



Country Intelligence Brief

Ireland

Overall Risk Rating

2 - Low

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Ratings Overview

Security

2.00 - Low

Civil Unrest	1.75
Crime	2.00
Kidnapping	2.00
Terrorism	2.00
Armed Conflict	1.50
Security Services	2.00

Infrastructure

1.75 - Low

Ground Transport	2.00
Cyber	2.25
Maritime Security	1.25
Air Travel	1.50
Utilities	2.00

Environment

2.00 - Low

Man-Made Hazards	1.25
Seismic	1.50
Storm System	2.25
Natural Hazards	2.00

Health and Medical

2.25 - Low

Disease and Health Threats	1.50
Medical Facilities and Services	2.75
Mental Health	3.00
Food and Water Safety	1.50

Political

1.75 - Low

Corruption	1.75
Government Stability	2.00
Rule of Law	1.50
Sanctions	1.25

FactBox

Location	Ireland
Government Type	Parliamentary Republic
Population	4,986,525 (2021)
Languages	Official Languages: English and Irish. Other languages that are considered official or widely spoken: None. Languages that should be used discreetly: None.
International Country Code	+353
Time Zones	UTC
Traffic	Drives on the left
Drinking Water	Safe to Drink

Overview

2 - Low

Ireland, also known as the Republic of Ireland, is a developed country in western Europe covering much of the island of Ireland surrounded by the North Atlantic, Celtic Sea and Irish Sea. The country shares a land border with the Northern Ireland, part of the United Kingdom, but has had a difficult relationship with its northern neighbor in the past. Ireland has experienced rapid economic growth since the 1990s and developed into a European technology and financial services hub, becoming one of the most prosperous countries in the world. Although the country was hit hard by the 2008 financial crisis, the economy has since recovered and returned to strong growth.

Around a third of Ireland's population live in and around the capital, Dublin, which has become a highly developed European capital with excellent transport links and modern services. However, much of the rest of the country, particularly in the west, remains largely rural. The country generally has a temperate climate, although seasonal weather conditions and storms can affect rail and air travel services and result in localized disruption, particularly in coastal areas.

Although generally a low-risk environment, Ireland can pose some security challenges for foreign travelers. The most significant threat facing travelers is from criminal activity, although this is lower than in some other European and North American countries and relatively uncommon in rural areas. The majority of criminal activity takes the form of petty theft such as pickpocketing and bag-snatching, with most violent crime occurring between rival gangs or drunk aggressors outside bars and nightclubs. Several Republican extremist groups remain active in the country and continue to pose a minor threat but many have now switched their focus to organized crime and rarely pose a threat to members of the public. Scares linked to small explosive devices left in public areas have continued to occasionally be reported but these have become increasingly rare in recent years, with the majority of incidents occurring during visits from government officials of the UK.

Security

2 - Low

Criminal activity, particularly petty theft, has been on the increase in Ireland in recent years, albeit from a relatively low base, and is the main threat facing travelers in the country. Most criminal incidents involve pickpocketing and other petty theft in Dublin and other major cities, with the level of crime in rural areas remaining low.

Large demonstrations are held periodically in the capital and other large cities over a range of social, economic and political issues. Several such large demonstrations have been held in recent years over government austerity measures and controversial religious issues which have caused some localized disruption but protests are generally well policed and remain peaceful.

Several Republican extremist groups remain active and continue to pose a minor threat in some areas of Ireland, although the number of incidents related to these actors is small. Since the end of the troubles in Northern Ireland, many Republican groups have become involved in organized crime and shootings and targeted assassinations linked to gang rivalries occasionally occur in Dublin and other urban centers, although these rarely affect travelers.

Civil Unrest

1.75

Spontaneous and planned protests, driven by political, social and religious factors, occur periodically in Ireland, particularly in the country's main urban centers. These demonstrations can cause localized disruption but tend to be effectively policed and rarely lead to violence. Austerity measures have sparked a number of particularly large demonstrations in Dublin in recent years. Environmental and abortion rights issues also occasionally lead to large protest gatherings in the capital, but these tend to remain peaceful. Small single-issue protests occur in the cities on a near daily basis and may cause some localized disruption but are unlikely to be a significant concern for travelers.

Ireland has an active environmentalist movement, and small- to medium-sized demonstrations linked to environmental issues are occasionally staged. Future environmental campaigns are likely to be staged against hydraulic "fracking" and the development of offshore gas fields and may occur at rural sites linked to such activities as well as in Dublin and other urban centers.

