

This information should be read in conjunction with our [general advice for motoring in Europe](#).

Drinking and driving: If the level of alcohol in the bloodstream is more than 0.08 per cent, severe penalties include fine and/or imprisonment plus disqualification. Random breath testing is now in force throughout Ireland.

Driving licence: Minimum age at which a UK licence holder may drive a temporarily imported car or motorcycle (exceeding 150cc) 17.

Fines: On-the-spot fines for parking and speeding offences. Wheel clamps are in use. In some areas parked cars can be towed away if causing an obstruction and a significant fee is charged for its release.

Fuel: Unleaded petrol (95 octane) and diesel available. No leaded petrol. Lead replacement petrol and LPG are extremely limited in Ireland. Petrol in a can is permitted but forbidden on board ferries. Credit cards accepted at most filling stations; check with your card issuer for usage in Ireland before travel.

Lights: Dipped headlights should be used in poor daytime visibility.

Motorcycles: Dipped headlights during the day compulsory. The wearing of crash helmets is compulsory for both driver and passenger.

Motor insurance: Third-party compulsory.

Passengers/children in cars: Children under 3 years of age may not travel in a car (other than a taxi) unless they are placed in an appropriate child restraint, they can travel on the front seat of the car if they are in a rear facing restraint system and the airbag is disabled.

Children over 3 who are under 1.5m and weigh less than 36kg must use an appropriate child restraint when travelling in cars fitted with seat belts. If the car is not equipped with seat belts they must travel on the rear seats.

Seat belts: Compulsory for front/rear seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

Speed limits: Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers: In built-up areas 50km/h, outside built-up areas 60-100km/h according to road signs and 120 km/h on motorways.

Compulsory equipment in Republic of Ireland:

- **Warning triangle** - for vehicles with an unladen weight exceeding 1,524kg (1.5 tons).

Other rules/requirements in Republic of Ireland:

Rule of the road is drive on the left; overtake on the right.

Horns must not be used between 2330 and 0700 hours.

Distances are given in kilometers.

Some level crossings have manual gates which motorists must open and close.

A GPS based navigation system which has maps indicating the location of fixed speed cameras must have the 'fixed speed camera PoI (Points of Interest)' function deactivated.

The use of radar detectors is prohibited; they can be confiscated by the Garda.

Barrier free tolling now operates on the M50 Dublin, your number plate will be recorded when you pass through the toll and the fee must be paid by 8pm the following day at the latest, this can be paid at any of the 'payzone' outlets. Further information can be found on the following website www.eflow.ie/

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