iWalk

01: GEORGIAN DUBLIN

A self-guided walking tour

iWalk!

Dublin Tourism
DUBLIN REGIONAL TOURISM AUTHORITY

Truly Madly Deeply
Dublin
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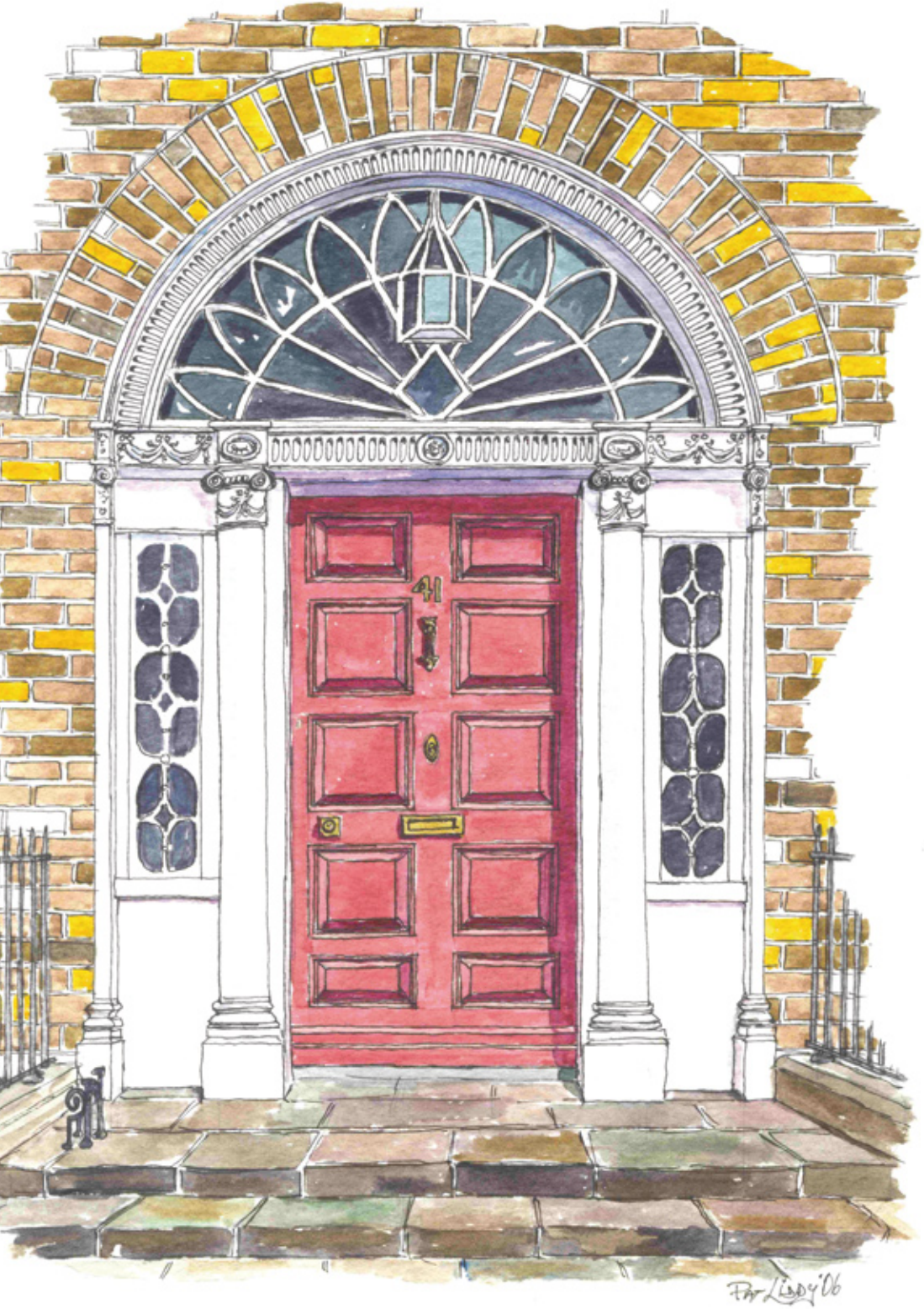

WELCOME TO DUBLIN

WE HOPE THAT AS YOU TAKE TIME TO WALK AROUND AND EXPLORE DUBLIN YOU WILL DISCOVER THE IRISH CAPITAL IS AT THE VERY HEART OF IRISH CULTURE AND OFFERS ENDLESS CHOICES TO OUR VISITORS. DUBLIN'S REAL APPEAL IS HER PEOPLE, SO DON'T BE AFRAID TO STOP AND ASK FOR DIRECTIONS ALONG YOUR WALK – DUBLINERS' HOSPITALITY AND WIT WILL CAPTIVATE YOU!

