



Dublin - City Business Guide

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Overview

Dublin's reputation for being a city that loves its pubs is well earned. But the story of Dublin is also one of astonishing economic growth over the last twenty years. The city has drawn many international companies with its advantageous location and tax structure and its dynamic pool of labor. Electronics, software, pharmaceuticals, transport, telecommunications, food, manufacturing and retail are all industries with a strong presence in Dublin. Originally settled by ninth-century Vikings, whose base was along the River Liffey, today's Dublin, whose name comes from the medieval word *Dubhlinn*, meaning *Dark Pool*, shows evidence of building styles from several epochs. The Georgian style dominates the city center but it is not uncommon to see regal 18th century architecture juxtaposed with modern constructions. Reputed for its theatrical offerings, particularly those of the Abbey and Gate theaters, the city known in Irish as *Baile Atha Cliath* is also home to world-class museums and green parks.

Business Etiquette

- * Smart and conservative are the watchwords for attire.
- * Handshakes are usual at both the beginning and end of meetings.
- * First names are commonly used in professional contexts, but follow the example set by your Irish associates.
- * Casual, even humorous conversation often opens a business meeting.
- * Going to a pub after a meeting is common practice. Participate in buying rounds for your associates.
- * If invited to someone's home, flowers or another hostess gift is appropriate.
- * Make appointments for meetings and arrive on time.

Chamber of Commerce

- Dublin Chamber of Commerce** 7 Clare Street; Tel.: +353 1 644-7200
- Chambers of Commerce of Ireland** 17 Merrion Square; Tel.: +353 1 661-2888
- American Chamber of Commerce** 6 Wilton Place; Tel.: +353 1 661-6201
- Ireland France Chamber of Commerce** Confederation House, 84/86 Lower Baggot Street; Tel.: +353 1 605-1500
- Irish-German Chamber of Commerce** 46 Fitzwilliam Square; Tel.: +353 1 676-2934
- Japan External Trade Organization** Statoil Building, Setanta place; Tel.: +353 1 671-4003
- Korea Trade Center** 3 Seafield Park, Blackrock; Tel.: +353 1 261 3702

Embassies and Consulates

- Brazil** *Harcourt Centre, Europa House, 5th Floor, 41-54 Harcourt Street; Tel.: +353 1 475-6000*
- China** 40 Ailesbury Road, Ballsbridge; Tel.: +353 1 269-1707
- Czech Republic** 57 Northumberland Road, Ballsbridge; Tel.: +353 1 668-1135
- France** 36 Ailesbury Road; Tel.: +353 1 260-1666
- Germany** 31 Trimleston Avenue; Tel.: +353 1 269-3011
- Italy** 63-65 Northumberland Road; Tel.: +353 1 660-1744
- Japan** *Nutley Building, Merrion Centre; Tel.: +353 1 202-8300*
- Korea (Republic of)** 15 Clyde Road, Ballsbridge; Tel.: +353 1 660-8800
- Mexico** 43 Ailesbury Road, Ballsbridge; Tel.: +353 1 260-0699
- Royal Netherlands Embassy** 160 Merrion Road; Tél: +353 1 269 3444
- U.K. Embassy** 29 Merrion Road; Tel.: +353 1 205 3700
- U.S. Embassy** 42 Elgin Road; Tel.: +353 1 668-8777

Business Centers

- Most large hotels also have business centers that offer many of the same services that independent centers provide.
- Abbey House** 15-17 Upper Abbey Street; Tel.: +353 1 872-4911
- Associated Business Centres** 15, College Green; Tel: + 353 1 679-3580
- Harcourt Centre** *Harcourt Road; Tel: +353 1 402-9401*
- Business Centre** 10 Windsor Place; Tel: +353 1 634-4444
- DMG Business Centre** 12 Camden Row; Tel: +353 1 479-0500
- Premier Business Centres** 122-128 Baggot Street; Tel: +353 1 639-1103

Conference and Exhibition Centers

- The Gresham** 23 Upper O'Connell Street; Tel.: +353 1 874-6881
- Dublin Castle Conference Centre** *Dublin Castle; Tel.: +353 1 679-3713*
- Royal Dublin Society (RDS)** *Merrion Road, Ballsbridge; Tel.: +353 1 668-0866*

Translation Offices

- Global translations** 14 The Drive, Woodpark, Ballinteer; Tel.: +353 1 296-0533
- Abbey Translations** *Dun Laoghaire; Tel.: + 353 1 284-1304, Fax: +44 1-235-0213*
- Askus Translations** *Ballyfolan Brittas; Tel: + 353 1 497-2718*
- DCU Language Services** *Dublin City University; Tel.: +353 1 700-8066, Fax: 353 1 700 5011*
- Words Language Services** 44 Northumberland Road; Tel.: +353 1 6610 240, Fax: +353 1 3789 557

