THE IRISH JEWISH ROUTE

Welcome to Ireland – or as they say here, *Fáilte go hÉireann!*

Jews have had a presence in Ireland for close to 1000 years, with the earliest mentions occurring in the Annals of Innisfallen of 1079. Small communities would pop up, develop and expire throughout the middle ages, mainly in and around Dublin, but also in other port cities, such as Cork and Limerick. It was not until the 18th and 19th centuries that a stronger Jewish presence was able to establish itself, and in 1892, Dublin Hebrew Congregation was founded on Adelaide Road. In the 20th century, the Jewish community rose to 5,000, with over a half-dozen synagogues at its peak in the early 1950s. However, due to economic migration, the community declined to about 1800 by the early 1990s. Since then, it has slowly and steadily grown to about 2000, and held there. However, the composition of the community is changing, with 30% having arrived within the last 10 years alone.

The Jewish community, in its manner and organization, is very similar to what you might find elsewhere around the British Isles, and the largest Orthodox synagogue, Dublin Hebrew Congregation, now located in Terenure, affiliates informally with the British United Synagogue. There is a smaller and older "shtibl"-type shul, Machzikei Hadass, that has remained independent since its founding in 1883.

The chief Orthodox congregation in town is **Dublin Hebrew Congregation** (32 Rathfarnham Rd, Terenure, Dublin 6 (Dublin Bus routes: 16, 17; other nearby stops include: 49, 15, 15a, 15b, 65, 65b) DHC has services 7 days a week. During the winter months, weekday Mincha services are suspended as nightfall occurs so early in the working day. Check times of worship on GoDaven.com.

If you are planning to attend services, please fill out a form at www.tinyurl.com/shabbat-in-dublin. In addition, Rabbi Zalman Lent gives a weekly Gemara shiur after Maariv on Tuesdays.

Top Tips for DHC visitors:

- ✓ Dress is smart casual. Men are requested to cover their heads, and modest attire is requested of both men & women. Knee-length (or longer) skirts for women are preferred to trousers.
- ✓ Please switch mobile phones off entirely during the visit.
- ✓ The Saturday morning service can last for over two hours sometimes. Books are available for little ones. It might be

Please note: Dublin Hebrew Congregation is closed to private tours. Instead, visitors to Dublin are encouraged to attend the morning and evening worship services.

A smaller Orthodox congregation, **Machzikei Hadass**, gathers weekly on Saturday mornings at 9.30 am at the rear of 77 Terenure Road North in Terenure Village. Machzikei Hadass is the oldest surviving Dublin Jewish institution having been founded in 1883. Large groups should please contact the Shul secretary to announce their intentions to visit before visiting as space is limited. Additional services are held on *yamim tovim* as well – contact the Shul secretary for times of evening services.

Top Tips for Machzikei Hadass visitors:

- ✓ Please arrange your Shabbat visit with the Shul secretary at machzikeihadass@eircom.net prior to your arrival
- ✓ Dress is smart casual. As Machzekei Hadass is an Orthodox Shul both men and women are requested to cover their heads, and modest attire is requested
- ✓ Please switch mobile phones off entirely during the visit.

A Progressive congregation, **Dublin Jewish Progressive Congregation (DJPC),** also exists at 7 Leicester Avenue in Rathgar, Dublin 6 (Dublin Bus routes: 14, 15, 15a, 15b, 65, 65b.) DJPC was

Top Tips for DJPC visitors:

- ✓ Bring Photo ID to avoid any difficulty with security
- ✓ Dress is smart casual. Women are not required to cover their heads and can wear trousers if you choose to do so.
- ✓ Don't assume that a cab driver will know where we are! When you contact us in advance, we will provide a map / directions for your driver

email dublinjpc@gmail.com in advance of your travels. For more information, please visit www.djpcireland.com.

founded in 1946. It is affiliated with Liberal Judaism, which falls under the World Union for Progressive Judaism umbrella that also includes Reform and Reconstructionist Jews. Services are held every Erev Shabbat, some Shabbat mornings and on the festivals. Visitors are promised a warm welcome. If you wish to attend services, attend the communal Passover Seder or purchase tickets for High Holy Day services please

Jewish Sightseeing in Ireland

DUBLIN AND NEARBY

The Irish Jewish Museum, Dublin 8.
3 Walworth Road (near Victoria, Lennox & Harrington Streets), South Circular Road, Portobello, Dublin 8.
Web: www.jewishmuseum.ie
OPENING HOURS:
1 May to 30 September: Sunday - Thursday - 11.00 am to 3.30 pm.
1 October to 30 April: Sunday only - 10.30 am to 2.30 pm.

