



**Tread Heavily**  
Dan Neil pays tribute to the power of proper winter tires **D8**

# OFF DUTY

**It's a Tight Market**  
Conspicuous hosiery is conspicuously in fashion **D2**



FASHION | FOOD | DESIGN | TRAVEL | GEAR

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

\*\*\* Saturday/Sunday, November 26 - 27, 2022 | D1



TAKE MONDAY OFF

## Dublin Date

For a long weekend, the Irish capital invites leisurely wanderings, with stops for art, literature, music and top-flight pubs and grub



**ALE AND ARTY** Clockwise from top left: The Palace Bar, known for its portrait-filled backroom and upstairs whiskey bar with exclusive spirits; Connemara oysters at Library Street restaurant; the boardwalk along the River Liffey; the 42-room Wilder Townhouse near the city's Grand Canal occupies a former home for 'unmarried ladies.'

By MATTHEW KRONBERG

**I**F LOS ANGELES FEELS like it was designed for the driver, and New York City for the subway passenger, Dublin, one could say, was made for the pedestrian. Its reputation as a city best experienced on foot was secured a century ago with the publication of James Joyce's "Ulysses," a novel with an emphasis on perambulation. It remains true today; few places better suit a weekend of wandering. And you'll find few better guides than historian Donal Fallon, author of the new book "Three Castles Burning: A History of Dublin in Twelve Streets," and host of a popular social history podcast. On a recent stroll, Mr. Fallon was repeatedly stopped by denizens, eager to share discoveries and pose for selfies. That a historian can be a local celebrity testifies to the degree to which the past remains present here. Yet this metropolis of 1.4 million people is thrillingly forward-looking too. The waterfront "Silicon Docks" business district—a gleaming tech hub—bears witness to this, while the bar and restaurant scene cleverly blends Irish products with a global perspective. Dublin is an ideal place to indulge, since you'll be sure to walk it off.

**DAY 1 | SATURDAY**

**8:30 a.m.** Arrive at Dublin Airport, just over 6 miles north of the city center. In such a compact metropolis, you needn't rent a car. A taxi will ferry you to your hotel in 30 minutes; mass transit takes about an hour. Buy a three-day Leap Visitor Card, which, for 16 euros, gives you unlimited access to all of the local and regional buses, trains and trams you'll need.

**10 a.m.** Drop your bags off at the Wilder Townhouse. This former "Home for Retired Governesses and Unmarried Ladies," wears its red-brick Victorian splendor lightly. You'll find its location, on a quiet block that dead-ends at the Grand Canal in the city center's south end, a good jumping off

point for exploration (from about \$240 a night).

**10:15 a.m.** Take a 10-minute stroll along the Grand Canal to the La Touche Bridge. Cross the span and you're at the doorstep of the cafe Grove Road, home of "the Big Breakfast," a fortifying full Irish, with bacon, sausages, black pudding, fried eggs, roasted tomatoes and sourdough toast.

**11 a.m.** Head to Parnell Square—25 minutes by tram or bus or 20 by taxi—and the Hugh Lane Gallery, housed in the circa 1765 mansion, Charlemont House. You're there for a peek inside the studio of Dublin-born painter Francis Bacon. The chaotic piles of newspapers, photo-  
*Please turn to page D6*

### Inside



**INTENSIVE GLARE UNITS**

These high-tech ski goggles dramatically minimize the sun's blinding effects **D9**



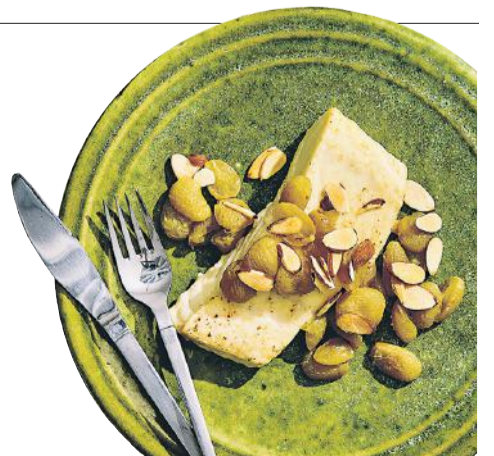
**COASTAL DÉCOR...BUT HOLD THE SEASHELLS**

