Welcome to Portobello! This walking trail takes you through “Little Jerusalem”, along the Grand Canal and past the homes of many famous artists, writers 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 and shipping bringing goods from the Grand Canal. The harbour was originally at 53 Upper Greenfield Road and 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. **LENNON STREET**

The Britzil Bakery and café at 14 Lennons is one of Dublin’s oldest artisan bakeries, having opened in 1980. Its speciality is Jewish cuisine, which remains kosher certified and still makes traditional Jewish challah bread. Playwright and twice Lord Mayor of Dublin John McCarron was born at 6 Lennons Street in 1905. Revolutionary Harry Boland lived at 26 Lennons Street and notable sculptor John Hughes once lived at 28 Lennons Street.

3. **SYNGE STREET**

Playwright George Bernard Shaw was born at 33 Synge 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. In 1896, a plaque was erected on Synge Street in memory of the playwrights Sydney and John Synge. The plaque reads: “In memory of the Synge brothers and, for the future benefit of the literary world, the Synge Room.”

4. **ST. KEVIN’S CHURCH**

St. Kevin’s Church (Roman Catholic) on Harrington Street opened in 1872. It was designed by W.E. 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 altar. Since 2007, it has been the home of the Latin Mass Chaplaincy with regular performances from the Lass Lachan 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 Henry Foy, lived and had his studio at 13 Stamer Street. In 1923, Emmanuel “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 month 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 Waterford Road and was opened in 1985 by former Portobello resident Chaim Herzog during his state visit as President of Ireland. The site formerly housed the Beth Hamedrash Synagogue which accommodated approximately 150 people. As many Jewish people relocated to America, 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 community. Close by at 1 Wakefield Road is the birthplace of Oscar winning actor, Michael Sheen, better known as Barry Fitzgerald. He won the Academy Award in 1945 for Best Supporting Actor for playing 6011 Billy Bigley in the film Going My Way.

7. **THE TWO PRESIDENTS**

Portobello Harbour produced not one but Two Presidents! Irish born Chaim Herzog, President of Ireland from 1981-93, spent his formative years at 33 Bickford 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 Fein 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 upholstery 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 1819 and became the National Army’s headquarters under General Michael Collins during the Civil War. In 1932 it was renamed Cattle Brughla 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 tow path canal is a picturesque amenity, rich in wildlife and offers 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 Fella 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 at 52 Clarendon Barrack Street. Other local streets and locations mentioned in the book include Leamord’s Court, Longwood Avenue, Bloomfield Avenue, Synge Street, Lombard Street West, Emoquilly Square, St. Kevin’s Parade and the Bleeding Horse Pub.

12. **EMOVILLE AVENUE**

Built on the site of the old Emo Estate, the avenue that now bears its name was laid out in the 1860s. Several notable people have lived on Emoille Avenue including Robor Biricis who became Dublin’s first Jewish Lord Mayor in 1956. He served as Lord Mayor again in 1961-62 and later served as Lord Mayor of Ireland. George William Russell, the writer and painter known as AE, lived at 28 Emoille Avenue. His stepsons, John Stanislaus and Mary Joyce, lived at 30 Emoille Avenue after they got married in 1961.

13. **CARLISLE STREET / ARNOTT STREET**

Louis le Brocquy 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 Peter Ballin in Game of Thrones, Tommy Carcass in The Wire and Stuart Allan Jones in Racing Out, lived on the north end of Emoille Avenue for a number of years. His parents, John Stanislaus and Mary Joyce, lived at 30 Emoille Avenue after they got married in 1961.

14. **HEYTESBURY STREET**

Author and journalist Cornelius Ryan was born at 33 Heytesbury 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 Peter Ballin in Game of Thrones, Tommy Carcass in The Wire and Stuart Allan Jones in Racing Out, lived on the north end of Emoille Avenue for a number of years. His parents, John Stanislaus and Mary Joyce, lived at 30 Emoille Avenue after they got married in 1961.

15. **ST. KEVIN’S SPARK**

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 churchyard’s church at its centre. This was the baptismal site of the Duke of Wellington who went on to fight Napoleon at Waterloo. This church dates back to around 1750 and was built on the site of a previous 13th century religious foundation. But the church was never consecrated. Archbishop of Dublin Edward Little hints that Kells had been carrying out identity parades of republican prisoners in Mountjoy Jail following a notorious 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 Fein members who lived beside Kells at 5 Pleasant Street.

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 16th century, centred on Richmond Street. Portobello Harbour came into use in 1801 and in 1839, the area stretching from Lennons 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 Emoille 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 upper middle 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, programs 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 Clonbrassis 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 cute cafés, quality restaurants and popular pubs. The Grand Canal is ideal for walking and cycling throngs. The area’s many cafes, pubs and amenities include shops, a museum and a gymnasium whilst there are also opportunities to partake in activities such as yoga and canoeing.