



Living in Dublin



Microsoft

MercerPassport® Guide - Ireland

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1 Tips for My Move

1.1 My Trip

Getting Ready to Go

- Ensure all passports, visas and necessary permits are in order.
- Confirm journey dates and travel tickets/documents.
- Locate all personal/private documentation you will need to take with you (including birth certificates, medical records, driver's license, insurance policies, bank records and school records).
- Remember to change your address with all companies and persons that you correspond with, and arrange a mail forwarding service with the post office.
- Cancel all utilities and services that you will no longer need and settle all accounts with these companies. Include mobile phone contracts if you do not wish to take them with you.
- Arrange packing and shipping of your belongings and storage of items you are leaving behind.
- Decide what essentials you need to carry with you when traveling.
- When packing, take into consideration the climate and availability of products within the country.
- Find out what you can and cannot take through customs (see Customs and Import Regulations Section).
- Be aware of any particular rules and regulations in the country (see Etiquette Section).
- Make sure you have some local currency (euros - EUR) for your arrival in the country, and try to get small denominations of notes and also coins, which will be needed to pay the taxi/bus fares from the airport to your hotel or apartment.

Important Notes

- Ireland has not signed the Schengen Agreement therefore passport controls apply on all border crossings.
- It is advisable to avoid using cash for any property transactions, since having the owner's bank details provides further confirmation of their identity.
- The importation of pets into Ireland has always been strictly controlled. Dogs must have a license, and individual licenses are renewable every 12 months.
- To make sure that you get a parking space at the airport, it is advisable to make use of the parking booking facility on the airport's website.

Packing Your Bags

- Arrange packing and shipping of your belongings and storage of items you are leaving behind
- Decide what essentials you need to carry with you when traveling
- When packing, take into consideration the climate and availability of products within the country
- Find out what you can and cannot take through customs (see Customs and Import Regulations Section)
- Be aware of any particular rules and regulations in the country (see Etiquette Section)
- Make sure you have some local currency (Euros - EUR) for your arrival in the country, and try to get small denominations of notes and also coins, which will be needed to pay the taxi/bus fares from the airport to your hotel or apartment

1.2 My Health

Ambulances

In Ireland, there are three types of ambulance services:

- Public health ambulance and transport services
- Private ambulance and transport services
- Volunteer ambulance services

In the public health service, the Health Service Executive (HSE) may provide ambulance services for transporting seriously ill people to hospital or between hospitals. Ambulance services, as part of the emergency services, are contactable by telephoning 999 or 112. All calls are free.

The Dublin Fire Brigade provides an emergency ambulance service to citizens and visitors in the Greater Dublin area. The Dublin Fire Brigade is the only brigade in the country to provide an Emergency Ambulance Service. DFB operates 12 emergency ambulances with at least one ambulance operating from each full time station with the exception of Dun Laoghaire. DFB's Firefighters are trained paramedics.

There are a number of paid private ambulance services available, including air ambulances. Occasionally, the HSE may bring them in to help with emergencies, in which case, charges for their services are paid by the HSE.

Unless you have a medical card, you may be charged for ambulance services. However, the practice varies between areas of the country, and charges may be waived in certain cases.

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Volunteer ambulance organizations are generally used to provide immediate assistance at public events.

- **Irish Red Cross**
Web: <https://www.redcross.ie/programmes-and-services-in-ireland/ambulance/>
- **Order of Malta Ambulance Corps**
Web: <http://www.orderofmaltaireland.org/ambulance-corps/>
- **St. John Ambulance Ireland**
Web: <http://www.stjohn.ie/>

Air ambulance services are available from a number of emergency evacuation companies. These services are extremely expensive and you should confirm whether your health insurance will cover you in the event of such an emergency. Some of these emergency services are based in Ireland, which will assure rapid response times.

- **AeroMedevac International (local service)**
Web: <http://www.aeromedevac.ie>
- **Air Ambulance International**
Web: www.airambulanceinternational.com
- **Air Ambulance Worldwide**
Web: www.airambulanceworldwide.com
- **IAS Medical (local service)**
Web: www.iasmedical.com

Dental Care

If you are not a medical card holder, you will need to pay for all dental treatment. Dental practitioners are listed in the local telephone directory (Golden Pages) or are listed online at the Irish Dental Association; information can also be found through the Dental Health Foundation Ireland.

The Accident and Emergency Service at Dublin Dental University Hospital is limited to pain relief for people who have had a dental accident or who require emergency treatment. Patients are advised to contact their own dentist or HSE dentist for other dental services. The hospital provides an out-of-hours emergency service Monday to Friday 5pm to 10pm; and Saturday, Sunday and Public Holiday from 9am to 10pm. To access this service, patients must telephone in advance. The service is managed by appointment only.

The Accident and Emergency fee of EUR 70 is payable at the time of the visit. It covers the initial visit to the Accident and Emergency Department only, and any return visits to Accident and Emergency with the same problem, within three months of the first visit. The Accident and Emergency on-call charge is EUR 100. Patients will be sent an invoice for this charge, which must be paid within five working days. It covers the initial visit to the Accident and Emergency Department only, and any return visits to the department with the same problem, within three months of the first visit.

Holders of a current Health Services Executive Eastern Region (HSE) Medical Card and live in Dublin, Wicklow or Kildare are not billed for Accident and Emergency treatment. Holders of a current E111 Government Scheme for Foreign Visitors or an E128 Government Scheme for Foreign Visitors will not be billed for Accident and Emergency services.

- **Accident and Emergency Service at Dublin Dental University Hospital**
Tel: +353 1 612 7200
Web: www.dentalhospital.ie
Comments: The hospital is limited to emergency pain relief
- **Dental Health Foundation Ireland**
Tel: +353 1 672 8870
Web: www.dentalhealth.ie
Comments: The Dental Health Foundation promotes oral health in Ireland
- **Golden Pages**
Web: www.goldenpages.ie
Comments: A list of dentists are available on the website
- **Irish Dental Association**
Tel: +353 1 295 0072
Web: www.dentist.ie
Comments: See a list of dentists on the website

Dentists in Dublin include:

- **Anne's Lane Dental Centre**
Address: 2 Anne's Lane, Dublin 2
Tel: +353 1 671 8581
Email: info@anneslane.com
Web: www.anneslane.com
- **Beechwood Dental**
Address: 9 Dunville Avenue, Ranelagh, Dublin 6
Tel: +353 1 496 7526
Email: info@beechwooddental.ie

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- Web: www.beechwooddental.ie
- **Dublin Dental University Hospital**
Address: 2 Lincoln Place, Dublin 2
Tel: +353 1 612 7391
Email: patient@dental.tcd.ie
Web: www.dentalhospital.ie
 - **Smiles Dental Clinics**
Web: www.smiles.ie
Comments: There are many branches in the city. The website has location details
 - **Shelbourne Dental Clinic**
Address: Unit 7, Grand Canal Wharf, South Dock Road, Dublin 4
Tel: +353 1 665 5900
Email: info@shelbourneclinic.ie
Web: www.shelbourneclinic.ie

Health

Sanitation standards are high in Ireland, and there are no particular health risks. Food and drink are safe for consumption. Ireland is rabies-free. The country typically reports a few dozen cases of measles per year. Vaccination is recommended.

The weather can be cold, damp and rainy during winter, so it is advisable to take some warm clothing with you. Ireland is relatively free of air pollution, when compared with more industrialized countries.

The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has spread to countries worldwide. As of September 2021, Ireland has confirmed more than 350,000 cases, including at least 5,000 fatalities. The authorities have imposed vaccination and other requirements for restaurants, bars, pubs and shops among other facilities in order to limit the outbreak. In case of an emergency, expats can contact their country's nearest embassy or consulate.

An increasing number of mumps cases were reported in Ireland between August 2018 and 2019, taking the total count of confirmed cases over 3,500 since it began in 2018. The number of cases declined in early April 2020, but rose again from late April 2020 and continued throughout the year due to COVID-19 measures.

There are no major health risks in Ireland; nevertheless, recommended vaccinations include those for hepatitis A and B, typhoid, rabies and measles-mumps-rubella (MMR), along with as-needed booster shots for tetanus-diphtheria. Some doctors recommend an influenza shot from November to April. A tick-borne encephalitis vaccine may be considered for long-term visitors who expect to be visiting rural or forested areas from April to October.

Health Insurance

Make sure that your health insurance is up to date and that you have a procedures checklist at hand, should you or a family member fall ill. It is advisable to get confirmation if your employer's healthcare insurance will cover you and your family for all medical requirements. It is also advisable to ensure that your healthcare insurance covers repatriation or transportation to any other country that may have the required health services.

If you are a European Union (EU)/EEA/Swiss, or if you are normally resident in Ireland, you are entitled to receive the same level of healthcare as Irish citizens. Depending on your income, you may be eligible for a medical card, which entitles you to the full range of medical services at no cost (Category 1). If you are not from an EU/EEA member state or Switzerland, you will be entitled to certain services free of charge and you will have to pay for the remainder (Category 2). Eligibility for health services usually depends on your income. It is not connected to Pay Related Social Insurance (PRSI) contributions.

Any person who is considered by the Health Service Executive to be 'ordinarily resident' in Ireland has either Category 1 (full eligibility) or Category 2 (limited eligibility) for health services.

If you are taking up residence in Ireland, you will be regarded as 'ordinarily resident' in Ireland, if you satisfy the HSE that it is your intention to remain in Ireland for a minimum of one year. To establish that a person is an ordinary resident, the HSE may require:

- Proof of property purchase or rental, including evidence that the property in question is the person's principal residence
- Evidence of transfer of funds, bank accounts and pensions
- A residence permit or visa
- A work permit or visa, statements from employers, etc.
- In some instances, the signing of an affidavit by the applicant
- The fact that a non-EU national has established his/her eligibility for health services does not automatically mean that their dependents are also eligible. Dependents of non-EU nationals may also have to satisfy the above requirements

Additional healthcare insurance may be necessary, for which a number of international companies can provide excellent benefits. The following health insurance companies specialize in expatriate clientele.

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- Aetna International
Web: www.aetnainternational.com
- Allianz
Web: www.allianzworldwidecare.com
- Cigna Global
Web: www.cignaglobal.com
- Health Care International
Web: www.healthcareinternational.com
- International Medical Group (IMG)
Web: www.imglobal.com

Category One (Medical Card Holders)

EEA citizens living in Ireland, but insured in another EEA country, automatically receive a medical card. For citizens of other countries, eligibility for Category 1 is based on income and applies to people with lower income levels. Persons in this category receive a medical card from the HSE and are entitled to the following services free of charge:

- GP (family doctor) services
- Prescribed drugs and medicines charged at EUR 1.50 (with certain exceptions), subject to a cap of EUR 15 per month. For people aged 70 or above, prescribed drugs and medicines are charged at EUR 1, subject to a cap of EUR 10 per month
- Public hospital services (in-patient and outpatient)
- Dental services
- Optical and aural services
- Maternity and infant care services
- A range of community care and personal social services

Category Two (Non-Medical Card Holders)

Those who do not qualify for a medical card are entitled to Category 2 public healthcare. People in this category are entitled to free public hospital services, but may have to pay in-patient and outpatient hospital charges. They are also entitled to subsidized prescribed drugs and medicines and maternity and infant care services and may be entitled to free or subsidized community care and personal social services.

Unless you hold a GP Visit Card, you are not entitled to free GP services. If you are entitled to Category 2, you will be notified by the local health board.

European Health Insurance Card

The European Health Insurance Card or EHIC allows the holder to access healthcare services when traveling to other EU or EEA countries. Anyone who is living in Ireland, or who intends to live there for a year, can apply for an EHIC. The website has full details.

Private Health Insurance

More and more individuals are opting for private health insurance, particularly due to long waiting lists for public services. Private health insurance is offered through Irish insurance companies. They offer a range of plans to suit particular requirements.

- Aviva
Web: www.aviva.ie
- EHIC
Web: www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/1/schemes/EHIC
- Health Insurance Authority
Web: www.hia.ie
- Laya Healthcare
Web: www.layahealthcare.ie
- VHI
Web: www.vhi.ie

Lifetime Community Rating

People aged 35 years or above are required to pay slightly higher charges when they purchase health insurance for the first time. There is also a 2% loading charged every year from people aged 34 years or above. Therefore, for example, if you are 35 the cost is 2% higher than for a person aged 34, but if you are 44 the cost is 20% higher.

These loadings will not apply if you already have health insurance when they come into effect. If you have a break in cover of less than 13 weeks, this will not affect your loading. If you were not insured on 1 May 2015 but previously had health insurance, you can be given credit for the time you were insured, reducing the number of years to which the loading applies. People, who had to stop their health insurance payments for the periods of unemployment since 1 January 2008, are eligible to avail three years of credits.

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If you lived outside Ireland on 1 May 2015, but subsequently moved to the country, a loading will not apply if you get health insurance within nine months and continue to be insured.

The Department of Health has published a list of frequently asked questions about lifetime community rating. The regulations are set out in Statutory Instrument 312 of 2014.

- Department of Health
Web: <http://health.gov.ie>
- Irish Statute Book
Web: www.irishstatutebook.ie

GP Registration

Once you have received a medical card or notification of entitlement to Category 2, you should register with a GP (general practitioner / family doctor) of your choice. Those who have a Medical Card will receive a list of doctors to choose from and those who do not may choose their doctor. It is advisable to seek recommendations from colleagues or friends when choosing a GP.

Doctor's offices hours vary, but are typically Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 6pm. Some group practices operate their own 24-hour emergency service. There are also 24-hour deputizing services in most areas, which will arrange a house call at any time of the day or night. Most Irish doctors are happy to make house calls (for which they will charge). Most doctors' surgeries have answering machines outside surgery hours, when a recorded message informs you of the name of the doctor on call (or deputizing service) and the telephone number.

An alternative for emergency care at home is the Doctor-On-Duty Service provided by Mediserve.

- Mediserve Ireland Group
Tel: +353 1 420 0880
Web: www.doctoronduty.ie

Hospitals in Dublin

Hospitals in Dublin are of a very high international standard and comparable to that of other economically developed countries. The Health Services Executive (HSE) manages hospitals day-to-day operations.

You may sometimes experience long waiting periods in emergency areas. A lack of beds in emergency areas has been reported.

Bus and train routes are conveniently linked to some of the hospitals.

Hospitals in Dublin include:

- **Beaumont Hospital**
Address: Beaumont Road, Dublin 9
Tel: +353 1 809 3000
Email: information@beaumont.ie
Web: www.beaumont.ie
Comments: A large academic teaching hospital 5 km north of Dublin city center, with emergency and acute care services. In addition, it is a Designated Cancer Centre, the Regional Treatment Centre for ear, nose and throat, and gastroenterology, the National Referral Centre for neurosurgery and neurology, renal transplantation and cochlear implantation
- **Coombe Women and Infants University Hospital**
Address: Cork Street, Dublin 8
Tel: +353 1 408 5200
Email: info@coombe.ie
Web: www.coombe.ie
Comments: Hospital for women requiring maternity, neonatal and gynecology care and a leading European medical academic center for women and infants' healthcare research, education and training
- **Mater Private Hospital**
Address: Eccles Street, Dublin 7
Tel: +353 1 885 8888
Email: info@materprivate.ie
Web: www.materprivate.ie
Comments: Offers a range of specialties and services with particular focus on cardiac, cancer and surgical services. Ireland's only private hospital that provides an integrated 24-hour, 365-day intensive care and anesthetic service
- **Rotunda Maternity Hospital**
Address: Parnell Square, Dublin 1
Tel: +353 1 817 1700
Web: www.rotunda.ie
Comments: In addition to care of the pregnant woman and her child, the Rotunda also offers a comprehensive gynecology service. Services include an infertility service, menopause clinic, colposcopy clinic and early pregnancy loss clinic
- **St. James Hospital**

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Address: James' Street, Dublin 8

Tel: +353 1 410 3000

Email: info@stjames.ie

Web: www.stjames.ie

Comments: The largest teaching hospital in Ireland. Provides health treatment, care and diagnoses as well as health promotion and preventative services

Medical Care

Healthcare services are generally of a good standard. Ireland's health system is controlled by the Health Service Executive (HSE). Those living and working in Ireland can receive free healthcare, provided certain criteria are met. Semi-private and private healthcare are also available.

The public healthcare system is sometimes criticized in Ireland because waiting times for care can be fairly long, and also because of the lack of health practitioners and hospital staff. Waiting lists for those without private insurance can stretch into years, even for critical procedures such as heart operations.

The following websites have comprehensive information on Irish health services.

- Citizens Information
Web: www.citizensinformation.ie
- Department of Health
Web: <http://health.gov.ie>
- Health Service Executive
Web: www.hse.ie/eng
- Irish Health
Web: www.irishhealth.com

Pharmaceuticals

If you have a health problem that might require purchasing prescription drugs whilst in Ireland, ask your doctor at home to prescribe the drug by its generic name. Brand names can vary widely from one country to another. Note, however, that prescriptions must comply with Irish laws before they can be dispensed. This involves a consultation with a doctor in Ireland.

Pharmacies are widely available throughout the country and can give advice and treatment for minor ailments. Regular hours are Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm. The Health Services Executive (HSE) website has a search facility for the nearest pharmacy.

- Health Services Executive (HSE)
Web: www.hse.ie/eng/services/maps

There are no 24-hour pharmacies in Dublin, but late-night pharmacies include:

- Boots Pharmacy
Web: www.boots.ie
Comments: There are many branches in the city area. The website has location details
- City Pharmacy
Address: 14 Dame Street, Dublin 2
Tel: +353 1 670 4523
Email: info@citypharmacy.ie
Web: www.citypharmacy.ie
Hours: Monday to Friday 9am to 9pm; Saturday 11am to 7pm; Sundays and Bank Holidays 12pm to 6pm
- Hickey's Pharmacy
Web: www.hickeyspharmacies.ie
Comments: There are several branches in the city and suburbs. See the website for address details
- Lloyds Pharmacy
Web: www.lloydspharmacy.ie
Comments: There are many branches in the city and elsewhere in Ireland. Location details are on the website
- McCabes Pharmacy
Web: www.mccabespharmacy.com/pharmacies
Comments: There are several branches in the city and suburbs. The pharmacies in Dundrum and Swords are open until 10pm daily

1.3 My Safety

Emergency Numbers

| Service | Telephone |
|---------|-----------|
| | |

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| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| Emergency (Police, Fire, Ambulance) | 999, 112 |
|-------------------------------------|----------|

Natural Disasters

Flooding is most probably the only type of disaster that may occur now and again in Ireland. Reports of flooding are mostly not severe, and few deaths are ever due to flooding. Cyclonic storms from the Atlantic Ocean may hit the country, but even these are of a minor nature.

Safety

Ireland has one of the highest rates of burglary in the EU. Crime has been increasing in major cities, where there is a higher incidence of criminal activity, mainly burglaries, street robberies, purse-snatching and car theft. Petty crimes are common and comparable to most European countries. Credit cards and ATM fraud also occur occasionally. Normal safety precautions should be taken, such as locking cars and houses and using anti-theft alarms.

What crime there is in Dublin is often drug-related. Side streets off O'Connell Street can be dangerous, especially at night. To alert visitors to potential dangers, the Garda Síochána (police) publishes a small leaflet, "A Short Guide to Tourist Security," which is available at tourist offices and other public places. The booklet advises against carrying large amounts of money or important documents such as passports or airline tickets.

As in many other countries, drug abuse is an increasing health and social problem. Ireland has one of the highest rates of drug abuse by under-25s in the entire EU. For those who are moving to Ireland with children and teenagers, it is important to remain attentive as this poses a potential health risk.

The Irish Tourist Assistance Service has been set up to help victims of crime:

- **Irish Tourist Assistance Service**
Tel: +353 1 666 9354, 1890 365 700 (within Ireland)
Web: www.itas.ie

According to the British Foreign Office, there is an underlying threat from terrorism in Ireland. Although, there is no evidence of likely attacks in the country, there is considered a heightened threat of terrorist attacks globally against Western interests and nationals motivated by the conflicts in the Middle East.

1.4 Entry Requirements

Administrative Procedures on Arrival

All non-nationals who are not citizens of a member state of the European Union, the European Economic Area or Switzerland staying longer than three months, must register with An Garda Síochána (Garda National Immigration Bureau - GNIB) and at all times have a valid registration certificate in the form of an Irish Residence Permit (IRP) card (or its earlier equivalent, an GNIB card, that has not yet expired). It costs EUR 300 and must be paid by credit card, debit card or bank giro. The fee cannot be paid in cash.

The Garda National Immigration Bureau or the local immigration office will issue an IRP card. It is the same size as a credit card and will show the name, address, photo and the type of residence details of the individual.

Depending on your nationality and your legal status in Ireland, this card may also function as a residence card or residence document. It is not an identity document: it is just a certificate that you have registered with the Garda Síochána, as required by Irish immigration law.

Documentation Required

In order to get this permission, applicants should report for registration to the Garda National Immigration Bureau in Dublin or to their local Garda Superintendent's Office in the relevant Garda district.

- Completed Alien's Registration Form (available from local police offices)
- Valid passport
- Evidence of sufficient funds for the duration of the stay (for example, statement of earnings, employment contract, bank statement, etc.)
- Any information requested by an authorized official in connection with the purpose of the residence in Ireland
- Copy of the Work Permit or Work Visa (if applicable)
- Application fee, payable only by credit, laser card (debit card) or bank giro (note: no cash payments)

Under normal circumstances, the candidate will be granted residency status for the duration of their permit and be issued with an Irish Residence Permit card.

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EU/EEA and Swiss nationals do not have to register with the Garda National Immigration Bureau.

Contact Details

- Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB)
Web: www.garda.ie/Controller.aspx?Page=31
Comments: The fee information and other general regulations are downloadable from the website

Entry Requirements

The articles on entry requirements are for general guidance and it is advisable to check on the exact requirements that specifically apply to you with the consular section at the Irish Embassy in your country. Detailed information can also be obtained from the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Health Requirements

Due to the ongoing novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the government of Ireland has imposed screening measures at airports and other points of entry. Travelers are required to provide a valid certificate of COVID-19 vaccination. Those who are not vaccinated, are required to provide a negative COVID-19 RT-PCR test taken within three days before arriving in Ireland. Quarantine-related requirements depends on the submission of vaccination or RT-PCR test results. All travelers, including Irish residents, arriving in Ireland are required to fill in a mandatory COVID-19 Passenger Locator Form. In case of an emergency, expats can contact their country's nearest embassy or consulate.

There are no specific health or immunization requirements for international travelers to Ireland. However, you should be up to date with routine vaccinations while traveling to any destination. These vaccines include measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine, diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccine, varicella (chickenpox) vaccine, polio vaccine and your yearly flu shot. Other vaccines, which may be required, are hepatitis A, hepatitis B and rabies vaccines. It is advisable to speak to your doctor prior to your departure to Ireland.

Health travel advice is available from the Department of Health's website.

Contact Details

- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Web: www.dfa.ie/travel/travel-advice

Passports

All travelers require a valid passport except nationals of the UK, who can use any official photo identification, and EU citizens, who only need a valid national identity card. However, it is recommended to travel with your British passport as you may be questioned for identification by the immigration authority. Passports should be valid for six months beyond the anticipated date for leaving Ireland. Make sure that your passport has at least two blank pages available for visa stamps.

Ireland has not signed the Schengen Agreement, therefore passport controls apply on all border crossings. Passport controls do not apply in Northern Ireland when traveling from Ireland.

Visas

Visas can be obtained at the Irish border or from Ireland embassies and consulates abroad. Visitors from the following countries, including members of all European Economic Areas (EEA), do not require a visa:

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| Andorra | Grenada | Poland |
| Antigua & Barbuda | Guatemala | Portugal |
| Argentina | Guyana | Romania |
| Australia | Honduras | St. Kitts & Nevis |
| Austria | Hong Kong SAR | St. Lucia |
| Bahamas | Hungary | St. Vincent & the Grenadines |
| | | |

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| | | |
|----------------|---------------|----------------------|
| Barbados | Iceland | Samoa |
| Belgium | Israel | San Marino |
| Belize | Italy | Seychelles |
| Bolivia | Japan | Singapore |
| Botswana | Kiribati | Slovakia |
| Brazil | Latvia | Slovenia |
| Brunei | Lesotho | Solomon Islands |
| Bulgaria | Liechtenstein | South Africa |
| Canada | Lithuania | South Korea |
| Chile | Luxembourg | Spain |
| Costa Rica | Macau SAR | Swaziland |
| Croatia | Malaysia | Sweden |
| Cyprus | Maldives | Switzerland |
| Czech Republic | Malta | Taiwan |
| Denmark | Mexico | Tonga |
| Dominica | Monaco | Trinidad & Tobago |
| El Salvador | Nauru | Tuvalu |
| Estonia | Netherlands | United Arab Emirates |
| Fiji | New Zealand | United Kingdom* |
| Finland | Nicaragua | United States |
| France | Norway | Uruguay |
| Germany | Panama | Vanuatu |
| Greece | Paraguay | Vatican City |

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* Includes United Kingdom Dependent Territories

Foreign nationals entering Ireland from another EU country as a dependent of an EU national, who are not citizens of the EEA or of one of the countries listed above, will need a visa to travel to Ireland. A family member of an EU citizen who holds a document called "Residence card of a family member of a Union citizen" can enter Ireland without a visa.

Short-stay Visa Waiver Program

The Short-stay Visa Waiver Program was announced by the Irish government as part of its Jobs Initiative with a view to promoting tourism from emerging markets. It commenced on 1 July 2011.

Under the program, persons:

- Who are nationals of one of seventeen countries covered by the scheme
- Who have entered the UK on foot of a UK "C" General visa, and
- Have been granted leave to remain in the UK for up to 180 days

Under the program, persons are allowed to:

- Travel to Ireland, within the time remaining on a current leave to remain in the UK, without the requirement to obtain an Irish visa, and
- Be granted permission to remain in Ireland up to a maximum of 90 days or the time left on their UK leave to remain, whichever is the shorter

Each distinct period of leave to remain in the UK (up to a maximum of 180 days each time) requires a prior legal entry into the UK before travel to Ireland under the program, no matter what the duration of the UK visa. The maximum period of validity of leave to remain in the UK is 180 days, but the maximum stay in Ireland is 90 days or to the end of the period of validity of the UK leave to remain, whichever is the shorter. What this program eliminates is the need to have both an Irish and UK visa when visiting Ireland via the UK. Possession of an Irish visa does not allow travelers to enter the UK.

Nationals of the following countries are included in the program:

| | | |
|--------------------|--------------|------------|
| Bahrain | Kuwait | Serbia |
| Belarus | Montenegro | Thailand |
| Bosnia-Herzegovina | Oman | Turkey |
| China | Qatar | Ukraine |
| India | Russia | Uzbekistan |
| Kazakhstan | Saudi Arabia | |

Ireland has implemented its Online Visa Application Facility (AVATS), which must be used by all applicants for an Irish Visa. Visas can be single entry, multiple-entry, transit or re-entry and will differ depending on the purpose of your trip. Different types of visas available are:

- Tourist visa
- Business visa
- Work visa
- Student visa
- Family or friends visa
- Exam visa
- Medical treatment visa
- Join ship visa
- Conference or event visa
- Training visa
- Marriage visa
- Performance or tournament visa
- Volunteer visa
- Minister of religion visa
- Transit visa
- Re-entry visa

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Since November 2008, a separate visa is required by all dependents, even if they are included on your passport. Therefore, a visa application needs to be completed for each person wishing to travel to Ireland. A visa processing fee is payable for each application; however, certain people are exempted from paying visa fees. These include visa-required spouses and certain family members of EEA citizens (including Irish nationals). You must provide proof of the relationship with the application.

In addition, applicants from the countries listed below do not have to pay a fee:

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Bosnia-Herzegovina | Kyrgyzstan | Sri Lanka |
| Côte d'Ivoire | Montenegro | Tunisia |
| Ecuador | Morocco | Uganda |
| Indonesia | North Macedonia | Zambia |
| Jamaica | Peru | |
| Kosovo | Serbia | |

Tourist Visa

This visa is required for persons intending to stay in Ireland for less than three months at a hotel or with friends or relatives. A tourist visa can be issued for a single entry or multiple entries. The visa cannot be extended beyond 90 days.

Application Procedure

Application should be made with AVATS and then follow instructions from nearest Irish consulate or embassy to submit required documents. Allow six to eight weeks for the application to be processed.

Documentation Required

All documentation must be in English or accompanied by a notarized translation. Most applicants, after completing the AVATS process, will be asked to submit the following documents:

- Completed application form
- Signed letter of application:
 - Outlining your reason for wishing to visit Ireland
 - Giving details of any members of your family who are currently in Ireland, or any other EU state
 - Stating how long you plan to stay
 - Undertaking that you will observe the conditions of your visa, that you will not become a burden on the state, and that you will leave the state on the expiry of your permission to remain
- If visiting another state prior to traveling to Ireland, the relevant visa for that state must be obtained and in your passport before applying for an Irish visa
- Fee (single entry: EUR 60; multiple-entry: EUR 100)
- Passport valid for six months beyond the intended departure date from Ireland
- Three passport-sized photographs
- Invitation letter from friends, family or a confirmed hotel booking stating the intended dates of stay
- Details of your relationship to your reference, or how you are known to each other, along with supporting evidence of this
- If your reference is not an Irish citizen, evidence of their permission to remain in Ireland (for example, a copy of their Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB) card and copy of their passport showing immigration stamps)
- A detailed statement of your bank account covering a six-month period immediately prior to your visa application, and showing sufficient funds to cover your costs
- Evidence that you must return to your country of residence (letter from your employer, school or from a person in authority)
- If you are resident in a country other than your country of origin, evidence of your permission to reside in that country. This permission should be valid for at least three months after your intended departure from Ireland

Foreign nationals who require a visa and wish to leave Ireland for a short while and then return, must apply for a Re-entry Visa. Before applying for a Re-entry Visa, foreign nationals must register with the local immigration officer for the district in which they are staying (Garda National Immigration Bureau if staying in Dublin).

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Business Visa

This visa is required for persons coming to Ireland to attend business meetings or conferences. It does not allow you to start a business in Ireland, nor to undertake paid employment, but the nature of the trip must be connected to your work in your country of residence. The visa is valid for a maximum of 90 days and cannot be extended beyond this limit.

Application Procedure

Application should be made with AVATS and then follow instructions from nearest Irish consulate or embassy to submit required documents. Allow six to eight weeks for the application to be processed.

Documentation Required

All documentation must be in English or accompanied by a notarized translation. Documents will vary depending on the kind of visa required. Most applicants, after completing the AVATS process, will be asked to submit the following documents:

- Completed application form
- Signed letter of application:
- Outlining your reason for wishing to visit Ireland
- Giving details of any members of your family who are currently in Ireland, or any other EU state
- Stating how long you plan to stay
- Undertaking that you will observe the conditions of your visa, that you will not become a burden on the state, and that you will leave the state on the expiry of your permission to remain
- If visiting another state prior to traveling to Ireland, the relevant visa for that state must be obtained and in your passport before applying for an Irish visa
- Fee (single entry: EUR 60; multiple-entry: EUR 100)
- Passport valid for six months beyond the intended departure date from Ireland
- Three passport-sized photographs
- A letter from your employer, confirming you are undertaking the trip on the Company's behalf, the purpose of the visit, dates, and outlining who will be responsible for the full costs of the trip – travel, accommodation, expenses, etc.
- Your employer should also confirm that you will be returning to that employment following the visit
- A letter from the Irish company confirming the visit, dates, reasons for visit, details of who will meet costs of trip, accommodation details and full contact details

All letters submitted should be on official company headed paper and give full contact details for verification purposes. These must include a full postal address, name of contact, position in company, telephone number (landline) and email address where relevant. (Email addresses such as Yahoo or Hotmail are not accepted). Website address should also be included, if available.

Work Visa

This visa is required for nationals of countries not belonging to the EU/EEA who wish to work in Ireland.

Nationals of countries which are not members of the EU/EEA, who wish to work in Ireland, will require permission from the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Innovation to do so. Please note that the visa application process and the employment permit application process are separate. The granting of an employment permit does not necessarily guarantee that a Visa will be issued.

Application Procedure

Application should be made with AVATS and then follow instructions from nearest Irish consulate or embassy to submit required documents. Allow six to eight weeks for the application to be processed.

Documentation Required

See Work and Residence Permits Section.

Student Visa

This visa is required for students in a full time course from a recognized school, college or university. Since 2008, Ireland has an agreement with the US government that enables Irish and US citizens to work and travel in each other's countries for up to 12 months. In order to qualify for the program, participants have to be in post-secondary education, or have recently graduated within the last 12 months.

Application Procedure

Application should be made with AVATS and then follow instructions from nearest Irish consulate or embassy to submit required documents.

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Allow six to eight weeks for the application to be processed.

Documentation Required

Documents will vary depending on the kind of visa you will be applying for. Most applicants, after completing the AVATS process, will be asked to submit the following documents:

- Completed application form
- Signed letter of application:
 - Outlining your reason for wishing to visit Ireland
 - Giving details of any members of your family who are currently in Ireland, or any other EU state
 - Stating how long you plan to stay
 - Undertaking that you will observe the conditions of your visa, that you will not become a burden on the state, and that you will leave the state on the expiry of your permission to remain
- If visiting another state prior to traveling to Ireland, the relevant visa for that state must be obtained and in your passport before applying for an Irish visa
- Fee (single entry EUR 60; multiple-entry EUR 100). Post-secondary and graduate US students, will pay a fee of EUR 339 (or equivalent in other acceptable currency)
- Valid passport
- Three passport-sized photographs duly signed on the reverse. For some applications, two photos will suffice
- Copies of your educational qualifications
- A letter of acceptance in a full time course from a recognized school, college or university
- Proof that the course fees have been paid in full
- For post-secondary and graduate US students an original bank statement, showing that you have access to at least EUR 2,000 together with a return air ticket, or access to at least EUR 4,000 (without a return air ticket)
- Students from visa-required countries are required to have access to EUR 7,000 in their bank account before being issued a visa. In addition, from 1 April 2011, they must have access to EUR 3,000 in their Irish bank account at first registration

Transit Visa

Foreign nationals, other than those listed below, continuing their journey within 24 hours by the same or first connecting flight, and who hold valid onward tickets and are not leaving the airport, do not need a visa for landing in Ireland.

This visa is required for nationals of the following countries on their way to a third country. The cost of the Transit Visa is EUR 25:

| | | |
|------------------|---------|-----------|
| Afghanistan | Georgia | Nigeria |
| Albania | Ghana | Somalia |
| Cuba | Iran | Sri Lanka |
| Congo (Dem. Rep) | Iraq | Ukraine |
| Eritrea | Lebanon | Zimbabwe |
| Ethiopia | Moldova | |

Re-entry Visa

Foreign nationals wishing to leave Ireland for a short duration are required to apply for a re-entry visa. However, effective May 2019, visitors holding a valid Irish Residence Permit (IRP) or Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB) card are exempt from this requirement.

To apply for a Re-entry Visa, the following documents must be available:

- A valid passport or travel document
- The relevant fee: Single – EUR 60; Multiple – EUR 100; Emergency –EUR 160
- Two standard color photographs with your name printed on one of the photographs
- One photo, not older than six months, printed on photo paper, face covering 75% of the photo
- On photographs, head coverings, such as hats and hair bands are not allowed, unless for religious and medical reasons
- Sunglasses are not allowed on photographs. If glasses are worn, lenses must be of clear glass so that the eyes are visible and there must be no reflection on the lenses.

