

TRANSPORT

Ireland's capital and biggest city is the most important point of entry and departure for the country – the overwhelming majority of airlines fly in and out of Dublin Airport. The city has two ports that serve as the main points of sea transport with Britain; ferries from France arrive in the southern port of Rosslare. Dublin is also the nation's primary rail hub. Flights, tours and rail tickets can be booked online at www.lonelyplanet.com/travel_services.

AIR

There are direct flights to Dublin from all major European centres (including a dizzying array of options from the UK) and from Boston, Baltimore, Chicago, New York and Los Angeles in the USA. Flights from further afield (Australasia or Africa) are usually routed through London.

Airlines

No airline has a walk-in office in Dublin, but most have walk-up counters at Dublin airport. Those that don't have their ticketing handled by other airlines. The website of the [Fáilte Ireland](http://www.ireland.ie) (Irish Tourist Board; www.ireland.ie) has information on getting to Dublin from a number of countries.

Airlines that serve Dublin:

- Aer Árann** (☎ 1890 462 726; www.aerarann.ie)
- Aer Lingus** (☎ 01-886 8888; www.aerlingus.com)
- Aeroflot** (☎ 01-844 6166; www.aeroflot.com)
- Air Canada** (☎ 1800 709 900; www.aircanada.ca)
- Air France** (☎ 01-605 0383; www.airfrance.com)
- Air Malta** (☎ 1800 397 400; www.airmalta.com)

ONLINE BOOKING AGENCIES

- www.bestfares.com
- www.cheapflights.com
- www.ebookers.com
- www.expedia.com
- www.flycheap.com
- www.opodo.com
- www.priceline.com
- www.statravel.com
- www.travelocity.com

THINGS CHANGE...

The information in this chapter is particularly vulnerable to change. Check directly with the airline or a travel agent to make sure you understand how a fare (and ticket you may buy) works and be aware of the security requirements for international travel. Shop carefully. The details given in this chapter should be regarded as pointers and are not a substitute for your own careful, up-to-date research.

- Air Wales** (☎ 1800 465 193; www.airwales.com)
- Alitalia** (☎ 01-844 6035; www.alitalia.com)
- American Airlines** (☎ 01-602 0550; www.aa.com)
- BMI British Midland** (☎ 01-407 3036; www.flybmi.com)
- British Airways** (☎ 1800 626 747; www.britishairways.com)
- City Jet** (☎ 01-8700 300; www.cityjet.com)
- Continental** (☎ 1890 925 252; www.continental.com)
- CSA Czech Airlines** (☎ 01-814 4626; www.csa.cz)
- Delta Airlines** (☎ 1800 768 080; www.delta.com)
- Finnair** (☎ 01-844 6565; www.finnair.com)
- Iberia** (☎ 01-407 3017; www.iberia.com)
- KLM** (☎ 01-663 6900; www.klm.com)
- Lufthansa** (☎ 01-844 5544; www.lufthansa.com)
- Malev Hungarian Airlines** (☎ 01-844 4303; www.malev.com)
- Ryanair** (☎ 01-609 7800; www.ryanair.com)
- Scandinavian Airlines** (☎ 01-844 5440; www.scandinavian.net)

Airport

Dublin's only **airport** (Map p213; DUB; ☎ 814 1111; www.dublinairport.com) is 13km north of the city centre. Along with pubs, restaurants, shops, ATMs and car-hire desks, there are several airport facilities in the one passenger terminal:

- Aer Rianta Information Desk** (Irish Airport Authority; ☎ 24hr Jun-Sep, 6am-1am Oct-May)
- Bank of Ireland** (☎ 10am-4pm Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri, 10am-5pm Wed, bureau de change 5.30am-9pm Mon-Fri, 5.30am-midnight Sat, 5.30am-10pm Sun)
- Dublin Airport Pharmacy** (☎ 814 4649; ☎ 6.30am-6.30pm Mon-Thu, 9am-10.30pm Fri-Sun)

- Dublin Tourism Office** (☎ 8am-10pm)
- Greencaps Left Luggage & Porterage Office** (☎ 814 4633; left luggage per 24hr €5-11; ☎ 6am-11pm)
- International Currency Exchange** (☎ 5.30am-midnight)
- Nursery** (☎ 9am-10pm)
- Post Office** (☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 9am-12.30pm Sat)

BICYCLE

Rust-red cycle lanes throughout the city make cycling in Dublin easier than ever, although traffic congestion, motorised maniacs and seemingly permanent roadworks can make the city something of an obstacle course. Bike theft is a major problem, so be sure to park on busier streets, preferably at one of the myriad U-shaped parking bars, and lock it securely. Never leave your bike on the street overnight. The following shops may come in handy for pedal pushers.

- Cycle-logical** (Map pp102-3; ☎ 872 4635; 3 Bachelor's Walk) A shop for serious enthusiasts. It has all the best equipment and is a good source of information on upcoming cycling events. It does not, however, do repairs.
- Square Wheel Cycleworks** (Map p85; ☎ 679 0838; South Temple Lane) Does repairs, and will have your bike back to you within a day or so (barring serious damage).

Bicycles on Public Transport

Bikes are only allowed on suburban trains (not the DART), either stowed in the guard's van or in a special compartment at the opposite end of the train from the engine. There's

CLIMATE CHANGE & TRAVEL

Climate change is a serious threat to the ecosystems that humans rely upon, and air travel is the fastest-growing contributor to the problem. Lonely Planet regards travel, overall, as a global benefit, but believes we all have a responsibility to limit our personal impact on global warming.

Flying & Climate Change

Pretty much every form of motor transport generates CO₂ (the main cause of human-induced climate change) but planes are far and away the worst offenders, not just because of the sheer distances they allow us to travel, but because they release greenhouse gases high into the atmosphere. The statistics are frightening: two people taking a return flight between Europe and the US will contribute as much to climate change as an average household's gas and electricity consumption over a whole year.

Carbon Offset Schemes

Climatecare.org and other websites use 'carbon calculators' that allow travellers to offset the greenhouse gases they are responsible for with contributions to energy-saving projects and other climate-friendly initiatives in the developing world – including projects in India, Honduras, Kazakhstan and Uganda.

Lonely Planet, together with Rough Guides and other concerned partners in the travel industry, supports the carbon offset scheme run by climatecare.org. Lonely Planet offsets all of its staff and author travel.

For more information check out our website: www.lonelyplanet.com.

a flat €4 charge for transporting a bicycle up to 56km.

Hire

Bike rental has become increasingly difficult to find because of crippling insurance costs. Typical rental for a mountain bike is between €12 and €30 a day, or up to €150 per week. Raleigh Rent-a-Bike agencies can be found through Eurotrek (☎ 456 8847; www.raleigh.ie).

Cydeways (Map pp102-3; ☎ 873 4748; www.cydeways.com; 185-186 Parnell St) Dublin's best bike shop, with expert staff who pepper their patter with all the technical lingo. Top-notch rentals.

MacDonalds Cycles (Map pp66-7; ☎ 475 2586; 38 Wexford St) Friendly and helpful, perfect for the amateur enthusiast.

BOAT

Dublin has two ferry ports. The **Dun Laoghaire ferry terminal** (Map p213; ☎ 280 1905; Dun Laoghaire), 13km southeast of the city, serves Holyhead in Wales; and the **Dublin Port terminal** (off Map pp62-3; ☎ 855 2222; Alexandra Rd), 3km northeast of the city centre, serves Holyhead and Mostyn in Wales, and Liverpool in England.

From Holyhead to Dublin and Dun Laoghaire, the ferry crossing takes just over three hours and costs around €35 for foot passengers or €185 for a medium-size car with two passengers. The fast-boat service from Holyhead to Dun Laoghaire takes a little over 1½ hours and costs €45 or €210 for the same.

GETTING INTO TOWN

There is no train service to and from the airport. It takes about 45 minutes to get there by bus or taxi. For details of car hire, see [opposite](#). Transport options are as follows:

Bus

Aircoach (☎ 844 7118; www.aircoach.ie; one way/return €7/12) Private coach service with two routes from the airport to 18 destinations throughout the city, including the main streets of the city centre (check the website for stop details). Coaches run every 10 to 15 minutes between 6am and midnight, then hourly from midnight until 6am.

Airlink Express Coach (☎ 872 0000, 873 4222; www.dublinbus.ie; adult/child €5/2) Bus 747 runs every 10 to 20 minutes from 5.45am to 11.30pm between the airport, central bus station (Busáras) and Dublin Bus office on Upper O'Connell St; bus 748 runs every 15 to 30 minutes from 6.50am to 10.05pm between the airport and Heuston and Connolly Stations.

Dublin Bus (☎ 872 0000; www.dublinbus.ie; 59 Upper O'Connell St; adult/child €2/0.75) A number of buses serve the airport from various points in Dublin, including buses 16A (Rathfarnham), 746 (Dun Laoghaire) and 230 (Portmarnock); all cross the city centre on their way to the airport.

