

TRAVEL

Soak up Dublin's sights

BY CRISTINA VELOCCI

Special to amNewYork

Next week, New Yorkers will mark St. Patrick's Day by cramming into overcrowded pubs, attempting to re-create the Dublin experience. But the real thing is so much better.

Home to both Guinness and Jameson, the Irish capital's pub culture makes it the perfect backdrop for a suds-soaked celebration of St. Patrick's Day, but it's fun all year round.

A DAY ON THE TOWN Old Jameson Distillery

Bow St., Smithfield, +353-1-807-2355, irishdistillershost.com/ojd
Originally built in 1780, it's little more than a museum housed in a section of its former self. (Production of Jameson ceased there in 1971.) Guided tours lead you through reproductions of each of the steps taken to create the triple-distilled whiskey, culminating in a complimentary dram.

The Chimney Smithfield Village,

+353-1-817-3838
Around the corner from the Old Jameson Distillery stands this chimney. Once a part of the facility, it now serves as a separate observation tower, providing 360-degree views of historic North Dublin from a two-tiered glass-enclosed platform 185 feet up.

Guinness Storehouse St. James's Gate,

+353-1-408-4800, guinness-storehouse.com
This year is the 250th anniversary of the St. James's



St. Patrick's Day fireworks over the River Liffey

(ST PATRICK'S FESTIVAL AND FAILTE IRELAND)

HELPFUL HINTS

- **Currency:** As of press time, €1 = \$1.27 U.S.
- **Liquor licenses:** Last call on weekdays is 11:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday it's 12:30 a.m. Some places with late licenses can stay open until 2:30 a.m.
- **Tickets:** Flights from New York start at \$169.



Enjoy a free Guinness at The Gravity Bar. (GUINNESS STOREHOUSE)

SIPS AND SUSTENANCE

The Temple Bar Pub

47-48 Temple Bar, +353-1-672-5286, thetemplebarpubdublin.com

One draw of the often-packed pub is an open-air beer garden. Another: it boasts the largest whiskey collection in Ireland with a worldwide selection 410 bottles strong.

Porterhouse Brewing Company

16-18 Parliament St., +353-1-679-8847, porterhousebrewco.com
Possibly the only place in Dublin where you'll get quizzical looks for ordering a Guinness, this

tri-level brewery and pub serves only its own brand of stouts, ales and lagers, plus seasonal suds. Grab a stool by a giant copper still-turned-table and order up some filling fare, such as beef 'n' stout.

South William

52 S. William St., +353-1-672-5946, southwilliam.ie
This funky lounge offers an alternative to the traditional pub scene. Sip a specialty cocktail on one of the worn leather couches, or head to the outdoor patio. DJs spin on weekends, when the amber-lit basement turns into a large dance floor.

Travel Deals

■ **Book a cruise, stay in Vegas for free:** Through March, travelers who book a seven-to-14-night European cruise with Costa Cruises will receive a complimentary two-night stay at Planet Hollywood Resort and Casino in Las Vegas. Seven-night cruises begin at \$449/person. The Vegas stay must be Sunday-Thursday, and is based on availability. **CostaCruises.com or 800-GO-COSTA**



A European Costa cruise comes with a free Vegas stay.

■ **Daytona Beach on a budget:** Oceanfront accommodations begin at \$64/night with the Daytona Beach area-wide Spring Family

Beach Break special. Through May 21, a wide range of hotels are slashing prices. Also, the Daytona Beach Area Sun Saver booklet, available

online, offers \$500 worth of coupons for restaurants, shops and more. **FamilyBeachBreak.com or 866-845-1993**

■ **Costa Rican resort savings:** Costa Rica's Lost Iguana Resort & Spa, located on 120 acres of rainforest, is offering 20 percent off stays of four or more nights through Dec. 15. Starting rates are \$148/night. **LostIguanaResort.com or 011-506-2267-6148**

(EMILY MATHIS)

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