

TRAVEL TIPS

GENERAL TRAVEL INFORMATION

Tipping

Most restaurants add a discretionary service charge to the bill for parties of **six people or more**. If this charge is added to your bill, tipping is not necessary. If a service charge is not included, it is customary to tip **10-15%**.

Shopping

Many shops open at **9am** and close at **6pm** from Monday to Friday. Some may operate late night shopping hours (until **9pm**) on **Thursdays** and **Fridays**. Sunday opening is very common for shopping centres, from **12pm to 6pm** mostly.

Communications

The international code for Ireland is **00** followed by **353**. The local prefix is preceded by a zero, which is dropped when calling from abroad but has to be dialled when calling within Ireland.

The number for emergency services is **999** (or **112** if calling from a mobile)

Most hotels offer Internet and Wi-Fi access or will be able to provide information on where to get Wi-Fi access.

The national postal service is provided by An Post and most large towns have a post office branch. Branches are open Monday to Friday **9am to 5.30pm**. For more information, dial CallSave 1850 57 58 59.

Banking

The **Euro** is the currency used in Ireland. Check the current exchange rate before travelling.

Most banks are open Monday to Friday **9am to 5pm** and most offer ATMs which can be accessed **24/7**. While most ATMs will accept credit cards for cash withdrawal is a good idea to check the fees with your credit card company first to avoid surprises. ATMs can also be found in shopping centres and in many cases at special event venues. Credit cards are widely accepted everywhere in Ireland with **Visa** and **Mastercard** being the most

popular. If using Traveller's checks, a word of caution as they might not actually be accepted outside the major tourist centres.

Smoking

In Ireland, and therefore throughout the County of Cork, smoking has been banned in all **workplaces** and **enclosed public spaces**. This includes **restaurants, hotels, bars, pubs** or any other such public building. These places normally provide dedicated smoking areas.

The ban also includes public transport, taxis, trains, etc...

To avoid fines, and if you're unsure whether you can smoke or not, take a look around for potential signs or ask a member of staff.