

Grafton Street & Around

Neighbourhood Top Five

1 Basking quietly in the aesthetic glow of the magnificent collection at the **Chester Beatty Library** (p60), one of the finest museums in Ireland.

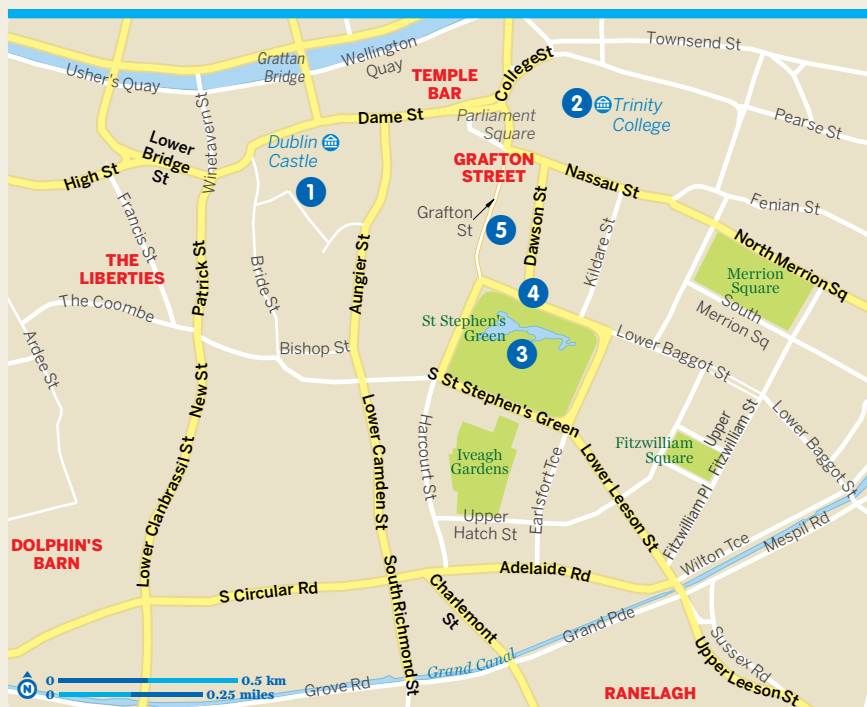
2 Staring in wonderment at the colourful pages of the *Book of Kells*, the world's most famous illuminated gospel, before visiting the

majestic Long Room of the **Old Library** (p53) at **Trinity College** (p52).

3 Enjoying a sunny, summer afternoon on the grass in **St Stephen's Green** (p61), where Dubliners come to rest, romance and remind themselves of what makes life worth living.

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

5 Indulging in a night out: dinner in one of the area's fabulous **restaurants** (p64) followed by a pint or more in a **pub** (p69), such as **Kehoe's** (p71).



For more detail of this area see Map p238 and p240 ➔

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 really 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 funky 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

- ➔ **Hangouts** Grogan's Castle Lounge (p70) is the artiest of the city's bohemian pubs; the Stag's Head (p69) is a Victorian classic; sit at the window in hip Clement & Pekoe (p69) and watch the fashion parade outside.
- ➔ **Retail** Costume (p75) is the place for high-end women's fashions; wander the boutiques of the Powerscourt Townhouse (p77) for quirky one-offs and local fashions.
- ➔ **Sustenance** Damson Diner (p66) is home to the best cheeseburger in town; buzzy Coppinger Row (p66) has a terrific Mediterranean menu.
- ➔ **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.

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

- ➔ Damson Diner (p66)
- ➔ Honest to Goodness/Push 88 (p64)
- ➔ Fade Street Social (p66)
- ➔ Thornton's (p68)

For reviews, see p64 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Stag's Head (p69)
- ➔ Hogan's (p70)
- ➔ No Name Bar (p69)
- ➔ Long Hall (p70)

For reviews, see p69 ➔

Best Places to Shop

- ➔ Sheridan's Cheesemon-gers (p76)
- ➔ Costume (p75)
- ➔ George's St Arcade (p77)
- ➔ Powerscourt Townhouse Shopping Centre (p77)

For reviews, see p74 ➔