

# THE IRISH JEWISH TRAVEL GUIDE

## *Winter 2016*

Welcome to Ireland – or as they say here, *Fáilte go hÉireann!*

Jews have had a presence in Ireland for close to 1000 years, with the earliest mentions occurring in the Annals of Innisfallen of 1079. Small communities would pop up, develop and expire throughout the middle ages, mainly in and around Dublin, but also in other port cities, such as Cork and Limerick. It was not until the 18th and 19th centuries that a stronger Jewish presence was able to establish itself, and in 1892, Dublin Hebrew Congregation was founded on Adelaide Road. In the 20th century, the Jewish community rose to 5,000, with over a half-dozen synagogues at its peak in the early 1950s. However, due to economic migration, the community declined to about 1800 by the early 1990s. Since then, it has slowly and steadily grown to about 2000, and held there. However, the composition of the community is changing, with 30% having arrived within the last 10 years alone.

The Jewish community, in its manner and organization, is very similar to what you might find elsewhere around the British Isles, and the largest Orthodox synagogue, Dublin Hebrew Congregation, now located in Terenure, affiliates informally with the British United Synagogue. There is a smaller and older "shtetl"-type shul, Machzikei Hadass, that has remained independent since its founding in 1883.

### *Top Tips for DHC visitors:*

- ✓ Dress is smart casual. Men are requested to cover their heads, and modest attire is requested of both men & women. Knee-length (or longer) skirts for women are preferred to trousers.
- ✓ Please switch mobile phones off entirely during the visit.
- ✓ The Saturday morning service can last for over two hours sometimes. Books are available for little ones. It might be advisable to remove fidgety or noisy children in advance of the Rabbi's remarks (usually delivered after the Torah scrolls have been returned to the Ark)

As mentioned above, the chief Orthodox congregation in town is **Dublin Hebrew Congregation** in Terenure, Dublin 6 (Dublin Bus routes: 16, 17; other nearby stops include: 49, 15, 15a, 15b, 65, 65b)

Friday night services tend to attract mostly men; Saturday morning services see a more evenly balanced attendance. If you are planning to attend any

services, please contact the Jewish Community Office at [office@jewishireland.org](mailto:office@jewishireland.org).

**Please note:** Currently, Dublin Hebrew Congregation is closed to private tours. Instead, visitors to Dublin are encouraged to attend the morning and evening worship services.

A smaller Orthodox congregation, **Machzikei Hadass**, gathers weekly on Saturday mornings at 9.30 am in Terenure Village. Machzikei Hadass is the oldest surviving Dublin Jewish institution having been founded in 1883. Large groups should please contact the Shul secretary to announce their intentions to visit before visiting as space is limited. Additional services are held on *yamim tovim* as well – contact the Shul secretary for times of evening services.

### *Top Tips for Machzikei Hadass visitors:*

- ✓ Please arrange your Shabbat visit with the Shul secretary at [machzikeihadass@eircom.net](mailto:machzikeihadass@eircom.net) prior to your arrival
- ✓ Dress is smart casual. As Machzikei Hadass is an Orthodox Shul both men and women are requested to cover their heads, and modest attire is requested
- ✓ Please switch mobile phones off entirely during the visit.

*Top Tips for DJPC visitors:*

- ✓ Bring Photo ID to avoid any difficulty with security
- ✓ Dress is smart casual. Women are not required to cover their heads and can wear trousers if you choose to do so.
- ✓ Don't assume that a cab driver will know where we are! When you contact us in advance, we will provide a map / directions for your driver
- ✓ Aim to arrive a few minutes before the service starts so that someone can greet you properly before the service

A Progressive congregation, **Dublin Jewish Progressive Congregation (DJPC)**, also exists in Rathgar, Dublin 6 (Dublin Bus routes: 14, 15, 15a, 15b, 65, 65b.) DJPC was founded in 1946. It is affiliated with Liberal Judaism, which falls under the World Union for Progressive Judaism umbrella that also includes Reform and Reconstructionist Jews. Services are held every Erev Shabbat,

some Shabbat mornings and on the festivals. Visitors are promised a warm welcome. If you wish to attend services, attend the communal Passover Seder or purchase tickets for High Holy Day services please email [dublinjpc@gmail.com](mailto:dublinjpc@gmail.com) in advance of your travels. For more information, please visit [www.djpcireland.com](http://www.djpcireland.com).

