

come and see  
for yourself  
dos and don'ts  
of dublin's  
sacred spaces

dublin city  
interfaith forum

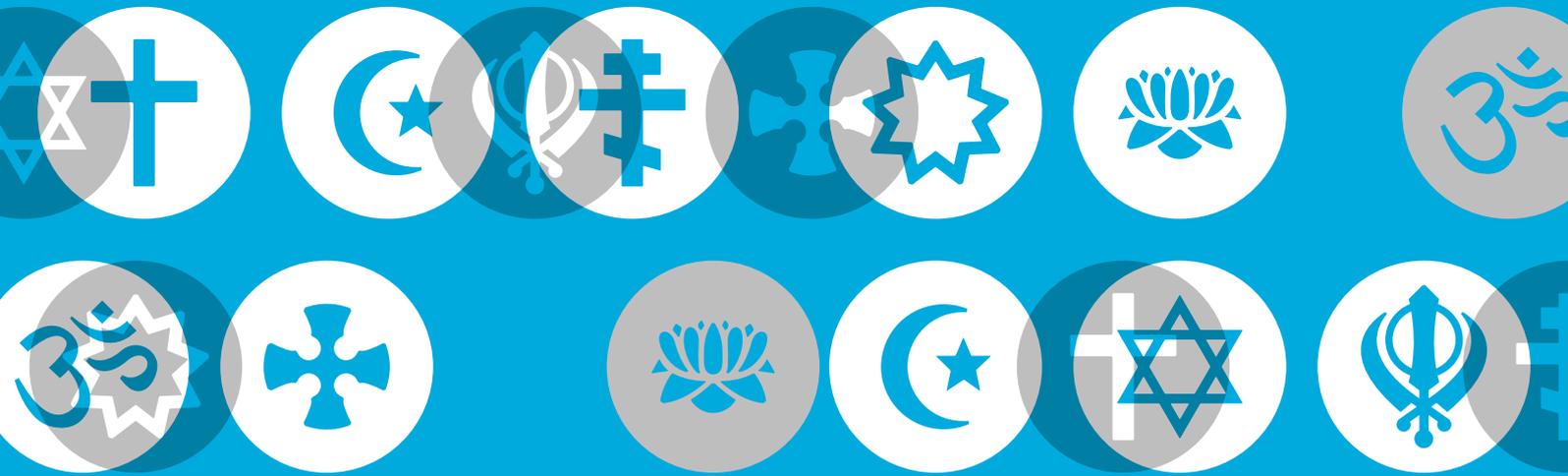
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# come and see for yourself Dublin's sacred spaces