Taxi

There is a taxi rank directly outside the arrivals concourse. A taxi should cost about €20 from the airport to the city centre, including a supplementary charge of €2.50 (not applied when going to the airport). Make sure the meter is switched on.

Between Liverpool and Dublin the ferry service takes 8½ hours and costs €34 (foot passenger) or €240 (car with two passengers). Cabins on overnight sailings cost more. The fast-boat service takes four hours and costs up to €60 or €370 respectively.

There are several ferry companies that run services to and from Dublin:

Irish Ferries (Map pp78–9; ☎ 1890 313 131; www.irishferries.com; 2–4 Merrion Row, Dublin 2) Ferry and fast-boat services from Holyhead to Dublin.

Isle of Man Steam Packet Company/Sea Cat (☎ 836 4019; www.steam-packet.com; Maritime House, North Wall, Dublin 1) Ferry and fast-boat services from Liverpool to Dublin via Douglas on the Isle of Man.

Norfolk Line (☎ 819 2999; www.norfolkline.com; Alexandra Rd Extension, Dublin Port) Ferry services from Liverpool to Dublin.

P&O Irish Sea (☎ 407 3434; www.poirishsea.com; Terminal 3, Dublin Port) Ferry services from Liverpool or Mostyn to Dublin.

Stena Line (☎ 204 7777; www.stenaline.com; Ferry Terminal, Dun Laoghaire) Ferry and fast-boat services from Holyhead to Dun Laoghaire.

To/From the Ferry Terminals

Buses from Busáras are timed to coincide with arrivals and departures from the Dublin Port terminal. For the 9.45am ferry departure from Dublin, buses leave Busáras at 8.30am; for the

9.45pm departure, buses depart from Busáras at 8.30pm. For the 1am sailing to Liverpool, the bus departs from Busáras at 11.45pm. All buses cost €2.

To travel between Dun Laoghaire ferry terminal and Dublin, take the DART to Pearse Station (for south Dublin) or Connolly Station (for north Dublin). Or take bus 46A to St Stephen's Green, or bus 7, 7A or 8 to Burgh Quay.

BUS

To/From the UK

Busáras (Map pp102–3; ☎ 836 6111; www.buseireann.ie; Store St) is just north of the river behind Custom House; it has a left-luggage facility costing €2.50 per item per day.

It's possible to combine bus and ferry tickets from major UK centres to Dublin on the bus network, but with the availability of cheap flights it's hardly worth the hassle. The journey between London and Dublin takes about 12 hours and costs around €34 return. For details in London, contact **Eurolines** (☎ 0870 514 3219; www.eurolines.com).

Around Dublin

The **Dublin Bus Office** (Map pp102–3; ☎ 872 0000; www.dublinbus.ie; 59 Upper O'Connell St; ☎ 9am–5.30pm Mon–Fri, 9am–2pm Sat) has free single-route timetables for all its services.

Buses run from around 6am (some start at 5.30am) to about 11.30pm. Fares are calculated according to stages:

1–3 stages €1

4–7 stages €1.40

8–13 stages €1.60

14–23 stages €1.90

More than 23 stages €1.90 (inside Citizone; outer suburban journeys cost €2.10, €3.10 or €4.10)

The city centre (Citizone) is within a 13-stage radius. You must tender exact change when boarding; anything more and you will be given a receipt for reimbursement, only possible at the Dublin Bus main office.

A range of fare-saver passes is on offer:

Adult (Bus & Rail) Short Hop (€8.80) Valid for unlimited one-day travel on Dublin Bus, DART and suburban rail travel, but not Nitelink or Airlink.

Bus/Luas Pass (adult/child €6.50/3.10) One-day unlimited travel on both bus and Luas.

Family Bus & Rail Short Hop (€13.50) Valid for travel for one day for a family of two adults and two children aged under 16 on all bus and rail services except for Nitelink, Airlink, ferry services and tours.

Rambler Pass (1/2/5/7 days €6/11/17.30/21) Valid for unlimited travel on all Dublin Bus and Airlink services, but not Nitelink.

NITELINK

Nitelink late-night buses run from the College, Westmoreland and D'Olier Sts triangle (Map p85). From Monday to Wednesday there

are usually only two departures, at 12.30am and 2am. From Thursday to Saturday, departures are at 12.30am, then every 20 minutes until 4.30am on the more popular routes, and until 3.30am on the less frequented ones. Fares are €4 (€6 to the far suburbs). See www.dublinbus.ie for route details.

CAR & MOTORCYCLE

Driving

The **Automobile Association of Ireland** (AA; Map pp66–7; ☎ 617 9999, breakdown ☎ 1800 667 788; www.aaireland.ie; 56 Drury St, Dublin 2) is located in the city centre.

Traffic in Dublin is a nightmare and parking is an expensive headache. There are no free spots to park anywhere in the city centre during business hours (7am to 7pm Monday to Saturday), but there are plenty of parking meters, 'pay & display' spots (€3 to €5.20 per hour) and over a dozen sheltered and supervised car parks (around €6 per hour).

Clamping of illegally parked cars is thoroughly enforced, and there is a €80 charge for removal. Parking is free after 7pm Monday to Saturday, and all day Sunday, in all metered spots and on single yellow lines.

Car theft and break-ins are a problem, and the police advise visitors to park in a supervised car park. Cars with foreign number plates are prime targets; never leave your valuables behind. When you're booking accommodation, check on parking facilities.

Hire

Car rental in Dublin is expensive, so you're often better off making arrangements in your home country with some sort of package deal. In July and August it's wise to book well ahead. Most cars are manual; automatic cars are available but they're more expensive to hire. Motorbikes and mopeds are not available for rent.

Nova Car Hire (www.rentacar-ireland.com) acts as an agent for Alamo, Budget, European and National, and offers greatly discounted rates. Typical weekly high-season rental rates are around €150 for a small car, €185 for a medium car and €320 for a five-seater people carrier. People aged under 21 are not allowed to hire a car; for the majority of rental companies you have to be at least 23 and have had a valid driving licence for a minimum of one year. Many rental agencies will not rent to people over 70 or 75.

ROAD SAFETY RULES IN DUBLIN

- Drive on the left, overtake to the right.
- Safety belts must be worn by the driver and all passengers.
- Children aged under 12 aren't allowed to sit on the front seats.
- Motorcyclists and their passengers must wear helmets.
- When entering a roundabout, give way to the right.
- Speed limits are 50km/h or as signposted in the city, 100km/h on all roads outside city limits and 120km/h on motorways (marked in blue).
- The legal alcohol limit is 80mg of alcohol per 100mL of blood, or 35mg on the breath (roughly two units of alcohol for a man and one for a woman).

The main rental agencies, which also have offices at the [airport](#) (🕒 6am–11pm), include the following:

Avis Rent-a-Car (Map pp78–9; ☎ 1890 405 060; www.avis.com; 1 East Hanover St)

Budget Rent-a-Car (Map pp62–3; ☎ 837 9611, airport 844 5150; www.budget.ie; 151 Lower Drumcondra Rd, Dublin 7)

Dan Dooley Car Hire (Map pp78–9; ☎ 677 2723, airport 844 5156; www.dan-dooley.ie; 42–43 Westland Row, Dublin 2)

Europcar (Map pp78–9; ☎ 614 2800, airport 844 4179; www.europcar.com; Baggot St Bridge, Dublin 4)

Hertz Rent-a-Car (Map p99; ☎ 660 2255, airport 844 5466; www.hertz.com; 149 Upper Leeson St, Dublin 2)

Irish Car Rentals (off Map p118; ☎ 862 2715, airport 844 4199; www.irishcarrentals.ie; Old Airport Rd, Santry, Dublin 9)

Thrifty (Map pp90–1; ☎ 454 6600, airport 840 0800; www.thrifty.ie; 125 Herberton Bridge, South Circular Rd, Dublin 8)

TAXI

All taxi fares begin with a flag-fall fare of €3.80, followed by €1.50 per kilometre thereafter from 8am to 10pm. In addition there are a number of extra charges – €1 for each extra passenger and €2 for telephone bookings. There is no charge for luggage.

Taxis can be hailed on the street and found at taxi ranks around the city, including on the corner of Abbey and O’Connell Sts (Map pp102–3), College Green in front of Trinity College (Map pp66–7) and St Stephen’s Green at the end of Grafton St (Map pp66–7). Numerous taxi companies dispatch taxis by radio. Some options:

City Cabs (☎ 872 2688)

National Radio Cabs (☎ 677 2222)

Phone the **Garda Carriage Office** (☎ 475 5888) if you have any complaints about taxis or queries regarding lost property.

TAXI TRAUMA

Taxi queues are frustratingly long late at night (when the bars and clubs close), ensuring waits of up to an hour or more. Calling one by phone is often met with a negative response during these busy hours, and you can’t book one in advance (unless you’re travelling to the airport). Try to avoid the busy period between 2am and 3.30am; otherwise we suggest learning tantric meditation to deal with the interminably long queues.

