



- [A. Transportation Information](#)
- [B. Language Tips](#)
- [C. How to Dial Telephone Numbers](#)
- [D. Eating and Drinking](#)
- [E. Hotel Recommendations](#)
- [F. Reading and Movie List](#)

Travel Information for Ireland

A. Transportation Information

Shannon International Airport: Name and airport code: Shannon Airport (SNN) is located in a rural area, near to villages Bunnahin (4 miles) and Shannon (3 miles). Website: www.shannonairport.com

To and From the Airport

By Bus Shuttle: Bus Éireann has a shuttle service that will take travelers from Shannon Airport directly into Ennis, or into another location if desired. www.buseireann.ie

By Taxi: The airport cab desk in the arrivals hall will organize a taxi pickup for you. Expect approximately €10 to get to Bunnahin or Shannon's city center and €35 to get to Ennis (status 2015).

Dublin International Airport: Name and airport code: Dublin International Airport (DUB) is located approximately 6 mi north of the city center. Website: www.dublinairport.com

To and From the Airport

By Bus Shuttle: There are several options to get from Dublin to the city center. There is no need to purchase these tickets in advance; they all depart from the main arrivals hallway. These shuttles listed below are airport express:

AirCoach: Departures every 10 minutes www.aircoach.ie

DublinBus Airlink: Tickets purchased at Bus and Rail information desk or vending machines on arrivals road www.dublinbus.ie/en/Your-Journey1/Timetables/Airport-Services

By City Bus: DublinBus also runs the city bus system, an easy way to get into the city center--fares can be paid in coins (bills are not accepted). Be aware that the latter buses are primarily for commuters, so there may not be a lot of space for luggage. www.dublinbus.ie

By Taxi: Licensed taxis depart from the front of the arrivals terminal. Note that fares are subject to increase on Sundays or times before 8 AM and after 8 PM.

Train Transportation Information

Train travel is an option in Ireland; however, it is our recommendation that you take the bus as it is the standard mode of transportation within Ireland. The train system operates from Dublin. If you choose to travel by train, visit the Irish Train website at www.irishrail.ie/home. The best way to get from Westport to Dublin is by train. If you are staying in Dublin prior to your tour, you can also take the train to Galway.

Other Types of Transportation

Taxis: Taxis are readily available throughout Ireland. In urban centers such as Dublin or Cork, it is fairly easy to hail taxis. In rural places, it is common practice to call in advance (hotels, restaurant, bars can

help with this). It is good practice to agree an approximate fare when booking; since Irish taxis operate on a national fare basis, it should be consistent nationwide. Keep in mind that the cost may vary depending on traffic when travelling in the cities/towns or the time of day.

Rental Car: Arrange your car rental from home - it's less expensive. Find out the exact address of the location to pick up your rental car; there is more than one rental office in some cities. If you want to rent your car through an Irish rental agency, we suggest you contact EuropCar at www.europcar.com.

Bus: Often, taking the bus is quicker and more efficient than taking a train within Ireland. This is because the trains radiate out of Dublin and don't have good connections. For more information on bus schedules and fare information, visit the Bus Éireann website at www.buseireann.ie. You can make arrangements for the bus once you arrive in Ireland.

Plane: Flights are an option from Shannon, however, trains & buses are just as easy. Therefore, this option is probably only needed if you plan to make arrangements for pre or post tour travel to other destinations. In this case, you or your travel agent might try Aer Lingus at www.aerlingus.ie or 1-800-474-7424 for travel within Ireland. Also, European carriers (Alitalia, British Airways, Sabena, and Lufthansa) may have direct flights to Dublin & Shannon.

B. Language Tips

Language Lesson: While English is, of course, spoken throughout Ireland, you may hear snippets of Irish (Gaelic) during your tour. Quite a lot of Gaelic is spoken on the Aran Islands and in the Connemara region north of Galway.

The Gaelic pronunciation of words is considerably different from English. A simple Irish phrasebook will be helpful if you would like to learn some Gaelic while you are there. Many road signs will include both languages. Ask your tour leaders some phrases; they may go a long way when interacting with locals in the rural parts of the country.

- Tra - strand or beach
- Iascaigh - fishing
- Geill Sli - give way
- Banc - bank
- Leitreas - toilets
- Mna - female (toilet)
- Fir - male (toilet)
- Gardai - police
- Oifig an Phoist - post office
- Telefon - telephone

C. How to Dial Telephone Numbers

The International Access Code (IAC) for the US and Canada is 011 and for Ireland it's 00
The Country Code (CC) for Ireland is 353 and for the US and Canada it's 1
Area Codes in Ireland can be various digits in length

To call Ireland from the US or Canada, dial IAC + CC + LN.

