



# OSAC Country Security Report

## Ireland

Last Updated: March 25, 2024

### Travel Advisory

The current U.S. Department of State Travel Advisory at the date of this report's publication assesses that travelers should exercise normal precautions in Ireland. Review OSAC's report, [Understanding the Consular Travel Advisory System](#).

The Institute for Economics & Peace [Global Peace Index 2023](#) ranks Ireland 3 out of 163 worldwide, rating the country as being at a very high state of peace.

### Crime Environment

The U.S. Department of State has assessed Dublin as being a **MEDIUM**-threat location for crime directed at or affecting official U.S. government interests.

The crime emergency line in Ireland is **999** or **112**. Review the State Department's Crime Victims Assistance [brochure](#).

### Crime: General Threat

Although Ireland has a low rate of violent crime, always follow common sense personal security practices and maintain situational awareness when traveling. Rates of theft and petty crime have risen in recent years, and thieves often target tourists. In rare cases, these crimes involve physical assault or violence, more commonly in Dublin city center and in popular tourist areas. Crimes against U.S. nationals usually involve petty theft, burglary, and other minor offenses.

Rental cars are frequently targeted. They are easily identifiable by the rental company stickers on the rear window of the vehicle. If possible, remove these stickers and always lock your car when leaving it unattended. Do not leave valuables unattended in vehicles. When visiting city center areas, park your car in a secure car park and retain the parking ticket on your person.

Keep car doors locked while driving. Don't leave luggage or valuables visible inside a parked car and don't leave luggage on a roof rack. When picking up and dropping off your rental car, do not leave the keys in the ignition while loading or unloading luggage.

When using ATMs, protect your PIN at all times and look closely at ATMs for evidence of tampering before use. Criminals may use small electronic devices attached to the outside of ATMs called "skimmers" to steal the ATM or credit card data. In busy areas, thieves use distraction techniques at ATMs, such as waiting until the PIN has been entered and then pointing to money on the ground or asking for loose change. While the ATM user is distracted,

another person will quickly withdraw cash and leave. If you are distracted in any way, cancel the transaction immediately.

When using credit cards to pay at restaurants, a portable card reader should be brought to your table. Restaurant staff should not take your card elsewhere to process a charge.

Report crimes to the local police in person to the nearest Garda (police) station or by calling **999** or **112**, and contact the U.S. Embassy at +(353) (1) 668-8777. Tourists can also get [free support from the Irish Tourist Assistance Service](#) (ITAS) as a victim of crime.

U.S. citizen victims of sexual assault are encouraged to contact the U.S. Embassy for assistance. Local authorities are responsible for investigating and prosecuting crimes.

The Global Organized Crime [Index](#) is a tool designed to measure levels of organized crime in a given country and assess its resilience to organized criminal activity. The most recent index ranks Ireland 91 out of 193 worldwide for criminality, with 1 being the worst possible ranking; and 21 out of 193 worldwide for resilience, with 1 being the best possible ranking.

### Crime: Areas of Concern

There are no areas that are off limit.

Review OSAC's reports, [All That You Should Leave Behind](#), [Hotels: The Inns and Outs](#), [Considerations for Hotel Security](#), and [Taking Credit](#).

### Kidnapping Threat

The U.S. Department of State has not included a Kidnapping "K" Indicator on the Travel Advisory for Ireland.

Review OSAC's reports, [Kidnapping: The Basics](#) and [Active Shooter and Kidnapping Response Tips](#).

### Drug Crime

According to the Global Organized Crime Index, Ireland has the second highest number of opiate users in the European Union (EU), with heroin being the drug of choice for many. Half of the estimated users are males over 35 years old, and most are concentrated in Dublin's poorer areas. Cocaine use in Ireland has increased in recent years, and the country has become a transit point or destination for the drug, with significant seizures suggesting that Ireland is rapidly becoming part of the South American-European cocaine pipeline and a supply route to the UK, as well as supplying the internal markets north and south. The distribution networks are financed and enabled by transnational organized crime groups. In recent years, the number of young people treated for cocaine use more than doubled, highlighting that the cocaine problem

worsened during the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, the increased availability and consumption of crack cocaine have led to an increase in street violence in Dublin.

Consult with the CIA World Factbook's section on [Illicit Drugs](#) for country-specific information.