TRAIN DART

The **Dublin Area Rapid Transport** (DART; ☎ 1850 366 222; www.irishrail.ie) provides quick train access to the coast as far north as Howth (about 30 minutes) and as far south as Greystones in County Wicklow. Pearse Station (Map pp78–9) is convenient for central Dublin south of the Liffey, and Connolly Station (Map pp102–3) for north of the Liffey. There are services every 10 to 20 minutes, sometimes even more frequently, from around 6.30am to midnight Monday to Saturday. Services are less frequent on Sunday. Dublin to Dun Laoghaire takes about 15 to 20 minutes. A one-way DART ticket from Dublin to Dun Laoghaire or Howth costs €2.20; to Bray it’s €2.50.

There are also Suburban Rail services north as far as Dundalk, inland to Mullingar and south past Bray to Arklow.

DART passes include the following:

Adult Weekly Inner Rail Pass (€23) Valid on all DART and suburban train services between Bray to the south and Rush and Lusk to the north.

All Day Ticket (€7.20) One-day unlimited travel on DART and suburban rail services.

Irish Rail

All rail information, including timetables and ticket and pass sales, is available from the **Rail Travel Centre** (Iarnród Éireann; Map pp102–3; ☎ 836 6222; www.irishrail.ie; 34 Lower Abbey St). The city has two main train stations: Heuston Station (Map pp90–1), on the western side of town near the Liffey; and Connolly Station (Map pp102–3), a short walk northeast of Busáras, behind Custom House. Heuston Station has left-luggage lockers of three sizes, costing €2 to €6 for 24 hours. At Connolly Station the facility costs €3.

Luas

The **Luas** (www.luas.ie) light-rail system has two lines: the green line (running every five to 15 minutes) connects St Stephen’s Green with Sandyford in south Dublin via Ranelagh and Dundrum; and the red line (every 20 minutes) runs from Lower Abbey St to Tallaght via the north quays and Heuston Station. There are ticket machines at every stop or you can buy a ticket from newsagents in the city centre; a typical short hop fare (around four stops) is €1.70. Services run from 5.30am to 12.30am Monday to Friday, from 6.30am to 12.30am Saturday and from 7am to 11.30pm Sunday.

BUSINESS HOURS

The standard business hours in relatively late-rising Dublin are as follows:

Banks 10am to 4pm Monday to Friday (to 5pm Thursday).

Offices 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday.

Post offices 9am to 6pm Monday to Friday, 9am to 1pm Saturday.

Pubs 10.30am to 11.30pm Monday to Thursday, 10.30am to 12.30am Friday and Saturday, noon to 11pm Sunday (30 minutes 'drinking up' time allowed). Pubs with bar extensions open to 2.30am Thursday to Saturday, pubs with theatre licences open to 3.30am; closed Christmas Day and Good Friday.

Restaurants Noon to 10.30pm; many close one day of the week.

Shops 9am to 5.30pm or 6pm Monday to Saturday (until 8pm on Thursday and sometimes Friday), noon to 6pm Sunday in bigger towns only.

CHILDREN

Dublin is a very child-friendly city. Hotels will provide cots at no extra charge and most restaurants have highchairs. Overall, restaurants and hotels go to great lengths to cater for children, although some restaurants lose their interest in kids after 6pm. Children are not allowed in pubs after 7pm. Children under five years of age travel free on all public transport.

Family tickets are available to most attractions; many tourist sites have made exhibitions more child-friendly, creating interactive spaces for kids to play (and learn) in.

Although breast-feeding in Dublin is not a common sight (Ireland has one of the lowest rates of it in the world), you can do so with impunity pretty much everywhere without getting so much as a stare. There are virtually no nappy-changing facilities in Dublin, so you'll have to make do with a public toilet. For more information and inspiration on how to make travelling with children as hassle-free as possible, check out Lonely Planet's *Travel with Children* by Cathy Lanigan. Two great websites are www.eumom.ie for pregnant women and parents with young children, and www.babygoes2.com, which is an excellent travel site about family-friendly accommodation worldwide.

Baby-sitting

Many hotels can provide baby-sitting on request (normally €8 to €13 per hour). There are agencies that provide professional nannies. It's up to you to negotiate a fee with the nanny but €15 per hour is the average, plus taxi fare if they aren't driving. You'll need to sign a form beforehand that the agency will fax to your hotel. Agencies include the following:

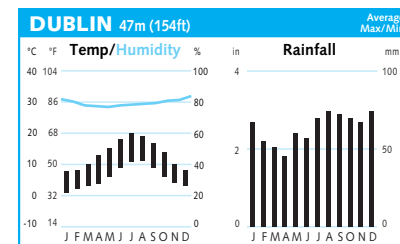
Belgrave Agency (☎ 280 9341; www.nanny.ie; 55 Mulgrave St, Dun Laoghaire; per hr €18 plus 21% VAT)

Executive Nannies (Map pp102–3; ☎ 873 1273; www.executivenannies.com; 43 Lower Dominick St; per hr €20)

CLIMATE

Dublin enjoys a milder climate than its northerly position might indicate, largely thanks to the influence of the North Atlantic Drift, or Gulf Stream. The warmest months of the year are July and August, when temperatures range from 15° to 20°C, while the coldest months – January and February – see the thermometer drop to between 4° and 8°C. It never gets too cold (major snowfalls are a rarity) but it never gets too hot either; even in summer you're better off carrying a sweater or a light jacket.

Dublin is one of the drier parts of Ireland, but in a typical year it still rains on 150 days (dropping a total yearly average of 75cm). Summers are a meteorological lottery: it's impossible to predict whether it'll be a wet one or not, making forecasting a favourite subject of amateurs throughout the city ('Well, it rained all of April, so that means we'll have a good June'). Bring an umbrella. What is a certainty, however, is the long summer day; in July and August there are about 18 hours of daylight and it's only truly dark after about 11pm. For weather forecasts, dial ☎ 1550 123 822.



COURSES

Dublin is well known for its English-language schools. For a list of these and other courses, get a copy of the yearly *Dublin's Evening Classes* (Oisín Publications; €4.99), available at most bookshops (also check out www.eveningclasses.ie). Most courses run for extended periods, ranging from four or six weeks to a year and more.

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS

Duty-free sales are not available when travelling within the European Union (EU). Goods for personal consumption bought in, and exported within, the EU incur no additional taxes if duty has been paid somewhere in the EU. Over certain limits you may have to show they are for personal use. The amounts that officially constitute personal use are: 800 cigarettes, 400 cigarillos, 200 cigars or 1kg of tobacco; 10L of spirits, 20L of fortified wine, 60L of sparkling wine, 90L of still wine or 110L of beer.

Travellers coming from outside the EU are allowed to import, duty-free, 200 cigarettes, 1L of spirits or 2L of wine, 60mL of perfume and 250mL of toilet water.

It is illegal to bring into Ireland meat, meat products, plants and plant products (including seeds). Dogs and cats from anywhere outside Ireland and the UK are subject to strict quarantine laws. The EU Pet Travel Scheme, whereby animals from certain countries *might* be allowed into the country (as long as they're fitted with a microchip, vaccinated against rabies and blood-tested six months prior to entry), came into force in the Republic of Ireland in mid-2004. Otherwise animals arriving into Ireland are quarantined for six months unless they first pass through the UK and meet British criteria for entry. Do not just try and travel with your animals. Contact the [Department of Agriculture, Food & Rural Development](http://www.dard.gov.ie) (☎ 607 2877; www.agriculture.gov.ie) for further details.

When leaving the country, non-EU visitors can take the equivalent of US\$4000 worth of goods per person (see [p130](#)).

DISCOUNT CARDS

Senior citizens get discounts on public transport and museum fees (with proof of age), and students and under-26s are entitled to a variety of discounts, from admission fees to cinema tickets, so long as they have the

appropriate card (International Student Identity Card, International Youth Travel Card or European Youth Card/Euro<26). A couple of local discount cards are worth checking out: **Dublin Pass** (www.dublinpass.ie; adult/child 1-day €31/17, 2-day €49/29, 3-day €59/34, 6-day €89/44) Not only do you get free entry into 30 attractions, but you can skip whatever queue there is by presenting your card. The card is available from any of the Dublin Tourism offices.

Heritage Card (☎ 647 2461; www.heritageireland.com; Education & Visitor Service, 6 Upper Ely Pl, Dublin 2; adult/child or student €21/8) This card entitles you to free access to all Dúchas-managed sights in and around Dublin.

ELECTRICITY

The standard electricity supply in Dublin is 220 volts AC, and all sockets fit a three-pin plug. Pin converters are available in all electrical suppliers.

