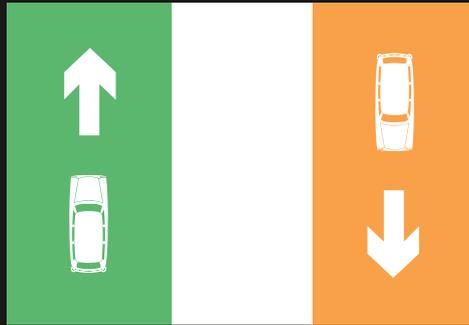


RSA

**In Ireland**



**Drive on left**  
**Conduire à gauche**  
**Links fahren**

# Using the Roads in Ireland

## A Guide for Tourists

An tÚdarás Um Shábháilteacht Ar Bhóithre  
Road Safety Authority



# KNOW THE LOWER DRINK DRIVE LIMITS AND THE NEW PENALTIES

Under the new limits if the level of alcohol present in the body (*Blood Alcohol Concentration or BAC*) is between:

**50mg  
& 80mg**



The driver will be arrested, brought to a Garda Station and required to provide evidential breath or blood or urine specimens. In all cases where the BAC is between 50 and 80mg, the driver will be served with a fixed penalty notice and receive a fixed charge of €200 and 3 penalty points. Points will remain on a licence record for a period of three years. Any driver accumulating 12 points in a three year period will be disqualified from driving for a period of 6 months.

Under the new limits if the level of alcohol present in the body (*Blood Alcohol Concentration or BAC*) is between:

**80mg  
& 100mg**



The driver will be arrested, brought to a Garda Station and required to provide evidential breath or blood or urine specimens. In all cases where the BAC is between 80 and 100mg, the driver will be served with a fixed penalty notice and receive a fixed charge of €400 and the person will be disqualified from holding a driving licence for a period of 6 months.

Under the new limits if the level of alcohol present in the body for learner, newly qualified or professional drivers (*Goods, Bus, Public Service Vehicle e.g. Taxi*) is between:

**20mg  
& 80mg**



The driver will be arrested, brought to a Garda Station and required to provide evidential breath or blood or urine specimens. In all cases where the BAC is between 20 and 80mg, the driver will be served with a fixed penalty notice and receive a fixed charge of €200 and the person will be disqualified from holding a driving licence for a period of 3 months.

For further details visit [rsa.ie](http://rsa.ie)

RSA

Údarás Um Shábháilteacht Ar Bhóithre  
Road Safety Authority



NEVER **EVER** DRINK & DRIVE

# Using The Roads In Ireland

## A Guide For Tourists

CAR HIRE COMPANY STAMP HERE

## Introduction

### Using the Road in Ireland?

Welcome to Ireland! We hope you enjoy your stay whether it is for business or pleasure. There are almost 100,000 kilometres of roads in Ireland. These roads range from Motorway to narrow single lane rural roads. Using the roads in Ireland has never been safer. Ireland is now the fifth safest country in the European Union with 35 fatalities per million population in 2012. Whether walking, cycling, motorcycling or driving, this guide will provide you with some basic rules of the road to ensure you can stay safe. The full rules of the road for Ireland are available online at [www.rulesoftheroad.ie](http://www.rulesoftheroad.ie).

## Driving In Ireland

**Before driving any car on a road you must ensure that you familiarise yourself with the Rules Of The Road and that:**

- ▶ You hold a current driving licence for the class of vehicle.
- ▶ All Irish registered vehicles must have appropriate insurance cover and display an Insurance Disc, motor tax and NCT (if applicable) and display same.
- ▶ Vehicles from other jurisdictions must have adequate insurance cover in place.

***Failure to observe any of these requirements is an offence.***

If you are driving a Hire Car or one with which you are unfamiliar take time to study the vehicle's handbook and satisfy yourself that you can safely control the vehicle. Know where the vehicle's safety equipment is located (hi viz vest, warning triangle first aid kit etc) Plan your route. Know where you are going and where you plan to take rest breaks before setting off on your journey.

