

“Céad míle fáilte”

(One-hundred thousand welcomes)

So, you've decided to travel to Ireland. First, let me welcome you and congratulate you on your decision. You'll find the Irish people to be wonderfully friendly and the country to be full of historic castles, gorgeous green scenery and vibrant culture.

This guide provides lots of need-to-know, essential information, that will help you avoid car rental issues from ruining your vacation.

At best, car hire can be a convenient and enjoyable way to explore the country and truly savor all Ireland has to offer.

At worst it can be a minefield of excess deposits, damage disputes on vehicles and holds on credit cards for thousands of dollars or euros.

We've also included a checklist for you to tick off before you arrive and after you leave home. This guide is easily printable, so make sure to bring a hardcopy in your carry-on bag.

We hope you have a safe and pleasant journey and finally - “go n-éirí an bóthar leat” (may the road rise to meet you).

Slán libh,

REBEL CITY TOUR

BEST CAR RENTAL DEALS

So, the question on everyone's lips is - how do i get the best deal on a car rental in Ireland?

The first thing you'll want to do is to book in advance, especially during busy periods. Booking in advance means you can take advantage of deals and offers.

You'll also want to book an automatic if you're used to driving only automatic transmission cars.

Generally, you'll want to avoid renting a car from Dublin Airport. Not only is this much more expensive for a tourist. But also, if

you are staying in Dublin for a period of time. There are already more efficient modes of transport to get around eg. the LUAS, DART and Taxi etc...

Also, you should explore the option of travelling from city to city by public transport and then renting cars for day-trips using a car sharing service such as GoCar.ie.

If you make it down to Cork city in southern Ireland, be sure to check out the Rebel City Walking Tour of Cork. An outstanding way to pass the time in the city.

20 TIPS AND TRICKS TO RENTING A CAR IN IRELAND.

01

Irish garages or petrol stations (gas stations) sell both diesel and petrol fuel. If you have a diesel car – use diesel only. If you have a petrol car – only use petrol. To do otherwise will mean destroying your car's engine.

02

We drive on the left in Ireland. A great tip to remember this...roll up your sleeve and ensure you're wearing your watch on your left wrist.

MORE TIPS AND TRICKS...

03

Your US driving license is valid in Ireland. Always carry it while driving. You don't need an international license unless you plan on driving on continental Europe.

04

By law, all children under 150cm in height or under 36kg in weight must use the correct child seat or booster when travelling in a car or goods vehicle. This usually means your child will need to be in a car seat until they are around 12 years old.

05

Irish roads can be very narrow in places. Spend a little extra to get proper insurance. Don't get caught out. Try to purchase Collision Damage Waiver (CDW) protection.

MORE TIPS AND TRICKS...

06

If you've never driven a manual gear shift car before. Book a car with automatic transmission beforehand. Expect to pay extra, unfortunately. If you burn through the clutch of a vehicle with a manual transmission by driving it like an automatic, expect to pay at least \$1,500 to replace the clutch. This will not be covered by your insurance, plus you'll need a replacement vehicle.

07

Before arriving, make sure you check out the Irish Road Safety Authority's (RSA.ie) website for advice on the customs and rules of driving in the country.

08

Some of Ireland's motorways (highways) are tolled. Carry change with you when you drive, e.g. euro coins.

MORE TIPS AND TRICKS...

09

Inspect your rental car for damage beforehand. Take timestamped photos with your phone. Don't get caught for damage you didn't cause.

10

You don't need the hassle of a car in Dublin. Rent a car while leaving the city.

11

Dial 112 in an emergency (similar to dialing 911 in the US).

MORE TIPS AND TRICKS...

12

Try to return the car with a full tank to avoid extra charges.

13

Drink-driving is not tolerated in Ireland. Doesn't matter what you may have heard. Don't drink and drive!

14

Learn how to drive on roundabouts before arriving. This [YouTube Video](#) will help.

MORE TIPS AND TRICKS...

15

Use Google Maps to find your way. Remember, you'll need a postal/zip code (eircode, as we call them). You can find your destination's [eircode here](http://eircode.ie) (eircode.ie).

16

Ensure you have a spare tire and jack in your trunk (the 'boot'). Some car rental companies remove them.

17

Investigate the possibility of saving lots of money by using a 3rd-party insurer for your CDW insurance. Email your car rental company and your 3rd-party Collision Damage Waiver (CDW) insurance company beforehand to get everything in writing.

MORE TIPS AND TRICKS...

18

Dublin's M50 highway (motorway) has electronic camera-operated tolls. Pay online beforehand [here](#).

19

Northern Ireland is a separate country. Traveling to the North? Do you have insurance and a rental agreement that covers this leg of your journey?

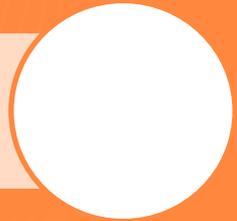
20

When exiting onto the main road. Be cautious. Move out slowly. Check both directions to be sure.

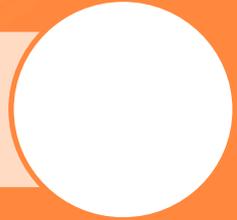
CHECKLIST ITEMS TO TICK AT HOME.



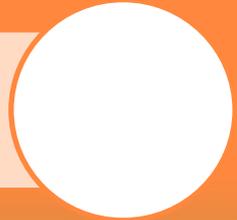
Have you booked an automatic transmission car in advance?



Have you studied the Road Safety Authority website ([RSA.ie](https://www.rsa.ie)) and the video on driving on roundabouts?



Do you have a valid US driving license?



CHECKLIST ITEMS TO TICK AT HOME.



Have you booked safety seats for the kids - if needs be?

Do you have Collision Damage Waiver (CDW) Insurance?

Do you have roadside assistance cover?

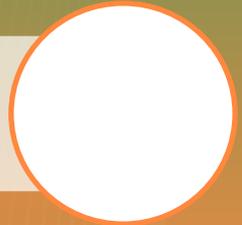
CHECKLIST ITEMS TO TICK TO WHEN PICKING UP YOUR VEHICLE.



Does your vehicle have a jack and spare tire in the boot (trunk)?

Is your watch visible on your left wrist? We drive on the left in Ireland.

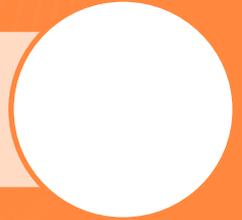
Are your children seated in suitable safety seats?



Do you have spare change ie. Euro coins to pay for tolls on motorways (highways)?



Do you know whether your car has a diesel or petrol engine?



Have you taken timestamped photos of any existing damage on your vehicle?



“Slán Go Fóill”

Goodbye for now

We wish you all the best in your travels to the Emerald Isle.

With these tips and tricks we hope to give you a little peace of mind when it comes to renting a vehicle.

So, whether you intend to rent a vehicle to take on an epic driving route like the Causeway Coastal Route or the Wild Atlantic Way or you just want an easy way of getting from point A to point B.

We hope this guide proves useful.

For a great way to pass the time in Cork city, check out the [Rebel City Walking Tour of Cork](#).

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