EMBASSIES

Countries with diplomatic offices in Dublin include the following:

Australia (Map pp78–9; ☎ 664 5300; www.australianembassy.ie; 2nd fl, Fitzwilton House, Wilton Terrace, Dublin 2)

Canada (Map pp78–9; ☎ 234 4000; 7-8 Wilton Tce, Dublin 2)

France (off Map pp62–3; ☎ 277 5000; chancellerie.ambafrance.ie; 36 Ailesbury Rd, Dublin 4)

Germany (off Map pp62–3; ☎ 269 3011; germany@indigo.ie; 31 Trimleston Ave, Booterstown, Blackrock, County Dublin)

Italy (Map p99; ☎ 660 1744; info@italianembassy.ie; 63-65 Northumberland Rd, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4)

Netherlands (off Map pp62–3; ☎ 269 3444; info@netherlandsembassy.ie; 160 Merrion Rd, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4)

UK (Map p99; ☎ 205 3700; www.britishembassy.ie; 29 Merrion Rd, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4)

USA (Map p99; ☎ 668 8777; webmasterireland@state.gov; 42 Elgin Rd, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4)

EMERGENCY

For emergency assistance, phone ☎ 999 or ☎ 112. This call is free and the operator will connect you with the type of assistance you specify: fire, police (gardaí), ambulance, boat or coastal rescue. There are garda stations at **Fitzgibbon St** (Map pp102–3; ☎ 836 3113), **Harcourt Tce** (Map pp78–9; ☎ 676 3481), **Pearse St** (Map pp78–9; ☎ 677 8141) and **Store St** (Map pp102–3; ☎ 874 2761).

A full list of all emergency numbers can be found in the front pages of the telephone book.

Alcoholics Anonymous (Map pp90–1; ☎ 453 8998, after hr ☎ 679 5967; 109 South Circular Rd, Dublin 8)

Confidential Line Freefone (☎ 1800 666 111) Garda confidential line to report crime.

Drugs Advisory & Treatment Centre (Map pp78–9; ☎ 677 1122; Trinity Ct, 30-31 Pearse St, Dublin 2)

Rape Crisis Centre (Map pp78–9; ☎ 1800 778 888, 661 4911; 70 Lower Leeson St)

Samaritans (Map pp102–3; ☎ 1850 609 090, 872 7700; 112 Marlborough St) For people who are lonely, depressed or suicidal.

Senior Helpline (☎ 1850 440 444) For senior citizens with any kind of problem.

Women's Emergency Hostel (Map pp102–3; ☎ 873 2279; Haven House, Morning Star Ave, Dublin 7)

GAY & LESBIAN TRAVELLERS

Dublin's not a bad place to be gay. Most people wouldn't bat an eyelid at public displays of affection between same-sex couples, or cross-dressing in the city centre, but discretion is advised in the suburbs. If you do encounter any sort of trouble or harassment call the **Gay & Lesbian Garda Liaison Officer** (☎ 666 9000) or the **Sexual Assault Unit** (☎ 666 000) at the Pearse St **Garda station** (Map pp78–9).

There are several useful organisations, publications and online resources:

Gaire (www.gaire.com) Online message board and resource centre.

Gay Community News (www.gcn.ie) A free news and issues-based monthly paper.

Gay Men's Health Project (☎ 660 2189) Practical advice on men's health issues.

Gay Switchboard Dublin (☎ 872 1055; www.gayswitchboard.ie; ☎ 7.30am-9.30pm Mon-Fri, 3.30-6pm Sat) A friendly and useful voluntary service that provides information such as legal issues and where to find accommodation.

Ireland's Pink Pages (www.pink-pages.org) A free directory of gay-centric and gay-friendly services.

Lesbian Line (☎ 872 9911; ☎ 7-9pm Thu)

National Lesbian & Gay Federation (Map p85; NLGF; ☎ 671 9076; 2 Scarlett Row, Temple Bar, Dublin) Publisher of *Gay Community News*.

Outhouse (Map pp102–3; ☎ 873 4932; www.outhouse.ie; 105 Capel St) Gay, lesbian and bisexual resource centre. Great stop-off point to see what's on, check noticeboards and meet people. It also publishes *Ireland's Pink Pages*.

HOLIDAYS

The only public holidays that will impact on you are Good Friday and Christmas Day, the only two days in the year when all pubs close. Otherwise, the half-dozen or so bank holidays (all of which fall on a Monday) mean just that – the banks are closed, along with about half the shops.

Public Holidays

The following are national holidays:

New Year's Day 1 January

St Patrick's Day 17 March

Easter (Good Friday to Easter Monday inclusive) March/April

May Holiday 1 May

June Holiday First Monday in June

August Holiday First Monday in August

October Holiday Last Monday in October

Christmas Day 25 December

St Stephen's Day 26 December

St Patrick's Day, St Stephen's Day and May Day holidays are taken on the following Monday should they fall on a weekend.

School Holidays

Mid-term break 31 October to 4 November

Christmas/New Year 22 December to 9 January

Mid-term break 13 to 17 February (16 & 17 only for primary schools)

Easter 7 to 24 April

Summer July and August (June also for secondary schools)

INTERNET ACCESS

If your computer isn't equipped to handle 220 volts AC or a three-point socket, you'll need a universal AC adapter and a plug adapter, which will enable you to plug in anywhere.

WI-FI HOT SPOTS

Wi-fi (or wireless fidelity) is a handy mobile alternative to plugging into a local area network (LAN). Many public places offer access to wi-fi networks so that customers can use the internet on the move. Try the following hotspots for free access: **Chester Beatty Library** (p70), **Solas** (p164), **Market Bar** (p163), **Ron Black's** (p163), the **Globe** (p164) and **Aya** (p146).

All hotel rooms have phone lines and you can plug the phone lead into the back of your laptop; although most have direct-dial services, you'll most likely have to dial an outside line access number (usually 9) to get online. Provided you're dialling a local access number you'll be charged the price of a local call (which from a hotel is usually timed and 50% more than usual).

Major internet service providers (ISPs) such as **AOL** (www.aol.com), **CompuServe** (www.compu-serve.com) and **AT&T Business Internet Services** (www.attbusiness.net) have dial-in nodes in Ireland. If you access your email account through a home-based ISP, your best option is to open an account with a local, global ISP provider: the most reliable ones are **Eircom** (☎ 702 0022; www.eircom.ie) or **02** (☎ 1800 924 924; www.02.ie).

For hassle-free internet access, your best bet is to rely on internet cafés, which are everywhere in Dublin. Connections are usually quick, and should be no more than €5 per hour. The following city-centre internet cafés offer quick, reliable connections:

Central Cyber Café (Map pp66–7; ☎ 677 8298; 6 Grafton St; ☎ 9am–9pm)

Global Internet Café (Map pp102–3; ☎ 878 0295; 8 Lower O'Connell St; ☎ 8am–11pm)

Internet Exchange (Map p85; ☎ 670 3000; 1 Cecilia St; ☎ 24hr)

LEGAL MATTERS

If you need legal assistance contact the **Legal Aid Board** (☎ 1890 615 200). It has eight offices spread throughout Dublin; the central operator will direct you to the one most convenient to you.

The possession of small quantities of hash or marijuana (deemed Class C drugs) attracts a fine or warning, but harder drugs are treated more seriously. Cocaine, ecstasy and heroin are considered Class A drugs; if you're caught

in possession you can count on being arrested and prosecuted. The consumption of alcohol on the street and public drunkenness are both illegal, but the police are usually pretty lenient and at worst will issue a verbal warning and confiscate your booze.

MAPS

Lonely Planet publishes a laminated pocket-size map of Dublin, which is widely available in bookshops around town. The free maps of Dublin are usually quite adequate, at least for the major sites in the city centre. The Dublin Tourism Centre has a basic map of the city centre (€1), which covers the major sights, but it also has fairly detailed maps for hotels and restaurants.

If you prefer an indexed street directory, the *Dublin Street Guide* (€13.99; scale 1:15,000, city centre 1:10,000), published by **Ordnance Survey Ireland** (OSI; see the boxed text, p116, for their retail outlet details), is the best. A handy pocket-size version of the same (€6.99; 1:10,000) is also available, but it does not include the outlying suburbs.

The OSI also publishes a *Map of Greater Dublin* (€8; scale 1:20,000), which includes a street index and details of bus routes. The *Collins Streetfinder Map* (€9.99; scale 1:15,000) is also pretty good, with easy-to-use laminates that won't get damaged in the (inevitable) rain.

You can buy a limited selection of maps in most bookshops and some newsagents, but the **National Map Centre** (Map pp66–7; ☎ 476 0471; www.mapcentre.ie; 34 Grafton Hall, Aungier St; ☎ 10am–6pm Mon–Sat) has a comprehensive selection of all OSI maps and other geographic sundries.