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- Garda (GNIB) registration card

Contact Details

- Department of Foreign Affairs
Web: <https://www.dfa.ie>
- Citizens Information
Web: www.citizensinformation.ie
Comments: The website has contact details for Citizens' Information Centers around the country, including visa regulations and related information
- Irish Naturalization and Immigration Service
Web: www.inis.gov.ie
- Online Visa Application Facility (AVATS)
Web: www.visas.inis.gov.ie/avats/OnlineHome.aspx
Comments: If you require a visa to travel to Ireland, the website will guide you through the online application procedure
- Re-Entry Visa
Web: www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/Re-Entry%20Visas
Comments: All applications for a re-entry visa is by registered post

Work and Residence Permits

In October 2014, the Employment Permits (Amendment) Bill 2014 was enacted to reform and modernize Ireland's employment permits system. The bill has overhauled the system and provides for nine different purposes for which employment permits can be granted.

Detailed information on work permits is available from the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation.

The issue of an Employment Permit requires a job offer from a prospective Irish employer who has made every effort to recruit an Irish or EEA national for the post. Applications can be submitted by either the prospective employee or employer. The holder of an Employment Permit is only permitted to work for the employer and in the employment stated on the permit. Should the employee named on the permit, for any reason, cease to be employed by the employer and in the employment stated on the permit during the period of validity specified, the permit and any copies must be returned immediately to the Employment Permits Section. It is an offense for both an employer and an employee to be party to the employment of a non-EEA national without a valid employment permit.

Employers who want to employ people who need employment permits have to meet certain requirements. They must be legally trading in Ireland and so they must be registered with the Revenue Commissioners and with the Companies Registration Office (CRO) if the employer is a company.

In most cases, a work permit will not be issued where the granting of the permit would mean that more than 50% of the employees of a company would be non-EEA nationals.

New applications for most types of work permits must be accompanied by evidence that a labor market needs test have been carried out. Effective January 2020, any vacancy that requires a labor market needs test must be advertised with the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (DEASP) employment services or EURES for at least four weeks (28 days) before any application can be submitted.

In all cases, applications for jobs will not be considered if they are for occupations listed as ineligible on the "Ineligible Categories of Employment for Employment Permits" list.

Once an employment permit has been issued, a holder has all the employment rights of Irish or EEA citizens for the duration of the employment permit.

EEA/EU Nationals

EU and European Economic Area (EEA) nationals (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland) are not required to have work permits, visas or residence permits to live and work in Ireland. The need to register their residence with the Garda National Immigration Bureau (Immigration Registration Office) is no longer in place for EEA/EU nationals.

These nationals are entitled to have their dependents come to live with them. The spouse or civil partner of an EEA/Swiss national who is exercising the right of free movement, has similar rights to work and live in Ireland. An EEA or Swiss national is entitled to be treated in the same way as an Irish citizen when applying for work in Ireland. They are free to apply for any job vacancy, including jobs in the public sector.

Non-EEA/EU Nationals

Non-EEA nationals must obtain an employment permit and, depending on their country of origin, may also need entry visas (see above section). The kind of employment permit required depends on the sector in which the person will be employed. Non-EEA/EU nationals are also required to register their residency and obtain an "Immigration Certificate of Registration Card" from the Garda National Immigration Bureau. For details on registration, please see Administrative Procedures on Arrival Section. Anyone who fails to register will be deemed illegally resident in the country.

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The UK is now considered a non-EU/EEA country after Brexit, which became official from 1 January 2021. However, this has not impacted the rights of UK and Irish citizens. The Common Travel Area agreement between the UK and Ireland provides nationals of both the countries with the rights to freely travel, work, and live in Ireland or the UK on a reciprocity basis. Therefore, UK nationals do not need to obtain a work permit to work in Ireland or vice versa.

Employment Permit

Employment Permits are issued by the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation. Employment Permits may be granted for a period for 24 months in the first instance and may be renewed for further periods up to five years.

An Employment Permit is applied for and issued to an employer as permission to employ a specific, non-EEA national, for a specific job, for a specific period of time not exceeding one year. The non-EEA national is not allowed to work for other employers during the period of the Employment Permit. In order to receive an Employment Permit an employer must prove that they have made every effort to employ an EEA national.

Following a successful application for an Employment Permit, and if a Visa is required, an applicant should apply to his/her local Irish Embassy/ Consulate for an entry Visa.

During the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation (DBEI) will issue employment permits electronically until normal services resume. The DBEI has introduced temporary changes to the permit application issuance and renewal processing services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Details about this contingency plan, explaining the new arrangements for issuing employment permits, are available on the DBEI website.

Types of Employment Permit

| Type of Employment Permit | Conditions |
|---|---|
| Critical Skills Employment Permit | <p>Replaces the existing "Green Card" system</p> <p>This employment permit is for highly skilled migrant workers required to work in occupations deemed critical to the Irish economy and where a shortfall in the labor market exists</p> <p>Permits are granted to two groups of people: people with specified skills needed for occupations attracting a salary of at least EUR 32,000 or more, which are contained on the "Highly Skilled Eligible Skills Occupation" list; and people in almost any occupation where the salary range is above EUR 64,000 and where the occupation is not listed on the "Ineligible Categories of Employment for Employment Permits" list</p> <p>A job offer must be for two years minimum. However, should a foreign national stay with the initial employer for 12 months minimum, a permit may be renewed with another employer if the original employment was terminated due to unforeseen circumstances, for example redundancy</p> <p>Permits are generally issued for two years. Renewal of a permit does not require re-application, but can be renewed at the Garda National Immigration Bureau for another two years subject to the relevant criteria being met. After five years, long-term residency can be applied for (this rule also applied to current holders of an existing Green Card)</p> <p>No labor market means test is required</p> <p>An Employment Permit will not be granted to companies where more than 50% of employees in the firm are non-EEA nationals at time of application</p> |
| Spouses, Civil Partners and Dependents Permit | <p>Issued to family members of a holder of a Critical Skills Employment Permit. This permit entitles family members to work in Ireland. Effective from March 2019, a spouse or de facto partner of a Critical Skills Employment Permit holder is exempt from the need of an employment permit. Dependents other than spouse or de facto partner of a CSEP holder will require the permit.</p> <p>Permits are issued for a maximum period of three years and can be renewed. After five years of continuous employment, a permit is no longer required. If the criteria are not met, the permit can be renewed for an unlimited duration</p> |
| | |

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| General Employment Permit | <p>Issued in cases where a contract for a designated highly skilled occupation has been offered for duration of less than two years, or for other occupations, apart from those included on the list of ineligible occupations, where a number of other criteria have been met</p> <p>These permits are available for occupations with an annual salary of EUR 30,000 or more. See below for exception</p> <p>Work permits will not be considered for occupations listed as ineligible for work permits</p> <p>A labor market needs test is required unless the occupation is included on the Highly Skilled Eligible Occupations List, or the job has a salary in excess of EUR 64,000 and is not classed as an ineligible occupation</p> <p>Either the employer or employee can apply for the employment permit, based on an offer of employment</p> <p>It will be granted to the employee and will include a statement of the employee's rights and entitlements</p> <p>The employer is prohibited from deducting recruitment expenses from the employee's pay or retaining the employee's personal documents</p> <p>Jobs with an annual remuneration of EUR 27,000 or more (EUR 30,000 at the renewal stage) are considered in the following exceptional cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-EEA students who have graduated in the last 12 months from a third-level Irish institution, and have been offered a graduate position from the Highly Skilled Occupations List • Non-EEA students who have graduated in the last 12 months from an overseas third level institution, and have been offered a graduate position as an ICT professional from the Highly Skilled Occupations List • Applications in respect of specialist language support and technical or sales support with a fluency in a non-EEA language for companies with formal support from the State enterprise development agencies |
| Intra-company Transfer Employment Permit | <p>This permit allows for the temporary transfer of employees between affiliated foreign and Irish companies</p> <p>Designed to facilitate the transfer of senior management, key personnel or trainees who are foreign nationals (who need an employment permit) from an overseas branch of a multinational corporation to its Irish branch</p> <p>This permit is not available for positions that are on the "Ineligible Categories of Employment for Employment Permits" list</p> <p>Applicants must earn a salary in excess of EUR 40,000 (EUR 30,000 for trainees) and have been working for their company for a minimum of six months (one month if a trainee) with the overseas company</p> <p>Permits are issued for an initial period of two years and may be extended to a maximum of five years</p> <p>Spouses/partners/dependents of these permit holders are not eligible to work by right and must apply of their own Employment Permit</p> |
| Reactivation Employment Permit | <p>This permit enables the return of individuals to employment who had fallen out of the employment permits system through no fault of their own (for example redundancy)</p> <p>It can be issued for an initial period of two years and can be renewed for a further three years</p> |
| Contract for Services Employment Permit | <p>Enables employees of foreign contractors, who have won a contract with an Irish-based entity, to work on the contract in Ireland</p> <p>Permits are issued for an initial two years maximum and may be extended upon application to a maximum stay of five years. Permits can only be valid for the duration of the contract</p> |

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| | <p>A minimum remuneration package of EUR 40,000 is required. Board and accommodation and Health insurance payments can be included in the value of the package</p> <p>A labor test is required in most cases unless the occupation is on the "Highly Skilled Eligible Occupation List," or attracts a salary of over EUR 64,000</p> |
| Exchange Agreement Employment Permit | Enables individuals on a designated international exchange agreement to work for up to a maximum of two years |
| Sports and Cultural Employment Permit | This permit enables individuals with sporting or cultural expertise to work in Ireland. It can be issued for a maximum period of two years. It is extendable further for up to three years, after which the holder is required to apply for long-term residency. |
| Internship Employment Permit | <p>A permit allowing students of foreign institutions to gain work experience, where the work experience is a key component of the course they are following</p> <p>It is a non-renewal permit, issued for a maximum period of one year</p> |

Application Procedure

The Employment Permits Section of the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation administers the Employment permits section. As of September 2016, applications for permits can be made online through the new Employment Permits Online System (EPOS).

Access to the "Highly Skilled Eligible Skills Occupation" list and the "Ineligible Categories of Employment for Employment Permits" list are available on the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation's website.

Permanent Residence

There is a right of permanent residence for EU nationals and their family members to live permanently in Ireland after a five-year period of uninterrupted legal residence in the country.

Long Term Residency for a non-EEA national is granted on the basis of having completed a minimum of five years legal residence in the state on work permit conditions which are reflected in the corresponding Stamp 1 or Stamp 4 endorsements on a person's passport (not by the dates of commencement and expiry of each work permit/work authorization/working visa). Periods of time for which a person has not been legally resident in the state (that is, does not have an up to date endorsement on their passport) cannot be counted towards an application for Long Term Residency.

A successful applicant in this situation will be granted Permission to Remain on a Stamp 4, which is valid for five years.

Foreign nationals have been in Ireland on the basis of work permit conditions for over five years, may apply for long term residency for a further five years. A spouse or civil partner and dependents may also apply for long-term residency if they have been legally resident in Ireland for at least five years. Applicants who are successful will get a stamp number 4 on their passport for five years and will no longer need a permit to work in Ireland. Dependents will get a stamp number 3 and will still be required to have an employment permit.

Foreign nationals, who have been legally resident for over eight years (they should not have been neither a student nor an asylum-seeker) may apply for stamp number 5 on their passport. This stamp permits them to remain in Ireland "without condition as to time." They are also eligible to work or engage in a business or profession while in Ireland. This stamp lasts until the expiry date of their passport, and can be renewed when a new passport is obtained.

Holders of a stamp 4 EU-FAM on their passport, may apply for a permanent residence card after five years in Ireland. Upon the completion of five years, they can be issued with a permanent residence card, which is valid for five years. It is also possible to apply for Irish citizenship through naturalization after five years of reckonable residence for citizenship purposes. A judicial ruling in July 2019 requires applicants for Irish citizenship to remain in Ireland continuously for 12 months before filing an application.

Since 1 January 2014, non-EEA doctors working for the public health service are given stamp 1 for 12 months or less when they first register, or when they re-register with their local immigration office. From 1 March 2014, all non-EEA doctors working in private and public hospitals in Ireland are required to have an employment permit. Their stamp 1 immigration permission will be for six months or 12 months, subject to the duration of their employment contract. Doctors who already have stamp 4 can have their Stamp 4 renewed for two years.

The spouse and/or dependent(s) of the applicant for Long Term Residency may also apply for Long Term Residency. In order to apply for Long

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Term Residency as a spouse/dependent, the applicant must be legally resident in the state as a spouse/dependent for the required five-year period. Successful applications from those who apply as a spouse/dependent will be granted Permission to Remain on a Stamp 3. This particular long-term permission does not exempt the spouse/dependent(s) from employment permit requirements.

It should be noted that, in order to submit an application for Long Term Residency as a Spouse/Dependent (Stamp 3) you must be the Spouse/Dependent of an applicant who has already been granted Long Term Residency on Stamp 4 conditions.

Contact Details

- Citizens Information
Web: www.citizensinformation.ie/en
Comments: The website has contact details for Citizens' Information Centers around the country. See the "Moving Country" page
- Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation
Web: www.djei.ie/labour/workpermits/index.htm
Comments: The Employment Permits Section does not have a public office and cannot facilitate personal callers to the office
- Department of Foreign Affairs
Web: www.dfa.ie
- Department of Justice and Equality
Web: www.justice.ie
- Employment Permits Online System (EPOS)
Web: <https://epos.djei.ie>
- Labour Market Needs Test
Web: www.djei.ie/en
Comments: See the "Employment Permits" section
- SOLAS (Further Education and Training Authority)
Email: info@solas.ie
Web: www.solas.ie

1.5 Customs and Import Regulations

Car Import

In general, all new motor vehicles and vehicles brought into Ireland are subject to Vehicle Registration Tax (VRT) and must be registered with the Revenue Commissioners. If you are moving to Ireland or are already living here and you are importing a car or other vehicle, you will need to do three things before you can drive your vehicle in Ireland:

- Pay Vehicle Registration Tax (VRT) (unless you are exempt)
- Have motor insurance
- Pay motor tax

A person coming from abroad to take up residence in Ireland may obtain tax relief for a motor vehicle brought from abroad as their personal property. The taxes involved are VRT and, in the case of transfer from outside the EU, import charges (customs duty and VAT).

Requirements

- For VRT purposes, you must have had your normal residence outside Ireland at the time of transfer. In the case of a transfer from outside the EU, you must have had your normal residence outside the EU for a continuous period of at least 12 months prior to the transfer
- The car must be your personal property
- The car must have been acquired with all the appropriate local taxes paid and these must not have been exempted, or refunded in any way
- You must have owned and used the vehicle outside Ireland for at least six months before your transfer. In the case of relief from import charges, you must have used the vehicle at your former normal place of residence
- You must bring the vehicle into Ireland within 12 months of the date of your transfer of residence
- Cars imported free of import charges under transfer of residence provisions must not be rented out, lent, sold or otherwise disposed of by the person transferring the residence for 12 months after their importation. If they are, the VRT (and customs duty and VAT if appropriate) must be paid in full

You are required to prove that you had possession of, and actually used the vehicle abroad, for at least six months before transfer and that the appropriate local taxes have been paid.

Documentation Required

- Completed application form
- The vehicle registration document
- The certificate of insurance
- The sales invoice, receipt of purchase or other similar document
- Evidence of the date on which the vehicle was brought into Ireland (for example, sailing ticket)
- Evidence to show that you have been living abroad for the required length of time
- Evidence to show that you are taking up residence in Ireland

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You may also be requested to produce other evidence (for example, evidence of maintenance and use of the vehicle).

All other requirements and procedures are the same as for importing household goods.

VAT

If you are importing a new car from another EU country you have to pay VAT (Value Added Tax), usually when registering the car. A new car means a car that has been in service for six months or less, or has been driven for 6,000 kilometers or less. The VAT is payable even if you have paid VAT in the other country.

If you are importing a new or used car from outside the EU, VAT (and customs duty) is payable.

If you are importing a new or used car from the UK to Ireland, you are required to pay additional charges, including customs duty, VAT and vehicle registration charges (if applicable).

Temporary Exemptions

In certain cases, a non-resident may import foreign-registered vehicles into Ireland temporarily without the requirement to pay the VRT or without registering the vehicle. A non-resident is someone who usually lives outside Ireland for at least 185 days each year and the temporary exemption is for a period of up to 12 months. Foreign students who are studying in Ireland may bring a foreign-registered vehicle into Ireland and the 12-month time limit will be extended to cover the completion of their course. The following conditions apply:

- The vehicle must have been acquired with all the appropriate taxes paid and these must not have been exempted or refunded in any way. The standard registration plates in use in the domestic market of a country are normally accepted as evidence of this
- The vehicle may not in any circumstances be driven by an Irish resident
- The vehicle may not be disposed of or rented out in Ireland or lent to an Irish resident
- The period of time that the vehicle is in Ireland does not exceed 12 months
- A longer period may apply where a person is on a task of definite duration in Ireland

Registration

Once the vehicle has been imported and cleared through customs, it must be registered at your nearest Vehicle Registration Office (VRO). In order to register an unregistered vehicle (or one previously registered outside Ireland), you must make an appointment with the National Car Testing Service (NCTS) within seven days of its entry into Ireland to have a pre-registration examination of the vehicle carried out. You must complete the registration process and pay VRT at the NCTS Centre within 30 days of the arrival of the vehicle in Ireland. Details of your local VRO can be found at the Irish Revenue and Customs website. All unregistered vehicle inspections will only be dealt with at one of the designated NCT Centers and only customers with a confirmed booking will have their vehicle inspected.

From 2 January 2014, in addition to the required documents mentioned below, a VRT Vehicle Purchase Details (VRTVPD) Form must be completed by all persons wishing to register a vehicle.

Documentation Required

- Passport or driving license
- Declaration Form for the Registration of a new Vehicle/ Motorcycle – can be downloaded from the NCTS website
- EU Whole Vehicle Type-Approval Certificate of Conformity or IVA NASSTA Certificate of Conformity (CoC) - where applicable, please provide an English translation of this document. (This document will be retained by NCTS, so please ensure you make a copy of it before you go to the test center)
- Vehicle invoice, which must have the date of purchase/sale clearly indicated
- Documentation verifying the new registered owner's name and address (Utility bill, bank statement, please note original documentation will only be accepted and must be no older than 6 months)
- Personal Public Service (PPS) Number of the person in whose name the vehicle is to be registered (Official documentation will only be accepted, for example Social Services Card, P60)
- For vehicles purchased in the EU, shipping details to confirm the date of arrival of the vehicle in the state. For vehicles outside the EU, the single administrative number and the date it was issued by customs at the point of entry to the EU
- Where an exemption from VRT is claimed, the exemption certificate issued
- Documentation (as approved by the Revenue Commissioners) confirming the level of CO2 emissions of the vehicle at the time of manufacture (if this information is not on the foreign certificate of registration). Where evidence of the level of CO2 emissions of the vehicle at the time of manufacture is not available at registration VRT will be charged at the highest rate applicable
- For vehicles over 4 years old, an unexpired roadworthiness certificate confirming that an equivalent to the NCT test has been passed. The vehicle will be called for a roadworthiness test (NCT) shortly after registration

Vehicle Registration Tax (VRT)

- Following inspection of the vehicle, the Vehicle Registration Tax (VRT, if applicable) will be calculated by the official at the VRO. You must present the foreign registration document and purchase invoice
- Once the vehicle has been registered by the revenue commissioners and the VRT paid (if applicable), a receipt specifying the registration number will be supplied. The new registration number must be displayed within three days. License plates can be obtained from any motor

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A registration certificate, issued by the Department of Transport, will be mailed to you after you have applied to your local motor tax office for your motor tax license. The motor tax disc must be displayed on the vehicle.

All motorists are required to carry a valid driving license with them at all times when driving in Ireland.

National Car Test

If the vehicle is four years old, it must go through the National Car Test (NCT) immediately. Thereafter, tests must be done every two years until the car is ten years old. Cars over ten years must be tested every year. This applies even if the vehicle has previously received a MOT or any other vehicle test abroad. The NCT test certificate will be valid until the next test due date. After that, if the vehicle is still in Ireland, it must be tested again.

Contact Details

- **Citizens Information**
Web: www.citizensinformation.ie/en
Comments: See the 'Travel and Recreation' page for all vehicle related information
- **Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport**
Web: www.dttas.ie
- **Irish Revenue and Customs**
Web: www.revenue.ie
Comments: All office locations are available on the website
- **National Car Testing Service (NCTS) – Vehicle Testing**
Web: www.ncts.ie
Comments: Bookings for vehicle testing can be made on the website. The website has details of nationwide center locations

Duty-free Allowances

Detailed information on customs, import and export procedures can be found on the Irish Revenue website. The following information is for general guidance only.

Travelers from EU countries

Goods purchased in other EU countries are not liable to further taxation in Ireland, as long as they are for personal use. You will be asked to prove it is for your personal use if you enter the country with more than the following amounts. Although Gibraltar, the Canary Islands and the Channel Islands are part of the EU, they are subject to special provisions and therefore the duty free allowances for outside the EU apply.

As a general rule, the following quantities are considered for personal use and may be imported by travelers over the age of 17 years into Ireland without incurring customs duty:

- Tobacco products: 800 cigarettes, 400 cigarillos or 200 cigars, 1 kilograms of smoking/pipe tobacco
- Alcoholic beverages: 10 liters of spirits over 22%, 20 liters of alcoholic beverages of less than 22%, 90 liters of wine (no more than 60 liters sparkling wine), 110 liters of beer

Amounts over these limits must be declared and the appropriate duties and taxes paid.

From 1 January 2014, there is a reduced limit of 300 cigarettes that can be imported into Ireland for personal use that have been purchased in the following EU countries:

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| Bulgaria | Hungary | Lithuania |
| Croatia | Latvia | Romania |

Travelers from Non-EU countries

- Tobacco products: 200 cigarettes or 100 cigarillos or 50 cigars or 250 grams of smoking/pipe tobacco or a proportional mix of these products
- Alcoholic beverages: 1 liter of spirits over 22% volume or non-denatured ethyl alcohol with more than 80% volume, 2 liters of alcoholic drinks (other than still wine) not exceeding 22% vol. (for example, sparkling or fortified wine, some liqueurs) or a proportional mix of these products and 4 liters of still wine and 16 liters of beer

Other goods including beer, gifts and souvenirs, valued at a maximum of EUR 430 per adult and EUR 215 per child under 15 years of age, are

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allowable to be imported without incurring a tax. If you bring in any single item worth more than your allowance, you must pay duty and/or tax on the full item value, not just the value above the allowance. You also cannot group individual allowances together to bring in an item worth more than the limit. Persons under the age of 17 years are not entitled to tobacco products or alcoholic drinks allowances.

Household Effects

Foreign residents moving to Ireland from within the EU can import their household effects duty free.

Individuals who have had their normal place of residence outside the EU for at least 12 continuous months, may import personal goods duty free under the following conditions as described on the Irish Customs Authority website.

- No relief from Customs Duty and VAT is granted for alcoholic products or tobacco products forming part of the personal property of individuals transferring residence, other than the normal duty free allowances available to travelers
- No relief is granted for articles for use in the exercise of a trade or profession, other than portable instruments of the applied or liberal arts (which includes artists, sculptors and professions such as doctors, barristers and solicitors)

In order to qualify for the relief the following conditions must be observed:

- The goods must have been obtained duty and tax-paid in the country of purchase (There are certain exceptions in the case of diplomats and members of international organizations recognized by the Minister for Foreign Affairs - details are available from Revenue)
- The goods must have been in the possession of and used by the person transferring residence for a minimum period of six months (12 months in the case of goods acquired duty-free by diplomats and members of international organizations) at his/her former normal place of residence prior to the date of transfer of residence
- The person transferring residence must have had his/her place of normal residence outside the EC for a continuous period of at least twelve months prior to the transfer. However, relief may also be granted if it can be established that the intention was clearly to reside outside the EC for a continuous period of at least 12 months
- Importation of the goods must take place within six months before or twelve months after the date of the transfer. Where the importation takes place before the transfer of residence, the person concerned must give an undertaking to actually take up residence in Ireland within six months of the importation
- Importation of wedding presents must take place either two months before the wedding date or four months after the wedding date.
- The value of wedding presents to be imported must not exceed EUR 1,000.
- The goods may not be rented out, lent, sold or otherwise disposed of for twelve months after their importation unless import charges are paid

Documentation Required

- Irish customs form 1076 (Transfer of residence from outside the EU) or 1077 (Transfer of residence from within the EU)
- Legible inventory in English signed by the owner of the goods
- Evidence of transfer of normal residence (required details are printed on the cover of Form 1076)
- Documentation relating to rental or purchase of accommodation in Ireland (copy of deeds relating to ownership of residence or letter from landlord confirming residency)
- Copy of passport
- Evidence of employment in Ireland
- Evidence of previous residence abroad (statement from previous employer, utility bills, bank statements and other related documents)
- Sales invoices or receipts of purchase or other similar documentation which clearly establish, where relevant, that all taxes and duties payable on the goods have been paid and were not refunded
- Articles of gold or silver plate (other than those which are electroplated) which are being imported, should be accompanied by a declaration that the goods are for private use and not for sale or exchange
- Original Ocean Bill of Lading (OLB) or airway bill
- Container manifest

The owner of the goods does not need to be present for customs clearance. Revenue may decide to examine the goods. Except for very small consignments, which can be examined at the place of importation, examinations are normally carried out at the owner's private residence or other place suitable for examination where the goods can be fully unloaded. This facility can be arranged at the written request of the importer or his/her agent. Removal of the goods to the place of examination and the payment of any expenses arising from the attendance of the Revenue official for the examination is the responsibility of the importer or his/her agent.

Contact Details

- Irish Revenue and Customs
Web: www.revenue.ie

Importing Currency

At present, there are no restrictions on the import of local or foreign currency. However, you will need to fill in a customs declaration form for amounts over EUR 10,000, or its equivalent in foreign currency, if arriving from a country outside the Eurozone. The export of currency over EUR 10,000 is restricted to the amount declared on import, if traveling to a country outside the Eurozone.

Prohibited Goods

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The main goods that may not be imported or may be imported only under license include:

- Firearms, ammunition and explosives
- Fireworks
- Dangerous drugs
- Indecent or obscene material (books, periodicals, prints and video recordings)
- Plants or bulbs
- Live or dead animals (including cats and dogs), birds, eggs or poultry, endangered species
- Meat and meat products
- Hay or straw (even if used as packing)

Contact Details

- Irish Revenue and Customs
Web: www.revenue.ie

1.6 Embassies

Foreign Embassies in Ireland

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| Australia | Address: 3rd Floor, 47/49 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2; Tel: +353 1 664 5300; Fax: +353 1 678 5185; Email: austremb.dublin@dfat.gov.au; Web: www.ireland.embassy.gov.au |
| Austria | Address: 6 Ailesbury Road, Dublin 4; Tel: +353 1 269 4577, +353 1 269 1451; Fax: +353 1 283 0860; Email: dublin-ob@bmeia.gv.at; Web: www.bmeia.gv.at/en/embassy/dublin.html |
| Belgium | Address: 1 Elgin Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4; Tel: +353 1 660 0880; Fax: +353 1 667 5665; Email: dublin@diplobel.fed.be; Web: https://diplomatie.belgium.be/en/ireland |
| Bulgaria | Address: 22 Burlington Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4; Tel: +353 1 660 3293; Fax: +353 660 3915; Email: embassy.dublin@mfa.bg; Web: www.mfa.bg/embassies/ireland |
| Canada | Address: 7-8 Wilton Terrace, Dublin 2; Tel: +353 1 234 4000; Fax: +353 1 234 4001; Email: dubln@international.gc.ca; Web: www.Ireland.gc.ca |
| China | Address: 40 Ailesbury Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4; Tel: +353 1 269 0032; Fax: +353 1 283 9938; Email: pa.chineseembassy.ie@gmail.com; Web: http://ie.chineseembassy.org/eng |
| Croatia | Address: Adelaide Chambers, Peter Street, Dublin 8; Tel: +353 1 476 7181; Fax: +353 1 476 7183; Email: croemb.dublin@mvp.hr; Web: http://ie.mvp.hr |
| Czech Republic | Address: 57 Northumberland Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4; Tel: +353 1 668 1135; Fax: +353 1 668 1660; Email: dublin@embassy.mzv.cz; Web: www.mzv.cz/dublin |
| Denmark | Address: 7th Floor, Block E, Iveagh Court, Harcourt Road, Dublin 2; Tel: +353 1 475 6404; Fax: +353 1 478 4536; Email: dubamb@um.dk; Web: www.ambdublin.um.dk |
| Estonia | Address: 3rd Floor, Block E, Iveagh Court, Harcourt Road, Dublin 2; Tel: +353 1 478 8888; Fax: +353 1478 8887; Email: embassy.dublin@mfa.ee; Web: https://dublin.mfa.ee/ |
| Finland | Address: Russell House, Stokes Place, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2; Tel: +353 1 478 1344; Fax: +353 1 478 3727; Email: sanomat.dub@formin.fi; Web: www.finland.ie |
| France | Address: 66 Fitzwilliam Lane, Dublin 2; Tel: +353 1 277 5000; Fax: +353 1 277 5004; Email: chancellerie.dublin-amba@diplomatie.gouv.fr, webmestre@ambafrance-ie.org; Web: www.ambafrance-ie.org |
| Germany | Address: 31 Trimleston Avenue, Booterstown/Blackrock, Co. Dublin; Tel: +353 1 277 6100; Fax: +353 1 277 6110; Email: |

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| | info@dublin.diplo.de; Web: www.dublin.diplo.de |
| Greece | Address: 1 Upper Pembroke Street, Dublin 2; Tel: +353 1 676 7254, +353 1 676 7255; Fax: +353 1 661 8892; Email: gremb.dub@mfa.gr; Web: www.mfa.gr/missionsabroad/en/ireland-en |
| Hungary | Address: 2 Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin 2; Tel: +353 1 661 3091, +353 1 661 3092; Fax: +353 1 661 2880; Email: mission.dub@mfa.gov.hu; Web: https://dublin.mfa.gov.hu |
| India | Address: 69 Merrion Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, Co Dublin; Tel: +353 1 206 0932, +353 1 206 0913; Fax: +353 1 497 8074; Email: cons.dublin@mea.gov.in; Web: www.indianembassydublin.gov.in |
| Italy | Address: 63/65 Northumberland Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4; Tel: +353 1 660 1744; Fax: +353 1 668 2759; Email: ambasciata.dublino@esteri.it; Web: www.ambdublino.esteri.it |
| Japan | Address: Nutley Building, Merrion Center, Nutley Lane, Dublin 4; Tel: +353 1 202 8300; Fax: +353 1 283 8726; Email: consular@ir.mofa.go.jp; Web: www.ie.emb-japan.go.jp |
| Latvia | Address: 23 Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin 2; Tel: +353 1 478 0161; Fax: +353 1 478 0162; Email: embassy.ireland@mfa.gov.lv; Web: www.am.gov.lv/ireland |
| Lithuania | Address: 47 Ailesbury Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4; Tel: +353 1 203 5757; Fax: +353 1 283 9354; Email: amb.ie@urm.lt; Web: http://ie.mfa.lt |
| Malta | Address: 15 Leeson Street Lower, Dublin 2; Tel: +353 1 676 2340; Fax: +353 1 676 6066; Email: maltaembassy.dublin@gov.mt; Web: https://foreignaffairs.gov.mt/en/Embassies/Me_Dublin/Pages/Me_Dublin.aspx |
| Netherlands | Address: 160 Merrion Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4; Tel: +353 1 269 3444; Fax: +353 1 283 9690; Email: dub@minbuza.nl; Web: www.netherlandsworldwide.nl/countries/ireland |
| Norway | Address: Ferry House, 48-53 Mount Street Lower, Dublin 2; Tel: +353 1 662 1800; Fax: +353 1 678 8796; Email: emb.dublin@mfa.no; Web: www.norway.no/en/ireland/ |
| Poland | Address: 5 Ailesbury Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 1; Tel: +353 1 283 0855; Fax: +353 1 269 8309; Email: dublin@msz.gov.pl; Web: www.gov.pl/web/ireland |
| Portugal | Address: 70 Upper Leeson Street, Dublin 4; Tel: +353 1 669 9100; Fax: +353 1 497 0299; Email: dublin@mne.pt; Web: www.dublin.embaixadaportugal.mne.gov.pt/en/ |
| Romania | Address: 26 Waterloo Road, Dublin 4; Tel: +353 1 668 1150; Fax: +353 1 668 1761; Email: dublin@mae.ro; Web: http://dublin.mae.ro |
| Russia | Address: 184-186 Orwell Road, Rathgar, Dublin 14; Tel: +353 1 492 2048; Fax: +353 1 492 3525; Email: russianembassydublin@mid.ru; Web: www.ireland.mid.ru |
| Slovakia | Address: 80 Merrion Square South, Dublin 2; Tel: +353 1 661 9594; Fax: +353 1 661 9553; Email: emb.dublin@mzv.sk; Web: www.mzv.sk/dublin |
| South Africa | Address: 2nd Floor, Alexandra House, Earlsfort Centre, Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2; Tel: +353 1 661 5553; Fax: +353 1 661 5590; Email: dublin.dha@dirco.gov.za; Web: www.dirco.gov.za/foreign/bilateral/ireland.html |
| Spain | Address: 17a Merlyn Park, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4; Tel: +353 1 269 1640; Fax: +353 1 269 1854; Email: emb.dublin@maec.es; Web: www.exteriores.gob.es/Embajadas/DUBLIN/en |
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| Switzerland | Address: 6 Ailesbury Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4; Tel: +353 1 218 6382; Fax: +353 1 283 0344; Email: dublin@eda.admin.ch; Web: www.eda.admin.ch/dublin |
| Turkey | Address: 8 Raglan Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4; Tel: +353 1 668 5240; Fax: +353 1 668 5014; Email: embassy.dublin@mfa.gov.tr; Web: www.dublin.be.mfa.gov.tr |
| United Kingdom | Address: 29 Merrion Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4; Tel: +353 1 205 3700; Fax: +353 1 205 3885; Email: chancery.dublin@fco.gov.uk; Web: www.gov.uk/government/world/ireland |
| United States | Address: 42 Elgin Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4; Tel: +353 1 668 8777; Email: ircdublin@state.gov; Web: https://ie.usembassy.gov |

