

Portobello Walking Trail

Map & Guide



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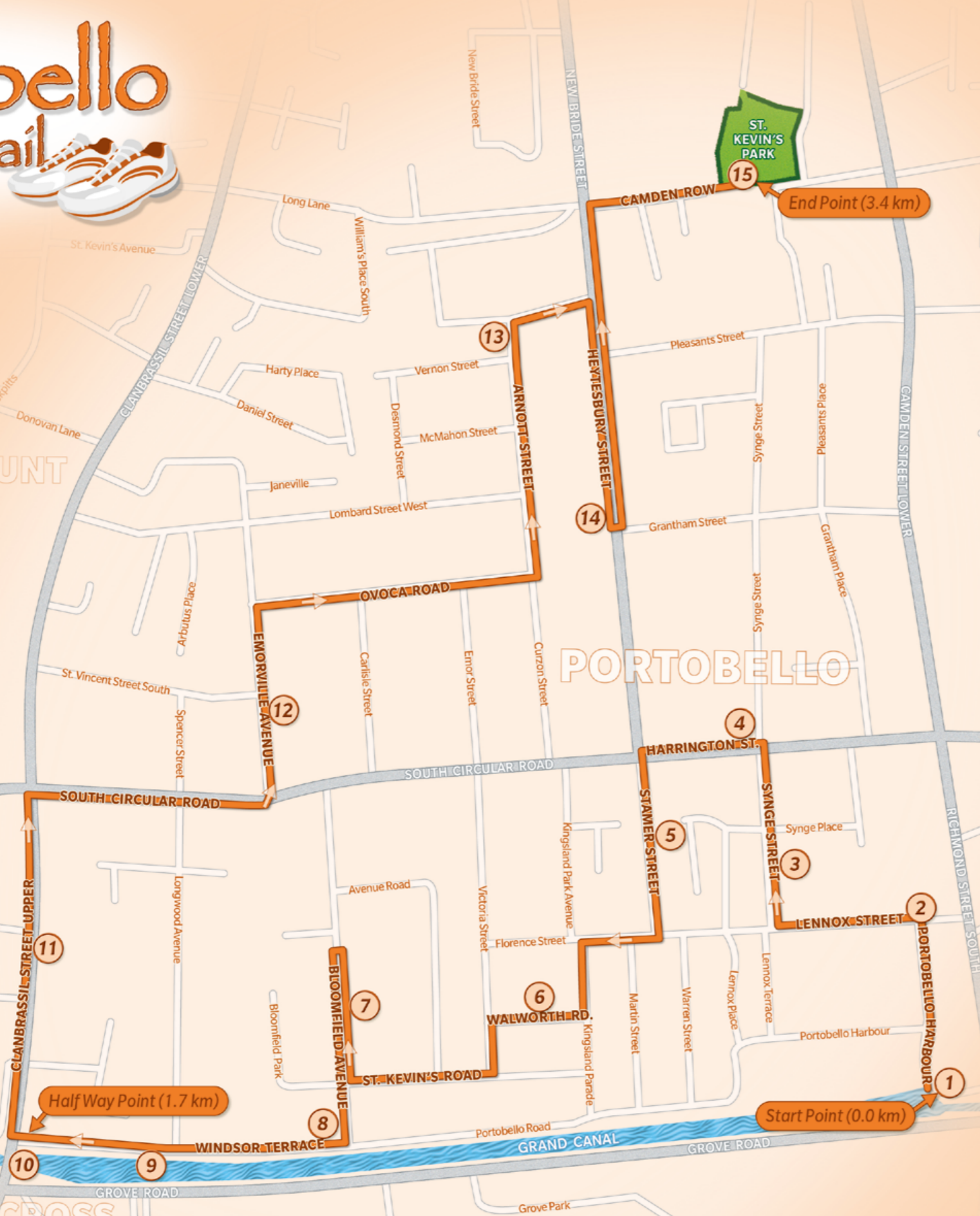
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Photographs by Joanne Freeman and Drew Cooke.

For further reading on Portobello: 'Portobello' by Maurice Curtis and 'Jewish Dublin: Portraits of Life by the Liffey' by Asher Benson.