## Speed Limits

Speed limits in Ireland are measured in kilometres (km/h). Safety cameras are in use on Irish roads. Locations of cameras are available on [www.garda.ie](http://www.garda.ie)

***Check the signs — Check your speed.***

All Traffic Drives On The Left In Ireland

## ***SPEED SIGN CONVERTER***

km/h Limit	Approximate Equivalent	km/h Limit	Approximate Equivalent
 <b>30</b> km/h	EQUIVALENT TO...  <b>19</b> mph	 <b>80</b> km/h	EQUIVALENT TO...  <b>50</b> mph
 <b>50</b> km/h	EQUIVALENT TO...  <b>31</b> mph	 <b>100</b> km/h	EQUIVALENT TO...  <b>62</b> mph
 <b>60</b> km/h	EQUIVALENT TO...  <b>37</b> mph	 <b>120</b> km/h	EQUIVALENT TO...  <b>75</b> mph

### **Certain Speed Limits That Apply To Certain Vehicles**

The maximum speed limit for:

Single Deck Buses	100 km/h (60 mph)
Trucks	90 km/h (55 mph)
Towing vehicles	80 km/h (50 mph)

## Never Ever Drink And Drive

It is a criminal offence to drive, attempt to drive or be in charge of a motor vehicle above the legal limit and the following levels will result in arrest and further testing at a Garda station (police station):

- ▶ Learner drivers, newly qualified drivers and professional drivers shall not exceed 20mg of alcohol per 100ml of blood.
- ▶ All other drivers shall not exceed 50mg of alcohol per 100ml of blood.

An Garda Síochána (Irish police) has the power to breathalyse any driver stopped at a Mandatory Alcohol Testing Checkpoint (random testing).

An Garda Síochána conducts mandatory testing of drivers for alcohol at the scene of a crash where someone has been injured, or of a driver who has been injured and removed to hospital. Maximum penalties on conviction for drink or drug driving is €5,000 and/or 6 months imprisonment.



***Best advice is never ever drink and drive.***

It is also an offence to drive, attempt to drive or be in charge of a motor vehicle while impaired due to the influence of drugs.

## Slow Down

Driving too fast is a factor in 1 out of every 4 fatal crashes in Ireland. Speeding reduces a driver's ability to steer safely around bends and increases the distance necessary to stop a car. A 100 km/h (62 mph) crash is the same as dropping a car from an eleven storey building.

***Slowing down saves lives.***

## Parking Your Vehicle

Many Irish Towns have on street disc parking. This may involve you purchasing a parking disc from a retailer. When visiting a town or city check what system is in place and avoid penalties for not displaying an appropriate parking disc or ticket. You can reduce the risk to your vehicle by parking it in a well lit multi-storey car park wherever possible.

## Tourist Offices

Many towns and all cities have Tourist Information Offices and advice on route planning. Visit Fáilte Ireland at [www.failteireland.ie](http://www.failteireland.ie)

## Driver Fatigue

Travelling can make you tired. Driving when tired can be dangerous. Be aware of the dangers of driving while tired. It is estimated that fatigue is a contributory factor in one in every five crashes on Irish roads. Find a safe place to stop and rest.

***Never fight sleep at the wheel.***

## Mobile Phones

You are four times more likely to have a crash when you're using a mobile phone. Not only is it dangerous, but it's against the law — you could be fined up to €2,000.

***The Road Safety Authority recommends that drivers do not make or receive any voice calls or text whilst driving (even hands free).***



## Day Time Running Lights

It is recommended that drivers have dipped headlights on at all times when driving in Ireland.



## Traffic Lights

A red light means “stop”. If the light is red as you approach it, you must not go beyond the stop line at the light or, if there is no stop line, beyond the light.

A green light means you may go on if the way is clear. Take special care if you intend to turn left or right and give way to pedestrians who are crossing.