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iWalk
GEORGIAN DUBLIN

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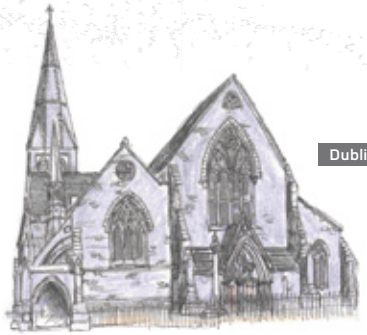
iWalk - Georgian Dublin



Dublin Tourism Centre

Molly Malone

Trinity College

Campanile

Old Library

Hodges Figgis

01 This walk will bring you along the edges of some bustling shopping streets before inviting you into the quiet oasis of the 18th century heart of Trinity College and from there into one of the best preserved quarters of Georgian Dublin with its terraces and squares of impressive period houses. The journey is roughly circular and the distance covered is about 2 kilometres. Casually strolling, it should take on average about 1.5 hours to complete. Obviously you may visit the several museums and parks along the way at your own leisure but such visits will, of course, add to the overall duration time. There are many coffee shops, cafés and restaurants along the way where you may seek refreshment. The tour commences from outside the Dublin Tourism Centre on Suffolk Street.

02 Commence walking along Suffolk Street towards Grafton Street. The street was named in the 17th century after the Earl of Suffolk. When you come to the junction of Grafton Street and Nassau Street, bear left and stop at the statue of a lady pushing a cart.

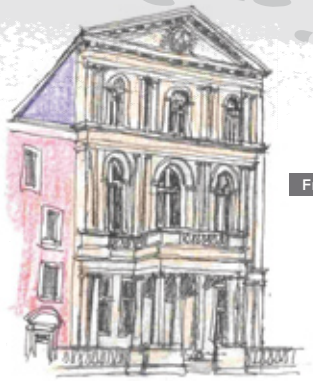
03 From here walk down Grafton Street towards College Green and cross with the pedestrian lights to Trinity College. Just before you come to the lights, and on your left, you will pass tobacconists J.J. Fox, which was established by London-born James John Fox in 1881. During the Second World War the firm boasted that they were the only shop in northern Europe to maintain a constant supply of Havana cigars – how they accomplished that is still a well kept secret! James Fox's grandson, Fred, is credited with the idea of opening the world's first duty-free shop at Shannon Airport in 1947 when he suggested to the government of the day to sell duty-free cigarettes and liquor. When you have crossed over the street position yourself just inside the front railings of Trinity College and face back onto College Green.

04 You are now ready to walk into Trinity College through the main archway entrance. When you come out onto the wide cobbled square proceed straight ahead until you come to the Campanile, or bell tower, and then turn around to face towards the way you came in.

05 Now turn left and pass between the large stately building known as the Old Library and the small temple-like Reading Room, until you come out onto Fellow's Square where you should pause again to look back at the Old Library.

06 You should now make your way up the ramp on your left and in through the modern Arts Block and along the corridor which winds to the right passing the security desk. Keep going until you reach the footpath outside Trinity College on Nassau Street. Cross, with the lights in your favour, directly onto the left-hand side of Dawson Street. Pause at a convenient spot about 30 metres up from the corner and opposite to the bookshop called Hodges Figgis.

iWalk - Georgian Dublin



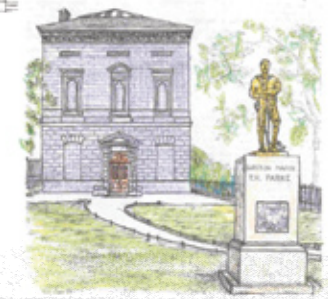
Freemasons' Hall

Leinster House

Royal College of Physicians in Ireland

Oscar Wilde

Rutland Fountain



Natural History Museum

07 We will be looking at some very historic buildings further up the street in a short while but for now proceed up Dawson Street until you reach the next corner, then turn left into Molesworth Street and keep going until you reach the Freemasons' Hall, a classically designed building which is located almost at the far end of the street.

