

The Ultimate Guide to Packing for your Ireland Vacation

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What kind of luggage do I need for my trip to Ireland?

If you've booked a fare that requires a smaller suitcase, you'll have no choice but to pack lightly. I recommend the following:

- **Expandable luggage** on wheels. If you are buying new luggage, note that many of today's models are equipped with TSA-approved locks, which means they can be randomly opened and relocked by TSA personnel. Check out the selection of luggage from Samsonite on [Amazon](#).
- **A daypack/backpack** that will hold water and other essentials while you travel around Ireland. My favorite brand is the [LLBean Stowaway backpack](#). I bring mine with me to Ireland and to other countries that I travel to. It also fits neatly underneath the seat on the plane.
- **Neck pillow** - not really luggage, but invaluable when you're traveling on a flight that is five hours or more. Flights to Ireland, at least from the northeast, are in the late evening hours, so you'll be sleeping on the way there. Having a [nice comfy neck pillow](#) will make the journey more pleasant.
- **Packing cubes** – these are an essential component to efficient packing. I won't travel anywhere without them. This is the [brand](#) of packing cubes that I use.

What travel documents should I bring with me?

There are a few essential documents you will need to gather before you head to Ireland. They include the following:

- An up-to-date passport (while there is no strict mandate from the Irish government, your passport ideally should be valid for 6 months beyond your departure date).

- The U.S. State Dept. recommends that all [Americans purchase travel health insurance](#) before they go overseas. Ireland on a Budget partners with [Travel Insurance Master](#) to provide visitors with adequate travel coverage while they're in Ireland.
- Your airfare tickets (on your phone or printed).
- Driver's license if you plan to [rent a car](#) in Ireland.
- [Car rental](#) documents, including all of the paperwork you received via email when you booked your car, as well as a letter from an approved credit card company that allows you to waive the CDW (Collision Waiver Damage) costs if you have the [proper credit card](#), and you used that card to book the rental.

What personal items/toiletries do I need to bring with me?

- Over-the-counter pain relief/first aid items – there is no need to declare this to a TSA official unless it is in liquid form. Medication in liquid form is allowed in your carry-on, but it must be 3.4 ounces or less and in a clear plastic Ziplock bag (quart-size bags are good). This liquids rule applies to Dublin and Shannon airports. If you are bringing prescribed meds in your carry-on, you should travel with the amount that you absolutely need for the duration of your vacation. Certain drugs like those that are potentially addictive need to be in their original containers with a doctor's note or the original prescription available to show a TSA agent. These, too, should be in plastic bags so that the agents can see them clearly. More information is available on the US Customs and Border Protection [website](#).
- Prescription glasses, contact lenses and cleaning fluid, in addition to sunglasses.
- On-the-plane essentials such as toothbrush, toothpaste, moisturizing lotion, deodorant, wipes, and plenty of water since air travel will dehydrate the body.
- Shampoo, conditioner as well as hair styling creams and hairspray; shower gel.

When bringing creams, do not bring big containers of moisturizer or any other type of cream in your carry-on luggage unless it weighs 3.4 ounces or less, as outlined above. Heavier items can be confiscated by TSA officials. If you are bringing a larger case that is being checked in, then pack larger items in that bag. If you forget an over-the-counter medication, you can easily find it in any pharmacy in Ireland or in some supermarket aisles like Dunnes Stores, Tesco, Aldi, Lidl and SuperValu, although OTCs are more commonly purchased in a pharmacy in Ireland.

What outdoor gear will I need?

Ireland's weather is unpredictable so it's wise to pack accordingly, even during the summer months. Here are some items you should bring with you:

- [Waterproof hiking boots](#) are a good idea if you intend to hike or go mountain climbing. Be sure to break them in before leaving. My favorite brand is [Keen footwear](#). If you're looking for a good pair of waterproof sneakers, I recommend the Vessi brand of waterproof footwear, which you can purchase on the [Vessi website](#).

