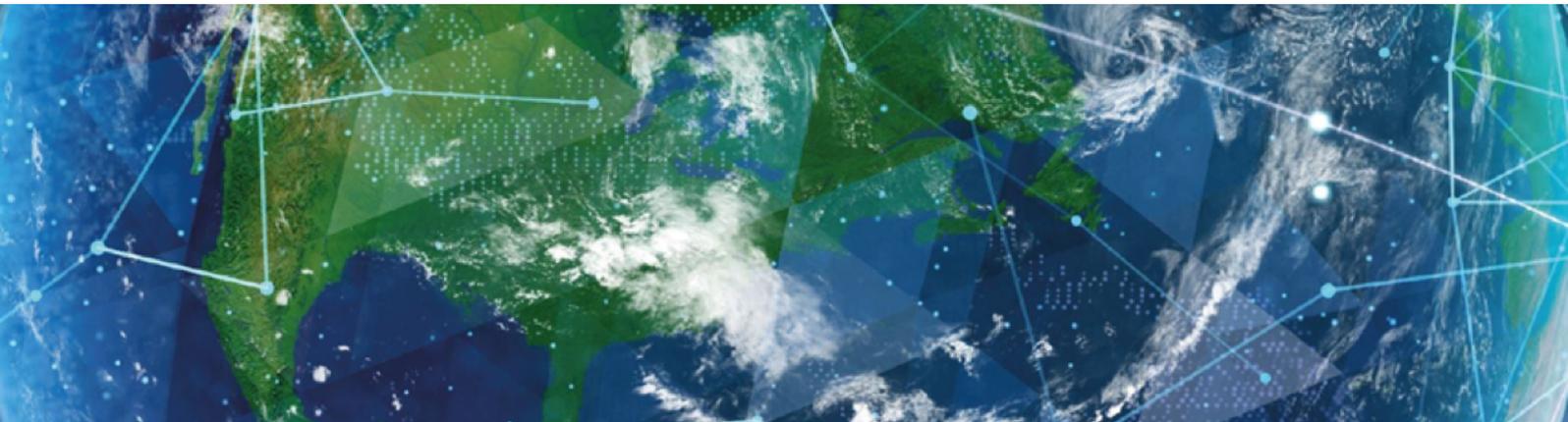


Country Travel Advice Report

Ireland

Overall Risk Rating: **Low | 2.00**



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Country Risk Rating Breakdown

Country Overall Risk Rating				Low 2.00
Security	Environmental	Infrastructural	Political	Medical
Low 2.00	Low 2.00	Negligible - Low 1.75	Negligible - Low 1.75	Moderate 3.25

Country Overview

Low | 2.00

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

Low | 2.00

Overview

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.

Political

Negligible - Low | 1.75

Overview

Ireland has a well-developed political system and has enjoyed some level of political stability in recent years, although a shifting tendency towards minority or coalition governments has led to more frequent leadership challenges and changes of government since the 1990s. The government is led by a prime minister or Taoiseach, generally the leader of the largest party in parliament, while a directly elected president acts as the ceremonial head of state. Michael Martin has been in office as Taoiseach since June 2020.

Although the country entered a major recession following the 2008 financial crisis, the economy has since largely recovered and growth has returned to levels similar to those seen before the crash. The peaceful industrial relations climate also tends to work in the country's favor. However, disputes over the future status of the border with Northern Ireland as a result of the UK's departure from the European Union have the potential to create political and economic uncertainty in the medium term.

Corruption is not a significant obstacle for travelers in Ireland, although companies continue to experience bribery risks at the local level in relation to public procurement and the issuing of building permits.

Infrastructural

Negligible - Low | 1.75

Overview

Ireland's transport and utilities infrastructure is modern and highly developed, with service delivery failures being relatively uncommon. 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.

Although road conditions are good, particularly in the east and urban areas, driving on the left-hand side of the road means it can take a while for international travelers to get used to driving in Ireland. Some roads in rural areas are narrow and winding and can be difficult for travelers to navigate if unused to local driving conditions.

Environmental

Low | 2.00

Overview

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.

Medical

Moderate | 3.25

Overview

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.

