

A Visit to the Book of Kells Experience

We are going to visit The Book of Kells Experience. It is a library and museum in Dublin city centre. We will see the Book of Kells, a manuscript which is over 1,200 years old. Our visit will last about 90 minutes.

In this social story we will learn about:

- How to enter the Book of Kells Experience
- Key staff members
- What we can expect during our visit

Social Story



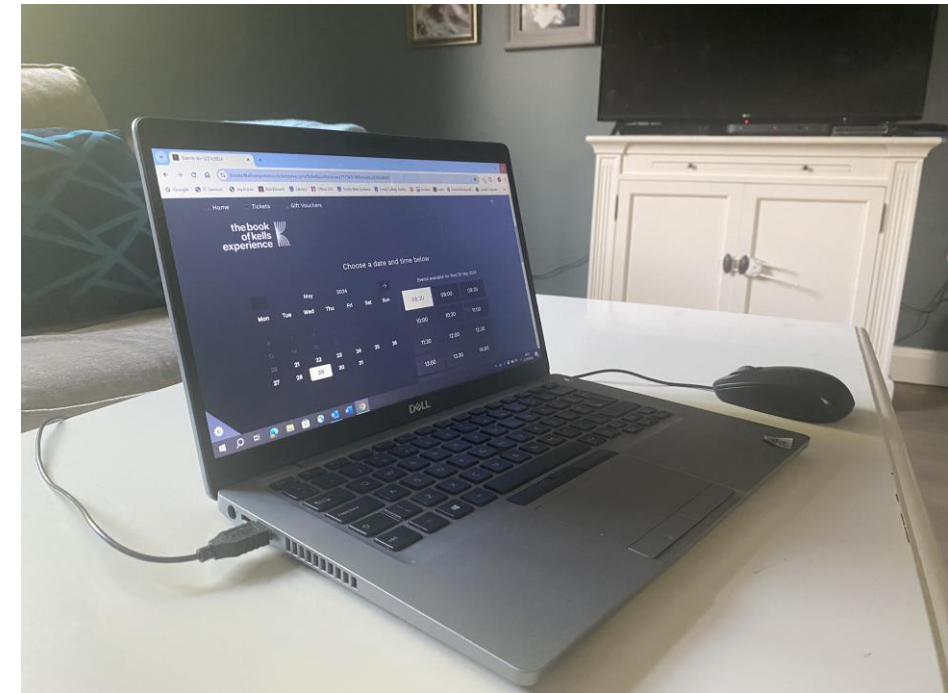
Before we arrive

Opening Hours: The Book of Kells Experience is open 7 days a week. Opening hours vary depending on the time of year. Please see www.bookofkells.ie.

Ticket Booking: We should book a ticket before coming. We can do so online at www.bookofkells.ie. During quieter times it may be possible to buy a ticket on the day but to avoid disappointment, booking in advance is the best option.

Quieter Times: The exhibition is very busy during the summer. Weekends are especially busy. It is a little quieter mid-week, particularly November to February.

Bags and Coats: There is no cloakroom or bag storage. If we bring bags or coats, we will need to keep them with us.



Location of the Book of Kells Experience

The Book of Kells Experience is split between two buildings, the Old Library and the Red Pavilion. Both buildings are located in Trinity College Dublin and it is a short walk between the buildings. Our starting point will be the Old Library so we will go there first and continue on to the Red Pavilion afterwards.



This is a picture of the Old Library.



This is a picture of the Red Pavilion.

Getting to the Old Library

Trinity College has a number of different entrances. The two entrances closest to the Old Library are the main entrance to Trinity College in College Green at the end of Dame Street and the Nassau Street entrance.



This is a picture of the main entrance to Trinity College.



This is a picture of the Nassau Street entrance.

The grounds of Trinity College

We will pass through the grounds of Trinity College on our way to the Old Library. Here are some things we might see there.



Historic buildings



Trinity College students



Tourists



And seagulls!

Footpaths

There are cobblestones on the ground and there are also footpaths for easier access.



Entering the Old Library

We might see lots of people gathered at the entrance. The Book of Kells Experience can be crowded at times, both outside and inside the buildings. At these times it can be noisy.