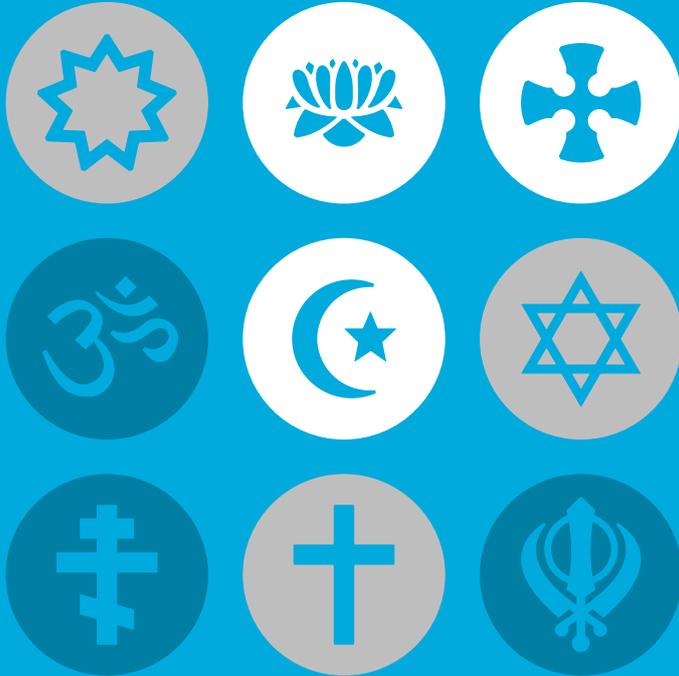


come and see  
for yourself  
**dos and don'ts  
of dublin's  
sacred spaces**

Dublin City  
Interfaith  
Forum



Bahá'í  
Buddhist  
Christian  
Hindu  
Islamic  
Jewish  
Sikh



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This guide is a summary of the dos and don'ts of visiting sacred spaces in Dublin city as suggested by the faith communities represented on the Dublin City Interfaith Forum.

The Forum works to promote a spirit of dialogue, acceptance and respect for the growing cultural and religious diversity of our city.

This guide seeks to encourage people to explore the sacred spaces of Dublin's faith communities. This guide is but a single step on the path toward coexistence, it is also an invitation into worlds where all are welcome and everyone acts as host.

# Bahá'í Temple



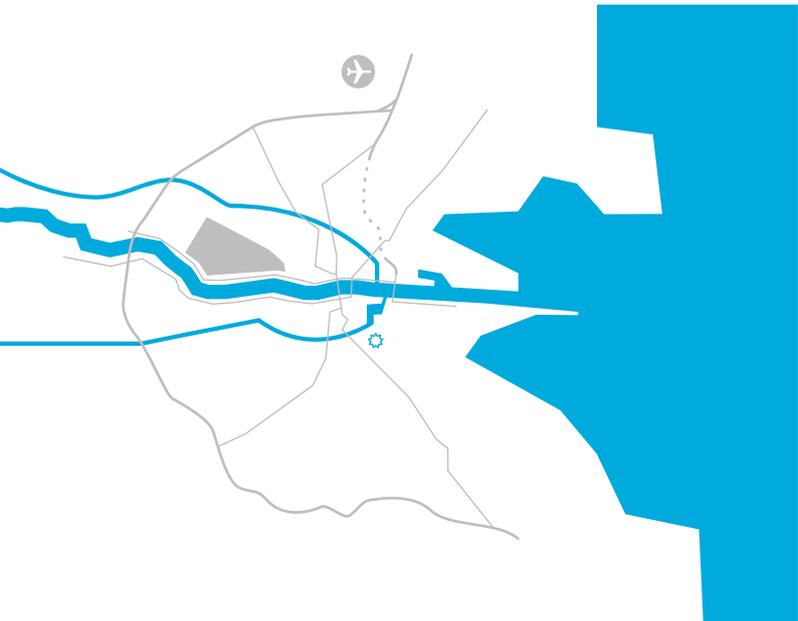
## the dos

know that you are most welcome to visit any of the Bahá'í temples

## the don'ts

hold conversations  
take photographs or videos indoors

(photographs and videos are permitted of the outside and in the grounds)



We do not yet have a place of worship as such for the Bahá'í faith in Ireland. However there are very few do's and don'ts for people visiting the Bahá'í temples that do exist.

The main feature of the Bahá'í houses of worship is that they are open to all people of every religion and none. One and all are most welcome.

Visitors are requested to observe silence and not to take photographs or videos within the temple itself.



