

TRAVEL

Dublin pleasure

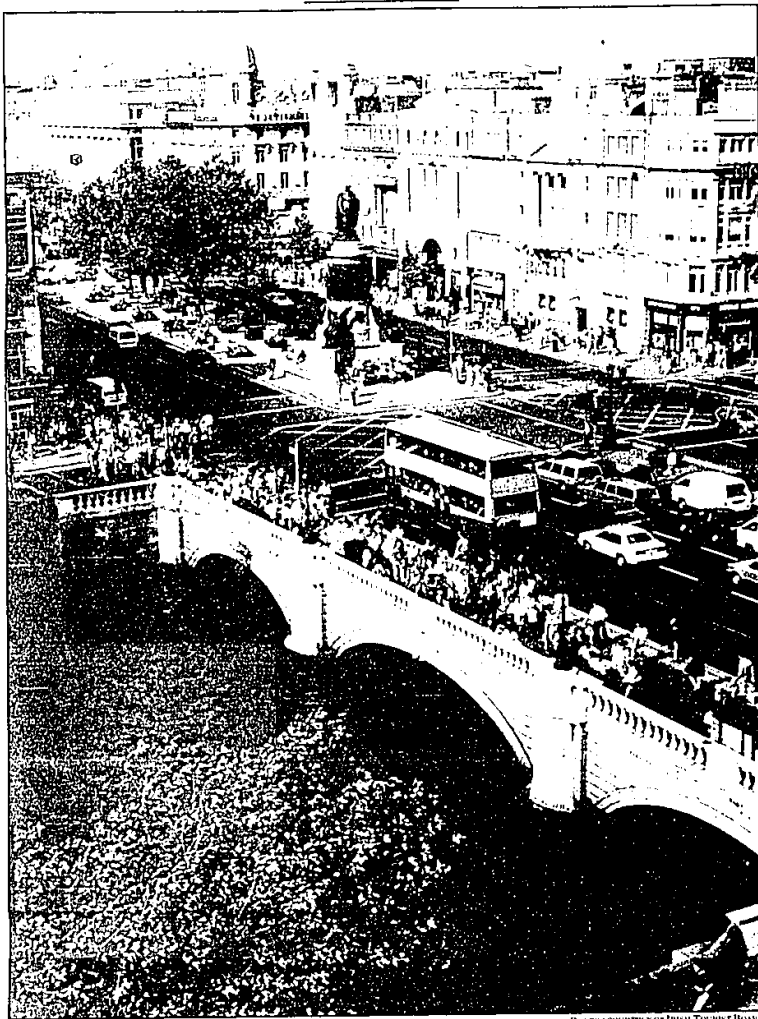


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By JAMES F. CLARITY
NEW YORK TIMES SYNDICATE

A link: O'Connell Bridge in Dublin is the historic main thoroughfare in the charming city.

Occasionally in recent years, stately Dublin, in trying to retain its Georgian-Victorian respectability while attracting new summer visitors, has risked acquiring the reputation of a James Joyce theme park.

The life-sized 1990 bronze statue of Joyce on North Earl Street where it intersects with O'Connell Street looks toward the General Post Office, the focus of the 1916 Easter Rising.

Higher up O'Connell Street, out in the center mall, is the 1988 statue of Anna Livia Plurabelle, a slender woman sitting in a running stream of water. Joyce honored her in "Finnegans Wake" as the spirit of life, the spirit of the River Liffey.

Of course Joyce is integral now to the soul of the city, and Joyce adepts, who finished observing Bloom's Day on June 16 will be back next year retracing the events in "Ulysses."

But this year in Dublin it is possible to sample both Dublins, Joyce's and Trinity College's, as they intersect everywhere and cross other literary and historical lines.

Events

The quatercentenary events at Trinity, which Joyce called "dull stone set in the ring of the city's ignorance," are anything but dull. In the Old Library's stunning, high, arched Long Room, the Book of Kells' adorned New Testament texts are better lit and explicated than they were until a few months ago.