There are three steps leading to the door and there are also ramps which can accommodate wheelchairs, buggies and walking aids.

We might have to join a queue and wait our turn to enter. If waiting or queuing could cause distress for us, we can speak to a member of staff. They will do their best to accommodate our needs.

A staff member will scan our tickets.



Helpful people

There are friendly people at the Book of Kells Experience who can help us. If we have questions, we can ask them.



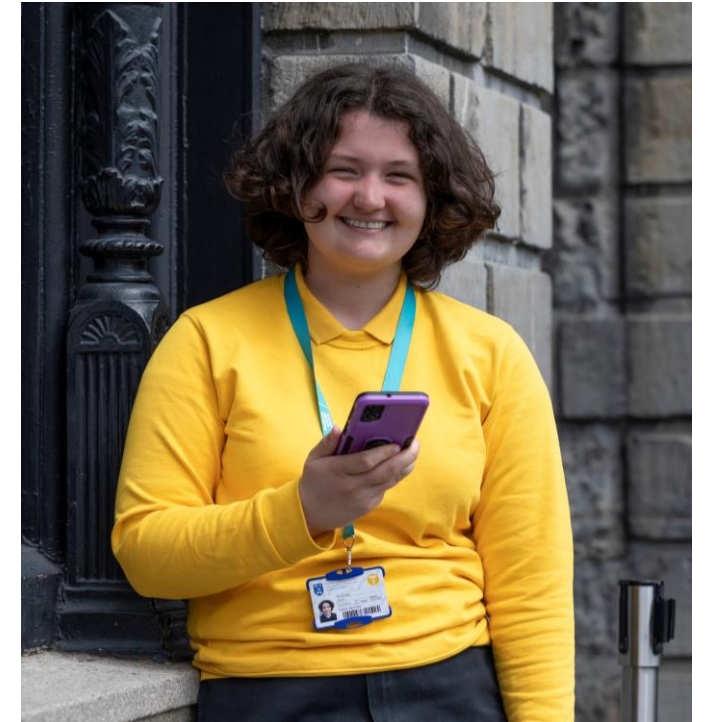
Library Guards

They wear dark grey suits with light grey shirts, and maroon ties.



Visitor Experience Officers

They wear blue shirts/blouses with black fleece jackets.



Student Ambassadors

They wear yellow t-shirts/sweatshirts

Welcome desk and sensory backpacks

Once inside the Old Library, we will pass through the foyer where there is a welcome desk.

We can borrow a sensory backpack from the welcome desk if we wish and return it at the end of our visit. Sensory backpacks are available on a first come first served basis.

They contain:

- Ear defenders
- A soft toy
- A notebook and pen
- A selection of fidgets



Audio guide and children's discovery trail

There is an audio guide which we can listen to on our smart phones if we want. There will be a link on our ticket to download it. We can also access it by scanning a QR code. There are signs on the wall at the beginning of the Book of Kells exhibition with the QR code on them. We will need to bring our own headphones or earbuds for the audio guide.

There is an activity booklet which children can use in the exhibition and receive a certificate at the end. It is called the Book of Kells Discovery Trail. It can be found at the beginning of the Book of Kells exhibition.



The Book of Kells Exhibition

We will visit three spaces in the Old Library: the Book of Kells Exhibition, the Treasury and the Long Room.

The Book of Kells Exhibition contains pictures and information about the Book of Kells and other early Irish manuscripts.



The Treasury

The Treasury is the room where we will see the Book of Kells.

