
YOUR IRELAND VACATION CHECKLIST

Weather in Ireland

If there is anything to be said about the weather in Ireland, it is change. Ireland is rarely too hot or too cold, although on any given day, the weather can change from sunshine to rain and windy. The rain does make everything so green, so be grateful!

Bringing the right clothes is important and we recommend dressing in layers. Having a mix of short sleeves, sweater, and rain jacket is best, even in summer. And remember to place an umbrella in your day pack for those unexpected showers.

While the weather rarely affects our itinerary, we do sometimes need to adjust and switch to indoor activities on the rare occasion. When visiting the islands in the west, the weather can occasionally cause the ferries or small planes to cease operation and should you experience that on your tour, rest assured that your guides will have an alternate plan for the day.

The best source of weather information in Ireland can be found at the website for the Irish weather service, [Met éirann](http://www.met.ie).

Travel Insurance

Travel is an adventure and flights and other things often may not go as planned. Most tour operators cannot assume any liability for things such as

delayed flights, missing the start of the tour, weather, lost luggage and any injuries sustained on the tour or while in Ireland. We highly recommend that each guest purchase travel insurance for these contingencies. Travel insurance is often available from your airline when booking flights. If not offered through the airline, you can [purchase travel insurance from Travel Guard](#).

Fitness and Accessibility

Visitors should be reasonably fit and able to walk moderate distances, in most cases 30 minutes or less. Some attractions may require walking over turf, uneven and rocky terrain, which may include some uphill climbing.

Ireland is also famous for many spectacular cliffs and in many cases, you can walk right up to the edge of these cliffs. We advise that you exercise due care near cliffs.



Passport and Visa Requirements

If you are a citizen of the USA or Canada, you will not need a visa to enter Ireland or the UK. (The north of Ireland is currently part of UK.) Do however, ensure that your passport has at least six months or more until expiration and if not, we suggest that you renew before you leave.

When departing for the USA from Dublin or Shannon airports, US Customs and Immigration have pre-clearance in the airport so flights arriving from DUB and SNN arrive in the United States as domestic flights having already cleared customs and immigration. We recommend allowing plenty of time when departing from Ireland to return home and if using our departure service, our team will ensure that you arrive in plenty of time for your flight.

For our guests who are not US or Canadian citizens, please check the [DFA website](#) do determine visa requirements.

Cell phones, Internet, and Electrical in Ireland

Most cell phones will work in Ireland; be sure to check with your carrier before you leave as your carrier may need to update your PRL or make other changes to your configuration. When you contact your carrier, make sure to clarify international charges and roaming fees as data fees can add up quickly. Unless you have an international data plan at a reasonable rate, we recommend turning off data services on your phone and using Wi-Fi when available for browsing the Internet, checking email, Facebook, and the like.

Country codes for dialing phone numbers in Ireland are:

- Republic of Ireland 353
- North of Ireland 44

To dial from US or Canadian phones, you would dial 011 + Country Code (353 or 44) + the phone number. Note that you will see cell phones listed with area codes in Ireland which have a leading zero. You can drop that zero when dialing.

Dialing to the USA from Ireland, you would dial 011 + 1 + Area Code + Number

Wi-Fi is widely available although as with any public Wi-Fi, we recommend caution and the use of a VPN application if you need to do any banking or other sensitive business over public networks.

Ireland uses 240 volts electrical and requires an adapter. Most devices such as cell phones, laptops, camera chargers, tablets, etc. will handle either 120 or 240 volts although you should check each device to make sure. If your

device cannot operate on 240 volts, you will need a power transformer along with the adapter.

Electrical outlets are the same in Ireland and the north of Ireland.

Money/ATM, Credit Cards in Ireland

The currency used in Ireland is the Euro, and in the north of Ireland, the British Pound Sterling. ATM's are widely available so there is no need to convert a large amount of currency prior to your departure.

Likewise, credit cards are widely accepted, although some smaller establishments may prefer cash. MasterCard and Visa are almost universally accepted, and some establishments may not accept American Express.

Be sure to check with your bank or financial institution prior to departure. Most credit cards will need to know the countries you plan to visit and ATM cards will need to be authorized for international use.

Safety and Emergencies

Ireland is a safe country although you should take reasonable precautions as with traveling anywhere or even walking about in your home country.

Make copies of your ID, passport and travel documents. Take printed copies with you, and either leave copies with family or friends back home, or store copies on Google Drive, Dropbox, or One Drive.

In emergencies, please advise your guide. The Garda Síochána (National Police) and other emergency services can be reached by dialing 112. (Dialing 112 works anywhere in Europe)

For reaching the police for non-emergency reasons such as filing a police report, you should contact the local [Garda station](#).

Other tips for staying safe and secure when traveling:

- Never carry large amounts of cash and divide your cash. Store excess cash in hotel safe deposit boxes.
- Keep your wallet in your front pocket when walking in cities and crowded areas
- Avoid wearing expensive jewelry and consider leaving these at home
- Carry backpacks, fanny packs and purses in front of you when in a crowded area such as cities
- Carry only enough money on your person for the day
- When using an ATM, use only in a well-lit area and be suspicious of strangers lingering around the area. Take a companion with you.
- Be alert to your surroundings and enjoy your trip!



Meals and Tipping

Meals are not generally expensive in Ireland. Lunch can average €10- €15 with a reasonable dinner in the €20 - €25 range. A pint of Guinness or beer is usually ~€5 with glasses of wine starting at €6 and up.

Tipping in Ireland is not the same as in the USA. When ordering meals or drinks at the bar, no tip is generally expected. If you do tip for a meal, 10% is a completely acceptable amount.

Tipping Drivers and Guides

Tipping is at the guest's discretion, although most drivers and guides in Ireland do expect and appreciate tips. Generally, between €8 and €10 per day is appropriate for good service and an entertaining time.

Irish Facts and Culture

You will find people in Ireland friendly, welcoming and hospitable. We enjoy the craic! (Conversations) Many strangers you may meet will engage you in stimulating conversation.

The Irish Republic was declared in 1916 with the Easter Uprising which left Dublin in ruins. A subsequent war was fought with England which resulted in the declaration of the Irish Free State in 1922 which included 26 counties, leaving six counties in the north under British rule. Ireland was officially declared a Republic in 1949.

Ireland is part of the European Union and has special travel arrangements with Britain as part of the CTA (Common Travel Area). There is currently no hard border between the Republic of Ireland and the northern counties, although many are concerned that the Brexit situation may result in a hard border which would have detrimental impact to the people and the economies of both areas. As it stands today, the only way one notices that the border is crossed is that the speed limit and road signs change from kilometers to miles.

The north of Ireland, once mired in sectarian violence has been peaceful because the Good Friday Peace Accords signed in 1998. Belfast, Derry and the rest of the northern counties are wonderful to visit and just as beautiful as the rest of Ireland.

VAT

Like most of Europe, VAT (value added tax) is added to the price of goods and services. In most cases, this tax is included in the price.

Nonresidents of the European Union may claim refund for VAT and depending upon purchases made in Ireland, this can amount to hundreds of dollars. The Irish government has details on claiming refunds on their [Revenue Website](#).