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**LIFE IN DUN LAOGHAIRE, DUBLIN + IRELAND**

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**DUN LAOGHAIRE TOWN**

You will find IADT two kilometres away from Dun Laoghaire town, in Kill Avenue, on a fresh, modern campus that is home to over 2,500 students and staff.

Dun Laoghaire is seven miles south of Dublin city. The town, with its thriving commercial centre, has the advantage of being beside the sea offering magnificent coastal views. Within 20 minutes you can be in Dublin City by DART (suburban rail). Dun Laoghaire, both a Victorian and modern town, has played an important part in the development of Modern Ireland. Its harbour, the largest man-made harbour in Western Europe, was one of the great architectural/engineering projects of the 19th Century and remains an important working port as well as a valuable leisure facility. For over a century Dun Laoghaire was the main sea route between Britain and Ireland. Today Dun Laoghaire is a vibrant exciting place, a mélange of the old and new. It is the administrative centre for the County and has its own Theatre, a Cinema Complex, a Maritime Museum, on-street shopping, two shopping centres, an excellent public transport system and ample car parking.

Because of its location, Dun Laoghaire makes a perfect base from where you can explore all that's on offer, not only in the immediate area, but in the surrounding areas of County Wicklow and of course, Dublin City. The many bus routes and the DART make it easy for visitors to get around. A short journey into the city centre will connect you to anywhere in the country.

But why travel that far when some of the best views and walks are on the doorstep? Killiney and Dalkey Hills, Vico Road, Dalkey Island and Village and the James Joyce Tower to name a few.

Together with the splendid harbour and surrounding rolling hills, Dun Laoghaire is the ideal place to begin or end your journey through Ireland. It was once called Kingstown and before that the English called it Dunleary. Some people spell it without a space between the two words, Dunlaoghaire or even Dun Laoire, but the way to spell it is Dún Laoghaire.

Dún Laoghaire gets its name from the Irish Translation, Fort (Dún) of Laoghaire. King Laoghaire was the ancient High King of Ireland before the Vikings arrived. When the English came they renamed the town Dunlary (Dunleary) to suit the English tongue. In 1821 it was renamed Kingstown by King George IV of England to honour his visit to the town that year. It remained Kingstown through Victorian times until in 1921, one year before independence, the town council voted to change the name back to the ancient Irish name Dún Laoghaire. The person most responsible for this was the Irish Martyr Patrick Moran who was commemorated with the naming of Moran Park.

Today in Dun Laoghaire, people still enjoy a stroll along the "Prom", and then down the Pier, stopping off at Teddy's for a Ninety Nine on the way home. Dun Laoghaire has a [wide range of activities](http://www.dun-laoghaire.com/local_activities.html) for everyone, old and young. With the Harbour the center piece of the town, you can be assured of a wide and varied selection of water sports to choose from. Whether it's speeding through the waves of Dublin Bay or dancing the night away until the wee hours of the morning, strolling through the hills, horse riding, fishing or just taking it easy, Dun Laoghaire has everything on offer. It is also the ideal place to base yourself if you’re planning a visit to Dublin, or the rest of Ireland. The Tourist Office is at The County Hall in Marine Road, Dun Laoghaire.

**Check these websites to find out what is going on in Dun Laoghaire:**

[**www.dunlaoghaire.ie**](http://www.dunlaoghaire.ie)

[**www.dlrtourism.ie**](http://www.dlrtourism.ie)

[**www.tripadvisor.ie/Attractions-g186606-Activities-Dun\_Laoghaire\_County\_Dublin.html**](http://www.tripadvisor.ie/Attractions-g186606-Activities-Dun_Laoghaire_County_Dublin.html)

**LEISURE TIME IN DUBLIN**

It is important to take a break from study every once in a while and enjoy the rich social life Dublin has to offer. Temple Bar is a popular area in Dublin city, with many restaurants and pubs. This area, attractive for tourists, is well worth a visit.

Cinemas

Dublin is well served by cinemas. The Irish Film Institute ([www.ifi.ie](http://www.ifi.ie)) shows a variety of alternative films, and Cineworld and the Savoy cinemas show the latest films on general release.

There is an Irish Multiplex Cinema (IMC) in Dun Laoghaire, situated in Lower George's Street.

Log onto [www.imccinemas.ie](http://www.imccinemas.ie) to find out about admission prices, etc. Bring your IADT student card to the cinema with you at all times, and ask for the student rates.

