

INSIDE TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN WITH THE MERRION HOTEL

Private tours of one of Europe's oldest Universities with a Resident Professor

(May 2012) Step out The Merrion's elegant front entrance and take a 10 minute stroll through the heart of Georgian Dublin to College Green. Here, in 40 acres of cobbled squares and immaculate lawns, is Trinity College, founded in 1592 by Queen Elizabeth 1. The 420 year history of the College speaks for Ireland's development, with its breath-taking architecture and students' stories capturing Ireland's story in miniature.

By special arrangement, The Merrion is delighted to offer its guests private tours of Trinity College conducted by Resident Professor Joseph O'Gorman. With 30 years at Trinity College behind him - as student and teacher - Joseph O'Gorman now specialises in the History of Ideas. With an outstanding knowledge of the history of Dublin, Professor O'Gorman is more than qualified to share a rich and entertaining insider's take on the College's story.

Trinity is famous for its colourful graduates including Jonathan Swift, Bram Stoker, Oscar Wilde and Samuel Beckett - and it has been immortalised in literature by alumni including J P Donleavy, whose characters in *The Ginger Man* and *The Beastly Beatitudes of Balthazar B* attended the college. So too, on film - parts of *Michael Collins*, *Circle of Friends* and *Educating Rita* were shot on campus.

O'Gorman's tour brings the characters and events of the past to life, the rebellions plotted, student riots, even murders. Today, visitors and students alike still cross ground both hallowed and haunted. The College stands on the site of a medieval monastery closed by Henry VIII, and it contains one of the oldest city cemeteries within its precincts.

The College's famous Old Library holds not only the exquisite 9th century illuminated manuscript, the Book of Kells, but countless other artworks of the ancient Celtic Church. The tour culminates in this historic room, the largest single-chamber library in the world. Here, surrounded by books dating back through time to the age of the Pharaohs, visitors will sense the spirit of 40 centuries. And back at The Merrion, the combination of Georgian splendour and contemporary comfort is a fitting end to a fascinating day.

Private Tours of Trinity College Dublin with The Merrion Hotel

- Overnight accommodation in a Superior King room, The Garden Wing. Inclusive of breakfast, WiFi, taxes and access to the Tethra Spa.
- 'Don's Insight Tour' of Trinity College.
- Price: €237.50 per person sharing.
- The tour is strictly subject to availability.

For reservations telephone The Merrion on +353 1 603 0600, email info@merrionhotel.com, or visit www.merrionhotel.com

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About The Merrion

The Merrion stands directly opposite Government Buildings in the heart of Dublin city centre. On the doorstep is Upper Merrion Street, where Government Buildings, The National Gallery and The Natural History Museum are located. A short walk leads to the adjacent "golden mile" of lively pubs, shops and restaurants dotted around St. Stephen's Green. Grafton Street is a leisurely stroll away for all the latest designer shops. The Merrion is a member of *The Leading Hotels of the World*.