Example: The local telephone number of the National Museum of Ireland is (0)1677-7444. The number could also be listed as +353-(0) 1677-7444. In both cases, you would dial 011-353-1677-7444. Cell phones and VoIP allow you to simply enter the plus sign and wireless networks automatically know it is an international call. Notice the Trunk code (0) is dropped.

To call the US or Canada from Ireland, dial IAC + CC + LN.

Example: The local telephone number of the ExperiencePlus! headquarters in Colorado is 970-484-8489. You would dial 00-1-970-484-8489.

To call Ireland from within Ireland, dial LN

Example: The local telephone number of the National Museum of Ireland is (0)1677-7444. You would dial (0) 1677-7444. Unlike the US there is no need to differentiate between local and long distance by dialing a 1. Notice that the Trunk Code (0) is dialed.

D. Eating and Drinking

Breakfasts are hearty. A full Irish breakfast consists of eggs, bacon (similar to our ham), sausage, toast made from whole grain bread, cheese, fruit, yogurt and juice, coffee or tea. You can occasionally have porridge. Generally breakfast is not served before 8 am.

For lunch on the road, you can get “pub grub”, a hearty lunch of fried fish and chips (fries); baked chicken with potatoes and vegetables; or you can order a toasted sandwich and crisps (chips). A typical lunch with good value is called a ‘carvery,’ which includes roasted meat, veggies, and potatoes. Lunches of this sort cost between €8 -€15 (status 2015).

For dinners not included in the tour, your tour leaders will provide suggestions. Depending on your appetite, dinners will range from €10 to €50 (status 2015).

Pubs are one of Ireland’s oldest and most revered institutions. Pubs are lively places that provide a warm fire and warm food. They are different from the American version of a bar. People go to pubs to listen to live music (traditional Irish music or more pop styles), visit with friends and enjoy a pint. There is usually a broad range of people of all ages. All pubs and restaurants are smoke-free—Ireland was the first European country to introduce the smoking ban in 2004.

Some restaurants are associated with pubs so you can have the choice of a more “formal” (and expensive) restaurant meal or a simpler, faster (and less expensive) pub meal out of the same kitchen. Pubs offer a variety of Irish drinks and brews such as ales, lager and stout sold by the pint or the half.

E. Hotel Recommendations

If you’re interested in hotels and guesthouses listed in Ireland in general, head to www.irelandhotels.com. B&Bs are listed at www.townandcountry.ie.

Dublin-city center, South of River Liffey- historic & most expensive tourist area (Temple Bar area can be very lively, especially on weekends)

Camden Court Hotel (3* modern hotel with 246 rooms)
Lower Camden St, Dublin 2
www.camdencourthotel.com

Alexander Hotel (4* boutique hotel with 98 rooms)
41-47 Fenian St, Dublin 2
www.alexanderhotel.ie

Buswells Hotel (3* hotel with 67 rooms, near National Library and Museum of Ireland)
23-25 Molesworth St, Dublin 2
www.buswells.ie

Stauntons on the Green (B&B in a Georgian guesthouse overlooking St. Stephens Green)
83 St Stephens Green South, Dublin 2
www.stauntonsonthegreen.ie

Trinity Lodge (family-owned Georgian guesthouse with 23 rooms)
12 South Frederick St, Dublin 2
www.trinitylodge.com

Number 31 (B&B in another Georgian townhouse known for its breakfast)
31 Leeson Close, Dublin 2

www.number31.ie

Dublin-North of River Liffey-centralized, handy for bus and train stations

Jurys Custom House Inn (city hotel, 239 rooms)

Custom House Quay, Dublin 1

www.dublinhotels.jurysinns.com/jurysinn_customhouse

The Gresham (4* city center hotel)

23 Upper O'Connell St, Dublin 1

www.gresham-hotels-dublin.com

Cliftden House Guesthouse (B&B located in a 200-yr- old Georgian architected house)

32 Gardiner Place, Dublin 1

www.clifdenhouse.com

The Glen Guesthouse (a family-run B&B)

84 Lower Gardiner St, Dublin 1

www.glenquesthousedublin.com

Dublin-near airport-good for early departures and late arrivals

Greenlands B&B (family-run, located 7 km from Dublin airport)

Corduff, Lusk

www.greenlandsbandb.com

Heatherview B&B (family-owned, five minutes to Dublin airport, 7 rooms)

Kinsealy, Malahide Rd, Malahide

www.heatherview.com

Riversdale B&B (10 minutes to Dublin airport, 3 rooms)

Balheary Rd, Swords

<http://indigo.ie/~michaelc/riversdale/Index.htm>

Glenmore House B&B (1 mile from Dublin airport, bus shuttle provided to/from airport for €2)