A more original take on island style **D7**



**A TOTE THAT'S NOT ROTE**

Don't mechanically assume your office bag should be all work and no play **D3**



**FISH FULFILLMENT**

Halibut roasted with grapes and topped with toasted almonds? Yes, please. **D10**

ADVENTURE & TRAVEL

# Three Rambling Days in Dublin



Howth peninsula, a half-an-hour train trip from the center of Dublin.

*Continued from page D1*  
graphs, art supplies and ephemera—more than 7,000 items in total—were transported from London to Dublin, and exactly reconstructed. It's a view, not just into Bacon's workspace, but also, seemingly, his mind.

**12:45 p.m.** A short walk away, the Georgian rowhouses on the cobblestoned block of Henrietta Street went from palatial homes to squalid tenements before finding new life as, among other things, home to the 14 Henrietta Street museum. Guided tours convey a vivid picture of Dublin's more hardscrabble days.

**2 p.m.** Travel 20 minutes down to Kevin & Howlin, specialists in handwoven Donegal tweeds. Sarah-Jayne Kevin oversees the place alongside her father Noel, whose father co-founded the store in 1936. Though the store's unflashy, the smart set has regarded it as a must-visit for decades. Patrons included Fred Astaire and a young JFK, and poet Allen Ginsberg got a tweed suit here as partial payment for a 1993 speaking engagement.

**2:30 p.m.** Walk two blocks to St Stephen's Green, a 22-acre Victorian park that brewery heir Sir Arthur Edward Guinness gifted to the city. Be sure to stop by the Yeats Memorial garden, where thespians practice and perform their lines near a sculpture by Henry Moore.

**2:45 p.m.** To put W.B. Yeats and the other giants of Irish letters in context, exit the park to the south and cross the street to the MoLI, the Museum of Literature Ireland. A jumbo tabletop relief map of the city, annotated with Joyce's life and writings, is there to inspire your own rambles. The literary theme carries through to the garden level



and an upstairs whiskey bar, bolstered with bespoke bottlings of Irish spirits, like a 16-year-old Powers single cask.

**DAY 2 | SUNDAY**  
**9 a.m.** Some of the best breads and pastries in Ireland can be found beneath a railway overpass at Bread 41, about 20 minutes from the hotel by bus or tram.

**10 a.m.** Walk about 5 minutes to

Pearse St. station, and take the DART train to Howth. Though just half an hour from the urban thrum of Dublin, this peninsula jutting into the Irish Sea offers a world away. Hit the Cliff Path Loop, along which, on bright, sunny days, the views can look almost Mediterranean. More likely, the skies and the sea will be steely, and you'll be battling a bit of bluster, with the island known as Ireland's Eye an apparition in the mist.



**A NEED FOR TWEED** Noel Kevin of the venerable Kevin & Howlin shop.

## A jumbo tabletop relief map of the city, annotated with Joyce's wanderings, is there to inspire your own.

Commons Cafe, where prose- and poetry-inspired photographs of food adorn the walls, and carefully turned out comfort food, the tables. Have a sandwich on blaa—a fluffy Irish roll—or the daily casserole.

**4:30 p.m.** Exit through the restaurant's back garden, and wander 15 minutes to the hotel, passing through Iveagh Gardens on the way. Have a wee nap.

**7:30 p.m.** Walk about 20 minutes to the restaurant Library Street, where the patrons can be counted on for a dinner-party-esque conviviality. Music keeps the energy high, without drowning out conversation. Dublin-native chef Kevin Burke highlights local ingredients, frequently grilled, and gives them punchy flavors not particularly beholden to the Emerald Isle. Grilled cabbage might get a kimchi dressing, while turbot head sports a miso marinade.

