

North Atlantic Crossing Part 1: Dublin, Ireland



After an overnight flight, we arrive in Dublin, situated along the River Liffey



Fortunately, we are right on time for afternoon tea!



It's a traditional spread, with assorted finger sandwiches, pound cakes, and scones with jam and clotted cream. How civilized!



You can choose from over 20 different teas, and sample as many and as much as you desire. The perfect cure for jet lag!



The next day we set out on a full day excursion into the beautiful Irish countryside. Herds of sheep roam the verdant rolling hills.



Our first stop is Newgrange, a prehistoric ritual tomb, which dates back to 3200 BC. This place is older than Stonehenge and the Pyramids of Egypt!



The smaller stone walls had collapsed, and were rebuilt in 1975 with the original white quartz stone found on the site. The larger base stones weigh tons and haven't moved since they were dragged there 5200 years ago.



The spiral designs are original Stone Age art. Nobody knows for sure what the structure's purpose was, but since bones were found inside it's thought to involve "passage" to the next world. At the Winter Solstice, the first rays of sunlight enter that window and illuminate the chamber. They gave a demo and it was spooky!



Right along the side of a country road are the remains of the 15th Century Bective Abbey. Just pull over and you can wander around freely through the ruins! Scenes from the movie "Braveheart" were filmed here.



Judy pauses in the remains of the Cloister



Next, we storm Trim Castle, commissioned in the 12th Century by King Henry II for the English to defend their conquered Gaelic lands.



I feel like I just stepped into Game of Thrones!



Judy travels back in time walking down Main Street in Trim. How quaint is this place?



Returning to Dublin, we hit the Temple Bar neighborhood, the entertainment and pub district, where public drunkenness is not only tolerated, but encouraged! It is mobbed with tourists.



This restaurant serves modern versions of the “Boxty”, a traditional Irish potato pancake.



I had mine filled with lamb. Seeing all those sheep in the fields made me crave one!



Day 3 in Dublin, and the weather is superb as we explore the downtown shopping area.



We head up to Trinity College. Founded in 1592, it's the Harvard of Ireland.



The Library is massive and truly impressive, lined with busts of venerable scribes. Filled floor-to-ceiling with ancient volumes, it smells really musty!



I feel smarter just standing here!



Time for lunch at... The Hairy Lemon! Judy loved the name so we had to try it. It certainly looked like they welcomed Americans.



The Beef-and-Guinness meat pie hit the spot—and yes, you get chips with that!



Safely back on board the Celebrity Eclipse, the adventure continues as we set sail for Reykjavik, Iceland! Live for vacay!