Courier/Messenger Services

- DHL** Tel: +353 1 844-4111 (*outside Ireland*) +353 1 850-331-166; +353 1 800-725-725 (*toll-free in Ireland*)
- FedEx** *Toll-Free Tel.: +353 1 800 535 800*
- Pony Express** Tel.: +353 1 661-0101 (*for Dublin and national services*)
- UPS** *Toll-Free Tel.: +353 1 800 575-757*
- TNT International** Tel.: +353 1 800 400 600 (*Toll free*)

Internet Connection Place

- All upper-range and most medium-priced hotels are equipped with dataports that allow guests to use laptop computers. Many hotels also offer business centers equipped with computers and Internet access. Outside hotels, cyber cafes are available including:
- Planet Cyber Cafe**; Tel.: +353 1 670-5183
- Global Internet & Central Cyber Café** Tel.: +353 1 878-0295
- Cyberworld Internet Cafe** 4 Blessington street; Tel.: +353 1 882-0780
- Internet Cafe** Tel: +353 1 874-6494.
- The Connect Point** 33 Dorset street; Tel: + 353 1 834-9821

Visas & Customs

Citizens of Brazil, Czech Republic, France, Germany, the Republic of Korea, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the U.K., and the U.S. do not need a visa. Citizens of the People's Republic of China must apply for a visa. Duty-free allowances are 200 cigarettes or 100 cigarrillos or 50 cigars or 250g of tobacco; 1 liter of spirits with an alcohol content exceeding 22% by volume or 2 liter of spirits or liquors, including wine, with an alcohol content not exceeding 22% by volume or 2 liter; 50g of perfume and 250ml of eau de toilette, and; a reasonable amount of personal goods. However, there are now no limits imposed on tobaccos and alcohol from one EU country to another.

Phone Information

The international calling code for Ireland is 353, and the area code for Dublin is 1. When dialing from abroad, drop the first '0' of the area code.

Emergency Phone Numbers

- Police (gardai)/Ambulance, Fire** 999 or 112
- Beaumont Hospital Poisons Information Center** Tel.: +353 1 837 9964

Tips and Rules for Use of Phone in Country

The international access code is 00. To get an Irish operator, dial 10. Irish subscriber telephone numbers contain five to seven digits. Toll-free service numbers start with "800". Premium services start with "1550" or "1570". Most public telephones take only phone cards, although many pubs and tearooms have coin phones. Read the instructions, and be sure you insert your money at the right time—usually once the other party replies.

Tips and Rules for Use and Rental of Mobile Phones

The cellular standards are GSM and TACS. Vodafone, O2, and Meteor are the main providers. Mobile phone numbers start with 85, 86 87 or 88. If you choose to bring your cellular phone into Dublin, be sure to check with your home cellular service provider to establish compatibility of your phone with systems abroad. Rent a locally compatible cellular phone before you arrive to obtain reasonable rates and reliable service.

Money

The euro is the official currency. Euro notes are available in denominations of EUR5, EUR10, EUR20, EUR50, EUR100, EUR200, and EUR500, while coins are in 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50 cents, and EUR1 and EUR2. The euro is divided into 100 cents. Foreign currency can be exchanged at banks, airports, hotels, or other authorized foreign currency exchange dealers. ATMs are widely available. Most businesses accept traveler's checks as well as major credit cards, including Visa and MasterCard. American Express and Diners Club are less widely accepted.

Tipping

- * **Restaurants** Some restaurants include 15 percent service in the bill, but many others do not
- * **Bars** No tip is necessary if you are served from the bar, but leave 5 to 10 percent if you are served at a table in a hotel bar
- * **Airport Skycap/Porter** 1 euro per bag
- * **Taxis** 10 percent of the bill
- * **Hotel Bell Desk** 1 euro per bag
- * **Hotel Housekeeping** 1 to 1.5 euro per person per day
- * **Hotel Room Service** 15 percent of the bill
- * **Parking Attendant/Valet** 15 percent of the bill
- * **Haircare/Personal Services** 10 percent of the bill

Time Difference

Irish time is the same as Greenwich Mean Time. Daylight Savings Time begins at midnight on the last Sunday in March and ends the last Sunday in September.





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VAT & Taxes

VAT is assessed at different rates for goods and services. The average rate is 21%.

Voltage

The current in Ireland is 220-240V, 50Hz AC. Irish plugs are square and fused, with three prongs.

