



The Great  
**Canadian**  
Travel Group  
Inc.

1349 Portage Avenue  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
Canada R3G 0V7

1-800-661-3830

[www.greatcanadiantravel.com](http://www.greatcanadiantravel.com)

## Ireland General Information

Ireland, also known as the Republic of Ireland, is a country in north-western Europe, which comprises 26 or the 32 counties of the island of Ireland. It is independent of the United Kingdom and is a member of the EU. Its largest and capital city is Dublin. Ireland is known for its magnificent green scenery, wealth of folklore, traditional music and dancing and its lively pubs.



### Documentation

Canadian passports are required for travel to Ireland. Your passport must be valid for the expected duration of your stay. You do not need a Visa for visits up to 90 days. You may be required to show proof of a return ticket and sufficient funds for your stay.

### Airports

The largest airport in Ireland is Dublin Airport (DUB). It is located about 10 kilometers north of Dublin's city center. It connects Dublin with the United Kingdom, Europe, Canada, United States and the Middle East. There are multiple other smaller airports around Ireland as well.

### Location and Geography

Ireland occupies most of an island west of Great Britain. The center of Ireland is characterized as flat plain land that is surrounded by the coastal highlands. The central lowland is scattered with small hills ranging between 180 to 300 meters in elevation. The lowland also has many lakes, large bogs and low ridges making it very scenic. Some notable mountain ranges are the Wicklow Mountains in the east, the Knockmealdown and Comeragh Mountains in the south and the Macgillycuddy's Reeks in the southwest. Carrantuohill in the Macgillycuddy's Reeks is the highest mountain in Ireland reaching 1041 meters tall. To the west and southwest the coast is heavily indented where the mountains jut out into the Atlantic Ocean creating wide mouth bays such as Bantry Bay and Dingle Bay.





The Great  
**Canadian**  
Travel Group  
Inc.

1349 Portage Avenue  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
Canada R3G 0V7

1-800-661-3830

[www.greatcanadiantravel.com](http://www.greatcanadiantravel.com)

## Population

The population of Ireland is approximately 4.8 million people. Approximately 1.1 million people live in Dublin.

## People and Culture

Ireland has been known as a welcoming country and has no ethnic distinction. Ethnic diversity has always been a part of Ireland. The Irish maintain a vibrant folk culture with many people participating in traditional dancing, music, storytelling and artisan hobbies. Irish Pubs are the focal point for many small villages and urban centers and are hotspots for Irish culture with traditional music and world-famous Irish beers, whiskeys and other spirits being served.

## Language

The official language of Ireland is Irish (Gaeilge). English is the second official language. All official documents are published in both languages. English is the universally spoken language in Ireland.

## Economy

Ireland is a mixed economy of public and private sectors. Agriculture is a major component of the economy and most farms are family owned. Beef cattle are popular livestock in the midlands, dairy cows are popular in the south and sheep raising is widespread on the rugged hills and mountain ranges throughout the countryside. Cereal crops are popular in the east with sugar beets, potatoes and other root crops being important as well. Tourism is another major component with approximately 11.2 million tourists in 2018. Popular places to visit include the Cliffs of Moher, Blarney Castle and the Blarney Stone, Rock of Cashel, Waterford, Ring of Kerry and many Historic Distilleries.





The Great  
**Canadian**  
Travel Group  
Inc.

1349 Portage Avenue  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
Canada R3G 0V7

1-800-661-3830

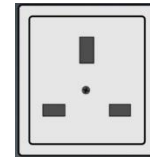
[www.greatcanadiantravel.com](http://www.greatcanadiantravel.com)

## Climate and Weather

Ireland has a maritime climate influenced by the Atlantic Ocean. Temperatures are mild and have little variation based on season. The average temperatures in January and February range between 4°C and 7°C and between 14°C and 16°C in July and August. Snow is rare and appears mostly in the mountain ranges and temperatures in winter barely drop below freezing.

## Electricity

Voltage is 230V. Frequency is 50Hz and power socket type is G.



## Currency

The official currency of Ireland is the Euro. One Euro is equal to 100 eurocents. Euros are available in 7 denomination bank notes and 8 denomination coins. Currency exchanges are available at banks, exchange offices, some airports and at ATMs.

