

Touring Information on Ireland

Visa / Passport Requirements

Ireland is a party to the Schengen Agreement. As such, U.S. and Canadian citizens may enter for up to 90 days for tourist or business purposes without a visa. The passport should be valid for at least three months beyond the period of stay. Citizens of other countries may require a visa. These requirements change often and therefore it is best that you check with the Embassy of Ireland for the most up to date visa information.

N.B – Please ensure your passports are valid and in date in advance of your arrival in Ireland.

Currency

The Republic of Ireland uses the Euro (€). The notes come in €500, €200, €100, €50, €20, €10 and €5 denominations, with coins for each of the following: 1c, 2c, 5c, 10c, 20c, 50c, €1 and €2. There are 100 cents in a Euro.

In Northern Ireland, the Pound Sterling is used. The currency is the same as that used in Great Britain but the 4 main retail banks each issue their own banknotes. English and Scottish banknotes are perfectly acceptable in Northern Ireland, but you may have difficulty using Northern Irish notes in Britain. *Please note that the Pound Sterling is only relevant if you are visiting the six Northern counties of Ireland. These include the City of Belfast & the Giants Causeway. If you are unsure then please contact us and we will confirm this for you.*



Credit Cards

Visa & MasterCard are very widely accepted in Ireland. Other cards, such as American Express (AmEx) are also accepted, but not nearly as readily as in the United States or Canada. Diners Club, JCB, Discover etc. are generally not accepted. It is not advisable to rely on these cards as a sole method of payment while in Ireland (or much of Europe).

Health

Health insurance is recommended. Medical facilities are good quality. We recommend that you see a healthcare provider who specializes in Travel Medicine. The doctor or health-care provider will determine what vaccinations and medication you will need, depending on factors such as your health and immunization history, areas of the country you will be visiting, and planned activities. For more information on travel requirements, visit the Centres for Disease Control (CDC) website:

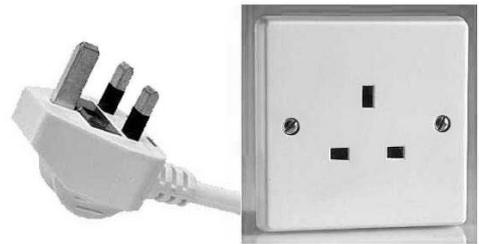
<http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/ireland.aspx>

Time & Date Formats

Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) is the standard time zone for all areas of Ireland. (GMT + 1 from last Sunday in March to last Sunday in October). Dates are generally written in the format Day/Month/Year. For example, the 25th of June 2015 would be written as 25/06/2015.

Electricity

The electrical supply in Ireland is 230v 50hz. The plugs and sockets are different from the USA involving a three-pronged formation, the same as those used in the United Kingdom. If your appliances operate on a different current (such as those from North America) you will need a power converter and plug adapter.



A plug adaptor does not change the electricity supplied to the appliance, only allows it to be plugged into a different type of wall socket. If the appliance you are using supports dual voltage and dual frequency then a plate/tag will be located on the item stating "120/240v, 50/60Hz". Most laptop computer and battery chargers are dual voltage, so all you will need to use them with a different supply is a plug adaptor.

Power converters step down the voltage from 240v to 120v, allowing equipment which is not dual voltage to operate at the voltage for which it was designed. Converters do not alter the frequency at which electricity is delivered and should be used a maximum of 1-2 hours at a time.

Telephone / Internet Access

Telephone: Country code +353 followed by the area code, omitting the initial zero.

For example, to call our office number:

- *From an Irish landline or mobile:* 062 67051
- *From an international number:* +353 62 67051

Roaming agreements exist with a wide range of international mobile phone carriers, so mobile coverage is generally quite good. Internet is readily available; Internet cafes exist in nearly every town.

Emergency Contacts

Throughout your tour, please feel free to contact the office with any queries you may have. Out of office hours you can reach us on +353 86 828 2829. Our Transport Manager may also be reached on +353 87 675 3198 for any vehicle or touring questions while you are in the country.

