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Ireland

Official Name: Ireland

LAST UPDATED: DECEMBER 22, 2015

Embassy Messages

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Quick Facts

- **PASSPORT VALIDITY:**
Valid for the duration of your stay in Ireland
- **VACCINATIONS:**
None
- **BLANK PASSPORT PAGES:**
One page
- **CURRENCY RESTRICTIONS FOR ENTRY:**
Must declare 10,000 Euro or equivalent
- **TOURIST VISA REQUIRED:**
No
- **CURRENCY RESTRICTIONS FOR EXIT:**
Must declare 10,000 Euro or equivalent

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Embassies and Consulates

[U.S. Embassy Dublin](#)

42 Elgin Road**Ballsbridge****Dublin 4****Ireland****Telephone:** +(353) (1) 668-8777**Emergency After-Hours Telephone:** +(353) (1) 630-6200**Fax:** +(353)(1) 668-8056ACSDublin@state.gov

Destination Description

See the Department of State's [Fact Sheet on Ireland](#) for information on U.S.-Ireland relations.

Entry, Exit & Visa Requirements

Visit the [Embassy of Ireland](#) website for the most current visa information.

- You must have a valid passport to enter Ireland, but U.S. citizens can enter visa free for tourism or business stays of up to three months.
- There is no minimum passport validity for U.S. citizens entering Ireland. We recommend you have a passport that is valid for the duration of your stay, sufficient funds, and a return airline ticket.
- An increased number of U.S. citizens have been refused entry or have been granted only a limited stay because they failed to satisfy Irish immigration laws. Please ensure you have the appropriate visa prior to traveling. You can find more information at the [Irish Naturalization and Immigration Service website](#) .
- **We cannot intervene on your behalf when applying for a visa, nor can we assist if you are denied entry into Ireland.**

The U.S. Department of State is unaware of any HIV/AIDS entry restrictions for visitors to or foreign residents of Ireland.

Information about [dual nationality](#) or the [prevention of international child abduction](#) can be found on our website. For further information about customs regulations, please read our [Customs Information page](#).

Safety and Security

Travelers should exercise sound personal safety practices to minimize their chance of becoming a victim of petty street crime. Travelers should be vigilant at all times and be aware of their surroundings.

We remind you that even demonstrations and protests intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and possibly escalate into violence. You should avoid the areas of such gatherings if possible, and be careful within the vicinity of any demonstrations. You should stay current with media coverage of local events and be aware of your surroundings at all times.

Note that Northern Ireland is part of the [United Kingdom](#) but shares a mostly unpatrolled land border with Ireland.

Crime: Though Ireland has a relatively low rate of violent crime, you should always practice sound personal security practices and maintain an awareness of your surroundings when traveling

- **Rates of theft and petty crime have risen in recent years**, and thieves often target rental cars and tourists, particularly in the vicinity of tourist attractions. In rare cases, these crimes have involved physical assault or violence, more commonly in Dublin city center and in popular tourist areas.
- **Rental cars can be targeted for crime** as they are easily identifiable by the rental company stickers on the rear window of the vehicle. If possible, remove these stickers and always lock your car when leaving it unattended, even for brief periods. Keep car doors locked while driving. Don't leave luggage or valuables visible inside a parked car and don't leave luggage attached to a roof rack. When visiting city center areas, park your car in a secure car park and retain the parking ticket on your person. At night, park in well-lit areas. When picking up and dropping off your rental car, do not leave the keys in the ignition while loading or unloading luggage. We have received reports of cars and belongings being stolen in such situations.

ATM Fraud: Crimes involving ATMs are a concern. Protect your PIN at all times and look closely at ATMs for evidence of tampering before use.

- Criminals have used "skimmers" on ATMs, especially in tourist areas. Skimmers are usually small electronic devices attached to the outside of an ATM to steal the ATM or credit card data.
- In busy areas, thieves use distraction techniques such as waiting until the PIN has been entered and then pointing to money on the ground or asking for loose change. While the ATM user is distracted, another person will quickly withdraw the cash and leave. If you are distracted in any way, cancel the transaction immediately.