For details on Dublin City Council's programme of walking tours and weekly walking groups, log on to www.letswalkandtalk.ie

For details on Pat Liddy's Walking Tours of Dublin, log on to www.walkingtours.ie

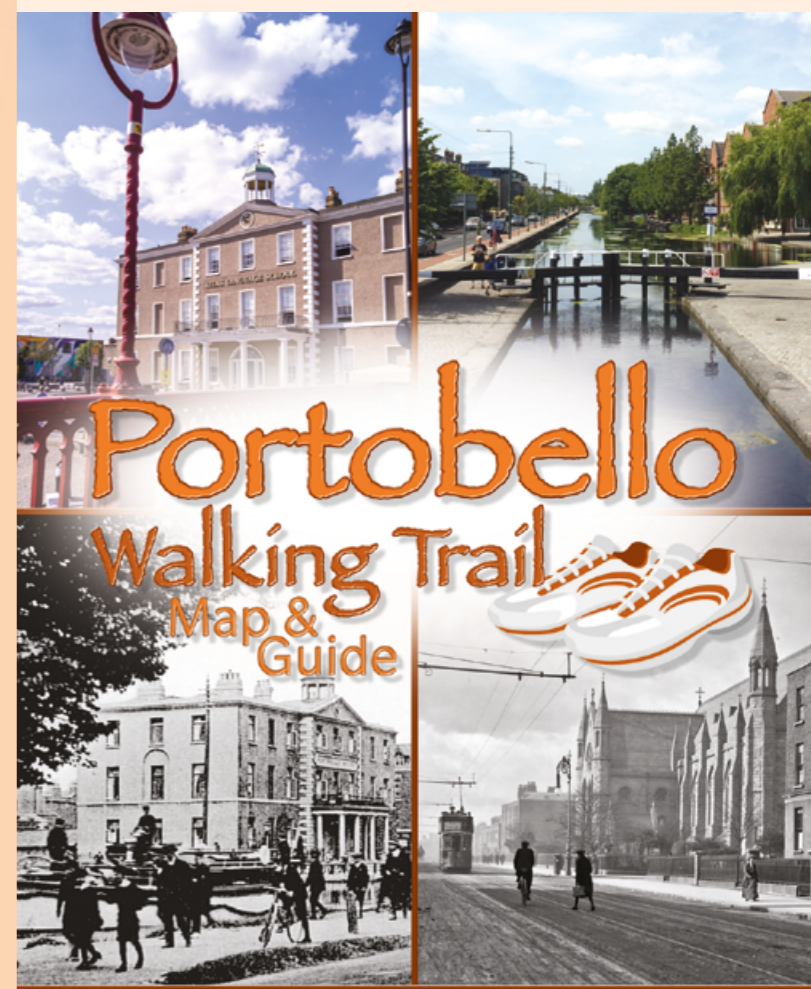
For details on Portobello Residents Group, log on to www.facebook.com/portobelloublinireland

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Portobello derives its name from a naval battle between Great Britain and Spain in 1739 when the settlement of Portobello on Panama's Caribbean coast was captured by the British. The Irish translation of Portobello is Cuan Aoibhinn, meaning "beautiful harbour".



Portobello began as a small suburb in the 18th century, centred on Richmond Street. Portobello Harbour came into use in 1801 and in 1839, the area stretching from Lennox Street to Victoria Street was laid out as the Portobello Pleasure Gardens which became a popular entertainment and recreational space where a vast array of exotic animals were also on display. Its closure and the sale of the nearby Emorville Estate in the mid 1860s made available tracts of land for housing just as the local area entered a period of large scale development. Victorian red brick houses attracted the middle and upwardly mobile classes whilst the Dublin Artisan Dwelling Company, a semi-philanthropic private enterprise, built a network of low cost red brick terraced housing for workers.

In the late 19th century, pogroms in Russia and Russian-held territories resulted in waves of Jewish refugees fleeing to Western Europe and America. Several thousand, mainly from Lithuania, arrived in Ireland with the majority settling in the Portobello and nearby Clanbrassil Street/South Circular Road areas.

Kosher bakeries and butchers and other Jewish shops, a school and many synagogues served the community as the area became known as Dublin's "Little Jerusalem". The Jewish population however went into a marked decline following World War II with many emigrating to America and Israel whilst others in Portobello just moved to Terenure and other suburbs.

Portobello has been home to numerous famous people over the years and remains a magnet for artistic and creative people. It is one of Dublin's most sought-after residential areas and a vibrant social hub with a bohemian and cosmopolitan atmosphere. The area offers a broad selection of cosy cafés, quality restaurants and popular pubs. The Grand Canal is ideal for relaxing and scenic strolls. The area's many other amenities include shops, a museum and a gymnasium whilst there are also opportunities to partake in activities such as yoga and capoeira.