- *Police, Ambulance or other Emergency Services - Republic of Ireland:* 112 or 999
- *Police, Ambulance or other Emergency Services - Northern Ireland:* 999
- *US Embassy (Dublin):* +353 1 668 8777
- *Canadian Embassy (Dublin):* +353 1 234 4000

What to Pack?



Winter <i>Nov, Dec, Jan</i>	Spring <i>Feb, Mar, Apr</i>	Summer <i>May, June, July</i>	Autumn/Fall <i>Aug, Sept, Oct</i>
Highs: 50°F / 10°C Lows: 32°F / 0°C 72mm Avg. Rainfall	Highs: 54°F / 12°C Lows: 41°F / 5°C 49mm Avg. Rainfall	Highs: 68°F / 20°C Lows: 45°F / 7°C 61mm Avg. Rainfall	Highs: 65°F / 18°C Lows: 43°F / 6°C 75mm Avg. Rainfall
Heavy Clothing Raingear Boots or Shoes Dinner Jacket *	Moderate Clothing Light Raingear Shoes or Sneakers Dinner Jacket *	Lighter Clothing Light Jacket Sneakers Dinner Jacket *	Moderate Clothing Light Raingear Shoes or Sneakers Dinner Jacket *

* If you plan on visiting a Five Star Castle please bring a dinner jacket for the dining rooms. This applies primarily to Five Star Estates such as Dromoland and Ashford Castle.

What is Included in Your Tour?

Transport is privately booked for your party as per your confirmed itinerary and invoice. This may include transfers to and from your airport of choice. The touring day is for eight hours each day. Extra touring hours may be requested and you will be advised of the extra cost if applicable. Accommodation booked with us always includes a full Irish breakfast. Lunch and evening meals are not included unless requested. Entrance to attractions is not included unless requested in advance. Driver's day and overnight expenses, fuel and parking tolls etc. as well as all insurances are covered in your tour.

Driver guide gratuity is not included in the tour price.

Gratuity Guidelines

Standard practise is to provide gratuities based on service quality and value received. Here are some guidelines.

- **Driver Guide:** Guideline for driver gratuity is €50 - €100 per day, but this is entirely at your own discretion and depends on level of service received.
- **Meals:** Usually 10 – 15% depending on the quality of the food and service received. 20 % for exceptionally good service and leaving a poor gratuity for exceptionally bad service is not unheard of in Ireland.
- **Drinks:** It is not normal to tip bar staff. However if the service was exceptional a gratuity would be appreciated.
- **Hotel Staff:** Normally a small tip for porters & chambermaids is appreciated but again depends on quality of service. We suggest a small tip for porters/maids/concierge/breakfast wait staff/ etc.

* Dollar Bills are an accepted way to tip service industry personnel in Ireland.

Pricing Guidelines

This is a rough guide to the cost of items in Ireland

- *Lunch:* €10.00 – €15.00 Euros for a light meal in a pub or cafe.
- *Dinner:* €20.00 – €50.00 Euros depending on restaurant. Pubs are less expensive for dinner.
- *Entrance to Attractions:* Usually around €4.00 – €6.00 Euros per person. An Office of Public Works (OPW) Heritage Card allows access to most major attractions for a once off fee. (€20.00 for seniors, €25.00 for adults and €60.00 for families. We can purchase these in advance of your tour or they may be picked up at your first fee paying OPW visitor attraction.

Meeting Points

If you contact us within 24 hours of your trip we can provide you with the drivers name and number. Please ensure we have your contact number while travelling in Ireland. Our transport manager may be contacted on +353 87 675 3198 if you have any trouble connecting with your driver.

- *Ferry Port:* Your driver will be standing in front of the vehicle, holding a sign with your name on it.
- *Hotels:* Your driver guide will ask for you at the reception. Usually you will make contact in the hotel foyer, unless otherwise arranged.
- *Airports:* Your driver will meet you as you exit the arrivals hall. They will have an airport sign with your name on it. Please note that transfer and orientation drivers are not usually the assigned driver for your tour, unless otherwise specified, as they are locally based drivers. See below for map of the Arrivals meeting point in Dublin Airport – Terminal 2.