Airport Road, Nevinstown, Swords

www.dublinairportbudgetbandb.com

Dublin Airport Manor Guesthouse (five minutes to Dublin airport)

Naul Rd, Knocksedan, Swords

www.dublinairportmanor.com

Carnegie Court Hotel (family-owned boutique hotel, 36 rooms)

North Street, Swords

www.carnegiecourthotel.com

Carlton Dublin Airport Hotel (4* Irish hotel chain, free 24-hour shuttle bus transfers, 100 rooms)

Old Airport Rd, Cloghran, Dublin

[Airport www.carltondublinairport.com](http://Airport.www.carltondublinairport.com)

Holiday Inn Express, Dublin Airport (3.5 km from airport, free shuttle service)

Northwood Park Santry Demesne, Santry

www.hiexpress.com/hotels/us/en/dublin/dblex/hotel_detail

Shannon Airport

Park Inn Hotel (hotel located on the airport's campus, 114 rooms)

Shannon Airport

www.parkinn.ie/airporthotel-shannon

Bunratty-10 minute drive from Shannon Airport, near Bunratty Castle & Folk Park

Bunratty Castle Hotel (4* in the countryside and within walking distance to the Bunratty Castle)

Low Road, Bunratty

www.bunrattycastlehotel.com

Bunratty Manor Hotel (3*family-run hotel in a manor house near Bunratty, 20 rooms)

www.bunrattymanor.ie

Dunaree (B&B close to Bunratty Village)

Low Road, Bunratty

www.dunareebunratty.com

The Courtyard (B&B with 12 rooms, newly refurbished)

www.bunrattycourtyard.com

Bunratty Castle Mews (B&B with themed rooms near Bunratty Village and Castle)

Low Road, Bunratty

www.bunratty-castle-mews.com

Galway-city center- helpful for close proximity to bus and train stations

Parkhouse Hotel (4*hotel, 84 rooms)

Forster St, Galway

www.parkhousehotel.ie

The Hotel Meyrick (4*hotel located on Eyre Square with Victorian architecture that opened in 1952)

16 Eyre Square, Galway

www.hotelmeyrick.ie

Galway Harbour Hotel (3*hotel near the boat docks)

New Dock Rd, Galway City

www.harbour.ie

The House Hotel (4*boutique hotel near Quay St and Eyre Square)

Spanish Parade, Galway City Centre

www.thehousehotel.ie

Petra House B&B

29 College Rd, Galway City

www.petrahousegalway.net/

Kilcullen House (B&B)

38 Fr. Griffin Road, Galway City

www.kilcullenhouse.com

Prague House (family-run B&B within walking distance to Quay Street and Salthill)

40 Fr. Griffin Road, Galway City

www.galway.net/pages/praguehouse/index.html

Galway-Salthill suburb-on the seafront, 20 minute walk from city center

Galway Bay Hotel (4*on Salthill Promenade)

R336, Galway

www.galwaybayhotel.net

Salthill Hotel (4*on Salthill Promenade along the bay)

Rockbarton West Salthill, Galway

www.salthillhotel.com

St Judes B&B (1920s restored family-run home with 6 rooms)
110 Lower Salthill, Galway
www.st-judes.com

Marless House (6 room B&B 100 m from the beach and 3 km from the city center)
8 Threadneedle Rd Salthill, Galway
www.marlesshouse.com

F. Reading and Movie List

Literature on Ireland

- J.M. Synge. *The Aran Islands*, (Penguin 20th Century Classics). Recounts Synge's travels to the Aran Islands in the 1930s.
- William Trevor (Editor). *The Oxford Book of Irish Short Stories*. Good traveling companion as it is an easy, yet very enjoyable read.
- James Joyce. *The Dubliners* (Modern Library).
- Thomas Cahill. *How the Irish Saved Civilization: The Untold Story of Ireland's Heroic Role from the Fall of Rome to the Rise of Medieval Europe* (Hinges of History). Big title and tall order for a short book but still interesting reading if you are interested in the Medieval period of Irish history, how Saint Patrick came to "save Ireland" AND western civilization!
- Leon Uris. *Trinity*. A "Michneresque" historical novel about the terrible divide between Catholics and Protestants in Ireland. An interesting way to review your Irish history.
- Anne Chambers. *Granuaile: The Life and Times of Grace O'Malley* (Wolfhound Press, 1998, revised).
- Hawks, Tony. *Round Ireland with a Fridge*. An entirely silly, heartwarming tale told in a rollicking funny and refreshing style about an Englishman who finds himself hitchhiking in Ireland with a fridge after a late-night bet.