## Terrorism Environment

The U.S. Department of State has assessed Dublin as being a **LOW**-threat location for terrorism directed at or affecting official U.S. government interests.

The U.S. Department of State has not included a Terrorism "T" Indicator on the Travel Advisory for Ireland.

The Institute for Economics & Peace [Global Terrorism Index 2023](#) ranks Ireland 88 out of 163 worldwide, rating the country as having a very low impact from terrorism.

## Terrorism: General Threat

There are known indigenous terrorist organizations operating in Ireland, but these organizations tend to involve cross-border (Northern Ireland) elements that focus their activities on criminal profits rather than ideological or political concerns. Irish officials recognize and respond to the security problems created by these groups.

While Ireland has not experienced the rate of terrorist attacks as some of its neighboring European countries, the threat of lone actors and self-radicalized cells remain. Across Europe, during the long pandemic-related confinement, younger people, who were typically unknown to authorities, became more susceptible to online radicalization. Much of the terrorism threat comes from radicalized lone-actor perpetrators, who could attack using knives, vehicle ramming, guns, incendiary devices, and other methods that do not require specialized knowledge, access, or training. Preventing such offenses is a special challenge, since these attacks are committed at short notice, involving only a short planning phase and little organizational effort, and often without relying on any network or communication structures.

Lone-actor perpetrators pose a serious risk due to their ability to remain undetected, at times, until operational and their willingness to attack civilian and soft targets, such as restaurants, markets/shopping malls, hotels, clubs, and similar locations. There also remains a potential for terrorist attacks against public transportation systems and other tourism infrastructure.

Events occurring elsewhere in the world have also been used by Islamist extremists to try to galvanize individuals across Europe. For instance, since the October 7 Hamas terrorist attack in Israel and Israel's subsequent response, there have been increased calls by terrorist organizations like ISIS and al-Qa'ida for individuals to attack targets in Europe.

There have also been arrests of Dissident Republican (DR) groups in Ireland. According to the most recent [2023 European Union Terrorism Situation and Trend report](#), in 2022, 11 individuals

were arrested in connection with DR groups in Ireland. While there have been no attacks by DR groups in the EU in 2022, there have been incidents reported in the UK. For instance, in August 2022, the New Irish Republican Army (NIRA) claimed in a call to local media to have fired a number of shots from an automatic weapon at police in Londonderry, UK. Police were on duty at the time and were monitoring a bonfire at an annual commemoration. There were no casualties and this incident was categorized as an attempted attack (the first since April 2021) by UK authorities. A number of arrests were made after the incident.

DR groups aim to reunite Ireland with Northern Ireland and create a 32-county socialist republic in Ireland. They have a hierarchical structure, with specific roles, responsibilities and functions divided among members. DR groups have both a political wing and a militarized wing. The political wing can be viewed as a public front for the purpose of spreading propaganda, often through social media platforms. House-to-house leaflet dropping and protests are also among the channels used for the dissemination of propaganda. These groups have forged strong links to criminal organizations and are regularly engaged in criminal activities to fund their cause, e.g. through the sale of contraband/counterfeit items, the sale of drugs, extortion and smuggling. They also organize various charitable fundraisers and money collections to finance their activities. Criminals may also be in a position to provide weaponry as well as means of transportation into Northern Ireland.

There are also concerns about the rise of far-right extremism. Since the November 2023 stabbing of three children and an adult female by a foreign-born Irish citizen, there have been an uptick in far-right calls for protests and violence. The November 2023 stabbing led to anti-immigrant rioters rampaging through central Dublin, after rumors spread on social media that a foreign national was responsible for the attack. Up to 500 people looted shops, set fires to vehicles, and threw rocks at crowd-control officers. Also, there have been sporadic incidents around the country where perpetrators have set fires to housing set aside for asylum seekers. While the far-right is a small movement in Ireland, they are feeding into and capitalizing on perceived concerns about the immigration system in Ireland, the impact that large numbers of migrants are having on Irish society, and the stress on the housing sector.

Far-left extremism is also a growing concern. Even before the start of the Israel-Hamas conflict in 2023, left-wing extremists have participated in environmental protests, and campaigned against perceived British, EU and American imperialism, sometimes actively targeting senior citizens who have previously been involved in the Republican movement. Since the Israel-Hamas conflict, far-left elements have used the mostly pro-Palestinian protests to grow and recruit.

