

A Guide to Dublin

Lead Network
Conference 2026

6th - 7th
October

Why Dublin?

- 01 Hosting the conference in **Dublin** reflects our commitment to championing gender equity and inclusion across the full breadth of Europe, including Ireland and the British Isles — a region with a vibrant and growing retail and CPG landscape. By convening in Dublin, we can engage directly with **Irish and UK-based organisations**, deepening our reach and impact where momentum for diversity is accelerating.
- 02 Dublin is a city celebrated for its **open, progressive culture** and has been a pioneer in LGBTQIA+ rights — becoming the first country to legalise same-sex marriage by popular vote in 2015. This spirit of inclusion makes Dublin a powerful backdrop for **amplifying diverse voices**, forging new alliances, and advancing our mission on a truly international stage.
- 03 As one of Europe's **most connected business capitals** — home to the European headquarters of companies like Google, Meta, LinkedIn, and Salesforce — Dublin offers world-class infrastructure, direct flights from across Europe and North America, and a concentration of senior retail, FMCG, and **CPG leaders perfectly aligned** with our attendee community.
- 04 Choosing Dublin strengthens our **presence in the Anglophone European market** and supports the expansion of our Irish chapter. The city's dynamic professional community and its density of multinational headquarters provide an exceptional foundation for **sustained engagement, partnership, and impact long after the conference closes**.

LEAD Network Conference 2026



Travelling to Dublin



Dublin Airport (DUB) is the primary international gateway, located approximately **30 minutes by taxi** from the city centre and most conference hotels. It is one of Europe's best-connected airports with direct routes from the US, UK, and across the continent.

From the airport, the **Airlink Express (Route 747)** is a direct bus service running every 10–15 minutes to O'Connell Street and Heuston Station. A single fare costs **€7** and the journey takes around 35–45 minutes depending on traffic.

Licensed Dublin taxis are available at the taxi rank outside Arrivals. Only use **metered taxis** — fixed fares are not standard in Dublin so ensure the meter is running. A typical airport-to-city fare is **€25–€35**.



Dublin Connolly and Dublin Heuston are the two main rail terminals. Irish Rail (Iarnród Éireann) connects Dublin to Cork, Galway, Limerick, Belfast, and other major cities. **Check [irishrail.ie](https://www.irishrail.ie)** for timetables and advance ticket pricing.

From the UK, the **Holyhead to Dublin Port** route operated by Irish Ferries and Stena Line offers overnight crossings, arriving approximately 3.5 hours after departure. Dublin Port is a 15-minute taxi ride from the city centre.

The **DART coastal rail** and **Luas tram** are ideal for getting around once you arrive. Get a **Leap Card** (€2.15/journey) at any newsagent — works on all buses, DART, and trams.

Good to know

Money



Euro (EUR) is the official currency in the Republic of Ireland. Northern Ireland uses GBP. Cards are widely accepted everywhere; carry a small amount of cash for markets and tips.



Card payments are universal in Dublin — Visa, Mastercard, Apple Pay, and Google Pay work across cafés, pubs, shops, and transport. Ireland is effectively cashless for everyday spending.



Avoid airport currency kiosks — rates are poor. Use ATMs from AIB, Bank of Ireland, or Ulster Bank for better rates. Most are widely available throughout the city centre.



Tipping — Check if service is included. If not, 10–15% is customary at restaurants. In pubs, tipping for drinks is not expected; rounding up a tab is appreciated.

Useful phrases

Hello – Dia dhuit (dee-ah gwit)

Thank you – Go raibh maith agat (guh rev mah agut)

Cheers / Good health – Sláinte (slawn-cha)

You're welcome – Tá fáilte romhat (taw fawl-cha row-it)

Goodbye – Slán (slawn)

Fun facts

Over **50% of Ireland's population is under 35** — one of Europe's youngest nations.

The **Book of Kells**, a 9th-century illuminated manuscript, is housed at Trinity College Dublin.

Ireland was the **first country to legalise same-sex marriage** by popular vote (2015).