Crime

 2.00

Although levels are generally lower than in many other European and North American countries, criminal activity remains the most significant threat facing travelers in Ireland. There is a relatively high incidence of petty theft in major cities, particularly Dublin, with bag-snatching and pickpocketing being the most frequently reported offenses. In some cases, thefts have involved physical assault or violence, although this remains uncommon. Individuals displaying electronic items, expensive watches or cash are at increased risk of being targeted by thieves. There have also been several reported assaults in Dublin by small gangs in the early morning hours around bars and nightclubs, although there have been a limited number of assaults on foreign travelers. Criminal activity is significantly less common in rural areas, although incidents are less likely to be reported due to lower police coverage and residential burglaries still occasionally occur.

In recent years there have also been increasing concerns over organized crime in Ireland amid a surge in targeted killings of suspected gang leaders, particularly in Dublin and Cork. However, such incidents have rarely affected bystanders and foreign nationals are unlikely to be caught up in violence linked to organized crime. Criminal gangs have been strongly linked to former Republican extremist groups, many of which turned to crime after the end of the troubles, and are centered in Dublin, Limerick, Cork and along the border with Northern Ireland. The main areas of fraud are narcotics smuggling and distribution, oil fraud, cigarette smuggling, alcohol fraud, and cross-border VAT fraud with Northern Ireland.

Kidnapping

 2.00

For most foreign nationals, the threat of kidnapping in Ireland is low. Kidnappings are not a common occurrence, and kidnappers are more likely to target locals. The most common types of abduction in Ireland are basic opportunistic kidnapping, tiger kidnappings, and high-net-worth individual kidnap-for-ransom. Victims are usually released unharmed and relatively quickly.

Terrorism

 2.00

The terrorism threat level for Ireland, set by the Garda Síochána, has remained at its second-lowest level of 'moderate' since 2015, meaning that an attack is 'possible, but not likely'.

Several dissident republican extremist groups remain active in Ireland. However, the focus of these groups has largely shifted towards organized crime in recent years and the risk of terrorist attacks linked to them is low. The main active groups are the New IRA (NIRA) and the Continuity IRA (CIRA). In Ireland, scares linked to small improvised explosive devices left in public areas have occasionally occurred, but such devices have typically been defused without causing any injuries or damage. Many of the incidents have occurred during major peace negotiations or visits from government officials of either the United Kingdom or Northern Ireland, although the disruption caused has generally been minimalized.

As in other European countries, there have been increasing concerns in recent years over the potential for lone-actor Islamist terrorist attacks in Ireland carried out by radicalized individuals. However, no such attacks have yet occurred and the threat is believed to be lower than in the UK and other countries in mainland Europe.

Armed Conflict

 1.50

Ireland has officially followed a policy of neutrality and non-alignment since independence and has avoided becoming involved in international conflicts and military alliances such as NATO. The country does have a small and professional military but its deployments have generally been limited to UN peacekeeping operations.

There are no immediate threats to Ireland's territory. The country enjoys extremely close business and cultural links with the United States as well as other countries and is a long-term member of the European Union. Relations with the United Kingdom have improved significantly since the 1998 Good Friday Agreement which ended the troubles in Northern Ireland and there are now close ties between the two neighbors. However, disputes over the UK's departure from the European Union and the future of the border between the two countries have raised concerns over the potential for renewed tensions.

Security Services

 2.00

Security forces in Ireland are generally reliable. Responsiveness is good and overall security capabilities are robust. Police in Ireland typically speak English and Irish. The Gardai are the main law enforcement agency in Ireland.

Interaction with Travelers

In Ireland, travelers in need of assistance should contact their diplomatic mission if possible, but may also rely on security forces.

Infrastructure

 1.75 - Low

Air travel is safe and in compliance with international safety standards.

Although road conditions are good, particularly in the east and urban areas, some roads in rural areas are narrow and winding and can be difficult for travelers to navigate.

The ports in Ireland are efficient according to international standards.

Ireland's utility infrastructure is modern and highly developed. Ireland uses Wet (water) Central Heating Systems.

There are increasing concerns over the threat of cyber attacks, particularly from Russia. Cybercrime remains the most prevalent type of fraud committed in Ireland and is three times more disruptive than the global norm.

