

Docklands & the Grand Canal

Neighborhood Top Five

1 Jeanie Johnston (p152)
Visting this working replica of a 19th-century 'coffin' ship, as the barques transporting emigrants during the Famine were known.

2 Famine Memorial (p152)
Contemplating the Famine while walking gently among Rowan Gillespie's thought-provoking bronze statues.

3 Bord Gáis Energy Theatre (p155)
Attending a gig at this spectacular theatre designed by Daniel Libeskind.

4 Poolbeg Lighthouse (p153)
Enjoying the stunning views of the bay and city with a late-afternoon stroll down the south wall to this elegant lighthouse.

5 Sea Safaris (p156)
Getting the historical tour of Dublin and its port, from the watery perspective of a sea-and-river cruise.



For more detail of this area see Map p256 and p258 ➔

Explore Docklands & the Grand Canal

Although much of the Docklands development that transformed the eastern end of the Liffey towards Dublin Port is given over to office and apartment blocks, there are parts of 'Canary Dwarf' (as it's jokingly named, after London's Canary Wharf) that are worth exploring at ground level. The aesthetic of the area is the 10,000-sq-metre Grand Canal Sq, designed by American landscape architect Martha Schwartz. Flanking its northwestern side is the magnificent Bord Gáis Energy Theatre (2010), designed by Daniel Libeskind and named after its primary sponsor, one of Ireland's leading energy providers. Stretching across the square from its entrance is a red 'carpet' – a series of red, resin-glass angled sticks that glow – and a green one – made up of polygon-shaped planters filled with marshlike vegetation.

On the north banks of the Liffey, the standout buildings are the snazzy National Convention Centre (2010), designed by Kevin Roche; the Custom House (1781–91), a colossal Georgian building topped by a copper dome; and the city's premier indoor venue, the O2, which is the main attraction in the Point Village, a development that also includes a cinema and a hotel.

Local Life

➔ **Sustenance** For proper Neapolitan-style pizza, Paulie's Pizza (p153) is one of the best in town; just around the corner (and owned by the same two brothers) is the equally popular Juniors (p153), which attracts the trendy crowd with its version of a Brooklyn eatery.

➔ **Imbibe** If you want to celebrate (or commiserate) with fans after a game at the Aviva Stadium, you'll find plenty of company in the Chophouse (p155) and across the street in the more traditional Slattery's (p155). Closer to the city centre, John Mulligan's (p155) is one of Dublin's most famous traditional pubs.

➔ **Explore** Irish emigration is a major theme in the Docklands – aboard the Jeanie Johnston (p152), wandering among Rowan Gillespie's haunting statues (p152), and exploring the hands-on, interactive exhibits of the new Epic Ireland (p152) museum, devoted to the Irish diaspora.

Getting There & Away

➔ **Bus** The most convenient public transport option is the bus – Nos 1, 47, 56A and 77A go from Dame St to the edge of Grand Canal Sq. For the north side, bus 151 goes from Bachelor's Walk to the Docklands. **Bus 44** (Map p256) goes to Powerscourt.

➔ **Tram** The Luas Red Line terminus is at the Point Village.

➔ **Train** The DART stops at Grand Canal Quay.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

To quell your hunger or quench your thirst, head southwest of the Grand Canal Dock to the junction of Haddington Rd, Upper Grand Canal St and Bath Ave, where you'll find a handful of terrific restaurants and popular pubs.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Juniors (p153)
- ➔ Paulie's Pizza (p153)
- ➔ Mourne Seafood Bar (p153)
- ➔ Workshop Gastropub (p153)

For reviews, see p153 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Beggar's Bush (p155)
- ➔ Slattery's (p155)
- ➔ John Mulligan's (p155)

For reviews, see p155 ➔

Best For Modern Architecture

- ➔ National Convention Centre
- ➔ Bord Gáis Energy Theatre (p155)
- ➔ Marker (p188)

For reviews, see p155 ➔