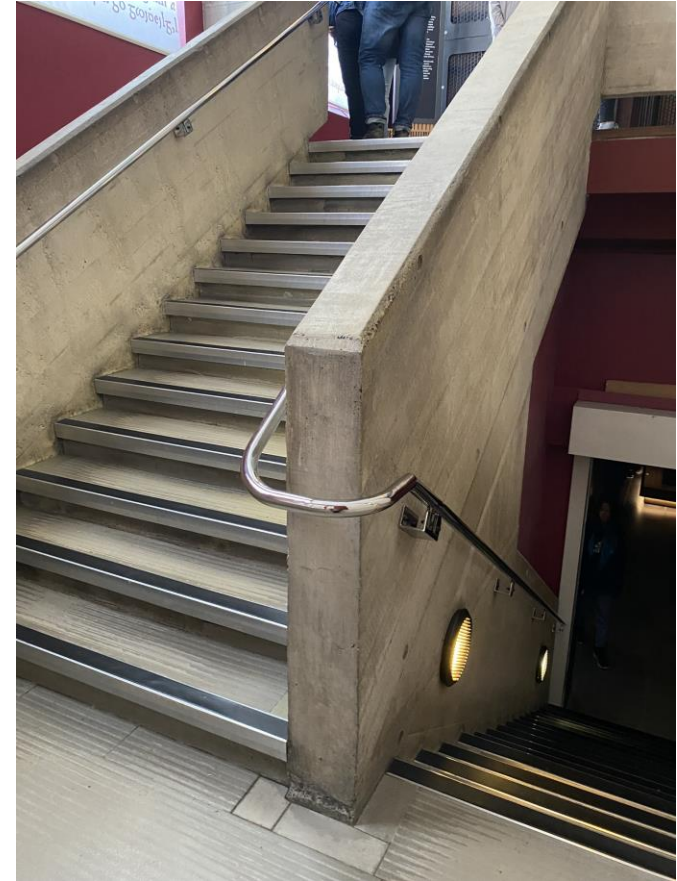
There is dim lighting in this room to protect the book from light damage.



Accessing the first floor

The main route to the first floor in the Old Library is via a stairway.

There is also a small lift which can accommodate one wheelchair or buggy at a time. If we or anyone with us needs to use the lift, we should ask a Library Guard to assist us.



Stairs leading to the first floor

The Long Room

The Long Room on the first floor is an 18th Century library. We might notice the smell of old books in this room. Currently, most of the bookshelves are empty. The books have been removed in preparation for a building renovation.

In the Long Room we will see marble busts (sculptures), the 1916 Proclamation, the Brian Boru Harp and Gaia, a large globe installation suspended from the ceiling.

There are benches to sit on if we need a rest.



Returning to the ground floor

To return to the ground floor, we may use the stairs in the centre of the Long Room.

If we need to use the lift, we should ask a Library Guard to assist us.



Leaving the Old Library

We will leave the Old Library building through a different door than we used to enter. There are four steps at this door. If we or anyone with us has mobility requirements, a staff member will direct us to an accessible exit.

Outside, there will be signs to direct us to the Red Pavilion building nearby, where we will continue our visit. There is normally a staff member at the Old Library exit to show us the way.



The Old Library exit



Sign directing to the Red Pavilion

Bathroom facilities

There are no toilets in the Old Library building. We can use the toilets in the Arts Building, directly opposite the Old Library. These toilets are located beside the Perch Café. We can also use the toilets in the nearby Eavan Boland Library if it is open.

There are toilets in the Red Pavilion building. These toilets are located in the gift shop.



The Arts Building toilets



The Red Pavilion toilets

Entering the Red Pavilion

At the entrance to the Red Pavilion, a staff member will scan our tickets.

There are three sections in the Red Pavilion: The Secret Life of the Collections, the Book of Kells 360 and the Long Room Reimagined. There is also a gift shop.



The Secret Life of the Collections

‘The Secret Life of the Collections’ is an exhibit about the Old Library, its collections and its artifacts.

It includes audio and video content.



Book of Kells 360

The 'Book of Kells 360' explores the history of the Book of Kells with an immersive, 360 degree video.

We will be surrounded by sound and video which zooms and moves around the walls and the floor.

For people who are sensitive to noise, light or motion or people who have epilepsy, this can cause discomfort. If we would like to skip this section, a staff member will be happy to guide us to the next space.



The Long Room Reimagined

‘The Long Room Reimagined’ contains audio and video which appears on large panels along each side of the room and the ceiling.



The gift shop

Before leaving, we can visit the gift shop. It sells books, clothing and gifts.

When we are ready, we will leave the Book of Kells Experience. Hopefully, we will have enjoyed our visit!