# Buddhist Centre



## the dos

remove your shoes

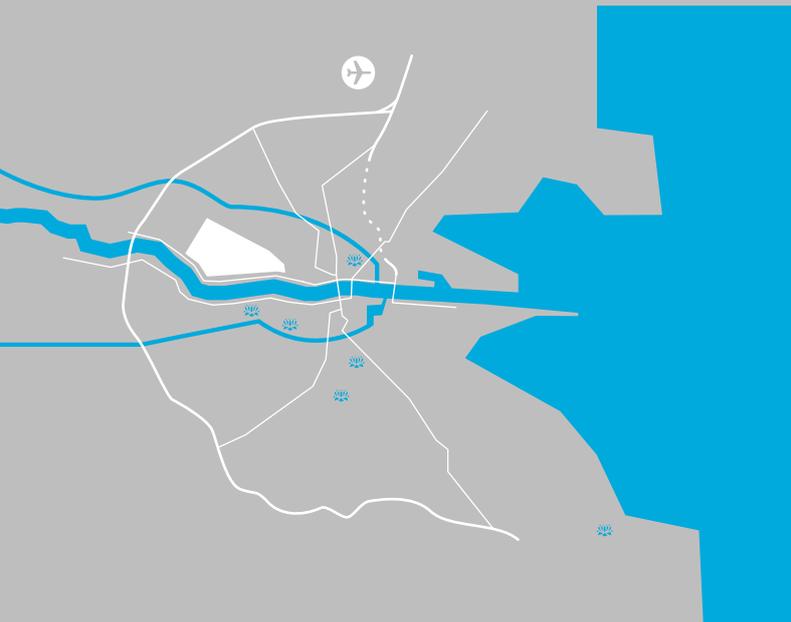
feel welcome to participate in the rituals

feel free to just observe

## the don'ts

no meat or fish products please

do not feel you have to bow to the shrine



The place of worship in a Buddhist Centre is the Shrine Room. Before entering you will be asked to remove your shoes. This is as a mark of respect and a reminder that you are entering a different space. It is also a way of marking that we are leaving behind the mundane everyday life for a while. Practically, it helps to protect the beautiful wooden floor.

The not doing of any harm to living beings is a basic Buddhist principle. For this reason most Buddhists are vegetarian so if you bring food to share please avoid meat and fish.



# Catholic Church



## the dos

feel welcome to pray, join or take part in worship

conduct oneself with reverence and respect

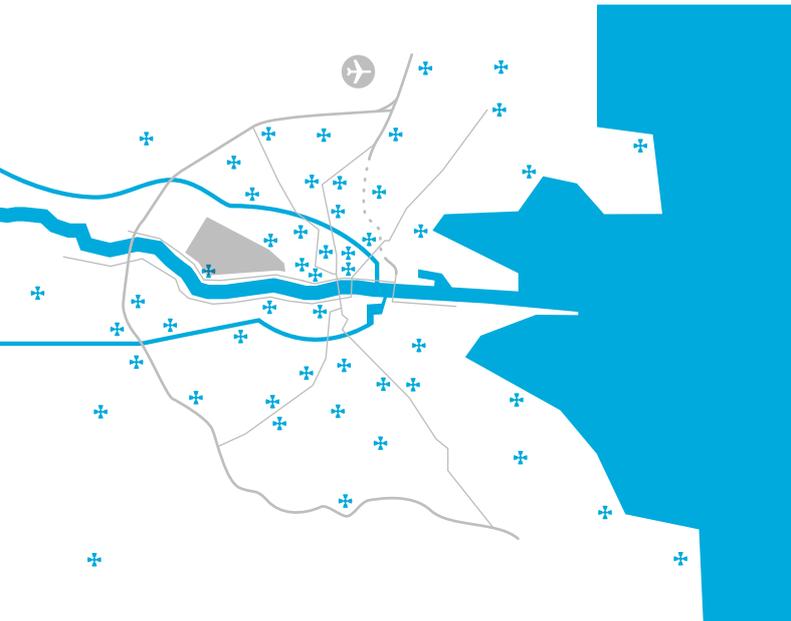
silence is highly recommend so please talk quietly

## the don'ts

please turn off your mobile phone and be discreet if you must use a camera

if there is a service taking place refrain from talking and walking around the church

men are encouraged to remove headgear as a sign of respect



**Visitors are most welcome to enter and take part in worship. Feel free to walk around and be inspired by the Sacred Art present in stain glass, sculpture, paintings and statuary. You are entering sacred ground, conduct yourself with reverence and respect; gestures always speak.**

**The place where the Eucharistic bread is reserved is usually indicated by a red lantern. The purpose of this reservation is to bring communion to the sick and to be the object of private devotion. In the absence of formal worship private prayer is always conducted in an atmosphere of silence.**



