

SOME TIPS FOR YOUR STAY IN DUBLIN

Travel Insurance

Hospital and all medical cover is a must along with cover for theft and lost baggage. The most important cover though is repatriation in case of the worst scenario happening.

Emergencies - Health Care & Police

➔ *For emergency police, fire or ambulance services call 112 or 999 for free.*

Dublin's major hospitals:

- ➔ Beaumont Hospital. Beaumont road. Dublin 9. Tel: +353 1 8093000
- ➔ Rotunda Hospital. Parnell Street. Dublin 1. Tel: +353 1 8730700

➔ **Irish Tourist Assistance Service** is a government-funded agency to assist tourists who are affected by a crime on their visit. Tel: +353 (0)1 478 5295. Block 1, Garda Headquarters, Harcourt Square, Dublin 2. Opening Hours: Mon - Sat 10.00am - 6.00pm, Sundays and public holidays 12.00 - 6.00pm

➔ Please check your embassy's or consulate's contact details before leaving your country.

Safety Tips

➔ Walking around the city centre is pleasant but, as in any city, it is important to keep an eye on your belongings, particularly when on public transport or in busy places. Bag snatching and pick-pocketing are not uncommon in Dublin. It is advisable to carry your rucksack or backpack in front of you in over-crowded public buses and crowded pedestrian streets especially Grafton Street, Temple Bar, Henry Street and O'Connell Street.

➔ At night, visitors should not wander around parts of the city that they are unfamiliar with or in poorly lit areas. After midnight you might want to consider taking a taxi if you are unsure about your route, but at other times you should not encounter problems.

Public Transport

➡ **From Dublin Airport:** An express service from Dublin Airport is operated by Aircoach. This service stops at many of the city's major hotels on the south side of the city, with the journey typically taking 30 minutes. Other Air Link services from Dublin Airport include bus numbers 747 and 748, both of which travel to Busaras, Dublin's central bus station.

➡ **Taxis:** People do not normally take a taxi from the airport unless they are staying in an difficult location or need door-to-door service. Nevertheless a taxi might be as cheap as the bus if you are traveling with several people who will split the bill. One Euro is charged for each extra passenger.

➡ **Buses in Dublin:** Fares on buses can only be paid in coins or with a travel pass such as the Leap Card. As the driver cannot give change or take banknotes, you need to have the exact coins for the service. If you put more than is needed in the farebox you will receive a "refund receipt", not cash. This "refund receipt" can only be redeemed at the Dublin Bus Head Office (funny enough all this is considerably more trouble than it's worth to 'cash in a "refund receipt"). Drivers do not open the rear door therefore passengers exit from the front door. It is polite to thank bus drivers when you exit the bus. Most buses have free WiFi.

➡ **Tram (Luas):** The tram services are known locally as the Luas: Dublin has two tram lines, one which runs south from Stephen's Green and one which runs west from Connolly Station to Heuston Station before continuing on to destinations in the southwest of the city. The route of most interest to the tourist is the Red Line which connects the two main railway stations of Heuston and Connolly. On the way it passes the Four Courts, the rejuvenated Smithfield area, and the National Museum at Collins Barracks; the Green Line runs from St Stephen's Green to the foothills of the Dublin Mountains.

➡ **DART:** The DART (Dublin Area Rapid Transit) is the rail line running along the coast of Dublin. DART services operate every 15 minutes all day. The DART Landsdown stop, which is near the IPA, is very convenient to get to Pearse Station (near Trinity College).

➡ **Leap Card** (www.leapcard.ie): This travel card is similar to the Oyster card in London: you load it to pay for your trips on DART, Dublin Bus and Luas. It can help you to save up to 24% from cash fares. Leap cards are normally available in Spar shops in town and in the Arrivals area of Dublin Airport, in both Terminal 1 and 2 and the Travel Information desk in Terminal 1.

Weather

Rain in Ireland is common throughout the year, with summer and winter seeing the most rainfall, but Dublin is in fact one of the drier destinations in Ireland. It can be sunny one minute and raining the next. It can be sunny, quickly shower, and once again become sunny. A few moments later, you would never know it rained at all. Make sure to bring rain gear and a sense of humour about the weather. Please remember the weather is not the reason why you came to Dublin!

