

Docklands & the Grand Canal

Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 A visit aboard the **Jeanie Johnston** (p144), a working replica of a 19th-century coffin ship.
- 2 Contemplating the Famine amongst Rowan Gillespie's thought-provoking bronze **statues** (p144).
- 3 Attending a gig at the **Bord Gáis Energy Theatre** (p147)
- 4 A walk to the **Poolbeg Lighthouse** (p147), enjoying the stunning views of the bay and city.
- 5 Sightseeing while cruising on a **Sea Safari** (p212) historical tour.



For more detail of this area see Map p252 and p254 ➔

Explore Docklands

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' that are worth exploring at ground level. The aesthetic highlight of the area is the 10,000-sq-metre Grand Canal Square, 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 (p145) is easily the best in town; just around the corner (and owned by the same two brothers) is the equally popular Juniors (p145), 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 (p147) and across the street in the more traditional Slattery's (p147). A short walk south of here on Haddington Rd is the Beggar's Bush (p147), aka Jack Ryan's, which is also a popular sporting pub.

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 Square. For the north side, bus 151 goes from Bachelor's Walk to the Docklands.

➔ **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 off 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 (p145)
- ➔ Paulie's Pizza (p145)
- ➔ Herbstreet (p145)
- ➔ Ely Gastro Pub (p145)

For reviews, see p145 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Beggar's Bush (p147)
- ➔ Slattery's (p147)
- ➔ Kennedy's (p147)

For reviews, see p147 ➔

Best for Design

- ➔ National Convention Centre
- ➔ Bord Gáis Energy Theatre (p147)
- ➔ The Marker (p177)

For reviews, see p147 ➔