

NLS Congress Dublin 2016 – Exploring the City and beyond

In visiting Dublin for the NLS Congress in July, you may find that you have a few hours free to explore the city. Or indeed, you may choose to include the trip to Dublin as part of your summer holiday. This page aims to persuade you that whatever time you have to invest in exploring, it will be more than worth it.

2016 is a very exciting year for Ireland and for Dublin in particular, as it marks the centenary of the 1916 Easter rising. Many acts of celebrations and commemorations have been planned throughout this year, which will result in an **unprecedented** vibrant and **extremely busy** city. This is one of and perhaps the most pertinent of reasons why we are urging those of you planning to come to the Congress to book accommodation well in advance.

The 1916 Rising was a rebellion against British rule which began with the reading of the Proclamation outside the GPO on O'Connell Street, Dublin, and ended swiftly with the execution of the leaders of the rebellion. Three of the seven men executed were poets, immortalised in particular by W. B. Yeats in the poem "Easter 1916" where he speaks to the irrevocable change for Ireland whence "a terrible beauty is born" (www.easter1916.net). If you are curious to learn a little more whilst being virtually transported through the contemporary streets of Dublin - click here (www.dublinrising.withgoogle.com). You will get to see the Dublin of today whilst learning of its past, accompanied by the dulcet tones of Hollywood star Colin Farrell - a Dubliner.

Of course Dublin offers many sights for exploration: should you wish to see the Book of Kells in Trinity College, take in a visit to the James Joyce Tower in Sandycove or check out the Guinness Storehouse, or indeed any of the numerous attractions Dublin has to offer, we recommend that you peruse the website (www.visitdublin.com) at your leisure.

Outside "the Pale" as we say, there is more again. From the Cliffs of Moher to the Atlantic lying Aran Islands, to the Ring of Kerry, the rugged beauty of the west is stunning. "Where land and sea collide" is the by-line of "The Wild Atlantic Way" (www.wildatlanticway.com). Other possible sites to consult are: www.failteireland.ie, www.newgrange.com, www.hilloftara.org, www.giantscausewayofficialguide.com, www.visitwicklow.ie.