Irish Embassies Abroad

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Australia | Address: 20 Arkana Street, Yarralumla, Canberra, ACT 2600; Tel: +61 2 6214 0000; Fax: +61 2 6273 3741; Web: www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/australia |
| Austria | Address: 5th Floor, Rotenturmstrasse 16-18, 1010 Vienna; Tel: +43 1 715 4246; Fax: +43 1 713 6004; Web: www.embassyofireland.at |
| Belgium | Address: Rue Froissart 50, 1040 Brussels; Tel: +32 2 282 3400; Web: www.embassyofireland.be |
| Bulgaria | Address: Platinum Business Centre, 26-28 Bacho Kiro Street, 1000 Sofia; Tel: +359 2 985 3425; Fax: +359 2 983 3302; Web: www.embassyofireland.bg |
| Canada | Address: Suite 1105, 130 Albert Street, Ottawa, K1P 5G4 Ontario; Tel: +1 613 233 6281; Fax: +1 613 233 5835; Web: www.embassyofireland.ca |
| China | Address: 3 Ritan East Road, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100600; Tel: +86 10 8531 6200; Fax: +86 10 6532 6857; Web: www.embassyofireland.cn |
| Cyprus | Address: 7, Aiantos Street, Agioi Omologites, 1082 Nicosia; Tel: +357 22 818 183; Fax: +357 22 660 050; Web: www.embassyofireland.com.cy |
| Czech Republic | Address: Trziste 13, Second Floor, 118 00 Prague 1; Tel: +420 257 011 280; Web: www.embassyofireland.cz |
| Denmark | Address: Ostbanegade 21, 2100 Copenhagen; Tel: +45 35 473 200; Fax: +45 35 431 858; Web: www.embassyofireland.dk |
| Finland | Address: Erottajankatu 7A, 00130 Helsinki; Postal Address: PL 33, 00131 Helsinki; Tel: +358 9 6824 240; Fax: +358 9 646 022; Web: www.embassyofireland.fi |
| France | Address: 12 Avenue Foch, 75116 Paris; Tel: +33 1 4417 6700; Fax: +33 1 5364 0683; Web: www.embassyofireland.fr |
| Germany | Address: Jagerstrasse 51, 10117 Berlin; Tel: +49 30 220 720; Fax: +49 30 220 72299; Web: www.embassyofireland.de |
| Greece | Address: 7 Leoforos Vasileos, Konstantinou, 10674 Athens; Tel: +30 210 723 2771; Fax: +30 210 729 3383; Web: www.embassyofireland.gr |
| Hungary | Address: Bank Center, 6th floor, Platina Tower 2, 1054 Budapest; Tel: +36 1 301 4960; Fax: +36 1 302 9599; Web: www.embassyofireland.hu |
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| India | Address: C17 Malcha Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi 110021; Tel: +91 11 4940 3200; Fax: +91 11 4059 1898; Web: www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/india |
| Italy | Address: Villa Spada, Via Giacomo Medici, 1 - 00153 Rome; Tel: +39 06 585 2381; Fax: +39 06 581 3336; Web: www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/italy/ |
| Japan | Address: Ireland House, 5th Floor, 2-10-7 Kojimachi, Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo 102-0083; Tel: +81 3 3263 0695; Fax: +81 3 3265 2275; Web: www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/japan/ |
| Latvia | Address: Alberta iela, 13, 1010 Riga; Tel: +371 6703 9370; Fax: +371 6703 9371; Web: www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/latvia/ |
| Lithuania | Address: Gedimino Prospektas1, LT-01103 Vilnius; Tel: +370 5 262 9460; Fax: +370 5 262 9462; Web: www.embassyofireland.lt |
| Luxembourg | Address: Residence Christina, 2nd floor, 28 Route D'Arlon, L-1140 Luxembourg; Tel: +352 450 610; Fax: +352 458 820; Web: www.embassyofireland.lu |
| Malta | Address: Whitehall Mansions, Ta' Xbiex Seafront; Tel: +356 21 334 744; Fax: +356 21 334 755; Web: www.embassyofireland.org.mt |
| Netherlands | Address: Scheveningseweg 112, 2584 AE The Hague; Tel: +31 70 363 0993; Fax: + 31 70 361 7604; Web: www.irishembassy.nl |
| Norway | Address: Haakon VII's gate 1, 0244 Oslo; Tel: +47 2201 7200; Fax: +47 2201 7201; Web: www.embassyofireland.no |
| Poland | Address: Ul. Mysia 5, 00-496 Warsaw; Tel: +48 22 564 2200; Fax: +48 22 849 8431; Web: www.embassyofireland.pl |
| Portugal | Address: Avenida da Liberdade 200, 4th Floor, 1250-147 Lisbon; Tel: +351 21 330 8200; Fax: +351 21 397 7363; Web: www.embassyofireland.pt |
| Romania | Address: 50 - 52 Buzesti Street, Floor 3, Sector 1, 011015 Bucharest; Tel: +40 21 408 8000; Fax: +4021 313 0702; Web: www.embassyofireland.ro |
| Russia | Address: Grokholski Perulok 5, Moscow 129090; Tel: +7 495 937 5911; Fax: +7 495 680 0623; Web: www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/russia/ |
| Slovakia | Address: Carlton Savoy Building, Mostova 2, 811 02 Bratislava 1; Tel: +421 2 3233 8700; Fax: +421 2 5443 0690; Web: www.embassyofireland.sk |
| Slovenia | Address: Palaca Kapitelj, Poljanski nasip 6, 1000 Ljubljana; Tel: +386 1 300 8970; Fax: +386 1 282 1096; Web: www.embassyofireland.si |
| South Africa | Address: 2nd Floor, Parkdev Building, Brooklyn Bridge Office Park, 570 Fehrsen Street, Brooklyn 0181, Pretoria; Tel: +27 12 452 1000; Fax: +27 12 342 4752; Web: www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/south-africa |
| Spain | Address: Ireland House, Paseo de la Castellana 46-4, 28046 Madrid; Tel: +34 91 436 4093; Fax: +34 91 435 1677; Web: www.embassyofireland.es |
| Sweden | Address: Hovslagargatan 5, 11148 Stockholm; Tel: +46 8 5450 4040; Fax: +46 8 660 1353; Web: www.embassyofireland.se |
| Switzerland | Address: Kirchenfeldstrasse 68, 3000 Bern; Tel: +41 31 350 0380; Fax: +41 31 352 1455; Web: www.embassyofireland.ch |
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| Turkey | Address: Ugur Mumcu Caddesi No.88, MNG Binasi, B Blok Kat 3, Gaziosmanpasa, 06700 Ankara; Tel: +90 312 459 1000; Fax: +90 312 446 8061; Web: www.embassyofireland.org.tr |
| United Kingdom | Address: 17 Grosvenor Place, London SW1X 7HR; Tel: +44 20 7235 2171; (Passport & Visa Office) Address: 114a Cromwell Road, London, SW7 4ES; Tel: +44 207 235 2171; Fax: +44 207 589 8450; Web: www.embassyofireland.co.uk |
| United States | Address: 2234 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20008; Tel: +1 202 462 3939; Fax: +1 202 232 5993; Web: www.embassyofireland.org |

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2 Living in Ireland

2.1 My Living Accommodations

Availability and Costs

Expatriate accommodation costs can vary according to availability, size and neighborhood. Therefore, indicated cost figures are provided for general reference only.

The Irish have one of the highest home-ownership rates in the world. Typically, August, September and October are the busiest months in the rental market due to the beginning of the academic year at universities and the demand for rental accommodation from students.

Residential rental values have continued to slightly decrease in Dublin over the past months. The decreases have been observed especially in apartment properties. Furnished houses are currently limited to three-bedroom units. Unfurnished apartments are available with two-bedroom units. Serviced apartments are readily available.

Rent for a three-bedroom furnished house in a good to superior area ranges from EUR 4,100 to EUR 6,600 per month, respectively. On average, a two-bedroom furnished apartment in a good area costs around EUR 3,250 up to a maximum of EUR 5,100 per month in a superior area. Parking is usually included in apartment rent. If parking is not included, you can expect to pay between EUR 100 and EUR 300 per month extra. Maintenance charges and property tax are included in the rent.

Buying Furniture and Electrical Equipment

Both locally made and imported furniture is readily available. There are specialized furniture stores and electrical appliance stores, as well as furniture and electrical departments in large shops such as department stores. Items are of good quality and after-sales service is good. Repairs and maintenance services are easy to find.

The selection of goods and furniture is wide, with the quality of the items reflected in the prices. There are branches of IKEA, Harvey Norman, Marks and Spencer and House of Fraser in the city. These are all popular choices of furniture and electrical retailers for expats. Power City and DID Electrical sell household electrical items. Other stores favored by the expatriate community include Argos, Arnotts and Tesco.

- **Argos**
Web: www.argos.ie
Comments: There are many branches around the city. They stock a very large range of all household appliances and furniture, including soft furnishings. The website has location details. Popular with expats
- **Arnotts**
Address: 12 Henry Street, Dublin 1
Tel: +353 1 805 0400
Email: customerservice@arnotts.ie
Web: www.arnotts.ie
Comments: This is a large department store with a wide range of furniture, appliances and other home ware. The store is popular with expatriates in the city
- **Dunnes Stores**
Web: <http://dunnesstores.ie>
Comments: There are many stores in Dublin and around Ireland. The website has contact details. Sells small kitchen appliances and household items
- **Harvey Norman**
Web: www.harveynorman.ie
Comments: There are several stores in Dublin and around Ireland. The website has contact details. Sells Ireland's largest range of domestic kitchen and laundry appliances as well as a good range of furniture
- **IKEA**
Address: St Margarets Road, Ballymun, Dublin 11
Tel: +353 1 541 3300, 1890 987 938 (within Ireland)
Web: www.ikea.com/ie/en/store/dublin
Hours: Daily 10am to 8pm
Comments: This is the only IKEA store in Ireland
- **Tesco**
Web: www.tesco.ie
Comments: There are a large number of outlets in the city area. They stock a wide range of home ware. The stores are popular with the expat community. Location details are on the website
- **Power City**
Web: www.powercity.ie
Comments: There are several stores in Dublin and around Ireland. They sell small and large kitchen appliances, household electrical goods and electronic items

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Districts in Dublin

Houses

- **Areas popular with both locals and some international assignees:** Castleknock, Donnybrook, Killiney, Stillorgan, Rathmines
- **Areas suitable for international assignees:** Ballsbridge, Blackrock, Booterstown, Donnybrook, Dun Laoghaire, Foxrock, Killiney, Ranelagh, Rathgar, Sandymount
- **Exclusive areas:** Blackrock, Dalkey, Dun Laoghaire, Foxrock, Rathgar, Sandymount, Ballsbridge

Apartments

- **Areas popular with both locals and some international assignees:** Castleknock, Donnybrook, Dun Laoghaire, Ranelagh, Rathmines, Rathgar, Stillorgan
- **Areas suitable for international assignees:** Blackrock, Donnybrook, Dun Laoghaire, Foxrock, Rathgar, Sandymount, Ballsbridge, Ballsbridge (serviced)
- **Exclusive areas:** Blackrock, Dalkey, Foxrock, Grand Canal Dock, Ballsbridge, Ballsbridge (serviced)

Ballsbridge

Ballsbridge is a well-known suburb that has become the chosen location of many national public and private organizations. The area is located about 4 kilometers (2.5 miles) from the city center. It is one of the most exclusive residential areas, home to predominantly middle and upper-income professionals, including ambassadors and diplomats. It is a green and peaceful suburb with grand Victorian and Georgian architecture with off-street parking. Ballsbridge has excellent connections with the city center by the DART rapid train line, is close to the airport, the International Financial Services Centre, the ferry terminal and to championship golf courses. There is a wide range of accommodation available, ranging from apartments, terraces and bungalows to semi-detached and detached houses.

Blackrock

Blackrock is a delightful area, 8 kilometers (5 miles) from the city center, which will suit those who wish to benefit from the picturesque coastline to the southeast of Dublin. It enjoys a village atmosphere and offers many shops and a shopping center with a wide variety of goods to choose from. There are many pubs and restaurants in which to relax, and the area is well-served by public transport, including a DART commuter station. St. Andrews International School is located here.

Booterstown

Booterstown is a coastal townland, located about 7 kilometers (4 miles) from Dublin city center. The area is served by the Dublin Area Rapid Transit (DART) train system. There are also two bus services in the area. The additional Aircoach service links the residential area to the international airport. The area offers a good selection of quality houses. There are no apartments available. The Catholic Church of the Assumption is one of the landmarks along Booterstown Road. The German Embassy is located nearby. There are a number of restaurants, a few schools and childcare facilities in the area as well. Medical services, banks and other amenities are readily available. The local Booterstown Nature Reserve is a popular recreation area.

Castleknock

Castleknock is located 8 kilometers (5 miles) west of Dublin city center on the periphery of County Dublin. It is very well connected to the transport network, lying just inside the M50 circular highway, close to the Royal Canal and on the Dublin–Sligo rail link. Castleknock is a pleasant village, which has attracted many wealthy inhabitants.

Dalkey

The town of Dalkey is located about 13 kilometers (8 miles) southeast of Dublin, on the coast. Its picturesque situation with views of sea and mountains make it one of the most attractive locations. Dalkey is a residential and tourist area, with practically no industry. It remains very much a village, and has changed very little over the last hundred years. The town attracts many well-known personalities drawn to the lifestyle afforded by Dalkey, and it is one of the most sought after destinations Dublin has to offer. The village life remains completely un-spoilt due to the area being a heritage town and the village is currently experiencing a revival with many new shops, restaurants and delis opening and flourishing. Most of the working population goes to the city or south to Bray to work, and there is a good commuter rail service between these places. There is also a good bus service to Dublin.

- **Dalkey Village**
Web: www.dalkeyvillage.net

Donnybrook

Donnybrook offers a wide range of properties from grand mansions to small cottages but is characterized by large six to seven-bedroom Victorian town houses. The area is located about 5 kilometers (3 miles) from the city center. It is a highly sought after and wealthy location with particularly desirable properties around Herbert Park, Marlborough Road, Eglinton Road and Mount Eden Road. It is very well served by schools

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and other services.

Dun Laoghaire

Dun Laoghaire is a suburban seaside town about 12 kilometers (8 miles) south of Dublin city center, and is a major port of entry from the UK. The town boasts many amenities including two shopping centers, a hospital, a harbor and marina, a promenade, a theater and cinema, and a wide range of bars and restaurants. Dun Laoghaire has its own railway station connecting it to Dublin by DART, and it is also a stop on the mainline from Dublin to Wexford and Rosslare. The town is also served by a frequent bus service.

- Dun Laoghaire Town
Web: www.dunlaoghaire.ie

Foxrock

Foxrock, which is located about 13 kilometers (8 miles) from the city area, is like many others, a suburb that originated as an individual village. The majority of its residents are from mid- to upper-income professional groups with many lawyers and executives. Due to the housing boom in Ireland, it has experienced numerous housing developments in recent times, so there is a wide range of houses and apartments available to those wishing to settle in the area. The Foxrock Golf Club and the Leopardstown Golf Centre provide excellent recreation facilities in the area. The French International School is located in Foxrock. A wide range of amenities is available, including medical facilities, veterinary services and shopping areas.

- Foxrock Village
Web: www.foxrock.ie

Grand Canal Dock

Grand Canal Dock is located very near the city center of Dublin. Since 2000, the area has undergone significant re-construction as part of the docklands re-development project. The Millennium Tower, which is a high-rise apartment complex, is one of the landmarks in this popular area. The area generally offers a superior level of apartment accommodation. The area offers a wide range of business amenities and entertainment and has an excellent transport network.

- Dublin Docklands
Web: www.dublindocklands.ie

Malahide

Malahide is an attractive town located 16 kilometers (10 miles) north of Dublin City Center. The sea has influenced much of the development of the town and one its key features is the 300-berth marina, making it place a very popular place for sailors. The town has a good variety of restaurants and pubs with traditional music. Despite some modernization, Malahide largely maintains its character, with a fine collection of Georgian houses in the town and along the seafront. It a popular spot for day-trippers especially in the summer months. There are more modern housing developments around the town. Malahide has a higher percentage of professionals living in it than any other town in Ireland.

- Malahide
Web: www.malahide.ie

Merrien Road & Pembroke Road

Merrien Road, which eventually becomes Pembroke Road, along the R118, runs from the coastal area towards the city center. A wide range of excellent and superior levels of apartment are available in these areas. The United States Embassy is located just off Pembroke Road and the Spanish Embassy if located just off Merrion Road. All amenities are readily available.

Ranelagh

Ranelagh is another village, about 3 kilometers (2 miles) from the city center, incorporated into the greater Dublin urban area by its urban expansion. Today it is predominantly residential, located to the south of Dublin city center. Like Sandymount however, it has maintained its village charm particularly around the original village focal point, "the Triangle," where there is a strong community feel with small, independently run shops, including a wide variety of restaurants. Ranelagh is one of the more exclusive residential areas of Dublin with property prices only slightly lower than those in Dublin.

Rathgar

Rathgar lies within an architectural conservation zone and has therefore kept its village atmosphere with predominantly red brick Victorian terraces. It offers a wide variety of services and amenities and excellent public transport. Rathgar is located 3 kilometers (2 miles) south of Dublin city center and is one of the most fashionable and exclusive residential areas of Dublin.

Rathmines & Rathmines Road

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Rathmines is within easy reach of Dublin city center, Lansdowne Road stadium and the Royal Dublin Society Exhibition Centre. The area is rapidly becoming quite fashionable and is characterized by a mix of families, expatriates and students from lower to middle income backgrounds. There are many semi-detached houses and apartments to be found here that are well served by a variety of shops, restaurants and recreational amenities. Dublin's main museums, galleries and the popular Grafton Street are only a fifteen-minute walk away. Rathmines Road (Upper & Lower) runs directly towards the city center. A large number of apartments are located along the area. Many popular restaurants and large stores, such as Tesco Metro, are located in Rathmines Road. One of the main bus routes runs along Rathmines Road.

Sandymount

Sandymount is found on the Dublin coastline, 3 kilometers (2 miles) south of the city center. It has maintained its village appeal. Sandymount is a highly desirable area; one can relax and enjoy the coastline, yet profit from the rapid transport links with Dublin city center.

Stillorgan

Stillorgan was originally a satellite village to the city of Dublin. The area has managed to keep its original village center, although today it has become a suburb of Dublin due to its urban expansion. As a result, Stillorgan boasts a wide range of goods, services and amenities. The Stillorgan Village Centre offers an excellent shopping experience. A range of houses and apartments are available. The area is popular with locals and some international assignees.

Finding Accommodation

The variety and choice of rented accommodation in Dublin is good. However, compared with the general cost of living in Ireland, the cost of good rented accommodation is relatively high. Rents have reportedly returned back to their peaks after the European financial crisis.

Most rented accommodation is found through rental agencies, house-hunting services, or through advertisements in local newspapers or over the internet. It may be necessary to enlist the services of a few agencies, in order to view a range of accommodation. Some agencies charge registration fees for viewing properties.

When using the services of an estate agent, it is a good idea to contact them at least one month in advance, so they have time to arrange several viewings for you. This will give you a wider selection to choose from and make your search more efficient.

In the past, there has been a growing number of apartment frauds. Be vigilant and make sure that you are dealing with the true owner of a property or with a reputable agency. It is advisable to avoid using cash for any property transactions, since having the owner's bank details provides further confirmation of their identity.

Daft.ie is an excellent website for finding accommodation and general real estate information in Ireland.

- Daft.ie
Web: www.daft.ie

Lease and Rental Conditions

All landlords are obliged to provide the tenant with a rent book, which should contain the following information:

- Specific information on the tenancy
- A record of all payments made by the tenant
- A statement of information on the rights and responsibilities of landlords and tenants
- Inventory list of all items provided by the landlord as part of the tenancy
- Address of the property to be rented
- Contact details of the landlord and the agent (if any)

Because of this regulation, a written contract is not required by law, but it is nevertheless recommended.

In general, one to three months' rent is required as a security deposit, and two to three month's rent is payable in advance. The security deposit is usually paid to the estate agent, who holds it for the landlord until the lease is signed. The deposit must be returned within a reasonable amount of time once the tenant has returned the property in good condition and with no outstanding bills. The landlord usually pays the broker's fee.

The minimum lease period is generally one year, after which the rent may increase on an annual basis. In a rent pressure zone (RPZ), rent increases cannot exceed 4% annually. If you are renting outside the rent pressure zone, a rent increase cannot be charged more than the market rent, and the rent can be reviewed only after 24 months from the last review. Due to the impact of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the government of Ireland suspended rent increases in 2020, but resumed them in 2021 again. Additional protections apply for tenants affected by COVID-19 rent increases, arrears and other tenancy-related problems during 2020 and/or between 11 January 2021 to 12 April 2021. Updates about the new measures on rent increases is available on the Threshold (The National Housing Organization) website.

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Pets are generally not allowed in rental properties, unless written permission has been obtained from the landlord prior to the pet's arrival.

When you move in, an inventory of the property and its contents is taken. This is repeated when you leave and it is recommended that you attend both to take careful note of what remarks are made. Be certain that you agree with the details noted on the condition of such items as wall coverings, draperies and appliances.

Generally, the tenant is responsible for the interior maintenance while the landlord maintains the exterior, including any structural repairs. Be sure to clarify the maintenance of gardens and common areas if there are any.

Notice periods vary according to how long the tenant has lived in the property; the minimum notice period is 28 days. In any case, the landlord must give the tenant notice in writing if they wish to terminate a lease agreement.

Threshold (The National Housing Organization) gives free advice on all matters relating to housing and tenancy rights in Ireland. Comprehensive information can be found online at Threshold.ie, where a free guide to renting property can be downloaded.

- Threshold.ie
Web: www.threshold.ie

Real Estate Agencies

Real estate agencies and relocation agencies in Dublin include:

- ARC Corporate Housing
Web: www.arc-corporate-housing.com
- Crown Relocations
Web: www.crownrelo.com
- Dublin Letting & Real Estate
Web: www.dublinletting.ie
- Lisney & Co.
Web: www.lisney.com
- McNally Handy
Web: www.mcnallyhandy.ie
- Property Partners
Web: www.propertypartners.ie

The websites provide listings of properties for rent as well as contact details of offices.

Types of Accommodation

The kinds of available accommodation are apartments (in an apartment block), flats (large houses that have been subdivided), terraced houses (townhouses in a row of houses), semi-detached houses (two houses attached to each other) or detached houses (freestanding houses). A typical semi-detached house has three to four bedrooms, one en-suite bathroom in the master bedroom and one "family bathroom." The vast majority of rental properties are furnished.

Houses

Double story houses are a familiar sight in Dublin representing typical Irish and English architecture. The specifications for properties in Ireland are very similar to those in the UK. Furnished houses include all the furniture and appliances necessary, such as a washing machine. There is also usually a microwave and dishwasher in the better quality rental properties. Ovens are usually modern fan assisted types and can be gas or electric. Kitchens vary in size, but the current fashion for kitchen diners, rather than a separate dining room, means that many kitchens have been enlarged to provide an open plan kitchen. Many larger family houses have a separate utility room for appliances, such as a washing machine and dryer. Fridges are smaller than those found in the US, with either a freezer section or a separate freezer. Most houses have a bath as well as a shower, although in smaller properties, the shower may be over the bath. Bathrooms are smaller than in the US. Air conditioning is not usually provided or required. Most houses have a garage and larger properties will usually have two. Houses have gardens that are in proportion to the size of the house. Gardens are fenced with boundaries clearly defined. Many expats employ a gardener either for all the gardening work or for the heavier tasks.

Houses are not built in compounds, but are usually semi-detached or detached. Bungalows are more common in Ireland than in the UK. Security guards are seldom required.

Apartments

The specifications for apartments are similar to those for houses. However, apartments are more likely to have a shower only and no bath. This is particularly true of smaller apartments. Some apartments have shared grounds (communal grounds) and maintenance of these is payable in the rental costs. A few apartments in houses that have been divided up have gardens for the apartments at ground level. Some upmarket apartment blocks have a concierge, but this is not general. Similar properties also have security cameras. Many newly built apartments have an open plan

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design for the living area.

2.2 Utilities & Services

Domestic Services

Both live in and part-time domestic help are available. The best way to find someone suitable is to ask friends and colleagues for recommendations, or use domestic service agencies or use local announcements posted on internet websites. For live-in help, the employer is liable to pay social insurance to the Irish national health and employment plan. Most part-time cleaners and babysitters are employed on a cash-in-hand ("off the books") basis.

The hourly rate for cleaning staff varies between EUR 12 and EUR 17. The hourly rate for a babysitter is EUR 10 to 15.

Dry Cleaning Services

Dry cleaning services can be found throughout the city and suburbs.

- **Clean Freaks**

Address: 19 Lower Kilmore Road, Artane, Dublin 5

Tel: +353 1 877 1093

Web: www.cleanfreaks.ie

Hours: Open during the week from 9am to 6pm. Saturday hours are from 10am to 4pm

Comments: A collection and delivery service is available Monday, Wednesday and Friday

- **Grafton Cleaners**

Address: 32 South William street, Dublin 2

Tel: +353 1 679 4309

Email: graftoncleaners@eircom.net

Web: www.graftoncleaners.ie

Hours: Monday to Friday 8.30am to 6.30pm; Saturday 9am to 5pm; closed Sunday

Comments: Cleaning and laundry services

- **Lyk Nu Dry Cleaners & Laundry Service**

Web: www.lyknu.ie

Comments: There are three branches in the city. The website has location details

- **McMahons Dry Cleaners**

Address: Unit 9, Knocklyon Shopping Centre, Knocklyon Rd, Dublin 16

Tel: +353 1 494 2266

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Email: info@mcmahonsdrycleaners.ie

Web: www.mcmahonsdrycleaners.ie

Comments: Dry cleaning, laundry and repair services

- **Sproose Dry Cleaners**

Tel: +353 1 447 5941

Email: info@sproose.ie

Web: <https://sproose.ie>

Hours: Operates from Monday to Friday from 7am to 11pm

Comments: This is a collection and delivery service only. No drop-offs

Electricity

Electricity in Ireland is 220V, 50 Hz with British standard plugs, which have three rectangular prongs. The Commission for Energy Regulation has a full list of electricity suppliers online.

- **Commission for Energy Regulation**

Tel: +353 1 4000 800

Web: www.cer.ie

Electricity suppliers include Electric Ireland, Bord Gáis Energy, Energia and Panda Power, to name a few. Electric Ireland, which is one of the largest suppliers, currently supply electricity and gas to around 1.8 million customers.

- **Bord Gáis Energy**

Tel: +353 1 233 5101

Web: www.bordgaisenergy.ie

- **Electric Ireland**

Tel: +353 1 852 9534, 1850 372 372 (customer service within Ireland)

Web: www.electricireland.ie

- **Energia**

Tel: 1850 300 700 (customer service within Ireland)

Web: www.energia.ie

- **Panda Power**

Tel: +353 1 829 8989, 1890 68 68 68 (customer service within Ireland)

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Web: www.pandapower.ie

Gas

Natural gas is often used in newer houses, as electric heating is expensive. Full information on gas utilities can be obtained from the Commission for Energy Regulation. Although the market for gas is deregulated, most private customers are supplied by Bord Gáis Energy. Bord Gáis Networks connects all customers to its network regardless of which gas supply company you use.

Bord Gáis Networks installs and reads the meters that measure the gas used in any premises. Four times a year, a Bord Gáis Networks meter reader will call at your home to record the amount of gas used since the meter was last read. These meter readings are then passed to your natural gas supplier, who uses the information to prepare your gas bill.

If the meter reader cannot gain access to the meter, a 'Sorry we missed you card' is left for you to submit your reading. You can also submit your meter reading directly to your supplier.

Other suppliers include Electric Ireland and Energia.

Getting Connected

To be connected, you need to contact the service provider. Make sure that you have all your required documents, such as passport and resident permit available. If you make use of the services of Electric Ireland, you must contact the customer service section. The next step will depend on how long the service has been disconnected. It will also be necessary to complete an application form (Form NC2). The application form is available to download on their website. For more personal services, you may also contact a sales agent who will visit you at your home. It is also possible, after registration, to manage your account online. Other service providers have similar connection requirements. See the contact details on the websites.

- **Bord Gáis Energy**

Tel: +353 1 611 0101 (customer service within Ireland)

Web: www.bordgaisenergy.ie

- **Electric Ireland**

Tel: +353 1 852 9534, 1850 372 372 (customer service within Ireland)

Web: www.electricireland.ie

Comments: The application form to get connected is available on the website

- **Energia**

Tel: 1850 300 700 (customer service within Ireland)

Web: www.energia.ie

Hair Salons

There are many upmarket hair salons in Dublin and surrounding areas. Most hair salons are unisex establishments and provide a service for men and women. However, some outlets specialize for either men or women only. Some hair salons have a nail bar and beauty salon on the same premises. Most of the five star hotels also have their own hair salons.

Prices, as quoted below, include shampooing and cut for men. For women, the price includes shampooing, cut and blow dry.

Haircuts for men range from EUR 35 to EUR 56. The price for women's hair styling ranges from EUR 75 to EUR 145.

Hair salons popular with expatriates include:

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- **Brown Sugar Hair Salon**
Web: www.brownsugar.ie
Comments: This is a unisex salon. There are three outlets in the city. See the website for location details
- **Dylan Bradshaw**
Address: 56 South William Street, Dublin 2
Tel: +353 1 671 9353
Web: www.dylanbradshaw.com
Comments: Women and men hair salon
- **Grafton Barbers**
Web: www.graftonbarbers.com
Comments: This is a men's barber. There are many outlets in the city and surrounding areas. The website has location details. Frequently used by expats
- **Lunatic Fringe**
Web: www.lunaticfringe.ie
Comments: There are two outlets in the city. This is a unisex salon. See the website for locations. Popular with expats in the city
- **Toni & Guy**
Web: www.toniandguy.ie
Comments: There are a few unisex outlets in the city. The salons are popular with the expatriate community. The website has location details

Heating

Oil, natural gas, electricity and smokeless coal are used for heating. Many houses have fireplaces that burn wood, coal or peat; some fireplaces are also fitted with gas fires. Gas and electricity connections are available from the aforementioned service providers.

There are many heating oil suppliers in the city areas. Gas oil and kerosene is available from these dealers. Boiler tanks range from 120 liters to 2000 liters. Suppliers will give you guidance regarding the type of oil and the amount of oil that you require. An annual safety check must be carried out on the boilers. The supplier will advise you accordingly.

Heating oil suppliers include the following:

- **Campus Oil**

Web: <https://campusoil.ie>
- **Dublin Oil**

Web: www.dublinoil.ie
- **Emo Oil**

Web: www.emo.ie
- **Kiernan Oil Limited**

Web: www.kiernanoil.ie
- **Liffey Oil Limited**

Web: www.liffeyoil.ie

Coal burners remain popular options in Ireland for its functionality. There are a number of suppliers in the city that stock smokeless coal and anthracite. Suitable burners are available from merchants in the city.

Suppliers of coal and anthracite include:

- **Crumlin Fuel Depot**

Web: <http://coalmerchantsdublin.com>

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- Dublin Coal

Web: www.dublincoal.ie

- Eddies Smokeless Fuels

Web: www.eddiessmokelessfuels.com

- Tallaght Fuels

Web: www.tallaghtfuels.ie

Utilities and Services

A tenant will usually be required to take electricity, telephone and gas (where applicable) in their own name. Water and refuse collection are usually included in the rent and no additional steps need to be taken by the tenant to arrange for these. Oil, natural gas, electricity and coal are used for heating. Many houses have fireplaces that burn wood, coal or peat; some fireplaces are also fitted with gas fires.

All utility providers will require a security deposit of EUR 300, unless you agree to pay by direct debit. In order to do this, you will need to set up an Irish bank account as soon as you arrive. This can be complicated because, to set up a bank account, you will need proof of address, usually in the form of a utility bill. The way around this is to request the service from the utility provider as soon as you move in and agree to set up the direct debit a week later, prior to receiving the first bill. The bill will have a EUR 300 charge on it if the direct debit mandate is not arranged in time.

Since deregulation in 2005, consumers have been able to choose their own energy supplier. There are many available in Dublin and throughout Ireland. Most companies supply both gas and electricity supplies and will offer discounts to customers using both energy sources from them.

It is possible to switch from one service provider to another. Procedures to do the switching are available on the websites. To switch from one service provider to another you will have to provide your MPRN or GPRN number, which you will find on your existing bill. Service providers have various special offers in order to attract a larger clientele in this competitive market.

Getting Connected

To be connected, you need to contact the service provider. Make sure that you have all your required documents, such as passport and resident permit available. If you make use of the services of Electric Ireland, you must contact the customer service section. The next step will depend on how long the service has been disconnected. It will also be necessary to complete an application form (Form NC2). The application form is available to download on their website. For more personal service, you may also contact a sales agent, who will visit you at your home. It is also possible, after registration, to manage your account online. Other service providers have similar connection requirements. See the contact details on the websites.

Paying Bills

There are many options for paying utility bills. The most popular is to set up a direct debit through the bank.

- Pay online through the utility company website. This method of payment has become the more popular way to settle your bill. Online registration is required
- By Irish Debit Card to pay your bill online.
- By Irish Debit Card by telephone to the utility company
- Direct debit
- Use mybills.ie, the free online bill-paying service offered by An Post.
- Pay through your bank's internet (or telephone) banking service.

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- Pay your bill and buy token meter cards at shops displaying the PayPoint logo.
- Pay your bill at shops displaying the Payzone logo.
- At any An Post or PostPoint outlets
- At AIB branches
- Bank of Ireland customers can pay their bills at any Bank of Ireland ATM.

Waste Disposal

Proper waste disposal is high on the city's management agenda. There are various local recycle centers. However, littering remains a huge problem in the city. Residents are requested to report littering. There is a special portal where littering offenses can be reported online. The Dublin City Council website has details.

Hazardous waste items should not be presented with normal household waste in the mixed black bin for collection. Instead, hazardous waste must be separated and taken to either Ringsend Recycling Centre or North Strand Recycling Centre for safe disposal.

Waste collectors with permits are responsible for household pavement collections in the Dublin region. Collections are not free of charge. Once you have registered with a service provider, you can manage your account online.

Wastewater Services Division is responsible for the treatment of Dublin City's wastewater and the maintenance of its pumping stations. This wastewater is treated to EU standards at the Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Works.

- **Dublin City Council**

Tel: +353 1 222 1000

Web: www.dublincity.ie

Comments: See the 'Main Menu' page for more information

Waste collectors include:

- **Advanced Waste**

Web: www.advancedwaste.ie

- **Green Star**

Web: www.greenstar.ie

- **Key waste**

Web: www.keywaste.ie

- **Oxygen**

Web: www.oxygen.ie

- **Panda**

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Web: www.panda.ie

Water

The water supply in Dublin is the responsibility of Dublin City Council. Tenants do not have to arrange for the supply of water, since this will normally be set-up already. The supply of water is reliable and tap water is considered safe to drink. Further information about Dublin's water supply can be found from Dublin City Council.

- Dublin City Council

Tel: +353 1 222 0600

Web: www.dublincity.ie

2.3 Communication

Bookshops

Ireland has been the birthplace of many great writers and has a celebrated literary tradition. It is therefore not surprising that Dublin is an excellent place for bookshops.

Apart from large mainstream booksellers, there are innumerable small retailers specializing in secondhand, antique or rare books. For the discerning buyer, there are many interesting books and bargains to be found. Dawson Street is home to many of the city's main bookshops.

Bookshops in Dublin include:

- Chapters

Address: Ivy Exchange, Parnell Street, Dublin 1

Tel: +353 1 879 2700

Email: shop@chapters.ie

Web: www.chapters.ie

Hours: Monday to Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 9.30am to 6.30pm; Thursday 9.30am to 8pm; Sunday midday to 6.30pm

Comments: Sells new books and probably the largest selection of secondhand and discount books in the city

- Dubray Books

Web: www.dubraybooks.ie

Comments: One of Ireland's leading independent booksellers. This is the flagship store extending over three floors. There are several other stores in the city and 3 in other parts of Ireland

- Easons

Web: www.easons.com

Comments: There are stores throughout Ireland stocking an extensive range of books, newspapers, magazines, greeting cards, and stationery. Some shops also stock music, video, DVDs, toys and computer accessories. The flagship store is on O'Connell Street, Dublin. The stores are popular with expats in the city

- Hodges Figgis – Waterstones

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Address: 56-58 Dawson Street, Dublin 2

Tel: +353 1 677 4754

Email: enquiries@hodgesfiggis.ie

Web: www.waterstones.com

Hours: Monday to Wednesday and Friday 9am to 7pm; Thursday 9am to 8pm; Saturday 9am to 6pm; Sunday midday to 6pm

Comments: Ireland's largest and most traditional bookstore, owned by Waterstones. It is the only Waterstones store left in the city. Popular with the expatriate community

- **The Winding Stair Bookshop**

Address: 40 Lower Ormond Quay, Dublin 1

Tel: +353 1 872 6576

Email: bookshop@winding-stair.com

Web: <http://winding-stair.com/bookshop>

Hours: Monday to Wednesday 10am to 6pm; Thursday 10am to 7pm; Friday 10am to 6pm; Saturday 10am to 7pm; Sunday midday to 6pm

Comments: One of the oldest surviving independent bookshops in Dublin. The front part of the shop holds new books, while the smaller section at the back of the shop holds secondhand books. It has an extensive range of fiction, including Irish authors, poetry, drama, gardening, cookery, art and design, humor, non-fiction and a children's section

Cell Phones

Cell phones are very popular and widely available in Ireland. Cell phone penetration rates in Ireland have reached over 100% with over four million subscribers. Around 90% of adults in Ireland own smart phones. A large majority use prepaid (pay-as-you-go) services, as opposed to contract services. The network works on a frequency of GSM 900 MHz. Various types of services are available including WAP, MMS, UMTS and GPRS.

