

Dublin Irish Festival

A Vibrant Three-day Summer Celebration That Captures the Essence of Irish Culture in the Heart of Dublin, Ohio

Experience the music, dance and culture at the award-winning Dublin Irish Festival. Since 1988, the first weekend in August has been reserved for what is now one of the largest Irish Festivals in the world. This annual event transforms the city of Dublin, Ohio, into a lively and colorful tapestry of beloved Irish traditions.

The Festival provides a unique opportunity for locals and tourists alike to immerse themselves in Ireland's rich heritage, fostering a sense of community and celebration. Within the swell of music and dance, festival-goers can also explore the richness of Irish culture through savory foods, delicious Irish whiskeys, history re-enactors, hands-on workshops and several athletic demonstrations.

When: The 2026 Dublin Irish Festival will take place July 31, Aug. 1 & 2

- Friday | 4 p.m. — midnight
- Saturday | 11 a.m. — 11 p.m.
- *Sunday | 9:30 a.m. — 8 p.m.

**Free Admission and limited experiences until 11 a.m.*

Where: Coffman Park, 5200 Emerald Pkwy., Dublin, Ohio

Experiences:

- **Performances:** For nearly four decades, the Dublin Irish Festival has been a gathering place for world-class musicians, dancers and cultural performers. Visitors are treated to a dynamic lineup of Irish performances and sounds, featuring Irish dancers, traditional musicians and rock bands across seven music stages. The 60 acts and more than 800 performers include national and international entertainers, local and regional artists, dance schools and pipe and drum bands.
- **Food:** The air is filled with the enticing aroma of Irish delicacies, inviting attendees to savor authentic Celtic cuisine, from hearty stews to delectable pastries. The Celtic Caterer will present Irish cooking demonstrations throughout the weekend.
- **Beverages:** From Irish beer to lemonade, the Festival offers a variety of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages for sale. Sample the rich complexity of fine whiskey at exclusive tasting events, where connoisseurs and novices alike will indulge in a curated selection of premium spirits. Hydration Stations are set up throughout the festival to refill water bottles.
- **Shopping:** 90+ vendors from across the globe showcase their unique craftsmanship and creativity with handmade jewelry, home décor and fine art. From clothing to crystals, the festival is the perfect place to find unique gifts and souvenirs.
- **Culture:** Visitors can discover the richness of Celtic culture with literary and historical

presentations and hands-on workshops at one of the three cultural stages. Re-enactments of Ireland's early days, an up-close look at Celtic canines from some of the Midwest's top breeders, and sheep herding demonstrations round out the offerings. The genealogy tent is also a popular attraction.

- **Sports, Competitions and Games:** On Thursday, July 30, in Historic Dublin, everyone can join in the [Dublin Irish Festival 5K and Kids Dash](#), followed by a party and concert for the participants and spectators. From the stone throw to the stone carry, attendees can watch athletes compete in the Stones of Strength and the Highland Games Competitions. The younger guests can take part in the Kids Highland Games, and all guests can enjoy the 2nd Cavalry Brigade and sheep-herding demonstrations. Learn about the game of darts in a seminar or compete in games at the Darts Tent.
- **Family Enjoyment:** Families can enjoy crafts, contests, performances and dance instruction in the Wendy's Wee Folk Area. The Pot O' Gold Playland features more than 15 inflatables and activities. Families can get into athletics and competitions together at the Kids Highland Games, the Dublin Irish Festival 5K and Kids Dash, as well as the Irish Contest for all age groups that include the greenest eyes, reddest hair, and most freckles. A calming, sensory-friendly "Take-A-Break" space is available and includes sensory activities and equipment. For extra safety and to quickly locate separated parents and their children, caregivers can visit the Identi-Kid tent to obtain a free wristband that displays a child's name, age, and parent's phone number. The Festival also offers first-aid, nursing and baby-changing stations.
- **Defenders Den:** The covered rest area offers complimentary snacks, non-alcoholic beverages and resource information to active and retired military members, veterans of all military branches, first responders and up to 3 accompanying family members.
- **Sunday Services:** Between 9:30 - 11 a.m., attend one of the seven Sunday services, including Catholic Masses in English and Irish, a Druid service, an Episcopal service and a non-denominational service. Admission is free prior to 11 a.m. Guests are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item or a cash donation for the Dublin Food Pantry.

Admissions: Tickets are sold online, and select tickets are sold at the Dublin Community Recreation Center and the Festival Gates

- **General Tickets:** One-day tickets are valid for admission Friday, Saturday or Sunday. Weekend passes and group tickets are also available. Kids 11 and under are free and do not require a ticket.
- **Family Tickets:** For children aged 2-11, tickets for one day of unlimited play in the Pot O' Gold Playland include more than 20 inflatables, games and activities. Online only, family packages with savings are available for two one-day admission tickets and two Pot O' Gold Playland wristbands.
- **Free Tickets:** Admission is free before 11 a.m. on Sunday. Guests are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item or a cash donation for the Dublin Food Pantry. All Dublin Irish Festival 5K participants will receive one free admission. Visitors can also take advantage of a Visit Dublin, Ohio hotel package that includes free Festival tickets. All Festival volunteers also receive a free Festival ticket.
- **VIP Club Passes:** For guests who want an exclusive experience, such as covered areas/tents, premium views, parking passes, access to private restrooms and bars, meals and beverages, the VIP Club passes include Ultimate Music PLUS, Ultimate Music Experience, Emerald Club, Dub Club and Temple Bar Club.

Transportation: There are a lot of options to get to the Festival easily and safely, including:

- Drive and park in large nearby lots with free wheelchair accessible shuttle service
- Take advantage of an expanded zone for e-scooters
- Ride and use the bike parking program, where volunteers help park bikes
- Dublin residents 55+ and with disabilities can schedule rides to/from the Festival with Dublin Connector
- Visit the Dublin Irish Festival website one week before the main event to get a Lyft code for up to \$10 off a ride to/from the Festival

Sustainability and Caring Locally:

- Since 2007, the Festival has had a goal of increasing sustainability initiatives, such as composting waste and recycling. The goal is to divert 80% - 90% from landfill by 2030.
- One Festival priority is to support local grassroots organizations through the Sharing o' the Green program, which allows community organization volunteers to work at special assignments to generate funds for their causes, with an approximate average of raising over \$100K annually.
- Dublin Food Pantry became the designated beneficiary in 2010, and to date the Festival has donated a total of 222,795 pounds of food and \$155,267.47 in cash.
- The success of the Festival depends on more than 1,100 dedicated volunteers and 150 year-round committee members. Each year, leadership, family, youth and adult awards are given to select volunteer winners, as well as \$2,500 scholarships to two graduating Dublin City School high school students.

Recent Awards:

- # 1 in the 2025 USA Today 10Best awards for Best Cultural Festival
- American Bus Association Best of the Best Award
- 2025 World Festival and Event City with six Pinnacle Awards at the 70th Annual International Festival and Events Association (IFEA) Convention
- Best Suburban Festival in the *CityScene* 2025 Best of the 'Bus awards
- 2nd Best Festival in Columbus as recognized by *Columbus Monthly*

More Information: Visit DublinIrishFestival.org and follow the Festival on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).

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