



Living & Working In Ireland ~ Useful Information

Accommodation

House prices in Dublin are the most expensive. Housing around the Ports and bigger cities such as Cork are more expensive than in rural areas. Apartments are often fully furnished. The normal practice is to share housing, this reduces the costs and means that you do not have to be alone. So a friendly and economic solution.

We normally arrange with employers to give initial accommodation and they would then help you to find something suitable in the local area; if accommodation (live-in) is not part of the package.

Most hotels in Ireland now do not offer accommodation for legal reasons as if a staff member injures themselves in the staff accommodation, the hotel can be sued for their injury.

Rent

Normally require one months rent in advance as a deposit, with the rent for the first month. The prices vary within counties but we suggest for a basic bedsit or sharing a house, to expect to pay around 70.00euro to 100.00 euro per week.

The most popular sites to look for rental properties are:

www.daft.ie

www.let.ie

Cars

You cannot drive without car insurance in Ireland. Insurance is very expensive in Ireland; age and accidents influences the price but it generally is around €600 to €800 per year . It could be worth asking your local insurance company in your own country to cover you initially and if possible for the first year. Certain EU licences can be exchanged for an Irish licence within one year of arrival or an international licence obtained in your current country of residence may be used for a limited period of time; however, you should check with your insurer about any implications of this.

Cars to buy can be expensive, but competition is making available some interesting deals. The following websites will give you a better idea of new and used car prices:

www.internetcarcompany.ie

www.carsales.ie

Car Hire

Should you wish to hire a car on arrival, car hire companies are available 24 hrs at all major airports.

The most inexpensive options are:

www.budget-ireland.com

www.budget.ie/

or to book online, go to: http://www.goireland.com/carhire/Ireland_car_rental.htm

Driving in Ireland

Drive on the left

In Ireland, all traffic drives on the left hand side of the road. You will see signs on the road reminding you of this. Be careful at junctions as this can be confusing until you get used to driving on the left.

Parking in urban areas

Parking in urban areas will usually require you to display a parking disk in your car. These pay and display disks can be purchased from news agents or from machines at the side of the road. Failure to display a ticket in these areas will result in your car being clamped or towed away.

Give way on roundabouts

On approach to a roundabout always give way to traffic on the right and drive in a clockwise direction.

Speeding in Ireland

In the Republic of Ireland speed limits are measured in kilometers per hour (kph). The speed limit for National Roads (green signs) is 100kph; Regional and Local Roads (white signs) is 80kph; Motorways (blue signs) is 120kph; and in built up areas is 50kph.

Other speed limits are clearly indicated by road signs. Please stay within the limits and

Don't drink and drive

It is our advice that you do not consume any alcohol prior to driving.

To find the most direct route to your destination, check out this website:

<http://www.aaireland.ie/routes/>

Medical cover

Normally hospital accident and emergency visits are €55 and visits to GPs are around €50.00 - €60.00 and prescriptions have to be paid for. If you wish to upgrade your treatment you need Medical Insurance, sometimes included in salary bonuses. Minimum cost from around €600 to €800 per year. It is tax deductible.

www.vhi.ie

www.bupaireland.ie

You will need a 'formula E' before leaving to be re-imbursed.

Paye

The pay system is different, in that you PAYE = Pay As You Earn, so at the end of each month all your social and income taxes, etc. are taken directly out of your pay. Normally you are paid in arrears. That is you are not paid for the first week but when you leave you receive two weeks pay. This is normally for people on a weekly pay, not monthly.

What is the National Minimum Wage?

The National Minimum Wage Act 2000 provides that the minimum wage rate for an experienced adult employee from 1 July 2007 is **€8.65** an hour, (was €8.30). An experienced adult employee for the purposes of the National Minimum Wage Act is an employee who has an employment of any kind in any 2 years over the age of 18. (See also "Rates" section below).

Of course the national minimum wage (NMW) does not stop an employer from offering a higher wage.

Rates

From 1 July 2007 the national minimum wage for experienced adult employees and the sub-minimum rates for young people and certain trainees are as follows:

Employee	Minimum hourly rate of pay	% of minimum wage
Experienced adult worker	€8.65	100%
Aged under 18	€6.06	70%
First year from date of first employment aged over 18	€6.92	80%
Second year from date of first employment aged over 18	€7.79	90%
Employee aged over 18, in structured training during working hours		
1st one third period	€6.49	75%
2nd one third period	€6.92	80%
3rd one third period	€7.79	90%

What is my holiday entitlement?

Employees are entitled to four working weeks of paid holidays in a year. Holidays are earned on time worked by the employee.

Employees who work less than 117 hours in a month earn their holidays at the rate of 8% of hours worked, up to a maximum of four working weeks in a year.

Employees who work more than 117 hours in a month earn their holidays at the rate of one third of a working week per month worked. For example an employee working five days per

week earns 1.67(1 2/3) days holidays per month worked, similarly an employee working four days per week earns holidays at the rate of 1.33(1 1/3) days per month worked.

For more information on holidays and leave, look at the following link:
www.employmentrights.ie

Do I earn holidays if I'm out sick?

No, holidays are only earned on time worked, time spent on annual leave, time spent on maternity leave, additional maternity leave, parental leave, force majeure leave, adoptive leave and time spent on the first 13 weeks of carers leave.

Public Holidays

How do I qualify for public holiday pay?

Full-time employees have an immediate entitlement to benefit from a public holiday. Part-time employees must have worked a total of 40 hours over a five-week period ending immediately before the public holiday to qualify.