The sequence of traffic lights in Ireland is green, amber, red and green again. An amber light means that you must not go beyond the stop line or, if there is no stop line, beyond the light. However, you may go on if you are so close to the line or the light when the amber light first appears that stopping would be dangerous. An amber light always follows a green light and precedes a red light.

A green arrow (also known as the filter light) means that you may move on in the direction of the arrow, assuming it is safe and the way is clear, even if a red light is also showing. Always keep a look out for emergency vehicles who may be responding to an incident using blue lights and sirens. Sometimes a flashing amber arrow shows which means you may proceed in the direction of the arrow but only if it is safe to do so — you must Yield if other traffic is approaching.



## **Roundabouts**

By law, a driver must enter a roundabout by turning to the left. Treat the roundabout as a junction and give right-of-way to traffic already on it. If you are unfamiliar with driving on the left hand side of the road, roundabouts may pose a particular risk please take extra care.

## **No Seatbelts — No Excuse**

- ▶ Safety belts are proven lifesavers and must be used on every single journey.
- ▶ Without a safety belt, 3 out of 4 people will be killed or seriously injured in a 50 km/h (31 mph) head-on collision.
- ▶ Every person in a car is legally required to wear a safety belt where one is fitted.
- ▶ The driver is responsible for ensuring that passengers under 17 years of age use a safety belt or a suitable child car seat.

***Remember: No safety belt — Up to 4 penalty points.***

### **Rules Of The Road**

**Full details on the rules of the road in Ireland  
are available on [www.rulesoftheroad.ie](http://www.rulesoftheroad.ie)**

## Child Safety In Cars

All children should be restrained in the correct child seat/restraint when travelling in a vehicle.

### Select a child seat that:

- ▶ Conforms to United Nations standard, ECE Regulations 44-03 or 44-04. (Look for the E mark).
- ▶ Is suitable for the child's *weight* and *height*. Do not use age as a guide.
- ▶ Is suitable for the type of vehicle.
- ▶ Is correctly fitted according to the manufacturer's instructions. It is safer to fit child seats in the rear of the vehicle. Never fit a rearward facing baby seat in the front seat where there is an active passenger airbag.



*For further information on child safety in cars see [www.rsa.ie/childsafetyincars](http://www.rsa.ie/childsafetyincars)*

## Motorcyclists

It is compulsory for riders and pillion passengers to wear a safety helmet which must be properly secured. It is advisable to use dipped headlights at all times when driving. Hi-visibility clothing should be worn to allow other road-users to see you clearly.



## Pedestrians — Be Safe, Be Seen

Pedestrian deaths account for 1 in 5 deaths on our roads. The most important rule for all pedestrians is to be visible, behave responsibly, exercise care and not endanger or inconvenience other road users of the road.

### **Walking beside or along a road:**

- ▶ If there is a footpath you **must** use it.
- ▶ If there is no footpath, you **must** walk as near as possible you the right-hand side of the road (facing oncoming traffic).
- ▶ Do not walk more than two abreast. If the road is narrow or carries heavy traffic, you should walk in single file.
- ▶ You should always wear reflective clothing at night when walking outside built-up areas.
- ▶ You should always carry a torch when walking at night time.
- ▶ You should always be aware of other road users.

### **Take care near buses or trams:**

Take extra care if crossing a road where there is a bus lane (especially a contra-flow bus lane), cycle lane or tram track. You should also be careful when getting on or off buses, when crossing the road at or near bus stops and be aware that trams are silent so you may not hear them.



## Cyclists — Cycle Smart, Cycle Safe

Cycling has never been more popular in Ireland. And why not? It's fun, fast and affordable. Cycling reduces pollution and eases traffic congestion. On top of all the great exercise cyclists get, they're also reducing their fuel bills. Cycling is very safe too, provided cyclists stick to a few common sense rules when they're out on the roads. Here are some handy tips to stay safe on the road while cycling.