Vodafone is the country's largest cellular service provider. All offer pay as you go options, as well as monthly tariffs. All companies also offer cell phone internet and Blackberry services.

Rates vary widely depending on the type of subscription and the operator. However, rates per minute begin at about EUR 0.10 per minute during off-peak hours to about EUR 0.50 to landlines during peak hours. Cell phone outlets are readily available at many locations throughout the city. The websites have address details.

Getting Connected

The easiest way to get connected is to visit one of the cell phone service provider stores. Make sure that you have your passport and proof of address with you.

Paying Bills

Most people prefer to be on a pre-paid basis. If you prefer the post-paid (contract) option, bills are payable on a monthly basis. Each service providers will provide you with their preferred payment option.

The following payment options are available:

- Register on the service provider's website and thereafter manage your account online
- Set up 'Direct Debit' on the applicable website

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- Use your credit card and pay on the applicable website
- Register with your bank for online banking and add you phone service as a recipient
- Pay directly from your cell phone. Registration is required
- Cash payment at Payzone, PayPoint or PostPoint outlets
- Cash payment at any post office
- Post your payment to the service provider by means of a check, postal order or bank draft. Postal information is on the website

Consumers can compare the cost of personal and business calls on the Commission for Communications Regulation website.

- **Commission for Communications Regulation**

Tel: +353 1 804 9668

Web: www.comreg.ie

Popular cell phone service providers include:

- **Eir Mobile**

Web: www.eir.ie/mobile

- **Tesco**

Web: www.tescomobile.ie

- **Three**

Web: www.three.ie

- **Vodafone**

Web: www.vodafone.ie

Communication

Telecommunication services in Ireland are efficient, reliable and highly developed. Full international direct dialing is available throughout the country and the telecom network is fully digitalized.

Although the telecommunications sector in Ireland has been liberalized since December 1998, Eircom remains the dominant provider of fixed telephone lines and broadband internet.

The consumer website of the Commission for Communications Regulation provides comprehensive and up-to-date information on all matters relating to home phones, mobile phones, internet, post and to some extent radio, TV and pay TV services in Ireland. The Commission for Communications Regulation also runs a website, which allows you to compare the price of telephone, cell phone and internet services offered by all the service providers in the market. Consumers can also compare the cost of personal and business calls on the Commission for Communications Regulation website.

- **Commission for Communications Regulation**

Tel: +353 1 804 9668

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Web: www.comreg.ie

- Eircom

Tel: 1800 503 303 (within Ireland)

Web: www.eircom.ie

Comments: Fixed line and broadband service provider. Eircom stores are available nationwide. The website has location details

- Virgin Media Ireland (formerly UPC)

Tel: +353 1 245 8000

Web: www.virginmedia.ie

Courier Services

International and national express courier services are also available in Ireland:

- City Post

Web: www.citypostparcel.ie

- DHL

Tel: +353 1 870 0790, 1 890 725 725 (within Ireland)

Web: www.dhl.ie

- FedEx

Tel: +353 1 800 535 800 (within Ireland)

Web: www.fedex.com/ie

- TNT

Tel: +353 818 400 600

Web: www.tnt.com

- UPS

Tel: +353 1 524 5446, 1 890 995 500 (within Ireland)

Web: www.ups.com

e-Commerce

All websites in Ireland are in English. Many have Irish language options in Irish Gaelic and some websites have options in French and German.

If ordering items from an online store of a member state of the European Union (EU) to be delivered to your Irish address, no customs duty

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applies. However, excise duty is due when buying alcohol and tobacco products online, regardless of quantity and whether it is an intended gift. The seller should pay the excise duty in this case, and therefore an increased price should reflect this. Alcohol and tobacco products bought online can be seized by customs if the duty has not been paid. VAT is also due on all products and applied by the seller.

When ordering items from Non-EU countries' online stores, in most cases you will have to pay customs duty and tax.

Shopping online incurs three extra costs:

- VAT
- Customs duty
- Shipping costs. DHL, FedEx, and USPS usually charges a declaration fee

Ireland has de minimis values of EUR 150* for duty and EUR 22* for tax, below which duty and tax do not apply. Therefore, the value of any goods you purchase online from a foreign country outside the EU to be delivered to your Irish address above these thresholds will be subject to duty and/or tax charges.

*Excluding alcohol and tobacco products.

In some cases, the shipping agent can automatically clear the shipment for you. This means that it is the freight forwarder who calculates the duties and pays these to customs on your behalf. The shipping agent will charge a fee for storage and customs clearance in this instance. In some cases, you have to pay the duties to the shipping agent before the items are delivered to you, or the items are delivered and you are responsible for paying any charges due upon delivery.

Shopping agents like MyUS.com and USGoBuy.com offer specialized shopping services that enable you to shop online with US retailers. These agents can arrange onwards shipping to you from their distribution centers.

- MyUS.com

Web: www.myus.com

- USGoBuy.com

Web: www.usgobuy.com

Internet

Internet services are easily accessible in Ireland. However, Ireland still lags behind most other European countries on broadband take-up and speeds. Eircom is still the major landline telecoms provider in Ireland and provides the infrastructure for the majority of telephone broadband connections. A complete list of internet service providers can be found online at ISPAl.ie. Popular internet service providers are listed below.

Mobile broadband is very popular in Ireland, especially amongst the student population and those living in rented accommodation, where getting a phone line installed may not be possible. Mobile broadband coverage and speed varies considerably depending where you live. Vodafone and Three offer mobile broadband.

Home broadband connections are increasingly popular, especially via DSL connections. Satellite and cable connections are also on offer. Broadband connections average approximately 36 Mbps throughout Ireland.

Some service provider websites offer the option to check the availability and coverage quality in the area where you live. Representatives will also be able to advise you accordingly.

Getting Connected

The easiest way to get connected is to contact the service provider or to visit one of the internet service provider stores, of those companies who have multiple outlets. Most of the internet service providers will be willing to send a representative to your home to assist you to choose the right service. Make sure that you have your passport and proof of address available.

Paying Bills

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Bills are payable on a monthly basis. Each service providers will provide you with their preferred payment option.

To pay your bill, make use of one of the following options:

- Register on the service provider's website and thereafter manage your account online
- Set up Direct Debit on the applicable website
- Use your credit card and pay on the applicable website
- Register with your bank for online banking and add you phone service as a recipient
- Cash payment at Payzone, PayPoint or PostPoint outlets
- Cash payment at the post office
- Post your payment to the service provider by means of a check, postal order or bank draft. Postal information is on the website

Internet cafés are also available in most towns and cities throughout the country.

Consumers can compare the cost of personal and business calls on the Commission for Communications Regulation website.

- **Commission for Communications Regulation**

Tel: +353 1 804 9668

Web: www.comreg.ie

Internet service providers include:

- **ISPAI.ie**

Web: www.ispai.ie

- **Digiweb**

Web: www.digiweb.ie

- **Eircom**

Web: www.eircom.net

- **Imagine**

Web: www.imagine.ie

- **Three**

Web: www.three.ie

- **Virgin Media (formerly UPC)**

Web: www.virginmedia.ie

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Making a Call

International Direct Dialing (IDD) is available throughout Ireland.

- To make an international call to Ireland: Dial the IDD code required (for example, 00 from Europe; 011 from the US) +353 (the country code for Ireland) + the area code without the preceding zero + the telephone number
- To make an international call from Ireland: Dial the IDD code 00 + the desired country code + the area code (if applicable) + the telephone number
- To make a national call within Ireland: Dial 0 + the area code + the telephone number
- To make a local call in Ireland: Dial the telephone number only

Area Codes

| | | | | | | | |
|----------|-----|---------|----|-----------|----|-----------|-----|
| Arklow | 402 | Dublin | 1 | Killarney | 64 | Tullamore | 506 |
| Cork | 21 | Dundalk | 42 | Limerick | 61 | Waterford | 51 |
| Dingle | 66 | Ennis | 65 | Sligo | 71 | Wexford | 53 |
| Donegal | 71 | Galway | 91 | Tipperary | 52 | | |
| Drogheda | 41 | Kildare | 45 | Tralee | 66 | | |

Useful Telephone Numbers

| Service | Telephone |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Emergency | 999, 112 |
| Operator Assistance | 10 |
| Directory Inquiries | 11811, 11818 |
| International Assistance | 11818, 114 |

Newspapers

The constitution provides for freedom of speech, and the government generally respected this right in practice.

There are many newspapers published in Ireland, including national, regional, local and evening papers. A selection of international newspapers is generally available in most newsagents. Some popular Irish publications include:

| Newspaper | Website | Comments |
|----------------|--|--------------|
| Evening Herald | www.herald.ie | Dublin daily |
| | | |

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| | | |
|----------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| Independent | www.independent.ie | National daily |
| The Irish Times | www.irishtimes.com | National daily |
| Irish Examiner | www.irishexaminer.com | Cork based national daily |
| Sunday Business Post | www.businesspost.ie | Also has daily online edition |
| Irish Daily Star | www.thestar.ie | National tabloid |

Postal Services

Information on An Post (Post Office) and services are available online at the official website. The post office offers a wide variety of services, such as banking, bill paying, direct mail, Poste Restante, express post and courier service.

Postal services are generally efficient and reliable. Delivery times for standard mail vary from two to seven working days, depending on the destination. Post boxes are green with the word 'Post' marked on top. In general, post offices are open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5.30/6pm and Saturdays from 9am to 1pm. The central post office in Dublin is located on O'Connell Street. To find your local post office, go to the An Post website. Here you will find a list of all post offices in Ireland by city.

If a parcel or package comes from outside the EU, you must pay the VAT and any duties that you owe, before the parcel is delivered to you. Ireland only recently launched a system of postcodes in July 2015. Postcodes do not relate to a cluster of addresses, but identify an individual address.

An Post offers by an international delivery service called International Courier Service delivered by DHL Express Ireland. It allows An Post customers to take their documents or parcel into participating post offices and have their goods delivered by DHL Express. The service offers next-day delivery within the European Union and between 1 to 5 days for the rest of the world. Details, including a list of participating post offices, are available on the An Post website.

- **An Post**

Tel: 1850 57 58 59 (within Ireland)

Web: www.anpost.ie

- **General Post Office Dublin**

Address: O'Connell Street Lower, Dublin 1

Tel: +353 1 705 7000

Hours: Monday to Saturday 8am to 8pm

Private Telephones

Telecommunication services are mainly provided by Eircom, but there are other telecommunications companies now available. In 2013, Eircom became the first operator in Ireland to offer quadruple-play services combining broadband, pay TV, landline telephone and mobile phone services.

In general, telephone lines are already installed in most residential accommodation. The installation of a new standard line can take up to 20 working days. Accounts must be placed in the tenant's name. Monthly charges range from EUR 25 to EUR 40 for the line rental. Many customers choose a bundle tariff, which includes broadband or mobile services.

Various bundles are available from service providers, which include a landline, cell phone service, television and internet at special rates. Bundle options are available. The websites have details.

Getting Connected

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For a complete new landline service, it will take about 10 days before the installation is finished. Application can be made online or at your nearest Eircom or Virgin Media store. Make sure that you have your passport and proof of address with you.

Paying bills

To pay your bill, make use of one of the following options:

- Register on the service provider's website and thereafter manage your account online
- Set up Direct Debit on the applicable website
- Use your credit card and pay on the applicable website
- Register with your bank for online banking and add you phone service as a recipient
- Cash payment at Payzone, PayPoint or PostPoint outlets
- Cash payment at the post office
- Post your payment to the service provider by means of a check, postal order or bank draft. Postal information is on the website

Complete information about telephone services and providers in Ireland can be found on The Consumer Website of the Commission for Communications Regulation.

- **Commission for Communications Regulation**

Tel: +353 1 804 9668

Web: www.comreg.ie

- **Eircom**

Tel: +353 1 671 4444, 1800 303 605 (only within Ireland)

Web: www.eircom.ie

Comments: Full range of telecommunications services provided, including broadband Internet access

- **Virgin Media Ireland (formerly UPC)**

Tel: +353 1 245 8000

Web: www.virginmedia.ie

Comments: Various bundles are available, which include telephone, cell phone, television and internet services

Public Telephones

Public telephones are available and are generally located in post offices, at public transport stations, on the streets, and in bars and restaurants.

Eircom operated payphones accept coins, phone-cards and credit cards. There are also privately owned payphones, which are strictly coin-operated. Phone cards can be purchased in supermarkets, gas stations, post offices and newsagents.

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Prepaid international calling cards are widely available from convenience stores. These often provide very cheap calls to a wide range of international destinations and can usually be used from payphones. Operator services are no longer provided in Ireland from public phones.

Radio and Television

Radio

Radio Telefís Éireann (RTE) operates four national radio stations, while there is a large selection of commercial network radio stations, such as UTV. RTE dominates the Radio & TV sector and provides a comprehensive service in English and Irish.

The BBC World Service and Voice of America broadcasts can be received in Ireland. Reception for the BBC World Service and Voice of America is good, although frequencies and wavelengths may change from time to time (see websites for wavelengths and programs).

| Station | Website | Comments |
|-----------------------------|--|--|
| Radio 1 | www.rte.ie/radio1 | Public radio station operated by RTÉ; pop music |
| 2FM | http://2fm.rte.ie | Public radio station operated by RTÉ; pop music |
| Raidió na Gaeltachta | www.rte.ie/rnaq | Radio station operated by RTÉ; Irish-language |
| Lyric FM | www.rte.ie/lyricfm | Public radio station operated by RTÉ; cultural programs and classical music |
| Newstalk | www.newstalk.ie | Almost national coverage commercial station |
| Q102 | www.q102.ie | One of the most popular radio stations nationally - commercial networked station operated by UTV |
| Today FM | www.todayfm.com | National commercial station |
| Radio Telefís Éireann (RTÉ) | www.rte.ie/radio | National Radio & television provider |
| BBC World Service | www.bbc.co.uk | World news station |
| Voice of America | www.voanews.com | World news station |

Television

In the Republic of Ireland, RTÉ is also the national broadcaster and operates three television channels: RTÉ ONE, RTÉ TWO and TG4 (Teilifís na Gaeilge); TV3 is Ireland's independent and commercial station. The UK's five main channels - BBC 1, BBC 2, ITV, Channel 4 and Five - are also available throughout most of Ireland. There are also a number of Irish channels, which operate only on cable or satellite TV.

| Channel | Website | Comments |
|---------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| RTÉ | www.rte.ie/tv | National broadcaster |
| TG4 (Teilifís na Gaeilge) | www.tg4.ie | Public Irish-language channel |
| TV 3 | www.tv3.ie | National, commercial channel |

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Cable and Satellite

Satellite television and cable television are widely available, and most major international news, film, sports and family channels can be received. Once you have subscribed to a service, you can manage and pay your bill online. Cable, satellite and digital TV providers include:

- Sky TV

Web: www.sky.com/ireland

- Virgin Media (formerly UPC)

Web: www.virginmedia.ie

TV License

Every household in Ireland with a television or equipment capable of receiving a television signal (using an aerial, satellite dish, cable or other means) must have a television license.

You do not require a television license to watch television on your computer or mobile phone. However, you do require a license if the computer is used together with any other apparatus to receive a signal.

Only one license is required for each address, regardless of the number of televisions. However, if the building is sub-divided into flats or apartments, or other separate living quarters, then a separate television license must be held for each separate flat, apartment or other dwelling. The annual television license fee is currently EUR 160.

You can pay for a TV license:

- From any An Post office, by cash, check or debit card (some accept credit cards)
- Cash at selected Postpoint outlets
- By direct debit from your bank account or credit card
- Online at Anpost.ie, using debit, Mastercard or Visa cards

The television license office can be contacted as follows:

- TV License Anpost

Tel: +353 1 705 8800 (Dublin residents), 1890 228 528 (within Ireland)

Web: www.tvlicence.ie

Wi-Fi

WiFi is offered at public libraries and most city center coffee shops, such as McDonalds. Free public access is also available at locations around the city. The service provides free download speeds of around 500 Kbps, while higher speeds require payment.

2.4 Money and Banking

Banks

Retail banking in Ireland is dominated by Irish and UK banks. These banks provide a full range of financial services across all sectors (small and large, business and personal banking). This contrasts with many countries where there is still a strong segmentation between retail and wholesale banks. In Ireland, a significant number of smaller banks and building societies also compete with the major banks for retail customers. Although internet and remote banking are widely available, branches continue to be very important. In general, banking hours are Monday to

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Friday from 10am to 4pm. In Dublin, many banks stay open until 5pm on Thursdays.

The two major Irish banks are Allied Irish Bank (AIB) and Bank of Ireland. Branches are readily available across the city. The websites have bank locators for address details.

Banks available in Ireland include:

- Allied Irish Banks (AIB)

Web: www.aib.ie

- Bank of Ireland

Web: www.bankofireland.com

- Permanent TSB

Web: www.permanenttsb.ie

- Ulster Bank

Web: www.ulsterbank.com

Opening an Account

Financial institutions such as banks, credit unions and building societies provide a range of accounts. There are generally two main categories of account:

- A current account, which allows you to make day-to-day transactions (for example, paying a bill or getting your salary paid directly to the account). These are offered only by banks and building societies
- A deposit account, which allows you to build up savings and you may earn interest. These are offered by most financial institutions

Some accounts offer free services, but this depends on the type of account you have. For example, with some banks, you may have to keep a minimum amount of money in your account at all times. If you earn interest on savings, then you may have to pay a tax on the interest called Deposit Interest Retention Tax (DIRT).

A financial institution must establish your identity and verify your address before you can open a bank account. In general, to open a bank account you will need to provide photographic identification (for example, a passport or work permit) and proof of current address, such as a utility bill or rental agreement. The National Consumer Agency has information and advice on its website.

- National Consumer Agency

Web: www.ccpc.ie/consumers/

Paying Bills

Bills may be paid by personal check or by setting up Direct Debit with your bank. They can also be paid at the post office, online via internet banking and through the An Post bill pay service at mybills.ie. A one-time registration is required.

- Mybills.ie

Tel: 1 890 617 171

Web: www.mybills.ie

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Cash, Traveler's Checks and Credit Cards

Cash

Currency can be exchanged in banks, post offices, bureaux de change, travel agencies and hotels, all of which are widely available throughout the country. Usually a handling fee or commission will be charged when exchanging money. These fees vary, so it pays to shop around.

Traveler's Checks

Traveler's checks are rarely accepted outside banks or used for everyday transactions. Amex and Thomas Cook traveler's checks do not charge commission for cashing their own checks.

Credit Cards

ATMs are available in all towns and cities and can be used to withdraw cash from credit card accounts and bank accounts linked to the Cirrus, Plus or Maestro networks. All Mastercard ATMs also accept Visa and Plus cards. Credit cards should have a four-digit PIN.

Acceptance of Visa and Mastercard is almost universal for retailing and most services, including supermarkets, accommodation, railways, restaurants, gas stations, department stores, payment of parking tickets, airport parking charges, etc. American Express is also accepted by some service establishments. Very few establishments accept The Discover Card. Retailers who accept Visa and Mastercard usually also accept Maestro.

ATMs

Banks in Ireland do not charge to get euros from their ATMs. However, ATMs at stores, shops and sightseeing venues might do so. Some of the smaller towns in Ireland do not have ATMs. The various banks in Ireland have online ATM finders and some have apps, which you can download.

Currency Information

The unit of currency in Ireland is the euro (EUR).

- 1 euro = 100 cents
- Notes come in denominations of 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200 and 500 euros.
- Coins come in denominations of 1 and 2 euros; and 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 50 cents.

Taxes

The tax year is the calendar year. Income tax is deducted at source on salaries paid in Ireland under the Pay-As-You-Earn (PAYE) system. Married couples can choose to be taxed either jointly or separately. The main advantage of being taxed separately is that personal allowances not claimed by one of the couple can be transferred and claimed by the other.

Income tax on all other taxable income (for example, investment income and salaries paid abroad) is payable directly to the Irish Revenue. An interim payment, known as preliminary tax, is payable by 31 October in the tax year, with a final tax payment due to be made by 31 October in the calendar year following the end of the tax year in question. Preliminary tax can be paid in installments and is calculated at 105% of the previous year's tax paid. Otherwise, it is calculated as being 100% of the previous year's tax paid or 90% of the current year's liability.

Tax rates as of 2021 are as follows:

| | Earnings (EUR) | Tax on Lower Amount (EUR) | Income Tax Rate % |
|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Married couple (joint filing) | 0 to 44,300 | 8,860 | 20% |
| 44,301 and above | | 40% | |
| Single taxpayer | 0 to 35,300 | 7,060 | 20% |
| 35,301 and above | | 40% | |
| | | | |

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| | | | |
|------------------|-------------|-------|-----|
| One parent | 0 to 39,300 | 7,860 | 20% |
| 39,301 and above | | 40% | |

Company cars, housing allowances and preferential loans are also subject to tax.

Irish income tax is imposed on the following:

- The worldwide income of an individual who is a resident and domiciled in Ireland
- Non-Irish investment income to the extent that it is remitted to Ireland
- Income arising in Ireland of an individual not resident in Ireland
- Rules to determine the tax residence position of an individual:
- An individual who spends 183 days in Ireland during a tax year, is resident for that year
- An individual who spends 280 days in aggregate in Ireland between that year and the preceding year will be resident in that year, provided more than 30 days are spent in Ireland in each year

Universal Social Charge

Progressive rates of Universal Social Charge for 2021 are as follows: For income up to EUR 13,000, no USC is payable. If the income is more than this threshold, the USC is levied on the total income.

| Annual Income (EUR) | Tax on Lower Amount (EUR) | Tax rate % |
|---------------------|---------------------------|------------|
| Up to 12,012 | 60 | 0.5% |
| 12,013 to 20,687 | 234 | 2% |
| 20,688 to 70,044 | 2,455 | 4.5% |
| 70,045 and above | | 8% |

Double Taxation Treaties (2021)

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Albania | Hong Kong (SAR) | Poland |
| Armenia | Hungary | Portugal |
| Australia | Iceland | Qatar |
| Austria | India | Romania |
| Bahrain | Isle of Man | Russia |
| Belarus | Israel | Saudi Arabia |
| Belgium | Italy | Serbia |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | Japan | Singapore |
| Botswana | Jersey | Slovakia |
| | | |

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| | | |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Bulgaria | Kazakhstan | Slovenia |
| Canada | Kuwait | South Africa |
| Chile | Latvia | South Korea |
| China | Lithuania | Spain |
| Croatia | Luxembourg | Sweden |
| Cyprus | Malaysia | Switzerland |
| Czech Republic | Malta | Thailand |
| Denmark | Mexico | Turkey |
| Egypt | Moldova | Ukraine |
| Estonia | Montenegro | United Arab Emirates |
| Ethiopia | Morocco | United Kingdom |
| Finland | Netherlands | United States |
| France | New Zealand | Uzbekistan |
| Georgia | North Macedonia | Vietnam |
| Germany | Norway | Zambia |
| Greece | Pakistan | |
| Guernsey | Panama | |

2.5 Brief Introduction to Ireland

Brief Introduction to Ireland

The Republic of Ireland (or Eire), is located in northwestern Europe and occupies most of the island of Ireland. The country lies to the west Great Britain, separated to the east by the North Channel and the Irish Sea and to the southeast by Saint George's Channel. The western and southern shores of Ireland meet in the North Atlantic Ocean. Ireland's only land border is with Northern Ireland (part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), situated to the northeast. The capital and largest city in Ireland is Dublin.

Dublin (from Duiblinn meaning "Black Pool") is on the eastern coast at the mouth of the Liffey River, with access to the Irish Sea. Its official history goes back over 1,000 years and it has been Ireland's principal city for most of that time. Dublin is listed by Globalization and World Cities Study Group and Network (GaWC) as an "Alpha-" city and one of the top 26 in the world.

Dublin's chief industries are brewing, textile manufacture, distilling, shipbuilding, food processing and the manufacture of foundry products, glass and cigarettes. Microprocessors are produced in the suburb of Leixlip. The Irish government is based mainly in Dublin in the Irish Government Buildings and the city is also the commercial and financial center of the country. The economy of Ireland has transformed in recent years from an

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agricultural focus to a modern knowledge economy, focusing on services and high-tech industries and dependent on trade, industry and investment. One of the keys to this economic growth is a low corporate tax, currently at 12.5% standard rate on all corporate trading profits.

Climate

Ireland enjoys a temperate maritime climate, due mainly to its proximity to the Atlantic Ocean and the presence of the Gulf Stream. Known as the "Emerald Isle," Ireland is so green because it receives a lot of precipitation. The average winter temperature ranges from 4°C to 7°C (40°F to 45°F). The oceanic influence is also pronounced in summer. The average summer temperature ranges from 15°C to 17°C (59°F to 62°F), lower than most other places in the same latitudes. Ireland has a very wet climate with changeable weather. It is not unusual for a sunny day to quickly cloud over and turn into a rainy day. In the summer, from early May until late August, the city of Dublin can get very warm and humid. There is less rain during the summer months. Winters in Dublin can be both long and damp. Snow is infrequent, but there are often cold, clear, frosty days.

Country Information

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|----------------------|
| Official name | <i>Conventional long form</i> : Republic of Ireland (Éire) <i>Conventional short form</i> : Ireland | | |
| Area | Total: 70,273 km ² Land: 68,883 km ² Water: 1,390 km ² | | |
| Capital | Dublin | | |
| Population | 5,224,884 (2021 estimate) | | |
| Population density | 74.35 inhabitants per km ² | | |
| Age structure | 0-14 years: 21.15% 15-64 years: 65.04% 65 years and over: 13.82% (2020 est.) | | |
| Life expectancy at birth | Total population: 81.45 years Male: 79.12 years Female: 83.9 years (2021 est.) | | |
| Language | English; Irish Gaelic is spoken along western coast areas | | |
| Ethnic groups | Irish 82.2%, Irish travelers 0.7%, other white 9.5%, Asian 2.1%, black 1.4%, other 1.5%, unspecified 2.6% (2016 est.) | | |
| Religion | Roman Catholic 78.3%, Church of Ireland 2.7%, other Christian 1.6%, Orthodox 1.3%, Muslim 1.3%, other 2.4%, unspecified 2.6%, none 9.8% (2016 est.) | | |
| Currency | Euro (EUR) | | |
| Exchange Rate (September 2021) | 1 EUR = 1.1771 USD 1 USD = 0.8495 EUR | 1 EUR = 0.8530 GBP 1 GBP = 1.1722 EUR | |
| GDP growth rate | 2.5% (2020 actual) | 4.2% (2021 est.) | 4.8% (2022 forecast) |
| Inflation rate | -0.5% (2020 actual) | 1.6% (2021 est.) | 1.9% (2022 forecast) |
| Unemployment rate | 5.6% (2020 actual) | 6.8% (2021 est.) | 5.7% (2022 forecast) |
| Form of state | Republic | | |
| Time difference | GMT (GMT +1 in summer) | | |
| Electricity | 220V, 50Hz | | |

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| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| System of measurement | Metric (traditionally imperial, however metric is the official measurement) |
| Country telephone code | +353 |
| Country internet domain | .ie |

Did You Know?

- Ireland is home to one of the oldest pubs in Europe. It was opened in 900AD.
- Any person who is born on St. Patrick's Day in Ireland is considered to be very lucky.
- Ireland has been inhabited for approximately 7,000 years.
- Only around 9% of people in Ireland have natural red hair, contrary to popular belief.
- The first TV interview was made with Irish actress Peggy O'Neil in April 1930.
- The Guinness-owned St. James's Gate Brewery in Dublin covers 60 acres. It is the biggest in the world.
- West Belfast's grim 'Peace Line' wall is three times the height of the former Berlin Wall.
- The Rotunda in Dublin, founded in 1745, was the first maternity hospital in Europe.
- Under the 1801 Copyright Act, Trinity College, Dublin, is entitled to one free copy of every book published annually in the British Isles. The university library now has over two million volumes and needs a quarter of a mile of new shelving every year.
- Ireland is the only EU country, and one of the few in the world, that does not have postal codes.
- A vast number of castles are found in Ireland due to its history of invasions. They are now some of the most popular tourist attractions

Geography

Ireland consists of a central limestone plain rimmed by low, rugged mountain ranges along the coasts. Most of the central plain lies 60 meters to 90 meters (200 feet to 300 feet) above sea level. It includes numerous lakes and areas of marsh and peat bog, as well as some fertile agricultural land.

One of the principal mountain ranges is the Wicklow Mountains in the east, just south of Dublin, rising to around 915 meters (3,000 feet) above sea level. A number of smaller ranges extend across the country, including the Derryveagh Mountains and Blue Stack Mountains of Donegal in the northwest; the Maumturk Mountains and Nephin Beg Range in the west; the Caha Mountains in the southwest; and the Boggeragh, Galty and Knockmealdown mountains in the south. The highest point in Ireland is Carruntuohill (1,041 meters / 3,415 feet), which is in the southwest, in a range known as the Macgillycuddy's Reeks.

Ireland has many rivers and lakes, known as loughs. The principal rivers are the Erne and the Shannon. The Shannon begins in the northwest and flows southwest before reaching the Atlantic Ocean through a long, wide estuary. Nearly half of the Shannon above the estuary comprises three lakes: Lough Allen, Lough Ree and Lough Derg.

Historical Events

This section gives a brief summary of the major events in Ireland's history.

- **8,000 BC:** Earliest evidence of settlements in Ireland.
- **4th century BC:** Tall, red-haired Celts arrive from Gaul or Galicia. They established a Gaelic civilization.
- **432 AD:** Christianity was introduced by St. Patrick, marking the beginning of the Christian Period. Ireland was divided into five kingdoms during the period: Ulster, Connacht, Leinster, Meath and Munster.
- **8-11th century:** Norse invasions along the coasts began in 795 and ended in 1014 with the Norse defeat at the Battle of Clontarf.
- **12th century:** The pope gave all of Ireland to the English Crown as a papal fief. In 1171, Henry II of England was acknowledged "Lord of Ireland," but local sectional rule continued for centuries, and English control over the whole island was not absolute until the 17th century.
- **1690:** In the Battle of the Boyne, the Catholic King James II and his French supporters were defeated by the Protestant King William III of Orange. An era of Protestant political and economic supremacy began.
- **1801:** The Act of Union was declared and Great Britain and Ireland became the "United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland." A steady decline in the Irish economy followed in the next decades.
- **1846-48:** The Great Famine took many lives and drove more than two million people to emigrate to North America. This reduced the population dramatically.
- **1916:** Various independence movements pursued a continuous struggle against the government culminating in the Easter Rising in the fight for independence.
- **1919-21 (Anglo-Irish War):** The Anglo-Irish War broke out between British troops and the military arm of Sinn Féin, the Irish Republican Army (IRA). In 1920, the British parliament passed the Government of Ireland Bill. The legislation divided Ireland into two self-governing areas. It provided one parliament for the six counties of the predominantly Protestant north (Northern Ireland) and another for the remaining 26 counties in the overwhelmingly Catholic south (the Irish Free State). The people of Northern Ireland accepted this limited home rule and elect a separate parliament in 1921. Efforts to implement the new government in the other 26 counties, however, served only to solidify Sinn Féin's demand for a fully independent Irish republic. Elections for a provisional Dáil (parliament) were held in 1922, and candidates supporting the Anglo-Irish Treaty won a majority of seats. Parliament ratified the treaty despite the opposition of Eamonn De Valera (the leader of Sinn Féin).
- **1922-23 (Irish Civil War):** Anti-treaty forces refused to recognize the authority of the new Dáil. Instead, they proclaimed a rival government and

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called for a resumption of the struggle against the United Kingdom. Hostilities between pro- and anti-treaty forces finally broke out on June 28, initiating the Irish Civil War.

- **1923:** The Irish Free State joined the League of Nations.
- **1925:** Agreements were reached on several mutual problems. A permanent boundary between the Irish Free State and Northern Ireland was accepted by all parties and ratified. The United Kingdom refused the Free State's request to annex Tyrone and Fermanagh, the two counties in Northern Ireland with Catholic majorities.
- **1927:** De Valera and anti-treaty Sinn Féin members ended their boycott of the Irish legislature following the national election, entering the Dáil as members of the opposition in the newly founded Fianna Fáil Party.
- **1932:** Fianna Fáil gained control of the Dáil in the national election and De Valera became Prime Minister of the Irish Free State.
- **1937:** In elections, the voters returned De Valera into office and a new constitution was approved, which abolished the Irish Free State and proclaimed Éire (Gaelic for Ireland) as a sovereign, independent, democratic state.
- **1938:** Douglas Hyde became the first President of Éire and De Valera remained as Prime Minister.
- **1939-45 (World War II):** Éire remained neutral but many Irish citizens join the Allied Forces.
- **1948:** De Valera lost the election and John Costello became Prime Minister.
- **1949:** In April 18, Éire declared itself the Republic of Ireland, completely independent of the British crown and no longer a member of the Commonwealth of Nations. In May, the British Parliament recognized the status of the Irish Republic but declared that the six counties of Northern Ireland would not be severed from the United Kingdom without the consent of the parliament in Northern Ireland.
- **1951-59:** De Valera was re-elected as Prime Minister for two more successive terms.
- **1955:** Ireland joined the United Nations.
- **1959:** De Valera was elected president of the Republic. His successor as prime minister was Sean Lemass. The government drew up a five-year plan for economic development that included generous tax incentives for foreign investors and new initiatives to promote Ireland's export industries.
- **1964:** On completion of the first five-year plan, Ireland's economic expansion doubled anticipated growth goals. During this period hundreds of new factories opened production in Ireland, most with partial foreign ownership. The dramatic increase in industrial production and exports accompanied a substantial decline in emigration, which had continued unabated for more than a century.
- **1973:** Ireland joined the European Economic Community (EEC). Violence in Northern Ireland intensified as the IRA and unionist paramilitary groups became active again. Relations between Ireland and Britain were strained.
- **Early 1980s:** Ireland faced severe economic problems, with rising debt and unemployment. Three elections were held in the space of less than two years as politicians struggled with the difficulties.
- **1985:** The Anglo-Irish Agreement was signed giving the Republic of Ireland a consultative role in the government of Northern Ireland.
- **1990:** Mary Robinson became the first female President of Ireland.
- **1990s:** Ireland's economy continued to expand rapidly throughout earning it the title "Celtic Tiger." At the same time, new efforts to achieve a political solution to the problem of Northern Ireland brought the Irish and British governments into closer cooperation.
- **1991:** Ireland signed the Treaty on European Union at Maastricht.
- **1992:** Irish voters approved a loosening of the abortion law.
- **1992:** Charles Haughey resigned as prime minister and leader of Fianna Fáil and Albert Reynolds was chosen to replace him. Reynolds remained prime minister after the elections of November, but at the head of a coalition government made up of Fianna Fáil and the Labour Party.
- **1993:** The Downing Street Declaration by the Irish and British Prime Ministers offered talks on future peace in Northern Ireland to all parties if violence was renounced.
- **1994:** The coalition government collapsed over disagreements and the Labour Party withdrew its support of Fianna Fáil. A new coalition government was formed, headed by Prime Minister John Bruton of the Fine Gael Party.
- **1997:** Divorce became legal in Ireland under certain circumstances. The law was opposed by the Roman Catholic Church. Bertie Ahern elected Prime Minister.
- **1998:** The Good Friday Agreement on a political settlement for Northern Ireland was approved by voters in referendums in the Republic of Ireland and in Northern Ireland.
- **2002:** The euro replaced the Irish currency, the punt. Voters re-elected Fianna Fáil's Bertie Ahern as Prime Minister in a continuing coalition with the Progressive Democrats; Fine Gael, the main opposition party, lost over a third of its seats in parliament.
- **2005:** The Irish language was officially recognized as a working language by the European Union.
- **May 2007:** The Fianna Fáil party returned to government in a coalition with the Progressive Democrats, Green Party and several independent parties following the general election.
- **June 2007:** Bertie Ahern became the first Taoiseach to win a third term in office since Eamon De Valera. Ireland's first black mayor, Nigerian-born Rotimi Adebare was elected mayor of Portlaoise.
- **May 2008:** Mr. Ahern stepped down after controversy over his financial affairs and his deputy, Brian Cowen becomes Taoiseach.
- **October 2008:** Ireland became the first western European country to succumb to the global financial crisis and fall into a recession.
- **March/April 2009:** Deep recession was confirmed by Ireland, subsequently losing its AAA debt rating. The Government announced the second budget in 6 months to try to control the rapidly contracting economy.
- **September 2010:** The cost of bailing out Ireland's stricken banking system rose to EUR 45 billion, pushing the country's budget deficit up to around a third of GDP.
- **November 2010:** The government agreed a EUR 85 billion rescue package with the EU, in a bid to tackle a huge hole in Ireland's public finance. The deal brought to an end weeks of speculation over the terms of the bailout. As part of the package, the government drafted an austerity program entailing four years of tax rises and spending cuts. Under pressure from his junior coalition partner, the Greens, Taoiseach Brian Cowen agreed to hold elections in January 2011, after the 2011 budget had been passed.
- **January 2011:** Parliament approved the finance bill required as a condition of the EU/IMF bailout.
- **February 2011:** Taoiseach Brian Cowen dissolved parliament and called an early election. Opposition Fine Gael won most seats but fell short of an overall majority and began coalition talks.
- **March 2011:** The new government, headed by Fine Gael leader Enda Kenny, took office. Mr Kenny pledged to renegotiate the terms of the EU/IMF bailout.
- **July 2011:** Ratings agency, Moody's, downgraded Ireland's debt rating to junk status.
- **October 2011:** Michael D Higgins elected president. Voters in a referendum rejected proposed constitutional changes relating to parliamentary inquiries and pay for judges.
- **March 2012:** Official figures showed that Ireland fell back into recession in the last three months of 2011, following a return to growth for first time since 2007.

