



Travel



The Gaiety Theatre, Dublin



A pint of the black stuff, Arthur's Day, September 22

DUBLIN ROCKS!

Dublin is one of Europe's top city destinations, and there has never been a better time to visit, as festival season is about to start! From the beginning of September to the end of October, a continuous run of festivals and events will bring amazing art, culture and plenty of fun to the city's streets

DUBLIN CONTEMPORARY

From September 6–October 31, the city will be taken over by large scale art installations and gallery exhibitions. The venues include old favourites like The Royal Hibernian Academy, The Hugh Lane and The National Gallery, but there is a new kid on the block in the shape of former university campus, Earlsfort Terrace. This beautiful space will host mini solo exhibitions, installations and wall hangings, sure to whet any artistic appetite. All the works this year will fall under the theme of *Terrible Beauty – Art, Crisis, Change & The Office of Non-Compliance*.

ABSOLUT FRINGE

A unique cultural extravaganza (September 10–25) which offers dance, music, theatre and comedy, all housed along the noble streets of the capital. The Absolut Fringe Festival allows dilettantes to indulge their every cultural whim, taking in over 40 venues throughout the city, and is underpinned by the manifesto of 'celebrating the new and the next'.

ARTHUR'S DAY: SEPTEMBER 22

It may take 119.53 seconds to pour the perfect pint, but it takes a whole day to celebrate it! It may not be recommended to dance while nursing your pint of black, but there are certainly no rules against, say, interspersing a Calvin Harris groovefest between some gulps of

Guinness. The acts are big, bold and beautiful, but the gigs are intimate. A ticket on Arthur's Day gets you a venue, a couple of confirmed acts and the tantalising promise of 'more surprise performances'. Think of it as an island-wide surprise party.

DUBLIN CULTURE NIGHT: SEPTEMBER 23

A fantastic opportunity to connect with the city and enjoy a night of discovery as galleries, museums and cultural venues open their doors for free. The night's events kick off at 5pm, so grab your map, pick a zone to start with, and let a free Dublin Bus take you there. A tour of Christ Church Cathedral, or Dublin Castle State Apartments gets the heritage box ticked. For talks by staff and a rare chance to handle some of the exhibits, hop across the river to National Museum of Ireland – Decorative Arts & History. Just a Luas stop away is IMMA, which puts the party in Culture Night, drawing huge crowds for live music, free food and a bar in their expansive grounds. Art al fresco? We like!

ULSTER BANK DUBLIN THEATRE FESTIVAL

Dublin loves drama, and the Ulster Bank Dublin Theatre Festival offers an amazing array of Irish and international theatre productions. The Festival takes place from September 29 to October 16 and allows Dublin to



The Danton Case, Dublin Theatre Festival 2010

transform into a veritable stage as the Festival acts as a magnet for the most powerful, bewildering and thought-provoking stage works from around the theatre world, featuring acrobatic Russian clowns and tragedies in Dublin tenements – not in the same show of course!

OPEN HOUSE

What really does go on behind closed doors? They say curiosity killed the cat, but then, he wasn't invited to Open House now, was he? Dublin buildings of all types open their doors from October 6–9, allowing all to explore the city's architecture for free with guided tours and talks by architects and designers. Open House opens eyes and doors to the stunning and usually off-limits buildings in the city, including Palladian domains as well as regal residences and ecologically friendly triumphs. This year's theme, 'The

Architecture of Change', explores the idea that buildings around us have the potential to make us happier and the world a better place.

OTHER FANTASTIC FESTIVALS HAPPENING IN DUBLIN THIS AUTUMN

Mountains to Sea

Book Festival (September 1–11), a lavish literary affair that brings great and aspiring writers under the one roof in Dún Laoghaire; **The Dublin Festival of Fashion** is a sartorial celebration taking place in various venues around the city (September 8–11); music lovers can check out what's hot and what's not at **Hard Working Class Heroes** (October 3–6), and why not bring Bavaria to Dublin with **Oktoberfest** (September 22–October 9), where beer appreciation is a must, but lederhosen are optional. Dublin's season of non-stop festivals is the perfect opportunity to flex your party muscles as the city gets ready for an autumn of shiny spectacle, hardcore culture and arty parties.

* For more information on great things to do in Dublin, or to download the full programme, check out www.discoverireland.ie/dublinfestivalseason