## Political Violence and Civil Unrest Environment

The U.S. Department of State has assessed Dublin as being a **LOW**-threat location for political violence directed at or affecting official U.S. government interests.

The U.S. Department of State has not included a Civil Unrest “U” Indicator on the Travel Advisory for Ireland. Civil unrest can develop quickly without prior notice, often interrupting logistics and services. Avoid demonstration activity, as even those planned to remain peaceful have the potential to turn violent.

## Elections/Political Stability

Ireland is a multiparty parliamentary democracy with a directly elected president, an executive branch headed by a prime minister, and a bicameral parliament.

## Protest & Demonstration Activity

Protests occur on a regular basis, though most are peaceful. However, some have the potential to turn violent. Following a November 2023 knife attack, which left several wounded, there has been anti-immigrant unrest around Dublin. After the attack, rumors circulated that a foreign national was responsible. Rioters torched several city buses and police vehicles, damaged more than a dozen storefronts in the city, and threw rocks at crowd control officers. Ireland’s police chief blamed “lunatic hooligan faction driven by far-right ideology” for the destruction and chaos. However, similar protests have occurred in pockets across Ireland over the past year, fueled by nativist rhetoric online, a housing shortage, and a cost-of-living crisis. According to the Garda (Irish police) Commissioner, there were 585 protests in the Dublin metropolitan area in 2023, 227 of which related to immigration and refugees, which highlights the growing political extremism in Ireland.

In February 2024, police deployed more than 300 police officers to Dublin amid a massive march against the push for mass migration and a counter protest. The marchers and a group of counter protesters, who billed themselves as opposing racism, reportedly shouted at each other through a line of gardaí, or police.

Events around the world have also led to demonstrations in Ireland. For instance, after the start of the Israel-Hamas conflict, there have been mostly pro-Palestinian protests across the country.

Protests can be well organized and attended, and can lead to some disruption, including to traffic and public transport. Irish police presence at these events is generally adequate, although travelers should avoid areas where protests take place. Historically, only protests involving U.S. interests might lead to direct targeting of the U.S. Embassy by protesters. Avoid large gatherings and follow advice of local authorities.

Review OSAC’s report, [Surviving a Protest](#).

## Law Enforcement Concerns: Security Agencies

An Garda Siochana (or “Garda”) is the national police force and maintains internal security under the auspices of the Justice Department. Garda is Ireland’s sole provider of policing, law enforcement, and state security.

The defense forces are responsible for external security under the supervision of the Defense Department; they are also authorized to perform certain domestic security responsibilities in support of the Garda. Civilian authorities maintain effective control over the security forces. There have been no reports that members of the security forces committed abuses.

### Police Response

Police response times in Ireland are typically slower than in the United States. Police response to crime in Ireland is generally adequate and timely within the larger urban areas, especially Dublin, but considerably slower in the more rural areas of Ireland.

## Law Enforcement Concerns: Emergency Contact/Information

The emergency line in Ireland is **999** or **112** for police, fire, ambulance, and coast guard from any phone, including mobiles.

## Transportation Security

### Road Safety

Road conditions and safety standards meet or exceed U.S. standards, except in remote areas, where roads can be extremely narrow and difficult to navigate. Vehicle accidents are common and are a major hazard for foreign drivers, especially those not accustomed to driving in Ireland, where cars drive on the left side of the road. Those without experience driving on the left should be especially cautious; tourists driving on the incorrect side of the road are the cause of several serious accidents each year.

Major roads and highways are well maintained, and extensive lighting exists. However, once drivers exit the highway, roads are likely to be narrow, uneven, and winding. Roads are more dangerous during the summer and on holiday weekends. Drivers should be attentive to cyclists and pedestrians, particularly in urban areas.

Most intersections in Ireland use circular roundabouts instead of traffic lights; pay close attention to signs and yield the right of way to those already in the roundabout. Most rental cars in Ireland have manual transmissions; it can be difficult to find automatic transmission rental cars.

Police periodically set up roadblocks to check for drunk drivers. Penalties for driving under the influence can be severe. At stoplights, turning on a red light is illegal; drivers must wait for

either a full green (any direction turn permitted) or directional green light (which could be straight, left, or right) before proceeding with caution.