*Jewish Sightseeing in Ireland*

NOTE: Some of these sites are not accessible all the time

DUBLIN AND NEARBY

**The Irish Jewish Museum**, Dublin 8.

3 Walworth Road (near Victoria, Lennox & Harrington Streets), South Circular Road, Portobello, Dublin 8.

Web: [www.jewishmuseum.ie](http://www.jewishmuseum.ie)

**OPENING HOURS:**

Please contact the Museum at [info@jewishmuseum.ie](mailto:info@jewishmuseum.ie)

The Irish Jewish Museum is located in the once highly Jewish populated area of Portobello, around the South Circular Road, Dublin 8.

The former Walworth Road Synagogue, which could accommodate approximately 150 men and women, consisted of two adjoining terraced houses. Due to the movement of the Jewish people from the area to the suburbs of Dublin and with the overall decline in their numbers, the Synagogue fell into disuse and ceased to function in the early 70's. The premises remained locked for almost fifteen years, and was brought back to life again with the establishment of the Irish Jewish Museum Committee in late 1984.

The Museum was opened by the Irish born former President of Israel Dr. Chaim Herzog on the 20th June 1985 during his State visit to Ireland. It is managed by a Committee of dedicated people, varying in numbers from 20 to 30, who voluntarily give of their time. The Museum preserves an important, though small, part of Ireland's cultural and historic heritage. It's strongly advised you email in advance to check opening hours – [info@jewishmuseum.ie](mailto:info@jewishmuseum.ie).

Whilst in the area, you might also stop and see:

**Bretzel Bakery**, 1a Lennox Street , Portobello, Dublin 8

Phone: (01) 4752724

Opening hours: Mon 8:30 - 15:00; Tue-Fri 8:30 - 18:00; Sat 9:00 - 17:00; Sun 9:00 - 1:00

Dublin's oldest Jewish bakery – see notes in Kashrut section

**Bloomfield House** *not open to public*

Bloomfield Ave, Dublin 8.

(Formerly the Jewish Day School)

**Rabbi Herzog's Home** *not open to public*

33 Bloomfield Ave, Dublin 8.

Former home of Rabbi Dr. Isaac Herzog, first Chief Rabbi of Ireland, and father of Dr. Chaim Herzog. Plaque on wall.

**Birthplace of Leopold Bloom** *not open to public*

52 Upper Clanbrassil Street, Dublin 8.

Leopold Bloom was James Joyce's famous fictional character in *Ulysses*. Other sites mentioned in *Ulysses* are Emorville Square, Lombard Street West and St. Kevin's Parade, all located near the Irish Jewish Museum.

**A pub dating from the time of the  
Rambam?**

The Brazen Head Inn, located at 20 Lower Bridge St, Dublin 8, claims to have been founded in 1198, so it would have been serving up pints when the sage Maimonides was living in Egypt. Even if the historical connection doesn't move you, the nightly music jam, and Sunday afternoon concert at 3.30pm might. For more details, check out their website at [www.brazenhead.com](http://www.brazenhead.com).

*For highly observant visitors, please be advised that there may be Kol Isha at these concerts.*

O'Neill. Located on Fairview Strand near Ballybough Bridge, in Ballybough, Dublin 3. Telephone +353 1 836 9756.

*Nearby Dublin*

**Clonyn Castle**, Delvin, Co. Westmeath *not open to public*

Over 100 orphaned children from concentration camps had a temporary home here until 1948.

SOUTH LEINSTER (WICKLOW/WEXFORD/WATERFORD)

**Hill Picket Studio**, Avoca, Co. Wicklow

Chaim Factor is a Jewish woodworking artist who creates handmade kitchenware products using locally sourced wood. His signature Judaica items include challah boards and knives, which have been sold in the Jewish Museum in New York. Open Monday – Friday 10:30 – 17:00. Telephone +353 4 023 0581 or email [info@hillpicketstudio.com](mailto:info@hillpicketstudio.com).

**Beth El Bunclody**, Bunclody, Co Wexford

An unaffiliated synagogue, Beth El Bunclody is situated just outside of Bunclody, on the Wexford/Carlow/Wicklow borders.

