

Front Square Welcome to the Trinity Trail

Hear about ingenious stories and the latest discoveries, and admire stonework, sculpture and architecture. Allow 60—90 minutes for the full trail (see map, overleaf), or pick and choose stories to create your own route. Where we step inside to see exhibits (open in general Mon—Fri 9am—5pm), we ask you to stay in the foyer, unless otherwise indicated, as these are work places.

*Due to circumstances beyond our control or if you arrive outside normal working hours the museum buildings may not be open to the public.

[1] Ireland's oldest university—1592

Many great Irish scientists, inventors and thinkers down the centuries have been associated

with TCD, including Nobel physicist Ernest Walton who split the atom.

[2] The date of creation 4004 BC

Archbishop James Ussher (1581—1656), was one of TCD's very first students. His infamous calculation of the date of Creation was scientifically sophisticated for its time, and his book collection formed the nucleus of Trinity's great library.

[3] The salmon of knowledge

George Salmon (1819—1904), whose textbooks shaped mathematics teaching and research in Europe for 50 years, was a mathematician, theologian and, for 16 years, the Provost of Trinity College.

[4] The man who challenged Isaac Newton about nothing!

George Berkeley, the great 18th century philosopher-scientist, studied here. He challenged Newton's use of 'infinitesimals' in calculus. Hear why a Californian city and university are named after him.

[5a]* A mythical beast, and a gem in an attic

The great Irish elk is nothing of the sort! It's not Irish, and it is not an elk. Rather, this wonderful extinct creature is a giant deer. Step into the stunning museum building, admire the stonework and architecture, and inspect the fossil skeletons. If time allows, visit the delightful geology museum in the attic. Open Mon—Fri 10am—4pm, groups by appointment with the curator at wysjcknp@tcd.ie

[5b]* The humane hangman's drop, and early colour photography

Still in the Museum Building, hear about geologist Samuel Haughton who calculated the drop needed for a quicker, more humane form of hanging. The many inventions of TCD geophysicist John Joly included a very early form of colour photography.

[6] Ireland's greatest scientist Sir William Rowan Hamilton (1805—65)

His important scientific legacy includes the Hamiltonian (a cornerstone of quantum mechanics), conic refraction, and quaternion algebra, now used in computer graphics and to orient satellites.

[7] The weird sex life of bacteria

The mystery of bacterial sex was solved in the 1950s by Prof Bill Hayes, a geneticist who trained at TCD.

[8] The engine that revolutionised the 20th century

See an historical model of the steam turbine, invented by engineer Charles Parsons, who came from Birr Castle, Co Offaly. The turbine helped to electrify the world.

[9] Where prehistoric cows came from

TCD geneticists unravelled the story of how prehistoric farmers domesticated cattle not once, but twice.

[10] Perfumes, poteen, petroleum, and the world's first nicotine patch

Sydney Young, professor of chemistry at TCD 1903-28, was a world authority on distillation. In the 1980s, researchers here developed the world's first commercial nicotine patch.

[11] The man who split the atom

TCD physicist Ernest Walton shared the Nobel prize for physics in 1951, for his work in splitting the atom in 1932—so far the only Irish person to win a Nobel science prize.

[12] Beer, bubbles, buildings... and physics

Modern research at TCD on the physics of foam has led to new insights of use to industry, as well as inspiring artists and architects.

[13] How tall trees drink

TCD botanist Dr Henry Dixon, working with colleague John Joly, explained how sap rises to the top of trees that are over 100 metres tall.

[14] Leprosy, malaria and the science of your brain

How Irish scientists stumbled on a cure for leprosy while looking for a TB drug. The recent discovery of a gene important in malaria and other infectious diseases.

[15] Science Gallery

Visit the gallery exhibitions and shop, or relax with a coffee.

Written and presented by Mary Mulvihill, and produced by Aileen O'Meara for TCD's Faculty of Engineering, Mathematics and Science, in association with the Science Gallery.

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Science Safari

Meet the Trinity geologist who invented the humane hangman's drop, see the engine that helped to electrify the 20th century and hear about the man who split the atom. Just some of the many delights and hidden histories awaiting you on this podcast trail of Trinity College's scientific treasures.

Explore the rich scientific heritage and cutting-edge research of Ireland's oldest university, in the company of award-winning science author and broadcaster, Mary Mulvihill.

Download the free podcast at www.tcd.ie/visitors/sciencesafari and start exploring.

En route, you can admire architecture and sculpture, and hear about ingenious stories and the latest discoveries. The trail starts at Front Square, and heads east to finish beside the Science Gallery, where you can visit the exhibition and shop, or stop for a coffee.

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Science Safari
The Trinity Trail

Start exploring
Trinity College
Dublin

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Science Safari

Science Safari

Science Safari—The Trinity Trail

Start exploring Trinity College Dublin

Free podcast download available to the public. See map below for directions to areas of interest on Science Safari—the Trinity trail.

Download the free podcast at www.tcd.ie/visitors/sciencesafari and start exploring.

- [1] Front Square: Ireland's oldest university—1592
- [2] Campanile: The date of creation 4004 BC
- [3] Front Square: The salmon of knowledge
- [4] Berkeley Library: The man who challenged Isaac Newton about nothing!

- [5a]* Museum Building: A mythical beast, and a gem in an attic
- [5b]* Museum Building: The humane hangman's drop, and early colour photography
- [6] Path to east end: Ireland's greatest scientist Sir William Rowan Hamilton (1805-65)
- [7] Moyne Institute: The weird sex life of bacteria

- [8] Parsons Building: The engine that revolutionised the 20th century
- [9] Smurfit Institute: Where prehistoric cows came from
- [10] Chemistry Dept: Perfumes, poteen, petroleum, and the world's first nicotine patch
- [11] FitzGerald Building: The man who split the atom

- [12] SNIAM: Beer, bubbles, buildings... and physics
- [13] Botany Dept: How tall trees drink
- [14] Parade Ground: Leprosy, malaria and the science of your brain
- [15] Science Gallery

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