Museums and Art Galleries

Most museums and art galleries can be visited free of charge. Popular choices are the National Gallery of Ireland ([www.nationalgallery.ie](http://www.nationalgallery.ie)) and the Natural History Museum ([www.museum.ie](http://www.museum.ie)) in Merrion Square, the Hugh Lane Municipal Gallery of Modern Art ([www.hughlane.ie](http://www.hughlane.ie)) in Parnell Square, and the Irish Museum of Modern Art ([www.imma.ie](http://www.imma.ie)) and Kilmainham Gaol, both in Kilmainham. Also worth a visit are the Chester Beatty Library ([www.cbl.ie](http://www.cbl.ie)), the National Museum of Decorative Arts and History at Collin’s Barracks ([www.museum.ie](http://www.museum.ie)) and Dublin Castle.

Log onto [www.heritageireland.ie](http://www.heritageireland.ie)for more information on museums, art galleries, etc.

Theatres

Theatres, such as The Abbey ([www.abbeytheatre.ie](http://www.abbeytheatre.ie)) and Gate ([www.gatetheatre.ie](http://www.gatetheatre.ie)) provide a good variety of plays (an enjoyable way to improve your English). There is also The Pavilion Theatre in Dun Laoghaire ([www.paviliontheatre.ie](http://www.paviliontheatre.ie)). Many theatres offer student discounts on production of a valid student card.

Traditional Irish Music

Traditional Irish music can be heard in many pubs and bars in the city. It isn’t necessary to drink alcohol to enjoy a night in the pub as soft drinks are also available. Several pubs also specialise in jazz and fusion music, while classical music is available at the National Concert Hall ([www.nch.ie](http://www.nch.ie)) in Earlsfort Terrace and at other venues.

Restaurants

Restaurants range widely in price and there are many cheap places to eat, such as pizzerias, pasta restaurants and ethnic restaurants.

Nightclubs

There are also plenty of nightclubs in Dublin. For a list of nightclubs log onto [www.nightoutexpert.com](http://www.nightoutexpert.com)

Where to find out what is going on!

The quickest way to get information about what's on in Dublin are these websites:

* [www.dublin.ie](http://www.dublin.ie)
* [www.entertainment.ie](http://www.entertainment.ie)
* [www.eventguide.ie](http://www.eventguide.ie)
* [www.totallydublin.ie](http://www.totallydublin.ie)

The Ticket

The Friday edition of the Irish Times newspaper has an entertainment section called ‘The Ticket’ which has full details of events for the week ahead.

**LIVING IN IRELAND**

Geography

Ireland is the most westerly country of the European Union, separated from Great Britain by the North Channel on the northeast and the Irish Sea on the east. Ireland is an island of 84,430 sq. km (32,598 square miles). Its greatest length is 485 km (302 miles), its greatest width 304 km (189 miles), and its coastline extends for over 5,631 km (3,500 miles). The highest mountain is Carrantuohill (1,040 metres/3,414 feet), near Killarney in County Kerry. The longest river is the Shannon (370 km/230 miles). The largest lake is Lough Neagh (396 sq. km/153 square miles) in Northern Ireland.

The country is divided into four historic provinces. Ulster (9 counties) in the north; Munster (6 counties) in the south; Leinster (12 counties) in the east; and Connacht (5 counties) in the west. The population of the 32 counties of Ireland is approximately 5 million.

Landscape

The landscape varies from bogs and lakes in the central lowlands to mountains and rocky islands in the west. Between these two extremes, the island has abundant lush, green pastureland but little natural woodland.

Climate

Winters in Ireland are mild and summers temperate due to the prevailing south westerly winds and the influence of the warm waters of the North Atlantic Drift. Ireland has a mild climate all year-averaging 2°- 7°C (35°- 45°F) in winter and 18°- 24°C (65°- 75°F) in summer.

May and June are the sunniest months with an average of over 7 hours of sunshine per day. However, you will always need a waterproof jacket or/and an umbrella.

Time Zone

Ireland is in the same time zone as Great Britain, Greenwich Mean Time (GMT). The clocks change twice yearly for summer time. The summer time period starts the last Sunday in March at 1.00am GMT, i.e. the clock goes forward one hour. The summer time period ends the last Sunday in October at 1.00am GMT, i.e. the clock goes back one hour.

Religion

Ireland is a religious country, with approximately 85% Roman Catholic. Many other religions are respected and represented. There are Church of Ireland, Presbyterian, Methodist and Baptist Churches, as well as Eastern Orthodox and Salvation Army communities. Several American gospel groups are represented as well as Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons. In addition to the Christian denominations there are centres for Buddhists, Hindus, Bahais and for people of the Islamic and Jewish faiths.