Portobello is located on the southern edge of the city centre, bordered to the south by the Grand Canal. It is served by a number of Dublin Bus routes and is less than a 10 minute walk from Harcourt and Charlemont LUAS Stops. Portobello Harbour is only a 15 minutes walk from St. Stephen's Green.

Welcome to Portobello! This walking trail takes you through "Little Jerusalem", along the Grand Canal and past the homes of many famous writers, artists and politicians before ending at an ancient graveyard which is now a small park. The trail is 3.4km in length and should take you just over one hour to complete at a leisurely pace.



1 PORTOBELLO HARBOUR

Portobello Harbour was opened in 1801, becoming an important terminus for barges travelling along the Grand Canal. The harbour was originally larger in size and also served as a water reservoir until 1863. Portobello House, originally the Grand Canal Hotel, opened in 1807. The building was later used as an asylum for the blind and then as a nursing home where artist Jack B. Yeats, brother of poet W.B. Yeats, spent his final years.

2 LENNOX STREET

The Bretzel Bakery and café at 1A Lennox Street is one of Dublin's oldest artisan bakeries, having opened in 1870 to provide for the city's Jewish community. It remains kosher certified and still makes traditional Jewish challah bread. Playwright and twice Lord Mayor of Dublin John McCann was born at 6 Lennox Street in 1905. Revolutionary Harry Boland lived at 26 Lennox Street and notable sculptor John Hughes once lived at 28 Lennox Street.

3 SYNGE STREET

Playwright George Bernard Shaw was born at 33 Syngé Street in 1856. Shaw wrote over 60 plays and is the only person to have won both a Nobel Prize for Literature and an Academy Award, the latter for the screenplay of Pygmalion which was adapted into the musical, My Fair Lady. Broadcaster Eamonn Andrews was born at 11 Syngé Street in 1922 and attended the local school, Syngé Street CBS. The school's long roll call of illustrious past pupils also includes broadcaster Gay Byrne, actors Milo O'Shea and Noel Purcell, writers Flann O'Brien, Cornelius Ryan and James Plunkett, Eddie Jordan of motor racing fame, past President Cearbhall Ó Dálaigh and more recently, John Carney who directed the Golden Globe nominated Sing Street which was filmed in the area.

4 ST. KEVIN'S CHURCH

St. Kevin's Church (Roman Catholic) on Harrington Street opened in 1872. It was designed by E.W. Pugin and G. Ashlin and is one of Dublin's finest Gothic revival buildings. Its impressive interior decoration includes a patterned wooden ceiling, sculptures and an eagle lectern. Since 2007 it has been the home of the Latin Mass Chaplaincy with regular performances from the Lassus Scholars and Piccolo Lasso choirs.

5 STAMER STREET

Stamer Street is named after Sir William Stamer who was Lord Mayor of Dublin in 1809 and 1819. Irish-Jewish artist, Harry Kernoff, best known for his paintings and woodcuts of street life and literary figures, lived and had his studio at 13 Stamer Street. In 1923, Emanuel "Ernest" Kahn was shot dead on Stamer Street as he walked home from a nearby Jewish Social Club. This had been the second anti-semitic murder in the city within a fortnight and caused panic amongst the city's small Jewish community. It later emerged that an officer of the National Army had carried out the shooting of Kahn but he fled the country before he could be caught.

6 THE IRISH JEWISH MUSEUM

The Irish Jewish Museum is located at 3 Walworth Road and was opened in 1985 by former Portobello resident Chaim Herzog during his state visit as President of Israel. The site formerly housed the Beth Hamedrash Synagogue which accommodated approximately 150 people. As many Jewish people relocated to the suburbs or

emigrated, the building fell into disuse and ceased functioning as a place of worship by the mid 1970s. The museum exhibits a large collection of memorabilia and educational displays relating to the Irish Jewish communities. Close by at 1 Walworth Road is the birthplace of Oscar winning actor, William Shields, better known as Barry Fitzgerald. He won the Academy Award in 1945 for Best Supporting Actor for Going My Way.

7 THE TWO PRESIDENTS

Portobello has produced not one but Two Presidents! Irish born Chaim Herzog, President of Israel from 1983-93, spent his formative years at 33 Bloomfield Avenue. His father, Dr. Isaac Herzog, became the first Chief Rabbi of Ireland in 1921 and was a fluent Irish speaker. Dr. Herzog was a close confidant of Eamon de Valera and his Irish nationalistic connections earned him the nickname of "The Sinn Féin Rabbi". Former Irish President, Cearbhall Ó Dálaigh lived close by at 15 Portobello Road and was a childhood friend of Chaim Herzog.