# Hindu Temple



## the dos

remove footwear before entering the temple

ideally have a bath and wear fresh, clean modest clothing

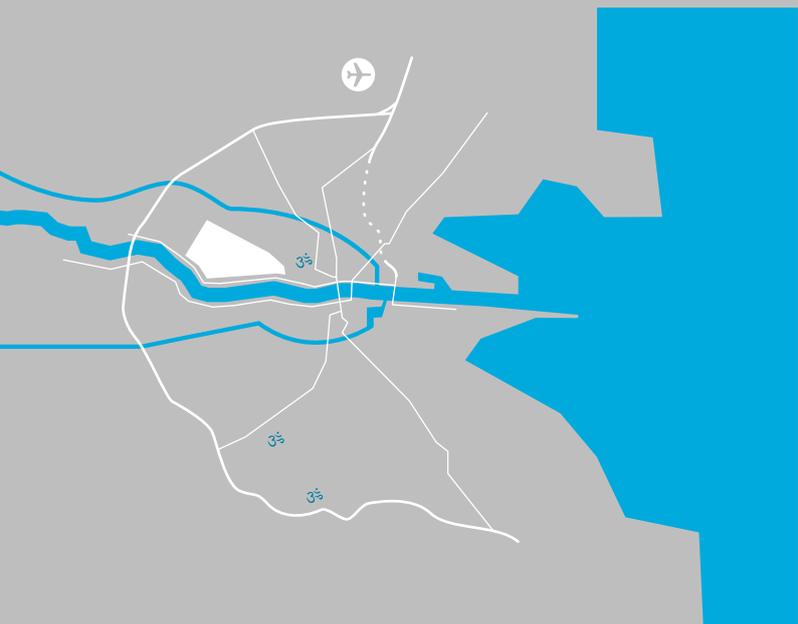
follow procedures of Hindus observed around you

## the don'ts

do not enter the inner sanctum

do not wear immodest clothing such as shorts, short dresses or leatherwear

do not speak loudly or irreverently



Most Hindu temples welcome visitors who are required to dress modestly. Preparation to enter consists of a pure mental attitude of entering Divine Presence and physical cleanliness that serves to assist this.

Artistic works are viewed as divine embodiments. Visitors are free to appreciate their symbolism, evoking devotion and silent meditation. Temples have 3 distinct sections representing the desire to ascend to the highest, a hall and an inner sanctum representing the worshipper's heart where God resides.





<b>Bahá'í</b>	temples	1
<b>Buddhist</b>	centres	6
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<b>Hindu</b>	temples	3
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<b>Protestant</b>	churches	26
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# Islamic Mosque



## the dos

remove your shoes when entering

dress modestly

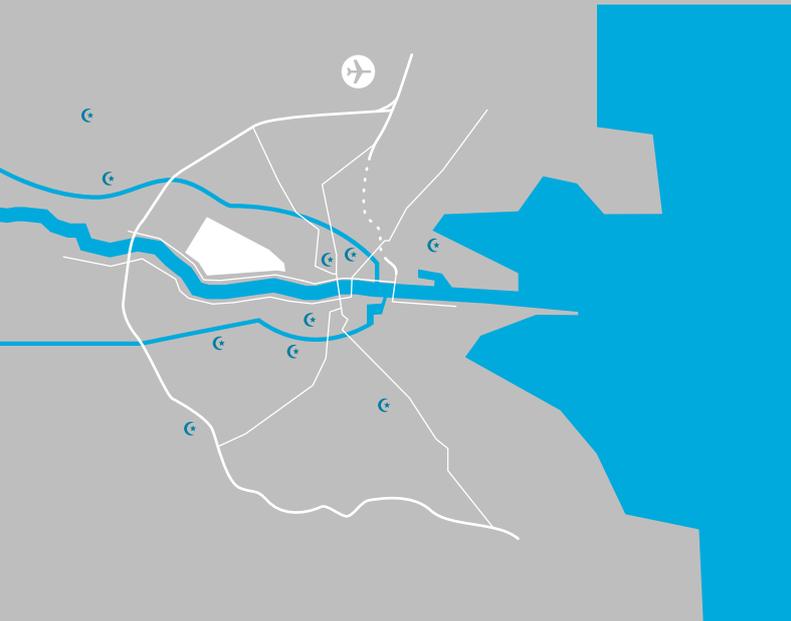
women are asked to wear a headscarf though this is not compulsory