The Irish Jewish Museum is located in the once highly Jewish populated area of Portobello, around the South Circular Road, Dublin 8.

The former Walworth Road Synagogue, which could accommodate approximately 150 men and women, consisted of two adjoining terraced houses. Due to the movement of the Jewish people from the area to the suburbs of Dublin and with the overall decline in their numbers, the Synagogue fell into disuse and ceased to function in the early 70's. The premises remained locked for almost fifteen years, and was brought back to life again with the establishment of the Irish Jewish Museum Committee in late 1984.

The Museum was opened by the Irish born former President of Israel Dr. Chaim Herzog on the 20th June 1985 during his State visit to Ireland. It is managed by a Committee of dedicated people, varying in numbers from 20 to 30, who voluntarily give of their time. The Museum preserves an important, though small, part of Ireland's cultural and historic heritage. It's strongly advised you call in advance to check opening hours – 085-706-7357.

Dublin Tour Guides

Peter White Tours gives you Jewish Dublin through the eyes of a native Jewish Dubliner. Whole and half-day tours. Walking tours and multiday tours are also available, Fees upon request. Contact +353 87 2681509 or email peterwhitetours@gmail.com

Neil Hogan is a professional tour guide who has a designed a tour of Jewish Dublin . He can do a tour combining Jewish attractions with popular Irish ones. Whole and half-day tours. Fees upon request.
Contact: neilhogan1@gmail.com

Whilst in the area, there is also:

Bretzel Bakery, 1a Lennox Street , Portobello, Dublin 8
Phone: (01) 4752724
Opening hours: Mon 8:30 - 15:00; Tue-Fri 8:30 - 18:00; Sat 9:00 - 17:00; Sun 9:00 - 1:00

Dublin's oldest Jewish bakery – see notes in Kashrut section

Bloomfield House not open to public

Bloomfield Ave, Dublin 8

Formerly the Jewish Day School.

Rabbi Herzog's Home not open to public
33 Bloomfield Ave, Dublin 8

Former home of Rabbi Dr. Isaac Herzog, first Chief Rabbi of Ireland, and father of Dr. Chaim Herzog. Plaque on wall.

Birthplace of Leopold Bloom not open to public
52 Upper Clanbrassil Street, Dublin 8

Leopold Bloom was James Joyce's famous fictional character in Ulysses. Other sites mentioned in Ulysses are Emorville Square, Lombard Street West and St. Kevin's Parade, all located near the Irish Jewish Museum.

The Weingreen Biblical Antiquities Museum
Arts Building, Trinity College, Dublin 2

The Weingreen Museum of Biblical Antiquities is located in the Arts and Social Sciences Building, Trinity College Dublin. It received its present title in 1977 in recognition of Professor Weingreen's contribution to the creation of the museum. Professor Weingreen was Erasmus Smith's Professor of Hebrew at Trinity College Dublin between 1939 and 1979.

Ballybough Cemetery, Dublin 3

Now closed for burials, the 250+ year-old Ballybough Cemetery is only about one-seventh of an acre in size. It may be visited by prior arrangement with the caretakers, Mr. & Mrs. C. O'Neill. Located on Fairview Strand near Ballybough Bridge, in Ballybough, Dublin 3. Telephone +353 1 836 9756.

Clonyn Castle, Delvin, Co. Westmeath *not open to public*

Over 100 orphaned children from concentration camps had a temporary home here until 1948.

SOUTH LEINSTER (WICKLOW/WEXFORD/WATERFORD)

Hill Picket Studio, Avoca, Co. Wicklow

Chaim Factor is a Jewish woodworking artist who creates handmade kitchenware products using locally sourced wood. His signature Judaica items include challah boards and knives, which have been sold in the Jewish Museum in New York. Open Monday – Friday 10:30 – 17:00. Telephone +353 4 023 0581 or email info@hillpicketstudio.com.

