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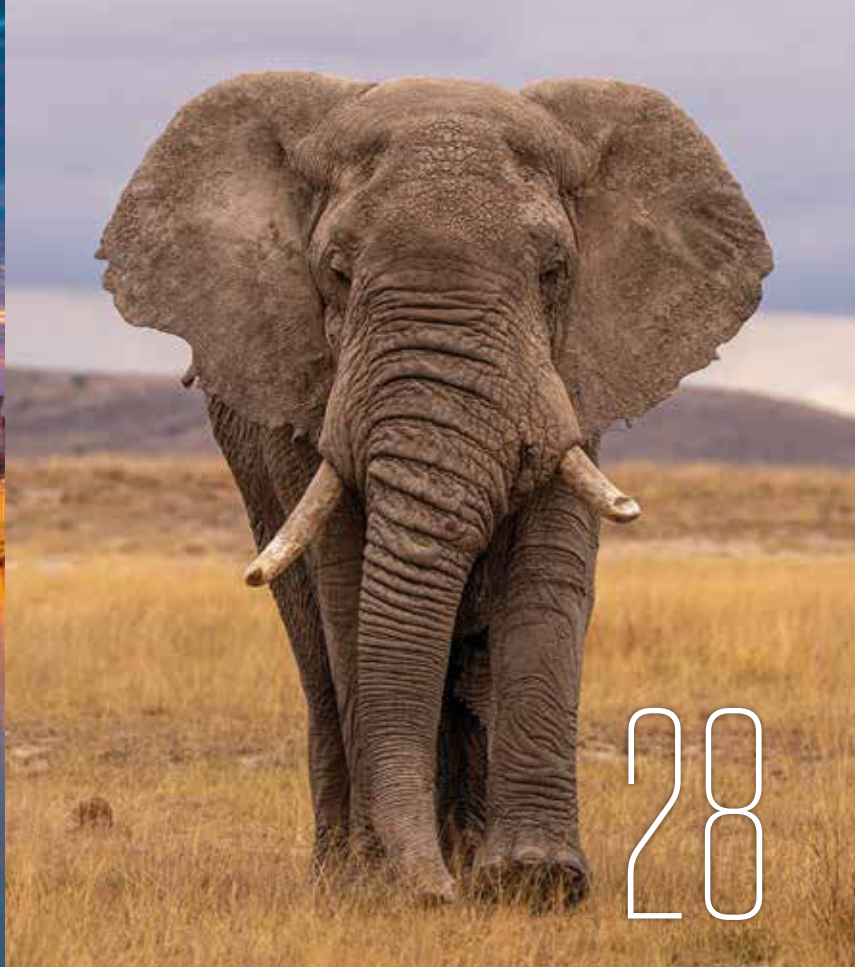
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CONTRIBUTORS



YVONNE GORDON

"Dazzled by Dublin"

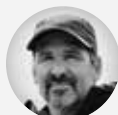
Gordon is a travel writer from Dublin who writes for publications such as *National Geographic*, *AFAR*, *Smithsonian* and *The Washington Post*. Her awards include Irish Travel Writer of the Year.



SHEEKA SANAHORI

"Seeing the World Through a New Lens"

A travel writer based in Atlanta, Sanahori has written for *National Geographic*, *Oxford American* and more. If she's not writing or traveling, she's somewhere in her garden.



PAUL ZIZKA

"Banff Revealed"

Zizka is a landscape and adventure photographer, mountaineer and Fellow of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society. His photographic journeys have taken him to all seven continents.

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Dazzled by DUBLIN

The capital of the Republic of Ireland wins visitors over with its revered museums, fabled university and pantheon of literary greats.

By Yvonne Gordon

Visitors to Dublin will probably be on the lookout for three experiences: a “scoop” (drink) in one of the city’s historic pubs, insight into the literary heritage that earned Dublin the title UNESCO City of Literature, and a glimpse at the city’s oldest and most beautiful cultural institutions. If you join an activity like the Dublin Literary Pub Crawl, you will experience all of these in one evening as you find yourself standing in a cobbled square in Trinity College as an actor guide perhaps recounts a story about Oscar Wilde’s trip to America, before moving on to the next pub.

Wander the old streets of Dublin—the city center is relatively small and easy to navigate—and you will walk in the footsteps of other literary greats, too, including James Joyce, William Butler Yeats and Seamus Heaney. Dublin is packed with arts and cultural institutions, with nearly 50 museums and a lively calendar of events year-round.



The National Gallery of
Ireland's Grand Gallery

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This year marks the 300th anniversary of the publication of Jonathan Swift’s *Gulliver’s Travels*. Visitors can celebrate during the Jonathan Swift Festival (November 18–26), which features readings, lectures, performances and walking tours visiting key places from the Dublin-born author’s life. These include St. Patrick’s Cathedral, where Swift served as Dean from 1713 until his death in 1745. The cathedral is open to visitors during the day, but look as well for its atmospheric evening events, including candlelight performances and organ recitals of film scores.

The city also holds an annual festival celebrating the life of another Dubliner: Bram Stoker (1847–1912), with plenty of events for fans of Gothic horror such as his iconic novel *Dracula*. This year, it takes place October 23–26.

Must-Visit Museums

In the Georgian Quarter around Merrion Square, you’ll discover the National Gallery of Ireland, where galleries with carved doorways lead to paintings by Caravaggio, Monet, Vermeer, Turner, Rembrandt and Picasso as well as Irish artists like Jack B. Yeats, brother of poet W.B. Yeats, and stained-glass artist Harry Clarke. Nearby on Kildare Street, displays at the National Museum of Ireland—Archaeology include tools from the Stone Age, dazzling Bronze Age jewelry, decorated Christian chalices and 2,500-year-old “bog bodies” found fully preserved in bogs.

The Long Room at the Old Library at Trinity College Dublin, home to the 9th-century *Book of Kells* and other ancient manuscripts, is a must-see for its eye-catching barrel-

vaulted ceiling, upper galleries and marble busts. Although many of the books have been moved out as the library prepares to close for renovation at the end of 2027, the Long Room is still worthy of a visit, as is the digital *Book of Kells* Experience, which tells the story of this magnificent illustrated manuscript. Afterward, the Trinity Trails Literary Walking Tour, led by a student guide, will take you around the college’s historic buildings and squares to trace the steps of alumni, from Samuel Beckett to Sally Rooney.

Bringing the Arts to Life

The National Library of Ireland’s *Seamus Heaney: Listen Now Again* exhibition, at the Bank of Ireland Cultural and Heritage Centre on Westmoreland Street, takes you through the Nobel Prize-winning poet’s life and work.



The Long Room
at the Old Library
at Trinity College

PHOTO BY STE MURRAY



Trinity Trails Literary
Walking Tour

PHOTO BY BARRY MCCALL



The God and His Daughter
at the Abbey Theatre

PHOTO BY ROS KAVANAGH

The collection contains ephemera such as personal letters, drafts of his work and family photos. Entry is free, as are daily guided tours that include readings from Heaney’s work.

There are plenty of options to view live arts performances in the many theaters, music venues and other cultural spaces. Drama fans should check out the Abbey Theatre, Ireland’s national theater, founded in 1904, which

produces a range of plays year-round, from classic favorites to new works.

During the annual Dublin Theatre Festival (late September to early October), the city comes alive with theater, music and dance. In the weeks preceding it, the more experimental Dublin Fringe Festival (early to mid-September annually) hosts visual art, comedy, cabaret, theater and dance performances.