Currency

The currency of the Republic of Ireland is the Euro (€). Euro notes are in seven denominations: 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200 and 500 Euro. There is 100 cent to the Euro and coins are in eight denominations: 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 50 cent, and 1 and 2 Euro. As Northern Ireland is part of the United Kingdom, the pound sterling (Stg£) is in use there and denominations are similar to that of the Euro.

Banking

There are five retail banks in Ireland, the Bank of Ireland (BOI), the Allied Irish Bank (AIB), the Ulster Bank, the National Irish Bank and the TSB Bank. The BOI offers its services on the IADT campus. Most banks are open from Monday to Friday from 10am to 4pm. ATM facilities are available is most towns and villages.

Credit Cards

All major credit cards (Visa, MasterCard) are accepted practically everywhere in service and retail outlets. Some outlets may accept Diners Club and American Express cards. Most credit cards can be used in ATMs, especially the Bank of Ireland and Allied Irish Bank ATMs.

Postal Service

Post Offices are open from 9am to 5.30pm during the week and from 9am to 1pm on Saturdays. They offer a full postal service to all countries and often offer banking facilities.

Electricity

In Ireland, the same as in most parts of Europe, standard electricity voltage is between 220 – 240 volts, and frequency is 50 Hertz. If your electric goods are not suited to work under these conditions, you should buy a transformer. This especially applies to those of you who are bringing your electrical goods from the USA. Buildings in Ireland have sockets for 13 amp square pin fused plugs. Adaptors can be bought in any hardware shop to adapt your plugs to fit 3 pin sockets.

Telephone

Public telephones in Ireland are coin, card or credit card operated. Card operated telephones take a telephone card that can be bought from newsagents and can be used for several calls until the credit runs out. International phone cards can also be bought from most newsagents.

The international dialling code for Ireland is +353 and the area code for Dublin is (0)1.

Most people in Ireland have a mobile phone and students may purchase a mobile phone on arrival in Ireland. Mobile phone companies in Ireland include Vodafone (www.vodafone.ie), Three (www.three.ie) and Meteor ([www.meteor.ie](http://www.meteor.ie)).

Radio and Television

Ireland has three state controlled television channels, *RTE 1*, *RTE 2* and the Irish language *Teilifís na Gaeilge* (TG4), and one privately run channel, *TV3*. There are six national radio stations and many local ones.

British TV channels can be picked up in most parts of Ireland on Cable TV.

Newspapers and Magazines

Popular national daily newspapers include the *Irish Times*, *Irish Independent* and the *Irish* *Examiner*. There are also daily tabloid newspapers. Most towns have a local or regional paper, which tell you what’s on and where. All good newsagents sell a wide variety of special interest magazines, from sport to business.

Driving in Ireland

In Ireland, cars are driven on the left-hand side of the road. In towns and cities, the speed limit is normally 50 kilometres per hour but on certain roads higher or lower limits may apply. A general speed limit of 100 kilometres per hour applies on all roads except for motorways where a speed limit of 120 kilometres per hour applies.

The laws regarding speeding, drink-driving and wearing seatbelts in Ireland are very strict. There is a penalty point system in operation, whereby points will be added to your driving licence for road safety offences. Full details on all road safety offences can be found at www.rsa.ie

Working in Ireland

EU/EEA students are allowed to work in Ireland without restriction on the number of hours or on the type of work. Non-EU students are allowed to work for 20 hours per week during their study period in Ireland. Students may work full time (40 hours per week) during the vacation period.

Before starting employment, it is necessary to obtain a PPS number from the **Social Welfare Local Offices.** Dun Laoghaire Social Welfare Office is located in 18/21 Cumberland Street, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin.

www: [www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie)

E: Dunlaoghairequeries@welfare.ie

T: +353 1 214 5540

Applicants will need to present the following documents in person, and fill out an application form:

* Passport + Immigration Card
* Proof of address in Ireland

When your PPS number card is ready it will be posted to your address in Ireland. Generally, applications take 10 working days to process.

Public Holidays

There are 9 public holidays in Ireland each year. Public holidays in Ireland (as in other countries) may commemorate a special day or other event, for example, St Patrick's Day (17th March) or Christmas Day (25th December). On a public holiday, sometimes called a *bank holiday*, most businesses and schools close. Other services, for example, public transport still operate but often with restricted schedules. The main public holidays in Ireland are:

* New Year's Day (1st January)
* St. Patrick's Day (17th March)
* Easter Monday
* First Monday in May, June, August
* Last Monday in October
* Christmas Day (25th December)
* St. Stephen's Day (26th December)

Good Friday is not a public holiday.

**Find out what is going on around Ireland on** [**www.discoverireland.ie/Whats-On**](http://www.discoverireland.ie/Whats-On)