be aware of people praying

sit on the floor

## the don'ts

raise your voice  
don't be afraid to ask questions



Dublin City is the home of a diverse and thriving Muslim Community. Along with Judaism and Christianity, Islam is considered one of the Abrahamic, monotheistic faiths.

Allah is the Arabic name for Almighty God. Other attributes of His character include the Creator, the Sustainer, the Merciful and the Compassionate. Muslims believe that since Allah alone is the Creator, it is He alone that deserves devout love and worship. Islam teaches people that one can only find peace in one's life by submitting to almighty God, named Allah in heart and soul.



# Jewish Synagogue



## the dos

people of all ages dress modestly and men and boys keep their heads covered

in Orthodox Synagogues, married women are encouraged to cover their heads and seating is strictly gender-divided

visitors are very welcome however booking should be made in advance and identity documents may be needed

## the don'ts

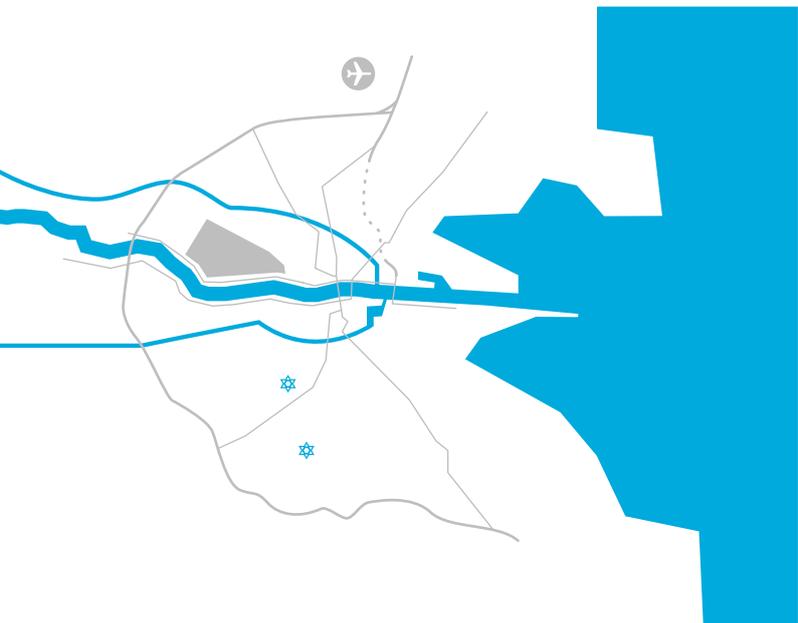
smoking prohibited

photography and the use of mobile phones prohibited

avoid bringing food (including confectionery) into the synagogue unless it is known to be permitted (kosher)

**Jewish liturgy is based on the Old Testament, and Jewish worship in Ireland broadly follows the Ashkenazi (continental European) tradition. Orthodox and Liberal Judaism are the two complementary strands of Judaism practiced in modern Ireland.**

**The Greek word synagogue, meaning meeting place, communicates the importance of social interaction within the religious community. Much of each service is rendered through Hebrew, and music is central to the act of Jewish prayer. Services may be conducted by a rabbi, cantor or any adult member of a congregation.**