Ground Transport

 2.00

Ireland's road network is extensive, but until recently there were few multi-lane highways. The radial motorway network out of Dublin is of a high European standard. However, road links between other major urban centers are generally narrower with limited traffic capacity on some routes. The road between Cork and Limerick is particularly liable to delays and significant investment is needed to upgrade the Galway, Cork, Limerick, and Waterford routes. Traffic in urban centers, particularly Dublin, can also be congested at times despite significant investment in public transport and urban roads. Motorways are prefixed with an "M" while national roads are prefixed with an "N". Some roads in rural areas are narrow and winding and can be difficult for travelers to navigate if unused to local driving conditions.

Traffic in Ireland drives on the left-hand side of the road. Signposts are mostly standardized in-line with the rest of Europe. Signposts in Gaeltacht (Irish speaking) areas are written in Gaelic. Driving laws, particularly those concerning drink driving, are strictly enforced, although there have been reports that Garda in rural areas have failed to crack down on some activities. Failure to adhere to traffic laws can result in a fine, court appearance or prison term, with penalties for drink driving being severe. It is also illegal to use a mobile phone while driving unless it is operated hands-free.

The rate of road traffic fatalities in Ireland is low by international standards but slightly higher than some other countries in Europe, although fatalities have been falling in recent years. The main causes of road traffic collisions tend to be speeding, ignoring traffic signals and incorrect overtaking.

In cities and large towns, taxis can be found at taxi ranks and train stations. Travelers can also phone for a radio taxi. Bus Eireann (Irish Bus) operates a comprehensive network of bus services outside Dublin City, including inter-urban coach services; city busses in Cork, Galway, Limerick, and Waterford; rural bus services; and international services to Northern Ireland as part of the Eurolines network. The rail network covers most of the country, apart from some rural areas, and is generally efficient and reliable.

Local Buses

 Unrated

Intercity buses are available in most major cities. Intercity buses in Ireland have a good safety record. Petty theft and other criminal activities pose a low threat to travelers. Terrorists have not attacked buses in Ireland in the past decade. Terror warnings are rare on Ireland's intercity bus network.

City buses are available in most urban centers. City buses have a good safety record. Petty theft and other criminal activities pose a low threat to travelers. Terror warnings are rare on Ireland's intercity bus network.

Mass Transit

 Unrated

Ireland does not have a metro system.

Taxis

 Unrated

Taxis are readily available in most major cities in Ireland. Traffic accidents involving taxis are rare, and crime on taxis poses a minimal threat to travelers. Taxis arranged in advance by upscale hotels or trusted business associates are generally safer than those hailed on the street.

Vehicles ordered through online apps are available in some major cities.

Train Travel

 Unrated

Train Safety

Trains in Ireland have a good recent safety record. Derailments and rail accidents involving passenger trains rarely occur.

Reliability and Availability

Ireland has a medium-sized intercity passenger rail network. Rail travel is available between almost all major cities and many smaller cities and towns. The passenger rail network around Dublin is somewhat more developed than in other, particularly rural areas. Rail travel is the quickest way to travel between cities in Ireland.

International Rail Travel

Ireland has international rail connections with the UK.

Vehicles and Roads

 Unrated

Road safety conditions in Ireland are generally good. Traffic in Ireland drives on the left. Roads in cities are generally well maintained. Serious accidents are rare. Heavy traffic congestion is common in major cities, particularly Dublin.

Car rentals are available in most major cities.

International Road Travel

Ireland has international road connections with the UK.

Cyber

2.25

In part due to the country's status as a regional tech hub, cyber-criminals have repeatedly targeted both organizations and individuals in Ireland in recent years. Most attacks are financially or politically motivated but there has also been increasing concern over the potential for cyber espionage and state-sponsored attacks. Since 2015, responsibility for securing networks and responding to cybersecurity incidents has been with the National Cyber Security Center (NCSC) and its Computer Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT-IE). However, there has been some concern that responsibility for cybersecurity remains somewhat divided between the Garda, Department of Communications and Department of Defense, with limited cooperation between the parties potentially leaving Ireland vulnerable to a high-level cyber-attack.

Maritime Security

1.25

There are no maritime concerns.

Air Travel

1.50

Ireland's three major international airports are located in Dublin, Cork, and Shannon, near Limerick. The country's primary international hub is Dublin International Airport (DUB), approximately 10km (6 miles) north of the capital. Facilities and security at Dublin Airport are of a high standard and there are no significant concerns regarding flights. Taxis can be hailed from the arrivals hall at the airport but numerous busses are also available connecting the airport with all areas of the city and other towns in the region.

