



Safety Tips for International Visitors to Ireland

Thankfully, the experience of crime is quite rare for tourists who come to Ireland. Nevertheless, it is helpful to be aware of basic safety tips, to minimise any potential risks, especially in cities.

Before You Travel

- Always buy travel insurance for your trip – while hopefully it will not be needed – it is essential in a medical emergency.
- EU Nationals are entitled to a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) which can be used for free medical treatment – doctor visits, prescriptions and medical emergencies. It is advisable to apply for a card before travelling to Ireland.
- Alert your bank and credit card company of your travel plans to ensure that your card is not put on hold while you are on holiday.
- Scan or make copies of any important documents such as passport, National ID's, prescriptions etc. If making copies make sure you have the real document and the copy separate from each other. Ensure you can access your scanned items online from your emails or Dropbox etc.
- Carry emergency contact information with you. The contact number for emergency services in Ireland is 112, so put this on your phone, and also on a card in your wallet or purse.

Out And About

- Plan your route beforehand to minimise checking maps or your phone on the street.
- Mind your belongings when in crowded areas. Use a bag with a strap that goes around your neck and diagonally across your body.
- Be wary of carrying your valuables, passport and wallet in a backpack in a crowded space. If you do, keep the backpack to the front of your person.
- Keep passport and money/credit cards separate to your other belongings. Don't put a passport card or national Identity card in your phone case.
- Keep to populated areas and avoid deserted streets at night.
- Don't bring attention to yourself by wearing expensive jewellery or leaving belongings exposed.
- Be aware of your surroundings. Walk purposefully and confidently.
- Avoid taking short-cuts through deserted areas particularly after dark.
- If you are travelling to a remote area inform somebody where you are going.
- Camp in approved sites only-never pitch a tent in open spaces or public areas.

Mind Your Money

- Store any excess cash and other valuables in the safe in your accommodation.
- Do not carry all your cash in one place. If travelling as a couple or in a group divide the money between you.
- Don't carry more cash with you than you intend to spend during the day.
- If you have to carry excess cash or valuables use a discreet money belt inside your clothing.
- Be alert when withdrawing money from cash machines. It is preferable to use ATMs inside shopping malls, shops or banks where possible rather than those on the street.
- Be aware that most email providers use two-factor authentication - for this to work, you will need your phone.
- Many companies provide tagging devices such as AirTags/SmartTags, these can be very helpful for mislaid purses/bags.

Car Safety

- Become familiar with your route before you start the trip.
- Familiarise yourself with Irish road signage before driving. These can be found at the following link: <https://nationaldrivingschool.ie/road-signs-ireland/>
- If you have rented a car make sure it is in good working order. Learn how all the windows, door locks and other equipment work before you leave the rental premises.
- If possible, rent a vehicle with a trunk/boot that's isolated from the rest of the car, i.e. the trunk can't be accessed by pulling down the backseat.
- Keep car doors locked while you are driving.
- Don't leave luggage or valuables visible inside a parked car. Take passports/handbags/purses/wallets with you when you leave the car.
- Don't leave luggage attached to a roof rack.
- When visiting city centre areas, park your car in a secure car park and retain the parking ticket on your person.
- Always lock your car when leaving it unattended, even for brief periods.
- At night, park in well-lit areas.
- When checking into your accommodation, always ask about secure car parking.



Emergency Support for International Visitors

www.touristsos.ie
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