

IE Planning Your Irish Experience

Everything You Need to Know Before You Go

Thinking about joining us in Ireland? Already booked? Or just trying to work out how everything works?

You're in the right place.

We've put together the most useful information about travelling with Irish Experience Tours — from where our tours start and finish to luggage, accommodation, airport transfers and those little practical things that are good to know before booking.

And if you've already booked — brilliant! Save this guide somewhere handy for later. 🍀



HOW OUR TOURS WORK

Irish Experience Tours are small-group, easygoing tours designed to let you experience Ireland without the stress of organising everything yourself.

You'll travel with one of our experienced Irish Tour Leaders in a comfortable small-group touring vehicle, discovering famous highlights as well as the smaller places, stories and experiences that make Ireland special.

Our itineraries combine organised experiences with free time, so you don't spend your entire holiday being marched from one attraction to another!

Different tours have different itineraries, accommodation arrangements and departure dates, so always check the individual tour page or your booking confirmation for the details specific to your chosen tour.



WHERE DO TOURS START?

Unless otherwise stated for your particular tour or departure, our tours depart from:

Point A Hotel Dublin Parnell Street

Moore Lane / Parnell Street

Dublin 1



Departure Time

Our standard departure time is:

8:30am

We ask guests to arrive at approximately **8:15am** to meet their Tour Leader and get settled before departure.

There's no need to arrive significantly earlier.



Important

Tour dates and departure arrangements can vary.

If you have already booked, the departure date shown on your individual booking confirmation is the correct date for your tour.

Always check your booking confirmation before making travel arrangements.



WHERE SHOULD I STAY IN DUBLIN?

If you're planning to spend some time in Dublin before and/or after your tour, there are plenty of accommodation options to choose from.

Our tours **(except for the 6 Day Legends of North & West)** depart from and return to **Point A Hotel, Parnell Street, Dublin**, making it a very convenient option if you'd like to stay close to the tour meeting point.



Staying at Point A Hotel

Point A is a **modern, comfortable city-centre hotel**, but it's worth knowing that some of the bedrooms can be quite compact.

If you're happy with a smaller, modern room and like the convenience of staying directly at our tour departure and return point, it's a great option.



15% Discount for Irish Experience Tours Guests

We have an exclusive **15% discount** available for Irish Experience Tours guests:

Discount Code: 17IRIS

To receive the discount, book **directly through the Point A Hotel website** and enter the code when making your reservation.

Please note that the discount is subject to availability and blackout dates, particularly during busy periods and major events in Dublin. We recommend booking as early as possible.



Prefer a Hotel with Potentially Larger Rooms?

There are several good alternatives within a very short walk of our departure point:

Leonardo Hotel Dublin Parnell Street

Located right next door to Point A.

Maldron Hotel Parnell Square

Approximately a 4–5 minute walk.

Holiday Inn Express Dublin City Centre

Approximately a 4–5 minute walk away on Upper O'Connell Street.

Academy Plaza Hotel

Also approximately a 4–5 minute walk and very convenient for the tour departure.



Do I Have to Stay Near Point A?

Absolutely not.

You are welcome to stay **anywhere in Dublin**. There is no requirement to stay at Point A Hotel or any of the hotels listed above.

You simply need to make your way to Point A on the morning your tour begins.

Our tours depart at **8:30am sharp**, and we ask guests to arrive at approximately **8:15am** to meet their Tour Leader, check in and load luggage.

If you're staying elsewhere in Dublin, just allow yourself a little extra time that morning for traffic.

Point A Hotel Dublin Parnell Street

Moore Lane / Parnell Street, Dublin 1

 **View Point A Hotel on Google Maps**

 **Book Point A Hotel Directly**

We hope this helps when choosing your Dublin accommodation — whether you prefer the convenience of staying right at our meeting point or somewhere else in the city.

WHERE DO TOURS FINISH?

Unless otherwise stated for your particular tour, our standard Dublin end point is:

Point A Hotel, Parnell Street

Our approximate arrival time is:

4:30pm – 5:30pm

Please don't make tight onward travel arrangements

Return times are approximate.

Traffic, weather, road conditions and how the final day progresses can all affect our arrival time into Dublin.