- ▶ **Equipment Check:** Is the saddle the correct height? Are the tyres nice and firm, and the bell, lights and brakes all working properly? Wear a properly approved helmet and high visibility reflective clothing.
- ▶ **Rules of the Road:** Cyclists must obey the same rules of the road as every other road user. Stopping at red lights, not riding on footpaths unless there is a cycle lane, understanding and heeding road signs and markings is for the good of everyone's safety, including theirs.
- ▶ **Sharing the Road:** Cyclists need to be aware and mindful of other road users. As well as having to obey the same rules, they also have the same rights. Be careful when passing parked cars, cycling in heavy traffic and maintaining a safe distance from larger vehicles. Be very careful when turning left as other vehicles may not see you in their blind spot.
- ▶ **Signalling:** Learn the proper signalling procedures for making turns and using roundabouts, as well as the cautionary aspects of dealing with other vehicles when signalling by visiting the Rules of the Road website [www.rulesoftheroad.ie](http://www.rulesoftheroad.ie)



## Traffic Signs

There are five types of traffic signs on Irish roads:

▶ **Regulatory traffic signs**

These signs must be obeyed.



1A. Stop Sign



1B. No Entry Sign

▶ **Warning traffic signs**

These signs warn road users of a hazard ahead.



2A. Roundabout



1B. Dangerous Bends

▶ **Warning signs for road works**

These signs are orange in colour and warn road users that there are road works ahead.



3A. Roadworks Ahead

▶ **Information signs**

These signs show directions and locations of services or other places of interest to road users.



4A. Airport



4B. Ferry

▶ **Motorway signs**

These signs are rectangular with blue backgrounds and white writing or symbols.



5A. Motorway Sign



5B. Entry To Motorway

# Údarás Um Shábháilteacht Ar Bhóithre

## Road Safety Authority

### General Emergencies

**An Garda Síochána (Irish Police)**  
[www.garda.ie](http://www.garda.ie)

**Emergency Services**  
112 or 999

**Traffic Watch**  
LoCall: 1890 205 805  
[www.garda.ie](http://www.garda.ie)

### Useful Numbers

**Road Safety Authority**  
LoCall: 1890 506 080  
Call: 096 25000  
info@rsa.ie  
[www.rsa.ie](http://www.rsa.ie)

**Department of Transport**  
LoCall: 1890 411 412 or 0761 001 601  
Call: 01 670 7444  
info@transport.ie  
[www.transport.ie](http://www.transport.ie)

**National Roads Authority**  
Call: 01 660 2511  
info@nra.ie  
[www.nra.ie](http://www.nra.ie)

**Department of Justice and Equality**  
Call: 01 602 8202  
info@justice.ie  
[www.justice.ie](http://www.justice.ie)

**Department of Foreign Affairs**  
80 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2  
Call: 01 408 2000  
[www.dfa.ie](http://www.dfa.ie)  
(You may find contact details for your own country's embassy or consular services through this department)

### Embassies

French Embassy	01 277 5000	admin-francais.dublin-amba@diplomatie.gouv.fr	<a href="http://www.ambafrance.ie.org/">www.ambafrance.ie.org/</a> -English-
Italian Embassy	01 660 1774	ambasciata.dublino@esteri.it	<a href="http://www.ambdublino.esteri.it">www.ambdublino.esteri.it</a>
Chinese Embassy	01 269 1707	chinaemb_ie@mfa.gov.cn	<a href="http://ie.china-embassy.org/eng">http://ie.china-embassy.org/eng</a>
Russian Embassy	01 492 2048	info@russianembassy.ie	<a href="http://www.ireland.mid.ru">www.ireland.mid.ru</a>
German Embassy	01 269 3011	info@dublin.diplo.de	<a href="http://www.dublin.diplo.de">www.dublin.diplo.de</a>
Polish Embassy	01 283 0855	dublin@msz.gov.pl	<a href="http://dublin.msz.gov.pl/en">dublin.msz.gov.pl/en</a>
Spanish Embassy	01 269 1640	emb.dublin@maec.es	<a href="http://www.maec.es/subwebs/Embajadas/Dublina">www.maec.es/subwebs/Embajadas/Dublina</a>
Dutch Embassy	01 269 3444	dub-info@minbuza.nl	<a href="http://ireland.nlembassy.org">ireland.nlembassy.org</a>

