

Jean & Carl visit
Dublin, Ireland, July 2016
(after their July INRC 2016 Trip to Bath, UK)
by Carl Helmers
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As I noted [elsewhere](#) my wife Jean Bidlack and I frequently travel somewhere on our wonderful orb to scientific conferences and other meetings in her world of academic science. At various venues she will join with professors and researchers from industry and academia in her field, the pharmacology of opiate addiction in the human brain. This year's 2016 International Narcotics Research conference was held in Bath, UK. After traveling to Bath, then Stonehenge UK, as long as we were on the eastern side of the Atlantic pond, we decided in advance to spend a few days in Ireland, specifically Dublin. Jean has English and Irish family roots, and had always wanted to see some of Ireland. I had never been to Ireland and Dublin in particular so naturally a few days visiting Dublin Ireland after taking in Bath UK capped off our anglophone adventure.

We arrived in Dublin in the late afternoon following a short flight across the Irish Sea from Bristol, UK. We immediately journeyed by taxi to our "Dublin Home," the Merrion Hotel:

Our "Dublin Home":



The Merrion Hotel entrance.

Circa 17:30 Dublin time we checked in, found our room, unpacked and made dinner reservations. The first night in Dublin, we dined in the Merrion Hotel's "The Cellar" restaurant. We also had breakfast in The Cellar every morning in Dublin.

This article is a selection of several images from our July 15 to July17 visit to Dublin, Ireland. As soon as we arrived we started to take in the atmosphere of this unique hotel. On our way to the elevator to our garden wing second floor room, we immediately came across this absolutely unique warning sign:

Please Mind The Ramp[!!!]



A Change of Elevation within the Merrion Hotel, Dublin, Ireland

The Merrion Hotel in the heart of Dublin was apparently assembled from one or more adjacent wings or structures. As evidence I offer this Gimp-enlarged warning sign for a level change between the lobby / reception area and the “Tea Room” on the way to a separate wing where elevators to our quite modern second floor room were located. As soon as I saw this sign I could not resist capturing the image (back home, I used GIMP to enlarge a section bounded by the white oval.)

In our three nights at the Merrion, we passed this ramp many times in either direction. Every time we went anywhere within or outside the hotel, we would walk up or down the ramp through the “tea room” in the background of this image. This is unique feature is well worth traveling to Dublin Ireland’s Merrion Hotel to see!

The next day after a late breakfast one of our first spots of interest was a couple of blocks away. This *must visit* spot is the “Temple Bar “ reputed to be the place to go in Dublin according to Jean’s research.

Walking around Dublin, finding a landmark:



A famed Dublin Ireland live music venue & Guinness beer purveyor
(Captured while walking around near the Merrion Hotel.)

Even in the afternoon, there was live Irish folk music of some sort going on, so we found seats in a quiet niche off to one side and enjoyed our first pints of Guinness on draught in the land of Guinness.

Within the Landmark:

This Temple Bar in Dublin is famed due to its long history, as advertised by this brass floor medallion of the niche adjacent to the music performance area where Jean and I sat taking in the ambiance.



Temple Bar floor medallion captured by Jean , while we sipped our draught Guinness

Within the Landmark, continued



Jean captured my visage and our and our waiting Guinness pints on a shelf under a Jabberwocky themed wall image in the Temple Bar. Lewis Carroll is revered throughout the English Speaking world, and certainly in this Guinness marketing poster of the Temple Bar!



On opposite side of our Temple Bar niche, a wall with framed beer advertisements

After our sojourn at the Temple Bar, we walked around Dublin to scout out the city. One characteristic of Dublin, especially on a not excessively hot clear blue sky Northern Hemisphere summer day is that it is a city that is very walk-able.

On subsequent evenings we had dinner at excellent near by restaurants within a few blocks of the hotel.

Walking (and tourist bus hopping) around Dublin:

We explored Dublin with a combination of just plain walking and using a multi-day pass to that city's excellent "Hop on Hop off" tourist buses. On writing this article, I found that "Hop on Hop Off" tourist buses are a worldwide franchise. Try Googling the string "Hop on Hop Off". The voluminous results list links to a variation in every major tourist city in the world.

The "Hop on Hop Off" tourist buses we used in Dublin varied in the quality of their human guides: on one of the buses we briefly took, the tour guide was the driver, whose accounts tended to get interrupted by traffic exigencies. On another bus, the driver was accompanied by a canned audio narrative – maybe effective in covering stuff, but not exactly imaginative.

The best bus we took was one we hopped on – and took for a long distance due to the quality of the Dublin native guide who was not the driver. This very knowledgeable local booster and story teller made us want to keep on that bus for a long time – so we did that day.



We captured this image of a carriage passing in front of Irish parliament buildings



An Irish Cemetery with a famous historical figure's very tall tomb tower memorial

I captured this image from the open upper deck of our Hop on Hop Off bus when it stopped at at Glasnevin Cemetery for a few minutes. Later when I wrote this account, I Googled “**Dublin Ireland Cemetery Tower**” to see if I could identify the prominent tower in this image. The first link back was to the Wikipedia page for Glasnevin Cemetery. Matching the identical tower image on that Wikipedia page I identified the tower: “the round tower ... stands over the tomb of [Daniel O'Connell](#)“, a 19th century Irish politician of considerable historic importance to Ireland as a country. (I captured the Gimp cropped original of this image from the upper deck of a Dublin “Hop On Hop Off” tourist bus...)

After a long day walking around Dublin



Jean catches Carl napping in Merrion Hotel, Dublin, Ireland (July 17, 2016)

Then after two days walking around and occasionally using the “Hop On / Hop Off” tourist buses, it was time to pack up and head home on July 18. We arrived back in Rochester after genuinely smooth flying from Dublin to Atlanta to Rochester where our trip to the INRC, Bath, StoneHenge and Dublin had begun 11 days earlier.

Hyperlinks Caveat

At and after the *epoch* of publishing the latest update of this article on my site, to the best of my knowledge all hyperlinks still point to the WWW pages I intend.

Carl Helmers

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