southbound:

Bray

Bray is a busy seaside town. It is known as the Gateway to Wicklow. Situated in northern County Wicklow and about 20 km (12 miles) south of Dublin. It is a popular destination for tourists especially on weekends.

Where to eat in Bray: Platform Pizza. Amazing pizza restaurant. Be sure to book ahead though - it gets super-busy. https://www.yelp.ie/biz/platform-pizza-bar-bray

Greystones

Greystones is the last stop on the Dart and is located on the east coast just south of Bray Head. Originally a small fishing village, Greystones has grown significantly over the past number of years but has not lost its friendly and welcoming village atmosphere.

Greystones to Bray walk

This is an extremely scenic walk along the cliffs between the town of Greystones and Bray overlooking the Irish Sea. People all over the world hike for thousands of metres to get the kind of beautiful coastline views that can be witnessed on the cliff walk between Bray and Greystones.

The trail can either be started from Greystones Harbour or Bray Seafront. We recommend starting in Greystones, there are more restaurant options in Bray and DARTs run at a greater frequency from Bray also.

More info:
https://www.tripadvisor.ie/Attraction_Review-g212098-d2254326-Reviews-
The_Bray_to_Greystones_Cliff_Walk-Bray_County_Wicklow.html

Bray Head

Bray Head offers a delightful varied walk. A quite steep climb to a viewpoint with rocky alcoves. On a windy day magnificent day waves batter the rocks below.

More info: http://www.bray.ie/bray-head-walk/

Dun Laoghaire

Dun Laoghaire is a popular port town about 11km (7 miles) south of Dublin. Coastal walks, amazing views and lovely parks (with a great farmers' market at the weekends) it is popular with tourists and locals alike. The Dart station is situated right in the centre so everything is within easy access. Very popular for festivals, music and family events throughout the year

Dalkey

Dalkey is a stylish and historic little village situated at the southern end of Dublin bay. It is one of the most attractive DART stops and when you step off the Dart you are right in the centre of the village. It has a lot to offer from fantastic views, Dalkey island, lots of history, art galleries, cafes, restaurants and pubs.

Northbound:

Howth

The pretty port village of Howth (the name rhymes with 'both') is a fishing centre and yachting harbour and is the last stop on the DART line. Offering scenic walks, history, good food, and a plethora of pubs, it's a gem not to be missed.

More info: http://www.visitdublin.com/hooked-on-howth-dublin

Malahide

Malahide is a lovely village situated on the coast. It exudes charm and has lots of historical attractions to keep visitors busy. The DART station is situated right in the village so it is only a couple of minutes walk to the main attractions. It's full of history - chiefly the Danes in the 8th century and the Normans in the 12th.

Malahide Castle is one of the oldest castles in Ireland, owned by the Talbot Family for almost 800 years. It's steeped in history, but a recent refurb allows visitors the opportunity to browse an interactive area on the ground floor. Guided tours are available too.

Tickets include admission to the famous Botanic Walled Garden. Afterwards, reward yourself with an indulgence at the Avoca Store and Cafe.

More info: http://www.malahidecastleandgardens.ie

Other Options

Glendalough is part of a National Park in the Wicklow Mountains, stunning scenery and beautiful walks. It's a full day event, pack some snacks and water, once you're out on the trail there are no shops. More info: www.glendalough.ie

Newgrange is a 5000 year old monument built by Stone Age farmers which predates the pyramids and Stonehenge. It's located about an hour from Dublin in County Meath, and is well worth a look. More info: http://www.newgrange.com

Powerscourt has lovely scenic gardens and estate, with the added bonus of a very tasty restaurant as well. More info: http://www.powerscourt.ie/gardens

Dublin Bay Cruises are available for those of a more nautical persuasion. UCD librarian James Molloy speaks very highly of them and more information can be found here: http://www.dublinbaycruises.com

Botanical Gardens and Glasnevin Cemetery are right beside each other in Glasnevin on the north side of Dublin City Centre, and are a fascinating experience. You can find more information at http://www.botanicgardens.ie and https://www.glasnevintrust.ie. Be sure to nip into John Kavanagh's pub (aka The Gravediggers) for what is generally acknowledged to be one of the best pints of Guinness in Dublin (and therefore the world...).

More information can be found here: https://www.traditionalirishpubs.com/company/john-kavanagh-the-gravediggers