The Synagogue is a popular visitor spot for Jews from the USA and Israel. Seating in general is mixed and davening is from an Orthodox Siddur. A strictly Orthodox service can be arranged with prior notification. The Aron Kodesh and Sefer Torah are in situ since 2009. The

Synagogue is operational usually from late April to beginning of September each year (though there

**The Weingreen Biblical Antiquities Museum**

Arts Building, Trinity College, Dublin 2.

The Weingreen Museum of Biblical Antiquities is located in the Arts and Social Sciences Building, Trinity College Dublin. It received its present title in 1977 in recognition of Professor Weingreen's contribution to the creation of the museum. Professor Weingreen was Erasmus Smith's Professor of Hebrew at Trinity College Dublin between 1939 and 1979.

**Ballybough Cemetery**, Dublin 3.

Now closed for burials, the 250+ year-old Ballybough Cemetery is only about one-seventh of an acre in size. It may be visited by prior arrangement with the caretakers, Mr. & Mrs. C.

*Top Tips for Beth El Bunclody visitors:*

- ✓ Bring Photo ID
- ✓ Always contact us before attending - see email and telephone lists below.
- ✓ Dress is smart casual; modest dress only. Men must always wear a kippa inside the shul; we have kippot at the door. For women, trousers are not encouraged (but acceptable), unless an Orthodox service is being conducted.
- ✓ Mobile Phones should be switched off.

may be some weeks when there is no availability). Erev Shabbat and Shabbat Morning Services and Shabbat Mincha are conducted each week that the Shul is open. Where possible, visitors wishing to daven during the week will be accommodated. Before visiting, it is essential that you make contact with us first by email --= avraham@olimcoms.net or jbsilver@iol.ie.

#### WESTERN IRELAND

##### **Sneem Culture Park**, Co Kerry

Includes a modern polished steel Israeli sculpture, presented by Irish born President Chaim Herzog in honour of Cearbhall O Dalaigh, the fifth President of Ireland.

##### **Garden of Europe**, Listowel, Co Kerry

Located in Listowel, County Kerry, the Garden of Europe opened in 1995. It contains more than 3,000 trees and shrubs and is divided into 12 sections, representing the 12 members of the European Union at the time of the project's commencement. At the lower end of the garden is Ireland's only public monument in memory of those who died in the Holocaust. It is surrounded by oaks grown from acorns collected at Auschwitz by Paddy Fitzgibbon.

##### **Kilmurray**, Newcastle, Dublin Road, Limerick

The historic tiny Jewish cemetery at Kilmurray was restored as part of a publicly funded civic project. It is now preserved in excellent condition although it contains only six standing headstones and other unmarked burials, as well as a prayer house. All enquiries to the Limerick Civic Trust, +353 61 313 399.

**Burren Smokehouse** in Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare (the only fully kosher-supervised fish smokehouse, offering a visitor centre and free tastings)

**Travel advisory** : *The town of Kinvara, Co. Galway has an official boycott of Israeli products. Since August 2014, retailers, cafés, restaurants, and shops have purged their shelves of Israeli products and kitchens of Israeli-grown produce.*

#### CORK (SOUTHERN IRELAND)

<http://www.jewishcork.com/>

##### **Cork Hebrew Congregation**

The synagogue is now closed.

##### **Shalom Park**

Opened in 1989 in the area formerly known as 'Jewstown'. Site of an annual lighting ceremony during Chanukah. Shalom Park, Gas Works Rd & Albert Rd, Cork City.

##### **Cork Trinity Pedestrian Bridge**

Opened in 1977 by the first Jewish Lord Mayor of Cork, Alderman Gerald Goldberg. Known affectionately to locals as 'Passover Bridge'.

##### **Cork Cemetery**

The Cork Cemetery contains the graves of Jewish passengers from both the Lusitania, torpedoed 7th May 1916, and from planes downed over the Atlantic. Curraghkippane Cemetery, Rosanna Road, Kerry Pike, Co. Cork

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# Enjoy your holiday in Ireland!

The Jewish Community Office  
Herzog House, Zion Rd, Rathgar, Dublin 6. Ph +353 1 492 3751.  
Email [office@jewishireland.org](mailto:office@jewishireland.org)