

# **Ireland**

## Business Guide

**Compiled by:**

### **Embassy of Switzerland in Ireland**

**Dublin, August 2018**

#### **ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE**

A valid Swiss passport or identity card is required to enter and depart Ireland. Swiss nationals have the same rights as EU nations when staying in Ireland. For further information about entry conditions, please see <https://www.dfa.ie/travel/visas/visas-for-ireland/>

#### **LANGUAGES USED FOR BUSINESS**

English and Irish are the official languages of Ireland. However English is the majority language.

#### **PUBLIC HOLIDAYS**

There are 9 public holidays in Ireland each year:

New Year's Day (1 January)

St. Patrick's Day (17 March),

Easter Monday

First Monday in May, June, August

Last Monday in October

Christmas Day (25 December)

St. Stephen's Day (26 December)

## **HEALTH AND INOCULATIONS**

The Health Services Executive is responsible for delivering the country's health and social care needs, and provides health and personal social services in hospitals, health facilities and communities across the country <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/>

## **TIME ZONES**

Irish time is GMT less than half of the year. During Summer Daylight Saving Time, it is GMT+1.

## **TIME DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SWITZERLAND AND IRELAND**

Ireland is one hour behind Switzerland. Changes from Winter Time to summer Daylight Saving time occur at the same time as in Switzerland.

## **ELECTRICITY SUPPLY**

The electrical supply in Ireland is 230v 50Hz. As the plugs and sockets are different from Switzerland, adaptors are necessary.

## **METHODS OF PAYMENT**

The currency of Ireland is the Euro. Credit and Debit Cards are widely accepted and a chip and pin system is generally used. Many debit cards are now contactless which means a PIN number is not required for low value purchases.

From 28 October 2015, as part of Ireland's rounding initiative that aims to reduce the use of one- and two-cent coins, the change shoppers receive back in shops is rounded off to the nearest five cent. Change on a total bill is rounded up or down to the nearest five cent.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

Being an island, international transport services are well developed. Ireland has a number of large ports and there are international airports in Dublin, Shannon (near Limerick) and Cork. The country does have a developed public transport infrastructure and a good network of main and secondary roads linking the major population centres. <http://www.discoverireland.ie/Info/Getting-Around>

## BY AIR

There are direct flights between Dublin and Zurich and Dublin and Geneva (SWISS and Aer Lingus). Ryanair flies from Dublin to Basel. From May to October SWISS flies directly from Cork to Zurich.

<https://www.swiss.com/IE/en>

<https://www.aerlingus.com/html/en-IE/home.html>

<https://www.ryanair.com/ie/en/>

## BY SEA

Ireland has major ports in Dublin, Cork, Rosslare and Waterford. Ferry connections between the UK and Ireland via the Irish Sea include the routes from Dublin to Holyhead and Fishguard and Pembroke to Rosslare. In addition, there are ferries from Dublin, Rosslare and Cork to France as well as ferries from Cork to Spain (Santander).

<https://www.irishferries.com/ie-en/to-france-from-ireland/>

<https://www.stenaline.co.uk/ferries-to-ireland>

<http://www.brittanyferries.ie/>

## BY ROAD

Ireland's roads link Dublin with all the major cities. Driving is on the left. Signposts in Ireland are shown in kilometres and speed limits in kilometres per hour.

In urban areas, and particularly in Dublin, traffic congestion at peak times often reaches intolerable levels.

Bus Éireann (Irish Bus) provides most bus services outside Dublin, including an express coach network connecting most cities in Ireland, along with local bus services in the provincial cities.

<http://www.buseireann.ie/>

Bus Átha Cliath (Dublin Bus) <https://www.dublinbus.ie/> provides most of the bus services in Dublin, with some other operators providing a number of routes. These include Aircoach that provides services to Dublin Airport. <https://www.aircoach.ie/>

## BY RAIL

Iarnród Éireann (Irish Rail) operate services in Ireland <http://www.irishrail.ie/>

<https://www.transportforireland.ie/>

## HOTELS

For hotels and other accommodation, please consult <https://www.discoverireland.ie/> and

<https://www.visitdublin.com/>

## **COMMUNICATION**

The country code to telephone Ireland from abroad is 00 353 and to call Switzerland 00 41.

## **CELL PHONES**

There are numerous Irish mobile phone companies offering varying packages. Swiss cell phones can be used in Ireland but may incur roaming charges. It is advisable to check with your Swiss provider prior to your visit to Ireland.

## **BUSINESS HOURS**

Business hours vary depending on the industrial sector but the standard Irish office day is from 9 a.m. until 5.30 p.m. with an hour for lunch, taken between 12 and 2pm.

## **ADDRESSES AND OPENING HOURS OF THE EMBASSY OF THE COUNTRY IN SWITZERLAND**

Embassy of Ireland  
2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
Kirchenfeldstrasse 68  
P.O. Box 262  
CH-3000 Bern 6 / Switzerland  
Tel.: +41 31 352 1455  
E-Mail: [berne@dfa.ie](mailto:berne@dfa.ie)  
<https://www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/switzerland/>

The Embassy is open to the public for general enquiries and those relating to passport and consular services for Irish citizens during the following hours: Monday to Friday, 9.30 to 12.00

The Visa Office is open during the opening hours: Monday to Friday, 10.00 to 12.00

## **ADDRESSES OF THE SWISS EMBASSY AND CONSULATES**

Embassy of Switzerland  
6 Ailesbury Road  
Ballsbridge  
Dublin 4

Tel.: +353 (0)1 218 63 82

E-Mail: [dub.vertretung@eda.admin.ch](mailto:dub.vertretung@eda.admin.ch)

[www.eda.admin.ch/dublin](http://www.eda.admin.ch/dublin)

[https://twitter.com/Swiss\\_IRL](https://twitter.com/Swiss_IRL)

Opening hours: Monday to Friday 08.30 to 12.00 or by appointment

The Embassy is closed on Swiss and Irish public holidays.

**Consular services for Swiss citizens:**

Regional Consular Centre London

Embassy of Switzerland in London

16-18 Montagu Place

London W1H 2BQ

Tel.: + 44 (0)20 7616 6000

E-Mail: [RCCLondon@eda.admin.ch](mailto:RCCLondon@eda.admin.ch)

<https://www.eda.admin.ch/london>

Helpline FDFA Bern

Matters relating to consular services

Tel. +41 (0)800 24-7-365 or +41 (0)58 465 3333

365 days a year – around the clock

**TIPS FOR INITIATING BUSINESS CONTACTS**

As a small, open economy with a strong reliance on international trade, the introduction of products and services into the Irish market is relatively uncomplicated. Standard international marketing and distribution practices are widely applied in the Irish business community.

When choosing a time to set up a meeting, the months of July and August should be avoided as this is the main vacation time in Ireland. Other periods when it is advisable to avoid setting up business meetings are Christmas, Easter or New Year since many executives will be on holiday during these times. Generally, the best time for business visits is from September to May.

**BUSINESS PRACTICES**

Business cards are generally expected but are not always a necessity. All brochures, pamphlets, folders, etc. should be in English.

## **SPECIAL FEATURES ON THE MARKET**

Ireland has a small highly globalised economy, with a large exporting sector, and a significant number of multinational corporations. The Irish Government actively promotes foreign direct investment (FDI). The principal goal of Ireland's investment promotion has been employment creation, especially in technology-intensive and high-skill industries. Ireland has succeeded in attracting some of the world's largest companies to establish operations here. This includes some of the largest firms in the global technology, pharmaceutical, biosciences, medtech, fintech, manufacturing and financial services industries.

### **All information given without obligation**

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