

Guide to moving to Dublin

This information is brought together to assist anyone who is thinking about moving to Dublin and to support those who have already decided to make the move.

It is distilled from various sources including the internet, books and from people who have made the move already. Its accuracy cannot be guaranteed and it is provided to assist. (As one website puts it - The information contained here does not constitute legal advice and is provided for information purposes only.)

It will include opinions, and you might reach a different view, so if something is particularly important to you, check it out thoroughly yourself. If you do find any mistakes, or have additional information to contribute, do let us know so it can develop and improve.

It is planned to be a start to help 'those on a journey' with information that others have found useful. But reading the guide book isn't the same as going yourself and searching for information, often brings it alive more than just reading what someone else has decided is important.

Where prices are indicated, remember prices will go up and be affected by fluctuating exchange rates. So again, do check yourself.

If you have found out some information which may be useful to others write a few sentences and we will include it here.

Contact us at office@saoirsedublin.com to make comments or ask further questions.

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Please note that the contents of this document are for guidance only.

Accommodation

Should I rent or Buy? Concerning houses, the general consensus in Ireland is don't buy until the market adjusts (unless you find something you really like, but even then go in low! The market is understood to be over-inflated). In November 2007 one Irish Newspaper was reporting house prices to be going down but rents going up. There is no getting around it, Dublin is an expensive place to live. How much would I expect to pay for a two-bedroom apartment in a reasonably safe part of town? To rent, you can expect to pay from about €1100 to about €1400 a month for an o.k. 2 bed in the city centre, rising to about €2000 for a luxury 2 bed in the same area. www.Daft.ie is the best place to look for apartments online. In May 2008 the exchange rate makes €1100 = £865 €1400 = £1100 To buy a 2 bed place in the city centre you are looking at paying from €350,000 (About £276,000 in May 2008) up to anything you are willing to pay! Property is expensive but prices fall the further out of the city centre you go. See www.myhome.ie to find places to buy.

Where ??

What parts of town are good, bad, trendy, expensive, cheap, green, etc...

The following view is expressed on the internet - It is generally thought that the nicest part of the city centre is south of the River Liffey, this isn't necessarily true, having lived both sides of the River Liffey it is my opinion both sides have their good and bad areas, they are easy to spot and if you do decide to move here you will quickly learn where not to go. In recent years urban regeneration schemes have meant more office workers and immigrants have moved into the inner-city areas, making them a nicer & friendlier place.

Its important to decide what type of accommodation and area suits your situation and get details of what are the pros and cons of any area

If you get a chance do stay a few nights in the city and visit the areas you have shortlisted at different times of the day to get a realistic idea. Alternatively many people look for temporary accommodation to orientate to the city before deciding where to rent longer term or Buy.

First impressions and information provided may not be right or complete. For example Temple Bar (<http://www.temple-bar.ie/>) is a tourist area in the heart of the south city centre famed for it's pubs and restaurants, it is promoted as Dublin's Cultural Quarter That may attract you to consider living there, however views expressed on the internet suggest 'culture' has long been replaced by drunken Stag and Hen parties. It's a grand area (cobble-stone streets, quaint shops etc) during the day but from about 10.30pm on it's streets are littered with the casualties of excessive partying .

What suits you will depend on a wide range of circumstances. One factor would be where you are expecting to work. See details re rush hour above. Don't presume it is practical to commute across the full extent of the city, and

will most likely steal the few precious hours you have in the morning and evening. it could make or break your enjoyment of being there.

What

Should I rent or Buy

Concerning houses, the general consensus in Ireland is don't buy until the market adjusts (unless you find something you really like, but even then go in low! The market is understood to be over-inflated) I haven't got any detailed figures but the drop in house prices predicted in the UK is already happening in Ireland. This tends to put pressure on rented property although there does seem to be a good supply and some scope to bargain. Any Tips from those who have already been there?

How much

What would I expect to pay for a two-bedroom apartment in a reasonably safe part of town?

To rent you can expect to pay from about Euro 1100 to about Euro 1500 a month for an ok 2 bed in the city centre, rising to about Euro 2000 for a luxury 2 bed in the same area. www.Daft.ie is the best place to look for apartments online.

In January 2007 the exchange rate makes
1100Euros = £820
1500 Euros about £1120

To buy a 2 bed place in the city centre you are looking at paying from Euro 350,000 (About £262,000 January 2008) up to anything you are willing to pay! Property is expensive but prices fall the further out of the city centre you go. See www.myhome.ie to find places to buy.

Education

What are schools like in Ireland?