For that reason, **we don't recommend booking flights, trains or other time-sensitive onward travel based closely on our estimated return time.**

If you're staying in Dublin that evening, there's generally no need to pre-book a taxi for an exact collection time. You can arrange one once the tour arrives.



TOURS WITH A TRAIN TRANSFER

Some itineraries use a train transfer back to Dublin.

This currently applies to:

- 8 Day Castles & Coasts (Sunday Transfer from Cork to Dublin)
- 5 Day Giant Irish (Monday Transfer from Westport to Dublin)
- 5 Day South West (Saturday Transfer from Galway to Dublin)

For these tours, the Dublin end point is:

Heuston Station, Dublin

The 6 Day Legends of North & West is a train transfer from Dublin Heuston to Galway City at 8 am (Sunday Transfer from Dublin to Galway)

Heuston Station has excellent connections to Dublin city centre, including the LUAS Red Line, Dublin Bus and taxi services.

Please check your individual tour information for the arrangements that apply to your chosen departure.



HOW MUCH LUGGAGE CAN I BRING?

We're a small-group tour company, so we travel in smaller touring vehicles rather than huge coaches.

For this reason, we ask guests to pack reasonably lightly.

Each guest may bring:

1 main suitcase or rucksack

Ideally no more than **20kg / 44lbs**

PLUS

1 small daypack

Your daypack is handy for the things you'll want during the day — water, camera, rain jacket, medication and anything else you like to keep close by.

Please avoid oversized suitcases or bringing multiple large bags per person, as luggage space in our vehicles is limited.

And trust us — when you're moving between some of Ireland's lovely little hotels and guesthouses, you'll be glad you didn't bring the kitchen sink! 😊

WHAT ARE THE ACCOMMODATIONS LIKE?

One of the lovely things about touring Ireland is that accommodation can vary considerably from place to place.

Depending on the accommodation package and tour you've selected, you may stay in a mixture of hotels, guesthouses and locally run properties.

Some will be more traditional, while others may be more upscale.

If you've selected our **Classic B&B/Hotel Package**, accommodation can vary in style and setting from traditional affordable stays to more upscale guesthouses and hotels.

Classic accommodation includes:

- Private rooms
- Private en-suite bathrooms
- Breakfast
- Properties rated 3 stars or above
- A mixture of smaller locally run properties, guesthouses and hotels

Because many Irish properties are older or independently operated, lifts/elevators may not always be available and room layouts and bed sizes can vary.

That's all part of travelling around Ireland rather than staying in the same chain hotel every night.



WILL WE STAY MORE THAN ONE NIGHT IN SOME PLACES?

This depends on your chosen itinerary.

Where possible, our tours include two-night stays so guests can settle into an area and enjoy it rather than packing their suitcase every morning.

However, Ireland may look small on a map, but there's a lot to experience!

Some one-night stays are necessary to allow us to explore different regions without spending excessive amounts of time travelling backwards and forwards.

Check the itinerary for your chosen tour to see exactly where you'll stay each night.



IS THERE WI-FI ON THE TOUR VEHICLE?

We don't currently provide Wi-Fi on our touring vehicles.

And there's actually a little thinking behind that.

Some of the best moments on our tours happen while travelling — chatting with your Tour Leader, getting to know the other people in your group, hearing stories and simply looking out the window at Ireland going past.

We'd rather encourage a little conversation than have an entire bus silently scrolling! 😊

Hotels generally provide Wi-Fi, and travellers who would like mobile internet while exploring Ireland can also consider an international mobile plan or one of the many eSIM options available.

GETTING FROM DUBLIN AIRPORT TO THE CITY

There are several straightforward ways to travel between Dublin Airport and Dublin city centre, including:

-  Taxis
-  Airport coach services
-  Public buses
-  Public transport using a Leap Card

We've created a separate airport transfer guide explaining the different options.

 See our Dublin Airport to City Centre Guide [here](#).

WHAT'S THE WEATHER REALLY LIKE?

There's an old joke that Ireland can have four seasons in one day.

Unfortunately, there's some truth in it!

The secret isn't bringing your entire wardrobe — it's **layers**.

A light waterproof jacket, comfortable footwear and clothing that can be layered will serve you far better than trying to predict the Irish weather.