# Orthodox Church



## the dos

feel very welcome to step inside a church

find a place and join in the Liturgy if you wish

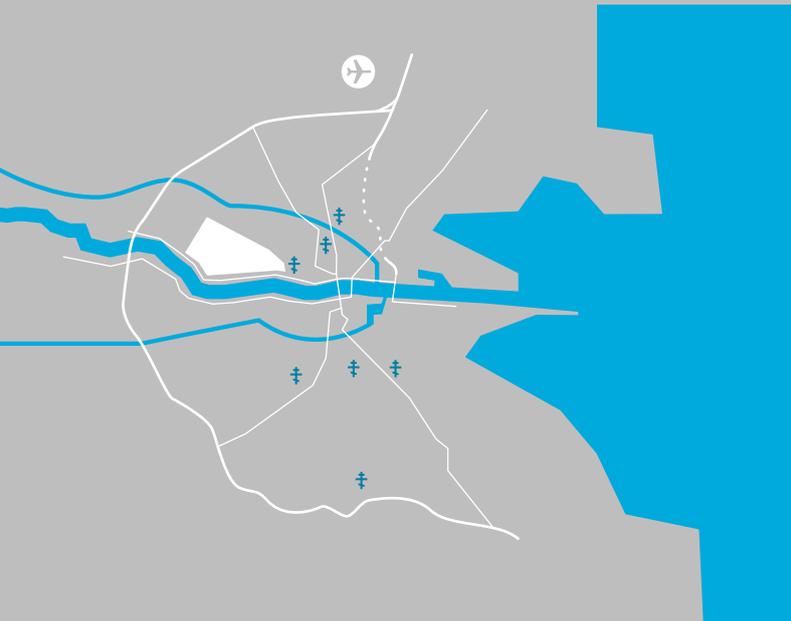
show reverence towards icons and shrines

## the don'ts

behave in a disrespectful manner towards priest and members of the congregation

take photos during the Liturgy without the Priest's consent

interrupt processions or services taking place already



Orthodox churches are full of icons, on the walls and in special shrines where they can be venerated. The icons serve as a point of meeting between heaven and earth. The faithful can feel that the walls of the church open out upon eternity, and they are helped to realize that their Liturgy on earth is one and the same with the great Liturgy of heaven.

Orthodox worship is timeless and unhurried, priest and people are bound together into one and the absence of pews helps to create a sense of unity.



# Protestant Church



## the dos

feel very welcome to enter the church

feel free to participate in the worship

respect the atmosphere of worship

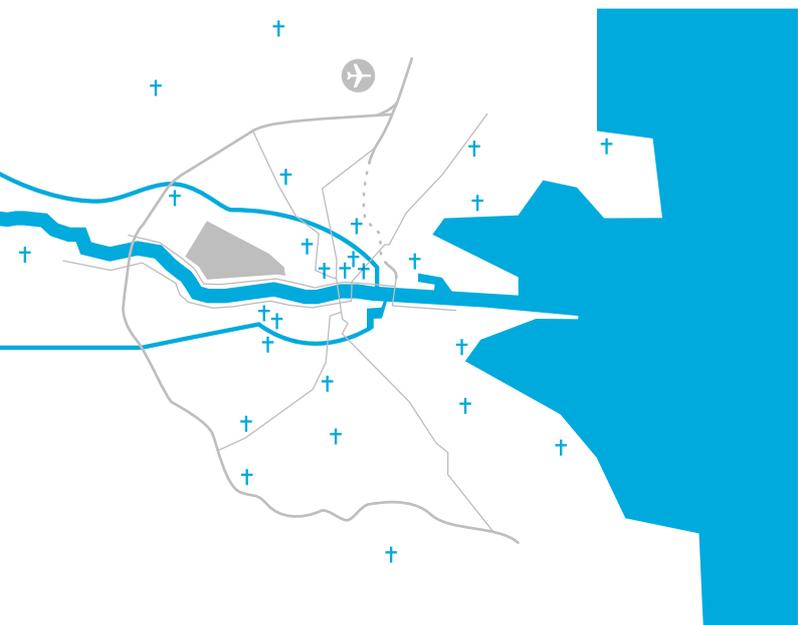
place mobile phones on silent

introduce yourself as a visitor

ask more about the surroundings

## the don'ts

anything that makes you feel uncomfortable eg. standing during worship or singing, bowing, closing your eyes



