

Social Story Guide

A Visit to Custom House Visitor Centre

This is a story about visiting Custom House Visitor Centre



The Custom House is a big government building. The Visitor Centre is located at the front of the building, looking onto the River Liffey.

The Visitor Centre shares the building with some important government departments: Department of Housing, Local Government, and Heritage (or DHLGH for short).

The Visitor Centre is open 7 days a week, so I can visit any day. They open at 9:45 in the morning and last entry is at 4:45 in the evening.

When I arrive at the Visitor Centre I will walk up a few steps to get into reception.



Visitor Centre Staff:

This is what the Visitor Centre reception looks like. This is the first thing I will see when I arrive.



There will be staff sitting behind the desk ready to welcome me to the Custom House. I will know they work here because they will be wearing lanyards and have name badges.



I might see a person sitting off to the side of reception. This is the security. They are here to keep us safe.



I have two options to choose from when I arrive at reception: I can have a self-guided tour or a guided tour of the Visitor Centre.



Before I look around I can ask the staff if I can have the lights dimmed and the volume lowered on the videos if that would make me feel more comfortable on my visit.

I will be given a ticket which allows me to enter the exhibition and a map which tells me what is in the Visitor Centre.

When I walk around I will see signs like this one. This just means I cannot touch the information panels because they are delicate and can be easily broken if I lean on them.



The rooms I will see in the exhibition:

	<p>Room 4</p>	<p>This room gives a background to why the Custom House was built</p>
	<p>Room 5</p>	<p>This room gives more on the building of the Custom House and the architect, James Gandon</p>
	<p>Room 6</p>	<p>This room gives information on the statues on the building and the people who made them</p>

	<p>Room 7</p>	<p>This room looks at the famous River God statues on the outside of the building</p>
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Now we must go upstairs



 <p>The Custom House has no equal The spacious open, in front of it and the docks with the shipping give life to the avenue"</p>	<p>Room 8</p>	<p>This room looks at some of the people who worked in the Custom House over many years</p>
	<p>Room 9</p>	<p>This room gives information on the Act of Union 1801</p>
 <p>IMPORTS Exports EXPOSITS</p> <p>Balich, French, eggs Ameth, den Doohan A Gateway to the World</p>	<p>Room 10</p>	<p>This room shows the items coming in and out of Ireland, and it has a model of the Custom House</p>

 A circular room with a central window and informational panels. The room has a high ceiling with a chandelier and a tiled floor. The walls are light-colored and feature several large informational panels on either side of the central window.	<p>Room 11</p>	<p>This room gives some information on the government departments working in the building</p>
 A large atrium with a central staircase and classical architecture. The room features a high ceiling with a dome, classical columns, and a central staircase with a black metal railing. The floor is made of light-colored stone tiles.	<p>Room 11.5</p>	<p>This room is called the atrium and shows the lovely architecture of the building</p>
 A hallway with informational panels and a doorway. The room has a high ceiling with a chandelier and a tiled floor. The walls are light-colored and feature several large informational panels on either side of a central doorway.	<p>Room 12</p>	<p>This room gives the history of Ireland in the early 1900s</p>

	Room 13	This room looks at the 1916 Easter Rising
	Room 14	This room gives information on why the War of Independence started in 1919
	Room 15	This room gives more information on some of the people who worked in the Custom House

Now we go back downstairs



A photograph of a museum room. On the left, there is a display case with a glass top, containing some objects. To the right, there is a large map or plan on the wall. A wooden bench is in the foreground. The room is dimly lit.	<p>Room 15.5</p>	<p>This room is much darker than the others because it looks at the burning of the Custom House in 1921</p>
A photograph of a museum room. A large mural on the wall depicts a building, likely the Custom House, with a quote above it: "The saddest day in the history of this city is the day when the Custom House is passing". Two people are standing in the room, looking at the mural. The room is well-lit.	<p>Room 16</p>	<p>This room gives more information on some of the people who worked in the Custom House</p>

	<p>Room 17</p>	<p>This room looks at the end of the War of Independence and what happened after</p>
	<p>Room 18</p>	<p>This room looks at the rebuilding of the Custom House after it was burned down in 1921</p>
	<p>Room 19</p>	<p>This rooms looks at what the Custom House is used for today</p>

My visit to the Custom House is now finished. If I need the toilets before I leave they are downstairs beside the lift.

I walk back towards reception and leave the same way I came in.