MEDICAL SERVICES

Dentists

Dental care is a costly business in Dublin. Unless you have a medical card (only available to registered residents), you can expect to pay from €50 for a basic check, about €65 for a cleaning and €85 for a filling. There are several reliable city-centre dentists:

Anne's Lane Dental Centre (Map pp66–7; ☎ 671 8581; 2 Anne's Lane; ☎ 9am–6pm Mon–Fri, by appointment Sat)

Dame House Dental Surgery (Map pp66–7; ☎ 670 9256; 24–26 Dame St; ☎ 9am–6pm)

Gallagher & Associates (Map pp78–9; ☎ 670 3735; 38 Fenian St; ☎ 9am–8pm Mon, 8am–8pm Tue & Wed, 9am–5pm Thu & Fri, 9am–4pm every 2nd Sat)

Doctors

If you don't have a medical card you'll have to pay for all visits to a doctor. Charges begin at €45 for even a cursory examination. You can request a doctor to call out to your accommodation at any time on the 24-hour private **Doctors on Call** (☎ 453 9333) service line.

The **Eastern Regional Health Authority** (ERHA; Map pp90–1; ☎ 679 0700, 1800 520 520; www.erha.ie; Dr Steevens' Hospital, Steevens' Lane, Dublin 8) has a Choice of Doctor Scheme, which can advise you on a suitable general practitioner (GP) from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday. The ERHA also provides information services for those with physical and mental disabilities.

Your hotel or embassy can also suggest a doctor, but there are two good walk-in doctors' clinics in town:

Grafton Medical Practice (Map pp66–7; ☎ 671 2122; www.graftonmedical.ie; 34 Grafton St; ☎ 9am–6pm Mon–Fri)

Mercer Medical Centre (Map pp66–7; ☎ 402 2300; Johnston Pl, Lower Stephen St; ☎ 9am–6pm Mon–Thu, 9am–5pm Fri)

Hospitals

EU citizens are encouraged to obtain a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC; formerly the E111 form) before they leave home, which will cover hospital costs should they require hospitalisation. This card, which provides cover for a year, is easily obtained from a local health authority or, in the UK, the post office. The main city-centre hospitals are the following:

Baggot St Hospital (Map p99; ☎ 668 1577; 18 Upper Baggot St)

Mater Misericordiae Hospital (Map pp102–3; ☎ 830 1122; Eccles St) Off Lower Dorset St.

St James's Hospital (Map pp90–1; ☎ 453 7941; www.stjames.ie; James St)

Pharmacies

All pharmacies in Dublin are clearly designated by a green cross. There are branches of the English chain pharmacy, Boots, spread throughout the city centre. Most pharmacies stay open until 7pm or 8pm, but the following city-centre chemists stay open until 10pm:

City Pharmacy (Map pp66–7; ☎ 670 4523; 14 Dame St)

O'Connell's Late Night Pharmacy (Map pp102–3; ☎ 873 0427; 55–56 O'Connell St)

MONEY

Ireland's currency is the euro (€), which is divided into 100 cents. While the notes are all the same throughout the 12 countries of the euro zone, the Irish coins feature a harp on the reverse side – but all non-Irish euro coins are also legal tender. For information on Dublin's economy and costs, see p19.

See the Quick Reference on the inside front cover for a list of exchange rates.

ATMs

All banks have ATMs. We've noticed recently that machines in the city centre quickly run out of smaller denominations (€10 and €20) on Friday night, and the smallest denomination they'll dispense is €50. Some even run out of money altogether, and as cash deposits aren't replenished until Monday morning, the machine stays out of order until then. We strongly recommend that if you're staying in the city centre, you get your money out early on a Friday: not only will you avoid the problems described but you won't have to face the enormous queues that form behind after about 8pm.

Changing Money

You'll get the best exchange rates at banks. Bureaux de change and other exchange facilities usually open for more hours but the rate and/or commission will be worse. Many post offices have a currency-exchange facility and are open on Saturday morning. There's a cluster of banks located around College Green opposite Trinity College and all have exchange facilities.

Allied Irish Bank (Map p85; ☎ 679 9222; Westmoreland St; ☎ 10am–4pm Mon–Wed & Fri, 10am–5pm Thu)

Amex (Map pp66–7; ☎ 605 7709; Dublin Tourism Centre, St Andrew's St; ☎ 9am–5pm Mon–Sat)

Bank of Ireland (Map p85; ☎ 677 6801; 2 College Green; ☎ 10am–4pm Mon–Wed & Fri, 10am–5pm Thu)

First Rate (Map p85; ☎ 671 3233; 1 Westmoreland St; ☎ 8am–9pm Mon–Fri, 9am–9pm Sat, 10am–9pm Sun Jun–Sep, 9am–6pm Oct–May)

Thomas Cook (Map pp66–7; ☎ 677 1721, 677 1307; 118 Grafton St; ☎ 9am–5.30pm Mon, Tue, Fri & Sat, 10am–5.30pm Wed, 9am–7pm Thu)

Credit Cards

Visa and MasterCard are more widely accepted in Dublin than Amex or Diners Club, which are often not accepted in smaller establishments. You can also use credit cards

FOR THE RECORD

- The legal age to vote is 18.
- You can leave school when you're 16.
- The legal drinking age is 18.
- Smoking is legal at 16.
- The heterosexual and homosexual age of consent is 17.
- You can get married at 16, with consent of court.
- You can ride a moped when you're 16.
- You can drive a car when you're 17.

to withdraw cash, but be sure to obtain a PIN from your bank before you leave. This service usually carries an extra charge, so if you're withdrawing money, take out enough so that you don't have to keep going back.

If a card is lost or stolen, inform the police and the issuing company as soon as possible; otherwise you may have to bear the cost of the thief's purchases. Here are some 24-hour hotlines for cancelling your cards:

Amex (☎ 1800 282 728)

Diners Club (☎ 0818 300 026)

MasterCard (☎ 1800 557 378)

Visa (☎ 1800 558 002)

Travellers Cheques

Most major brands of travellers cheques are accepted in Ireland. We recommend that you carry them in euros, as you can use them in other euro zone countries and avoid costly exchange rates. Amex and Thomas Cook travellers cheques are widely recognised and branches don't charge commission for cashing their own cheques. Travellers cheques are rarely accepted for everyday transactions so you'll need to cash them beforehand.

Eurocheques can be cashed in Dublin, but special arrangements must be made with your home bank before you travel if you are thinking of using personal cheques.

NEWSPAPERS & MAGAZINES

Newspapers

Dubliners are avid consumers of the printed word. There are newspapers and magazines to suit virtually every taste and interest. All the main English newspapers are readily available. News Corp, the Rupert Murdoch-owned media group that publishes the *Times* and the *Sun*, has an Irish office that's responsible for an Irish edition of their papers – basically a section of Irish news and sport inserted into the English version.

DAILY NEWSPAPERS

The following are the main daily local newspapers:

Evening Herald (€1) Available from just after lunchtime, this tabloid is a bit of a scurrilous rag specialising in shock-horror headlines about government wastage, heartless killers and immigrant scams. No-one takes it all that seriously and it usually makes for good bus-journey reading on the way home. It is, however, the best newspaper for finding

a flat, and its Thursday entertainment listings pages are pretty thorough.

Irish Examiner (€1.70; www.examiner.ie) A solid national newspaper with more of a non-Dublin slant than others, probably because it used to be the *Cork Examiner*. Good features and well-written stories make for a dependable read.

Irish Independent (€1.70; www.independent.ie) Ireland's most widely read broadsheet is great for breaking domestic stories, as its journo usually have one-up on every other hack for stories of national importance. It has good features on all facets of Irish current affairs, but its foreign coverage is appalling: limited to the back page, the content is usually reliant on stories about Russian women who've given birth to eight children, the break-up of Hollywood marriages and other 'you'll never believe this' titbits.

Irish Times (€1.70; www.ireland.com) The country's oldest and most serious daily newspaper; the most liberal broadsheet published in Ireland. In recent years its reputation for excellent journalism has been somewhat tarnished by the fact that it picks up far too many of its stories from its liberal British counterparts (most notably the *Guardian*) and the news wires, with the result that it doesn't break as much news as it used to. Many non-Dubliners dismiss it as an Anglo-centric newspaper that devotes too much space to issues that aren't pertinent to the country; it is, however, still an excellent read. The online version is now a partly pay-and-view service; you can only read the breaking news and front page for free.

Star (€1.20; www.thestar.ie) Ireland's answer to the English *Sun*, this tabloid is pretty much what you'd expect: plenty of celebrity pictures and very little news. It prides itself, however, on its efforts to reveal the sordid underbelly of Irish affairs: politicians on the take and gangsters on the make are a big part of its news cycle. Most of the stories are blatant exaggerations and simplistic takes on what's really going on.

SUNDAY PAPERS

Most Dubliners buy English Sunday papers, as the Irish equivalents just can't match their size and content. Our list covers the Irish newspapers:

Ireland on Sunday (€2) Exaggeration and smear is just another routine week for Ireland's silliest Sunday broadsheet: Is that cellulite on Jordan's belly?

Star on Sunday (€2) The usual tabloid nonsense, with plenty of juice and very little news. If you want a salacious tabloid, buy the *Sunday Mirror*; at least the sports pages are better.