- While a small umbrella may come in handy at times, it could prove to be useless as well given the windy weather that is common in Ireland at any time of year.
- A windbreaker for [women](#) and [men](#) will come in handy especially if you're walking along Ireland's cliffs, which is suitable during the summer months. From September through March, I suggest you bring a lined rain jacket like this one from [LL Bean](#).
- [Binoculars](#) – a small pair is fine and will fit into your luggage very nicely. Handy for spotting rare birds along Ireland's coastline, including puffins that can be seen from the beginning of May through the end of July. The Great Saltee Island off the coast of Wexford, the Cliffs of Moher, Rathlin Island, off the coast of Antrim and in the Skelligs region, off Kerry, are among the places you are sure to see these cute birds.

Bringing your electronics to Ireland

You'll want to capture every moment of your Irish vacation so if you're serious about picture-taking, you'll want to bring your digital camera. Most tourists resort to their smart phones, which capture images just as nicely.

- Smart phone chargers – obviously you won't be able to charge your phone without one. If you forget to pack it away, you can buy a cell phone charger in any electronics store in Ireland or cell phone provider store like a [3 store](#), for example.
- Electrical adapter that will convert the electricity charge as the voltage in Ireland is different from several other countries.
- Camera charger if you're bringing a camera.
- Laptop or tablet to download your photos, in addition to chargers for either device.
- A Kindle if you plan on reading a lot and don't want the bother of carrying books. If you're bringing a Kindle, don't forget to pack the charger.
- If you're the kind of traveler who likes to document your journey, don't forget to bring a travel diary or [lined notebook](#).

How to get your electronics to work in Ireland

- In Ireland the power plug sockets are known as Type G. The standard voltage is 230 volts and the frequency is 50 Hz. You will need an adapter so that you can plug your devices into the Irish sockets. I suggest you purchase this [travel adapter](#), which will work in Ireland and in several countries around the world (you'll find a list of them [here](#)).
- Don't bring your curling iron, straightener, or hair dryer unless they can accommodate dual voltage, in which case, the above adapter will work just fine. Some travelers leave these things behind as many hotels and other accommodation in Ireland provide hairdryers.

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Ireland on a Budget Packing Check-Off List

Clothing and Accessories

- Underwear, pajamas
- Pants, jeans, dresses, skirts (the last two items are optional)
- T-shirts, sweaters, sweatshirts, long-sleeved shirts, and ties (wearing a tie is optional in Ireland unless going to a wedding or other special event)
- Boots, flats, sneakers, sandals, dress shoes, as well as hiking boots if long-distance walking is on your itinerary (dress shoes are optional)
- Light rain jacket (for early fall, spring, and summer), heavier lined jacket for winter vacation, blazer (wearing a blazer is optional); laundry bag/laundry sheets if you intend to do laundry while in Ireland.
- Additional accessories (jewelry, hat, scarf, gloves if needed, umbrella (optional), sunglasses, belt)

Tech Essentials

- Phone charger and additional battery
- Camera, tripod, selfie stick and additional battery
- Adapters/converters so that you can use your electronics in Ireland (converters needed only if using equipment that does not accommodate dual voltage; otherwise, an adapter will do the trick)
- iPad, or laptop if you desire

Toiletries/Medication

- Toothbrush, toothpaste, dental floss, mouthwash
- Soap, body wash, washcloth, deodorant, shaving supplies, sanitary items, tissues, wipes
- Hairbrush/comb, shampoo/conditioner, additional hair products
- Moisturizer, sunscreen, makeup, makeup remover, mirror
- Contact lenses and supplies, eye drops, band aids, vitamins, pain relief, travel motion pills, prescriptions
- Hand sanitizer, face masks (optional only for those who may have a compromised immune system or who simply want extra protection while traveling abroad)

Items for the Journey

- Packing cubes and zip lock bags, luggage tags, luggage keys
- Noise-cancelling headphones
- Travel pillow, ear plugs, sleeping mask, compression socks
- Wallet, cash, credit/debit cards, money belt, backpack/daypack, crossbody bag (if you wish), as well as photocopies of important documents in case of theft (passport, driver's license, travel insurance proof); boarding pass, travel journal (optional), pens.