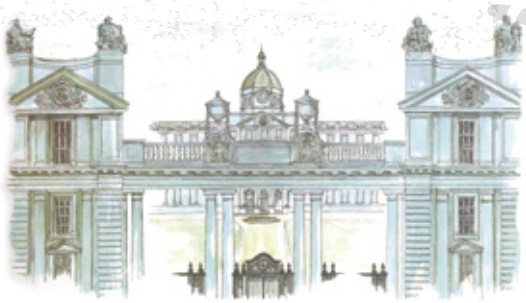
08 Move a little further onto the next corner which connects Molesworth Street with Kildare Street. There are several Government institutions along this street, the most famous being Leinster House, the seat of Dáil Éireann or the Irish Parliament, which is the building directly opposite to Molesworth Street and set behind a beautiful wrought iron gateway.

09 Commence walking down Kildare Street towards Leinster Street South noting on your right (opposite to Frederick Lane), the premises of the Royal College of Physicians in Ireland. While keeping to the style of Georgian public buildings, this edifice was only erected in 1863 and is the headquarters of this medical organisation which was first founded in 1654. Further down the street and almost at the corner, in an Italianate-styled building, is the Heraldic Museum and the Office of the Chief Herald of Ireland, a state office first established in 1552. The museum contains many ancient heraldic devices and coat-of-arms and is still involved in the granting of individual coat-of-arms to families and institutions.

10 Turn right into Leinster Street South and continue into Clare Street until you reach the entrance into the National Gallery. During opening hours you may find the café and restroom facilities within at this halfway stage of your tour. When ready, continue along Clare Street until you come to Merrion Square where you should cross with the lights in your favour to the railings of Merrion Square Park, officially known as Archbishop Ryan Park. Bearing right, walk along by the railings until you come to a gate, enter the park then turn immediately left until you come to a statue group. This is the memorial to Oscar Wilde.

11 Leave the park by the gate you entered and turn left to stand in front of a stone monument set just inside the railings, this is the Rutland Fountain. From this vantage point you will be able to see a number of important buildings to best advantage.

12 Move further up Merrion Square and carefully cross the road at the traffic island to stand opposite the Natural History Museum.



Government Buildings

Huguenot Cemetery

Mansion House

St. Ann's Church

13 Continue up Merrion Square which now merges with Merrion Street Upper. As you walk, take in the terraces of Georgian houses along the south side of Merrion Square and down as far as Mount Street, which is closed off at the far end by the lovely 18th century church of St. Stephen's. Stop at the gates of Government Buildings where you may look inside at the large courtyard with its playing fountain.