Sunday Business Post (€2) If you want to know what makes the Irish economy tick, then this superb financial paper is for you; if not, buy something else.

Sunday Independent (€2.30) A Sunday edition of the daily broadsheet, with similar news content but plenty more lifestyle sections, restaurant reviews and social gossip.

Sunday Tribune (€2.30) Although its content pales in comparison to its English rivals, this is the best Irish Sunday paper. It offers the best summary of the week's events, has good features and also breaks its fair share of pertinent stories.

Sunday World (€2) A fairly low-brow tabloid paper with the usual fare about celebrities and their misdoings, politicians and their backroom deals, and oodles of sport. The paper's crime correspondent, Paul Williams, is the country's foremost authority on the criminal underworld; his two books on the subject, *The General* and *Gangland*, are bestsellers.

Magazines

Generic international magazines aside, there are many local publications:

Dublin Event Guide (www.eventguide.ie; free) The best weekly listings magazine, it has film, theatre and music reviews, a feature or two and a comprehensive guide to what's on and where.

Dublinter (www.thedublinter.ie; €2.99) Glossy and gossipy, this monthly magazine takes a soft look at the issues concerning the city's groovy brigades. Its credo is Oscar Wilde's dictum that 'history is gossip, and scandal is gossip made boring by morality'. Such cleverness does not disguise the fact that the mainstay of its content is to tell us where and with whom we need to be seen having dinner, and what we should be wearing and discussing while eating it.

Hot Press (www.hotpress.com; €3.95) The first, and once the best, guide to the city's music scene, this fortnightly publication is a bit like the Rolling Stones: once a cutting-edge force that shaped musical minds, today it's stuck in the past and is reluctant to come to terms with modern times. Its reputation and prestige ensures that it is still the most widely read of the city's music mags.

Image (www.image.ie; €4.25) Ireland's version of the glossy woman's magazine. Aside from the usual focus on beauty tips and fashion hints, what we really love about this monthly mag is its vain attempt to turn the country's B-list celebs into international superstars. *Puh-lease*.

In Dublin (free) A monthly ad-rag disguised as a listings magazine, its over-reliance on ads means that the listings are hardly objective... but it is free.

Mongrel (www.mongrel.ie; free) The best of a new breed of publications, Mongrel mixes a hilarious irreverence with some top-class interviews and features that appeal to the X(Box) generation.

Phoenix (€2.25) A fortnightly magazine that specialises in clever political satire. The problem for non-nationals is that many of the references are strictly insider, so you'll have to know your current affairs to get the jokes.

Social & Personal (www.socialandpersonal.ie; €3.99) Utter nonsense really, but who doesn't get stuck into this stuff

while waiting in the dentist's anteroom? Lifestyles of the rich, and often unknown, make up the bulk of the content of this monthly publication; like most mags of its kind, it seeks to confirm that if only we plebs had what they had, then we'd be happy. Yeah right.

Village (www.village.ie; €3.50) Edited by veteran journalist Vincent Browne, this is a weekly hard stare at the major issues of the day, both local and international. The quality of the writing is good and the editorial line is uncompromising in its efforts to uncover the truth behind the issues, no matter how uncomfortable it may be. An excellent read.

For information on gay- and lesbian-specific publications, see p235.

ORGANISED TOURS

Dublin isn't that big, so a straightforward sightseeing tour is only really necessary if you're looking to cram in the sights or avoid blistered feet. What is worth considering, however, is a specialised guided tour, especially for those of a musical, historical or literary bent.

Boat

Liffey Voyage (Map pp102–3; ☎ 473 4082; www.liffeyvoyage.ie; Liffey Voyage kiosk, Liffey boardwalk, Bachelor's Walk; adult/child €11/6; ☎ 11am hourly Mar–Nov) Cruise up and down the Liffey in a comfy air-conditioned, all-weather vessel that accommodates up to 48 passengers. Gen up on Dublin's history as seen from the river, from the Viking raids to the recent dockland development.

Viking Splash Tours (Map pp90–1; ☎ 707 6000; www.vikingsplashes.com; 64–65 Patrick St; adult/child/family from €15.50/8.50/50; ☎ 10 tours daily 9am–5.30pm Mar–Oct, 10am–4pm Wed–Sun Feb, 10am–4pm Tue–Sun Nov) Go on, what's the big deal? You stick a plastic Viking's helmet on your head and yell 'yay' at the urging of your guide, but the upshot is you'll get a 1¼-hour semi-amphibious tour that ends up in the Grand Canal Dock. 'Strictly for tourists' seems so...superfluous.

Bus

Dublin Bus Tours (Map pp102–3; ☎ 872 0000; www.dublinbus.ie; 59 Upper O'Connell St), the city's bus company, runs a variety of tours, all of which can be booked at its office, or at the Bus Éireann counter at **Dublin Tourism** (Map pp66–7) in St Andrew's Church, Suffolk St.

The **Dublin City Tour** (adult/child/student €14/6/12.50; ☎ tours every 15min 9.30am–4.30pm) is a 1½-hour hop-on-hop-off tour you can join at any of the 19 designated stops covering the city

centre's major attractions; admission to the sights isn't included. The **Ghost Bus Tour** (adult €25; 🗓️ tours 8pm Mon-Fri, 7pm & 9.30pm Sat & Sun) is a popular 2¼-hour tour of graveyards and 'haunted' places, while **Coast & Castles** (adult/child €22/12; 🗓️ tours 10am & 2pm) takes in the Botanic Gardens in Glasnevin, the Casino at Marino, Malahide Castle and Howth, all in about three hours. The **South Coast & Gardens Tour** (adult/child €25/12; 🗓️ tours 11am) takes around 4½ hours and runs along the stretch of coastline between Dun Laoghaire and Killiney before turning inland into Wicklow and on to Powerscourt Estate (admission included). Other options include the following:

City Sightseeing (Map pp102–3; www.citysightseeing.co.uk; Dublin Tourism, 14 Upper O'Connell St; adult/child/family €16/7/38; 🗓️ tours every 8–15min 9am–6pm) A typical tour should last around 1½ hours and lead you up and down O'Connell St, past Trinity College and St Stephen's Green, before heading up to the Guinness Storehouse and back around the north quays, via the main entrance to Phoenix Park.

Grayline Dublin Tour (Map pp102–3; ☎️ 872 9010; www.irishcitytours.com; 33 Bachelor's Walk; adult/child/family €15/12.50/36; 🗓️ tours every 15min 9.30am–5pm Sep–Jun, 9.30am–5.30pm Jul & Aug) Another hop-on-hop-off tour of the city's greatest bits, with stops en route at Trinity College, the Guinness Storehouse, Dvblinia and Kilmainham Gaol. A straight-through tour without getting off takes about 1½ hours – but what's the point in that? You can also arrange tours from Dublin Tourism (Map pp66–7), Suffolk St.

Wild Wicklow Tour (☎️ 280 1899; www.discoverdublin.ie; adult/child €28/25; 🗓️ tours 9.10am) Award-winning and lots of fun, this 8½-hour top tour does a quick spin of the city's main attractions before heading southwards along the coast to County Wicklow, bringing its high-energy buzz to Glendalough and the Sally Gap. Book at Dublin Tourism (Map pp66–7) in St Andrew's Church, Suffolk St.

Carriage

Is there anything more romantic than a horse-drawn carriage clippity-clopping around the city centre? Now add the groups of drunken stag weekenders shouting at passers-by as the carriage driver laughs resignedly at their terrible jokes...you get the picture. Half-hour tours cost up to €60, but different length trips can be negotiated: fix a price *before* the driver says giddy-up. Carriages take four or five people and are found primarily at the top of Grafton St, by St Stephen's Green.

Musical

Dublin Musical Pub Crawl (Map p85; ☎️ 478 0193; www.discoverdublin.com; 58–59 Fleet St; adult/student €12/10; 🗓️ tours 7.30pm daily Apr–Oct, 7.30pm Thu–Sat Nov–Mar) The story of Irish traditional music and its influence on contemporary styles is explained and demonstrated by two expert musicians in a number of Temple Bar pubs over 2½ hours. Tours meet upstairs in the Oliver St John Gogarty pub and are highly recommended.

Private Tours

Accredited guides can be contacted via the **tourist board** (☎️ 602 4000). They cost an average of €100 per day for an English-speaking guide and €125 for other languages. A reputable firm that hires out guides is **Meridien Tour Guides** (Map pp66–7; ☎️ 677 6336; 26 South Frederick St).

Walking

1916 Rebellion Walking Tour (Map pp66–7; ☎️ 676 2493; www.1916rising.com; adult/child €10/free; 🗓️ tours 11.30am & 2.30pm Thu–Sat, 11.30am Tue–Wed, 1pm Sun Mar–Oct) The Easter Rising was the seminal event in the struggle to establish a modern nation, and this absolutely superb 1½-hour tour – starting in the International Bar, Wicklow St – tells it exactly as it was, with a decent sprinkling of humour and irreverence to boot. After all, what good are heroes if you can't poke some fun at them? The guides – all Trinity graduates – are uniformly excellent and will not say no to the offer of a pint back in the International at tour's end.

