



ECO-UNESCO's Green Trail

Exploring Nature in the City

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Hello and welcome to ECO-UNESCO's Green Trail. You are about to embark on a journey of discovery. For those of you who know the city, you can investigate Dublin afresh with new eyes. For visitors, use this guide to take a tour of Dublin quite unlike any other. Find out where our biodiversity hotspots are (in fact, find out what biodiversity is full stop!), how even the city can be full of life and discover all about Dublin's natural and built heritage in this fun-filled adventure.

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About ECO-UNESCO

ECO-UNESCO is Ireland's Environmental Education and Youth Organisation. ECO-UNESCO is affiliated to the World Federation of UNESCO clubs, centres and associations (WFUCA) and is a FETAC accredited training centre. ECO-UNESCO specialises in environmental education and training, and environmental youth work.



Our aims are to:

- Raise environmental awareness, understanding and knowledge among Young People
- Promote the protection and conservation of the environment
- Promote the personal development of Young People through practical environmental projects and activities
- Promote the ideals of UNESCO

Our Mission

To channel the energy and passion of young people into environmental protection and conservation

Support Us

Become a Member
Make a Donation
Become a Friend
Leave a Legacy



See www.ecounesco.ie to find out how you can support ECO-UNESCO
ECO-UNESCO @ The Greenhouse, 17 St Andrew Street, Dublin 2

(ECO-UNESCO is a registered charity CHY 7225)

What can I do?

Learning more about biodiversity is vital to understanding how humans should live while respecting the Earth's finite resources. But how can I do this? It's a lot easier than you think. Here are a few pointers to get you started.

- Visit www.ecounesco.ie to learn more about our workshops and programmes on biodiversity.
- Keep up to date with news and reports from around the world, both the good news and the bad.
- Create your own wild area where native grasses, flowers and plants grow free. This will attract species such as dragonfly and hedgehogs to your garden.
- Collect old sticks and branches and pile them together in a sheltered area. This will attract insects which will in turn attract birds.
- Start growing your own organic vegetable patch. It's easier than you think and you'll have a steady supply of fresh vegetables.
- Create bird boxes and food tables to encourage our feathered friends into our gardens. But make sure to continue feeding them once you've started!



About the green Trail

For those of you who know the city, the Green Trail will help you investigate Dublin afresh with new eyes. For visitors, use this guide to take a tour of Dublin quite unlike any other! But first, a few things to note...

Safety Advice:

Whilst using this Trail, please be mindful of the fact that Dublin is a busy city and pedestrians share the space with many cars and bikes, so exercise due care as you traverse the streets.

Hints and Tips:

Before you get started, it's worth bearing in mind that Irish weather has the ability to change from good to bad (or from bad to worse) in no time at all. It's therefore advisable that you wear appropriate clothing.

got a story to share?

Every person's Trail will have a different story. Why not share yours with the world?



www.facebook.com/ecounescoireland



Did you know?

- Bees are vital to biodiversity. There are 130,000 plants for which bees are essential to pollination. Bees are more important than poultry in terms of human nutrition.
- For every one degree centigrade temperature rise, 10 per cent of species are predicted to become extinct globally.
- There are fewer mountain gorillas in the wild than footballers in the Premier League.
- Twenty-one percent of all known mammals, 41 percent of all known amphibians, 12 percent of all known birds, 35 percent of conifers and cycads, 17 percent of sharks and 27 percent of reef-building corals in the world are threatened with extinction

Guided Interactive Tour:

If you want to find out even more about nature in the city, ECO-UNESCO are delighted to offer a guided, interactive tour of the Green Trail. Our highly trained staff will offer an in-depth insight into the natural heritage of Dublin as well as facilitating activities in the parks along the Trail, which will give you a unique opportunity to get a greater understanding and awareness of biodiversity and our place within it. This innovative, guided trail lasts 2 hours.

To book or find out more, contact:

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Instructions

- This Trail has been designed so people of all ages can use it.
- Start the Trail from Point 1 at The Greenhouse or wherever on the map suits you best.
 - Once you have decided where you are starting from, simply align your map with your position.
 - Follow the map until you reach one of the marked points.
 - Each point has a question which is numbered accordingly.
 - For answers to the questions, please visit our website at www.ecounesco.ie

Green Trail

- 1 A large restaurant chain on Grafton St has electronic bins which claim to recycle. Could this claim be true?
- 2 There are numerous flower sellers on Grafton St. Are these flowers from Ireland? If not, what environmental issues may be associated with them?
- 3 What benefits does the Luas offer Dublin? Are there any drawbacks to it?
- 4 At this point you will soon find a spiky green tree, possibly bearing fruit. Take a close look at the leaves at the top of the tree. They are different in shape to the ones near the bottom. Why do you think that is and what is the name of this tree?
- 5 Can you find the Horse Chestnut trees? They're the trees which give us conkers. Where did they get their name from? Hint: check out the patterns on their branches...
- 6 What do the three statues at this entrance signify?
- 7 Is there anything different about the herb bed in this area and why?
- 8 How many different types of birds can you see in the lake?
- 9 The entrance to Stephen's Green is called the Fusiliers Arch. Some people call it Traitor's Gate. Take a look at the Arch and think why.
- 10 Stop here and look through the railings. What is the place and who is it for? Former Irish Taoiseach Sean Lemass was a descendant of these people.
- 11 This building is referred to as the 'Dead Zoo'. Why do you think that is so?
- 12 This area is called an Arboretum. What might the name signify?
- 13 Have you found the free bikes yet? Why is this scheme in place?
- 14 This is a very important building in Ireland. What is it, what happens here and what are the 2 other buildings either side?
- 15 There is an interesting restaurant at this point. What makes it different, do you think?

