

# Grafton Street & Around

## Neighbourhood Top Five

**1 Chester Beatty Library** (p62) Basking quietly in the aesthetic glow of the magnificent collection at one of the finest museums in Ireland.

**2 Old Library** (p55) Starting in wonderment at the colourful pages of the *Book of Kells*, the world's most

famous illuminated gospel, before visiting the majestic Long Room.

**3 St Stephen's Green** (p63) Enjoying a sunny, summer afternoon on the grass, where Dubliners come to rest, romance and remind themselves of what makes life worth living.

**4 Little Museum of Dublin** (p63) Exploring the marvellous collection of donated historical objects.

**5 A night out** (p72) Eating dinner in one of the area's fabulous restaurants followed by a pint or more in a pub, such as Kehoe's.



For more detail of this area see Map p242 and p244 ➔

## Explore Grafton Street & Around

Grafton St and its surrounding precinct are something of a flexible feast of activities and sights, but it'll take you two days to even begin to do them justice – and much longer if you really want to get to the heart of what this part of the city is all about. The main attraction is Trinity College, whose pleasures and treasures can be explored in no more than a couple of hours; right on its doorstep is Grafton St itself, always worth an amble for a little retail experience or just to take in the sound of one of its many buskers. Just south of Grafton St is the centrepiece of Georgian Dublin, St Stephen's Green, beautifully landscaped and dotted with statuary that provides a veritable who's who of Irish history. But to get the most out of the neighbourhood, you'll need to get off Grafton St and into the warren of narrow lanes and streets to the west of it – here you'll find a great mix of shops and boutiques, some of our favourite eateries, and a handful of the best bars in the city. Further west again is Dublin Castle and the Chester Beatty Library, both of which can be explored in half a day. Thankfully, Dublin's compact size means you don't have to stay here to have it all at your doorstep, but if you do, be aware that most of the lodgings are among the priciest in town.

## Local Life

➔ **Hang-outs** Grogan's Castle Lounge (p72) is the artiest of the city's bohemian pubs; the Stag's Head (p73) is a Victorian classic; sit at the window in hip Clement & Pekoe (p73) and watch the fashion parade outside.

➔ **Retail** Costume (p78) is the place for high-end women's fashions and Nowhere (p76) the men's equivalent; wander the boutiques of the Powerscourt Townhouse (p76) for quirky one-offs and local fashions.

➔ **Sustenance** Fade Street Social (p69) is great for a splashy night out; otherwise Honest to Goodness (p67) has divine pizzas and Super Miss Sue (p69) the best fish.

➔ **Markets** Every Thursday you can load up on goodies at the small Coppinger Row Market (p30).

## Getting There & Away

➔ **Bus** All cross-city buses make their way to – or through, at least – this part of the city.

➔ **Tram** The Luas Green Line has its terminus at the south end of Grafton St, on the west side of St Stephen's Green.

➔ **On Foot** Grafton St is in the heart of the city and no more than 500m from all other neighbourhoods (including the western edge of the Docklands).

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

The most interesting shops in town are in the warren of streets between Grafton St and South Great George's St; here you'll also find some of the best lunch deals.

### Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Assassination Custard (p67)
- ➔ Honest to Goodness (p67)
- ➔ Fade Street Social (p69)
- ➔ Richmond (p69)

For reviews, see p67 ➔

### Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Westbury Hotel (p182)
- ➔ Fitzwilliam Hotel (p182)
- ➔ Radisson Blu Royal Hotel (p182)

For reviews, see p180 ➔

### Best Places to Shop

- ➔ Article (p75)
- ➔ Costume (p78)
- ➔ Nowhere (p76)
- ➔ Irish Design Shop (p75)

For reviews, see p75 ➔