# **DUN 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 complements terraces of elegant Victorian townhouses, the harmony of old and new. Dún Laoghaire is a cosmopolitan coastal town, yet you can sense the fishing village at the heart of this historic place.

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 to enjoy along with theatres, galleries and exhibitions, 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 Dún Laoghaire CoCo 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 with 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 an Irish folk 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.







## 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 LOOKING and Bloomfield Shopping Centres. Love upcycling?

There's a vibrant vintage scene with shops offering fashion, antiques, vinyl and even comics from yesteryear. Look out for stores selling unique Irish produce & gifts to bring home to loves ones.

# TO STAY?

The Royal Marine Hotel and Haddington House offer *luxurious accommodation, as* do many fine guesthouses and B&Bs in the area. To find out more, contact the Tourist Information Kiosk.

### 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-battered catch of the day to crab claws and homesmoked salmon crostini, the sea will give you an appetite and satisfy 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.



# 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, Dún Laoghaire Harbour 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 John McNeill Boyd, who drowned while trying to rescue the crew of a stricken ship, 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.

### 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

### VISIT THE REFURBISHED **DÚN LAOGHAIRE BATHS**

After taking a dip in the baths, walk along the new jetty and admire the striking statue of Irish patriot Roger Casement. The modernised baths complex now features a new public café and artists' studios as well as swimming and water-sports facilities.





# DLR LEXICON & CULTURAL CENTRE

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. Keep an eye out for the centres literary celebration events throughout the year. 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

# **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 – Watch out for saunas in the area to relax after your day! For swimmers,

and swimming spots such as Seapoint, Sandycove, and the Forty Foot are just a short walk away. Pop by The Dun Laoghaire Baths, the areas newest swimming spot & café. Contact the Tourism Office for more information.

wonderful beaches



# **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, Glasthule and Sandycove – and on to Dublin city centre. This really is a wonderful place to get on your bike! Contact the Tourism Information Kiosk to find out about Dún Laoghaire cycling tours and bike hire (including accessible bike hire).

# The Cycle Hub:

+353 (0) 1 260 0749 info@the-cyclehub.com Unit 4 Harbour Square, Crofton Road, Dún Laoghaire.

The Bike Hub: +353 (0) 1 264 1000 contact@thebikehub.ie Queen's Road, Dún Laoghaire.



# **GETTING HERE**

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



DART 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



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

### **GET IN TOUCH**

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





# FREE HERITAGE **TOURS**

DON'T MISS

PEOPLE'S PARK

An oasis of peace and

tranquillity for more than

features ornate fountains,

bandstands, shelters and

tearooms, and an excellent

www.dlrcoco.ie/en/markets

handmade jewellery, and much more.

130 years, the People's Park

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

playground among beautifully maintained flowerbeds

**Dún Laoghaire CoCo Market hosts more than 50 stalls** selling local and international cuisine, arts, crafts,

and lawns. It comes alive on Sundays when the popular

The interior walls of this hidden gem of Celtic Revival art, built after the First World War, are covered with intricate and brightly coloured images painted by Sister Concepta Lynch over a period of sixteen years. +353 (0) 1 280 6964, www.dlrtourism.ie



# FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

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