See the [Department of State](#) and the [FBI](#) pages for information on scams.

Victims of Crime:

- Report crimes to the local police at 999 and/or 112. and contact the U.S. Embassy at +(353) (1) 630-6200.
- Remember that local authorities are responsible for investigating and prosecuting the crime.
- See our webpage on [help for U.S. victims of crime overseas](#).

We can:

- help you find appropriate medical care

- assist you in reporting a crime to the police
- contact relatives or friends with your written consent
- explain the local criminal justice process in general terms
- provide a list of local attorneys
- provide our information on [victim's compensation programs in the U.S.](#)
- provide information on victims compensation programs in Ireland
- The [Irish Tourist Assistance Service \(ITAS\)](#) is a free nationwide service offering support and assistance to tourists who are victimized while visiting Ireland. If you are a tourist victim of crime, report the incident to the nearest garda station (police station), which will contact ITAS.
- provide an emergency loan for repatriation to the United States and/or limited medical
- support in cases of destitution
- help you find accommodation and arrange flights home
- replace a stolen or lost passport

Domestic Violence: U.S. citizen victims of domestic violence may contact the Embassy for assistance.

For further information:

- Enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) to receive security messages and make it easier to locate you in an emergency.
- Call us in Washington at 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).
- See the [State Department's travel website](#) for [Worldwide Caution](#), [Travel Warnings](#), and [Travel Alerts](#).
- Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) .
- See [traveling safely abroad](#) for useful travel tips.

Local Laws & Special Circumstances

Criminal Penalties: You are subject to local laws. If you violate local laws, even unknowingly, you may be expelled, arrested, or imprisoned.

Furthermore, some laws are also prosecutable in the United States, regardless of local law. For examples, see our website on [crimes against minors abroad](#) and the [Department of Justice](#) website.

Arrest Notification: If you are arrested or detained, ask police or prison officials to notify the U.S. Embassy immediately. See our [webpage](#) for further information.

Special Circumstances: Irish banks often, will not accept U.S. \$100 bills. Most Irish financial institutions have recently stopped accepting or cashing traveler's checks. Credit cards are widely accepted throughout Ireland. ATMs are widely available, but some, particularly in rural areas, may not accept debit cards from U.S. banks.

Faith-Based Travelers: See the [Department of State's International Religious Freedom Report](#).

LGBTI Travelers: There are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations or the organization of LGBTI events in Ireland.

See our [LGBTI Travel Information](#) page and section 6 of the [Department of State's Human Rights report](#) for further details.

Persons with Mobility Issues. While in Ireland, individuals with disabilities may find accessibility and accommodation very different from in the United States.

- Irish law requires access to government buildings for persons with disabilities, and this requirement is enforced. Under Irish law, public service providers should ensure the service is accessible to those with mobility, sensory, and/or cognitive impairments.
- **Parking:** Local authorities and commercial premises such as shopping outlets have no legal obligation to provide external disabled parking facilities for their customers; however, on-street parking, public building parking lots, and internal parking lots always have a certain number of disabled spaces available. A permit is required to use these spaces.
- **Buses and Trains:** The majority of buses and trains in the main city areas of Ireland are now equipped for those with limited-mobility, sight, or hearing disabilities, although some train stations and pathways may not be as easily accessible.
- People who live in Ireland and meet the medical conditions of a disability allowance may apply for free travel passes; there is also a blind/invalidity pension from the Irish Department of Social Protection for those who qualify.
- **Mainline and suburban trains require special portable ramps to permit boarding from the platforms to the carriages.** These are available at all terminal points and major junctions and stations that have staff on duty. They are also available on some trains. Travelers are advised to contact [Irish Rail](#) in advance to ensure such facilities are available. The website for [Dublin Bus](#) provides information on its travel assistance scheme. Regional and intercity bus services are provided by [Bus Eireann](#).

Private Businesses: Accessibility of private businesses such as hotels, bed and breakfasts, shops, and restaurants varies widely. Travelers should inquire about accessibility issues with the business before making reservations.

Students: See our [Students Abroad](#) page and [FBI travel tips](#) .

Women Travelers: See our travel tips for [Women Travelers](#).