The **Guinness Storehouse** welcomes over 1.7 million visitors per year.

Good to know

Getting around



Download the **Transport for Ireland (TFI) app** or **CityMapper** for real-time bus, DART, and Luas tram journey planning. Both apps show live departures and walking routes to stops.



A **Leap Card** is valid across all Dublin public transport — bus, DART, and Luas. It costs €3 (refundable) and gives discounted fares (~€2.15/journey). Available at newsagents, convenience stores, and the airport.



Free Now (formerly MyTaxi) is the dominant licensed taxi app in Dublin and is the safest way to book. **Uber** also operates in Dublin via Free Now. Always confirm destination and that the meter is running before departure.



Dublin Bikes dock-share scheme offers a quick, affordable way around the city centre. A 3-day pass is just €5 with the first 30 minutes of each ride free — perfect for conference-day trips between venues and attractions.

LEAD Network Conference 2026

Precautions

Dublin is a safe European capital, but watch your belongings in busy tourist areas like **Grafton Street**, **Temple Bar**, and **O'Connell Street** — especially during peak hours.

Ireland has strong **LGBTQIA+ protections** in law and a vibrant, visible community in Dublin — home to one of Europe's most celebrated annual Pride festivals.



If you have some free time...

Dublin Docklands

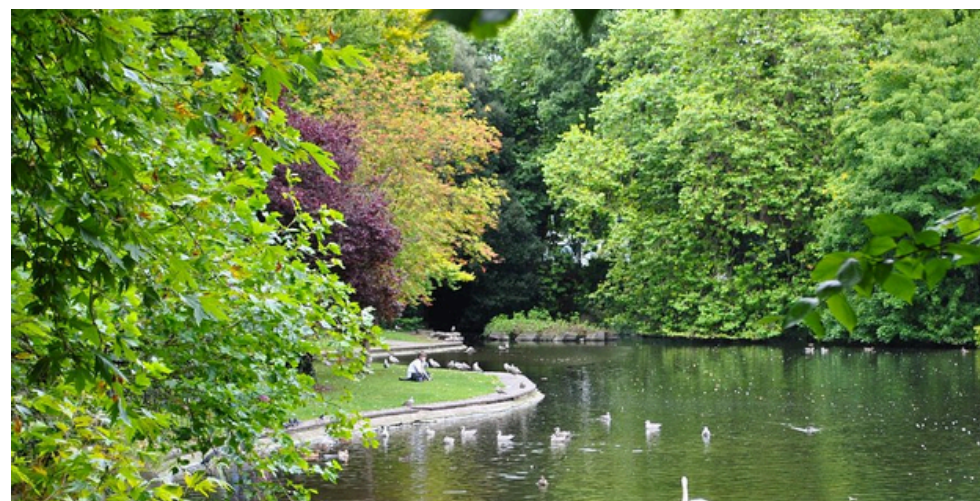
During the day, explore the Docklands & Grand Canal
10 min walk from the conference venue · Docklands area



Stroll along Grand Canal Dock past the iconic **Samuel Beckett Bridge** and Bord Gáis Energy Theatre. A blend of contemporary architecture, waterside cafés, and panoramic city views — with **Google, Meta, and Accenture HQs** nearby.

St Stephens Green

Before the evening event, walk through St. Stephen's Green
In the heart of the city centre · Top of Grafton Street



This stunning **9-hectare Victorian park** offers ornamental lakes, sculptures, and walking paths — a perfect reset before evening programming. Surrounded by Georgian townhouses and the iconic Shelbourne Hotel.

Temple Bar

After the programme, head to Temple Bar or Baggot Street
Dublin's best evening destinations · 10–15 min from venue



Experience **Dublin's legendary pub culture** — a natural setting for post-conference networking. For a quieter atmosphere, the wine bars along **Baggot Street and Merrion Row** offer a refined alternative. Perfect for a Guinness and genuine conversation.





Enjoy Dublin!

Lead Network
Conference 2026

6th - 7th
October