



After a fitful first night of sleep we enjoyed a delightful full English breakfast as part of our hotel experience. It was amazing. The biggest buffet I have ever seen. I loved the way you were able to get your honey. Right from the comb. Yummy!

The weather was spectacular, sunny and warm. Our personal tour guide Bartle D'Arcy greeted us in the lobby and after a brief chat we were off and running.

Bartle was very knowledgeable of the Irish history and very suitable for his role. As we walked, he informed us of interesting facts and local lore: Example: Directly across from our hotel Iveagh Garden Hotel is the most popular bar in Dublin – Copper Face Jacks and the line up starts at 4:00 p.m each day. We might give it a try tonight if we aren't exhausted.



We headed down Harcourt St. until we reach St. Stephens Park. Like I mentioned yesterday it is a large English style garden similar to the Halifax Public Gardens.



We loved strolling through this beautiful area - so peaceful and calm, yet alive with people. We also learned a little bit about what actually took place there from our guide. It was very interesting.

This location is where the Republicans set up their garrison for the 1916 Easter Uprising. They dug trenches, because they read about the trenches of WWI, 1914. They were intellectuals, not military strategists - so since the Park was lowland, former swamp land and the English quickly occupied the higher ground and set up machine guns to slaughter the rebels - they didn't stand a chance. The rebels only held it for six days before abandoning it and moving to higher ground. As we learned from Bartle, the uprising turned into an all-out war. The rebels were counting on receiving a huge shipment of guns from the Germans, however the boatload sank offshore and

the rebellion was quickly put down. Bartle described these in graphic detail as a matter of historic fact and we loved it. It's no wonder the Irish people hate the English who ruled then for more than 700 years.

The 1916 "BeYond The Barricades Tour" is an emotive, dramatical 90 minute experience. The rebels knew they were going to lose, however they hoped to achieve independence from the UK invaders. In the end they negotiated a new nation for the 26 counties in the south and a separate arrangement for the six counties in the North which remained loyal to the British.

One of our first stops along the way was to stop at the famous statue of Molly Malone - "Thru Dublin's fair city, where the girls are so pretty, t'was there that I first met sweet Molly Malone.

She wheeled her wheel barrel, thru streets broad and narrow, calling cockles and mussels, a live a live O."



One of my favorite Irish Songs and one my mother use to sing all the time.

As you can see, her breasts are very shiny. It's because every man who gets his photo taken with Molly has to feel her boobs. She was not a prostitute, she was truly a fish monger. COME ON GUYS!

The streets were full of beautiful architectural buildings. Dublin, in this area has not lost it's history. Though there are many "modern" stores etc. They have managed to keep the old world alive. I loved this area of the city.



The grates on the city streets were interesting. In the houses the servants lived in the basement, no windows. These grates allowed light into their quarters. They were



made of glass.

I found this very interesting. Kevin and Bartle enjoyed many conversations on the history of the area. I actually couldn't take it all in as I don't have a great mind for history, I am more interested in the scenery. However, I did learn a lot.





We walked along Harcourt Street and saw St. Patrick's Cathedral, and our guide explained Georgian architecture to us which incorporated roof buttresses.

I did find the architecture beautiful.

We enjoyed seeing Dublin Castle - not a place the Irish people really enjoy as it was the location of the execution and torture of the 16 leaders of the 1916 Rebellion. The ladies who lead the rebellion were not

executed because they were "women". Yeah!



The rest of the 'bad guys', 1600 of them were sent to Frongac Prison in Wales, which was like a "University for Revolutionaries". I now can understand my Welsh friends so much better. They are all revolutionaries.

All over Dublin the "Revolutionists" are almost beatified. Shown here in each of the windows of this building.



Also in the bank where we had lunch were the busts of all of the revolutionaries as well. Pride in those who fought for Irish Freedom from the British.

These people had great loyalty to their country and were willing to lay down their lives to fight for its freedom. It really humbles a person when you read about this history.

The walking tour continue with us learning so much of Dublin. What a beautiful city, and so much history.

By this time, we were all getting a bit tired so we decided to stop for a wee drink. Lunch was at The Bank on College Green.

