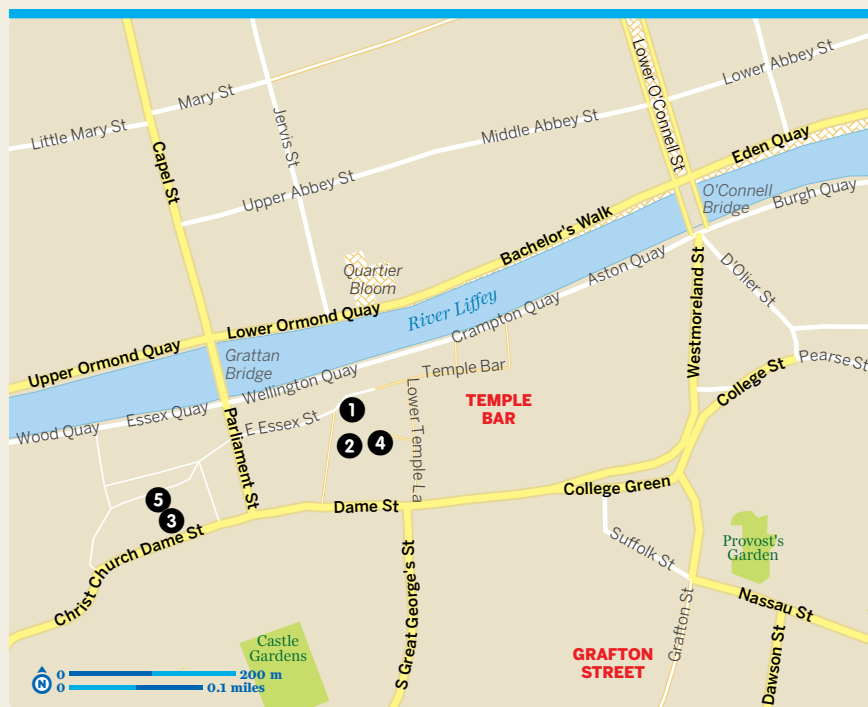


Temple Bar

Neighbourhood Top Five

- ➊ Watching a summer-time **outdoor film** in Meeting House Sq (p96).
- ➋ The always excellent exhibits at the **Gallery of Photography** (p94).
- ➌ Radical fashions and oddball knick-knacks at the weekend **Cow's Lane Designer Mart** (p98).
- ➍ Dropping the kids off at the **Ark Children's Cultural Centre** (p94), where their inner performer may be awakened.
- ➎ Shopping for new titles and old classics at **Gutter Bookshop** (p99), one of the best in town.



Explore Temple Bar

You can visit all of Temple Bar's attractions in less than half a day, but that's not really the point: this cobbled neighbourhood, for so long the city's most infamous party zone, is really more about ambience than attractions. If you visit during the day, the district's bohemian bent is on display. You can browse for vintage clothes, get your nipples pierced, nibble on Mongolian barbecue, buy organic food, pick up the latest musical releases and buy books on every conceivable subject. You can check out the latest art installations, watch an outdoor movie or join in a pulsating drum circle. By night – or at the weekend – it's a different story altogether, as the area's bars are packed to the rafters with revellers looking to tap into their inner Bacchus: it's loud, raucous and usually a lot of fun. Temple Bar is also Dublin's official 'cultural quarter', so you shouldn't ignore its more high-minded offerings such as the progressive Project Arts Centre, Temple Bar Gallery & Studios and the Irish Film Institute (IFI).

Local Life

➔ **Markets** The Meeting House Square Market (p98) is all about gourmet goodies and organic foodstuffs; the Cow's Lane Designer Mart (p98) is a showcase of local art and clothing; while the Book Fair (p98) is the place to pick up secondhand novels and CDs.

➔ **Nightlife** A live music gig at the Button Factory (p97) or the Workman's Club (p97) is always a great night out, and you can really get your grind on at Mother (p97) on a Saturday night.

➔ **Brunch** Soaking up the excesses of the night before is a favourite weekend activity, and we recommend the marvellous mayhem at the Elephant & Castle (p95), or the more demure charms of Eden (p95), where in warm weather you can eat your eggs Benedict alfresco on the edge of Meeting House Sq.

Getting There & Away

➔ **Bus** As Temple Bar is right in the heart of the city, all cross-city buses will deposit you by the cobbled, largely pedestrianised streets, making access – and escape – that bit easier.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Unless you're in for a no-holds barred, knees-up weekend and don't care too much about sleeping, don't stay overnight in Temple Bar – hotel rooms are generally more cramped and noisier here than elsewhere. Temple Bar's central location and the city's size means you can get in and out of here with relative ease.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Crackbird (p94)
- ➔ Zaytoon (p94)
- ➔ Eden (p95)
- ➔ Elephant & Castle (p95)

For reviews, see p94 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Vintage Cocktail Club (p96)
- ➔ Palace Bar (p96)
- ➔ Front Lounge (p96)

For reviews, see p96 ➔

Best Places to Shop

- ➔ Cow's Lane Designer Mart (p98)
- ➔ Gutter Bookshop (p99)
- ➔ Claddagh Records (p99)

For reviews, see p98 ➔