Dublin Footsteps Walking Tours (Map pp66–7; ☎️ 496 0641; 78 Grafton St; adult €10; 🗓️ tours 10.30am Mon, Wed, Fri & Sat Jun–Sep) Literature and Georgian architecture are woven together on this two-hour tour that departs from the Bewley's Building on Grafton St and finishes at the Powerscourt Townhouse (where you get a complimentary cup of decent Italian coffee). It covers the lives and works of the big guns: Joyce, Wilde, Shaw and Yeats, as well as a host of others.

IWALKS

If you fancy a go-it-alone guided walk, why not download one of Pat Liddy's excellent **iWalks** (to subscribe, go to www.visitdublin.com/iwalks/iwalks.xml), which you can play on your ipod or equivalent mp3 player. All you have to do is subscribe to the podcasts at the above address (or search for them on iTunes). There are a bunch of walks, from tours of the city's different districts to walks tailored to historical, architectural and activities themes.

Dublin Literary Pub Crawl (Map pp66–7; ☎️ 454 0228; www.dublinpubcrawl.com; adult/student €12/10; 🗓️ tours 7.30pm daily year-round, noon Sun Apr–Nov, Thu–Sun Dec–Mar) A tour of pubs associated with famous Dublin writers is a sure-fire recipe for success, and this 2½-hour tour/performance by two actors – which includes them acting out the funny bits – is a riotous laugh. There's plenty of drink taken, which makes it all the more popular. It leaves from the Duke on Duke St; get there by 7pm to reserve a spot for the evening tour.

James Joyce Walking Tour (Map pp102–3; ☎️ 878 8547; 35 North Great George's St; adult/student €10/9; 🗓️ tours 2pm Tue, Thu & Sat) Joyce lived, was schooled and lost his virginity on the north side – and he put it all down on paper with cartographical precision from his self-imposed continental exile. You can explore all of the north-side attractions associated with the bespectacled one on a 1¼-hour tour run by the **James Joyce Centre** (p108).

Pat Liddy Walking Tours (☎️ 831 1109; www.walkingtours.ie; adult/child/student €12/5/10) We highly recommend these award-winning themed tours of the city by well-known Dublin historian Pat Liddy, which include Viking & Medieval Dublin (10.30am Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday, 2.30pm Saturday), the Historic Northside (10.30am Wednesday and Friday) and Georgian and Victorian Splendours (10.30am Monday, 2.30pm Friday). All tours depart from Dublin Tourism (Map pp66–7) on Suffolk St. He also has a bunch of podcast walks available for download (see iWalks boxed text, *opposite*).

Zozimus Ghostly Experience (Map pp66–7; ☎️ 661 8646; www.zozimus.com; adult €10; 🗓️ tours 9pm May–Oct, 7pm Nov–Apr) Departing from the gates of Dublin Castle, this is a theatrical and highly entertaining exploration of the ghoulish side of medieval Dublin. The costumed guide recounts stories of murders, great escapes and mythical events over the 1½-hour experience. You'll need to book in advance.

POST

The Irish postal service, An Post, is reliable, efficient and usually on time. Post boxes in Dublin are usually green and have two slots: one for 'Dublin only', the other for 'All Other Places'. Postal rates (priority/first class) are as follows:

Type	Ireland	Britain	Europe	Other
letter/postcard	€0.55	€0.78	€0.78	€0.78 (up to 100g)
package	€1.30	€2.85	€2.85	€2.85 (250g)
package	€5.70	€7.25	€7.25	€10.40 (1kg)

First-class payment should ensure next-day delivery within Dublin, and following-day

delivery to country areas. Economy (second-class) rates are slightly cheaper, but delivery is considerably slower.

Mail can be addressed to *poste restante* at any post office; it's officially held for two weeks only. If you write 'hold for collection' on the envelope it *may* be kept for a longer period.

All mail to Britain and Europe goes by air, so there is no need to use airmail envelopes or stickers.

Post Offices

There are a couple of post offices in the city centre:

An Post (Map pp66–7; ☎️ 705 8206; St Andrew's St; 🗓️ 8.30am–5pm Mon–Fri)

General Post Office (GPO; Map pp102–3; ☎️ 705 7000; O'Connell St; 🗓️ 8am–8pm Mon–Sat, 10am–6.30pm Sun & holidays)

Postal Codes

Postal codes in Dublin (presented as 'Dublin + number') are fairly straightforward. Their main feature is that all odd numbers refer to areas north of the Liffey and all even ones to areas south of the Liffey. They fan out numerically from the city centre, so the city centre to the north of the river is Dublin 1 and its southern equivalent is Dublin 2.

RADIO

Radio na Telefís Éireann (RTE; www.rte.ie) is Ireland's government-sponsored national broadcasting body and runs four radio stations. Licensed, independent broadcasters are gradually filling up the airwaves, replacing the old pirate stations that are being perpetually closed down. Most stations now have an online live stream, so you can listen in before you get here. The following are the big FM players:

98FM (98FM; www.98fm.ie) A commercial music station playing a predictable range of popular tunes.

FM 104 (104.4FM; www.fm104.ie) Commercial radio playing Top 40 tunes almost exclusively.

Newstalk 106-108 (106–108FM; www.newstalk.ie) National news, current affairs and sport talk radio.

Phantom FM (105.2FM; www.phantom.ie) New alternative rock music station.

Q 102 (102.2FM; www.q102.ie) Strictly middle-of-the-road easy listening.

Radio Na Gaeltachta (92.6-94.4FM; www.rte.ie) A state-sponsored Irish-language station; culture, music and current affairs.

RTE Radio 1 (88-94FM; www.rte.ie) Culture, current affairs and music.

RTE Radio 2 (90.2-92.4FM; www.rte.ie) Commercial radio with some evening alternative shows.

Spin 103.8 (103.8FM; www.spin1038.com) Chart music and chat for 18-24 year-olds.

Today FM (100-102FM; www.todayfm.com) The biggest independent radio station, with music and current affairs.

Other smaller stations include the following:

Anna Livia (103.2FM) A community radio station that plays mostly alternative music.

Beaumont Hospital Radio (107.6FM) A light programming schedule of talk and music.

Dublin's Country (106.8FM) Banjos, slide guitars and doleful lyrics about 'mamma'.

Dublin South FM (104.9FM) Community radio, only on from 4pm to 9pm.

Lyrical FM (96-99FM) State-sponsored classical music radio.

Mater Hospital Radio (107.4FM) Community-based hospital radio.

Premier (92.6FM) Playing mostly hits from the '70s and '80s.

Radio na Liffe (106.4FM) Irish-language radio with the best and most wide-ranging music programmes on the airwaves.

SAFETY

Dublin is a safe city by any standards, except maybe those set by the Swiss. Basically, act as you would at home. However, certain parts of the city are pretty dodgy due to the presence of drug addicts and other questionable types, including north and northeast of Gardiner St and along parts of Dorset St, on the north side, and west along Thomas St, on the south side.

TELEPHONE

You shouldn't have any problems making phone calls to anyone, anywhere.

Prices are lower in the evening, after 6pm, and weekends. Phone calls from hotel rooms cost twice the standard rate. You can send and receive faxes from post offices (or most hotels). Local telephone calls from a public phone in Dublin cost €0.30 for around three minutes (around €0.60 to a mobile), regardless of when you call.

The number for local and national directory enquiries is ☎ 11811. For international it's ☎ 11818.

Pre-paid phonecards by Eircom and private operators are available in newsagencies and post offices, and work from all payphones. For cheap international phone calls, try the following phone centres:

Talk Is Cheap (Map pp102-3; ☎ 872 2235; 87 Capel St; ☎ 9am-midnight)

Talk Is Cheap (Map pp102-3; ☎ 874 6013; 55 Moore St; ☎ 9am-midnight)

Talk Shop (Map p85; ☎ 672 7212; www.talkshop.ie; 20 Temple Lane; ☎ 9am-11pm)

Talk Shop (Map pp102-3; ☎ 872 0200; www.talkshop.ie; 5 Upper O'Connell St; ☎ 9am-11pm)

Direct Home Call Codes

Instead of placing reverse-charge calls through the Dublin operator, you can dial direct to your home-country operator and then reverse the charges or charge the call to a local phone credit card. To use the home-direct service dial the codes listed here, the area code and, in most cases, the number you want. Your home-country operator will come on the line before the call goes through.

