

## Quintessential Derry Itinerary

Ireland's Walled City is an absolute gem. The vibrant city, protected by 400-year-old walls, is bursting at the seams with history and culture, where iconic landmarks and award-winning museums share cobbled streets with lively bars and cool restaurants; ensuring Derry~Londonderry offers a unique combination of a rich heritage and vibrant social scene, with the warmest of welcomes guaranteed.

If you're on a tight schedule, we'll show you how to make the most of the time available. Besides exploring the museums and tours, you'll be able to enjoy fantastic food, shop for original gifts, and maybe even become a Derry Girl for the day. Here's how to make the most of Derry on a three-day visit.

### Day 1: Explore The City Walls

#### Day One

##### Morning

Dedicate your first morning to exploring the 400-year-old city walls. Begin with a full circuit walk around the 17<sup>th</sup> century walls, which boast remarkable views across the city and literally takes you on a walk-through Derry's unique history. Afterwards, head to the **Tower Museum** where you'll learn about the 'Story of Derry' and 'An Armada Shipwreck'.

##### Insider tips:

- Before you begin, stop by the **Visitor Information Centre** to get first-hand advice on your trip. Pick up the **Visit Derry Pass**. It gives discounted access to 10 attractions and activities including many of the walking tours and museum admissions included in this itinerary.
- The walls are approximately 1 mile in circumference and within them are many of the city's most important landmarks. Derry's guides are renowned for their story-telling and good humour, so let them take you on a lively journey around the city walls. There are many tour options on offer including scheduled public tours and private tours.
- Don't miss the chance to take in the city's sights from the viewing gallery at the top of the Tower Museum.

##### Feeling hungry?

Bellies won't be grumbling for long with the helpings of legenderry food available in the city. How about...

- **The Cottage Craft Gallery and Craft Shop** – A quaint coffee shop, serving delicious homemade food in the heart of the city's craft village.
- **Silver Street** – The city's oldest sited bar, established in 1684, this café bar is steeped in history and a great place to watch the world go by.
- **The Picked Duck** – Located beside the bustling Guildhall Square, on the menu, you'll find delicious, locally sourced meat, fish and cheese, and mouth-watering sweet treats baked fresh on site.

##### Afternoon

After lunch, and suitably stuffed, you'll find the city's most iconic landmark, the **Guildhall**, just a stone's throw away. It's free to visit or you can book a tour and let the guides take you on a

journey through the majestic building. The Guildhall has been at the heart of city life since 1890. You'll see the stunning stained-glass windows, learn about the Plantation of Ulster and view the main hall and organ.

Just a short walk from the Guildhall, take a dander over the iconic **Peace Bridge** towards Ebrington Square. The elegant snaking curve of the bridge is a symbol of peace, connecting the two sides of the River Foyle. Spend the afternoon wandering around the greenways of Ebrington Square, as you explore 70 acres of ground in the adjoining St Columb's Park.

## Dinner

The choices are endless for places to grab dinner in Derry but for something a little different head over to:

- **Walled City Brewery** – Located in Ebrington Square is the award-winning Walled City Brewery where you'll be treated to the finest cuisine and enjoy sampling craft beers.
- **Browns Bonds Hill** – This Michelin-recommended restaurant offers fine dining and innovative menus. There are great-value early bird and a la carte options, but to pull out all the stops, try the sumptuous tasting menu.
- **Artis by Phelim O'Hagan** - A celebration of local produce, married to more than 43-years of Michelin Starred restaurant experience, Artis (Latin for Craft), offers a high-end dining experience located in the unique surroundings of the Craft Village.

## Day 2: Take in the Museums

### Morning

Today you can enjoy a superb blend of history and culture as you explore more of the city's attractions. First up, take a trip to the **Siege Museum** which tells the story of the Apprentice Boys and the siege of Derry~Londonderry in 1688, one of the most memorable events in the city's history. Explore the meeting rooms of the orders that use the Memorial Hall and learn about the many significant locations on the walls relating to the siege.

Afterwards, familiarise yourself with the city's more recent history and journey through the epicentre of the region's civil rights era. Choose between a **Bogside History Walking Tour** or take a visit to the award-winning **Museum of Free Derry** which covers the period 1968 – 1972.

### Insider tips:

- Bogside History Tours depart daily at 11am and 1pm from outside the Guildhall and finishing at the Free Derry Corner close to Museum of Free Derry.

### Time for a pit stop.

For lunch, there's plenty of options nearby but it's hard to beat:

- **The Sandwich Co:** Lunchtimes are never without buzz, with a promise of live music every Saturday and Sunday. Filling slabs of freshly baked bread, bagels, and paninis with a huge selection of fillings, this is one of the most popular lunch spots in the city.
- **9ine Hostages** - This coffee house, at the top of bustling Waterloo Street, is a real treat for your senses. Taste delicious homemade cookies, sticky cinnamon buns and toasties oozing with cheese and local ingredients.

