

NEWS

Dublin taxi app transported over 3m passengers in 2024

JO KENNY

A Dublin taxi app served over three million passengers nationwide last year has released its 2024 round-up of passenger facts and statistics.

Research from Lynk Taxis has revealed some interesting results, from an increase in sustainable vehicles, the most common taxi fare to the biggest celebrity passenger of 2024.

The longest trip, a return journey from Delmonago to Danuryon clocked 395 kms, while the shortest venture from Shelbourne Hotel to Grafam Street

was a brief 350 metre drive.

The most common fare of 2024 was €19 for journeys between approximately 15 to 20 minutes in length. The data also offers insight into the typical passenger and driver habits in Ireland and overall trends being seen across the taxi industry.

The longest wait time saw a Lynk driver waited 246 mins for a passenger to come out of a hotel. The driver was told to 'hold on' by the passenger and 'not to worry about the meter'.

"The annual round-up has gathered something of a cult following with our drivers and cus-

tomers alike, everyone is keen to hear the latest stats," said CEO of Lynk Taxis, Noe Eibek.

"While the results have some comedic value, they are also a great way to gauge how our industry is evolving in terms of increased EV vehicles, more cashless payments and busier travel periods.

"In this business, convenience is king and it will continue to be so in 2025 but above all else for us at Lynk, the customer experience is our biggest priority."

"It was interesting to see that in the age of apps and technol-



ogy, a significant proportion (38 per cent) of Lynk customers still prefer to book by phone and chat to someone in person. "While our app is always evolving to give us much convenience as possible, it's our most reasonable service that has created a loyal customer base."

the year is claimed to have been Gladiator actor Paul Mescal, while the most unusual passenger was an injured duck, which was brought to a local animal rescue in Rathfarnham via a Lynk taxi.

Seventy-per cent of passengers opted to pay with cash and the 'weddest tip of the year' was a winning €4 scratch card.

According to the firm, more of its drivers took advantage of the grant scheme supporting the shift to electric, with 51 per cent of Lynk fleet now made up of hybrid or electric vehicles.

LOVING DUBLIN CITY

New half marathon in Dublin announced

A new half marathon race in Dublin has joined the running calendar for 2025. Dublin Marathon organisers in partnership with Dublin City Council have announced the addition of a Dublin City Half Marathon which will wind its way across the city's northside on March 30th.

This event is separate to the half marathon in the Phoenix Park, run as part of the Dublin Race Series, which will go ahead as normal on September 21st.

The proposed new route, which is subject to final agreement and approval, will go through Ballybough, Whitehall, Killester, Howth Road, Raheny, St Ann's Park, Clontarf, Fairview Park and Seville Place. The race is 13km. It will begin on O'Connell Street and finish in Dublin city centre.

The Dublin City Half Marathon taking place on Sunday March 30th will welcome runners of all abilities, from beginners to experienced athletes, coming together under the theme 'Run Together – Thrive Together'.

Entries will open on Wednesday January 8th 2025 at 12pm on the event website www.dublincityhalfmarathon.ie



'Christmas Evening at the Opera' raises €1000 for charity

Following on from the success of 'An Evening at the Opera' that Dublin City Council held in September, the Ballymun Community and Social Development Team were delighted to recently host a second opera performance for Christmas.

As with the previous opera, the event took place in the Auditorium of the Ballymun Civic Centre.

There were a number of events for fans of opera in 2024 at Dublin City Council, as last August saw four weeks of free outdoor performances take place at the Dublin City Council Civic Amphitheatre in Opera at the Opera.

'Christmas Evening at the Opera' included a number of arias, duets and ensembles from classic operas as well as some Christmas classics. The night was enjoyed by over 160 local residents. €1000 was raised, which will be donated to St. Frances Hospice and The Irish Road Victims Association.

The Ballymun Community and Social Development Team wishes to extend a big thank you to all who attended the event.



Exciting programme of events lined up for Spring in Richmond Barracks

Richmond Barracks in Inchicore, Dublin, is kicking off 2025 with a number of exciting cultural activities for all ages that are free to attend including online talks, classic workshops and walks.

The Archive Within Us is an exhibition of personal histories, made by a group of people in Dublin in collaboration with visual artist Claire Halpin and poet, Colm Keegan. The exhibition will be on display from Thursday 9th January to Saturday 18th January, and Colm Keegan will give a poetry workshop as part of the event on Friday 10th January.

Activities for families and young partici-

pants in January include Children's History Workshops, a Shadow Puppet Workshop, weekly Make and Create family drop in workshops, and weekly Music and Movement workshops. There is a Richmond Barracks to Kilmalsham Walking Tour running from 9th January until the end of the month, as well as workshops dedicated to repairing clothes, an introduction to ceramics, weaving and embroidery, singing, dancing, printmaking, ukulele for beginners and improvers, and writing for wellness.

Also this month, the monthly Online Book Club will take place at 8pm on Thursday 5th

January and look at Paul Murray's 'The Bee Sting', plus a BigD's Cross & Bidegoe workshop takes place on Friday 31st January. Richmond Barracks already have various events and activities planned for February and beyond for Spring 2025.

Bookings are advised and can be made in person at the reception desk, by calling 01 224 2532, by emailing info@richmond-barracks.ie or by booking through the Richmond Barracks Website. For the full programme and more information, visit <https://www.richmond-barracks.ie/whats-on/>



Deadline approaches for Proposals for Dublin City for Cruinniú na nÓg 2025

Dublin City Council is inviting proposals to be part of street art, fashion, photography, digital arts, literature, architecture, coding, biodiversity, folk life, heritage, archaeology, (landscape) are all welcome.