Australia (☎ 1800 550 061 + number)

France (☎ 1800 551 033 + number)

Italy (☎ 1800 550 039 + number)

New Zealand (☎ 1800 550 064 + number)

Spain (☎ 1800 550 034 + number)

UK – BT (☎ 1800 550 044 + number)

USA – AT&T (☎ 1800 550 000 + number)

USA – MCI (☎ 1800 551 001 + number)

USA – Sprint (☎ 1800 552 001 + number)

Mobile Phones

Virtually everyone in Dublin has a mobile phone. Ireland uses the GSM 900/1800 cellular phone system, which is compatible with European and Australian, but not North American or Japanese, phones.

There are four Irish service providers: Vodafone (087), O2 (086), Meteor (085) and 3 (083). All have links with most international GSM providers, which allow you to 'roam' onto a local service on arrival. This means you can use your mobile phone to text and make local calls, but you will be charged at the highest possible rate. You can also purchase a pay-as-you-go package (for around €70) with a local provider with your own mobile phone.

Phone Codes

The area code for Dublin is 01. When calling Dublin from abroad, dial your international access code, followed by 353 and 1 (dropping the 0 that precedes it). To make international calls from Dublin, first dial 00, then the country code, followed by the local area code and number.

TIME

In winter, Dublin (and the rest of Ireland) is on GMT, also known as Universal Time Coordinated (UTC), the same as Britain. In summer, the clock shifts to GMT plus one hour. When it's noon in Dublin in summer, it's 3am in Los Angeles and Vancouver, 7am in New York and Toronto, 1pm in Paris, 8pm in Singapore, and 10pm in Sydney.

TOILETS

Forget about the few public facilities on the street: they're dirty and usually overrun with drug dealers and addicts. All shopping centres have public toilets; if you're stranded, go into any bar or hotel.

TOURIST INFORMATION

You'll find everything you need to kick-start your visit at **Dublin Tourism Centre** (Map pp66-7; ☎ 605 7700; www.visitdublin.com; St Andrew's Church, 2 Suffolk St; ☎ 9am-7pm Mon-Sat, 10.30am-3pm Sun Jul & Aug, 9am-5.30pm Mon-Sat Sep-Jun). Besides general visitor information on Dublin and Ireland, there's also an accommodation booking service, a book and gift shop, an Amex bureau de change, a branch of Ticketmaster (for tickets to all major events in the city, including concerts), local and national bus information, rail information, a car-hire desk, tour information and bookings, and a café.

There are several other tourism centre branches throughout the city:

14 Upper O'Connell St (Map pp102-3; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Sat)

Baggot St Bridge (Map pp78-9; foyer of Fáilte Ireland office, Wilton Tee; ☎ 9am-5.15pm Mon-Fri)

Dublin Airport (Arrivals Hall; ☎ 8am-10pm)

Dun Laoghaire (Ferryport; ☎ 10am-1pm & 2-6pm Mon-Sat)

None of these tourist information offices will provide information over the phone – they are exclusively walk-in services. All telephone bookings and reservations are operated by

Gulliver Ireland (www.gulliver.ie), which is a computerised information and reservation service available at all walk-in offices or from anywhere in the world. The service provides up-to-date information on events, attractions and transport, and also allows you to book accommodation. To access the service in Ireland, call ☎ 1800 668 668; from Britain, call ☎ 00800 6686 6866; from the rest of the world, call ☎ 00 353 669 792083.

For information on the rest of the country, call into the head office of **Fáilte Ireland** (Map pp78-9; ☎ 1850 230 330; www.ireland.travel.com; Wilton Tee, Baggot St Bridge; ☎ 9am-5.15pm Mon-Fri). Web-based tourist information on Dublin is available at the following sites:

Daft.ie (www.daft.ie) The best website for all kinds of house and flat rentals, including short-term leases.

Dublinks (www.dublinks.com) A catch-all website with info on things like shopping, parking, hotels, restaurants and other necessary titbits.

DublinTourist.com (www.dublintourist.com) An excellent and thorough guide to virtually every aspect of the city, from booking a room to going for a drink.

Lunch.ie (www.lunch.ie) Sponsored by Newstalk 106 and *Dubliner* magazine, this offers you the chance to get to know the city by being taken to lunch by a local stranger and then returning the favour quid pro quo: a new slant on 'there's no such thing as a free lunch'.

Pigsback.com (www.pigsback.com) Offers all kinds of city-wide discounts, from cinema tickets to free lunches.

Temple Bar (www.templebar.ie) Website dedicated to Dublin's cultural quarter.

TRAVELLERS WITH DISABILITIES

Despite the fact that many of the city's hotels, restaurants and sights are increasingly being adapted for people with disabilities, there's still a long way to go – especially as there still exists an attitude that can best be summarised as: 'if a problem comes up, we'll find a solution somehow'. Fáilte Ireland's annual accommodation guide, *Be Our Guest*, indicates which places are accessible by wheelchair. Public transport can be a nightmare, although a limited number of buses are now equipped with electronic elevators for wheelchairs, and nearly all DART stations have ramps and/or elevators.

The **AccessService** (Map pp102-3; ☎ 8747503; www.comhairle.ie; 44 North Great George's St), which is part of the Social Service Board (Comhairle), provides

plenty of helpful information regarding Dublin's accessibility to wheelchairs.

Another useful organisation is the **Irish Wheelchair Association** (☎ 818 6400; Áras Chúchulain, Blackheath Dr, Clontarf, Dublin 3).

VISAS

UK nationals don't need a passport to visit Dublin, but are advised to carry one (or some other form of photo identification) to prove that they are a UK national. It's also necessary to have a passport or photo ID when changing travellers cheques or hiring a car. EU nationals can enter Ireland with either a passport or a national ID card.

Visitors from outside the EU will need a passport, which should remain valid for at least six months after their intended arrival.

For citizens of EU states and most Western countries, including Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the USA, no visa is required to visit either the Republic or Northern Ireland. Citizens of India, China and many African countries do need a visa for the Republic. Full visa requirements for visiting the Republic are available online at www.gov.ie/iveagh/services/visas.

EU nationals are allowed to stay indefinitely, while other visitors can usually remain for three to six months. To stay longer in the Republic, contact the local garda station or the **Department of Foreign Affairs** (Map pp66–7; ☎ 478 0822; www.gov.ie/iveagh; Iveagh House, 80 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2).

Although you don't need an onward or return ticket to enter Ireland, it could help if there's any doubt that you have sufficient funds to support yourself while in Dublin.

WOMEN TRAVELLERS

Women travellers will probably find Dublin a blissfully relaxing experience, with little risk of hassle on the street or anywhere else. Nonetheless, you still need to take elementary safety precautions. Walking alone at night, especially in less salubrious parts of the city, and hitching are probably unwise. Report serious problems to the garda.

There's little need to worry about what you wear in Dublin; the climate will probably dictate your choice of clothing anyway. Finding contraception is not the problem it once was, although anyone on the pill should bring

adequate supplies. For female health issues, including contraceptives and the morning-after pill (€39), contact the **Well Woman Clinic** (Map pp102–3; ☎ 661 0083; 35 Lower Liffey St); there's another office at **Pembroke Road** (Map p99; ☎ 660 9860; 67 Pembroke Rd).

In the unlikely event of a sexual assault, get in touch with the police and the **Rape Crisis Centre** (Map pp78–9; ☎ 1800 778 888, 661 4911; 70 Lower Leeson St).

WORK

Citizens of other EU countries are able to work legally in Dublin without a visa. Non-EU citizens require a work permit or work visa, although there is plenty of black-market labour about, especially in low-paying seasonal jobs in the tourist industry. Visiting full-time US students aged 18 and over can get a four-month work permit for Ireland through **CIEE** (☎ 617 247 0350; www.ciee.org; 2nd fl, 3 Copley Pl, Boston, MA 02116). Contact your local Irish embassy for more information. Work-related information can be found at the following:

Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment (Map pp78–9; ☎ 631 2121; www.entemp.ie; Davitt House, 65a Adelaide Rd, Dublin 2)

Nixers.com (www.nixers.com) An excellent online resource listing jobs in Dublin.

Working Ireland (Map p85; ☎ 677 0300; www.workingireland.ie; 26 Eustace St; 🕒 noon–6pm Mon–Fri) An excellent resource is this one-stop, state-funded help centre which, for €35 a year, will lay out your CV, set up interviews, help find accommodation, recommend language courses and offer discounts on tours and phone calls.

A large number of recruitment agencies in Dublin will locate work for non-nationals, whether they be travelling backpackers or long-term residents in Dublin. These include the following:

Brightwater Selection (Map pp78–9; ☎ 662 1000; 36 North Merrion Sq, Dublin 2)

Careers Register (Map pp78–9; ☎ 679 8900; 26 Lower Baggot St, Dublin 2)

Global Partnerships (Map pp78–9; ☎ 661 8740; 95 Lower Baggot St, Dublin 2)

Planet Recruitment (Map pp102–3; ☎ 874 9901; 21 Eden Quay, Dublin 1)

Reed Recruitment Agency (Map pp66–7; ☎ 670 4466; www.reed.ie; 47 Dawson St, Dublin 2)

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