Health

Hospitals in Ireland do not accept American insurance as coverage.

Patients are expected to pay all costs up-front at the time of treatment and apply for reimbursement later.

- Modern medical facilities and highly skilled medical practitioners are available in Ireland.
- **Due to high demand, there may be long waits for access to medical specialists and admissions to hospitals for certain non-life-threatening medical conditions.** It is not unusual for emergency room (ER) services to be very busy or for post-treatment admissions to include a long wait (sometimes overnight) on a gurney in a hallway.
- Most types of over-the-counter medications are available, but many U.S. brands are not. Some medications available over the counter in the United States may require a prescription in Ireland.
- Irish pharmacists may not be able to dispense medication prescribed by U.S. physicians and may direct you to obtain a prescription from an Irish doctor.
- A list of Irish general practitioners in each area of Ireland may be obtained from the website of the [Irish College of General Practitioners](#) .

The Embassy cannot pay medical bills. Be aware you cannot use U.S. Medicare overseas.

Make sure your health insurance plan provides coverage overseas. Most care providers overseas only accept cash payments. See our webpage for more [information on insurance providers for overseas coverage](#).

We strongly recommend [supplemental insurance](#) (our webpage) to cover medical evacuation.

Carry prescription medication in original packaging, along with your doctor's prescription.

Be up-to-date on all [vaccinations recommended by](#) the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

For further health information, go to:

- [World Health Organization](#)
- [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC)

Travel & Transportation

Road Conditions and Safety: While in Ireland, you may encounter road conditions that differ significantly from those in the United States.

- **Cars drive on the left side of the road in Ireland.** If you do not have experience driving on the left, you should be especially cautious as tourists driving on the incorrect side of the road are the cause of several serious accidents each year.
- Road conditions are generally good, but once you exit the main highways, **country roads are likely to be narrow, uneven, and winding.** Drivers should be attentive of cyclists and pedestrians, particularly in urban areas.
- Most intersections in Ireland use circular “roundabouts” instead of signals, and it is important that drivers pay close attention to signs and yield the right of way to those already in the roundabout.
- **Most rental cars in Ireland have manual transmission;** it can be difficult to find automatic transmission rental cars.

Traffic Laws: Police periodically set up road blocks to check for drunk drivers. **Penalties for driving under the influence can be severe.**

- At stoplights, turning on a red light is illegal; you must wait for either a full green (any direction turn permitted) or directional green light (which could be straight, left, or right) before proceeding with caution.
- **You may use your existing U.S. driver’s license in Ireland for a temporary stay;** this can be for any period of time up to a maximum of one year. Some insurance and car rental companies may request an International Driving Permit in addition to your existing driving license. If you wish to apply for an International Driving Permit, please contact the [American Automobile Association](#) . You are required to apply for an Irish driving license if you become a resident of Ireland.

Public Transportation: Taxi rates vary with time of day and location. Ask your hotel or for the number of a call-dispatched taxi service if you plan to be out during less busy times.

Intercity bus and train services are generally good.

Local bus service in the cities is generally adequate, although many buses are crowded and they frequently run late. Pay close attention to where bus stops are in both directions, as the drop-off and pick-up locations could be several blocks away from each other.

Please refer to our [Road Safety page](#) for more information. Also, we suggest that you visit the website of the [Irish Tourism Board](#) and the website for the [National Roads Authority of Ireland](#) , which is responsible for road safety.

Aviation Safety Oversight: The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has assessed the Government of Ireland’s Civil Aviation Authority as being in compliance with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) aviation safety standards for oversight of Ireland’s air carrier operations. Further information may be found on the [FAA’s safety assessment page](#) .

Please see [Fact Sheet for this country.](#)

Assistance for U.S. Citizens

U.S. Embassy Dublin
42 Elgin Road
Ballsbridge
Dublin 4
Ireland

- Telephone
+(353) (1) 668-8777
- Emergency After-Hours Telephone
+(353) (1) 630-6200
- Fax
+(353) (1) 668-8056
- Email
ACSDublin@state.gov
- [U.S. Embassy Dublin](#)



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