In the same building is the Treasures of the Mind exhibit, running to Dec. 31, with the times and life and works of the people Trinity is most proud of, including Wolfe Tone, the revolutionary; Edmund Burke, the great talker; and such literati as Oscar Wilde,

Portraits — of the — Artists

Dublin:
An ancient city
rooted in culture



On display: The Dublin Writers Museum displays manuscripts, portraits, first editions and mementos of the careers of such famous Irish authors as James Joyce.

John Millington Synge and Samuel Beckett.

There is no Joyce, as he didn't attend; but, perhaps curiously, scant mention of Oliver St. John Gogarty, who did graduate, and who was a poet, essayist, bicycle racer, champion swimmer, surgeon and model for Buck Mulligan in "Ulysses."

There is in the nearby Arts building a film, "The Dublin Experience," a colorful 40-minute story of how Dublin started as a Viking settlement 1,000 years ago. The film and the Old Library exhibits cost \$8.40, the library alone \$4.20.

The Abbey Theater, on Lower Abbey Street, will have "Drama At Innis," an Irish classic by Lennox Robinson, until July 25. "Conversations on a Homecoming," by Tom Murphy, about disillusionment of an immigrant returning from America, opens Aug. 3. Tickets range between \$13.40 and \$21.80.

The Abbey's more experimental adjunct, The Peacock, will have "Bold Girls," by Roma Murray, until July 18; a selection of amateur plays between July 20 to July 24; "Away Alone," by Janet Noble, from July 30 to Aug. 4; and the annual Yeats festival, from Aug. 17. Tickets are \$13.40. For more information call 787222.

"Dancing at Lughnasa," acclaimed on Broadway, is to open at the Abbey Aug. 20, and another Brian Friel work at the Gate Theater, at 1 Cavendish Row, an adaptation of Furgues's "A Month in the Country," will be performed from July 30 to Sept. 26. Tickets are about \$20. Until July 25 the Gate will have Noel Coward's "Private Lives." For more information on performances at the Gate Theater call 744045.

At the annual Kerrygold Horse Show, July 14 to 18 at the Royal Dublin Society, in the Ballsbridge section, 2,000 horses deemed to be Ireland's best will compete. For more information call 680645.

Making the most of going solo

By EVERETT POTTER
SPECIAL WRITER



Going solo is often the most difficult — and expensive way to travel. For the privilege of having a single cabin, most solo travelers are charged anywhere from

150 percent to 200 percent of a cruise line's per-person double-occupancy rate.

And hotels aren't much better when it comes to the high rates they charge singles.

"The travel industry is Neanderthal when it comes to solo travelers," said Jane Doerfer, publisher of "Going Solo," a newsletter devoted to solo travel.

Doerfer scours the globe looking for hotels and vacations that are hospitable to adventurers going it alone.

"I call it 'solo' travel rather than 'single' because many of my readers are married," she said. "If you say 'single,' people automatically assume you're looking for romance and, frankly, that couldn't be further from the truth."

Recent articles in "Going Solo" have dealt with affordable alternatives in London and Paris, life at a Club Med village, group bicycling trips or a new trend — taking a volunteer vacation to help clean up the environment or work with inner-city youths.

Each issue features a report written by a reader on a topic such as

seeing Prague in winter, traveling by train through Australia or visiting the Hawaiian island of Kauai.

"When you travel solo without the buffer of a companion or a group, things happen to you," said Doerfer. "In fact, I've had my nicest experiences as a solo traveler. But it's important to set up situations where you're likely to meet people."

Doerfer notes that dinnertime is when most people enjoy companionship.

For that she prefers English country-house hotels where guests can dine together at a communal table. Or in the States, considering the ongoing rage for grilled food, Doerfer encourages people to seek out restaurants with communal seating around the grill.

"But when those options aren't available and I'm dining alone, my technique is to call up the restaurant and say, 'I understand you have good food. I'll be eating dinner alone tonight. What's the best time to come?'"

"You'd be amazed at how flattered they are and how good the service can be. And I always tip for two, 20 percent in most cases."

Doerfer has several important tips for would-be solo travelers.

"You should condition yourself to a point where you realize you're going to feel lonely at some point on the trip. It's baloney to pretend otherwise. It's also important to travel with some sort of agenda because it helps to focus the day."

When it comes to dealing with hotels, she encourages solo travelers to negotiate for their hotel room.

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