The standards of schooling in Ireland are generally reported to be good. The Irish school year, for all children, starts in early September. High schools finish about the end of the first week in June, except those taking exams. They continue throughout June with primary schools. July and August are school holidays for all children (Longer holidays than in UK). Children normally attend primary school from around the age of 4 or 5 years old, they must attend from age 6. Children stay in Primary school until they are 12 or 13 years of age (one year older than in many UK schools). Children begin their secondary school studies around the age of 12 and leave at around the age of 17 or 18, having taken two state exams in that period. As in the UK, you also have a constitutional right to educate your child at home. However, this is not common practice.

Employment

Again, we are just beginning and it will depend on what line of work you are interested in.

There is information available from a number of the websites and books detailed previously. Much advice is specific to particular industries. If there is a particular profession you are interested in, please let me know.

The following link provides a detailed list of contacts: <http://www.newtotown.ie/forum/working-ireland/irish-jobs-listings-websites-recruitment-agencies-25.html>

Getting to know the city

It will take a little while to get your bearings and decide where you may want to live. Some say that South of the River is the 'nicer' area, but the general opinion is that there are good and bad on both sides of the river. In recent years urban regeneration schemes have meant more office workers and immigrants have moved into the inner-city areas, making them a nicer & friendlier place. It is important for you to decide what type of accommodation and area suits your own situation and get details of what are the pros and cons are of any area. If you get a chance, do stay a few nights in the city and visit the areas you have shortlisted at different times of the day to get a realistic idea. Alternatively, many people look for temporary accommodation before deciding where to rent longer-term or buy. What suits you will depend on a wide range of circumstances. One factor would be where you are expecting to work. Don't presume it is practical to commute across the full extent of the city; traffic can be horrific during rush-hour!

Getting your bearings in Dublin

Introduction

The City of Dublin is quite compact

If you look at a map of Dublin you will see it is on the East Coast of Ireland near the mouth of the river Liffey which runs West to East. This River divides the City itself into Northside and Southside

The City Centre is focussed around the River Liffey and largely enclosed by the North and south Ringroads.

A network of roads circle the city centre itself with a north circular and south circular roads about 1.5 km out from the centre

The M50 motorway circles the city some 9km about 5.5 miles out

Much of the area inside the M50 motorway is built up

Phoenix Park is a major area of green space at the West end of the city centre and North of the River It occupies a major part of the area between the ring road and the M50 motorway in the segment between the N3 and N4 roads

Transport links

At the West end of the city - just south of the river - is **Heuston** Main line station which serves the South-west and West: Cork, Limerick, Galway, Waterford, Kilkenny, Carlow, Westport.

At the East end of town (this time just north of the centre) is Connolly Station which has trains running North and South around Dublin Bay and serving the

South-east, North, and North-west of Ireland : Belfast, Sligo, Wexford, Maynooth.

For more information, see www.irishrail.ie. and see **travel information sheet**

Major Routes from Dublin

There are major Roads like spokes out from the centre

Starting in the North and going anticlockwise the following roads form the major routes

North M1/N1	Motorway	to Dublin international Airport Balbriggan, Drogheda Dundalk and Belfast
NNW	N2	To Ashbourne Slane and Derry
NW	N3	To and Meath Cavan Enniskillen
WNW	N4	To Galway and the West
WSW	N7	To Limerick and Tralee
SW	N81	To Cork
SE	N11 /M11	To Bray Wicklow Wexford and Roslare

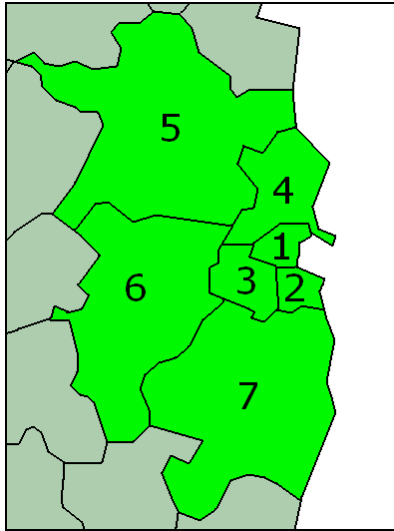
But don't rely on that get a good map or Sat-nav which covers Ireland

Postal Districts

Only Dublin City itself has Postal Districts. And with a few exceptions Odd numbers are North of the river and Even numbers South (the main exception is that part of Dublin 8 is North of the river near Phoenix Park)

County Dublin

is divided into 7 areas including Dublin city as shown below



1. [Dublin](#)
2. [Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown](#)
3. [South Dublin](#)
4. [Fingal](#)
5. [Meath](#)
6. [Kildare](#)
7. [Wicklow](#)

Health

What are arrangements for healthcare in Ireland?

