

Republic of Ireland (Western Europe)

Touring Tips



The following is additional to our [general advice for motoring in Europe](#).

Driving licence

You must be at least 17 years old to drive a temporarily imported car or motorcycle (exceeding 150cc).

Motor insurance

You must have a minimum of third-party cover.

Fuel

- Unleaded petrol (95 octane) and diesel are available.
- Leaded petrol is not available.
- Lead replacement petrol and LPG are both very hard to find in Ireland.
- You may carry spare petrol in a can but must not do so on board a ferry.
- Credit cards are accepted at most filling stations but you should check with your card issuer for usage in Ireland before travel.

Speed limits

(Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers)

- Built-up areas 50km/h (31mph)
- 30km/h (18mph) in Dublin, this speed limit is also being introduced in other areas
- Outside built-up areas 60-100km/h, (37-62mph) according to road signs
- Motorways 120 km/h (74mph)

Seat belts

Front and rear seat occupants must wear seat belts if fitted.

Passengers/children in cars

- Children under 3 years of age may not travel in a car (other than a taxi) unless they are using a suitable child restraint.
- Children under 3 years of age may only travel in the front seat in a rear facing child restraint and with any passenger airbag disabled.
- Children over 3 years old, less than 1.5m tall, and weighing less than 36kg must use a suitable child restraint when travelling in a car fitted with seat belts. If seat belts are not fitted they must travel on the rear seats.

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- Child restraints must conform with the ECE R44.03 standard.

Lights

You must use dipped headlights in poor daytime visibility.

Motorcycles

- You must use dipped headlights during the day.
- Riders must wear a crash helmet.

Drinking and driving

- The legal limit is 50 milligrams of alcohol per 100millilitres of blood.
- A lower limit of 20 milligrams applies to novice and professional drivers.
- Penalties are severe and include a fine and/or imprisonment, and disqualification.
- Random breath testing is in force throughout Ireland.
- If you fail a roadside physical and behavioral test, the Gardai may ask you to accompany them to the station for a blood or urine drug test.

Fines

- The Garda can issue fixed penalty notices – in person or attached to your windscreen – which you will have to pay within 28 days or choose to go to court.
- Fines not paid within 28 days increase by 50%.
- If you park illegally your car could be clamped and may be towed away.

It's not compulsory to carry any equipment in Ireland

Other rules/requirements in Republic of Ireland

The general rule of the road is to drive on the left and overtake on the right.

You must not use your horn between 11:30pm and 7am.

Distances on signs are given in kilometers.

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

You must not use radar detectors. If you do they can be confiscated by the Garda.

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M50 toll

[Barrier free tolling now operates on the M50 Dublin.](#)

Your number plate will be recorded when you pass through the toll and you must pay the fee (at any 'payzone' outlet) by 8pm the following day. The driver is responsible for payment of the toll. If you are riding a motorcycle you will not have to pay the toll.

There are no fixed speed cameras in Ireland but mobile camera vans are used.

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