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- **June 2012:** Irish voters approved an EU fiscal treaty by 60% at a referendum, endorsing the government's commitment to an EU-backed austerity program.
- **February 2013:** The European Central Bank approved a deal to liquidate the former Anglo Irish Bank, which was nationalized in January 2009. The deal allowed Ireland to defer by decades the bill for its most controversial bank bailout.
- **April 2013:** In a review of Ireland's bailout program, the IMF warned that the country's debt burden risked becoming unsustainable, if growth continues to be weak.
- **June 2013:** Figures from the Central Statistics Office revealed that Ireland was back in recession for the first time since 2009.
- **July 2013:** Parliament passed legislation allowing abortion in limited circumstances.
- **December 2013:** Ireland officially exited the EU/IMF bailout program.
- **April 2014:** President Higgins became the first Irish head of state to visit Britain.
- **October 2014:** Ireland closed tax loophole that allowed foreign multinationals to pay very low tax in other countries.
- **May 2015:** Referendum approved same-sex marriage by a large margin.
- **February 2016:** Parliamentary elections saw Fine Gael/Labor coalition lose its majority, although Fine Gael remained the largest party.
- **May 2016:** Fine Gael reached an accommodation with Fianna Fail, the second largest party in the election, allowing a minority government. Parliament re-elected Fine Gael leader, Enda Kenny, as Taoiseach.
- **August 2016:** EU ordered Ireland to recover up to 13 billion euros from Apple Inc. in back taxes, after ruling the firm had been granted undue benefits.
- **June 2017:** Leo Varadkar became the youngest, first openly gay and first ethnic minority Taoiseach in Irish history.
- **December 2017:** The UK government, as part of the terms of their withdrawal from the European Union, agreed to maintain an open border between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.
- **December 2018:** Despite largescale protests in previous months, abortion was legalized by President Michael Higgins.
- **February 2020:** The Irish general elections resulted in the Fianna Fáil party winning a plurality of seats, just one seat ahead of the left-wing republican Sinn Féin party.

2.6 Map of Ireland

Map of Ireland

2.7 Government

Executive

The head of state is the president, elected by direct popular vote to serve for a seven-year term.

The head of the government is the prime minister (Taoiseach) who is nominated by the House of Representatives (Dáil Éireann) and officially appointed by the president. The Taoiseach is elected to five-year terms and can serve an unlimited number of terms while holding the majority support of Dáil Éireann (the lower house of parliament). Executive power is vested in the cabinet of ministers. There must be at least seven, but not more than 15, members in the cabinet. The cabinet members are appointed by the prime minister and must be approved by the House of Representatives. The cabinet members are officially appointed by the President.

Government

Ireland's current parliamentary system of government was created by the 1937 constitution. It was preceded by the Executive Council of the 1922–37 Irish Free State.

All governments from 1989 to 2016 were coalitions of two or more parties. The current cabinet is composed of members of Fine Gael, a center-right pro-European party, Fianna Fáil, the conservative party, and the Green Party. The first coalition government was formed in 1948. The current prime minister, Micheál Martin, will serve the office until December 2022, after which Leo Varadkar will succeed him.

| | | |
|--------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Head of State | President: Michael Daniel Higgins (since 11 November 2011) | |
| Head of Government | Taoiseach/Prime Minister: Micheál Martin (since 27 June 2020) | |
| Last election | Presidential: October 2018 | Parliamentary: February 2020 |
| Next election | Presidential: November 2025 | Parliamentary: February 2025 |

Judiciary

Judicial authority is vested in the Supreme Court, the High Court, the Court of Criminal Appeal, the Central Criminal Court, Circuit Courts and District Courts. The Supreme Court is the court of final appeal and may also determine constitutional bills. Judges are appointed by the president,

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on recommendation from the prime minister and the cabinet.

Legislative

Ireland has a two-chamber legislature called the Oireachtas. The lower house, the House of Representatives (Dáil Éireann) currently has 158 members elected by popular vote based on proportional representation to serve for five-year terms. The upper house, the Senate (Seanad Éireann) has 60 members who serve five-year terms: 11 members are appointed by the prime minister; six members are elected by graduates of the University of Dublin and the National University of Ireland; and 43 members are chosen by an electoral college of 900 representatives from local government and the Dáil. The upper house has less power than the lower house. The next general election must take place on or before February 2025.

Local Government

Counties, cities, and towns each elect local councils to administer local services and levy local taxes. Services include public health and sanitation, housing, water supply, and education. Local officials are popularly elected, usually for five-year terms. Local executives, who advise elected officials and function as managers of local authorities, are selected by the central ministry after competitive examinations.

The Republic of Ireland is divided into 28 counties: Carlow, Cavan, Clare, Cork, Donegal, Dublin, Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal, Galway, Kerry, Kildare, Kilkenny, Laois, Leitrim, Limerick, Longford, Louth, Mayo, Meath, Monaghan, Offaly, Roscommon, Sligo, South Dublin, Tipperary, Waterford, Westmeath, Wexford, and Wicklow.

Political Parties

Irish politics remain dominated by the two political parties that grew out of Ireland's bitter 1922-23 civil war. Fianna Fáil was formed by those who opposed the 1921 treaty that partitioned the island. Although treaty opponents lost the civil war, Fianna Fáil soon became Ireland's largest political party. Fine Gael, representative of the pro-treaty forces, remains the country's second-largest party. Labor, Sinn Féin, the Greens and the Socialists are the other significant parties. Coalition governments are common and the parties are not divided along traditional left, right and center lines.

| Party | Political Alignment |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Fianna Fáil (FF) | conservative populist |
| Fine Gael (FG) | center-right |
| Green Party (GP) | green |
| Labor Party (Lab) | social-democratic |
| Sinn Féin (SF) | extreme left |
| Socialist Party (SP) | socialist |

Present Government

The results of the February 2020 Dáil Éireann elections:

| Party | Total Seats |
|-------------|-------------|
| Sinn Féin | 37 |
| Fianna Fáil | 37 |
| Fine Gael | 35 |
| | |

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| | |
|-------------------------|----|
| Green Party | 12 |
| Labor Party | 6 |
| Social Democrats | 6 |
| AAA-PBD | 5 |
| Independents for Change | 1 |
| Aontu | 1 |
| Ceann Comhairle | 1 |
| Independents | 19 |

2.8 Economy

Economy

Ireland has a mixed economy with a large, export-based agricultural sector and a largely foreign-owned manufacturing sector. Tourism and construction also play important roles in the country's economy.

Throughout the 1980s, Ireland underwent severe economic turmoil, and by the end of the decade, unemployment and national debt were among the highest in the developed world. However, with help from the European Social Fund, the Irish fiscal policies and the opening up of the economy, Ireland's fortunes turned around in the 1990s, and by the end of the decade, unemployment and debt were below the EU average and growth was in double figures. In 2000, Ireland's per capita income was higher than the EU average. Much of the growth was due to the manufacturing sector, particularly electronics and software. However, in 2008, economic activity slumped, and property and construction experienced a severe downturn leading Ireland into recession for the first time in ten years.

About 15% of the total area of Ireland is cultivated, and principal field crops are wheat, barley, oats and potatoes. Among other important crops are hay, turnips and sugar beet. Raising livestock is the chief agricultural activity, and meat and meat products are among the most important agricultural exports. The trade in live animals, notably horses, and dairy products is also significant. Agricultural earnings account for approximately 1% of annual GDP and 10% of export income.

Ireland has a diversified industrial base. One of the most important manufacturing sectors is food processing, which includes meatpacking, brewing and distilling alcoholic beverages, grain milling, sugar refining, and the manufacture of dairy products. Other major manufacturing sectors include chemicals, pharmaceuticals, electrical and optical equipment, and the production of computer hardware and software.

Tourism is one of Ireland's important economic sectors, accounting for more than 4% of annual GNP. The Irish government actively promotes the tourism industry. Dublin, in particular, has become an important tourist destination, partly due to the rapid growth of low-cost air services linking the city to the United Kingdom and mainland Europe.

Both imports and exports have more than doubled since the mid-1990s due to the dramatic increase in trade. Exports consist mainly of live cattle, meat, dairy produce, textiles, manufactured goods, machinery and transport equipment, and chemicals and electronics. The main export trading partners are the UK, the US, Belgium, Germany, France, Switzerland and the Netherlands. Imports consist mainly of petroleum and petroleum products, foodstuffs, chemicals, manufactured goods and components, machinery and transport equipment. The main import trading partners are the UK, the US, Germany, France and the Netherlands.

Many global IT, communications and pharmaceutical companies have European headquarters or important operational bases in or around Dublin, including; Microsoft, Apple, Google, Amazon, eBay, Facebook, Johnson & Johnson, Roche and Pfizer, to name a few. Banking also has an important presence in the city as well as Dublin being home to the Irish Stock Exchange and Internet Neutral Exchange.

Ireland recorded stunning economic growth during what is known as the 'Celtic Tiger' era from around 1995 to 2007 before the global financial crisis hit. In November 2010, the Irish government confirmed that it was requesting tens of billions of euros from international institutions to rescue its struggling economy and stricken banks. The government pumped billions of euros into Irish banks to keep them afloat, effectively nationalizing most of them. European Union nations agreed to give EUR 67.5 billion in bailout loans to Ireland to help it weather the cost of its

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massive banking crisis. The Irish government also produced a framework document for a National Recovery (Plan). The four-year plan required to deal with Ireland's fiscal situation set out a pathway for a return to sustainable growth. The plan proposed adjustments of EUR 15 billion in the government budget over a four-year period, including substantial reductions in expenditure and an estimated EUR 5 billion of taxation measures. Ireland's previous three budgets had already cut spending by EUR 15 billion. The plan indicated that the current corporation tax rate of 12.5% should not be changed. The key taxation measures included:

- Broadening of the income tax base, including phased reduction in income tax bands and credits
- Increase in the standard VAT rate from 21% to 22% in 2013 and 23% since 2014
- A phased reduction in pension relief (for employee contributions)
- Removal of certain other tax reliefs

Ireland's successful exit, on time and on target, from the EU/IMF bailout program was the economic highlight of 2013. Ireland's economy grew in 2014 by more than the government had forecast, with the country building momentum as it exited the EU/IMF bailout. Ireland became the first Eurozone country to complete an international bailout at the end of 2013, and the economy is showing signs of achieving longer-term growth.

Inflation has remained low in recent years, with the annual rate closing with 0.3% in 2017 before increasing to 0.7% in 2018 and to 0.9% in 2019. Unemployment has steadily fallen from a peak of 13.8% early in 2013 to 6.7% in 2017, and decreased further to 5.0% in 2019.

The latest 2021 Article IV report on Ireland from the IMF notes that the Irish economy has been on a course of high growth and declining vulnerabilities to COVID-19 due to the comprehensive and swift fiscal policy response from the government, which helped build good a mechanism against the pandemic.

After experiencing GDP growth of 2.5% in 2020, the country is expected to post a rate of 4.2% in 2021 and 4.8% in 2022. Unemployment reached 5.6% in 2020, also due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021, the jobless rate is projected at 6.8%, then 5.7% the following year. The inflation rate reached -0.5% in 2020. In 2021, the rate is projected to rise to 1.6% and then 1.9% the following year.

2.9 The People

Ethnic Groups

Ireland's population descends from a variety of ethnic groups, due to immigration over the years. However, the population is predominantly of Celtic origin.

Ethnic and racial minorities make up about 17.8% of the population of Ireland, with many coming from Europe, Africa and Asia. Immigration has been more acute in the last twenty years as the European Union labor market freedom has been introduced and the increasing globalization of the Irish economy have attracted a wave of new residents. Polish people make up the largest minority population in Ireland.

Although they are small in number, the nomadic Travelers ("Tinkers") are an indigenous ethnic minority group - defined by their shared customs, traditions and language - who have lived in Ireland for centuries.

Languages

The official languages are English and Irish. Irish is a Gaelic tongue that belongs to the family of Celtic languages. The people of Ireland speak English, although about 39.8% of the population continues to use Irish as their first language. Until the early 19th century, the Irish-language was widely spoken throughout the country, but is now mainly confined to the Gaeltacht areas. All government-subsidized schools in Ireland have taught Irish since 1922, but fewer than 10,000 pupils speak it as their first language.

Religion

Religious affiliation is remarkably uniform and around 78.3% of the population is Roman Catholic. Protestant groups include the Church of Ireland (Anglican) and the Presbyterian and Methodist denominations. Ireland's constitution guarantees freedom of worship.

The People

The estimated total population is around 5.2 million, which yields a population density of 74.35 inhabitants per square kilometer. Around 64% of the population lives in urban areas. The capital and largest city is Dublin, the metropolitan population is currently around 1.4 million (2021), and more than 555,000 reside in the city itself (2016).

2.10 Pets

Cat and Dog Care

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A dog can stay in Ireland for up to 30 days without a dog license. After this time, a dog license must be bought from the Post Office. This applies to all dogs over 4 months of age. The license costs EUR 20 and is valid for one year.

- Dogs should always be kept on a leash and under control
- Dogs must not run in fields where livestock could be - farmers are entitled to and will shoot uncontrolled dogs without warning
- Dogs should wear a collar with an ID tag at all times, otherwise they might be picked up and quickly destroyed as strays
- Ireland's litter laws are strict regarding dog droppings. Always clean up after the dog

The following breeds (and crossbreeds with strains) are considered dangerous and must wear a muzzle:

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| American Pit Bull Terrier | English Bull Terrier | Rhodesian Ridgeback |
| Bandog | German Shepherd (Alsatian) | Rottweiler |
| Bull Mastiff | Japanese Akita | Staffordshire Bull Terrier |
| Doberman Pinscher | Japanese Tosa | |

Pet boarding facilities are available, as are people who will look after pets in your own home. Pet boarding facilities apply strict regulations regarding the health of the animal and require veterinary proof of the correct vaccinations having been given. Some veterinarians also have pet boarding facilities available.

Details of pet boarding facilities in Ireland are available on the Boarding Kennels website.

- **Boarding Kennels**

Web: www.boardingkennels.org/Ireland

Recommended secure boarding facilities include:

- **Dublin SPCA Animal Campus**

Address: Mount Venus Road, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16

Tel: +353 1 499 4790

Email: info@dspca.ie

Web: www.dspca.ie

Comments: Early booking is advisable. Security services are available at this facility

- **Hollygrove Kennels**

Address: Hollygrove Stud, Lyons Road, Newcastle, Co. Dublin

Tel: +353 1 458 7112

Web: <http://hollygrovekennels.goldenpages.ie>

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- **P&E Boarding Kennels**

Address: 605 Clonard Road, Crumlin, Dublin 12

Tel: +353 1 490 1258

Web: www.peboardingkennels.ie

Comments: Boarding kennels and cattery

Pets

Taking your pet abroad can be stressful for both the animal and the owners. Factors you should consider when taking your pets with you to your new location include the living conditions of your expat destination: you should research the climate, veterinarian and pet care services and local attitudes of having a pet. Additionally, you should consult with a veterinarian if your pet is fit to travel.

The importation of pets into Ireland has always been strictly controlled, to ensure that diseases such as rabies are not introduced. Since 1 January 2012, there have been a number of changes to the EU system of Passports for Pets, which allows cats, dogs and ferrets to travel between EU member states. The EU Pet Passport certifies that the pet has been identified by means of a microchip and vaccinated against rabies. Pets from higher risk non-EU countries will also require a blood test.

Dogs must have a license. Individual dog licenses are obtainable over the counter from any post office. A lifetime-of-the-dog license is available from your Local Authority. Individual licenses are renewable every 12 months. Guide dogs and dogs, which are in the country for less than 30 days, do not require a dog license. Individual licenses cost EUR 20 and lifetime licenses cost EUR 140. Your licenses must be in safekeeping for periodic inspection by the authorities.

Pets from EU Member States

If you want to import a dog, cat or ferret into Ireland from any EU member state, including the UK, the pet animal must have an EU Pet Passport. This document is the same throughout the EU.

The Passport certifies that:

- The pet is traveling from an eligible country
- The pet is identified by an implanted microchip
- The pet has been vaccinated against rabies subsequently at least 21 days before travel

Dogs must be treated for tapeworm between 24 and 120 hours before travel and the time and date of treatment must be entered on the passport. Treatment for ticks is not compulsory, but it is advisable to get it at the same time as the tapeworm treatment.

Pets entering Ireland from the EU require:

- Passport/certificate showing identification
- Subsequent rabies vaccination with first vaccination at least 21 days before entry
- Specific tapeworm treatment of all pet dogs

There is more information about the entry requirements for dogs, cats or ferrets from EU and certain other EU territories on the website of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Pets from outside the EU

You must have either an EU Pet Passport (for EU-originating pets) or Veterinary Certificate certifying microchip identification (or identification by a clearly readable tattoo, which was applied before 3 July 2011) and a subsequent rabies vaccination.

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Depending on the country of origin, a blood test, carried out at least 30 days after vaccination, may also be required. In these cases, a pet may enter Ireland only when at least three months has expired since a successful blood test. The 3-month wait does not apply to re-entry if the blood test was carried out prior to a pet leaving the EU.

In all cases Echinococcus (tapeworm), treatment is required for dogs.

If you want to import a dog or cat into Ireland from a country outside the EU there are two categories of these countries:

- Qualifying low-risk countries
- Non-qualifying high-risk countries

You can check if your country of origin is on this list of qualifying low-risk countries on the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine website.

Pets travelling from other qualifying (lower risk) countries can also travel into Ireland on the same conditions as set out above.

Pets travelling from non-qualifying (higher risk) countries can also travel into Ireland without quarantine provided the pet has a passport/certificate showing identification and a subsequent rabies vaccination. At least 30 days after rabies vaccination the pet must be blood tested to confirm a neutralizing antibody titration at least equal to 0.5 IU/ml. The pet may enter Ireland only when at least three months has expired since a successful blood test.

Pets from qualifying non-EU countries

A pet from a qualifying low-risk non-EU country must undergo the following in this order:

- Be microchipped (this must be done before anything else)
- Be vaccinated for rabies subsequently
- Have a Veterinary Certificate issued or endorsed by the competent authority in the country of origin

Dogs must be treated for tapeworm between 24 and 120 hours before travel and the time and date of treatment must be entered on the passport. Treatment for ticks is not compulsory, but it is advisable to get it at the same time as the tapeworm treatment.

Non-qualifying high-risk countries

If you are coming from a non-qualifying high-risk country, your pet must:

- Be microchipped (this must be done before anything else)
- Be vaccinated for rabies subsequently
- Have a blood test after the rabies vaccination at least 3 months before entry
- Have a Veterinary Certificate issued or endorsed by the competent authority in the country of origin

Dogs must be treated for tapeworm between 24 and 120 hours before travel and the time and date of treatment must be entered on the passport. Treatment for ticks is not compulsory but it is advisable to get it at the same time as the tapeworm treatment.

Travel from outside the EU

The animal must be transported by air to either on an approved airline, or owners can apply to the Department for a prior approval. Entry to Ireland is by airline into Dublin airport, where the pet is transferred to the quarantine facility for inspection the same day, to check if the pet is compliant with the entry requirements. Arrangements including costs are the responsibility of the pet owner.

If you are importing a cat, dog or ferret into Ireland from an EU member state or certain other EU countries, you should arrange for your veterinarian to microchip and then vaccinate the pet in that order, and obtain an EU Pet Passport from the competent authority in the EU member

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state of origin.

If you are importing a pet cat, dog or ferret into Ireland from a qualifying low-risk country, you should arrange for your veterinarian to microchip and then vaccinate the pet in that order.

If you are importing a pet cat, dog or ferret into Ireland from a qualifying third country, you should arrange for your veterinarian to microchip, vaccinate and then blood test the pet in that order

Contact a local veterinarian or the competent authority for information on the Veterinary Certificate for Domestic Dogs, Cats and Ferrets entering the European Community.

Qualifying Lower Risk Countries and Territories

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| American Samoa | Curaçao | Puerto Rico |
| Ascension Island | Fiji | Russia |
| Antigua & Barbuda | Falkland Islands | St. Helena |
| Argentina | French Polynesia | St. Kitts & Nevis |
| Aruba | Guam | St. Lucia |
| Australia | Hong Kong | St. Pierre & Miquelon |
| Barbados | Jamaica | St. Vincent & the Grenadines |
| Bahrain | Japan | Sint Maarten |
| Belarus | Malaysia | Singapore |
| Bermuda | Mauritius | Taiwan |
| Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba | Mayotte | Trinidad & Tobago |
| Bosnia-Herzegovina | Mexico | United Arab Emirates |
| British Virgin Islands | Montserrat | United States |
| Canada | New Caledonia | US Virgin Islands |
| Cayman Islands | New Zealand | Vanuatu |
| Chile | Northern Mariana Islands | Wallis & Futuna |

Quarantine

If the animal must undergo a period of four months' detention and isolation in approved quarantine premises in Ireland, this is at the owner's expense. There is only one approved public quarantine premises, which is located at Lissenhall Veterinary Hospital.

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- Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Web: www.agriculture.gov.ie/pets

Comments: Pet import regulations and other related information are available on the website

- Lissenhall Veterinary Hospital

Address: Lissenhall, Swords, Co. Dublin

Tel: +353 1 890 0375

Email: lissenhallvet@eircom.net

Web: www.merialvetsite.com/sites/lissenhall/home.html

Comments: The public quarantine facility is located at this institution

Making use of an experienced pet relocation company is advisable. These companies will take care of all the documentation and required permits.

- Multi Cargo Limited

Web: www.multicargo.ie

- Pet Relocation

Web: www.petrelocation.com

- Pets on Board

Web: www.pets-on-board.ie

Veterinarians

The standard of veterinary care throughout Ireland is high.

- Anicare Vets

Web: <http://anicare.ie>

Comments: There are five locations in and around Dublin

- Clondalkin Animal Clinic

Address: Orchard Road, Dublin

Tel: +353 1 457 4833

Web: www.clondalkinvet.com

Hours: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 8.30am to 7.30pm; Wednesday and Friday from 8.30am to 6pm; Saturday hours are from 9am to 4pm

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- **Firhouse Veterinary Clinic**

Address: Unit 15, Firhouse Shopping Center, Tallaght, Dublin 24

Tel: +353 1 414 0830

Email: firhouse@myvet.ie

Web: www.firhousevets.ie

Comments: They offer a cat boarding service as well

- **Sandymount Pet Hospital**

Address: 15c Gilford Road, Sandymount, Dublin 4

Tel: +353 1 269 5830

Web: www.sandymountpethospital.ie

Hours: Consulting hours are from Monday to Friday from 10.00am to 12.30pm, from 2.30pm to 4.30pm and 6pm to 7.30pm. Saturday hours are from 10am to 12.30pm; closed Sunday. Reception hours are from Monday to Friday from 9.30am to 7.30pm and Saturday from 9.30am to 12.30pm

- **South Dublin Vets**

Address: 30, Whitehall Road, Terenure, Dublin 12

Tel: +353 1 455 5362

Web: www.southdublinvets.ie

Hours: Monday to Friday 7.30am to 7.30pm; Saturday 9am to 1pm; closed Sunday

Comments: There is another clinic at Dundrum

2.11 Business Etiquette

Business Dress

Business dress should be smart and conservative. Suits are the standard for Irish businessmen and women. Women in the business setting generally avoid excessive jewelry or make-up.

Business Etiquette

The Irish people are generally friendly and welcoming to visitors. They are unpretentious, informal and are commonly known as gregarious people.

Politics, religion and Northern Ireland are generally not good discussion topics. Sarcasm is also generally frowned upon and better be avoided. On the other hand, creativity, vision, appreciation of literature and music, and a love of land and family are highly held social values.

With over 300 golf courses in Ireland, the sport is extremely popular and an excellent means for conducting business.

Business Etiquette Tips

- It is essential to make appointments well in advance and to allow time to complete business matters. Punctuality for business appointments

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is expected

- The standard business greeting is a straightforward firm handshake
- The usual form of address is Mr., Mrs., Ms. or Miss with the person's surname. If someone has a professional title, then this should be used instead (for example, 'Dr.' and 'Professor'). The Irish are very friendly and they may invite you to use first names fairly quickly
- The exchanging of business cards is not as common as in other countries; however, it is advisable to bring along an adequate supply. Cards should be printed in English
- The Irish have a fairly relaxed attitude towards discussions. Conversations often digress, but can often lead to new and innovative ideas. Creative or abstract arguments are frequently better received than highly structured logical arguments. However, some organizations are more conservative and discussions may remain focused and succinct. Simplicity should be maintained both in conversation, as well as in presentations. In conversation, debate or presentations, there is a tendency for the Irish to appreciate eloquence and wit
- Decision-making processes tend to emphasize the short rather than the long term. Final decisions are usually left to the managing director. It is best to remain patient if the process takes time to complete. Pressure or hard-sell tactics are likely to prove highly counterproductive
- Gift-giving in the business setting is not expected

Business Hours

In general, business hours are Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm. However, managers may work longer hours.

Health and Safety Practices

The main legislation providing for the health and safety of all employees is The Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005, which came into effect on 1 September 2005. It updates and repeals the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, 1989 and it carries into primary legislation some provisions of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Application) Regulations 2007.

An employer is generally obliged to ensure, as far as is reasonably possible, the safety, health and welfare of employees at work. Most of the responsibility for safety at work falls upon the employer. In cases where work accidents or industrial illnesses occur, the employer may be liable for civil claims for damages. As a result, an insurance against such claims is usually entered into, although it can be expensive and is not compulsory.

In addition to claims against the employer, employees can also claim from the Occupational Injuries Scheme under the Social Welfare Acts. Employees must also take care of their own health and safety, and also that of others who may be affected by their actions.

Women

An employer should carry out separate risk assessments in relation to pregnant employees. If there are particular risks to an employee's pregnancy, these should be either removed or the employee moved away from them. If neither of these options is possible, the employee should receive health and safety leave from work, which may continue up to the beginning of maternity leave. If a doctor certifies that night work would be unsuitable for a pregnant employee, the employee must be given alternative work or health and safety leave.

Following an employee's return to work after maternity leave, if there is any risk to the employee because she has recently given birth or is breastfeeding, it should be removed. If this is not possible, the employee should be moved to alternative work. If it is not possible for the employee to be assigned alternative work, she should receive health and safety leave. If night work is certified by a doctor as being unsuitable after the birth, alternative work should be provided. If alternative work cannot be provided, the employee should be given health and safety leave.

Health and Safety Leave

During health and safety leave, employers must pay employees their normal wages for the first three weeks, after which health and safety benefits may be paid. Time spent on health and safety leave is treated as though the employee has been in employment and this time can be used to accumulate annual leave entitlement. The employee is entitled to leave for any public holidays that occur during health and safety leave.

Bullying

One of the employer's duties under the act is to prevent improper conduct or behavior (which includes bullying). An employer should have established grievance procedures for dealing with complaints of bullying in the workplace and deal with such complaints immediately.

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Working Hours

A law on working time was introduced in 1997 entitled 'The Organization of Working Time Act, 1997.'

The maximum average working week cannot exceed an average of 48 hours. The average is calculated in one of the following ways:

- For employees, generally – average over four months
- For night shift workers – average over two months
- For employees whose work is subject to seasonality, a foreseeable surge in activity or where employees are directly involved in ensuring continuity of service or production – average over six months
- For employees who enter into a collective agreement with their employers which is approved by the Labour Court – average over 12 months

The calculation of 48 hours does not include annual leave, sick leave, maternity, adoptive leave or parental leave. In line with EU Directive on Working Time 93/104/EC, the Organization of Working Time Act was implemented in 1997. The act does not apply to trainee doctors, workers at sea, fishermen, those employed by a relative or those who can determine (subject to core time) their own hours.

Moreover, the act does not cover those in civil protection and transport (other than for holiday entitlement). Under the act, the 48-hour week became effective for all other relevant employees. Special rules apply to young people under 18 years of age, as fixed in the Protection of Young Persons (Employment) Act, 1996. Employers should not employ persons under 16 years of age in a regular full-time job. Employers must see a copy of the young person's birth certificate/or use other evidence of age before employing them. If the person is under 18 years of age, the employer must get written permission from the person's guardian/ parent before employing them. The maximum working week for people under 18 years is given in the table below. If a young person works for more than one employer, the combined hours cannot exceed the maximum as stated below.

Under the Organisation of Working Time (Records) (Prescribed Form and Exemptions) Regulations 2001, the employer must keep detailed records of employees' working hours.

2.12 Language & Phrasebook

Language and Phrasebook

The official languages in the Republic of Ireland are English and Irish. However, the everyday language used by the majority of Irish people is English. You will find most road signs written in both Irish and English.

Some general Irish (Gaelic) words that may be useful:

| English | Gaelic | English | Gaelic |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Hello | Dia dhuit | Good night | Oíche mhaith |
| Goodbye (to person staying) | Slán agat | How are you? | Conas atá tú? |
| Goodbye (to person leaving) | Slán leat | Please | Le do thoil |
| Good morning | Maidin mhaith Dia dhuit ar maidin | Thank you | Go raibh maith agat |

Language Courses

There are many facilities for learning English in Dublin. Establishments offer individual and group tuition, often tailored to specific requirements.

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- Alpha College of English

Address: 4 North Great George's Street, Dublin 1

Tel: +353 1 874 7024

Email: admin@alphacollege.com

Web: <http://alphacollege.com>

- Berlitz

Address: 5 Merrion Street Lower, Dublin 2

Tel: +353 1 644 9742

Web: <http://berlitz-dublin.ie>

- Dun Laoghaire Tuition Centre (DLTC)

Address: 25 Georges Street Lower, Dun Laoghaire, Dublin

Tel: +353 1 230 1290

Email: info@dltc.ie

Web: www.dltc.ie

- International House

Address: The Steelworks, Folley Street, Dublin 1

Tel: +353 1 635 5850

Email: info@ihdublin.com

Web: www.ihdublin.com

- Irish College of English

Address: 6 Church Road, Malahide, Dublin

Tel: +353 1 845 3744

Email: info@iceireland.com

Web: www.iceireland.com

Comments: There is another branch at Swords

2.13 Social Etiquette

Entertaining and Gift Giving

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The Irish enjoy entertaining at home and invitations may be offered relatively quickly after a relationship has been established. If you are invited to an evening meal, then it is common to take a small gift for the hostess. Presents need not be extravagant – a tasteful, quality token will be appreciated. If someone presents you with a gift, thank the giver and proceed to open the gift in front of him or her.

It is entirely acceptable for a guest to arrive late for a dinner party by about five or ten minutes. When you are invited for a meal, allow your host to indicate the seating arrangements. The most honored position is at the head of the table, with the most important guests seated first to the left and then the right of the head of the table. The host and hostess will be seated at each end of the table. Occasionally, couples may be broken up and seated next to people they do not know with the intention of introducing new acquaintances and promoting conversation.

It is also customary at dinners for the host to propose a toast, which may be accompanied by a few remarks about the occasion. It is impolite to take a drink from your glass until the toast has been made.

If you are dining in a restaurant, the person who initiated the invitation usually pays the bill, although the guest is expected to make an offer to pay for the sake of politeness. If you are hosting a meal, making the payment arrangements ahead of time is the best policy. To summon a waiter/waitress, try to make eye contact rather than waving or calling.

Etiquette Tips and Taboos

It is important to remember that gestures are often defined by circumstances and frequently do not have the same meaning across cultures. Care should be taken by foreigners so that they do not unintentionally offend. Here are a few common social practices:

- Eye contact should be made and maintained when greeting or conversing with someone
- When speaking to another person, it is polite to keep your hands out of your pockets and at your sides
- Demonstrative hand gestures should be kept to a minimum
- The Irish speak more softly than in some other countries. It is best to keep your voice at an acceptable level
- The Irish practice a number of courtesies, such as men rising when a woman enters the room, or holding doors for women and allowing them to enter a room first
- It is customary for people to line-up to wait (to 'queue') in banks, for buses, to pay in shops, and indeed any place where there is more than one person wanting something. People may often make polite conversation. Do not 'jump the queue' or try to push in
- On public transport, it is considered common courtesy for the young and healthy to give up their seat to elderly people, people with babies or disabled people
- Avoid conversations on politics, religion and Northern Ireland
- For public toilets, the door labeled 'Fir' is the men's room, while the one with 'Mna' is the women's room

Gestures

- The peace sign is acceptable, but when you turn your fingers around it can be interpreted as offensive.
- When watching sports, the Irish make use of many expressive gestures along with colorful language – do not be offended.

Greetings

Handshaking is the customary form of greeting accompanied by the courtesy 'How do you do?' A firm handshake is considered a sign of good character.

Use the last name with the appropriate courtesy title such as 'Mr.', 'Mrs.', 'Ms.' or 'Miss.' It is likely, however, that after a short period of acquaintance, you will be invited to use first names.

LGBT

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Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) rights are not recognized all over the world. In some cases, LGBT persons may face harassment or even arrest. When moving overseas to a new country, LGBT assignees should thoroughly research visa applications, immigration procedures, local laws governing interpersonal relationships and the host country's attitude to LGBT rights.

Attitudes towards LGBT individuals in Ireland are regarded as among the most liberal in the world. Ireland was the first country to legalize same-sex marriages on a national level by popular vote in 2015. Same-sex couples may also jointly adopt children. Ireland has anti-discrimination laws to protect LGBT people from discrimination in employment and the provision of goods and services. Full recognition has been bestowed on transgender people with their right to legally change their gender identity.