Fact Box

Government Type	Parliamentary Republic
Population	5,011,102 (2017)
Currency	Euro
Languages	English (official), Irish (official) also spoken by approximately 38.7%
Time Zone	UTC
Religions	Roman Catholic 78.3%, Church of Ireland 2.7%, other Christian 1.6%, Orthodox 1.3%, Muslim 1.3%, other 2.4%, none 9.8%, unspecified 2.6%
Traffic	Drives on the left
Plug Types	Type G
Ethnicities	Irish 85%, other white 10%, Other, including Asian and black 5%
Drinking Water	Safe to Drink
Additional Information	<p>Significant Dates (2020):</p> <p>January 1 - New Year's Day March 17 - Saint Patrick's Day April 10 - Good Friday April 22 - Easter Day April 23 - Easter Monday May 5 - May Bank Holiday June 1 - June Bank Holiday August 5 - August Bank Holiday October 26 - October Bank Holiday December 25 - Christmas Day December 26 - St. Stephen's Day</p>
International Country Code	+353

Travel Risk Advice

Vaccinations and Key Health Risks

You should visit a health care professional at least four to six weeks prior to the trip. Travellers 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.

Dependent on work, reason for travel, or underlying health conditions, some travellers may require vaccines from:

- Tetanus
- Rabies

Pre-departure

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

On Arrival

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

In Transit

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

At Your Hotel

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

In the Street

- 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. Travellers should exercise increased vigilance in crowded areas. If travellers 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, travellers should avoid demonstrations, protests and rallies, which may present a dynamic and volatile environment.
- Travellers should be aware that photographing government buildings or infrastructure in Dublin may result in detention by authorities.
- Crime rates are generally low, although travellers are sometimes targeted by opportunistic thieves. Travellers should avoid overt displays of wealth, dress discreetly and appropriately to the environment, not display money, jewellery or valuables and maintain a low profile.
- Travellers 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.
- Travellers should ensure that their mobile phone is carried with sufficient battery life and programmed with appropriate emergency numbers. Travellers should also carry an ID card or passport and emergency medical information.
- Travellers should be aware of their location and surroundings, avoiding high-crime areas and walking through dimly lit streets after dark. Travellers should know routes and carry a map if necessary, but keep it concealed.
- In crowded situations and tourist locations, travellers should be aware of jostling as this may be used as a ploy by pick-pockets. Travellers should also be aware of people loitering, and attackers who may first pass their victim to attack from behind.

- Travellers should ignore verbal 'bait' from passers-by, not get into an argument and avoid eye contact with strangers.

COVID-19 Information

Total Cases (ECDC) (Updated on Monday): 1,513,748

Weekly percentage increase in cases:0.53%

Travel Restrictions: Internal Restrictions Authorities have lifted domestic restrictions on activity imposed as part of the response to the Omicron variant of COVID-19 as of Jan. 22 Hospitality venues can resume normal trading hours and capacity limits have been removed for public and private events. COVID-19 passes confirming the holder is vaccinated against or recovered from COVID-19 are no longer necessary to access indoor catering, fitness, and leisure services and hotels. Authorities are also relaxing work from home requirements from Jan. 24, to allow a phased return to the workplace. Authorities will ease domestic restrictions imposed as part of the response to the Omicron variant of COVID-19 from Feb. 28. From this date, facemasks will no longer be required in most settings except on public transport and in medical facilities.

International Travel Restrictions All travelers may enter Ireland without restriction. Travelers are no longer required to show proof of vaccination or recovery to enter the country. Travelers are not required to present a recent PCR test or self-isolate upon arrival. Furthermore, arrivals need not fill out a passenger locator form before travel.

Additional Information: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/e885b2-covid-19-coronavirus-travel-advice/>

Threat Scale Reference

Threat Rating	Implication
1 - Negligible	The operating environment is benign and there are only isolated threats to business and/or travel.
2 – Low	The operating environment is generally permissive, although there are a limited number of threats to business and/or travel that requires basic mitigations.
3 – Moderate	The operating environment is challenging and there are serious threats to business and/or travel that requires some mitigations.
4 – High	The operating environment is hostile and there are significant threats to business, personal safety and/or travel, requiring comprehensive mitigations and planning.
5 – Extreme	The operating environment is characterised by pervasive direct threats to business, personal safety and/or travel, requiring strict risk management procedures.

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