

The Concierge

TIPS FOR TOURING HERE AND ABROAD



Visitors to Dublin’s Museum of Literature Ireland view the Joycean map in the “Dear Dirty Dublin” exhibit.

DUBLIN’S NEW MUSEUM IS LIT

BY DIANE DANIEL | GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Dublin’s new Museum of Literature Ireland celebrates the country’s literary culture and heritage and especially its most famous scribe, James Joyce. In fact, MoLI, as the museum is called, was named for his best-known female character, Molly Bloom.

The museum, which opened late September, is located in one of Dublin’s loveliest historic houses, the Newman House on the south side of St. Stephen’s Green in the heart of the city. The restored building is the original site of University College Dublin, which has educated a host of Irish writers, including Joyce, Flann O’Brien, Maeve Binchy, and Mary Lavin. The poet Gerard Manley Hopkins also lived in the building for a time, and visitors can view his still-intact bedroom during guided tours.

On display, in partnership with the National Library of Ireland, is a bounty of treasures from the national library collections, including the first copy of Joyce’s “Ulysses,” as well as handwritten notebooks for the famed novel and historical letters, including one from Joyce to William Butler Yeats.

Throughout the year, MoLI will present special exhibi-

tions along with the permanent collection. The first focuses on Limerick-born writer and former Newman House student Kate O’Brien. Visitors can sign up for historic house tours and attend literary and writing events, children’s programs, readings, debates, and discussions. There’s also a Joycean research library accessible to students, scholars, and the public.

With the opening came the unveiling of the building’s newly landscaped courtyard and Readers Gardens. The gardens contain two protected trees, most notably the ash tree that Joyce had his graduation photograph taken against, along with a Killarney strawberry tree. The gardens also connect to the Iveagh Gardens, sometimes called Dublin’s “Secret Garden,” tucked away among buildings. MoLI also has a café and museum shop, with Irish publications and craft for sale.

For those who can’t wait to visit in person, the museum houses its own digital broadcasting studio, recording interviews, readings, discussions, and events with writers, poets, artists, performers, educators, and academics from Ireland and abroad. Radio MoLI broadcasts 24 hours a day at radio.moli.ie.

MUSEUM OF IRISH LITERATURE
UCD Newman House
86 St Stephen’s Green
Dublin
www.moli.ie
353 1 477 9811
Open daily 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Admission is about \$8.75 for adults, with discounts for children, families, and seniors.
Guided tours are about \$13.25.



CONOR HEALY/PICTURE IT PHOTOGRAPHY

MoLI is in located in the Newman House, a restored building that was the original site of University College Dublin.

HERE

HAUNTED BOAT RIDES IN R.I.
Step into an authentic Venetian gondola and go for a short journey along Providence’s haunted riverfront. The Viaggio di Fantasme — or Trip of Ghosts — takes passengers on a 50-minute ride along a tidal river while an expert from Providence Ghost Tours shares chilling stories of the city’s oldest residents. Enjoy spooky songs by your gondoliers while you savor Italian wine biscuits and take in the sights. The haunted gondola cruises run every Monday and Thursday at 6, 7, and 8 p.m. through Halloween, carrying up to six people per boat. \$30 per person, \$40 per person on Halloween; kids under 4 always free. 401-484-8687, www.gondolari.com/viaggio-di-fantasme.

A PERFORMANCE OF A POLARIZED MAYOR
Don’t miss out on Trinity Repertory Company’s “The Prince of Providence,” a nearly sold-out live performance about the former Providence mayor



Vincent A. “Buddy” Cianci Jr. The show, which set a theater record for the single-day sales, will now run an extra week — through Oct. 27. It’s based on a bestselling book by author Mike Stanton and covers the highs and lows of Cianci’s career (he left office twice due to legal issues). The stage production, written by George Brant, is directed by Brown University alumna Taibi Magar. More tickets will be released on Oct. 14 and 21, and lottery tickets get released one day before each show. Tickets: \$49-\$250. 401-351-4242, www.trinityrep.com.

THERE

THE NATION’S NEW GLASS FESTIVAL
Discover the beauty and function of glass during the Northwest’s newest festival, Refract: The Seattle Glass Experience, which features tours of glass studios, glass-making demonstrations, special exhibits, and evening parties. More than 30 arts organizations take part on this inaugural glass festival, Oct. 17-20, including the Chihuly Garden and Glass, Seattle Art Museum, and Pilchuck Glass School. Tour Benjamin Moore Inc., one of Seattle’s longest running and most established glass studios, or the studio of Lino Tagliapietra, an artist who’s worked with glass for more than 70 years. Create your own glass pieces, from pumpkins and paperweights to bowls, at Blowing Sands Glass Studio or Seattle Mosaic Works. Then shop for original pieces at the Bell Street Market Studio. The Museum of Glass in Tacoma also hosts “Transparency,” featuring studio-made glass works produced by artists in the LGBTQ+ community. www.refractseattle.org.

GO SOLO ON THESE TOURS
Travel to Europe on group tours geared to solo travelers and avoid those dreaded single-occupancy fees. Cambridge-based EF Go Ahead Tours has created three new trips for 2020 that take solo travelers to Portugal, Sicily, and Central Europe (Switzerland, Germany, and Austria) without tacking on single-occupancy hotel fees — and you still get your own room. The trips run in the off-season, with 15 to 28 people per tour. Travel to Portugal March 20-28, visiting Porto, Évora, Lisbon, and the Algarve region, or to Sicily March 6-13, where you will explore Palermo, Syracuse, and Taormina. The Central Europe tour runs Nov. 14-22, taking travelers from Switzerland’s Lucerne region to Munich, Salzburg, and Vienna. Rates start at \$2,199. 800-590-1161, www.goaheadtours.com.

EVERYWHERE

BETTER SOUND WITH THIS DEVICE
Plug AudioQuest’s new DragonFly Cobalt into your computer or mobile device and you’ll enjoy superior sound quality while listening to music and movies as you travel. This all-in-one

digital-to-analog converter (DAC) and amp bypasses your device’s built-in audio board in order to boost sound quality and provide a cleaner and more natural sound. Slip the Cobalt into your computer’s USB port or into your phone using a USB-C or other compatible adapter. Then plug your wired headphones or earbuds into the Cobalt and you’ll notice an amazing boost in audio quality. The Cobalt separates sounds to create a better listening experience, and its filters help reduce WiFi, Bluetooth, and cellular noise. It has a faster processor than its predecessors that draws less current, and it comes with a DragonTail USB-C adapter and a small travel pouch. \$299 (DragonFly line starts at \$99). 800-747-2770, www.audioquest.com.

POTABLE WATER FOR ADVENTURES
Enjoy clean water on the go with MSR’s new Thru-Link filter, a water filtration system that attaches to the hose on your hydration reservoir and removes harmful bacteria and protozoa. The 2.5-ounce device filters out particulates, microplastics, and pathogens such as giardia and E.coli, and contains activated carbon that reduces the taste of chemicals and odors in your drinking water. Attach it to the hose of any hydration reservoir and take it on your backpacking trips and other travels. The filter also fits all threaded home outdoor spigots and most utility sinks, so you can have clean water in an emergency. The Thru-Link filters up to 1,000 liters. Available this month at REI, and online. \$39.95. 800-531-9531, www.msrgear.com.

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