There is a wide range of entertainment venues for the LGBT community in Dublin.

More information is available on the following websites.

- Gay Ireland

Web: www.gay-ireland.com

- Gay Travel

Web: <http://76crimes.com>

- Human Rights Watch

Web: <http://www.hrw.org>

- Human Rights Campaign

Web: www.hrc.org

- International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA)

Web: www.ilga-europe.org

- LGBT Helpline

Web: www.lgbt.ie

- Outhouse

Web: <http://outhouse.ie>

- Rainbow Mile

Web: www.rainbowmile.ie

- US Department of State -LGBT Travel Information

Web: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/before-you-go/travelers-with-special-considerations/lgbti.html>

Smoking and Drinking

The minimum age for buying tobacco or alcohol in Ireland is 18 years. Until recently, cigarette smoking was tolerated socially in pubs and some restaurant areas. Ireland has one of the highest smoking rates in Europe and also the highest female smoking population percentage in the OECD.

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Since March 2004, a smoking ban is in place in all pubs, restaurants and enclosed work places. Employers have discretion to provide an outdoor smoking area, subject to the requirements of the law. In the open air, smoking is commonplace, but it is prohibited on buses and trains, in shops, banks, offices, cinemas, and all public buildings. It is customary to ask for the approval of those in your company before you light up.

Alcohol is sold in supermarkets and other license stores, as well as in pubs and bars. The licensed sale of alcohol is permitted only between the hours of 10.30am and 10pm from Monday to Saturday and 12.30 pm to 10pm on Sundays. Since 2003, it is illegal in Ireland to sell alcohol at reduced prices for a limited period during any day. (in other words, 'happy hour' is prohibited).

The custom in a pub is to take turns ordering rounds of drinks for friends or colleagues. Refusing to buy a round when it is your turn will cause offense. Guinness, a dark, rich and filling stout, is considered the national drink. A lager is a lighter beer served cold. A shandy, a mixture of beer and lemonade, is also a popular drink.

Social Prejudices

Ireland is a tolerant society in general. Most forms of discrimination and harmful social prejudices are against the law in Ireland. Although prejudices based on skin color, ethnic group, race and nationality persist in the services sector (such as housing, shopping, entertainment areas and transport sectors), this is less so in the work place. Gender inequality still remains high, both in the work place and in social areas.

Tipping

Tipping is not compulsory in Ireland, but a matter of personal discretion. Many hotels and restaurants will add a service charge of around 10% to 15% to the bill. If you have received excellent service, you may want to leave a tip as well. If the service charge is not included, it is appropriate to leave 10% to 15% of the bill as a tip, but it is not compulsory.

Taxi drivers are usually tipped by rounding up the fare or adding 10% to the metered fare. For porters, tip EUR 1 to EUR 2 per piece of luggage. Hairdressers are customarily tipped around 10%, depending on the establishment.

2.14 Public Holidays

Public Holidays

Public holidays are generally observed as follows:

| Holiday | 2021 | 2022 |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------|
| New Year's Day | 1 January | 1 January |
| St. Patrick's Day | 17 March | 17 March |
| Easter Monday | 5 April | 18 April |
| May Day Bank Holiday | 3 May | 2 May |
| June Bank Holiday | 7 June | 6 June |
| August Bank Holiday | 2 August | 1 August |
| October Bank Holiday | 25 October | 31 October |
| Christmas Day | 25 December | 25 December |
| St. Stephen's Day | 26 December | 26 December |

If a public holiday falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the following Monday is usually given instead.

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Although Dublin can make international visitors feel very welcome, expatriates on long-term assignments have found it difficult to integrate with the locals. The Social Etiquette section can assist assignees in making their experience in Dublin rich and rewarding.

International societies and sports clubs are a good way to make new friends, and there are many groups such clubs in Dublin.

2.15 International Associations & Clubs

International Associations and Clubs

- Alliance Française

Address: 1 Kildare Street, Dublin 2

Tel: +353 1 676 1732

Email: info@alliance-francaise.ie

Web: www.alliance-francaise.ie

- American Women's Club of Dublin

Email: awcdmembers@gmail.com

Web: www.awcd.net

- Goethe Institut

Address: 62 Fitzwilliam Square, Dublin 2

Tel: +353 1 680 1100

Email: info@dublin.goethe.org

Web: www.goethe.de/gr/dub/deindex.htm

- Institute Cervantes (formerly Spanish Cultural institute)

Address: Lincoln House, Lincoln Place, Dublin 2

Tel: +353 1 631 1500

Email: cendub@cervantes.es

Web: www.dublin.cervantes.es

- Irish Scandinavian Club

Tel: +353 1 230 3802

Email: bjorndahl42@gmail.com

Web: <http://members.upc.ie/dorte.eriksen>

- Italian Institute of Culture

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Address: 11 Fitzwilliam Square East, Dublin 2

Tel: +353 1 662 0509

Email: iicdublino@esteri.it

Web: www.iicdublino.esteri.it

2.16 Religion / Worship

Religion / Worship

Ireland is a predominantly Catholic country in religious and social terms, although a rapid movement away from practicing traditional Catholicism has been evident in the last decade or so. As economic prosperity has increased, religious engagement has declined, and church-going numbers are extremely small and generally confined to the elder members of the population. Increasing immigration has also seen a growth in faiths of other denominations, although they remain a tiny minority.

The Church of Ireland is an Anglican church represented in most communities. The Presbyterian Church is a Protestant church, mainly based in Northern Ireland, but with scattered communities in the Republic of Ireland. There are also a large number of Adventist and Pentecostal ministries, most of them amongst the African immigrant population. Jewish people in Ireland were never very numerous and their number has been declining steadily. Although Ireland had no Islamic population until fairly recently, immigration has brought a sizeable number of Asian and African Muslims to Ireland. There are very few Buddhists, Hindus and Sikhs.

- **Christ Church Cathedral (The Cathedral of the Holy Trinity)**

Address: Christchurch Place, Dublin 8

Tel: +353 1 677 8099

Email: welcome@cccudub.ie

Web: www.christchurchdublin.ie

- **Destiny Christian Church**

Address: 64 Great Strand Street, Dublin 1

Tel: +353 1 874 7691

Email: brendan@destinychurch.ie

Web: www.destinychurch.ie

- **Grosvenor Baptist Church**

Address: 15 A Grosvenor Road, Rathmines, Dublin 6

Tel: +353 1 497 4798

Email: office@grosvenorbaptist.org

Web: www.grosvenorbaptist.org

Useful Resources

Good websites for information on Dublin and Ireland include:

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- Choose Ireland

Web: <http://chooseireland.com>

- Citizens Information

Web: www.citizensinformation.ie

- Discover Ireland

Web: www.discoverireland.ie

- Dublin eGuide

Web: www.dublineguide.com

- Expat Exchange

Web: www.expatsexchange.com

Comments: Website for expatriate information worldwide

- Expat Focus

Web: www.expatfocus.com/expatriate-ireland

- Ireland.com

Web: www.ireland.com

- Tourist Information Dublin

Web: www.tourist-information-dublin.co.uk

- Transitions Abroad

Web: www.transitionsabroad.com

Comments: More general advice about moving as an expatriate

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3 Travel and Leisure

3.1 Public Transport

Air Travel

Due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the government of Ireland has imposed stringent health screening measures and enhanced travel restrictions at airports.

The Irish Aviation Authority (IAA) is responsible for the management of aviation in the country. This includes the general management of its airports.

- **Irish Aviation Authority (IAA)**
Web: www.iaa.ie

The national airline of the Republic of Ireland is Aer Lingus. Bookings and ticket sales can be done on the website.

- **Aer Lingus**
Web: www.aerlingus.com

Low-cost airlines based in Ireland include CityJet, Stobart Air and Ryanair: the latter offers services to many European and North African destinations.

- **CityJet**
Web: www.cityjet.com
- **Ryanair**
Web: www.ryanair.com
- **Stobart Air**
Web: www.stobartair.com

Approximate flight times to Dublin

| City | Time (Hours and Minutes) |
|-------------|--------------------------|
| London | 1h30 |
| Los Angeles | 10h |
| New York | 6h30 |
| Sydney | 26h15 |
| Singapore | 15h35 |

Bus Travel

Many local bus services are operated by Bus Éireann, which has a nationwide network of buses, serving the major cities and most towns and villages outside the Dublin area. Bus services in remote areas are infrequent. Bus routes are intended to cover areas not serviced by rail routes. An Expressway coach network complements rail services. The central bus station can be contacted for more bus travel related information.

- **Busaras (Central Bus Station)**
Address: Store Street, Dublin 1
Tel: +353 1 836 6111

Bus Éireann is also the Irish representative of Eurolines. There are regular connections between Dublin and the UK, and onwards to most major European cities. The following bus companies operate services to various towns and cities within Ireland and Northern Ireland. Booking and ticket purchases can be done on the websites.

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- Aircoach
Web: www.aircoach.ie
- Bus Éireann
Web: www.buseireann.ie
- Citylink
Web: www.citylink.ie
- Dublin Coach
Web: www.dublincoach.ie
- Gobus
Web: www.gobus.ie
- JJ Kavanagh and Sons
Web: www.jjkavanagh.ie
- John McGinley
Web: www.johnmcginley.com
- Translink
Web: www.translink.co.uk
- Wexford Bus
Web: <http://wexfordbus.com>

Domestic Airports

The selection of domestic flights is limited because of the relatively short distances between cities in Ireland. Air travel is considerably more expensive than other means of transport. General airport facilities, such as ATMs, currency exchange and restaurants may be limited at some of the domestic airports. See the websites for the airport services directory.

| Airport | Website |
|----------------------------|--|
| Donegal Airport | www.donegalairport.ie |
| Ireland West Airport Knock | www.irelandwestairport.com |
| Kerry Airport | www.kerryairport.ie |
| Waterford Airport | www.flywaterford.com |

Getting Around Dublin by Bus

Bus services in Dublin city and county are operated by Dublin Bus. Services operate between 6am and 11.30pm with a limited late night bus service (Nitelink) on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

Dublin Bus also operates the Xpresso service, designed to allow for faster and more efficient bus travel for daily commuters during both morning and evening rush hour traffic. Xpresso routes are more direct than many other bus routes, and have fewer stops, thus reducing journey times between destinations.

Comprehensive details on services, timetables, fares and tickets can be found on the Dublin Bus website.

The central bus station is on Store Street, although some bus routes end near O'Connell Bridge. Most city buses pass through the area of O'Connell Street and O'Connell Bridge. There is a destination board on each bus to indicate its final destination. Those going to the city center are marked 'An Lar' or 'City Centre.'

Tickets and Fares

Fares on Dublin Bus are charged according to the number of stages traveled. The number of stages traveled is calculated by deducting the boarding stage number from the alighting stage number. Passengers boarding between stage points pay the appropriate fare from the preceding stage point. Passengers alighting between stage points pay the appropriate fare to the next stage point. Inner-city fares are calculated based on distances traveled.

Fares for adult single-journey tickets are as follows:

| Stages | Adult Fare (EUR) | Fare with Leap Card (EUR) |
|--------|------------------|---------------------------|
| | | |

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| | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|------|
| 1-3 stages | 2.15 | 1.55 |
| 4-13 stages | 3.00 | 2.25 |
| Over 13 stages | 3.30 | 2.50 |
| Route 90 | 2.15 | 1.55 |
| City Centre | 0.75 | 0.60 |
| Nitelink | 6.60 | 4.50 |
| Day Ticket | 7.00 | - |
| Xpresso | 3.80 | 3.00 |
| Five-Day Rambler | 33.00 | - |
| Monthly bus ticket | 145.00 | - |
| Annual countrywide bus ticket | 1,450.00 | - |

Leap Card is a cashless way to pay for individual bus journeys. A customer can pay the flat fare by touching on at the validator on the right hand side as they enter the bus. Otherwise, fares can be paid by holding the Leap Card to the driver's ticket machine and stating the destination. Leap Card can be used on Dublin Bus, Luas, DART and Commuter Rail services. The card can be bought at one of over 400 Leap Card agents in Dublin or online. A EUR 5 refundable deposit is charged for adult Leap Cards and customers must also top up with a minimum of EUR 5 travel credit at the time of first purchase. Full details are on the company website.

Nitelink services have a different fare structure, with a flat rate for one journey. Prepaid tickets and cash fare EUR 6.60 (coins only) and with a Leap Card EUR 4.50. Nitelink prepaid tickets are available from City Centre ticket agents that are listed on the Dublin Bus website.

- **Busaras (Central Bus Station)**
Address: Store Street, Dublin 1
Tel: +353 1 836 6111
- **Dublin Bus**
Tel: +353 1 873 4222
Web: www.dublinbus.ie
- **LeapCard**
Tel: +353 1850 824 824
Web: www.leapcard.ie
Comments: Manage your account online, after completing the registration process

Getting Around Dublin by Cycling

Cycling is popular in Dublin, for transport, leisure, and competitive racing. Cycling in Dublin for children is also well-organized, and there are a number of child-friendly parks and trails. The use of proper headgear is compulsory. There is a wide selection of bicycle stores in the city.

There are designated bike lanes in the city areas. Motorists who block any of these lanes will be fined. Cyclists who disobey the traffic rules will also receive an on-the-spot fine.

A bike scheme in the city provides 100 public bike stations with more than 1,500 bikes available for public use. The bike scheme requires an annual membership, which costs EUR 35 per year or EUR 5 for a 3-day membership. An extra charge applies when you rent a bike.

| Rental Time | Tariff (EUR) |
|-------------|--------------|
| | |

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| | |
|-----------------|------|
| 0 – 30 minutes | Free |
| 30 – 60 minutes | 0.50 |
| 1 – 2 hours | 1.50 |
| 2 – 3 hours | 3.50 |
| 3 – 4 hours | 6.50 |

- **Dublinbikes**
Web: www.dublinbikes.ie

There are numerous cycling routes in and around the city. Routes range from about 4 kilometers to 50 kilometers in distance. There are various groups, which you can join in order to enhance your biking experience. Information about suitable routes is available on the relevant website.

- **Map My Ride**
Web: www.mapmyride.com/ie/dublin-l

Cycle Dublin is a Dublin City Council project and it aims to make cycling in the city more pleasant. Membership is required.

More information about cycling in the city, including traffic rules for cyclists, is available as follows:

- **Cycle Dublin**
Web: www.cycledublin.ie
- **Dublin Cycling Campaign**
Web: www.dublincycling.ie
- **Irish Cycling Advocacy Network**
Web: <http://cyclist.ie>
- **Irish Cycle**
Web: <http://irishcycle.com>

Getting Around Dublin by Taxi

Taxis in Dublin are not of a uniform color or type, they are standard cars. Taxis can be hailed in the street or taken from taxi ranks outside rail and bus stations. There are also ranks at O'Connell Bridge, St. Stephen's Green and Dame Street. Taxis can also be booked by telephone. Taxis are metered and fares are set. The initial charge is EUR 3.60 and thereafter EUR 1.10 per kilometer. There are additional charges for extra passengers, luggage, animals and ordering by phone. Additional charges also apply during evenings and holidays.

Taxi companies operating 24-hour radio-call service in Dublin include:

- **Blue Cabs**
Tel: +353 1 802 2222
Web: www.bluecabs.ie
- **Checkers Cabs**
Tel: +353 1 834 3434
Web: www.checkers.ie
- **Dublin Cab 2000**
Tel: +353 1 890 0900
Web: www.dublincab2000.ie
- **NRC Taxis**
Tel: +353 1 677 2222
Web: www.nrc.ie
Comments: They have their own app service. The website has details
- **Trinity Taxis**
Tel: +353 1 708 2222 (24-hour booking)
Web: www.trinitytaxis.ie

Taxi apps are becoming more popular throughout the world and in Ireland as well. By downloading the app, you will be able to get hold of a taxi that suits your price range and quality rating. The app automatically locates you and shows the driver approaching on the map. A one-time registration is required from some dispatchers. A smart-phone or android is required. Some taxi companies have their own apps. The websites have details.

- **MyTaxi – Ireland**
Web: www.mytaxi.com/ie/

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- Lynk
Web: www.lynk.ie
- Smart Apps
Web: www.smartapps.ie
- Uber
Web: www.uber.com/en-GB/cities/dublin/

Getting Around Dublin by Train

Commuter rail services, DART (Dublin Area Rapid Transit) are operated by Irish Rail. In general, services operate Monday to Saturday from 6.30am to midnight and Sundays from 9am to 11pm. The network covers 53 kilometers (33 miles) along the East Coast from Howth in the North to Bray in the South, serving three stations in Dublin city center: Connolly, Tara Street and Pearse, as well as the suburbs from Malahide or Howth in north County Dublin southwards as far as Greystones, County Wicklow. The service operates about every 15 to 30 minutes. Comprehensive details on services, timetables, fares and tickets can be found on the website. A range of tickets and passes is available.

- Iarnród Éireann (Irish Rail)
Tel: +353 1 3866 222, 1 850 366 222
Web: www.irishrail.ie

Getting Around Dublin by Tram

LUAS is Dublin's Light Rail Travel System. LUAS runs on two tramlines:

| Tramlines | Destinations | Frequency |
|------------|---|-----------------------|
| Green Line | Connecting Brides Glen to Broombridge | Every 4 to 15 minutes |
| Red Line | Connecting Tallaght or Saggart to The Point | Every 3 to 15 minutes |

Services operate between approximately 6am and midnight; 7am to 11pm Sunday. The two lines cross in the Dublin city center; the O'Connell and Marlborough stops on the Green Line are each within one block of Abbey Street stop on the Red Line. The tram also connects with the Irish Rail at Connolly and Heuston tram stops on the Red Line. Trams run every 4 to 7 minutes.

Tickets and Fares

The LUAS operates on a fare-by-zone system, which has eight different zones. There are many different kinds of tickets and passes available. Some tickets are valid on trams and buses. The fare structure is intricate and depends on the number of zones, days and on where the ticket is purchased. Tickets are valid for 90 minutes from the time of validation. There are special discounts for students and children.

Adult tickets start at EUR 2.10 for a single, one-zone trip and range to EUR 3.20 for eight zones. Tickets can be purchased at various newsagents and shops around Dublin. The website has full ticket fare details, including the various types of passes available. Single tickets are valid 90 minutes from time of issue, for one trip only. Tickets must be purchased before boarding the tram; the fine for traveling without a ticket is EUR 45. The Leap Card can also be used on the tram system, enabling a reduction in fares.

- LUAS
Tel: +353 1 461 4910, 1 800 300 604
Web: www.luas.ie
Comments: A comprehensive fares list is available on the website

International Airports

Dublin

Ireland's main international airport is Dublin Airport, located 10 kilometers (6 miles) north of Dublin city center. The airport has two terminals and facilities including bureau de change, ATMs, post office (open 9am to 5pm), restaurants, cafés and bars, shops, pharmacy and car rental. There are tourist information centers in the arrivals halls, open from 8am to 8pm daily.

- Dublin Airport (DUB)
Web: www.dublinairport.com

Getting Downtown - Bus

There are several bus companies serving Dublin Airport, offering routes to a number of destinations around the city and surrounding area. The

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bus websites now have app details, which can be downloaded in order to assist you with your bus travel arrangements.

Journeys can be planned using the Transport for Ireland website.

- **Transport for Ireland - Journey Planner**
Web: www.journeyplanner.transportforireland.ie

Comprehensive information about bus services from the airport is available on the airport's website. Bus companies offering services from the airport include:

- **Airport Hopper**
Tel: +353 86 023 4620
Web: <https://airporthopper.ie>
Comments: Daily shuttle bus service providing the only link from Tallaght, Clondalkin and Liffey Valley to and from Dublin Airport. Single fares are EUR 11.50, if paid on the bus, but EUR 9.20 when booked online. Online bookings need to be made 24 hours in advance of travel
- **Airlink**
Tel: +353 1 873 4222
Web: www.dublinbus.ie
Comments: Direct services between Dublin airport and the city center. The service operates at least every 10 minutes from 4.45am to 12.30am Monday to Saturday. On Sundays, the bus starts from 6.30am and operates until 12.30am. Airlink prepaid tickets can be bought at the bus and rail information desk and the Dublin Tourism information desk. They can also be bought from the vending machines located at the bus departure points on the arrivals road. The single fare is EUR 7 and a return is EUR 12. See the 'Airlink Express' page
- **Aircoach**
Tel: +353 1 844 7118
Web: www.aircoach.ie
Comments: Offers services from the airport to the city center, Greystones and South Dublin. The service runs 24/7. This service stops at most of the major hotels around Dublin city
- **Bus Eireann**
Tel: 1850 836 611 (within Ireland)
Web: www.buseireann.ie
Comments: Daily coach services from the airport to and from various destinations. Buses leave every ten minutes
- **Citylink**
Tel: +353 91 564 164
Web: www.citylink.ie
Comments: Buses are available at terminals 1 and 2. There are around 14 daily trips between the airport and the city areas

Getting Downtown – Train

There is currently no direct rail link to Dublin Airport. Taxi and bus services are available to most train stations throughout the Dublin area. Dublin Bus serves Heuston and Connolly rail stations.

Getting Downtown – Taxi

Taxis are available from the forecourts directly outside terminals 1 and 2. Passengers should follow the taxi signs to the designated area. A taxi dispatcher is available at either taxi rank for further information or assistance.

Taxis can be used for journeys up to 30 kilometers (20 miles). Legally, cabs must have meters, and drivers must provide receipts. The average fare to the city center is EUR 20 to EUR 30. Ask the taxi driver to estimate the fare before getting into the car if in doubt. There are extra charges for additional passengers, luggage, time of day, Sundays, and public holidays.

- **Airport Taxi**
Tel: +353 1 290 9090
Web: www.airporttaxi.ie
- **Airport Taxi 365**
Tel: +353 85 172 9599
Web: www.airporttaxi365.com
- **Blue Cabs**
Tel: +353 1 802 2222
Web: www.bluecabs.ie
- **Dublin Airport Taxis**
Tel: +353 1 443 4563
Web: www.dublinairporttaxi.com
Comments: Their app can be downloaded from their website
- **NRC Taxis**
Tel: +353 1 677 2222
Web: www.nrc.ie
Comments: They have their own app service. The website has details

Getting Downtown – Car Rental

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Car rental companies are represented at the airport (Arrivals Hall) including:

- Avis
Web: www.avis.ie
- Budget
Web: www.budget-ireland.com
- Europcar
Web: www.europcar.ie
- Hertz
Web: www.hertz.ie
- National Car Rentals
Web: www.nationalcar.com
- Sixt
Web: www.sixt.ie

Other International Airports

| Airport | Website |
|-----------------|--|
| Cork Airport | www.corkairport.com |
| Shannon Airport | www.shannonairport.com |

Rail Travel

Rail services are run by Iarnród Éireann. Services include InterCitytrains operating between Dublin and all major Irish cities. There is also a high-speed service between Dublin and Belfast, as well as commuter services and a suburban rail network. First class seats are available on InterCity trains, with restaurant and buffet bars on some routes. Smaller towns are connected by local "Railcar" trains that have only second-class compartments. Distances are generally short in Ireland, and the longest trip by train from Dublin is the three hours to Galway or Cork.

Most trains in Ireland operate to and from Dublin. There are two main stations in Dublin: Connolly Station and Heuston Station. There are no trains connecting these stations, so you have to take a tram or bus to go from Connolly to Heuston. The high-speed 'Enterprise' train is jointly operated by Iarnród Éireann and NI Railways. It runs eight times a day between Dublin Connolly and Belfast (Northern Ireland) in just over 2 hours at the cost of EUR 39.99 for a single journey adult ticket.

For people who live near the coastal areas, the Dublin Area Rapid Transit (DART) system is the rail, which runs along the coast of Dublin, from Malahide and Howth southwards as far as Greystones. The DART system is also under the management of Iarnród Éireann. The DART timetable is available on the Iarnród Éireann website.

Booking and seat reservation can be done online. The website also has timetables and fares. Most stations have free WiFi access.

The main train stations in Dublin are:

| Train Station | Service / Destinations |
|---------------------|---|
| Heuston Station | Services routes from Dublin to: Cork, Tralee, Limerick, Waterford, Ballina/Westport, Galway, Kildare and Portlaoise |
| Connolly Station | Serves routes to: Sligo, Belfast, Rosslare Europort, Drogheda, Dundalk, Maynooth, Longford and Dublin Area Rapid Transit (DART) |
| Tara Street Station | The station deals with mainly Dublin Area Rapid Transit (DART) trains. |

For more information:

- Dublin Area Rapid Transport (DART)
Tel: +353 1 703 3504
- Iarnród Éireann (Irish Rail)
Tel: +353 1 836 6222, 1 850 366 222 (within Ireland)
Web: www.irishrail.ie

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Sea and River Travel

Dublin has two ferry ports: Dublin Port, which is on the north side of the city, and Dun Laoghaire on the south side of Dublin Bay.

- Dun Laoghaire Harbour Company
Tel: +353 1 280 1018
Web: <http://dlharbour.ie/contact>
- Dublin Port
Web: <http://dublinportblog.com>

Regular ferry crossings are available between the following:

Approximate ferry times from Dublin

| City | Time |
|---------------------------------|------|
| Liverpool (England) | 8h |
| Douglas (Isle of Man) | 4h45 |
| Holyhead (Isle of Anglesey) | 3h15 |
| Fishguard (Wales) and Rosslare | 3h30 |
| Swansea (Wales) and Cork | 10h |
| Pembroke (Wales) and Rosslare | 3h45 |
| Cherbourg (France) and Rosslare | 19h |
| Roscoff (France) and Rosslare | 18h |

Ferry booking and ticket purchase can be done on the websites. Credit cards are widely accepted. Ferries are operated by the following companies:

- Brittany Ferries
Web: www.brittanyferries.ie
- Irish Ferries
Web: www.irishferries.com
- Isle of Man Steam Packet
Web: www.steam-packet.com
- P&O Irish Sea
Web: www.poferries.com
- Stena Line
Web: www.stenaline.co.uk

Transport in Dublin

Dublin's public transport system consists of buses, trams and rail networks.

3.2 Driving

Automobile Club

The Automobile Association of Ireland (AA) is Ireland's largest motoring organization. AA provides insurance, emergency assistance and a variety of other services.

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- AA Ireland

Tel: +353 1 617 9104

Web: www.theaa.ie

Automobile Dealers

A large range of new and used cars is available in Ireland. There are dealers selling most makes of cars in Dublin. Servicing and after sales service levels are high.

- Carroll & Kinsella Blackrock

Tel: +353 1 288 8624

Web: www.ckb.ie

Comments: Toyota

- Clonskeagh Motors

Tel: +353 1 269 4477

Web: www.clonskeaghmotors.ie

Comments: Honda

- Frank Keane

Tel: +353 1 240 5666

Web: www.frankkeane.ie

Comments: BMW and Volkswagen

- Koping

Tel: +353 1 460 7299

Web: www.koping.ie

Comments: Volvo

- MSL Grange Motors

Tel: +353 1 289 3611

Web: www.msl.ie/locations/mercedes-benz/grange-motors

Comments: Mercedes Benz and Volkswagen

Buying a Car

New and used cars are readily available on the market. Make sure that you buy your car from a reputable dealer, who is a member of the Society

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of the Irish Motor Industry (SIMI). All members of SIMI must follow a code of ethics and must maintain a high level of customer service. The dealer's SIMI membership can be checked on the SIMI website.

The car dealer must provide you with the following documents:

- A written warranty, stating what it covers and its duration
- The car's history
- The car's service book
- The car's handbook/manual
- Two sets of keys for the car
- A signed receipt for payment
- National Car Test (NCT) certificate if the car is older than 4 years
- Registration Tax (VRT) certificate, if the car has been previously imported

If you buy the car online from a dealer, you must be extra careful, as you may not have had the opportunity to inspect the car. However, there is a 14-day 'cooling-off' period, during which the deal can be cancelled if you wish to do so.

A car buyer's checklist is available from the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission. You may also check the comprehensive list of your consumer rights on the website.

- **Competition and Consumer Protection Commission**

Web: www.ccpc.ie

Comments: A car purchase checklist is available

- **Consumer Help**

Web: www.consumerhelp.ie/buying-a-car

Comments: The website gives information about your consumer rights as well as car-buying tips

- **National Car Test (NCT)**

Web: www.ncts.ie

- **Society of the Irish Motor Industry (SIMI)**

Web: www.simi.ie

Comments: Car dealers must be registered with the society

Car Accidents

If you have an accident that results in any damage to a vehicle or a passenger, you will need to call the police. Contact details and registration numbers of all witnesses to the accident should be obtained as well.

Driving in Ireland

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Driving is on the left hand side of the road, as in the UK. Roads are overall in good condition. Some secondary, rural roads may be in poor repair. Traffic is very heavy in and around city centers during rush hours.

Principal roads are designated by the letter N, meaning 'National Primary Road'; Motorways (highways) are marked with an 'M'; minor roads are marked 'R.' Road signs are usually in both English and Irish. In Gaeltacht (Irish-speaking) areas, signs may only be provided in Irish.

There are several toll roads in Ireland, which are listed on the Transport Infrastructure Ireland website. The costs of the tolls are also listed. All vehicles using the section of the M50 between Junction 6 (N3 Blanchardstown) and Junction 7 (N4 Lucan) are liable to pay a toll. There is no cash payment facility available at the tolling point on the M50. Unregistered users must pay the toll by 8pm on the day following the journey. Payment can be made by quoting the vehicle registration number.

Electronic tolling allows motorists to use electronic tolling lanes, saving time and the need to carry cash when travelling through a toll road. A small electronic tag is placed in the vehicle and is detected each time the vehicle passes through the toll. The toll is then debited against the customer's account. There are a number of companies in Ireland providing electronic tags to motorists. All these providers use the same system, which means you only need one tag for all tolling facilities in Ireland. Information on suppliers of electronic tags and the different types of tag accounts is available at the Tag Compare website.

- Transport Infrastructure Ireland

Web: www.tii.ie

- Tag Compare

Web: www.tagcompare.ie

Driving License

The Road Safety Authority has overall responsibility for driver licensing. There are National Driver Licence Service (NDLS) centers around the country, and you should complete your application in person at the one nearest to where you live.

To apply for a driver's license, you must be normally resident in Ireland. You are considered to be normally resident in Ireland if, because of personal and occupational ties, you usually live here for at least 185 days in each calendar year.

You must by law, have your driving license with you at all times when driving in Ireland.

A temporary visitor to Ireland may legally drive, provided they hold a valid license issued in their country of residence and an International Driving License. A temporary visit is regarded as a period not exceeding 12 months. After 12 months, you must obtain an Irish license.

People with licenses issued in an EU/EEA country or in one of the following countries or territories do not need an International Driving Permit to accompany their national driver's license.

| | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| Australia | Japan | Switzerland |
| Gibraltar | Jersey | |
| Guernsey | South Africa | |
| Isle of Man | South Korea | |

Exchanging Licenses

Holders of a driver's license issued by an EU/EEA member state may drive freely in Ireland without the need to exchange their license for an Irish license after one year.

Persons from the following countries and territories may freely exchange their driving license for an Irish one:

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | | |
|--|--|--|

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| | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| Australia | Japan | South Korea |
| Gibraltar | Jersey | Switzerland |
| Guernsey | New Zealand | Taiwan |
| Isle of Man | South Africa | |

Persons who hold driver's licenses from countries other than the above-mentioned may not exchange their licenses and need to apply for an Irish license through a full procedure, which includes a theoretical and practical driving test.

Applications to exchange your driver's license for an Irish license should be made at the local National Driver Licence Service center. If you wish to exchange your driver's license for an equivalent Irish license, you must do so within one year of your license expiring.

Application Procedure

A 'face-to-face' application process has been introduced which will help to increase the level of security around the issuing of driver's licenses. However, there is a facility will be in place where customers can apply for their license by contacting the NDLS Customer Service Team by phone and providing supporting documentation by post, if required. This facility will only be available to those who have already completed the identity verification process during a face-to-face meeting in an NDLS center on or after 29 October 2013.

Application forms are available from the National Driver Licence Service, post office or Garda station or downloaded from the Citizens Information website.

Documentation Required

- Application form for a full driving license (D401 downloadable from the National Driver Licence Service website)
- Two identical passport-type photographs, signed on the reverse
- Passport
- Your current or most recently issued driving license
- A medical report is sometimes required
- An eyesight report if you are exchanging a license from outside the EU. Eyesight report form (D502 downloadable from the National Driver Licence Service website). It is also available from the Motor Taxation Office
- License exchange fee

Applying for a First-Time Irish Driving License

If you will be resident in Ireland over 12 months, and are not from any of the countries mentioned, you will need to apply for an Irish Driving License.

Application Procedure

- Complete a driver theory test (Theory Test Certificate)
- Apply for a Provisional Driving License
- Complete a practical driving test in Ireland (Essential Driver Training)
- Apply for a full Irish Driving License

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Documentation Required

To apply for a First Provisional Driving License you need:

- Application Form (D201) fully completed and signed
- A Theory Test Certificate
- An Eyesight Report (D502) fully completed
- Proof of identity (passport and/or birth certificate, Garda National Immigration Card)
- Two identical passport-type photos, signed by the applicant on the reverse
- Fee

Information is available from the National Driver Licence Service, which has offices in all areas of the city. The website has location details.

- **Citizens Information**

Web: www.citizensinformation.ie/en/travel_and_recreation/motoring_1/

- **Driving Test**

Tel: 1890 40 60 40 (within Ireland)

Web: www.drivingtest.ie

- **National Driver Licence Service**

Tel: +353 761 087 880

Web: www.ndls.ie

- **Road Safety Authority – Driver Testing**

Tel: +353 96 25000, 1890 506 080 (within Ireland)

Web: www.rsa.ie

Driving Rules and Regulations

Road Rules

It is highly recommended that you purchase a copy of the Highway Code for Ireland, which is available at most bookshops. The following is for general information only.

- The minimum driving age is 17 years
- Wearing of seatbelts for the driver and all passengers is compulsory
- Children under 12 years of age are not allowed to travel in the front seat unless they are in an approved seat or harness
- Children under 3 years of age must be in an appropriate child restraint. They can only travel in the front if they are in a rear facing restraint system and the airbag is disabled

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- Drink driving laws are strict. Currently, the legal blood-alcohol limit is 0.05% (0.02% for novice and professional drivers). The minimum penalty for driving with a blood alcohol level over the limit is three months disqualification from driving, which the police can impose immediately
- Vehicles must carry a warning triangle
- Distances on road signs are in kilometers
- Holding and using a mobile phone is banned. Hands-free kits must be used
- Visiting vehicles must display nationality plates or stickers
- A GPS navigation system with a speed camera location facility must have this facility disabled
- Radar detectors are prohibited
- Traffic circulates on the left and at junctions, traffic from the right takes priority
- Vehicles already on a roundabout have priority, so vehicles entering must give way
- A continuous white line down the center of the road means no overtaking or no passing
- The sounding of horns is prohibited between 11.30pm and 7am, unless used as a warning in an emergency
- Dipped headlights should be used in poor daytime visibility
- Drivers are legally required to carry a driving license, insurance papers and registration papers (proof of vehicle ownership) at all times

There is a penalty points system in place. Any driver accumulating 12 penalty points at any time within a three-year period will be automatically disqualified from driving for six months. There are 36 offenses that incur penalty points; these include speeding, seatbelt offenses, dangerous overtaking, driving while holding a mobile phone and driving without insurance.

Gasoline

Gasoline stations are widely available throughout the country. Most gas stations have convenience stores selling a wide range of snacks, drinks and basic supplies.

All fuel in Ireland is unleaded and there are usually two grades available: standard (95 octane) and premium (98 octane). Prices can vary greatly from one station to another, but by law, every station must have its prices prominently displayed. The average gasoline price in Ireland, as of March 2021, ranges from EUR 1.33 to EUR 1.37 per liter. The price for one liter of engine oil ranges from EUR 12.99 to EUR 17.99 depending on the grade of oil. LPG (auto gas) is available in a few service stations, but is not as widely used as in other European countries.