Numerous regular direct flights are available to the UK, mainland Europe and North America. For long distance destinations in Asia, Africa or South and Central America, travelers generally change at one of London's major airports although connections via other European hubs are also an option. There is a network of four regional airports at Donegal, Kerry, Sligo, and Waterford, with public transportation, rental car services, and taxis available at these sites. The only internal flights on the island of Ireland are the Dublin-Kerry and Dublin-Donegal routes, which take about 40 minutes. Flights to all three of the Aran Islands are operated by Aer Arann from Connemara Regional Airport.

As a result of an EU ban in connection with Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Irish airspace is closed to all Russian aircraft and flights.

Utilities

2.00

Ireland's utilities infrastructure is generally modern and service delivery is of a high standard and reliable. Most of the country's electricity is produced by burning fossil fuels, mainly natural gas. The government wants to phase out coal-fired power stations by 2025 as part of efforts to tackle climate change, but only if new gas plants can be built to meet demand. A quarter of the country's energy production comes from the wind, wave, solar and other renewable energy sources.

Infrastructure in Dublin and most other urban centers is generally equivalent to or better than that in other major Western European and North American cities, although rural areas have seen significantly less investment and may not be connected to some services.

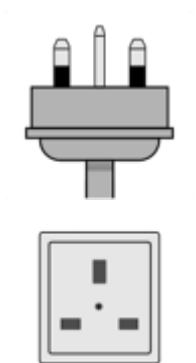
Over 90 percent of the population has access to the internet via fixed-line broadband or mobile data services. The availability of high-speed broadband in Ireland has increased in recent years in line with investment in the country's technology sector but fast connections may not be available in rural areas. The mobile phone network provides extensive mobile data coverage at standard speeds. Faster data speeds such as 4G can be found in nearly all major cities and their suburbs. However, mobile network coverage tends to be weaker in rural areas.

Electricity

● Unrated

This category has no intelligence content at this time.

Plug Types



Internet and Telecommunications

● Unrated

Internet service in Ireland is readily available in most public/private accommodations and internet cafes. Internet activity is considered private and secure in most areas - see our Information Security advice sheet.

Environment

2 - Low

Ireland has a temperate oceanic climate with mild summers and cool winters, although temperature extremes are limited. Rainfall is generally abundant, particularly in the west, and the country is frequently affected by storm systems moving in from the North Atlantic, which often bring high winds and a risk of flooding due to high rainfall. There is a particularly high risk of flooding during the winter months between December and February, and overland and air travel can see occasional disruption during this period.

Man-Made Hazards

● 1.25

There are no significant man-made hazards for travelers in Ireland. Alleged radioactive contamination of the Irish Sea from the Sellafield nuclear installation in Cumbria in the UK has sparked a number of protests but has not been proven to be a significant health risk.

Seismic

● 1.50

Ireland occasionally experiences earthquakes of low to moderate magnitude, but these typically do not cause any significant damage or casualties.

Storm System

● 2.25

Atlantic depressions, occurring mainly December-February, can occasionally bring heavy rain and winds up to 160 kph (100 mph) to western and southern coastal counties. These storms often bring flooding, particularly in the west of the country, which can cause overland travel disruption. Larger storms can also affect air travel in the country, with flights occasionally canceled or delayed due to adverse weather.

Widespread flooding happens around once a year in Ireland. Flooding can directly affect homes and businesses, with long power cuts due to damaged electricity substations. Evacuations are occasionally ordered due to flooding and severe storms, particularly in the coastal regions, although these are generally of limited scope. Snowstorms, strong winds, and fog during winter can cause delays and cancellations across Ireland's major transportation networks, temporarily cutting off access to the country's islands and isolated communities.

Small-scale landslides occur regularly across the country, with occasional more significant events. The landslide risk is greater in Ireland's southwestern, northwestern, northern, and southeastern parts.

Natural Hazards

 **2.00**

Ireland has four distinct seasons of fairly equal length - spring, summer, autumn, and winter. January and February are the coldest months of the year with temperatures averaging 2-8 C (36-46 F), although low-lying areas in center and east often drop below freezing. The warmest months are generally July and August, with temperatures 12-20 C (54-68 F).

Average rainfall ranges from 76 cm (30 inches) in the east to more than 150 cm (59 inches) in the west. Atlantic depressions, occurring mainly December-February, can occasionally bring winds of up to 160 kph (100 mph) to western coastal counties. Thunderstorms also develop with some frequency around late July and early August. The wettest months almost everywhere are December and January. Hills and mountainous regions in the country can see up to 30 days of snowfall annually.