Our tours continue in normal Irish weather, so come prepared to embrace a little sunshine, wind and the occasional shower.

Sometimes all before lunch. 



HOW ACTIVE ARE THE TOURS?

Our tours are designed to be **easygoing and accessible**, with experiences suitable for a wide range of ages and fitness levels.

Many walks and activities are optional, allowing you to choose what suits you.

You don't need to be an athlete to experience Ireland with us.

If you have questions about the physical requirements of a particular tour or activity, please ask us before booking and we'll be happy to explain what's involved.



WHAT'S INCLUDED?

Inclusions vary between tours.

Your individual itinerary clearly lists what's included in the price — such as accommodation, breakfast, attractions, experiences and other activities.

You'll also have opportunities for meals, drinks and optional experiences at your own expense.

Before booking, check the **Tour Inclusions** and **Tour Exclusions** on your chosen itinerary so you know exactly what's covered.



PASSPORTS, VISAS & NORTHERN IRELAND

Please check the entry requirements applicable to **your own nationality and passport** before travelling.

This is particularly important if your itinerary includes **Northern Ireland**, which is part of the United Kingdom and has different entry requirements from the Republic of Ireland.

Depending on your nationality, you may require a **UK Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA)** or other permission to enter the UK.

Requirements can change, so please use official government information when checking what applies to you.

Our FAQ has further guidance and links to the relevant official resources.



TRAVEL INSURANCE

We strongly recommend purchasing comprehensive travel insurance **as soon as you book your trip**.

Your policy should provide appropriate cover for things such as:

- Trip cancellation
- Medical treatment
- Travel disruption
- Delayed or cancelled flights
- Lost or delayed luggage
- Activities you intend to participate in

Nobody books a holiday expecting something to go wrong, but travel insurance can make a huge difference when circumstances unexpectedly change.



STAYING CONNECTED IN IRELAND

Wi-Fi is widely available in hotels, cafés and other businesses throughout Ireland.

If you'd like mobile data while travelling, check international roaming options with your existing provider before leaving home.

Alternatively, eSIMs have become a very convenient option for international travellers and there are numerous providers offering Irish and European data packages.

STILL RESEARCHING YOUR TRIP?

Brilliant — take your time.

Choosing the right Ireland tour is about much more than counting how many attractions appear on an itinerary.

Think about:

How much of Ireland do you want to see?

How many days do you have?

Do you prefer a slower pace or covering more ground?

Are there particular places you absolutely want to visit?

Would you prefer more culture, scenery, history — or a bit of everything?

If you're not sure which Irish Experience Tour suits you best, just get in touch.

Tell us a little about what you'd love to experience in Ireland and we'll happily point you in the right direction.

ALREADY BOOKED? WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Fantastic — Ireland is officially on the horizon! 

After booking

Arrange your flights, travel insurance and any Dublin accommodation you need before or after your tour.

Before travelling

Read through your tour itinerary and FAQs, check passport/visa/ETA requirements and make sure you're happy with your luggage arrangements.

A few days before your tour

Double-check your individual booking confirmation and departure information.

On tour morning

Make your way to the designated meeting point, meet your Tour Leader and fellow travellers...

...and we'll take it from there. 🍀



GOT ANOTHER QUESTION?

There's a good chance somebody has asked us before!

Our FAQs answer more than 50 of the questions we receive most often, including:

-  Packing for Ireland
-  Irish weather
-  Money & tipping
-  Meals
-  Optional activities
-  Luggage
-  Travel insurance
-  Visas & UK ETA
-  Emergency contacts
-  Phones, Wi-Fi & charging
-  Tour departures
-  Airport transfers

 **Visit our FAQs here**

And if you can't find what you're looking for, just get in touch with the Irish Experience Tours team.

No question is too big or too small.



EXPERIENCE IRELAND WITH US

We believe the best way to experience Ireland isn't by rushing through it with a checklist.

It's hearing the stories.

Meeting the locals.

Finding the little places you weren't expecting.

Having a laugh with the people you're travelling with.

And having enough time to actually enjoy being here.

Whether you're still dreaming about Ireland or you've already booked your seat...

We can't wait to show you around.

Slán go fóill!

The Irish Experience Tours Team