The vast majority of gas stations are self-service, where you pump first and then pay. At night, especially in urban areas, the reverse may apply. Credit cards are accepted in most gas stations.

Local Vehicle Regulations

Motor Insurance

Third-party motor insurance is compulsory in Ireland. Insurance quotes can vary from company to company, so you may want to shop around for the best deals. Prices depend on your occupation, age, driving history and type and size of car you are driving. You may be able to reduce your premium if you can provide a proof of no claims (in English) from your previous insurance company, going back at least five years, if possible. If you import your car from abroad, bear in mind that traffic in Ireland drives on the left. While driving a car with the steering wheel on the left is legal in Ireland, insurance companies may change a premium on insurance. Types of insurance include:

- Third party: this is the minimum cover. You will be insured against damage to the car of the other party only
- Third party, fire and theft: cover for third party, fire (lightning/explosion), and theft or attempt of theft

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- Comprehensive: includes third party, fire and theft in addition to damage to your own car
- Parking: Additional parking insurance is often available to cover scrapes, etc., in parking lots

Motor Tax

It is a legal requirement in Ireland to pay motor tax if you want to drive your vehicle in a public place. Motor tax is a charge imposed by the government on most motor vehicles. The revenue from this tax is used to maintain and upgrade the road network in Ireland.

A motor tax disc is issued for three, six or 12 months and the rate is calculated by either engine size or CO2 emissions.

You are required to display evidence that you have paid by affixing the current tax disc on the windshield of your vehicle.

If your vehicle is new, you need a "First Motor Tax Application" form (RF 100). This is available from the car dealer or person from whom you bought your vehicle.

Documentation Required

When you are applying for first motor tax, you must present the following documents at your local Motor Tax Office:

- Form RF 100
- Vehicle Registration Certificate
- Current Certificate of Insurance issued in Ireland
- Correct fee

It is also possible to tax a car online. The Motor Tax Online website has full details.

Renewing Motor Tax

Two forms are available for the purpose of renewing motor tax (RF 100A and RF 100B). The only difference between these two forms is that the RF 100B is a computer-printed form that is automatically posted to you about a month before your tax is due to expire, while the RF 100A is available from the local Motor Taxation Office.

Documentation Required

Not everyone receives a form in the post, so it is up to you to keep track of when your tax expires. Both forms should be returned to the local Motor Taxation Office in person or by post. If you apply in person, you will receive your new tax disc immediately. If applying by post, allow up to three weeks to receive the new disc. The following should accompany both forms when making an application:

- Vehicle licensing certificate
- Current certificate of insurance
- National Car Test Certificate (if applicable – see below)
- Correct fee

National Car Test

The NCT is conducted every two years for vehicles manufactured within the last 10 years. Cars over 10 years old are tested each year. The vehicle owner must bring the vehicle registration/licensing certificate with the car to the test center. The owner must also produce their driver's license or passport as identification.

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Vehicles imported to Ireland from outside the state (including Northern Ireland) must also go through the NCT. This applies even if the vehicle previously received an MOT or any other vehicle test abroad. As it is an offense to drive a car that is liable for testing without displaying a National Car Testing Service disc, if the imported vehicle is already two years old or more it must go through the NCT immediately. NCT test certificates will be valid until the next test due date, after which the vehicle (if still in Ireland) must be tested again.

The NCT on an imported vehicle is due on the anniversary date of first registration in the country of origin. Where the vehicle was already two years old or more when imported, the anniversary date is the date of importation. After you have imported your vehicle and paid Vehicle Registration Tax, you receive a Vehicle Registration Certificate. This must be taken to the nearest NCT center to have the vehicle input on the NCT database so that a record of the vehicle is kept. The next day, a test can be booked for the vehicle by contacting NCT.

Applications by post should be sent to the address below. Drivers can book, confirm or cancel the test online.

- **Motor Taxation Office**

Tel: +353 1 222 8000

Web: www.motortax.ie

- **National Car Testing Services (NCTS)**

Tel: +353 1 413 5994

Web: www.ncts.ie

Comments: There are numerous testing centers in the city. The website has location details

Parking

There are ample, secure parking facilities at the international airport. To make sure that you get a parking space at the airport, it is advisable to make use of the parking booking facility on the airport's website. You can make the required payment online.

In towns, parking areas are generally marked with the letter 'P'. A diagonal line through the 'P' means that parking there will result in a fine, clamp or tow. Where yellow lines have been painted on the road, parking restrictions apply. A sign will be posted detailing the exact parking restrictions, but typically a double yellow line means no parking at any time and a single yellow line means no parking from 7am to 7pm, Monday to Saturday.

Dublin city is divided into zones for parking charges. The highest charge is in the area nearest to the city center, the yellow zone, and is EUR 3.20 per hour. The Dublin Street Parking Services website has a map of areas and a list of charges, which is available to download.

Pay-and-display machines are common in major towns and cities. To use these machines, insert the required amount of coins for the time desired. A small ticket will be issued, which you need to display on the dashboard in your car so that it can be viewed through the windscreen.

Parking Tag is an additional service offered by Dublin City Council, as a fast and convenient way to pay for parking. There are two options when using Parking Tag; pay as you go option or account option. Full details of the system are available on the website. Parking Tag can also be bought from selected Payzone outlets.

You can buy a Residents' Parking Permit if you live in an area of Dublin city where a Residents' Parking Permit Scheme operates and if you qualify for a permit. This permit would allow you to park on the public road in which you live. Parking spaces on your street are not reserved. They can be used by anyone. This includes fixed-term Pay-and-Display ticket holders. To apply for a Residents Parking Permit contact Dublin City Council.

- **Dublin Airport – Parking**

Web: www.dublinairport.com

- **Dublin City Council**

Tel: +353 1 222 2222

Web: www.dublincity.ie

- **Dublin Street Parking Services**

Tel: +353 1 602 2500

Web: www.dsps.ie

- **Parking Tag**

Tel: 0818 300 161 (within Ireland)

Web: www.parkingtag.ie

Speed Limits

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Circular signs indicate speed limits with the limit amount circled by a red band. Care should be taken as hidden speed cameras are in operation on many major roads. In general, speed limits are indicated in kilometers per hour (km/h) as follows (unless otherwise indicated). Special speed limits refer to designated areas, around schools and other public areas, for example:

| Roads | Speed limit |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| Town & city | 50 km/h (31 mph) |
| Regional & local (non-national) | 80 km/h (50 mph) |
| National roads | 100 km/h (62 mph) |
| Highways | 120 km/h (75 mph) |
| Special designated | 30/60 km/h (19/37 mph) |

3.3 Shopping

Department Stores in Dublin

There are a good number of excellent department stores, where a wide range of quality merchandise is available. The stores are popular with the expatriate community in the city. Selected stores include:

- **Arnotts**

Address: 12 Henry Street, Dublin 1

Tel: +353 1 805 0400

Email: customerservice@arnotts.ie

Web: www.arnotts.ie

Hours: Monday to Wednesday 9.30am to 7pm; Thursday 9.30am to 9pm; Friday 9.30am to 8pm; Saturday 9am to 7pm; Sunday 11am to 7pm

Comments: Ireland's oldest and largest department store. Also has an online shopping facility

- **Brown Thomas**

Address: 88-95 Grafton Street, Dublin 2

Tel: +353 1 605 6666

Email: btcustserv@brownthomas.ie

Web: www.brownthomas.com

Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 9am to 8pm; Tuesday 10am to 8pm; Thursday 9.30am to 9pm; Sunday 11am to 7pm

Comments: An upscale department store selling designer brands from fashions in a wide range of products

- **Debenhams**

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Web: www.debenhams.ie

Comments: A department store selling a wide range of products, from designer fashions to everyday items. There are several stores in and around the city. Also has an online shopping facility. See the website for location details

- **Dunnes Stores**

Web: www.dunnesstores.com

Comments: Sells men's and women's casual wear, though they also cater for children and babies. Some of the larger stores also sell groceries. There are many branches in and around the city. The website has location details

- **Marks & Spencer**

Web: www.marksandspencer.ie

Comments: Several locations in Dublin selling an excellent and well-known range of products. Also has online shopping facility

Markets in Dublin

There are a number of open-air markets selling fresh produce and other items:

- **Blackrock Market**

Address: 19a Main Street, Blackrock, Co. Dublin

Tel: +353 1 283 3522

Email: blackrockmarketmanager@gmail.com

Web: www.blackrockmarket.com

Hours: Saturday and Sunday 11am to 5.30pm; Bank Holiday Mondays 11am to 5.30pm

Comments: Blackrock market is an indoor and outdoor market with a mix of crafts, books, food, antiques, coins, etc

- **Dublin Food Co-operative**

Address: 12 Newmarket, Dublin 8

Tel: +353 1 454 4258

Email: info@dublinfood.coop

Web: www.dublinfood.coop

Hours: Wednesday and Friday 10am to 7pm; Thursday 10am to 8pm; Saturday 9.30am to 5pm; there is also a Sunday market 11am to 5pm

Comments: Specializes in organic vegetables and fruit, as well as vegetarian ingredients and eco-friendly domestic products

- **Irish Farmer's Markets**

Address:

Tel: +353 87 611 5016

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Email: info@irishfarmersmarkets.ie

Web: <http://irishfarmersmarkets.ie>

Comments: The markets are open at different locations during different days of the week. The website has location details. Mostly fresh produce, home baked items and crafts are available. The markets are popular with the expats in the city

- **Mespil Road Lunchtime Market**

Address: Mespil Road, Dublin 4

Web: <http://irishvillagemarkets.ie/location/mespil-road/>

Hours: Thursday 11.30am to 2pm

Comments: The market offers a range of international food. Other markets are listed on the website

- **Moore Street Market**

Address: Moore Street, Pedestrian Precinct, off Henry Street, Dublin 1

Tel: +353 1 605 7700

Hours: Open from 8am to 4pm from Monday to Saturday

Comments: As much a tourist attraction and photo opportunity as it is a big, lively and international market. Reasonably priced fresh fruit, vegetables and meat, especially early in the morning

- **Temple Bar Food Market**

Address: Meeting House Square, Temple Bar, Dublin 1

Tel: +353 1 677 2255

Web: www.facebook.com/TempleBarFoodMarket

Hours: Saturday from 10am to 4.30pm

Comments: A diverse range of traders sell cheeses, vegetables, meat, bread and cakes

Shopping

Irish crafts are generally of an excellent standard and there are many craft shops throughout the country. Perhaps the most famous include hand knitted warm woolen sweaters, silverware, silver jewelry, glass, fine crystal and ceramics. The Irish also produce high quality outdoor traditional sportswear and rainwear. There is an excellent choice of shops in Dublin.

Shops are generally open from Monday to Saturday between 9am and 5.30pm or 6pm with late night shopping on Thursdays until 8pm or 9pm. Some shops outside the city centers and in smaller towns and villages may have a 'half-day closing' on Wednesday, Thursday or Saturday (depending on the locality). The majority of city center shops are open on Sundays from midday to 6pm.

Visitors from non-EU countries may qualify on refunds on Value Added Tax (VAT), if they shop in an establishment that participates in the Retail Export Scheme. A 'cash back' form must be completed by the shop when the goods are bought. The green and yellow invoice should be presented to customs on leaving Ireland and the VAT will be returned at that point. Standard rate VAT in Ireland is 23%. There is no VAT for some goods such as children's clothing and footwear, oral medicines and some food and drink products. There are also reduced rates of 13.5% and 9% for other goods such as hot takeaway food, confectionary, newspapers, photographic and energy-related products.

Many shops have online shopping facilities with websites in English.

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Shopping Malls in Dublin

- **Blanchardstown Centre**

Address: Blanchardstown, Dublin 15

Tel: +353 1 822 1356

Email: info@blanchardstowncentre.ie

Web: www.blanchardstowncentre.ie

Hours: Monday to Friday 9am to 9pm; Saturday 9am to 7pm; Sundays and bank holidays 11am to 6pm

Comments: One of the biggest shopping centers in the country with suppliers of almost everything, from clothes to electronics to food. The major shops are Dunnes Stores, Currys/PC World and Debenhams. There is also a large Odeon cinema, Leisure Plex (bowling, etc.), a pub, a gym and lots of fast food restaurants and cafés

- **Dundrum Town Centre**

Address: Sandyford Road, Dundrum, Dublin 16

Tel: +353 1 299 1700

Email: info@dundrum.ie

Web: www.dundrum.ie

Hours: Monday to Friday 9am to 9pm; Saturday 9am to 7pm; Sunday 10am to 7pm

Comments: The largest mall in Ireland, includes a Tesco supermarket, which is open 7am to midnight. Boasts a number of exclusive retail and restaurant venues including Harvey Nichols, House of Fraser, Marks & Spencer, River Island, Next, as well as Ireland's first Hugo Boss, Gant and Bose stores

- **Ilac Shopping Center**

Address: Henry Street, Dublin 1

Tel: +353 1 828 8900

Email: info@ilac.ie

Web: www.ilac.ie

Hours: Monday to Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 9am to 6.30pm; Thursday 9am to 9pm; Sunday 11am to 6.30pm

Comments: Home to over 70 stores, including Debenhams, River Island and H&M.

- **Jervis Center**

Address: 125 Abbey Street Upper, Dublin 1

Tel: +353 1 878 1323

Email: info@jervis.ie

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Web: www.jervis.ie

Hours: Monday to Wednesday 9am to 6.30pm; Thursday 9am to 9pm; Friday and Saturday 9am to 7pm; Sunday 11am to 6pm

Comments: One of Ireland's most vibrant shopping venues. Its lineup includes domestic and international retailers such as Tesco, Miss Selfridge, M&S, Bershka, Next and Stradivarius

- **Liffey Valley Shopping Centre**

Address: Fonthill Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22

Tel: +353 1 616 0200

Email: info@liffeyvalleysc.ie

Web: www.liffeyvalley.ie

Hours: Monday, Tuesday and Saturday 9.30am to 7pm; Wednesday to Friday 9.30am to 9pm; Sunday 11am to 7pm

Comments: A top class mall with an abundance of shops and restaurants. The complex has more than 120 stores and restaurants, including South Beach, Ireland's first food court. There is also a 14-screen cinema

- **Powerscourt Centre**

Address: 59 South William Street, Dublin 2

Tel: +353 1 679 4144

Web: www.powerscourtcentre.com

Hours: Monday to Wednesday and Friday 10am to 6pm; Thursdays 10am to 8pm; Saturday 9am to 6pm; Sunday midday to 6pm

Comments: A specialty shopping center with lots of fashion and restaurants, art galleries and antiques. The majority of shops are found nowhere else and it is home to Ireland's Design Centre

- **St. Stephen's Green Center**

Address: St. Stephen's Green West, Dublin 2

Tel: +353 1 478 0888

Email: info@stephensgreen.com

Web: www.stephensgreen.com

Hours: Monday to Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 9am to 7pm; Thursday 9am to 9pm; Sunday 11am to 6pm

Comments: Filled with all the usual brand names, as well as several specialty shops and stalls. On the upper levels, there are art, antiques, quick-working portrait artists and jewelry. The food court offers views of St. Stephen's Green

Supermarkets in Dublin

There are several supermarket chains in Ireland: Dunnes Stores and Tesco are some of the most important ones, and they all have many large stores throughout Dublin. Most department stores, including Marks and Spencer, also have a supermarket section. Prices for basic items do not vary significantly between the chains, but chains such as Aldi and Lidl are considered discount stores. Many of the large chains offer the convenience of online shopping and deliver to your home.

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The out-of-town stores generally are larger and have wider selections, though the city center branches are fully stocked. Several supermarkets are open 24/7 and many others are open until 11pm or midnight during the week. Nevertheless, many people tend to do their grocery shopping on Saturday afternoons, which makes for a crowded shopping experience.

As the number of foreign nationals in Ireland has grown in recent years, so too has the diversity of food and ingredients available; therefore, newcomers should have no difficulty satisfying special religious or dietary requirements. In addition to the many supermarkets, there are numerous ethnic shops throughout the city.

- Aldi

Web: www.aldi.ie

- Dunnes Stores

Web: www.dunnesstores.com

- Lidl

Web: www.lidl.ie

- Spar

Web: www.spar.ie

- SuperValu

Web: <http://supervalu.ie>

- Tesco

Web: www.tesco.ie

3.4 Eating Out

Eating Out

Ireland has an abundance of fresh, good quality meat, dairy and vegetable produce, as well as some of the best seafood and freshwater fish.

Pubs are often good places to eat, particularly at lunchtime. They are open from Monday to Saturday from 10.30am to 11.30pm and on Sunday from 12.30pm to 11pm. It is usually worth trying the soup of the day and some fresh baked bread or soda bread for a filling 'snack.' Indeed, Irish bread and Irish scones have good reputations.

Fast food outlets can be found throughout Ireland, particularly in the cities. The largest chain is Supermac. International chains such as McDonalds, Burger King, Subway, KFC and Pizza Hut also abound.

Meal Times

Breakfast is usually served between 8am and 10am and consists of cereal (oatmeal) followed by fried bacon, eggs, sausage and toast. Lunch is served between 12.30pm and 2pm and is commonly referred to as "dinner." "Tea" is eaten at 5pm and then a light snack before retiring for the night. Otherwise, the evening meal is served between 7pm and 9.30pm.

Restaurants in Dublin

There is a huge variety of restaurants in Dublin offering international cuisine. Many restaurants, cafés and bars also serve well-prepared, local food. Often the best way to find a good restaurant is by the recommendation of friends and colleagues. Some select restaurants in Dublin that are frequented by expats in the city include:

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- **Diep le Shaker**

Email: reservations@diep.net

Web: www.diep.ie

Comments: The restaurant specializes in Thai food with several outlets throughout the city. Popular with the expats in the city

- **Fire Restaurant and Lounge**

Address: The Mansion House, Dawson Street, Dublin 2

Tel: +353 1 676 7200

Email: fire@mansionhouse.ie

Web: <http://www.firerestaurant.ie/>

Hours: Open from Monday to Friday from 5pm until late. Saturday hours are from 3pm until late. Sunday from 1pm until late

Comments: This is an elegant restaurant popular with the expats in the city. Serving award-winning steaks and other dishes

- **Milano**

Address: 6 Excise Walk, Clarion Quay, Dublin 1

Tel: +353 1 611 9012

Email: info@milano.ie

Web: www.milano.ie

Hours: Sunday to Thursday 11.30am to 10pm; Friday and Saturday 11.30am to 11pm

Comments: This is a pizza and pasta restaurant. Popular expat venue

- **One Pico**

Address: 5/6 Molesworth Place, Schoolhouse Lane, Dublin 2

Tel: +353 1 676 0300

Email: info@onepico.com

Web: www.onepico.com

Hours: The restaurants is open daily. The lunch hour is from 12 noon to 2.30pm. Dinner is from 5.30pm to 9.30pm. Sunday lunch is from 1pm to 4pm. Sunday dinner is from 5pm to 8pm

Comments: This is an award-winning restaurant, serving wonderful food in a luxurious surrounding

- **Roast Restaurant**

Address: 10 Merrion Road, Ballsbridge, Opposite RDS, Dublin 4

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Tel: +353 1 614 4727

Email: info@roast.ie

Web: www.roast.ie

Hours: Tuesday to Friday 12 noon to 10pm; Saturday 5pm to 10pm; Sunday 5pm to 9pm

Comments: This is an elegant restaurant serving a wide range of international cuisines. Popular with the expatriate community

Specialties and Popular Foods

Traditional Irish fare includes Irish stew, colcannon (cooked potatoes diced and fried in butter with onions and either cabbage or leeks and covered in thick cream just before serving), and boiled bacon and cabbage.

Beer is a traditional drink of the Irish, usually stout or lager. The famous black beer of Dublin, Guinness, must be tried, or if in Cork, try the local Murphy's or a Beamish. Irish lagers/ales include Harp and Smithwicks. If you ask simply for a Guinness or a Harp, you will usually get a pint (570 ml). If you want half a pint, ask for a 'glass' or a 'half.' Ireland is also world famous for its whiskey: Jameson, Tullamore Dew and Powers are popular brands.

3.5 Entertainment

Cinemas in Dublin

Cinemas are located at various locations in the city, of which some are in shopping centers. Some cinemas screen the latest movies. However, less familiar movies are shown at certain cinemas.

- **Cineworld Multiplex**

Address: Parnell Center, Parnell Street, Dublin 1

Tel: 1520 880 444 (within Ireland)

Web: www.cineworld.ie

Comments: Seventeen screens with excellent sound and picture quality. Very close to Dublin's main shopping area

- **Irish Film Institute (IFI)**

Address: 6 Eustace Street, Temple Bar, Dublin 2

Tel: +353 1 679 5744

Email: info@irishfilm.ie

Web: www.ifi.ie

Comments: Preserves and promotes film culture in Ireland, operating IFI cinemas and the Irish Film Archive

- **Light House Cinema**

Address: Market Square, Smithfield, Dublin 7

Tel: +353 1 872 8006

Email: mail@lighthousecinema.ie

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Web: www.lighthousecinema.ie

Comments: Four-screen, intimate art-house cinema showing foreign-language and art-house movies. An independent cinema with comfortable, stylish seating. Special screenings and one-off events are also held

- **Movies @ Swords**

Address: Pavilions Shopping Centre, Malahide Road, Swords, Dublin

Tel: +353 1 870 3600

Web: www.movies-at.ie

Comments: There is another branch cinema in Dundrum

- **Odeon Cinemas**

Web: www.odeoncinemas.ie

Comments: Multi-screen cinemas showing all the latest releases. There are multiple locations in Dublin. See the website for details

- **IMC Cinemas**

Web: www.imccinemas.ie

Comments: Shows the latest releases and offers good deals on tickets. Locations can be found on the website.

Entertainment in Dublin

Traditional Irish music, with traditional instruments, such as the fiddle (violin), the bodhran (type of drum) and the flute, remains an extremely popular form of entertainment. Performances generally take place in pubs and some have developed a national reputation for their musical entertainment.

Ireland's world famous reputation for excellent literature is extended to the theater and there is a busy and popular theater scene, particularly in Dublin.

To find out about cultural and musical events in town, check listings in the following publications:

- The Irish Times : Has a daily guide to events in Dublin as well as in the rest of the country, along with complete film and theater schedules
- The Evening Herald : Lists theaters, cinemas and pubs with live entertainment
- The Event Guide : A weekly free paper that lists music, cinema, theater, art shows and dance clubs, can be found in pubs and cafés around the city
- Events of the Week : A free leaflet available during peak tourist season offered by the Irish Tourist Board

In addition, the following websites have listings of events:

- **Dublin.ie**

Web: www.dublin.ie

- **Dublin Sessions**

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Web: www.dublinsessions.ie

- Visit Dublin

Web: www.visitdublin.com/see-do

- What's on Dublin

Web: <http://whatsonin.ie/dublin>

Festivals in Dublin

Dublin's spirit of fun and entertainment is evident in the many festivals and events organized throughout the year. The main ones include the inimitable St. Patrick's Festival held in Dublin every March, which attracts visitors by the thousands every year. The Dublin Festival Season involves a series of festivals from early September until the end of October, with events celebrating everything from arts, architecture, music, film, to food, Guinness and beer, fashion, sports, theater and literature.

Annual festivals include:

- St Patrick's Day Parade & Festival

Web: www.stpatricksfestival.ie

Comments: Held in March. The huge event includes a parade, with some of Europe's brightest street performers and some of the world's loudest pyrotechnics. There is also a five-day festival of top-class entertainment including concerts, exhibitions, street theater, fireworks and other celebrations

- International Literature Festival Dublin

Web: www.ilfdublin.com

Comments: Held in May, drawing together writers and poets from all over the world, this increasingly high-profile literary event offers readings, discussions and public debates

- Dublin Fringe Festival

Web: www.fringefest.com

Comments: Held in September, the festival is dedicated to providing a focus for new performers, and where established performers can try out new material. The emphasis is on the unusual, and performances are innovative

- Dublin Theatre Festival

Web: www.dublintheatrefestival.com

Comments: Held in September, this is a showcase for the best of Irish and world theater. It not only provides a stage for emerging local talent, but also attracts international productions. Most of the city's theatrical venues host festival events, and the program is usually varied

- Electric Picnic

Web: www.electricpicnic.ie

Comments: Held at the end of August and beginning of September, this is a music and arts festival over three days. Old and new acts join the line-up in the music arena. Musical talent is joined by comedy talent for the International Comedy Club Stage and those looking for an holistic experience can experience the Body & Soul Village. A performance art troupe, poetry, political debate, a cooking stage and circus are among the acts that have been on offer

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- **Oktoberfest (Beer Festival)**

Web: www.oktoberfest-dublin.de

Comments: Held at the end of September and beginning of October, at Dublin's docklands in a traditional Oktoberfest tent, making for a typical and welcoming atmosphere. Traditional Bavarian drinks and famous foods such as German bratwurst, sauerkraut, pretzels, smoked pork chops and more

Museums in Dublin

There are a large number of museums in Dublin, which portray the rich history of Ireland. Some museums charge an entry fee, but some are free of charge. General opening times of the museum are from around 9.30am. The use of cellphones is not permitted inside museum areas. The museums are open all year round, but the best times to visit them are outside of the school holiday periods, during which they can be extremely busy.

- **Dublin City Gallery The Hugh Lane**

Address: Charlemont House, Parnell Square North, Dublin 1

Tel: + 353 1 222 5550

Email: info.hughlane@dublincity.ie

Web: www.hughlane.ie

Hours: Tuesday to Thursday 9.45am to 6pm; Friday 9.45am to 5pm; Saturday 10am to 5pm; Sunday 11am to 5pm; closed Monday

Comments: Houses one of Ireland's foremost collections of modern and contemporary art, with almost 2000 artworks, ranging from the Impressionist masterpieces of Manet, Monet, Renoir and Degas to works by leading national and international contemporary artists. The Gallery also has a temporary exhibitions program and stages historical and retrospective exhibitions, particularly of Irish art

- **Dublin Writers Museum**

Address: 18 Parnell Square, Dublin 1

Tel: +353 1 872 2077

Email: writers@failteireland.ie

Web: www.writersmuseum.com

Comments: The writers featured in the museum are those who have made an important contribution to Irish or international literature or to the literature of Dublin. It is a view of Irish literature from a Dublin perspective

- **The James Joyce Centre**

Address: 35 North Great George's Street, Dublin 1

Tel: +353 1 878 8547

Email: info@jamesjoyce.ie

Web: <http://jamesjoyce.ie>

Hours: Monday to Saturday 10am to 5pm; Sunday midday to 5pm

Comments: Dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the work of James Joyce

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- **National Gallery of Ireland**

Address: Merrion Square West, Dublin 2

Tel: +353 1 661 5133

Email: info@ngi.ie

Web: www.nationalgallery.ie

Hours: Monday to Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 9.15am to 5.30pm; Thursday 9.15am to 8.30pm; Sunday 11AM to 5.30pm

Comments: Home to the national collection of European and Irish fine art. Various temporary exhibitions take place. Entrance to the permanent exhibition is free

- **National Museum of Ireland**

Address: The museums are located at three areas in Dublin. The website has address details

Tel: +353 1 677 7444

Web: www.museum.ie

Hours: Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 5pm; Sunday 2pm to 5pm; closed Monday

Comments: The National Museum of Ireland has three locations in Dublin and one in County Mayo, with a strong emphasis on Irish art, culture, and natural history. Admission is free to all four museums. See the website for details

Theaters and Concert Halls in Dublin

Theater and stage productions are a very important part of the Irish culture. Some of the theaters are located in old Victorian style buildings with elaborate décor and furnishings. To explore the architecture of these of these old buildings is an experience on its own. Popular theaters include:

- **Abbey Theatre**

Address: 26/re Lower Abbey Street, Dublin 1

Tel: +353 1 887 2200

Web: www.abbeytheatre.ie

Comments: The Abbey and The Peacock theaters make up the National Theatre Society of Ireland. The Abbey is dedicated to classical and European drama while the Peacock has a more modern inclination

- **Contemporary Music Centre**

Address: 19 Fishamble Street, Old City, Temple Bar, Dublin 8

Tel: +353 1 673 1922

Email: mgreene@cmc.ie

Web: www.cmc.ie

Hours: Open to the public from Monday to Friday from 10am to 5.30pm

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Comments: The center develops and promotes new Irish music

- **Gaiety Theater**

Address: South King Street, Dublin 2

Tel: +353 1 456 9569, 0818 719 388 (within Ireland)

Email: boxoffice@gaietytheatre.com

Web: www.gaietytheatre.ie

Comments: Stages high quality musicals and drama. Also hosts two seasons of Opera each year

- **Gate Theater**

Address: 1 Cavendish Row, Parnell Square, Dublin 1

Tel: +353 1 874 4045, +353 1 874 6042

Email: boxoffice@gate-theatre.ie

Web: www.gate-theatre.ie

Comments: A classic showcase for Irish writing, acting and theatrical talent

- **National Concert Hall**

Address: Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2

Tel: +353 1 417 0077

Email: info@nch.ie

Web: www.nch.ie

Comments: Ireland's premier center for the performance of live music and one of the finest concert halls in Europe

- **Olympia Theater**

Address: 72 Dame Street, Opposite Dublin Castle, Dublin 2

Tel: +353 1 679 3323

Email: olympiaboxoffice@ticketmaster.ie

Web: www.olympia.ie

Comments: A Victorian style music hall hosting an eclectic mix of concerts, musicals and performances. The Olympia is the oldest theatre in Dublin

- **Project Arts Center**

Address: 39 East Essex Street, Temple Bar, Dublin 2

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Tel: +353 1 881 9613

Email: box-office@projectartscentre.ie

Web: <http://projectartscentre.ie>

Comments: A showcase for all contemporary art forms: theater, dance, live art, video and film, traditional, jazz, electronic, classical and popular music, painting, sculpture, photography, multi-disciplinary installations and performance pieces

- **The Helix**

Address: Dublin City University Campus, Collins Avenue, Glasnevin, Dublin 9

Tel: +353 1 700 7000

Email: info@thehelix.dcu.ie

Web: www.thehelix.ie

Comments: A multi-venue arts center offering great musical and theater acts, including plenty of entertainment for children

3.6 Rest and Recreation

Rest and Recreation in Dublin

Although Dublin is well known as being a place of friendliness and “craic,” the city is also very old and beautiful. Dublin itself boasts many castles, museums, art galleries, stately homes, royal palaces, zoos, gardens and theme parks. The Dublin Pass allows free entry to over 30 of Dublin’s attractions. There are various prices for different durations of the pass, from EUR 70 for one day to EUR 110 for five days for adults, and from EUR 40 for one day to EUR 67 for five days for children.

While Dublin City itself is the most famous, the surrounding parts of Dublin County have beautiful stretches of sea, atmospheric pubs, activities and top cultural attractions. Both Howth Head and Dun Laoghaire command spectacular sweeping views out over Dublin Bay, and climbing Killiney Hill along south Dublin provides one of the most amazing panoramas in the whole county.

The coastline is studded with picturesque villages from the southern spots of Dalkey, Glasthule, Dun Laoghaire, Blackrock and Sandymount to the northern villages of Clontarf, Howth, Malahide and Portmarnock. As Ireland is so small, most places are accessible for a day trip or weekend excursion. The tourist board can provide details of places, excursions and accommodation.

- **Bunratty Castle and Folk Park**

Web: www.shannonheritage.com

Comments: Located about 200 kilometers (125 miles) west of Dublin and one of Ireland’s premier attractions, Bunratty Castle and Folk Park traces Ireland’s history from life in a 19th-century Irish village to medieval banquets in a stunning 14th-century castle. The folk park contains reproductions of traditional Irish country cottages and homesteads, as well as typical houses, shops, stores and street scenes from Ireland of the Victorian era. Various characters are on location in full period costume to guide visitors back in time and demonstrations of old crafts from bread baking, butter making, stonewall building and traditional farming methods are regularly held. But the undoubted highlight in Bunratty is the castle. Bunratty Castle is famous for its medieval banquets, held twice nightly all year round with music, song, food and wine

- **Dun Laoghaire**

Web: www.dun-laoghaire.com

Comments: Dun Laoghaire is a suburban seaside town in County Dublin about 12 kilometers (7.5 miles) south of Dublin city center. It is the port for car ferries to the UK. There are several sailing clubs and a rowing club based in the town. Fishing is also quite a popular attraction, and boats, rods and lines may be rented from Dun Laoghaire. The town offers some magnificent walks around the harbor and to the lighthouse along the east and west piers

- **Guinness Storehouse**

Web: www.guinness-storehouse.com

Comments: Ireland’s number one tourist attraction. A fermentation plant at St. James’s Gate Brewery has been transformed into a seven-story visitor experience which tells the history of the making of this world famous beer. Visitors can enjoy Irish cuisine with a Guinness twist in the Brewery Bar

- **Kilmainham Gaol**

Web: www.heritageireland.ie/en/dublin/kilmainhamgaol

Comments: Kilmainham Gaol is one of the largest unoccupied gaols in Europe, it was involved in some of the most heroic and tragic events in Ireland’s history. Kilmainham Gaol now hosts a museum on the history of Irish nationalism. An art gallery on the top floor exhibits paintings, sculptures and jewelry of prisoners incarcerated in prisons all over contemporary Ireland. Access to Kilmainham Gaol by guided tour only. It is advisable to arrive early to avoid the disappointment of finding all the tours for that day booked out. Tickets are sold on a first come first

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served basis and cannot be booked in advance

- **National Botanic Gardens of Ireland**

Web: www.botanicgardens.ie

Comments: The National Botanic Gardens founded in 1795 by the Dublin Society, is well regarded for its fine plant collections of over 15,000 species from a wide range of habitats from all around the world. It is famous for its beautifully restored and planted glasshouses. Visitors can enjoy the herbaceous borders, rose garden, the alpine yard, the pond area, rock garden and arboretum. Conservation plays an important role and Glasnevin is home to over 300 endangered plant species from around the world including 6 species, which are already extinct in the wild. The gardens are located 3 kilometers (2 miles) outside Dublin

3.7 Nightlife

Bars in Dublin

- **Bruxelles Bar**

Address: 7 Harry Street, Dublin

Tel: +353 1 677 5362

Email: info@bruxelles.com

Web: www.bruxelles.ie

Comments: There are three great bars under one roof. The website has details. Popular with expats in the city

- **Dakota**

Address: 8/9 South William Street, Dublin 2

Tel: +353 1 672 7696

Email: info@dakotabar.ie

Web: <http://dakotabar.ie>

Hours: Daily midday till late

Comments: A mellow and relaxed bar with a stylish and attractive interior

- **Davy Byrnes Pub**

Address: 22 Duke Street, Dublin

Tel: +353 1 677 5217

Web: www.davybyrnes.com

Comments: The setting in the bar is typical pre-World War II with an excellent atmosphere and a large collection of original art. The venue is popular with the expatriate community in the city

- **Ely Wine Bar**

Address: 22 Ely Place, Dublin 2.