Proposals are not limited to artistic practices but may make innovative use of creativity outside of the arts.

All proposals must be within the Dublin City Council Administrative Area and have a clear and feasible budget. Applications which give access to groups of children and young people who have limited access to creative activities will be prioritised. Activities that are delivered through the Irish language and Irish sign language are also encouraged.

All proposals must be submitted by noon, Friday 17th January 2025. For more, visit <https://www.dublincityartsoffice.ie/>



Roads Acts 1993 to 2015 Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2022

Notice of a decision by An Bord Pleanála in relation to the proposed Templeogue/Rathfarnham City Centre Core Bus Corridor Scheme, at the County of Dublin.

An Bord Pleanála has, on 16th December 2024, in exercise of the powers vested in it by section 51 of the Road Act, 1993, as amended, made an order to approve subject to conditions the proposed road to be submitted to the National Transport Authority (NTA).

The conditions of the Board's decision are summarised as follows:

- The proposed development shall be carried out and completed in accordance with the plans and particulars lodged with the application, except as may otherwise be required in order to comply with the following conditions.
- The mitigation measures and environmental commitments contained in the submitted Natura Impact Statement (NIS) shall be implemented in full as part of the proposed development.
- The mitigation measures and environmental commitments contained in the submitted Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA) shall be implemented.
- The developer shall prepare in consultation with the relevant statutory agencies, an updated CEMP, incorporating all mitigation measures indicated in the NIS and EIA and a demonstration of proposals to adhere to best practice and protocols.
- The developer shall engage and qualified ecologist will be appointed by the contractor. Where appropriate, monitoring shall be undertaken by specialists. Monitoring schedules shall be included in site specific Habitats Protection and Re-instatement Method Statements.
- The developer shall submit for the written agreement of the planning authority an Oatcr Conservation Plan.
- (a) Trees to be felled shall be examined prior to felling and demolition to determine the presence of bat roosts.
(b) The developer shall submit for the written agreement of the planning authority the design and location of permanent bat boxes to be installed.
- No ground clearance shall be undertaken, and no vegetation shall be cleared from the 1st day of March to 31st day of August, unless otherwise agreed with the planning authority.
- The applicant shall submit an Invasive Species Management Plan to the planning authority.
- The developer shall submit a Construction Traffic Management Plan and a Construction Stage Mobility Management Plan for the construction phase of the development for the written agreement of the planning authority. Both plans shall be implemented in full during the course of construction of the development.
- The developer shall monitor queuing timetables at each works location and record traffic flows on all local road network at locations to be agreed with the planning authority.
- Works to protected structures and structures of cultural heritage interest shall be monitored and recorded by an Architectural Conservation Specialist. Re-instatement Method Statements shall be submitted to the planning authority to be held on file.
- The developer shall facilitate the preservation, recording and protection of archaeological materials or features that may exist within the site. The developer shall:
 - employ a suitably qualified archaeologist who shall monitor all site investigations and other excavation works, and
 - provide arrangements for the recording and for the removal of any archaeological material which the planning authority considers appropriate to remove.

- Prior to commencement of development, the developer shall:
 - acquire in writing Ministerial consent for all works at or in the immediate proximity to Rathfarnham Castle, and
 - agree in writing with the planning authority the details of the type of finishes/materials to be proposed for Rathfarnham Castle wall reinstatement.
 - Noise monitoring shall be carried out during the construction phase of the proposed road by the developer to ensure that construction noise threshold levels (LAeq, 16hrs) shall not be exceeded in the local area.
 - Prior to the replacement of trees, hedging, and planting which is to be removed, the NTA shall liaise with the relevant landowner with regard to the species, size and location of all replacement vegetation. Tree protection measures for all existing trees shall be put in place prior to commencement of development and all details of soft landscaping shall be submitted to the planning authority for agreement prior to implementation.
 - Drainage arrangements shall comply with the requirements of the planning authority.
 - Any new or improved surface water outfalls shall be constructed in a manner which protects riparian habitat and does not result in excessive erosion of such habitat.
 - Details of the proposed public lighting system to serve the scheme shall be submitted to and agreed in writing with the planning authority.
 - The finalised location and type of cycle parking stands throughout the scheme shall be agreed in writing with the relevant planning authorities.
 - The developer shall agree in writing with the planning authority details of the precise design and layout of pedestrian crossing facilities over cycle tracks at island bus stops on a case-by-case basis.
 - Scaled elevations of proposed bus shelters to be provided throughout the route shall be submitted for the written agreement of the relevant planning authority. Bus shelters within South Great Georges Street Architectural Conservation Area and Rathfarnham Architectural Conservation Area shall not have advertisement panels included.
- The full text of the Board's decision, including conditions, can be viewed on the Board's website at <https://www.pleanala.ie/en/decisions/161272>. A copy of the Board's decision and the EIA is available for inspection at the offices of the National Transport Authority during office hours on working days for a period of 8 weeks beginning on the date of publication of this notice.
- A person may question the validity of a decision by the Board by way of an application for judicial review, under Order 84 of the Rules of the Superior Courts (S.I. No. 115 of 1986), in accordance with section 50 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended.
- Practical information on the review mechanism can be accessed under the heading Legal Notices – Judicial Review Notice on the Board's website www.pleanala.ie or on the Citizens Information Service website www.citizensinformation.ie

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