Drivers may use their existing U.S. driver's license in Ireland for a temporary stay, which can be for any period of time up to one year. Some insurance and car rental companies may request an International Driving Permit in addition to your existing driver's license. Drivers are required to apply for an Irish driver's license if they become a resident of Ireland. Travelers planning to drive to Northern Ireland are subject to UK traffic laws while in Northern Ireland. Traffic signs may be different than in the Republic of Ireland.

Weather conditions, especially in the western part of the country, can contribute to hazardous road conditions. A number of tour organizations arrange travel throughout the country, with varying degrees of service; none are off-limits for U.S. government employees.

For detailed, country-specific road and vehicle safety information, read the World Health Organization's Global Status [Report on Road Safety](#).

Review OSAC's reports, [Road Safety Abroad](#), [Driving Overseas: Best Practices](#), and [Evasive Driving Techniques](#); and read the State Department's [webpage on driving and road safety abroad](#).

## Public Transportation Safety

The overall transportation system is efficient and safe. Taxis, buses, and trains are safe. Local bus service in the cities is generally adequate, although many buses are crowded, frequently run late, and lines do not necessarily link easily. Pay close attention to bus stop locations in both directions, as the drop-off and pick-up locations could be several blocks away from each other. Taxi rates vary with time of day and location. Ask your hotel for the number of a call-dispatched taxi service if you plan to be out during less busy times.

## Aviation Concerns

The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has assessed the government of Ireland's Civil Aviation Authority as compliant with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) aviation safety standards for oversight of Ireland's air carrier operations.

Review OSAC's Report, [Security in Transit: Airplanes, Public Transport, and Overnights](#); and consider the [European Union Air Safety List](#).

## Maritime Security

Ferries are a main route of transportation across the Irish Sea from Ireland to Great Britain, and some travel south to France. Ferry companies maintain strict rules as to items that cannot board vessels, whether carried by individual travelers or packed in a vehicle, to include arms,



ammunition, and excess fuel. Security screening of vehicles occurs prior to boarding, supplemented by Coast Guard presence at the port and aboard vessels.

Consult with the [Stable Seas Maritime Security Index](#) for detailed information and ratings regarding rule of law, law enforcement, piracy, and other maritime security indicators.

## Personal Identity & Human Rights Concerns

The law prohibits words or behaviors likely to generate hatred against persons because of their race, nationality, religion, ethnicity, national origins, or sexual orientation. There have been reports of significant human rights issues including credible reports of trafficking in persons. The government takes steps to prosecute officials who committed human rights abuses and corruption, including in the security services and elsewhere in the government.

### Safety Concerns for Women Travelers

The law criminalizes rape, including spousal rape, and does not make a distinction between men and women. The government enforced the law. Most convicted persons received prison sentences of five to 12 years. The law also criminalizes domestic violence. It authorizes prosecution of a violent family member and provides victims with “safety orders,” which prohibit the offender from engaging in violent actions or threats, and “barring orders” (restraining orders), which prohibit an offender from entering the family home for up to three years. Anyone found guilty of violating a barring or an interim protection order may receive a fine, a prison sentence of up to 12 months, or both.

The law obliges employers to prevent sexual harassment of both men and women and prohibits employers from dismissing an employee for making a complaint of sexual harassment. Authorities effectively enforced the law when they received reports of sexual harassment. The penalties can include an order requiring equal treatment in the future, as well as compensation for the victim up to a maximum of two years’ pay or 40,000 euros (\$46,000).

The law provides that women and men have the same legal status and rights. The government enforces the law effectively, although inequalities in pay and promotions persist in both the public and private sectors. Travelers (a traditionally itinerant minority ethnic group), Roma, and migrant women have low levels of participation in political and public life.

The Solo Female Travel Safety [Index](#) combines the experiences of solo female travelers with other reliable indices to award a single rating indicating the relative security female travelers might experience in a given country. The qualitative portion of the index examines risk of scam, theft, and harassment, as well as the country’s perceived attitude towards women. As of the date of this report’s publication, Ireland has a score of 1.1 on a scale of 1.0 (safest) to 4.0 (least safe). All solo female travelers are able to share their solo travel experiences by signing up with the Solo Female Travelers [portal](#); the organization draws qualitative data from women traveling solo, depending on active participation and honest information.