## Afternoon

Spend the afternoon visiting the city's churches and cathedrals.

Boasting two beautiful cathedrals in the city - both are worthy of a visit. **St Columb's Cathedral** was the first Cathedral built after the Reformation and is the most historic building in the city, containing artefacts from the Siege and home to the locks of the Walls. There are lots of beautiful churches to discover this afternoon, including **St Augustine's** known as 'the wee church on the walls', the **Long Tower Church** and the **First Presbyterian Church** and the Blue Coat School Visitor Centre.

If you didn't get a chance to visit the **craft village** for lunch yesterday, be sure to stop by this afternoon. It houses over 70 local crafters, so there's sure to be something to delight you!

## Dinner

Take an evening stroll along the Quay and choose from one of these options:

- **Quaywest Wine Bar** - Located in one of the city's most historic buildings on the banks of the Foyle, Quaywest offers unrivalled food, service, and atmosphere.
- **The Old Docks Bar & Grill** – Located on the quayside, floor-to-ceiling windows offer views of the river in this laid-back restaurant.
- **The Exchange Restaurant & Wine Bar** – Situated beside the historic Guildhall, The Exchange offers quality food, delicious wine, ambient surroundings, and a bustling atmosphere.

## Day 3: Venture Beyond the Walls

### Morning

As you'll have seen most of Derry's top attractions by now, it's time to explore beyond the city walls today. First up is **Brook Hall Estate & Gardens** which lies on the banks of the River Foyle. During the Siege of Derry in 1689 Brook Hall was headquarters for King James' Army. At over 350 years old, the walled garden is amongst the highlights and is one of the oldest and largest walled gardens in Ireland. Be guided through the fascinating history of one of Northern Ireland's most remarkable estates by a member of the family who have called Brook Hall their home since the middle of the 19th Century.

#### Insider tips:

- Tours of Brooke Hall Estate & Gardens need to be pre-booked.
- Or spend this morning exploring the Causeway Coastal Route. Travel writer and explorer, Michael Palin once described the train ride between Derry~Londonderry and Coleraine as "one of the most beautiful rail journeys in the world". Hop on board and relax as you enjoy the stunning views along this short stretch of train track. You can hop off at the popular seaside village of Castlerock for the day or continue onto Coleraine where you can board a bus to travel on to The Giant's Causeway or one of the many pretty coastal towns and villages along the Causeway Coastal Route.

### Afternoon

Has the Channel 4 and Netflix's hit-comedy *Derry Girls* inspired you to visit the city? This afternoon, it's time to soak up all the fun of this iconic show with **The Derry Girls Afternoon Tea at the Everglades Hotel**. Inspired by the show it features the Cream horn shared by Granda Joe, a cone of chips in homage to the Chippy fiasco and the famous Derry sausage roll baps as well as a host of local tray bake favourites and all the usuals you would expect from an Afternoon Tea. Afterwards, be sure to stop by the Derry Girls mural for a photo, a firm favourite with visitors to the city.

#### **Insider tips:**

- Afternoon Tea at The Everglades Hotel must be booked 48 hours in advance
- If visiting on a Saturday, City Walking Tours offer a 90 minute 'Derry Girls Tour' visiting the filming locations and providing great banter and craic with loads of interesting facts about the series.

#### **Evening**

You probably ate well this afternoon, so tonight make it a light supper. Book a table in **Castle Street Social**, a casual dining restaurant at the heart of the city, serving fresh local food created to share. Afterwards, if you're still up for more, Derry's nightlife is lively and a must-try when you're in the city. Explore a range of cosy bars and pubs along Waterloo Street, many of which have live music playing each night.

#### **Where To Stay:**

There's a great selection of accommodation to choose from, where we guarantee you'll be sure to experience the warmest of welcomes! Base yourself in the heart of the city action, or somewhere a little quieter. Choose from international hotel brands, boutique designer hotels right through to the best B&Bs, guest houses, and self-catering accommodation in the country. Check out all [accommodation options here](#).

#### **Foyle Maritime Festival (July 20-24)**

##### **Integrate the Foyle Maritime Festival programme with your quintessential Derry visit!**

This five-day extravaganza, from July 20-24, will see the Derry riverfront completely transformed into a bustling international marina with unmissable celebrations. The festival celebrates the spectacular Clipper Round the World Yacht Race sailing into the city and will include the chance to board show-shopping tall-ships, live art and animation installations, virtual reality experiences, acrobats, and an array of water sports. On Friday July 22 from 8pm until midnight, the festival theme of 'What Lies Beneath' will unfold as the riverfront takes on a new appearance through a series of lighting, animation, pyrotechnics, and special effects.