**Protestant places of worship vary enormously in the style both of their physical settings and the collective experience of worshipping together.**

**Some use spaces of great architectural importance and others are more expressive of a symbolic simplicity. Some conduct services of worship using set liturgical forms, the format of others is routinely undefined.**

**All reflect a central importance on the reading and teaching of the Bible as guided by the Holy Spirit and conduct communal prayers.**



# Sikh Gurdwara



## the dos

remove your shoes,  
cover your head and  
wash your hands

wear modest  
clothing and ensure  
your body is fully  
covered

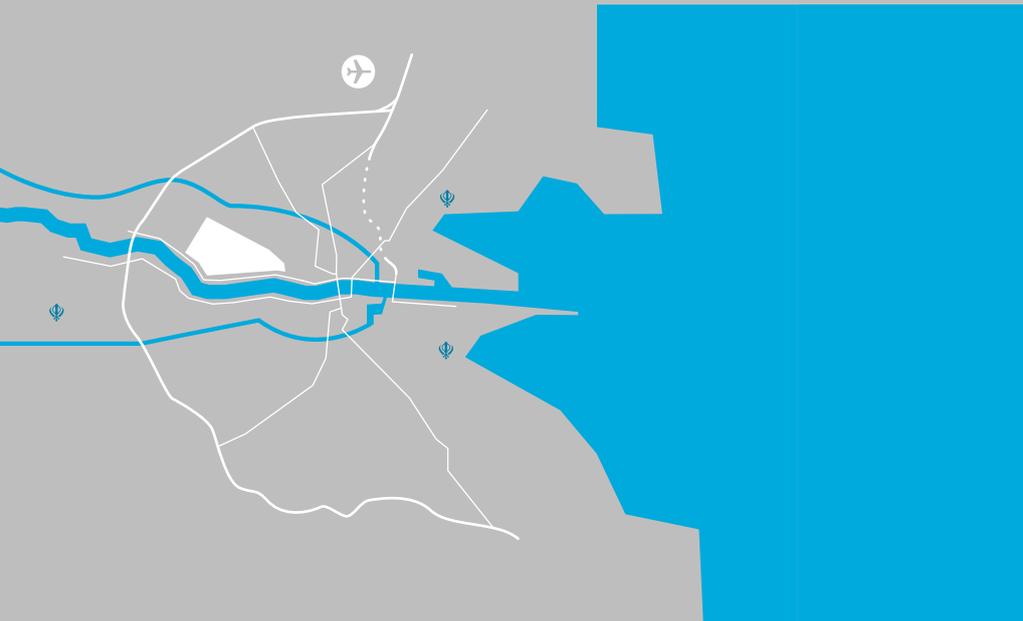
join with the  
congregation after  
giving respect to  
the Holy Books

## the don'ts

enter a Gurdwara if  
carrying any  
substance such as  
alcohol, tobacco  
and or drugs

enter while under  
the influence of any  
type of substance

make noise or use  
a mobile phone



Sikhism is a monotheistic faith originating from South Asia around the middle of the fifteen century. This faith is not a sect of Hinduism or Islam, or a synthesis of these two faiths.

Sikhs are a people sharing common religious, social and political institutions. The word Sikh means disciple of the true (absolute) guru. They consider the message contained within scripture to be the living word of God, communicated directly through the enlightened Gurus and Saints.

Dublin is now home to most of the Sikh Community in Ireland.





Visits by individuals are always welcome. If you are organising a group visit please contact the relevant centre or place of worship in advance to arrange details (allow 3-4 weeks).

Please see the **Directory of Faith Communities** in the **Resource** section of our website for the location and contact details of faith communities in Dublin associated with the Forum.

For further information go to [dublincityinterfaithforum.org/book](http://dublincityinterfaithforum.org/book)

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