**9:30 p.m.** Palace Bar, on the fringes of the raucous Temple Bar neighborhood, is an 8-minute walk from Library Street. Its Victorian-era interior remains remarkably intact, with a portrait-filled backdrop



The star attraction at the tiny and tony Fish Shop, beer-battered fried fish.

**12:30 p.m.** From the lighthouse and bay viewpoint, walk 15 minutes inland to the Summit Inn for lunch. A seat near the peat-burning fireplace, a pint of Guinness, and a pot of small, sweet mussels are an ideal balm for any chill in your bones. Take the bus 15 minutes to the DART station and return to the city.

**2:15 p.m.** Hop off the DART at Tara St and walk 8 minutes to the Irish Emigration Museum. While you're crossing the Liffey river, take in the view of the Samuel Beckett bridge, designed by Santiago Calatrava to resemble Ireland's national symbol, the harp. The museum delves into the Irish diaspora, and the impact it had on the world, with interactive, high-tech displays.

**3 p.m.** Back to the hotel for a well-earned rest.

**5 p.m.** Pick your transit and venture to Bar 1661, in the heart of Dublin 7 (Districts north of the Liffey are odd numbered; south, even.) The focus here is moonshine-like poitin. Sip it straight, or have it in a cocktail. Pride of the house is the Belfast Coffee made with Bán Poitin and cold brew, topped with a crown of cream and a flurry of nutmeg.

**7 p.m.** Walk about 15 minutes to the tiny Fish Shop in the Smithfield neighborhood to have fish and chips paired with natural wine (reservations are essential).

**8:30 p.m.** Billing itself as "a drinking pub with a music problem," the Cobblestone, a 5-minute walk away, is among the city's best places to catch a traditional music session.

**DAY 3 | MONDAY**  
**9 a.m.** Check out of the hotel, but leave your bags for later. Stroll 20 minutes west along the tree-lined Grand Canal to 3fe, which helped kick off Dublin's obsession with serio coffee. Order an espresso and fig-and-blackberry porridge.

**10 a.m.** Walk 5 minutes to Merrion Square Park. Stroll the perimeter to take in the Georgian architecture, or wander through the park to see sculptural tributes to great Dublin wits: Oscar Wilde, depicted reclining on a boulder, and actor Dermot Morgan, honored with the bronze "Joker's Chair."

**10:15 a.m.** Continue another 10 minutes to the Trinity College Library, home of the Book of Kells. The illuminated manuscript, dating from around the early ninth century, is one of medieval Europe's great treasures. It's also one of Ireland's great tourist attractions so purchase a timed ticket in advance. Even more awe-inspiring: The library's bust-lined Long Room with its soaring barrel vaulted ceiling. Hold on to that amazement tightly as you exit through the gift shop and then as you make your way back to the hotel to fetch your bags and head to the airport.

DESIGN & DECORATING



BRE WILLIAMS

**GIVE THE HEIRLOOMS AIR**  
Beneath an ornate family-heirloom wall mirror, a four-poster bed imposes order with its straight lines. Its bamboo-style turned posts and woven raffia headboard introduce a touch of the tropics. "The black bed also looks glamorous against the hazy pink-coral of the walls and with a black Spanish chestre, a family piece, which is on the wall across from the bed," said Bo Massey, the younger design partner. A jute rug is a textural reminder that the house is a short walk from the beach. Bedside tables from Julian Chichester upholstered in a cream-colored leather are a light, modern interpretation of British campaign-style dressers and, like the gauzy linen curtains, add airiness to the room. Ms. Massey said. A pair of pointedly contemporary alabaster lamps from Visual Comfort flank the bed and "have heft, so nothing looks too dainty," she noted.