**Bus Éireann**  
Call: 01 836 6111  
info@buseireann.ie  
[www.buseireann.ie](http://www.buseireann.ie)

**Met Éireann General Forecasting Division**  
Call: 01 806 4255  
[www.met.ie](http://www.met.ie)

**Automobile Association of Ireland**  
Call: 01 617 9999  
roadw@aaiireland.ie  
[www.aaiireland.ie](http://www.aaiireland.ie)

**Irish Insurance Federation**  
Call: 01 676 1820  
fed@iif.ie  
[www.iif.ie](http://www.iif.ie)

**National Consumer Agency**  
Helpline LoCall: 1890 432 432  
[www.nca.ie](http://www.nca.ie)

**MAG Ireland**  
(Irish Motorcyclists' Action Group)  
Call: 01 602 0695  
office@magireland.org  
[www.magireland.org](http://www.magireland.org)

**European Transport Safety Council**  
information@etsc.eu  
[www.etsc.eu](http://www.etsc.eu)

**Cycling Ireland**  
Call: 01 855 1522  
info@cyclingireland.ie  
[www.cyclingireland.ie](http://www.cyclingireland.ie)

**The Rules of The Road**  
[www.rulesoftheroad.ie](http://www.rulesoftheroad.ie)

**Fáilte Ireland**  
Call: 1800 24 24 73  
customersupport@failteireland.ie  
[www.failteireland.ie](http://www.failteireland.ie)