Beth El Bunclody, Bunclody, Co Wexford

An unaffiliated synagogue, Beth El Bunclody is situated just outside of Bunclody, on the Wexford/ Carlow/Wicklow borders. It is situated at Rainsford Lodge, Ballynastraw, Bunclody, Co Wexford.

The Synagogue is a popular visitor spot for Jews from the USA and Israel. Seating in general is mixed and davening is from an Orthodox Siddur. The Aron Kodesh and Sefer Torah are in situ since 2009. The Synagogue is operational usually from late April to beginning of September each year. Before visiting, it is essential that you make contact with us first by email avraham@olimcoms.net or jbsilver@iol.ie.

Directions From Bunclody take the R746 towards Carnew then the L2001 towards Clonegal. Rainsford Lodge is situated on the right hand side exactly 800 metres from the entry to the L2001.

Top Tips for Beth El Bunclody visitors:

- ✓ Bring Photo ID
- ✓ Always contact us before attending - see email and telephone lists below.
- ✓ Dress is smart casual; modest dress only. Men must always wear a kippa inside the shul; we have kippot at the door. For women, trousers are not encouraged (but acceptable), unless an Orthodox service is being conducted.
- ✓ Mobile Phones should be switched off.

WESTERN IRELAND

Sneem Culture Park, Co Kerry

Includes a modern polished steel Israeli sculpture, presented by Irish born President Chaim Herzog in honour of Cearbhall O Dalaigh, the fifth President of Ireland.

Garden of Europe, Listowel, Co Kerry

A pub dating from the time of the *Rambam?*

The Brazen Head Inn, located at 20 Lower Bridge St, Dublin 8, claims to have been founded in 1198, so it would have been serving up pints when the sage Maimonides was living in Egypt. Even if the historical connection doesn't move you, the nightly music jam, and Sunday afternoon concert at 3.30pm might. For more details, check out their website at www.brazenhead.com.

Located in Listowel, County Kerry, the Garden of Europe opened in 1995. It contains more than 3,000 trees and shrubs and is divided into 12 sections, representing the 12 members of the European Union at the time of the project's commencement. At the lower end of the garden is Ireland's only public monument in memory of those who died in the Holocaust. It is surrounded by oaks grown from acorns collected at Auchwitz by Paddy Fitzgibbon.

Kilmarray, Newcastle, Dublin Road, Limerick

The historic tiny Jewish cemetery at Kilmarray was restored as part of a publicly funded civic project. It is now preserved in excellent condition although it contains only six standing headstones and other unmarked burials, as well as a prayer house. All enquiries to the Limerick Civic Trust, +353 61 313 399.

Burren Smokehouse in Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare (the only fully kosher-supervised fish smokehouse, offering a visitor centre and free tastings)

CORK (SOUTHERN IRELAND)
http://www.jewishcork.com/

Cork Hebrew Congregation
The synagogue is now closed.

Shalom Park
Opened in 1989 in the area formerly known as 'Jewstown'. Site of an annual lighting ceremony during Chanukah. Shalom Park, Gas Works Rd & Albert Rd, Cork City.

Cork Trinity Pedestrian Bridge
Opened in 1977 by the first Jewish Lord Mayor of Cork, Alderman Gerald Goldberg. Known affectionately to locals as 'Passover Bridge'.

Cork Cemetery
The Cork Cemetery contains the graves of Jewish passengers from both the Lusitania, torpedoed 7th May 1916, and from planes downed over the Atlantic. Curraghkippane Cemetery, Rosanna Road, Kerry Pike, Co. Cork

Kashrut in Ireland

The following stores carry a variety of kosher products:

Supervalu, 13 Braemor Road, Churchtown, Dublin 14
Phone: +353 1 2984917
Open daily, 8am to 10:30pm. Check for special holiday hours.
Buses: 14

In effect, this is Dublin's only kosher grocery, featuring grocery shelves, a refrigerated case and freezer case full of kosher meats, dairy and other prepared items.