Tim Robinson, philosopher, geographer, cartographer, and wanderer, has spent 28 years walking, exploring, and mapping the Aran Islands and Connemara by hand. It is rare in the computer age to find a Merriwether Lewis or William Clark figure who combines the philosophical perspective of a Michel de Montaigne. But Tim Robinson does this in three fascinating volumes on the west of Ireland. Difficult to find.

- Tim Robinson. *Stones of Aran: Pilgrimage*, (Penguin Books, 1986); *Stones of Aran: Labyrinth*, (Penguin Books, 1995); *Setting Foot on the Shores of Connemara & Other Writings*, (Dublin: The Lilliput Press, 1996).

Literature by Irish authors

- Maeve Binchy. *Evening Class; Circle of Friends; Tara Road*. Binchy has written several novels based in Ireland. Her books have appeared on the New York Times Best Seller list. Pleasurable, entertaining reading.
- *Angela's Ashes* or *Tis'* by Frank McCourt: Irish-American author Frank McCourt recounts his childhood growing up in Brooklyn during the Depression his parents emigrate from Limerick, Ireland. This book is written in a brutal tone about the hardships of McCourt's childhood.
- Murphy, *Dervla*. A touring cyclist and walker, Dervla Murphy has written travel adventure stories of her travels in the Balkans (published April 2004), SE Asia, Africa and India, she is a delight to read as you prepare for your adventure to her home.
- Enjoy all the "Irish Country" novels by Patrick Taylor. He writes of two doctors in the colorful town of Ballybucklebo.
- C.S. Lewis and Samuel Beckett are both Irish authors as well with multiple books.

Movies About or Set in Ireland That We Have Enjoyed

- *The Secret of Roan Inish*, directed by John Sayles. Starring Jeni Courtney, Mick Lally, and Eileen Colgan. A family story that portrays life and folklore on a small Irish island. Beautifully filmed with a lilting Celtic soundtrack.

- *Ryan's Daughter*, starring Sarah Miles, Robert Mitchum, John Mills, Trevor Howard, Leo McKern. In 1916 Ireland, a rural schoolmaster's wife falls in love with a British major and is ostracized for betraying her country.
- *Barry Lyndon*, directed by Stanley Kubrick; starring Ryan O'Neal, Marisa Berenson, Partick Magee, Hardy Kruger. Thackeray's satirical novel brought to life in one of the most visually stunning movies ever made. A roguish Irish peasant rises from obscurity to wealth and position during the period of the Seven Years War between England and France.
- *Waking Ned Devine*, directed by Kirk Jones III, starring Ian Bannen, David Kelly, Fionnula Flanagan. A comedy about what happens when a local is found dead and has the winning lottery ticket is discovered next to him.
- *The Quiet Man*, directed by John Ford, starring John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara about an American boxer who returns to his hometown in Cork, Ireland and falls in love. This classic story, released in 1952, has its elements of drama mixed with heroism & small town deceit. Check out John Wayne's alleged 'favorite film,' and see why it garnered 7 Academy Award nominations and 2 wins.
- *Once*, a drama about a Dubliner busker and Czech flower girl who share a love of music. Take a trip into the back streets and beautiful landscapes of Ireland and enjoy the soundtrack that is brilliantly weaved through the film.
- *My Left Foot*, directed by Jim Sheridan and nominated for 5 Academy Awards in 1989. Tells the true story of cerebral palsy victim Christy Brown, who grows up in Dublin with his family and only has the use of his left foot, as the rest of his limbs were paralyzed. Daniel Day Lewis plays the adult Christy Brown, and won the Academy Award for best actor for his performance. This film tells a heart-wrenching yet inspiring story about an accomplished and afflicted man set in 1930-era Ireland.
- *The Field*, directed by Jim Sheridan and starring Richard Harris. It tells the story of the hardened farmer "Bull" McCabe and his love for the land he rents. The filming occurred in Connemara, particularly Leenane.
- *Michael Collins*, directed by Jim Sheridan. The story of Michael Collins as he led the IRA against British rule in 1920's and established the Irish Free State.
- *Bloody Sunday*: A movie about January 30, 1972, better known as Bloody Sunday. A good luck at the attempts to organize a peaceful protest after Catholics imprison Protestants without a trial.
- *In America*: A look at an Irish family immigrating to the United States of America.
- *In the Name of the Father*: A movie starring Daniel Day-Lewis about a man wrongly convicted of taking part in and IRA bombing.
- *Philomena* (2013), starring Judi Dench and Steve Coogan tells the story of a woman's search for the son that was taken from her when she was forced to live in a convent as a young pregnant unmarried woman.