

Renting a Car in Ireland

Renting a car for your Irish visit is a great way to get around but there are certain details you must know before you go.

You should be prepared for the insurance arrangements.

Most rentals include liability – this covers any damage to another’s person or property. **Collision Damage Waiver is NOT included**, must be purchased separately and is expensive. The CDW can cost more than the rental of the vehicle. Collision Damage waiver covers most loss to the car you rent but not all, there are deductibles and non covered items. These non covered items may include tires, side view mirrors and glass. Ask questions and understand the answers before you leave with the keys.

You do not have to buy the CDW, but if you do not the rental company can and probably will place a large hold on your credit card which could limit your credit line while the car is rented. Many credit cards cover CDL insurance when you use them to rent a vehicle however in Ireland the rules are constantly changing and most are not accepted or covered.

Personally I like to purchase **FULL COVERAGE BEFORE I GO.**

Where to start : **DRIVE ON THE LEFT** Arriving at Shannon Airport you are literally out in the country. You will become acquainted with driving on the opposite side in a short period of time with minimal congestion. Likewise arriving at Dublin Airport and heading North on the M1 towards Belfast, The Hill of Tara and Drougheda is an easy way to start your trip with minimal driving difficulties as you adjust to driving on the **LEFT SIDE**. Be careful at all intersections and round-about this is where you are most likely to fall back into your old familiar driving habits.

Tolls: Be careful in Dublin of the invisible toll on the M1. You have to make arrangements to pay the toll by credit card within 48 hours. You have to call the office and pay by phone. Ask the Car Rental Company about this some rentals will include the toll with the rental. If the toll is not paid within a specific time period you may be surprised to find a hefty charge on your credit card two months later.

Tires and Wheel Covers: Most of Ireland’s cities, towns and villages are centuries old, and were laid out to suit horse and buggy long before the advent of the automobile. The streets are often narrow and have tight turns. Longer transport trucks

and busses use these same streets that you will be sharing and you will be quite concerned about giving them room. Don't forget the curb on the passenger side. You will probably find this out quite early in your trip. Remember tires and wheel covers are not covered by CDW.

Street Signs and Directions: Most of Ireland's rural routes are well posted and often in two languages Irish and English. However it can be confusing because sometimes they post the distance in miles and sometimes they post the distance in kilometers. One mile is 1.6 Kilometers. To make life more interesting the signs are often pointing you in the wrong direction. This can be a result of high winds turning the sign, perhaps resulting from some farm equipment catching and twisting the sign or someone just having a little fun. My advice: take your time and enjoy the scenery whichever route you take.

Parking: Again most of Ireland's cities, towns and villages are centuries old, and were laid out to suit horse and buggy long before the advent of the automobile. Due to the narrow streets there is very limited parking and you may have to use a parking lot and be prepared to do some walking. Even if you find the perfect spot - check and look around for a place to purchase a parking ticket and place it in clear view on your dash.

Dublin City Double Decker Bus Sightseeing Tours : When sightseeing in Dublin City leave your car at the hotel. There is great public transportation within the city and the Double Decker Bus Hop On and Off Sightseeing Tour is the best way to see the Nations Capital without all the hassle.