If you are an EU/EEA/Swiss national, or if you are normally resident in Ireland (can show proof that you are planning to stay for at least one year), you are entitled to receive the same level of health care as Irish citizens. Depending on your income, you may be eligible for a medical card, which entitles you to the full range of medical services at no cost.

If you are not from an EU/EEA member State or considered normally resident, you will be entitled to free or subsidised health services including GP, Hospital care, prescriptions, dental and optical services. Local health boards issue medical cards. In addition to the state-run public health system, people in Ireland can take up a range of private health care services. If you opt for private health care you must pay the full costs of treatment.

If you are visiting Ireland from the EU, make sure you have a European Health Insurance Card. (previously E111) There is no fee for the European Health Insurance Card. In the UK and it can be applied for online at www.dh.gov.uk/en/Policyandguidance/Healthadvicefortravellers/index.htm

How's the weather?

Everyone says it always rains in Ireland?

Well, if you are feeling God's call to Ireland, you are not going to let a small thing like that put you off! But just in case you are asking so that you can plan what clothes to buy before you arrive, then perhaps this will help:- The Official line is - Ireland has a temperate maritime climate; modified by North Atlantic Current; If you have a meteorologist in your church ask them what that means, but I think it suggests that you can expect mild winters; cool summers; consistently humid; and overcast about half of the time. Ireland's reputation for rain really comes from the West Coast of Ireland which sees a lot more than the east coast (the side that Dublin is on). If you know Manchester (UK), then the weather is fairly similar.

Legal stuff

What rights do I have to stay in Ireland?

If you are from the European Union (EU), you have the right to stay in Ireland, and your immediate family members also have the right to stay in Ireland. Anyone from any country can stay in Ireland for up to three months without restriction. If you plan to stay more than three months, you must either:

- be engaged in economic activity (employed or self employed); or
- have sufficient resources and sickness insurance to ensure that you do not become a burden on the social services of Ireland; or
- be enrolled as a student or vocational trainee; or
- be a family member of a Union citizen in one of the previous categories.

Motor vehicles

Driving a Car in Ireland

If you are visiting temporarily you can either bring a car by Ferry or hire a car when you arrive. A typical ferry Crossing from Hollyhead to Dublin will cost £200 plus for typical car and two passengers return. You should obtain a green card from your car insurers so you are covered in Ireland (usually valid for 3 months but check). A small hire car will cost from £15 per day. See *appendix 1* for ways to get best deals. Buying a car in Ireland is said to be significantly more expensive than in the UK. But just in case you thought you could nip back to the UK to pick up a bargain, you can't! You must have owned, and used, the car for at least 6 months before importing it, otherwise you will be hit with the dreaded VRT - vehicle registration tax, which can be as much as 30% of the open market selling price (their estimate not yours). Car insurance seems to be more expensive in Ireland compared to the UK, but petrol is a bit cheaper.

Moving a car to Ireland

If you plan to bring a car in permanently you need a vehicle registration document (or Certificate of permanent export). You must register the vehicle with the revenue commissioners before the end of the next working day after arrival, and pay any VRT due. (Use Form *VRT 4*) If you can prove you have owned the vehicle, and used it, for 6 months, it seems you are exempt, but you will need to provide documentation:

- Vehicle Registration Document
- Certificate of Insurance
- Sales invoice receipt or similar
- Evidence of the date the vehicle was brought in (eg sailing ticket)
- Documents proving residency abroad (Utility Bills, Tax payment evidence, Council tax receipts etc. The more the better)

Registering the vehicle will give you an Irish registration Number (but not registration plates), which must be displayed on the vehicle within 3 days; so find out where you can get number plates made. You will also get a form to pay car tax (application form *RF100*). Details of car tax payment can be found at <https://www.motortax.ie/mtoapp/startover.do> Motor Taxation is the responsibility of the Local Council. The Dublin main office is Block B, Black Hall Walk, Queen Street, Dublin 7. The opening hours are 9.30 am to 3.30 pm. The phone number for Motor Tax (01 222 8000), for other offices see *appendix 2*. Before you can drive your car legally in Ireland you must have insurance. (Has anyone found an Irish version of confused.com, or discovered if UK insurance is valid after reregistering a car in Ireland?)