Air Quality

 **Unrated**

Air Quality

Air pollution routinely exceeds recommended thresholds in urban areas, especially the cities of Cork and Dublin. Individuals with asthma or chronic cardiorespiratory conditions should consult with a healthcare provider and carry necessary medications. On days when air quality is particularly poor, affected individuals should take personal precautions to reduce respiratory stress ([map](#)).

Health and Medical

 **2.25 - Low**

The standard of healthcare in Ireland is high, and excellent medical care is widely available. Pharmacies are present in most towns and larger villages and are generally well-stocked with prescription medicine and over-the-counter drugs. Tap water is safe, secure, and potable.

Disease and Health Threats

 **1.50**

- **Hepatitis A:** Transmitted by contaminated food and water. Hepatitis A does not always cause symptoms. If they occur, symptoms appear two to six weeks after exposure and include fever, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, fatigue, dark urine, loss of appetite, joint pain, and jaundice. Low risk in Ireland.
- **Hepatitis B:** Transmitted through infected blood and bodily fluids, and effectively prevented with vaccination. An unexpected medical or dental emergency may place the unvaccinated traveler at risk. Practice safe sex and ensure medical procedures, tattoos, or piercings are conducted using sterile equipment. Symptoms include fever, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, fatigue, dark urine, loss of appetite, joint pain, and jaundice. Low risk in Ireland.

- **Hepatitis E:** Transmitted by contaminated food and water. Symptoms appear two to eight weeks after exposure and include fever, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, dark urine, joint pain, and jaundice.
- **HIV/AIDS:** Transmitted through infected blood and bodily fluids. Practice safe sex and ensure medical procedures, tattoos, or piercings are conducted using sterile equipment. Within two to four weeks of HIV infection, many people, but not all, experience influenza-like illness including fever, swollen glands, sore throat, rash, fatigue, muscle and joint pains, and headache. These symptoms, also called acute retroviral syndrome (ARS), can last from days to weeks. The infection later progresses to a clinical latency stage, and in the late stage, to AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).
- **Lyme Disease:** Transmitted through the bite of an infected tick. Bite prevention is essential. Symptoms of Lyme disease vary depending on the stage of the disease. Early symptoms include a red, expanding rash that looks like a bullseye, fatigue, chills, fever, headache, muscle aches, and joint aches. These symptoms generally appear days to weeks after exposure. In some cases, individuals develop chronic symptoms months to years after exposure. The most common symptom is bouts of arthritis with severe joint pain and joint swelling. Risk is present nationwide April to November.
- **Rabies:** Transmitted through the saliva of infected wild or domesticated mammals, usually by a bite or scratch. Do not approach unfamiliar animals. No known risk.
- **Traveler's Diarrhea:** Transmitted by contaminated food and water. This is the most common illness in travelers. People who become ill by an infectious agent that causes traveler's diarrhea most often experience nausea, vomiting, fever, bloody stools, and/or the urge to constantly pass stools despite an empty gastrointestinal tract. Low risk in Ireland.
- **Tuberculosis:** Transmitted through respiratory droplets released by coughing or sneezing. Individuals planning an extended stay should consider obtaining a PPD skin test to reference against future suspected infections. Symptoms commonly include chest pain, bad cough lasting three weeks or longer, and coughing up blood and/or sputum. Some people also experience chills, weight loss, fever, weakness, night sweats, and loss of appetite. Low risk in Ireland.

Health Requirements

Unrated

Yellow Fever: Vaccination Not Required

There are no recommendations or requirements for yellow fever vaccination in Ireland. There is no risk of yellow fever.

HIV Testing

No known restrictions

Health Recommendations

Unrated

Recommended Immunizations for Travel to Ireland

Travelers should ensure that they have routine vaccination courses and boosters. You should visit a health care professional at least four to six weeks prior to the trip. Travelers should ensure that they have routine vaccination courses and boosters. Routine vaccines include measles-mumps-rubella (MMR), diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis, varicella (chickenpox), polio, and annual flu vaccine. Travelers should consider obtaining COVID vaccination where available, even if the destination country does not require it.

- **Hepatitis A:** Recommended for most individuals unless contraindicated. Two doses are recommended administered six months apart, are required for long-lasting protection. If full series is six to 12 months apart; there is no need for booster. One dose usually

provides enough protection to a healthy adult for international travel. Vaccination will provide some protection within days but should ideally be administered at least two weeks before travel.