The bank was built in 1891. These words describe it beautifully. "Engaging the services of renowned architect, William Henry Lyons, with an extravagant budget of 80,000 pounds, the construction team



set about creating, in intricate detail, what the leading newspaper of the day described as "one of the foremost jewels of Victorian Dublin. The exterior is Franco-Scottish in conception, and is one of Dublin's finest examples of Scottish Sandstone."

Today "The Bank on College Green", the unique Victorian heritage of yesteryear, is integrated with the social and political narrative of how the nation of Ireland has emerged over the past 120 years. Both traditions are now celebrated together with a marked respect for difference.

The Bank on College Green is a licensed trade emporium of excellent food and drink in addition to being a veritable museum of culture and heritage.



What a wonderful place to have lunch! I was looking for a thirst-quenching cider, however our tour guide order me a "lager". I didn't know and kept saying this cider tastes like beer. Kevin and him were chuckling a little. It wasn't until after we were on the final part of our tour that they told me I had drank my first "full" beer. WOW! Oh well... Who cares, I loved it. Gluten free or not.

Our last stop of the day. Trinity College. THE BOOK OF KELLS. What a magnificent stop on our journey. Everyday there a long line ups to get in to see the Book, however the line-ups move fairly quickly and it is more than worth the wait.

For me, the highlight of the day. The Book of Kells manuscript contains the four Gospels in beautiful art detail. It is housed in a magnificent library the likes of which I have never seen in my entire life.

It was a spiritual experience for me, and our guide was so knowledgeable. He was able to explain everything to us, while at the same time taking us thru quickly so as to avoid the loud talking of some of the folks who were in there.





If someone is coming to Dublin, this is the one place that should be high on their "to visit list". Amazing. I would have liked to spend a little more time in there, however with a guided tour you only have the length of time that was booked. I do have to say that our tour guide did not rush us, and was someone that I would highly recommend to anyone. My librarian friends, if you haven't been here, put it on your bucket list.

Though I said that our guide circumnavigated a bit of the crowd for us, we did spend quite a bit of time in here and I had a chance to really study the images. Magnificent.





Our guide left us on Harcourt Street, however we knew the way home so decided to do a little browsing on our own. One of the places Kevin thought we should go into was a jewellery store where we had earlier seen the Claddagh Ring.

The Claddagh ring is composed of a pair of hands holding a heart, on top of which sits a crown. These individual symbols represent in turn: Friendship, Love and Loyalty.

Originating with the residents of Claddagh, an ancient fishing village for which the ring is named, Claddagh rings were said to have been kept as heirlooms, passing from mother to first married daughter. It is from here that the traditions associated with the wearers marital status stem.

Dating back to over 300 years ago, the Claddagh ring was made in Galway, and designed by Richard Joyce, a well know goldsmith. The Claddagh ring is geographically bound to Galway by traditional ties that have become deeply rooted in Irish Culture.

Kevin wanted to get one for me. The gold one was beautiful and I know that he wanted to buy that one, but I liked the sterling silver one. It has the diamonds along the side (which is my birth stone) and the heart has an emerald, which is Kevin's birthstone. We also decided to get it as a pinky ring. I felt that this meant more to me than a very expensive gold one.

We were told that if the heart was worn inward facing the heart, the woman was married, and if it was worn facing outward she was looking. I told Kevin he had better watch out. It was a lovely gift for my birthday and our 49th Wedding Anniversary. As everyone knows, I do love jewellery. My granddaughter Kira will thank me one day.

We got back to our hotel around 4:30 and were exhausted both physically and mentally. So much to take in. I think perhaps it might have been the “not” cider. Rockshore Irish Lager. A potent drink for someone who doesn't drink beer.

We decided just to have dinner in the hotel. I am finding it difficult with food, but am managing.

Many thanks to Bartle D'Arcy for making this a fabulous day. If you want a walking tour of Dublin, hire Bartle.

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Another interesting bit of trivia. King William decided to tax the people (money grabber). The tax was based on the number of windows you would have in your building. The more windows, the higher the tax.

So the former parliament building which had over 365 windows filled them all in to avoid the tax. Every heard the expression "Daylight Robbery". Now you know where it came from.

End of Day 2 - What a day!