Managing the move

There seems a lot which, following the letter of the law, you must do in the first few days of arriving. It appears that there is no reason why, on arrival, you should not initially drive your car as a visitor with a green card, and then leave Ireland briefly (once you have decided that you want to move your car

permanently to Ireland) to return in due course, allowing the planning of when to register the car and process all the other matters. This is recommended in the *Sunday Times Guide* to buying a property in Ireland, so its not just my reading of the regulations. However, you may want to check yourself. You can of course seek a refund on any unused UK road fund licence. Even if the road tax remaining is not worth a refund, you should notify the DVLA that you have exported the vehicle; this can be done online:www.vehiclelicence.gov.uk, www.dvla.gov.uk

Driving Licences

Any EU licence can be exchanged for an Irish Driving licence, but certain other countries Licences (e.g Zimbabwe) will only permit you to drive for 1 year before you must pass an Irish Driving test. As the waiting time for a test can be up to a year, book one soon. You must carry your licence with you at all times when driving in Ireland.

Parking

Most towns have disc parking and discs can be purchased from local shops. Cities have mainly parking meters. Dublin is difficult to park in. If buying or renting, check what the arrangements for parking are.

Speed Limits in Ireland

There seem to be less speed cameras in Ireland but they do still have speed limits. Speed limits are generally shown in Kilometers per hour, so, if you have imported a car from the UK, it will feel slow if you follow the Kms per hour on your Miles per hour speedometer. Speed limits are similar to the UK. Where unsigned they will be: Motorways 70mph (112kph) Dual carriageways 60mph (96kph) Country roads 60mph (96kph) Urban Roads 30mph (48kph)

Other things to remember

In Ireland they drive on the left (same as in UK). Seat belts are required in front seats and where fitted in the back. Increasingly signs are giving distances in Kms, but old signs will still be found giving distances in English miles. Some milestones may give a different distance in Irish miles. Did you know an Irish mile is 480 yards longer than an English mile?.. 27% futher (I do not jest!). Your car needs to be tested every two years, the National Car Test (NCT: MOT equivalent) is required for most cars over 4 years old.

APPENDIX 1

Car Hire Dublin

Selecting the cheapest car rentals I have found a search engine such as carrentals.co.uk www.carrentals.co.uk a good way to compare prices. Depending on the type of car, the dates, and the exchange rate, the best company and price will vary for the basic hire cost. For 5 days, for a 5 door Toyota Yaris, we paid €84 which was about £65, via EasyCar who sub contract to County Car at Dublin airport. *Extras* If you want extras then there will be a charge e.g. children's car seats, sat nav and sometimes for an additional driver. These should be shown on the website, so comparing prices

should be possible. The arrangements for paying for petrol may increase the cost, in my experience the most usual arrangement is collect the car full and return full. The car I hired in Ireland was - pay for a full tank of petrol and return empty. I only had the car for 3 days and didn't do enough miles to empty the tank, so I effectively paid extra. If there is only a small difference between companies on the basic price, another company may be cheaper overall. *Excess insurance* What often pushes up the price of car hire is the excess insurance, which costs anything from £10-12 per day upwards (the excess can be as high as £2,500, so you will probably want insurance). This can be bought separately, and the cheapest I have found is Insurance4Carhire, who for £3.80 per day offer a better level of excess insurance than most of the car hire companies. If you are planning to hire a car for more than 2 weeks in any year, an annual European excess policy is available for £49, making extra savings (NB. the annual policy has an exclusion re hiring cars within a certain distance of your home address, so check out the small print before going with this.) www.insurance4carhire.com. So, my advice would be to buy this in advance and decline any extra insurance offered by the car hire firm, both online and when collecting. Hope this is helpful to others getting a good deal - let me know any deals you come across.

APPENDIX 2

Motor Tax Offices

Head Office Block B, Blackhall Walk, Queen Street, Dublin 7 Ph: 222 8000 Fax: 872 1004
Branch Offices Email Address
motortax@dublincity.ie

Clondalkin Unit 9B Ninth Lock Road Clondalkin Dublin 22

Ballymun Ballymun Civic Centre Main Street Ballymun Dublin
9 *Nutgrove* Nutgrove Shopping Centre Rathfarnham Dublin 14

Public transport

Getting to Dublin

From the UK there is a wide range of flights, including 'No frills' airlines.

Dublin airport website contains a range of helpful information: www.dublinairport.com

If you are taking your car, Dublin ferry port is Ireland's busiest ferry port and only 2 miles from the city centre. Car ferries arrive from Liverpool, Hollyhead - North Wales (less than 2 hrs crossing), and Douglas Isle of Man.