Local Transportation

You will hardly need a car for Dublin. Dublin has a fair number of taxis, many of them vans. You can hail one, or find them at taxi stands located every few blocks in the city center--just ask--or book one by phone, although allow a good half-hour for one to come during working hours. Dublin has a very efficient bus service (daily from 6am through 11pm) running through the city to points in the surrounding county. Schedules for individual lines are posted at each bus stop. The city also has a special double-decker hop-on, hop-off tourist bus--passengers can get on and off at will--that circles the city's highlights, with a running commentary of the sights. DART, Dublin's rail transit system, links the city to Howth and Bray, following the coast, and is useful for getting to the beach, the ferry port at Dun Laoghaire, and some of the outer attractions.

Health Info

No special health precautions or vaccinations are required for Ireland.

Climate

Dublin's climate is characterized by mild, temperate weather with frequent, unexpected rainfall. July and August experience the warmest temperatures, with daily averages between 12-15 degrees Celsius, while the year's coldest days occur in January and February, when average temperatures range from 4 to 8 degrees Celsius. Snow is uncommon in Dublin.

Public Holidays

- * **New Year's Day** 1st January
- * **Saint Patrick's Day** 17th March
- * **Good Friday** Friday before Easter (not official, but widely observed)
- * **Easter** Sunday in mid-March or early April
- * **Easter Monday** Monday after Easter
- * **First Monday in May**
- * **June Holiday** First Monday in June
- * **August Holiday** First Monday in August
- * **October Holiday** Last Monday in October
- * **Christmas** 25th December
- * **Saint Stephen's Day** 26th December

Where to Eat

To taste upscale Irish cuisine, try award recipient **Thornton's**. Located within the arched basement of the Dublin Writers' Museum, **Chapter One** is a smart restaurant, decorated with paintings of local literary celebrities, and serves modern Irish cuisine. **Patrick Guilbaud** purveys traditional French-style fine dining and impeccable service, while Northern Italian cuisine is on the menu at **Romanza**, often labelled Dublin's best Italian restaurant. **Halo**, the trendiest dining room in town (designed by John Rocha), boasts an imaginative menu of Asian-influenced fusion food in an atrium setting enhanced by smart minimalist furnishings. The New England-themed **Mermid Café** is recognized as one of the city's best tables. East meets West with **Kelly & Ping's** unique blend of Asian cuisine, served in modern Irish surroundings.

Local Gift Ideas

Ireland's poshest department store is Brown Thomas sells beautifully woven double damask tablecloths and other fine Irish linens and delicate handmade Irish lace. They also carry many Irish and European designer brand clothing for women, men and children. Ireland is also known for its tweeds Blarney's Woolen Mills have a good selection. Another unique Irish artifact is the bodhran, the traditional Irish drum. John McNeill has been the retail reference for these instruments since 1834. The Irish Georgian Society sells other various items evoking Ireland's rich history. Browse through the Kilkenny Design Shop for handcrafted pottery, handblown Jerpoint glass items, raw tweed and other locally made crafts. Design Yard offers a range of contemporary design objects including furniture, home objects and jewelry. Ireland's wild smoked salmon can be purchased at McConnell's, which also offers a mailing service.

Leisure Time

Christchurch Cathedral, dating from early medieval times is the oldest building in Dublin. Dublin is also host to the largest church in Ireland, St Patrick's Cathedral. Paintings by renowned artists including Gainsborough, El Greco, Vermeer, Caravaggio, Rubens, Velazquez, Poussin and Picasso are on display at the National Gallery. The collection of prehistoric gold artifacts at the National Museum of Ireland is unrivalled in Europe. One of Ireland's many literary legends, James Joyce, renowned for his novel Ulysses, is honored with a museum devoted to him. Irish legends of another kind its freedom fighters from throughout the ages can be remembered at Kilmainham Gaol, where they were imprisoned. A site of architectural interest is the Casino at Marino, located on Lord Charlemont's estate. For a glimpse into Ireland's distilling history, both the Guinness Hop Store and the Old Jameson Distillery/Whiskey Corner offer tours.

The artistic, bohemian area of Dublin is without a doubt Temple Bar. Many hours can be passed simply browsing the galleries, shops and cafés that dot the cobblestone streets that make up this neighborhood near the River Liffey. Croke Park is the place to catch the action of two typically Irish sports; hurling is practiced from early summer to the end of September, and Gaelic Football is played from mid-February to mid September. Otherwise, for more typical park excursions Dublin's Phoenix Park is the biggest park in an urban European center, while St Stephen's Green is lovely for a stroll.