**Dublin Port**  
Call: 01 8876000  
info@dublinport.ie  
[www.dublinport.ie](http://www.dublinport.ie)

**Rosslare Port**  
[www.rosslareeuroport.irishrail.ie](http://www.rosslareeuroport.irishrail.ie)

**Irish Ferries**  
Call: +353 1890 313 131  
[www.irishferries.com](http://www.irishferries.com)

**Stena Line**  
Call: +353 (053) 916 1560  
[www.stenaline.ie](http://www.stenaline.ie)

**Celtic Link Ferries**  
Call: +353 (0)53 917 8789  
[www.celticlinkferries.com](http://www.celticlinkferries.com)

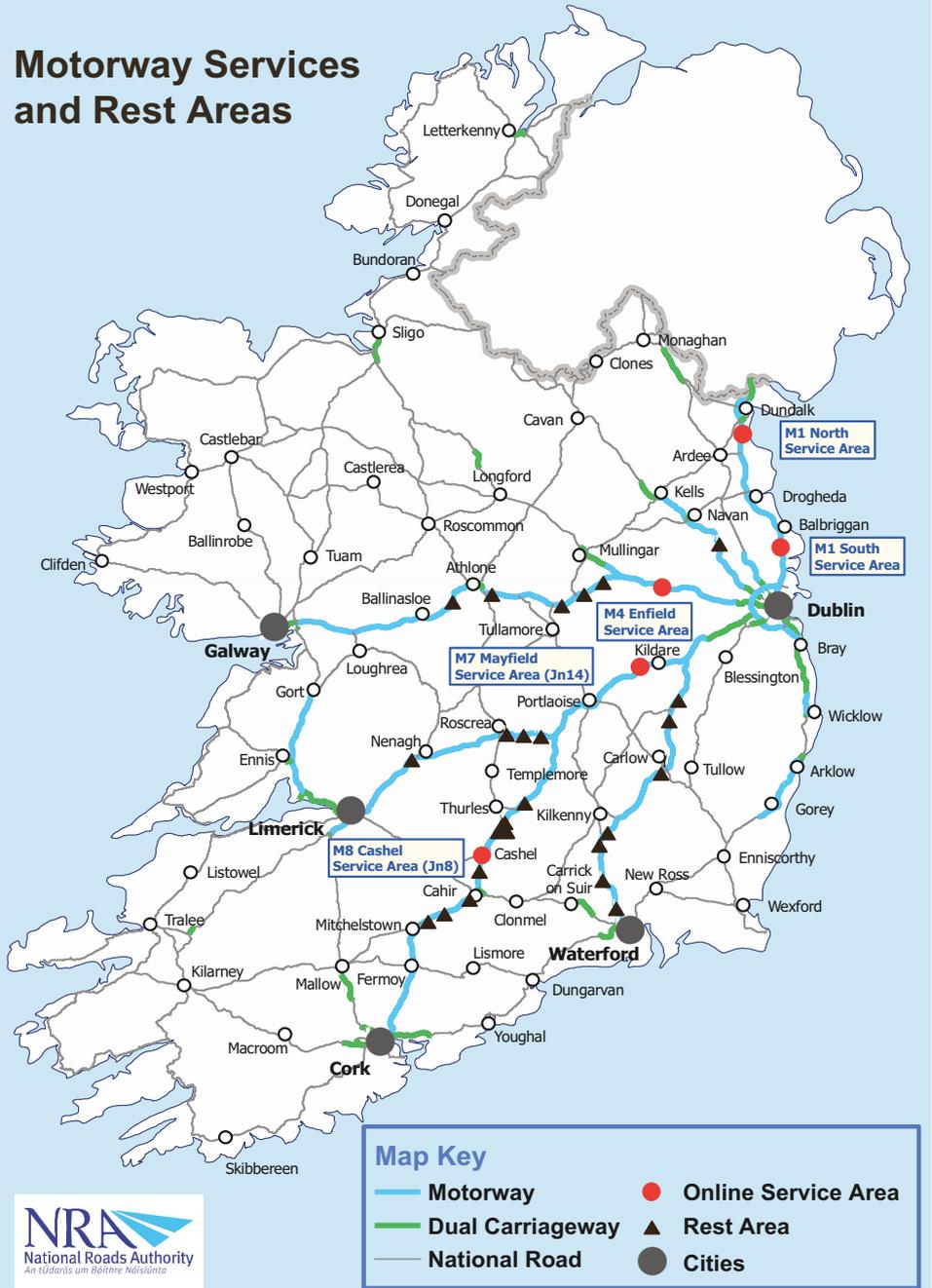
**Dublin Airport**  
Call: 01 814 1111  
information.queries@daa.ie  
[www.dublinairport.com](http://www.dublinairport.com)

**Shannon Airport**  
Call: 061 712000  
information.shannon@shannonairport.ie  
[www.shannonairport.com](http://www.shannonairport.com)

**Knock International Airport**  
Call: 094 936 8100  
info@irelandwestairport.com  
[www.irelandwestairport.com](http://www.irelandwestairport.com)  
[www.knockairport.com](http://www.knockairport.com)

**Cork Airport**  
Call: 021 4 31 31 31  
feedback@corkairport.com  
[www.corkairport.com](http://www.corkairport.com)

# Motorway Services and Rest Areas



# Working to Save Lives

Údarás Um Shábháilteacht Ar Bhóithre  
**Road Safety Authority**

Páirc Ghnó Ghleann na Muaidhe, Cnoc an tSabhaircín, Bóthar Bhaile Átha Cliath, Béal an Átha, Co. Mhaigh Eo.  
Moy Valley Business Park, Primrose Hill, Dublin Road, Ballina, Co. Mayo.

**locall:** 1890 50 60 80 **fax:** (096) 25 252 **email:** [info@rsa.ie](mailto:info@rsa.ie) **website:** [www.rsa.ie](http://www.rsa.ie)