**LIVE ON THE FRINGE**  
In the primary bedroom, pops of subtly tropical color and strategic little surprises undercut the traditional bent of the décor. For instance, the designers covered a linear divan in a leafy green velvet edged with a casually rustic jute fringe. The fringe softens the boxy silhouette, which echoes the lines of an antique Asian trunk, a family heirloom repurposed as a coffee table.

A coat of Venetian

stucco on the bedroom's walls lends texture and depth to the lush garden mural designed by Susan Bohlert Smith and hand-painted by artist Marion Barnes. Ms. Barnes embellished the design as she painted, using a soft, coastal-sunset shade of coral as a backdrop and adding a few painted lizards to the landscape "as a nod to Catherine's dogs, who like to chase them in the garden," Ms. Bohlert Smith said.



READ THE ROOM

## Go Coastal

Think antiques don't belong at the beach? With the layered look of a West Indian estate, this bedroom proves otherwise.

By MICHELLE SLATALLA

**NATIVE** Floridian Catherine Gibbs knew she was facing a decorating dilemma almost as soon as she moved into the cottage-style house she built three years ago in Inlet Beach, Fla. The problem? After living in New York for years, Ms. Gibbs arrived on the Gulf Coast with a houseful of inherited, dark furniture. "I was overwhelmed because at the beach everything is white," she said. "It got to the point where I had a carved wood mantel and I asked my refinisher in Jacksonville if I should bleach it. When he said, 'Catherine, you really don't want to do that,' I knew I needed rescue."

A mutual friend introduced Ms. Gibbs to design firm Bohlert Massey, a local mother-daughter team. Soon after learning Ms. Gibbs' family history, they knew the solution was "to make her house feel like an inherited island home," said Susan Bohlert Smith. To infuse the space with lightheartedness, the duo planned to edit the antiques and mix them with

modern pieces. The idea of injecting whimsy appealed immediately to the homeowner, who is descended from generations of sailors she describes as "colorful Jacksonville shipbuilders." Her grandfather George Gibbs famously bought Marjorie Merriweather Post's yacht Sea Cloud and sold it to Dominican Republic dictator Rafael Trujillo in the 1950s. Ms. Gibbs, who spent much of her childhood sailing to a family home in the British Virgin Islands, said, "I have always loved that bohemian, West Indies look." The trio's collaboration resulted in a main bedroom with an irreverently breezy appeal, where old and new elements—from an antique Asian trunk to gauzy linen curtains and a hand-painted mural inspired by tropical plants in Ms. Gibbs' garden—unfussily complement one another.

"Luckily most of her antiques are British, rather than frilly French pieces, which made it easy to shift them into feeling more casual, by mixing them with rattan and bamboo," Ms. Bohlert Smith said. Here, the details of the design recipe.



**MAKE PAST PRESENT**  
In Ms. Gibbs's closet, a midcentury portrait of her grandfather has pride of place on a wall the designers covered in green velvet fabric (a nod, but not an identical match, to the green velvet on the fringed divan in the bedroom proper). Flanked by a delicate pair of her grandmother's crystal lamps and grounded by the weight of a 19th-century chest of drawers that Ms. Gibbs' father gave her as a wedding present nearly five decades ago, the portrait "makes the room feel eccentric,

placed next to all these pretty perfume bottles," said Ms. Bohlert Smith. The portrait was painted from a photograph the family sent to an artist in Italy—but unfortunately, they decided the result was unflattering. "When it came back to the U.S., everybody looked at it and said, 'Oh, this is not good.' My grandmother put it in a closet in the garage where it accumulated mold. And now it's hanging on green velvet," said Ms. Gibbs, adding, "I put it in my closet so I can talk to Granddaddy when I need to."



## IHG® HOTELS & RESORTS



IHG ONE REWARDS

17 HOTEL BRANDS • 6,000 GLOBAL DESTINATIONS • ONE LOYALTY PROGRAM