- **Hepatitis B:** Recommended for most individuals unless contraindicated. Widely used formulations require three doses administered over the course of six to 18 months, depending on the recipient's age and vaccination history. Booster doses after complete series are usually not required to maintain immunity. If exposed before finalizing full series, individuals may receive a special booster within 24 hours to receive short-term protection.
- **Rabies:** Unless contraindicated, recommended for individuals whose activities bring them into direct contact with dogs, bats, and other mammals; long-term travelers and expatriates; and children. Pre-exposure vaccination requires three doses administered over the course of 28 days. Post-exposure vaccination is still required in the event of potential rabies exposure, but a full course of pre-exposure vaccination reduces course of post-exposure treatment and eliminates the need for Rabies Immune Globulin, which can be in short supply in many areas. Ireland has not reported any rabies cases, thus most travelers are at low risk. Bats are likely to carry bat rabies.

Medical Facilities and Services

 2.75

Excellent medical care is generally available throughout the country, though waiting times for certain specialists and procedures may be long. There are six 24-hour-service hospitals in Dublin and most other major urban centers have a general hospital. Areas without a major town are covered by a regional hospital. Specialist medical facilities are generally clustered in and around Dublin.

Public healthcare is not completely free of charge. Some treatments require a subsidized fee for patients who do not have a resident's medical card. Nationals of European Union countries with a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) have access to free or reduced price emergency care in public facilities at the same levels as Irish citizens. Private hospitals in Ireland operate independently of the state and require patients to pay the full cost of treatment up front. Private healthcare can also be provided in public hospitals through the designation of private beds.

Ambulance services in Ireland can be reached by dialing 999 and response times are considered to be acceptable in most areas. Anybody in Ireland with a medical emergency is entitled to attend the Emergency Department. However, patients without a Medical Card, EHIC or patients who have not been referred by a GP may be charged for services.

Mental Health

 3.00

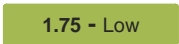
Mental health service availability is limited and conditions are moderately managed.

Food and Water Safety

 1.50

Drinking water is generally safe in Ireland. However, officials still recommend drinking bottled or otherwise purified water whenever possible to reduce the risk of traveler's diarrhea or other gastrointestinal illnesses. Ensure that food is properly handled and prepared. Wash raw produce before eating. Consume only pasteurized milk and dairy products, or use powdered or canned milk and cured cheeses. Consider avoiding street vendors and unregulated food establishments.

Political

 1.75 - Low

Ireland is a parliamentary democracy. Ireland has a three-party coalition government and is politically stable. Leo Varadkar (Fine Gael) assumed the role of Taoiseach (Prime Minister) in December 2022, swapping roles with now Tanaiste (Deputy Head of Government) Michael Martin of the Republican Party (Fianna Fail) as part of the coalition government agreement.

Corruption

 1.75

In 2022, Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) ranked Ireland 10 out of 180 countries surveyed worldwide with a score of 77 out of 100. The CPI score ranks countries based on the degree of corruption as seen by business people and country analysts, and ranges between 0 (highly corrupt) and 100 (very clean).

Government Stability

 2.00

Ireland is a stable democracy with free and fair multiparty elections. Generally, political rights and civil liberties are respected and defended. There is some limited societal discrimination, especially against the traditionally nomadic Irish Travelers. Corruption scandals have plagued the police force, and domestic violence remains a problem.

The recent rise of the Sinn Féin party could usher in the biggest 'shake up' of the state's political realm since its foundation 100 years ago. Disputes over the future status of the border with Northern Ireland as a result of the UK's departure from the EU also has the potential to create political and economic uncertainty in the medium term. As the UK's only land border with the EU, the Northern Ireland issue is among the most contentious yet to be resolved in terms of the UK's future relationship with the bloc. Both Ireland and the UK have repeatedly stated that they are committed to a frictionless border, with neither side wanting a return to the militarized checkpoints which were widely resented and presented a hindrance to those in border communities.

However, the British government has also refused to allow Northern Ireland to remain in the EU customs union or be subject to different rules than the rest of the UK, creating an impasse over the issue. There have been concerns among some groups that continued tensions over the border and possible reintroduction of checkpoints could lead to renewed violence in Northern Ireland and the resurgence of violent dissident republican groups.

Rule of Law

 1.50

Ireland's judiciary is generally considered to be free from political interference but there have been questions regarding judicial independence in recent years following allegations of political involvement in the appointment of a court of appeal judge.