Tel: +353 1 676 8986

Email: elyplace@elywinebar.com

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Web: www.elywinebar.ie

Hours: Monday to Friday midday to late; Saturday 5pm to late; closed Sunday and bank holidays. Hours vary during the holiday seasons

Comments: Intimate, relaxing atmosphere, set in Georgian Dublin. Customers can enjoy wine by the glass from a list of 400 wines, or try locally produced organic food. There is another outlet in Dublin 1 area

- **The Octagon Bar**

Address: Clarence Hotel, 6-8 Wellington Quay, Dublin 2

Tel: +353 1 407 0800

Email: reservations@theclarence.ie

Web: <https://theclarence.ie/food-drink/octagon-bar/>

Hours: Sunday to Thursday midday to 11.30pm; Friday and Saturday midday to 2am

Comments: Famous for its cocktails, in the Clarence Hotel

- **The Whiskey Bar & Reading Room**

Address: Intercontinental Hotel, 4 Simmonscourt Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4

Tel: +353 1 665 4000

Email: reservations@icdublin.com

Web: www.intercontinentaldublin.ie

Comments: The hotel with its activities, is popular with the expatriates in the city

Casinos in Dublin

The casinos in Ireland are governed by the Gaming and Lotteries Act of 1956. According to the law, casino gambling remains illegal in Ireland. An alternative has been the setting up of private, members-only clubs, where gambling activities are performed legally. These casinos, which call themselves 'player-clubs' are private and an interested player has to apply for membership before being able to play there. When applying, the applicant has to provide proof of both age and residence. To apply, a person must be a resident of Ireland and must be above 21 years of age.

Although these casinos are operational and offer a variety of gambling activities, they are very different from the traditional casinos in Europe and North America. In Irish casinos, food and alcohol are usually not served. Another distinct difference is that, though live events and entertainment form a major part of the land casino experience in most land-based casinos all over the world, the same is not true for land casinos in Ireland.

Most of the land casinos in Ireland are located in Dublin. There are more than 10 casinos or player clubs in Dublin itself. Below is a list of major casinos in Dublin. The following website has details about all casinos and betting opportunities in Ireland.

- **Casino City**

Web: www.casinocity.ie

Popular venues in Dublin include:

- **Colossus Casino Club**

Address: 5-5a Montague Street, Dublin 2

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Tel: +353 1 478 5858

Email: info@colossus.ie

Web: www.colossus.ie

Hours: Daily 8.30pm to 8am

Comments: Dublin's oldest casino club. Over 18's Private Members Club. On arrival, players are required to complete a membership form. Picture ID is required. The club offers a range of gaming including Roulette, Black Jack and Brit Brag

- **D1 Club**

Address: 63 Lower Dorset Steet, Dublin 1

Tel: +353 1 830 6764

Email: info@d1club.ie

Web: www.d1club.ie

Hours: Daily 10am to 5.30am; live tables from 9pm

Comments: Private members casino and arcade. Combines the traditional games of Roulette and Black Jack with modern technology. Stylish electronic Roulette, Texas Hold'em and Blackjack tables and slot machines. Also has live Poker games

- **Fitzwilliam Casino and Card Club**

Address: Clifton Hall, Lower Fitzwilliam Street, Dublin 2

Tel: +353 1 611 4677

Email: info@fitzwilliamcardclub.com

Web: www.fitzwilliamcardclub.com

Hours: Daily 2pm to 8am

Comments: Offers a wide range of live casino gaming including Roulette, Blackjack, Punto Banco and Brag. Also home of live poker with a range of poker tournaments and cash games, taking place every night of the week. Free membership is available to everyone over the age of 18, including short-term visitors to Dublin. Photo ID is required (passport or drivers license). You can apply for membership online

- **Goldrush Casino**

Address: 111 Lower Rathmines Road, Dublin

Tel: +353 1 496 9135

Email: info@cqlisure.ie

Web: www.goldrushcasino.ie

Hours: Open daily from 9am until late

Comments: There is another branch in Camden Street. Offers a wide range of gaming

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Nightclubs in Dublin

The nightclub scene in Dublin is very alive and includes many options for the LGBT community in the city.

- **The Sugar Club**

Address: 8 Lower Leeson Street, Dublin 2

Tel: +353 1 678 7188

Email: info@thesugarclub.com

Web: www.thesugarclub.com

Comments: A stylish and beautiful venue for jazz and Latin beats

- **Club M**

Address: 2 Cope Street, Temple Bar, Dublin 2

Tel: +353 1 671 5622

Email: events@clubm.ie

Web: www.clubm.ie

Hours: Friday and Saturday 11pm to 3am

Comments: Two floors of exuberant, extrovert entertainment

- **Lillie's Bordello**

Address: 1-2 Adam Court, Grafton Street, Dublin 2

Tel: +353 1 679 9204

Email: connect@lilliesbordello.ie

Web: www.lilliesbordello.ie

Hours: Daily 11pm till late

Comments: An exclusive club with a DJ playlist including everything from mainstream pop, garage & house, r&b, funky or club classics

- **The Mezz Venue**

Address: Riverhouse Hotel, 23-24 Eustace Street, Dublin 2

Tel: +353 1 670 7655

Email: reservations@riverhousehotel.com

Web: www.riverhousehotel.com

Comments: This live venue stages early and late night shows seven-nights a week, featuring stage bands and DJs

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- **Panti Bar**

Address: 7-8 Capel Street, Dublin

Tel: +353 1 874 0710

Email: pantibarshane@gmail.com

Web: www.pantibar.com

Comments: This lively and elegant LGBT club has regular shows. It is relaxed during the week, with noisy shows over the weekends

- **Place of Dance (PoD)**

Address: 80 Dame Street, Dublin 2

Tel: +353 1 473 5577

Email: info@pod.ie

Web: www.pod.ie

Comments: A legend in Dublin's clubbing scene, this is a multi-award winning night club. See the website for upcoming events

Nightlife in Dublin

For information on bars, nightclubs and other current events check out the Dublin Events website.

- **Dublin Events**

Web: www.dublinevents.com

Pubs, drinking and pub music are the most popular forms of entertainment in Ireland. 'Craic' is Irish for a good time, good company, good conversation and good music. Many Irish enjoy visiting bars and pubs, and there are hundreds in Dublin and thousands located across the country. Pubs are usually at their liveliest from 5pm to 7pm and again from 10pm. There are also stylish bars, nightclubs and cabarets, catering to all tastes. Pubs are generally open Monday to Saturday from 11am to 11pm and Sundays from noon to 11pm, although some have licenses to stay open until 2am. The minimum drinking age is 18 years.

3.8 Sports

Sporting Events in Dublin

- **Rugby Union**

Web: www.irishrugby.ie

Comments: Rugby union is played and supported throughout Ireland, but is especially popular in Dublin, Limerick, Cork and Ulster. Rugby union is played at club, province and national levels. The Ireland national team is composed of players from both Northern Ireland and the Republic, and the Irish Rugby Football Union governs the sport throughout the island. Recent success at international level and the establishment of four professional teams has increased interest in rugby union as a sport in Ireland

- **Soccer (Football)**

Web: www.fai.ie

Comments: The national body in the Republic of Ireland is the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) while the national body in Northern Ireland

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is the Irish Football Association (IFA). The domestic leagues are the League of Ireland (in the Republic) and the Northern Ireland Football League (Northern Ireland). Some of the major teams in Ireland include St Patrick's Athletic, Shamrock Rovers and Bohemians in the Republic, Glentoran and Linfield in Northern Ireland, and Derry City, a team from the North who play in the League of Ireland. The season starts in summer and ends in spring

- **Gaelic Football**

Web: www.gaa.ie

Comments: The main national competitions are the inter-county All-Ireland Senior Football Championship and National Football League, also known as the NFL. Each of the four provinces has its own tournament, and teams which are knocked out must do well in the 'qualifiers' if they are to gain a spot along with the four Provincial Champions in the All-Ireland 'Super 8.' The All-Ireland Senior Football final is traditionally held on the third Sunday in September, although the match will be played in August for the foreseeable future. Kerry are football's most successful team, with 37 All-Ireland senior titles. There are many rivalries within the game in Ireland – an example is that between Dublin and Meath. Other notable teams include Cork and Kerry. The All-Ireland Finals in Dublin every year bring in crowds of 80,000 to Croke Park, the nation's largest sports stadium

- **Hurling**

Web: www.gaa.ie/hurling

Comments: Hurling is a sport native to Ireland, organized by the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA). Hurling is second only to Gaelic football in popularity. Hurling is well-attended, and the most prestigious games fill Croke Park to its capacity of well over 80,000. The main competitions are the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Championship and the National Hurling League (NHL)

- **Horseracing**

Web: www.goracing.ie

Comments: Thanks to generous tax treatment, many of the world's best race horses retire to Ireland to stud. The local industry (including the world's largest thoroughbred breeding operation; Coolmore Stud) produces many top race horses every year. Ireland's top tracks are the Curragh and Fairyhouse. The Curragh offers the highest purses and highest quality level of flat racing in Ireland (all five Irish classics are run at The Curragh: Irish 1,000 Guineas, Irish 2,000 Guineas, Irish Derby, Irish Oaks, Irish St. Leger); Fairyhouse Racecourse is situated in the parish of Ratoath in County Meath, on the R155 regional road, 3 km off the N3 and is the home of the Irish Grand National

- **Dublin City Marathon**

Web: <http://dublinmarathon.ie>

Comments: The marathon is held annually in October and a large proportion of the 20,000 entrants are overseas runners. Entries can be done online

Sports

Ireland offers plenty of opportunities for outdoor sports from surfing on the West Coast, to hang-gliding, fishing, horse riding, sailing, canoeing, bird watching, golf, cycling, hiking and tennis. Ireland's national sports are Gaelic football and hurling. Camogie is the women's version of hurling, with a few small rule changes from the men's version. Football, or soccer, has a huge foothold with fans today. It is usually called 'soccer' in Ireland to distinguish it from Gaelic football. Gaelic football is the most popular spectator sport in Ireland, followed by hurling, soccer and rugby. The Irish Tourist Board publishes a comprehensive outline of sports activities in Ireland.

Horseracing is immensely popular in Ireland, with the country producing many of the world's top jockeys. The sport has its own government-established agency for equestrian sports.

When Ireland is called upon to play a national squad for an international competition, it depends on the sport whether the players are from the entire island, or separated into Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. For Gaelic football, hurling and rugby union, players come from the whole island and represent Ireland. Football (soccer) is separated into Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. During the Olympics, athletes from Northern Ireland are given the choice whether they want to represent Ireland or the United Kingdom.

Sports Facilities in Dublin

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Golf Clubs

There are over 100 golf courses in and around the Dublin area. Many are private clubs, some of which allow visitors. There are also public courses available. A comprehensive list of golf clubs in the Dublin area is on the Golf Europe website.

- Golf Europe

Web: www.golfEurope.com/clubs/dublin.htm

Golf clubs in Dublin include:

- Hollywood Lakes Golf Club

Address: Ballyboughal, Co. Dublin

Tel: +353 1 843 3406

Email: secretary@hollywoodlakesgolfclub.com

Web: www.hollywoodlakesgolfclub.com

Comments: An 18-hole, par-72 course, located 15 minutes north of Dublin Airport. Visitors welcome. The club also offers a range of entrance fees and membership options, as well as green fees. Full ordinary membership, 5-day, 7-day and junior membership are available. A dress code applies

- K Club

Address: The Kildare Hotel, Spa and Country Club, Straffan, Co. Kildare

Tel: +353 1 601 7200

Email: sales@kclub.ie

Web: <https://www.kclub.ie/golf/>

Comments: Designed by Arnold Palmer, the Palmer Ryder Cup Course and the Palmer Smurfit Course are considered two of Europe's finest Championship Courses. Membership is on two levels, Country Club and International; both apply equally to women. Green fees are also available. Full details are on the website.

- Lutterellstown Castle Golf Club

Address: Castleknock, Dublin 15

Tel: +353 1 860 9600

Email: enquiries@luttrellstown.ie

Web: www.luttrellstowncastle.com/golf

Comments: An 18-hole, par-72 course, located 15 minutes from Dublin Airport and Dublin. Green fees and various membership options, including 5 day, are available

- Malahide Golf Club

Address: Beechwood, The Grange, Malahide, Co. Dublin

Disclaimer:

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Tel: +353 1 846 1611

Email: manager@malahidegolfclub.ie

Web: www.malahidegolfclub.ie

Comments: A 27-hole course, located 13 km (8 miles) from Dublin and 15 minutes from Dublin airport. Green fees and various membership options, including 5-day, are available

- **Royal Dublin Golf Club**

Address: North Bull Island Nature Reserve, Dollymount, Dublin 3

Tel: +353 1 833 6346

Email: info@theroyaldublingolfclub.com

Web: www.theroyaldublingolfclub.com

Comments: An 18-hole course, 5 km (3 miles) northeast of Dublin. Ireland's second oldest golf club. Green fees are available. A dress code applies. Full details are on the website

- **St. Margaret's Golf & Country Club**

Address: St. Margaret's, Co. Dublin

Tel: +353 1 864 0400

Email: info@stmargaretsgolf.com

Web: www.stmargaretsgolf.com

Comments: A par-73 course, located 8 km (5 miles) northwest of Dublin Airport. Green fees and various membership options, including 5-day and 7-day, are available

Tennis Clubs

A complete list of tennis clubs in Dublin can be found online at Tennis Ireland.

- **Tennis Ireland**

Web: www.tennisireland.ie

Tennis clubs generally require membership. There are also tennis courts available at some of the upmarket hotels. A tennis facility and other sports activities are available for children at the N Zone Creche and After School Club. Another tennis facility is located in the Albert College Park, which is one of the city parks in Dublin. Other suitable clubs include:

- **Clontarf Lawn Tennis Club**

Address: Oulton Road, Clontarf, Dublin 3

Tel: +353 1 833 9782

Email: info@clontarfltc.com

Web: www.clontarfltc.com

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Comments: The club has eleven hard outdoor courts, all of which are floodlit. Coaching and junior tennis available

- **Elm Park LTC**

Address: Nutley House, Nutley Lane, Donnybrook, Dublin 4

Tel: +353 1 269 3438

Email: office@elmparkgolfclub.ie

Web: www.elmparkgolfclub.ie

Comments: Elm Park Tennis Club has seven Floodlit All Weather Courts and 7 Grass Courts (open from May to September each year). The club comprises both adult members and junior/student members. The club is popular with the expat community in the city

- **Glenalbyn Tennis Club**

Address: Glenalbyn Sports Club, Glenalbyn House, Stillorgan, Co. Dublin

Tel: +353 1 288 0857

Email: info@glenalbyntennis.com

Web: www.glenalbyntennis.com

Comments: 6 floodlit courts. The tennis club runs a very active program of tennis and social events for all standards during the year for both adults and juniors. In addition, the club participates in the Dublin Lawn Tennis Council Leagues. Coaching is also available

- **Lansdowne Lawn Tennis Club**

Address: Londonbridge Road, Dublin 4

Tel: +353 1 668 0219

Email: info@lansdowneltc.com

Web: www.lansdowneltc.com

Comments: 11 synthetic grass tennis courts suitable for year-round weather conditions. Caters to players at all levels. Social Tennis every Thursday at 7pm. For the serious tennis player, there are the year round DLTC leagues from Class 1–7. The club runs a year-round tennis academy. The junior tennis takes place every day after school and there is a series of Tennis Camps for the juniors throughout the holidays

- **Malahide Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club**

Address: The Square, Malahide, Co. Dublin

Tel: +353 1 845 2480

Email: admin@mltcc.com

Web: www.mltcc.com

Comments: The club boasts nine perfectly manicured tennis lawns. Croquet is no longer offered at the club, but the name remains in honor of the club's lengthy history. The club has around 1500 members who are able to share the facilities with their families and friends. Children's tennis offered

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- **N Zone Creche and After School Club**

Address: Posey Row, Kinsealy, Dublin

Tel: +353 1 867 1055

Email: info@nzone.ie

Web: www.nzone.ie

Comments: The facility is popular with expatriates in Dublin

Swimming Pools

Several pools in the city are under the management of the Dublin City Council. Children under the age of 8 years must be accompanied by an adult. Most health clubs also have swimming pools available. A list of swimming pools is available on the Dublin City Council's website.

- **Dublin City Council**

Tel: +353 1 222 2163

Web: www.dublincity.ie

Swimming pools in Dublin include:

- **Clondalkin Sports & Leisure Center**

Address: Nangor Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22

Tel: +353 1 457 4858

Email: info@clondalkinleisure.com

Web: www.clondalkinleisure.com

Comments: 25m-lane swimming available at certain times. See the website for details

- **Coolmine Sports & Leisure Center**

Address: Clonsilla, Dublin 15

Tel: +353 1 821 4549

Email: info@coolminesports.com

Web: www.coolminesports.com

Hours: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 7am to 10.45pm; Wednesday and Friday 7am to 10pm; Saturday 9am to 5pm; Sunday 10am to 5pm

Comments: Membership and casual swimming available. Also provides swimming lessons for children

- **St Catherine's Community Sports Centre**

Address: Marrowbone Lane, Dublin 9

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Tel: +353 1 222 7541

Hours: Monday and Friday 9am to 10pm; Saturday 9.30am to 5.30pm; Sunday 10am to 5pm

Web: <http://www.facebook.com/St-Catherines-Sports-Centre-193708150753889/>

Comments: The center is operated by the city council. There are other sports facilities as well

- **Marian Pool**

Address: Lansdowne Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4

Tel: +353 1 668 9539

Email: info@marianswimmingpool.com

Web: www.marianswimmingpool.com

Comments: This is the oldest pool in Ireland, but it has been refurbished. A wide range of aquatic activities are available. Suitable for the whole family

- **Sportslink**

Address: Furry Park, Santry, Dublin 9

Tel: +353 1 862 1200

Email: info@sportslink.ie

Web: www.sportslink.ie

Hours: Monday to Friday 9am to 10pm; Saturday, Sunday and bank holidays 9am to 6pm

Comments: There is a 25-meter competition pool, toddlers' pool, leisure pool and other water fun facilities. Membership is required

Fitness Centers

Fitness centers and clubs are widely available. Facilities include swimming pools, yoga classes, Pilates, saunas, steam rooms, beauty salons and other health fitness facilities. Membership is required and children are welcome.

Fitness clubs in Dublin include:

- **Crunch Fitness Premier**

Web: www.crunchfitness.ie

Comments: A luxurious boutique health and fitness club. The subdued and soothing atmosphere creates a unique environment to workout, rejuvenate and relax. There are other locations in the city. See the website for details

- **David Lloyd Dublin Riverview Club**

Address: Beech Hill, Clonskeagh, Dublin 4

Tel: +353 1 218 9600

Web: www.davidlloyd.ie

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Hours: Monday to Friday from 6am to 10.30pm; Saturday and Sunday 8am to 10pm

Comments: There is a wide range of facilities, including pools, squash, tennis, crèche, sauna and much more. The club is popular with expats in the city

- **Iveagh Fitness Club**

Address: 8 Bride Road, Christchurch, Dublin 8

Tel: +353 1 454 6555

Email: iveagh.fitness@iveaghfitness.ie

Web: www.iveaghfitness.ie

Hours: Monday to Friday from 6am to 10pm; Saturday 8am to 8pm; Sunday 9am to 8pm; bank holidays 10am to 7pm

Comments: Includes most fitness facilities and a swimming pool

- **Tethra Spa**

Address: The Merrion Hotel, Upper Merrion Street, Dublin 2

Tel: +353 1 603 0600

Email: info@merrionhotel.com

Web: www.merrionhotel.com/tethra_spa.php

Hours: Monday to Friday 6.30am to 9pm; Saturday and Sunday 8am to 9pm

Comments: One of Dublin's most exclusive and refined fitness centers and spas

- **West Wood Club**

Web: www.westwood.ie

Comments: Several locations throughout Dublin. West Wood Club offers fitness as well as aquatic and tennis facilities

3.9 Tourist Information Offices

Irish Tourist Offices Abroad

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Australia | Address: 36 Carrington Street, 5th level, Sydney, NSW 2000; Tel: +61 2 9964 6900; Email: corporate.australia@tourismireland.com |
| Austria | Address: Tourism Ireland, Untere Donaustrasse 11/3 OG, 1020 Vienna; Tel: +43 1 581 8922 70; Email: sbopp@tourismireland.com |
| Belgium | Address: Avenue Louise 66, 1050 Brussels; Tel: +32 2 643 2121; Email: dneyts@tourismireland.com |
| Canada | Address: 2 Bloor Street West, Suite 3403, Toronto M4W 3E2; Tel: +1 416 925 6368; Email: info.ca@tourismireland.com |
| | |

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| | |
|---------------------|--|
| China | Address: Tourism Ireland, Room 114, Lido Office Tower, 6 Jiangtai Road, Beijing; Tel: +86 10 6437 9348; Email: info.cn@tourismireland.com |
| Denmark | Address: Store Kongensgade 3-1, 1264 Copenhagen K; Tel: +45 3315 8045; Email: info.nordic@tourismireland.com |
| France | Address: 33 rue de Miromesnil, 75008 Paris; Tel: +33 1 5343 1213; Email: info@irlande-tourisme.fr |
| Germany | Address: Gutluestrasse 32, 60329, Frankfurt am Main; Tel: +49 69 923 1850; Email: info.de@tourismireland.com |
| India | Address: Beautiful Planet, Grants Building, Annexure, Office 46, First Floor, Colaba, Mumbai; Tel: +91 22 3296 1624; Email: hfraser@tourismirelandindia.com |
| Italy | Address: Piazza Cantore 4, 20123 Milan; Tel: +39 02 5817 7311; Email: informazioni@tourismireland.com |
| Middle East/ GCC | Address: Tourism Ireland, Jafza View 18, First Floor, Jebel Ali Free Zone, Dubai; Tel: +971 4813 7819; Email: info.asia@tourismireland.com |
| Netherlands | Address: Spuistraat 104, 1012 VA, Amsterdam; Tel: +31 2 0530 6050; Email: info@ierland.nl |
| South Africa | Address: Development Promotions, 23 Eaton Avenue, Bryanston, Johannesburg; Tel: 011 463 1132; Email: tourismireland@dpgsa.co.za |
| Spain | Address: Paseo de la Castellana, 46, Level 2, 28046 Madrid; Tel: +34 91 577 5458; Email: info.es@tourismireland.com |
| United Kingdom | Address: Nations House, 103 Wigmore Street, London, W1U 1QS; Tel: +44 20 7518 0800; Email: corporate.london@tourismireland.com |
| United States | Address: 17th Floor, 345 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10154; Tel: +1 212 418 0800; Email: info.us@tourismireland.com |

A full list of overseas offices is available on the website.

- Tourism Ireland

Web: www.tourismireland.com

Tourist Information Offices

There is an extensive network of Tourist Information Offices and Visitor Information Points around Ireland.

Dublin

- Discover Ireland

Web: www.discoverireland.ie

Comments: See the 'Tourist Information Offices' page

- Dublin Visitor Centre

Address: 17 Lower O'Connell Street, Dublin 1

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Tel: +353 1 898 0700

Web: www.dublinvisitorcentre.ie

Hours: Sunday to Monday 8.30am to 8pm; Friday and Saturday 8.30am to 9pm

- Irish Tourist Board

Address: Fifth Floor, Bishops Square, Redmonds Hill, Dublin 2

Tel: +353 1 476 3400

Email: corporate.dublin@tourismireland.com

Web: www.tourismireland.com

- Visit Dublin Centre

Address: 25 Suffolk Street, Dublin 2

Tel: +353 1890 324 583

Web: www.visitdublin.com

Comments: There are other centers at O'Connell Street and both airport terminals

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4 Family Corner

4.1 Childcare

Childcare

Preschool is optional in Ireland and takes the form of a number of privately run crèches, play-schools and Montessori schools. Parents must pay for all preschool and childcare facilities. However, since 2009, children are entitled to a year of free pre-schooling in the year prior to starting primary schools under the Early Childcare and Education Scheme.

Preschool services include playgroups, day nurseries, crèches, child minders and other similar services looking after more than three preschool children.

- **Cocoon Childcare**
Web: www.cocoonchildcare.ie
Comments: There are several locations in the city catering for children aged 6 months to 5 years. The centers also provide after-school care for children aged 5 to 10 years
- **Giraffe**
Web: www.giraffe.ie
Comments: There are several locations throughout the city providing care and education for children from 12 weeks and up to 5 years of age
- **Park Academy Childcare**
Web: www.parkchildcare.ie
Comments: Enrolls children from 4 months to pre-school. There are a number of locations in the city. The website has details
- **Fitzkinder Day Nursery & Montessori School**
Address: 31 Upper Fitzwilliam Street, Dublin 2
Tel: +353 1 644 9795
Email: fitzkinder@gmail.com
Web: www.fitzkinder.ie
Hours: Operates from Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm
Comments: They enroll children from 6 months to 5 years of age
- **The Cottage Montessori School**
Address: Kinsealy Lane, Malahide, Dublin
Tel: +353 86 388 0344
Email: sue08@eircom.net
Web: www.cottagemontessori.ie
Comments: An established Montessori school catering for pre-school children aged from 2 years 10 months old

4.2 Education

Education

In Ireland, education is compulsory for all children from six to 16 years of age. All children are entitled to free education at these levels, funded by the state. Ireland has one of the highest educational participation rates in the world, with 91% of Irish students completing secondary level and 47% finishing tertiary education.

Since Catholicism is the state religion, all schoolchildren who attend state-funded schools have religion as a required subject, as well as Irish (Gaelic). Foreign students do not have to take these subjects. There are also multi-denominational schools, where there is no religious instruction.

Children attend primary school from around the age of four or five years until they are 12 or 13 years of age. The primary school cycle is eight years long. Schools generally have two years of infant classes, followed by class 1 to class 6. Children do not have to attend school before the age of six. However, it is common for Irish children to attend school at 4 or 5 years of age. As a result, the youngest classes in the primary school system incorporate much of what would be considered "pre-schooling" in other countries.

The Irish primary education sector consists of state-funded primary schools, special schools and private primary schools. State-funded primary schools used to be known as national schools. State-funded schools include religious schools, multi-denominational schools and Gaelscoileanna, which are schools that teach the curriculum through the Irish language. There is a list of state-funded primary schools in Ireland on the Department of Education and Skills website.

State-funded primary schools tend to give priority to children living in the immediate area, but problems can arise if their classes are already full and they have a waiting list. Multi-denominational schools and Gaelscoileanna each decide their own admissions policy. Some secondary schools give priority to students coming from particular primary schools.

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The Irish secondary (also known as post-primary) school cycle is generally five or six years long. Children begin their secondary school studies around the age of 12 and leave around the age of 17 or 18, having taken two state exams in that period. The Irish education system is very exam-focused.

Most schools offer students the option of a Transition Year after they have completed the first three years of secondary education. This allows students to explore non-academic interests, before moving into the Senior Cycle, which will lead them to the final Leaving Certificate exam.

The post-primary school system includes secondary schools, vocational schools, community or comprehensive schools and private secondary schools. The majority of Irish children go to secondary schools, which are privately owned and managed, and often run by religious orders, although the teachers in these schools are generally lay staff. The majority of secondary schools are free, but there are also fee-paying schools.

Vocational schools and community or comprehensive schools are all free. These schools tend to provide both academic and technical education and they often provide additional further education opportunities for school-leavers and adults in the local community.

The Irish secondary school year extends from the first week in September to the first week in June. If a child is in a Junior Certificate Class or a Leaving Certificate class, however, they will not finish until later in June, as they will be taking their exams at that time.

Schools in Ireland have reopened amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Strict guidelines are in place for schools, parents and children in order to maintain the wellbeing of children and the school staff and limit the possibilities of another outbreak. School administrators will be able to answer questions and advise on educational activities for children.

International Schools in Dublin

- **Sutton Park School**
Address: St. Fintan's Road, Sutton, Dublin 13
Tel: +353 1 832 2940
Email: info@sps.ie
Web: www.suttonparkschool.com
Curriculum: The school offers a national curriculum. Exams available include SATs and the Leaving Certificate. Lessons are in English, with English as a second language (ESL) provided for students requiring English-language support. The school takes children between the ages of four and eighteen years (Grade 1 to Grade 12) and has a student body of whom 80% are international and 20% are local students. The school is accredited by the Council of International Schools (CIS), the European Council of International Schools (ECIS) and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC)
Comments: The school applies a uniform policy. A canteen is available for children who wish to eat at school. After-school activities are offered to all students. Certain documents have to be produced for the admission process. The school has boarding facilities for secondary students. The average length of stay of expatriate pupils is about three years. Irish students normally complete their education at the school
- **St. Andrew's College**
Address: Booterstown Avenue, Blackrock, Co. Dublin
Tel: +353 1 288 2785
Email: information@st-andrews.ie
Web: www.sac.ie
Curriculum: The school offers a national and international curriculum, as well as the International Baccalaureate (IB). Exams available include SATs, the Irish Leaving Certificate and the IB Diploma Program (DP). Lessons are in English, with English as a second language (ESL) provided for students requiring English-language support. The school takes children between the ages of four and eighteen years (Kindergarten to Grade 12). The school is accredited by the Council of International Schools (CIS), the European Council of International Schools (ECIS) and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC)
Comments: The school applies a uniform policy. A canteen is available for children who wish to eat at school. After-school activities are offered to all students. Certain documents have to be produced for the admission process
- **St. Columba's College**
Address: Kilmashogue Lane, Whitechurch, Dublin 16
Tel: +353 1 490 6791
Email: admin@stcolumbas.ie
Web: www.stcolumbas.ie
Curriculum: The school offers a national curriculum. Exams available include the Irish Leaving Certificate. Lessons are in English, with English as a second language (ESL) provided for students requiring English-language support. The school takes children between the ages of eleven and eighteen years (Grade 5 to Grade 12).
Comments: The school applies a uniform policy. An academic gown is worn in working hours. A canteen is available for children who wish to eat at school. After-school activities are offered to all students. Certain documents have to be produced for the admission process, also an entrance test and personal interview are required. The school has boarding facilities
- **Lycée Français d'Irlande**
(Kindergarten & Primary schools) **Address:** Foxrock Avenue, Foxrock, Dublin 18
Tel: +353 1 289 4063
Email: primaire@lfi.ie
(Secondary school) **Address:** Eurocampus, Roebuck Road, Clonskeagh, Dublin 14
Tel: +353 1 288 4834
Email: secondaire@lfi.ie
Web: www.lfi.ie
Curriculum: The school offers a French curriculum. Exams available include the French Baccalaureat. Lessons are in French. The school takes children between the ages of three and eighteen years (Pre-kindergarten to Grade 12) and has a student body of whom 70% are French

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nationals. The school operates under the auspices of the French Ministry for Foreign Affairs and is run in conjunction with the AEFE (Agency for the Teaching of French Abroad)

Comments: Bus services are not provided. The school does not apply a uniform policy. A canteen is available for children who wish to eat at school in the secondary section. There is no canteen available in the primary section. After-school activities are offered to all students. Certain documents have to be produced for the admission process. The senior school shares a campus with the German School

- **St. Kilian's Deutsche Schule**

Address: Roebuck Road, Clonskeagh, Dublin 14

Tel: +353 1 288 3323, +353 1 288 3324

Email: admin@kilians.com

Web: www.kilians.com

Curriculum: The school offers a national and German curriculum. Exams available include the German Abitur and the Irish Leaving Certificate. Lessons are in English and German. The school takes children between the ages of four and eighteen years (Kindergarten to Grade 12). The school is a member of the network of German Schools Abroad under the German Central Agency for Schools Abroad

Comments: Bus services are not provided. The school does not apply a uniform policy. A canteen is available for children who wish to eat at school. After-school activities are offered to all students. Certain documents have to be produced for the admission process

- **Saturday School for Japanese Children in Dublin**

Address: c/o St. Tiernan's Community School, Parkvale, Balally, Dublin 16

Tel: +353 1 278 2746, +353 1 235 2842 (Ireland Japanese Association)

Email: info@ija.ie

Web: www.ija.ie

Curriculum: The school offers a Japanese curriculum. Lessons are in Japanese. The school takes children between the ages of six and fifteen years (Grade 1 to Grade 9) and has a student body of who are all Japanese

Comments: Bus services are not provided. The school does not apply a uniform policy. There is no canteen available. Certain documents have to be produced for the admission process. More information is available from the Ireland Japanese Association. See the website for details

4.3 Entertainment for Children

Entertainment for Children in Dublin

The following websites have information on entertainment and activities for children in Dublin:

- **Dublin.ie**

Web: www.dublin.ie

- **Dublin Kids**

Web: <http://dublinskids.ie>

- **Family Fun**

Web: www.familyfun.ie/kids-activities-in-dublin

- **Visit Dublin**

Web: www.visitdublin.com/see-do

Comments: See the 'Activities' page

Selected highlights include:

- **The Ark**

Address: 11a Eustace Street, Temple Bar, Dublin 2

Tel: +353 1 670 7788

Email: boxoffice@ark.ie

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Web: <http://ark.ie>

Comments: A very popular arts center dedicated to the best cultural work by and for children. Caters for different age groups

- **Dublinia**

Address: St Michael's Hill, Christ Church, Dublin 8

Tel: +353 1 679 4611

Email: info@dublinia.ie

Web: www.dublinia.ie

Hours: Daily 10am to 5.30pm (March to September); 10am to 4.30pm (October to February)

Comments: Three historical experiences: Viking Dublin – Meet the Vikings face to face; Medieval Dublin – Find out about life in medieval Dublin; History Hunters – Experience the world of a history hunter

- **Kylemore Karting**

Address: Unit 1A, Kylemore Industrial Estate, Killeen Road, Kylemore, Dublin 10

Tel: +353 1 626 1444

Email: info@kylemore-karting.com

Web: www.kylemore-karting.com

Comments: Large indoor race circuit

- **National Sea Life Centre**

Address: Strand Road, Bray Seafront, Bray, Co. Wicklow

Tel: +353 1 286 6939

Email: slcbray@merlinentertainments.biz

Web: www.sealife.ie

Hours: November to February, from Monday to Friday 11am to 5pm; Saturday and Sunday 10am to 6pm. March to October, daily from 10am to 6pm including weekends and public holidays

Comments: Only 15 minutes from the south of Dublin. The center gives a glimpse of Ireland's underwater world through interactive displays in a pleasant seaside setting

4.4 Sports for Children

Sports for Children in Dublin

There is a wide variety of excellent sports activities for children in Dublin. Most of the clubs and country clubs have sports facilities for children as well and membership is available.

- **Calliaghstown Riding Centre**

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Address: Rathcoole (15 miles outside of Dublin)

Tel: +353 1 458 8322

Email: calliaghstownequestriancentre@gmail.com

Web: www.calliaghstownequestriancentre.ie

Hours: Monday to Friday 8am to 8.30pm; Saturday and Sunday 8am to 5.30pm

Comments: Offers full equestrian training including equestrian holidays for children

- **Horseracing**

Web: www.goracing.ie

Comments: The venue has a 'Kids Club,' which promotes horse racing with the younger generation

- **Little Kickers**

Web: www.littlekickers.ie

Comments: A national network of informal, professionally run training classes where boys and girls aged 18 months until their 7th birthday can practice the skills needed for ball sports. The website has location details of all the centers

- **National Aquatic Centre**

Address: Snugborough Road, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15

Tel: +353 1 646 4300

Email: customercare@nationalsportscampus.ie

Web: www.nac.ie

Hours: Various opening hours apply during the week. The website has specific details

Comments: A fantastic water park with activities and aquatic sports and swimming lessons for children of all ages

- **Skirmish**

Address: Killegar Road, Kilternan, Co Dublin

Tel: +353 1 295 9229

Email: info@skirmish.ie

Web: www.skirmish.ie

Comments: Skirmish Young Guns offers paintball for children from 14 to 17 years of age

- **Trinity College**

Address: University of Dublin, College Green, Dublin 2

Disclaimer:

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Tel: +353 1 896 1812

Email: sport@tcd.ie

Web: www.tcd.ie/Sport

Comments: Trinity Sport offers sports for children aged 4 years and above. An all inclusive program, the ASA National Teaching Plan for Teaching Swimming (NTPTS). Every Saturday afternoon 2pm to 4pm, there is a family climbing session on the climbing wall. Places are limited so booking in advance is recommended. The department also organizes Multi Sport Camps. Activities include trampolining, climbing wall, swimming, tennis, uni hoc, relay races, treasure hunts and rounders

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