For details of crossings etc. visit: www.directferries.co.uk/ferry_to_dublin.htm

Travel within Dublin

Dublin is a busy Capital city; One view on the internet suggests 'Dublin is most definitely not a driving town', however, this is probably true of most capital cities.

Dublin is a very small city centre, so if you are living and working in it you could probably walk everywhere. Bicycle lanes make cycling a lot easier than it used to be.

While there is not a fully integrated public transport system, there is a range of services; bus, train and tram (light urban rail system), and improving services seems to be the consensus. Obviously, when and where you want to travel will affect the frequency and travel times.

What else might I need to know about Ireland

For those who think in statistics:

- Population of the Republic of Ireland is at around 4.25 million (2006/7)
- Dublin is the capital of, and largest city in Ireland
- Population of Dublin City Council area is 505,739
- Dublin Region population is 1,186,159
- Greater Dublin Area is 1.7million (estimated to reach 2.1 million by 2021)
- Today, approximately 40% of the population of Ireland live within a 100 km radius of Dublin

Where can we get details about Dublin?

Web Resources

There are a huge range of internet resources which provide helpful information. You may want to start with the Irish tourist information site which will tell you all the positives at: www.discoverireland.com/gb and www.discoverireland.ie/dublin.aspx Dublin Tourism website has loads of useful information about the city. You can view pictures, and video, send e-cards of Dublin, and much more: www.visitdublin.com The *Citizens Information* website (formally called Oasis.gov.ie) can be viewed in French, Polish, Romanian, or Irish (if your studies are progressing well), but it is also available in English: www.citizensinformation.ie *New To Town* is a discussion Forum about moving to Ireland and working in Ireland, and lots more: www.newtotown.ie DAFT describes itself as Irelands largest property site and has details of houses to buy, rent and discussion forums: www.daft.ie *Irish links* has a wide range of information about moving to Ireland, property, work and finances: www.irishlinks.co.uk The UK Government have even been kind enough to collect information for those living abroad. This can be found on: www.direct.gov.uk/en/BritonsLivingAbroad/index.htm. This includes links about renting your house in the UK. More specific information is indexed in the specialist sections. We will try to keep a running list of any relevant sites, so let us know as you find useful ones in your own research.

Books

A Library, good bookshop or online bookseller will stock a range of books on Ireland; from a wide range of tourist guides, history books, cookery books etc. If you come across a particularly useful book, or section in any book, let me know and I will keep a list. Here are a few to consider: *Irish History For Dummies*, by Mike Cronin. This gives a very readable account for someone like me whose knowledge of English History is pretty sketchy. *Live and Work in Ireland*, by Dan Boothby, 2004, Vacation Work Publications: (www.vacationwork.co.uk). This contains collated information about; residence, setting up home, daily life, retirement! It also covers employment and starting a business. It is in the reference category rather than a riveting read! *Living Abroad in Ireland*, by Steenie Harvey. I not seen this, but a review on *Amazon* says, 'Harvey's book is fine to read in cover-to-cover style'. The same review suggests the book is clearly written for the American market; it has poor quality binding, but overall the book is highly recommended, 'the advice is sound and the coverage comprehensive'. *Living and Working in Ireland*, by Joe Laredo. I have not seen this either, but a review on *Amazon* suggests, 'it's a reference tome to dip into as and when needed'. *Buying a Property: Ireland*, (Cadogan Guides) (Sunday Times), by Cathy Gerrard and John Howell. I have not seen this one, nor a review, but it may be useful in the future. *The Voice of the Irish: The Story of Christian Ireland*, by Michael Staunton, (Paperback, Mar 2003). I have not read this, but looks like a secular account of religion in Ireland. *Round Ireland with a Fridge*, by Tony Hawks; a travelogue with a difference.

Newspapers

A number of national papers are available, so if you want to know what's hitting the headlines in Ireland, check out the weather or look for jobs, pick up a paper or look on their websites: The Irish Times: www.ireland.com ('Business this week' published Friday) The Irish Independent: www.independent.ie (Jobs on Thursdays) The Irish News: www.irishnews.com There are a number of Sunday and evening newspapers, as well as many regional papers. If anyone has advice about what can be found where - e.g. jobs, let us know.

CDs and DVDs

To get an insight into the Irish History there are a number of Films which give a glimpse into the last 100 yrs of Irish history, including: *Michael Collins (cert 15)* *The wind that shakes the barley (cert 15)* Whether these are reliable historically, I don't know. The films have much bloodshed, violence, and a fair degree of bad language and will not be everyone's choice of viewing.