The Republic of Ireland has a single national civilian police force, Garda Síochána na hÉireann (Guardians of the Peace of Ireland) responsible for all aspects of territorial civil policing. The Garda are professional, well trained, approachable and readily available for assistance, although response times in rural areas can be relatively slow. The Airport Police Service performs aviation policing functions at Dublin, Cork & Shannon airports.

Laws in Ireland are considered to be relatively liberal in most areas and are generally similar to those in other European countries, with personal identity and minority rights being protected by anti-discrimination legislation. The legal drinking age is 18. Anti-narcotics laws are relatively tough in the country and convicted drug offenders can expect jail sentences and heavy fines for possession of even small quantities.

Sanctions

 1.25

There are currently no sanctions against Ireland, companies or members of the country's political and/or business elite being imposed by the UN, EU or US.

Legal

Unrated

Visitors to Ireland are subject to local laws, which may not mirror, either in whole or in part, those of their home country. Those deemed to be in violation, even unknowingly, may be fined, detained, imprisoned, temporarily or permanently expelled, or tried *in absentia* depending on the nature of the offense. Ireland has a zero-tolerance policy for possessing, using, or trafficking illegal drugs, even in small quantities. Home-country consular officers are not typically systematically informed of a detention but are permitted to provide support services at the request of their detained citizens. When there is no treaty in force, notification and access depend on whether the two countries have direct or indirect diplomatic relations. Consular officers cannot interfere with local judicial proceedings, nor provide legal advice or representation at trial, and are unable to pay legal fees or fines with government funds. The status of dual nationals will be determined by local officials, with all attendant ramifications for access and support.

Emergency Contacts

● Unrated

Emergency Contacts

Ambulance 112

Fire 112

Police 112

Embassies and Consulates

● Unrated

US Embassy

Address 42 Elgin Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, Ireland

Fax (353-1) 668 9946, American Citizen Services/Passport Unit Fax: (353-1) 668 8056

Email ircdublin@state.gov

Web Site <https://ie.usembassy.gov/embassy/>

Delegation of the European Commission to Ireland

Address Europe House, 12-14 Lower Mount Street, Dublin 2, Ireland

Fax [\(353-1\) 634 1112](tel:(353-1)6341112)

Email eu-ie-info-request@ec.europa.eu

Web Site https://ec.europa.eu/ireland/about-us/contact_en

Austrian Embassy

Address 6 Ailesbury RoadDublin 4

Fax [\(353-1\) 283 0860](tel:(353-1)2830860)

Email dublin-ob@bmeia.gv.at

Web Site www.aussenministerium.at/dublin

French Embassy

Address 66 Fitzwilliam Lane - Dublin 2

Fax (353-1) 277 5004/5001

Email admin-francais.dublin-amba@diplomatie.gouv.fr

Web Site www.ambafrance-ie.org

German Embassy

Address 31 Trimleston Avenue, Booterstown, Blackrock / Co., Dublin.

Fax +353 1 269 39 46, +353 1 269 38 00, +49 301817 671 58

Email info@dublin.diplo.de

Web Site <https://dublin.diplo.de/ie-en/botschaft>

British Embassy

Address 29 Merrion Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, Ireland

Email consular.dubli@fco.gov.uk

Web Site <https://www.gov.uk/government/world/organisations/british-embassy-dublin>

Canadian Embassy

Address 7-8 Wilton Terrace, Dublin 2

Fax [\(353-1\) 234 4001](tel:(353-1)2344001)

Email dublin@international.gc.ca

Web Site <http://www.canadainternational.gc.ca/ireland-irlande>

Australian Embassy

Address 3rd Floor, 47/49 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2

Fax (353-1) 662 3566 / 678 5185

Email austremb.dublin@dfat.gov.au

Web Site <http://www.ireland.embassy.gov.au>

Entry/Exit

Unrated

Travelers can obtain specific information about visas and other entry-exit requirements at: <https://entry-exit.crisis24horizon.com/>.

Pre-Departure

Unrated

- Travelers should provide friends and family with a copy of their itinerary, and make a copy of important travel and identification documents.
- Travelers should have adequate travel insurance in place to enable rapid medical treatment.

On Arrival

Unrated

- There are no significant measures to undertake when arriving in the country.

In Transit

Unrated

-
- Public transport is generally safe, and self-driving may be conducted.

At Your Hotel

● Unrated

- There are no extraneous measures that should be undertaken at hotels in the country.