8 LOCKS RESTAURANT

Locks Restaurant was a former sweetshop and in revolutionary times its basement window provided a great vantage point for spying across the canal at the former British Army barracks, Portobello Barracks. It opened in 1815 and became the National Army's headquarters under General Michael Collins during the Civil War. In 1952 it was renamed Cathal Brugha Barracks, in honour of one of the leaders of the 1916 Rising.

9 THE GRAND CANAL

The Grand Canal was completed as far as the Shannon in 1804 and was the major means of transport for goods and passengers before the railways were built. During famine times, it provided the route to the emigration boat for many from the midlands. Today, the tree-lined canal is a picturesque amenity, rich in wildlife and offering wonderful opportunities for boating, jogging, walking and cycling.

10 ROBERT EMMET BRIDGE

The original bridge over the Grand Canal was built in 1790. In 1936 it was rebuilt and re-named Robert Emmet Bridge after the leader of the abortive revolution of 1803 who had been captured in nearby Harold's Cross. The bridge features a memorial to Emmet who was hanged and beheaded on 20th September 1803, the day after his famous speech from the dock. Scenes from the 1962 film adaptation of Brendan Behan's The Quare Fellow were shot on this bridge.

11 ULYSSES & PORTOBELLO

Portobello is immortalised by James Joyce in his masterpiece, Ulysses. Joyce did much of his research in the area with some help from the local Jewish community. The house and birthplace of the book's fictional protagonist, Leopold Bloom, is set at 52 Upper Clanbrassil Street. Other local streets and locations mentioned in the book include Leonard's Corner, Longwood Avenue, Bloomfield Avenue, Syngé Street, Lombard Street West, Emorville Square, St. Kevin's Parade and the Bleeding Horse Pub.

12 EMORVILLE AVENUE

Built on the site of the old Emorville Estate, the avenue that now bears its name was laid out in the 1860s. Several notable people have lived on Emorville Avenue including Robert Briscoe who became Dublin's first Jewish Lord Mayor in 1956. He served as Lord Mayor again in 1961-62 and was later succeeded by his son, Ben Briscoe who became Lord Mayor, in 1988. George William Russell, the writer and painter known as AE, lived at 33 Emorville Avenue whilst James Joyce's parents, John Stanislaus and Mary Joyce, lived at 30 Emorville Avenue after they got married in 1881.

13 CARLISLE STREET/ARNOTT STREET

Louis le Brocqy lived and had his studio on Carlisle Street. The artist's work is represented in numerous public collections from the Guggenheim in New York to the Tate Modern in London. Dublin born award-winning actor Aidan Gillen, best known for portraying Petyr Baelish in Game of Thrones, Tommy Carcetti in The Wire and Stuart Allen Jones in Queer as Folk, lived on the north end of Arnott Street for a number of years. The nearby Meath Hospital was a world-acclaimed research hospital in the 19th century.

14 HEYTESBURY STREET

Author and Journalist Cornelius Ryan was born at 33 Heytesbury Street. Serving as a war correspondent for the Daily Telegraph during World War II, Ryan went on to write three seminal best-selling books on that conflict; The Longest Day, A Bridge Too Far and The Last Battle, the first two of which were made into blockbuster films. During the War of Independence in April 1920, Detective Constable Harry Kells of 7 Pleasants Street was shot dead on nearby Camden Street. It appeared that Kells had been carrying out identity parades of republican prisoners in Mountjoy Jail following a recent murder of a British intelligence agent. In what was the largest raid ever carried out by British troops in Dublin, over 100

people from the local area were arrested. Two of the chief suspects were Michael and William Kavanagh, both Sinn Féin members who lived beside Kells at 5 Pleasants Street.

15 ST. KEVIN'S PARK

The enchanting St. Kevin's Park on Camden Row provides an opportunity for a peaceful retreat from the hustle and bustle of nearby Camden Street. It contains a small graveyard with the shell of St. Kevin's Church at its centre. This was the baptismal site of the Duke of Wellington who went on to battle Napoleon at Waterloo. This church dates back to around 1750 and was built on the site of a previous 13th century religious foundation. Buried in the graveyard is the Archbishop of Cashel, Dermot O'Hurley who had been tortured and hanged in 1584, during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, after being smuggled into Ireland to begin a ministry. The family of Thomas Moore, "the Bard of Erin", is also buried here.