



IRELAND

Capital: Dublin

Population: 6.1 million

Currency: Euro (€ or EUR)

Language: English, Irish (Gaelic)

Time Zone: EST plus 4 hours

Electricity: 230V. 50Hz

Fun Facts



- Ireland is the home of the famous Blarney Stone; kissing it is supposed to give a person the gift of eloquent speech.
- Ireland is famous for Guinness beer, which has its brewery at St. James' Gate in Dublin.
- The failure of the potato crops in 1845 led to what is known as the great famine, which lasted for five years and is known to have caused Irishmen and women to leave the country to settle elsewhere.
- Tracing Irish genealogy prior to 1922 is difficult because the records from the 14th century to 1922 were destroyed in a fire caused during the Irish Civil War.

People have inhabited Ireland since around 6000 BC, leaving behind gold ornaments and stone monuments that have captivated the imagination of historians worldwide. Celtic tribes, from whom most Irish people can trace their roots, arrived on the island around 600 BC. Tradition maintains that St. Patrick arrived on the island in 432 AD and, in the years that followed, worked to convert the island to Christianity. In the years that followed, Irish scholars excelled in the study of Latin, Christian theology, and the arts of manuscript illumination, metalworking, and sculpture—evident in the intricate, carved stone crosses that dot the island.

Nordic invasions, which began in the late 8th century, were finally ended when King Brian Boru defeated the Danes in 1014. English invasions began in the 12th century and set off more than seven centuries of Anglo-Irish struggle, marked by fierce rebellions and harsh repressions. Religious freedom, outlawed in the 18th century, was restored in 1829. But this victory for the Irish Catholic majority was overshadowed by the Great Potato Famine from 1845 to 1848. Millions died, and millions more immigrated to the United States.

A failed 1916 Easter Monday Rebellion touched off several years of guerrilla warfare that in 1921 resulted in independence from the UK for 26 southern counties; six northern counties (Northern Ireland) remained part of the United Kingdom. In 1948, Ireland officially withdrew from the British Commonwealth. In modern times, the Irish government has sought the peaceful unification of Ireland and has cooperated with Britain against terrorist groups. Ireland joined the European Community (now the EU) in 1973 and continues to grow in stature and strength as a young, independent country.



VISAS AND PASSPORTS

Visas to Ireland are not required for U.S. or Canadian citizens. If you hold a passport from another country, please check with your local consulate about requirements for travel to Ireland. All passengers traveling internationally are required to have a passport. Please carry proper identification (your passport) on you and do not leave it in your suitcase or hotel room. European law requires you to carry your passport with you at all times.



COUNTRY CODES

The country code for Ireland is 353. When calling to Ireland from overseas, you dial your international access code (011 from the U.S.) followed by the country code, area code, and phone number. Phone numbers in Ireland are eight digits in length. Dialing from the U.S.: 011+353+X+XXX XXXX.



CURRENCY AND BUDGETING

The official currency of Ireland is the Euro. Euro coins differ according to country, but they can be used in any EU state.

1 Euro (€) = 100 Cents (c)

- Banknote denominations: €5, €10, €20, €50, €100, €200, €500
- Coin denominations: 1c, 2c, 5c, 10c, 20c, 50c, €1, €2

For the most current exchange rates, please go to our Web site at www.globusfamily.com/currency

Credit cards are widely accepted in Ireland and you should have no trouble using them. Visa and MasterCard are most accepted. Smaller shops may ask you to pay in cash or have a minimum amount required to use a credit card.

Visitors from outside Ireland can have the value-added tax (VAT) refunded at the end of their trip. Ask for a tax-free shopping form with each purchase and follow the instructions for completion.



TO HELP YOU BUDGET:

The following budget guidelines are just approximate values or starting values for meals and are per person. Actual prices will vary widely by restaurant and city within a country but below are some averages as provided by our experienced personnel.

The approximate cost of a soft drink/mineral water/coffee is €3.

An average lunch consisting of a salad or sandwich and a soda or water starts at approximately €10.

A steak dinner at a mid-range restaurant, with desert and a non-alcoholic beverage start at approximately €30.



TIPPING

Tipping in pubs for drinks ordered at the bar is not customary. Most restaurants include a service fee, which covers the tip. If not, a tip of 10% is sufficient.

Taxi drivers generally do not expect tips, but rounding up the fare to the nearest whole dollar is acceptable if you would like to tip.

Tip hotel staff €1 for room service.



ELECTRICAL OUTLETS:

Voltage for outlets is 230V. American voltage is generally 110V Hz. Therefore, a converter may be necessary for your travels. Adapters will be necessary to adapt your plug into the outlet but may not convert the voltage, so both devices are necessary. Irish outlets are 3-prong outlets with two flat prongs in line and one perpendicular which look like:



Type G



TEMPERATURES

Ireland has warm summers and cooler winters. Spring and fall are mild. Clouds make an appearance in the Emerald Isle's skies year-round. Pack lightweight clothing for the summer and warmer clothing in winter. Rain gear is essential year-round.

To help you plan, below are average low and high temperatures for Dublin.

Month	Average High °(F)	Average Low °(F)
January	47.5	37.0
February	48.0	36.3
March	50.9	37.9
April	53.8	39.4
May	59.2	44.1
June	63.7	48.6
July	67.1	52.3
August	66.9	52.2
September	62.6	48.7
October	56.5	44.6
November	50.7	40.1
December	47.3	37.0

To convert to Celsius, subtract 32, then multiply by 5 and then divide by 9.

See examples in the Know Before You Go Europe document.



FOOD SPECIALTIES

Guinness, Irish coffee, seafood, traditional dishes using bacon and cabbage, and Irish stew.

A FEW WORDS OF THE LOCAL LANGUAGE



American to British English:

Elevator: Lift, **Apartment:** Flat, **Yard:** Garden, **Trunk:** Boot, **Truck:** Lorry, **Bartender:** Barman, **Cell phone:** Mobile, **Check:** Bill, **Bill:** Bank note, **Trash can:** Bin, **Sidewalk:** Pavement, **Drugstore:** Chemist, **Band-Aid:** Plaster, **Bathroom/Washroom/Restroom:** Toilet/WC/loo, **Highway:** Motorway, **Subway:** Tube/underground, **Taxi:** Cab, **Crosswalk:** Pedestrian crossing, **Movie theater:** Cinema, **Orchestra seats:** Stalls, **Sweater:** Jumper, **Pants/slacks:** Trousers, **Pantyhose:** Tights, **Sneakers:** Trainers, **Line:** Queue, **Mail:** Post, **Napkin:** Serviette, **Fries:** Chips, **Potato chips:** Crisps, **Eggplant:** Aubergine, **Dessert:** Pudding, **Jelly:** Jam, **Cookie:** Biscuit, **Liquor:** Spirits, **Dark ale:** Bitter, **Beer:** Lager, **Cup of tea:** Cuppa, **Pub food:** Pub grub, **Emergency room:** Casualty, **Washcloth:** Flannel, **Wallet:** Purse, **Purse:** Handbag.

Last updated 11/1/12