## Credit Cards

Visa and Mastercard are widely accepted across Ireland. American Express is accepted at some places but not all. Ireland uses a chip and pin systems for card transactions and swipe only cards are not always accepted.

## Business and Banking Hours

Banks are generally open Monday to Friday 9:30am – 4:30pm. Some banks are open on Saturday mornings as well. Shops and business are generally open Monday – Saturday 9:00am – 6:00pm with some shops staying open later Thursday – Saturday. Sunday hours are generally 12:00pm – 6:00pm.

## Tipping

Tipping while appreciated is not a common practice in Ireland. Some restaurants will automatically add a service charge to your bill as a predetermined tip otherwise 10-15% is acceptable. Most service providers will factor tipping into their cost as well.

## Telephone and Emergency

The international dialing code of Ireland is +353. To dial Canada or the United States dial 01-(area code)-phone number.

## Emergency Services

In an **emergency** the "blue light" **services** - Garda Síochána, **ambulance**, fire and **Irish Coast Guard** - can be contacted by dialling 112 or 999.





The Great  
**Canadian**  
Travel Group  
Inc.

1349 Portage Avenue  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
Canada R3G 0V7

1-800-661-3830

[www.greatcanadiantravel.com](http://www.greatcanadiantravel.com)

## **Health Information**

Ireland has a combination of free and paid healthcare. Standards are like Canadian standards. Travel insurance is recommended for all travel to Ireland. Remember to take all prescription and over the counter medications you may need with you.

## **Tourist Information Centers**

There are tourist information centers located in major cities. Some are in smaller towns and villages as well. They offer local and reliable advice on attractions, must-sees, directions and provide other information for tourists.

## **National Holidays**

### **January 1<sup>st</sup> – New Year’s Day**

Celebrating the start of a New Year. Some villages hold parades and celebrations. It is a day off for the general population and most businesses and schools are closed.

### **March 17<sup>th</sup> – St. Patrick’s Day**

Celebrating the Irish Saint Patrick and Irish culture. Parades and festivals celebrating Irish Culture take place throughout Ireland. Some festivals can last for the week. It is a day off for the general population and most businesses and schools are closed.

### **Date varies – Good Friday**

Good Friday is an occasion for Christians to commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus. It is a traditional day of rest and worship but not a public holiday.

### **Date varies – Easter Sunday**

Easter Sunday is an occasion for Christians to celebrate Jesus’ resurrection. It is not a public holiday and most businesses operate on normal Sunday hours.

### **Date Varies – Easter Monday**

The day following Easter Sunday. It commemorates the Easter Uprising of 1916 and people attend sporting events and local fairs. It is a day off for the general population and most businesses and schools are closed.

### **First Monday in May - May Day**

Celebrating worker’s rights and having a traditional Celtic Festival on the first Monday of May. It is a day off for the general population and most businesses and schools are closed.



The Great  
Canadian  
Travel Group  
Inc.

1349 Portage Avenue  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
Canada R3G 0V7

1-800-661-3830

[www.greatcanadiantravel.com](http://www.greatcanadiantravel.com)

#### **First Monday in June – Bank Holiday**

Falling on the first Monday of June. It is a day off the general population and most businesses and schools are closed.

#### **First Monday in August – Bank Holiday**

Falling on the first Monday of August. It is a day off for the general population and most businesses and schools are closed.

#### **Last Monday in October – Bank Holiday**

Falling on the last Monday of October. Also called the Halloween Holiday. It is a time for cultural festivities and the end of daylight savings time. It is a day off the general population and most business and schools are closed.

#### **December 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve**

Marking the start of the Christmas and New Year holiday season. Most businesses operate on normal operating hours.

#### **December 25<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Day**

Celebrating the birth of Jesus with special church services and festival meals. It is a day off for the general population and most businesses and schools are closed.

#### **December 26<sup>th</sup> – St. Stephen's Day**

Also called Day of the Wren. Commemorating the life of Saint Stephen, a Christian martyr. It is a day off for the general population and most businesses and schools are closed.

#### **December 31<sup>st</sup>- New Year's Eve**

Celebrating the beginning of a New Year. Most people attend parties lasting late into the night. Business operate on normal operating hours.