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10 Must-dos When In Dublin

By Steven Cronin

Few places around the world lend a friendlier hand than Dublin. The Emerald Isle offers wonderful hospitality, complemented by its warm and friendly hosts. A cosmopolitan city, Dublin is rightly proud of its rich heritage, but also presents a modern face in keeping with contemporary culture.

1. Trinity College

Housing the Book of Kells, a near two century old manuscript written by monks, Trinity College is Dublin's oldest university, built in 1592.

2. Christ Church Cathedral

Dublin's oldest building dates back nearly one thousand years to 1038. It was built courtesy of the invading Vikings, a monument to serve a powerful army.

3. Dublin Castle

Dating back to the Norman invasion, this wonderful example of medieval architecture captures the artistic influence of the time. Magnificent painted ceilings and crystal chandeliers portray the Ireland of one thousand years ago.

4. National Gallery of Ireland

Monet and Picasso are just two of the influential artists on display in the city's largest gallery. Some 2,500 paintings give a flavour of a historic past and present.

5. Guinness Storehouse

Ireland's most famous export was once brewed in this famous old building. Since relocated, the Guinness Storehouse now delights in telling its visitors how one of the world's favourite beverages came to be.

6. Temple Bar

Contrasting Dublin's historic ancestry, Temple Bar brings the city right up to modern day with its cosmopolitan mix of bars, restaurants, shops and art galleries.

7. Smithfield Village

More eating, drinking and shopping can be found at Smithfield Village, a newly renovated development. A walk to the top of the Chimney presents magnificent, panoramic views of Dublin.

8. Grafton Street

Big name department stores trade alongside local craft shops in the busiest shopping area of Dublin.

Traditional Irish gifts and souvenirs can be found more easily in the adjacent Nassau Street.

9. Pint of Guinness

No visit to Ireland would be complete without a tipple of the world famous Irish Guinness. Locals say it tastes better in its home city. Well, there's only one way to find out!

10. Irish Grand National

You can smell the money amongst the punters present at one of the great sporting events of the calendar. Join the runners and riders during the month of April to witness the Irish Grand National.

Steven Cronin owns the City Breaks website featuring city break special offers from luxury hotels to budget accommodations. For more information please visit

<http://www.sargas.co.uk>

Prioritize with Two Questions

By Helen Ksyka

"Because there will always be something more to do, we need to consciously choose what we are doing."

— Helen Ksyka

Why is it such a challenge to prioritize? We have enough to-dos to last for a lifetime. We tend to view every to-do as an immediate "must" do. We've become desensitized to what's really important.

The first thing we need to realize is that we will never "catch up." There will always be something more to do because life doesn't stop. So it's all about making wise choices.

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And how do we do that? By asking these two questions before tackling any to-do. Do I need to do this now? If I don't do this now, what are the consequences?

Let's begin with something obvious. Imagine that you're in your office, and your fax short-circuits, causing the entire room to go up in flames. It's a no-brainer that your top priority would be to get out of there immediately, but let's ask our two questions:

Do I need to do this now?

Answer: Yes. The office is an inferno.

If I don't do this now, what are the consequences?

Answer: I'll be charbroiled.

Since it's easy to recognize that the top priority in the above case would be to flee from the burning office, it means that you and everyone else has the ability to prioritize. It's just a matter of practicing, weeding through what's on our plates, and reassessing when necessary.

Now let's say you have a list of fifty to-dos, and you insist that they're all very important. The key is to determine which is the "most" important of the very important by asking and answering our two questions.

If you also insist that every single to-do has consequences if left undone, determine which consequences would be the most drastic. Those to-dos would be worthy of a higher priority.

A curve ball is inevitable, however. As soon as we masterfully prioritize our to-dos, "life happens." That's when it becomes necessary to "shift" priorities.

Let's go back to the example of the office fire. Say it was nine o'clock in the morning and you were working on a proposal to present to a prospective client at noon, which could have resulted in tripling

your income. At that point in time, nothing would have been a higher priority than completing the proposal. But if late in the morning, the fire broke out, there would have been an immediate "shift" in priorities.

When "life happens," it will be in varying degrees, which means varying degrees of "shifts" in priorities. For example, a plumbing problem may require a "shift" in priorities for that day. A fire, or the loss of a job or spouse, may require extensive reassessment and a massive "shift" in daily, as well as long-term, priorities.

Life keeps moving. Life changes. And a steady stream of to-dos continuously competes for our attention. But, the good news is, any one of us can learn to determine which to-dos are really worthy of our time, and we can learn the skill of prioritizing effectively by remembering to ask two questions: Do I need to do this now? If I don't do this now, what are the consequences?

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Helen Ksypka is the founder of Born Organized (R) and its divisions: Time Smarts, Communication Clout, and Galloping Goals (sm/tm). Free tips on how to live an orderly, productive, and fulfilled life can be found at her web site:

<http://www.bornorganized.com>

Helen has penned a popular e-book, "Quotes to the Rescue: Wisdom to Help You Live Life Effectively," which includes traditional topics as well as current lifestyle categories such as: Prioritization, To-Dos, Multitasking, Jam-Packed Lives, Junk. For more details, please visit:

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