Shopping & Business hours

➡ Normal business hours in Dublin are from 09:00 to 17:30. Most offices are only open from Monday to Friday but many shopping outlets are open on the weekends:

- Banks: 09:00 to 17:30, Monday to Friday.
- Post Offices: 09:00 to 18:00, Monday to Friday.
- Department Stores and Shops: 09:00 to 17:30, daily, some closed on Sundays.
- Museums: 09:00 to 18:00, Monday to Friday, some open on weekends.
- Business Offices: 09:00 to 17:30, Monday to Friday.

➡ The shopping hub of the city is Grafton Street. Other shopping areas include Nassau street, Market Arcade (George's Street Arcade), and the areas around O'Connell Street and and Henry Street.

➡ Pubs usually open about 11:00 AM and give last call about 11:00 - 11:30 PM Monday through Saturday. On Sunday the pubs open around 12:00 PM and may close at 2:00 PM and reopen about 4:00 PM.

Currency & ATM

The currency for the Republic of Ireland is the Euro. You can exchange your current money for Euro at the airports, banks and local ATM machines. Acceptance of Visa and MasterCard is almost universal for retailing and most services, including supermarkets, accommodation, railways, restaurants, department stores, etc. American Express and Diners Club cards are also accepted by some service establishments.

Tipping

- ➡ Taxi drivers are not normally tipped unless it is easier to round up the fare, nevertheless people might give taxi drivers 10% of the fare.
- ➡ Restaurants and cafés will usually add a 10 to 15 percent service charge to the bill. It is normal to tip 10 per cent in restaurants. People do not commonly tip in bars and pubs but if you receive waiter or waitress services it would be appropriate to tip. If a service charge is included tipping is not necessary, unless you received exemplary service.
- ➡ Porters might receive about 50 cents per bag.

Electricity

The electrical supply in Ireland is 230v/240v 50hz. The plugs and sockets are the same as those used in the United Kingdom: they have got a three-pronged formation. Probably you will need an adapter plug. They can be purchased at travel stores, office supply stores, and electronics stores. There are two-pin sockets for use with electric shavers in bath or shower rooms in hotels.

An Irish-English (almost practical) Glossary

An Lar - City Center

A Chara - Friend

Avon, Owen - River

Aw, Ow - River

Bally - Town

Bangers - Sausage

Black & Tan - Half Guinness & Half Bass

Bonnet - Car Hood

Boot - Car Trunk

Bord Failte - Irish Tourist Board (board of welcomes)

Brilliant - Great

Caravan Travel Trailer - Small House Trailer

Carraig - Rock

Carrick - Rock

Cead Mile Failte - A hundred thousand welcomes (kay-d mile Fawlcha)

Ceili - Irish Dance (kaylee)

Cheers - Thanks or Good-bye

Chemist - Pharmacy

Chips - French Fries

Craic - Fun

Crisps - Potato Chips

Dear - Expensive

Dollied Up - Dressed Up

Dun - Fort

Eejit - Idiot

Ennis - Island

Ensuite - Room with a private bath

Erin Go Bragh - Ireland Forever

Fag - Cigarette

Fir - Men (Men's room)

Fry - Full Irish breakfast

Gaeltacht - Irish Speaking Area

Garda Siochana - Policeman

Half & Half - Half Guinness & Half Harp (don't call it a black and tan)

i (green sign w/ letter "i") - Tourist Information Office

Inis - Island

Jar - Measure of Drink

Jumper - Sweater

Kill, Kil - Church

Lift - Elevator

Lorry - Truck

Lough - Lake

Mna - Women (Women's room)

Off-License - Liquor store

Petrol - Gas/Fuel

Pissed - Drunk

Poitin/Poteen - Moonshine

Pudding - Dessert

Quay - Waterfront

Queue - Wait in Line

Quid, also called Bob - Money

Rashers - Bacon

Scheme - A legitimate plan or project

Scone - Sweet Biscuit

Slag - Teasing

Slainte - Cheers (pronounced schlancha)

Slan - Farewell (there isn't an Irish word for good bye)

Slan Go Foill - So Long

Stone - Forteen Pounds

Sweets - Candy

Take-Away - Take Out Food

Taoiseach - Prime Minister (teeshock)

Till - Cash register or ATM

Toilet, also called Loo - Restroom

Touron - A cross between a tourist and a moron

Two Fingers - Two fingers has the same meaning as one middle finger regardless of which way your fingers are pointing. So don't ask for two by holding up two fingers!