Bretzel Bakery, 1a Lennox Street , Portobello, Dublin 8
Phone: +353 1 4752724
Opening hours: Mon 8:30 - 15:00; Tue-Fri 8:30 - 18:00; Sat 9:00 - 17:00; Sun 9:00 - 1:00
Buses: 15, 15a, 15b, 65, 65b, 83, 140
No list of Dublin kosher establishments would be complete with a mention of the Bretzel Bakery, located in the historic Jewish neighbourhood of Portobello. Since 1870, Bretzel is Dublin's oldest Jewish craft bakery, and since the year 2000, its only kosher one as well. Not all items at Bretzel are kosher, but the challah still is, as are all of the breads. For a complete list of their kosher line, check the list at www.jewishireland.org/visiting-ireland/food/.

The Hopsack, the Swan Centre, Lower Rathmines Road, Rathmines, Dublin 6 Phone: +353 1 496 0399
Opening hours: Monday - Wednesday 8:30-8; Thurs - Fri 8:30-9; Saturday, 9 -7 : Sunday, 12 -6
Buses: 15, 15a, 15b, 65, 65b, 83, 140
Carries many hechshered and approved parve items.

Alcoholic beverages

Ireland is a land renowned for its libations, its two most famous being Jameson whiskey and Guinness stout. According to the KCI, all Irish whiskies are permitted, as are all Irish unflavoured beers, including lagers, stouts, ales, among others.

Mikvah in Ireland

There is a community mikvah on the grounds of Dublin Hebrew Congregation.

Shabbat in Ireland

The observant traveller should be aware that there is no eruv in Dublin.

Shabbat in Ireland, particularly in the summer, can be quite delightful. A number of the museums near St Stephen's Green are free to the public, and the walk from Terenure pleasantly takes one past the Canal, through part of the old Jewish neighbourhood, and through beautiful St Stephen's Green itself.

Another closer attraction is Rathfarnham Castle, which likewise offers free tours and also has an enormous playground on its grounds. Dublin Hebrew Congregation routinely has a seudah shlishit open to the public.

Food for Shabbat (including wine, grape juice & candles) can be obtained at the SuperValu in Churchtown.

Jewish Community Office also offers a Shabbat meal placement service (*Irishcom@iol.com*). To request Shabbat meals, fill out a form at www.tinyurl.com/shabbat-in-dublin .

The Jewish Community Office does not offer Shabbat accommodation. Instead, there are many nearby B&Bs.

Abrae Court
9 Zion Road, Rathgar, Dublin 6. Phone: +353 87 798 9295.
Email:ninalynn1@gmail.com;
Approx €60 per room per night.
15 minute walk to shul.

Zion Hall
Zion Road Rathgar Dublin 6. Phone: +353 85 872 2041
Email: zionaccom@gmail.com ; Website: http://www.zionhall.ie
Approx €60 per couple per room per night (€40 single).
15 minute walk to shul.

St Aidens Guest House
32 Brighton Road, Terenure Dublin 6. Phone: +353 1 4906178
Email: staidens@eircom.net
Approx €90 per room low season, €100 high season.
10-15 minute walk to shul. (mention Jewish community and they give a discount.)

Roslin Lodge
63 Terenure Road East, Terenure, Dublin 6. Phone: +353 1 2837499
€39 double.
10 minute walk to shul.

Marilyn Mansion
37 Garville Rd, Terenure, Dublin 6. Phone +353 87 3505333
Website: www.marilynmansion.com
15 minute walk to shul.

Ardagh House
1 Highfield Road, Rathgar, Dublin 6. Phone +353 1 497 7068
From €85 single.
25 minute walk to shul.

Belville House
125 Rathfarnham Road, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14. Phone +353 14900141
Email :belvillehouse@hotmail.com
15 minute walk to shul.

Uppercross House
26-30 Upper Rathmines Road, Rathmines, Dublin 6. Phone +353 1 497 5486
From €71 single.
30 minute walk to shul.

Rathmines Travelodge
Lower Rathmines Road, Rathmines, Dublin 6. Phone: +353 1 491 1402
From €59 single
35 minute walk to shul.