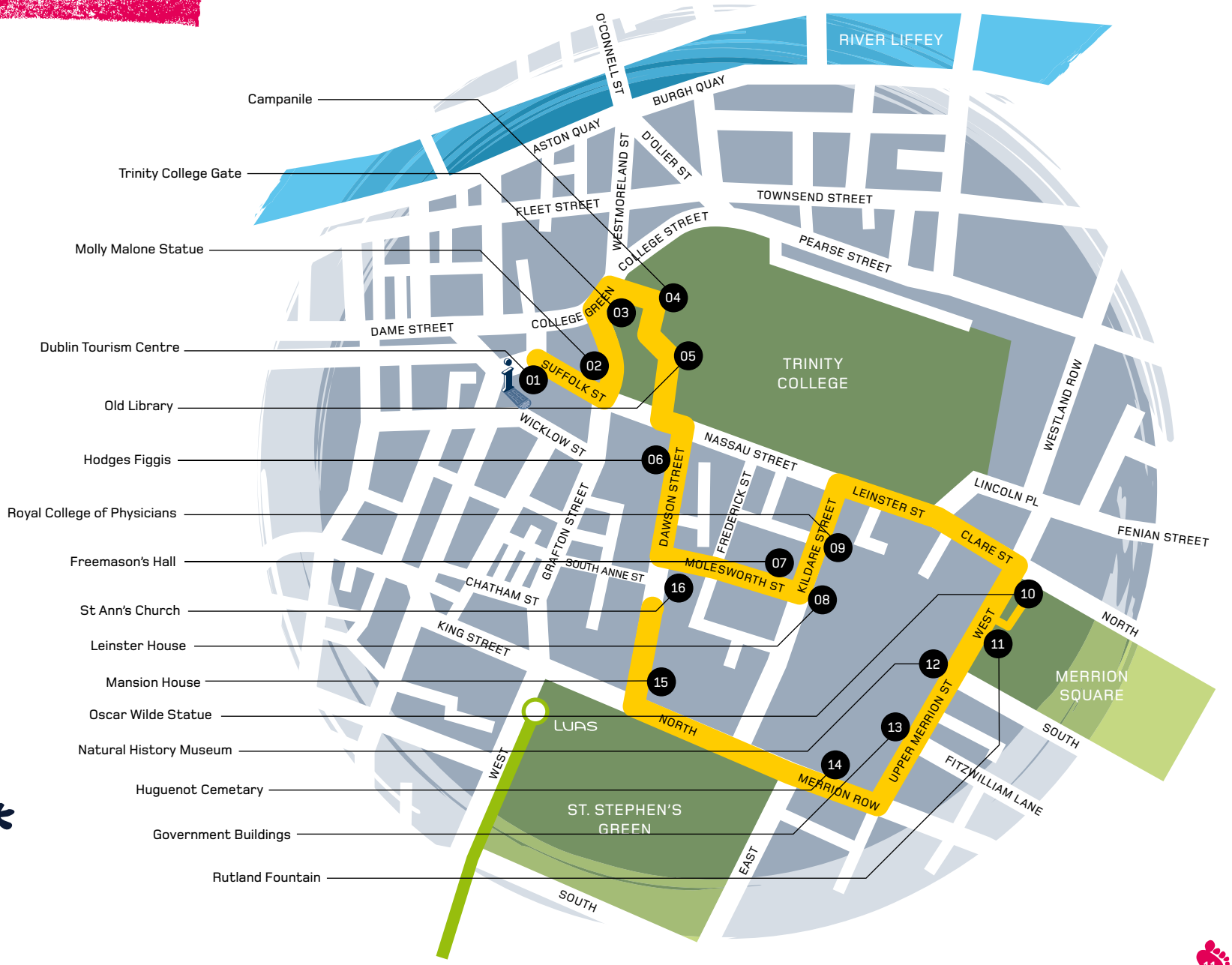
14 We shall now commence the return loop of our itinerary. Head towards the next junction and turn right onto Merrion Row, passing on your left a wonderful example of a wooden shopfront, with an elaborate bay window and beside it O'Donoghue's Pub where there are often spontaneous sessions of Irish traditional music. O'Donoghue's is where the legendary Irish traditional group, 'The Dubliners', was founded. A short distance further, on your right, stop in front of a gate and railings behind which is an unusual cemetery, the Huguenot Cemetery.

15 Set off again passing by the historic and luxurious 19th century Shelbourne Hotel where the first Constitution of the Irish Free State was written in 1922. On your left is St. Stephen's Green, open to the public since 1880 and one of the great green lungs of the city centre. You may later make an optional visit into the park, if you wish. At each entrance is an illustrated map of the park describing all its features. Cross the junction at Kildare Street and when you reach Dawson Street turn right. When you enter Dawson Street look over to your left and note the sign over a single doorway advertising the presence of the Dawson Lounge. This downstairs pub is the smallest of Dublin's 800 pubs and its quirky interior can only accommodate around 40 patrons at any one time. Stop in front of the Mansion House, a detached building which is set back before a cobbled courtyard and which is home to Dublin's Lord Mayor.

16 Recommence your walk down the street, passing by, on the right, a prominent Georgian-style building, built in 1770, which houses the prestigious Royal Irish Academy. This is a learned institution, founded in 1785, to promote scientific and historic research. In 1932, one of its members, Ernest Walton, in association with his mentor Ernest Rutherford and colleague John Cockcroft, was the first person to artificially split the atom using accelerated protons fired at lithium metal. Stop opposite to St. Ann's Church.

-- You have now reached the end of this guided tour. You can either return to the start by continuing down Dawson Street and turning left onto Nassau Street until you reach Suffolk Street. If you want to go shopping there are a number of well-known Irish craft shops on Nassau Street or you may travel up South Anne Street, opposite to St. Ann's Church, and visit the shops along famous Grafton Street and inside the Stephen's Green Shopping Centre at the top of Grafton Street.

iWalk - route map



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We hope that you enjoyed this walk which was narrated by its author, Pat Liddy, who may be visited on his website www.walkingtours.ie and brought to you by Dublin Tourism on www.visitdublin.com

For the latest updates on walking tours of Dublin, check out our website: www.visitdublin.com/iwalks

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