In the Street

● Unrated

- While the terrorism threat in Ireland is generally low, there remains a latent threat from extreme republican groups in some areas. However, dissident groups do not enjoy popular or mainstream political support, and generally carry out operations designed to garner publicity relating to their cause. Travelers should exercise increased vigilance in crowded areas. If travelers observe anything suspicious they should leave the area immediately and report their concerns to local authorities.
- Demonstrations and protests occur periodically in Dublin. Although these are typically peaceful, travelers should avoid demonstrations, protests and rallies, which may present a dynamic and volatile environment.
- Travelers should be aware that photographing government buildings or infrastructure in Dublin may result in detention by authorities.
- Crime rates are generally low, although travelers are sometimes targeted by opportunistic thieves. Travelers should avoid overt displays of wealth, dress discreetly and appropriately to the environment, not display money, jewelry or valuables and maintain a low profile.
- Travelers should use only small denominations of the local currency, and keep large amounts of cash and cards in a separate place on their person. The contents of wallets and purses should be reduced, particularly cards which may denote affiliations, memberships or accounts.
- Travelers should ensure that their mobile phone is carried with sufficient battery life and programmed with appropriate emergency numbers. Travelers should also carry an ID card or passport and emergency medical information.
- Travelers should be aware of their location and surroundings, avoiding high-crime areas and walking through dimly lit streets after dark. Travelers should know routes and carry a map if necessary, but keep it concealed.
- In crowded situations and tourist locations, travelers should be aware of jostling as this may be used as a ploy by pick-pockets. Travelers should also be aware of people loitering, and attackers who may first pass their victim to attack from behind.
- Travelers should ignore verbal 'bait' from passers-by, not get into an argument and avoid eye contact with strangers.

Culture

Unrated

Standard Hours of Operation

Business: Monday-Friday, 0900-1700

Government: Monday-Friday, 0900-1700

Banking: Monday-Friday, 1000-1600

Business attire is generally formal or semi-formal.

Appointments are best scheduled Monday through Friday between 1200 and 1600. Arriving on time to meetings or social engagements is a common practice. Informal or personal discussions are common. Scheduled meetings will typically end on time. If a meeting includes dining out, the host offers to pay.

English is commonly used for business purposes. When beginning and departing a business meeting, shake hands with everyone.

Gestures

Unrated

Business cards are rarely used.

When beginning the meeting, shake hands with direct eye contact with everyone. When departing the meeting, shake hands again.

Avoid using the following gestures or habits, as they are deemed offensive or insulting:

- Giving the peace sign made by extending the index and middle finger with the palm facing inward.

Religions

Unrated

Roman Catholic 78%, Church of Ireland 3%, other Christian 2%, Orthodox 1%, Muslim 1%, other 2%, none 10%, unspecified 3%

Ethnicities

Unrated

Irish 82%, Irish travelers 1%, other White 10%, Asian 2%, Black 1%, other 1%, unspecified 3%

Significant Dates

Unrated

Jan. 1 - New Year's Day

Feb. 6 - St. Brigid's Day

March 17 - St. Patrick's Day holiday

April 10 - Easter Monday

May 1 - May Day

June 5 - June Bank Holiday

Aug. 7 - August Bank Holiday

Oct. 30 - October Bank Holiday

Dec. 25-26 - Christmas

Currency

Unrated

Currency Name/Code

The official currency of Ireland is the euro (EUR). One EUR is made up of 100 cents.

Currency Convertibility

Banks or legal money changers offer the best exchange rates in Ireland. Larger banks may offer the best exchange rates on average. Ireland forbids foreigners from exiting with undeclared currency in amounts greater than EUR 10,000.

Credit Card

 Unrated

Major credit cards are widely accepted in shops, restaurants, and hotels.

Taxes and Tipping

 Unrated

It is common to tip hotel personnel, wait staff in restaurants, and taxi drivers. Tips of about 10-15 percent are expected if a service charge is not included in the bill.

Bank and ATM

 Unrated

ATMs

Automated teller machines are widely available in Ireland. Always choose a machine located in a secure area, preferably within hotels or other populated, well-lit locations.

Bank Availability

Banking hours are generally Monday through Friday 0930-1630. Cash advances on major credit cards issued by foreign banks are permitted.

Active Alerts**Warning Alert - Europe - Conflict-related Disruptions Update 6**

Conflict-related sanctions and restrictions continue to cause disruptions in Europe as of Dec. 20.

20 December, 2023 15:20 UTC

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