There are nine public holidays in the year.

- January 1st
 - St. Patrick's Day (March 17th)
 - Easter Monday
 - The first Monday in May
 - The first Monday in June
 - The first Monday in August
 - The last Monday in October
 - Christmas Day (December 25th)
 - St. Stephen's Day (December 26th)
- <>
Good Friday is not a public holiday

What is the public holiday benefit?

If the public holiday falls on a day on which you would normally work you will be entitled to one of the following:

1. A paid day off on that day
2. A paid day off within a month of the day
3. An additional day of annual leave
4. An additional days pay

If your employer does not nominate one of the above options, you will automatically be entitled to a paid day off on the day of the public holiday.

Emergency Tax

Beware often you will find you are paying Emergency Tax for the first six weeks. This will be reimbursed, do not panic but act if it continues. See Social Security.

Telephone

You can take a portable/ mobile phone. Check before leaving what options you have. To ring Ireland you start 00 353 you do not use the first 0 you start with the first number , for instance Dublin is 01 so 00 353 1.....

Electrical Equipment

Ireland uses 3-pin plugs and therefore you will probably need an adapter for all your appliances.

Climate

Winters in Ireland are mild and summers temperate due to the prevailing southwesterly winds and the influence of the warm waters of the North Atlantic Drift. Ireland has a mild climate all year-averaging 35°-45°F/ 4-7C in winter and 65°-75°F / 25 C in summer. May and June are the sunniest months with an average of over 7 hours of sunshine per day. The dry month is April , the wet months December and January. You will need a raincoat all year, you can have the four seasons in one day.

Smoking Ban

There is a smoking ban in all work places including bars, restaurants and hotels in Ireland. Cigarettes are expensive €7.45 per pack!

Time

It is GMT therefore one hour behind most of the rest of Europe. The hour changes, forward in the spring, back in the winter; on the same day as the rest of Europe.

Bank Account and Social Security / Personal Public Service Number (PPS)

Opening a bank account is easy with no hidden secrets. You will require a letter from your employer confirming your post and your salary. You will also require confirmation of accommodation. With this information you can take an appointment and open an account. You will need to pass all your bank details to your employer for them to pay you. During the first week of work make sure you complete all the necessary documents to have your Irish PPS number. Until this has been issued you remain on Emergency Tax which is very high. You are re-imbursed but it can make the first few weeks difficult, especially if you have found your own accommodation.

Complete any documents requested. It saves time and distress.

Air Travel

Air flights are regular and not expensive can be around 40 euro single ticket.

You need to check on all the companies to the offers. Contact us for an update and websites.

We can also provide you with the necessary information and websites for travel in Ireland (Wales or Scotland).

The main Irish airlines are:

www.aerlingus.com

www.aerarann.ie/

<http://www.ryanair.com/site/EN/>

Make sure you have insurance whilst travelling abroad. And remember your passport!

Ferry Travel

If you intend bringing over your own car, you may wish to take a ferry to one of Ireland's many ports. Look at the follow websites for more information:

www.irishferries.com

www.stenaline.co.uk

www.directferries.co.uk/ireland.htm

Bus and Train Travel in Ireland

The train website is: www.irishrail.ie

The bus route website is: www.buseireann.ie click on "journey planner" to plan your route

Addresses useful for expatriation in Ireland

- French Ambassade Dublin
36, Ailesbury Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, Ireland
Tel: 00.353 1 2601666 - Fax 00.353. 283 01 78
- German Embassy: www.germany.ie/en/home
- Hungarian Embassy Dublin: www.kum.hu/dublin
- Dutch Embassy in Ireland: www.netherlandsembassy.ie

Guidelines to working and living in Ireland

Income Tax in Ireland

http://www.citizensinformation.ie/categories/money-and-tax/tax/income-tax/how_your_tax_is_calculated

If you are moving to Ireland - Income tax will be one of the things that will affect you eventually.

This [Irish tax calculator](#) will give you a rough idea of what you might pay.

Income Tax levels in Ireland are similar to the UK. A brief summary is given below -

Tax Rates and Bands 2008		
You are	20%	41%
Single person	€35,400	Balance
Married couple One income	€44,400	Balance
Married	€70,800	Balance

couple Two incomes		
One parent family	€9,400	Balance
Tax Rates and Bands 2007		
You are	20%	41%
Single person	€4,000	Balance
Married couple One income	€43,000	Balance
Married couple Two incomes	€68,000	Balance
One parent family	€8,000	Balance

Price Waterhouse Cooper also have an online calculator.

All the fine detail can be found on the Revenue web site

o <>Income Tax Refund

<><http://www.esatclear.ie/~grabe/TaxCalc/TaxCalc.html>

- All information including very good maps, weather , what's happening, etc...
<http://www.local.ie>
- Irish Times Newspaper
<http://www.ireland.com>

Useful Phone Numbers in Ireland

- GoIreland.com (for credit card reservation ONLY): 00800 369 37412
- Sixt Irish Car Rentals: 1850 206088
- AA Roadside Rescue: 1800 667 788
- Police Tourism Support Services: 1850 661 771
- Emergency Services: 999
- Irish Tourist Board Information: 1850 230 330
- Access for Disabled: 01 668 4181

- Bus Eireann: 01 836 6111
- Irish Rail: 1850 366 222
- Department of Foreign Affairs: 01 478 0822

(The police in Ireland are called Garda)