Consider composite scores given to Ireland by the UN Development Program (UNDP) in its [Gender Development Index](#), measuring the difference between average achievement in three basic dimensions of human development, and [Gender Inequality Index](#), measuring inequality in achievement in reproductive health, empowerment, and the labor market. For more information on gender statistics in COUNTRY, see the World Bank's [Gender Data Portal](#).

Review the State Department's [webpage](#) for female travelers.

### Safety Concerns for LGBTQI+ Travelers

Same-sex conduct is not criminalized. There have been reports of violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex (LGBTQI+) persons. The government enforces the law when violations are reported.

The law prohibits discrimination in employment, goods, services, and education by state and nonstate actors based on sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or sex characteristics, and recognizes LGBTQI+ individuals, couples, and their families. The law does not include gender identity as an explicit category, but the courts have interpreted the law as prohibiting discrimination against transgender persons. The government enforces the law when violations are reported.

Since September 2015, persons over 18 can update their legal gender markers through a simple administrative process of self-determination.

There have not been any reported issues with travelers entering Ireland on non-binary X passports.

The Equaldex [Equality Index](#) measures the status of LGBTI+ rights, laws, and freedoms, as well as public attitudes towards LGBTQI+ people around the world. As of this report's publication date, Ireland has a score of 73/100, ranking 31 out of 197 countries on the index.

Consider information from [Destination Pride](#), a data-driven search platform associated with PFLAG Canada that visualize the world's LGBTQ+ laws, rights, and social sentiment; as well as from ILGA World, a worldwide federation that produces an annual [map](#) showing sexual orientation laws from around the world, available in multiple languages.

Review OSAC's reports, [Supporting LGBT+ Employee Security Abroad](#), [X Passports: Nonbinary Travel Safety](#), and the State Department's [webpage](#) on security for LGBTI travelers.

### Safety Concerns for Travelers with Disabilities

Individuals with disabilities may find accessibility and accommodation very different from what is offered in the United States.

Irish law requires access to government buildings for persons with disabilities, and this requirement is enforced. Under Irish law, public service providers should ensure the service is accessible to those with mobility, sensory, and/or cognitive impairments.

On-street parking, public building parking lots, and internal parking lots always have a certain number of disabled spaces available. A permit is required to use these spaces, and information on applying for the permit can be found on the [Disabled Drivers Association of Ireland website](#). Local authorities and commercial premises, such as shopping outlets, have no legal obligation to provide external disabled parking facilities for their customers.

The majority of buses and trains in the main city areas of Ireland are now equipped for those with limited mobility, sight, or hearing disabilities, although some train stations and pathways may not be as easily accessible.

On mainline and suburban trains, special portable ramps permit boarding from platforms to the carriages. These ramps are available at all terminal points and major junctions and stations that have staff on duty. They are also available on some trains. Travelers are advised to contact [Irish Rail](#) in advance to ensure such facilities are available. The website for [Dublin Bus](#) provides information on its travel assistance scheme. Regional and intercity bus services are provided by [Bus Eireann](#).

Accessibility in private businesses – such as hotels, bed and breakfasts, shops, and restaurants – varies widely. Travelers should inquire about accessibility issues with businesses before making reservations.

People who live in Ireland and meet the medical conditions for a disability allowance may apply for free travel passes; there is also a blind/invalidity pension from the Irish Department of Social Protection for those who qualify.

Review the State Department’s [webpage](#) on security for travelers with disabilities.

### Safety Concerns for Travelers Based on Race, Religion, & Ethnicity

Societal discrimination and violence against immigrants and racial, ethnic, and religious minorities remained a problem. The country’s African population and Muslim community in particular experienced racially and religiously motivated physical violence, intimidation, graffiti, and verbal slurs.

Since the start of the 2023 Israel-Hamas conflict, there have been a rise in anti-Semitic incidents across Europe. The Jewish community in Ireland have expressed concern of a “huge uptick in anti-Semitism” after the start of this conflict.

Review the [latest](#) U.S Department of State Report on International Religious Freedom for country-specific information.

Review OSAC's report, [Freedom to Practice](#), and the State Department's [webpage](#) on security for faith-based travelers.

## Anti-U.S./Anti-Western Sentiment

In general, anti-U.S. sentiment is extremely low and do not affect the private sector.

## Concerns involving the Rule of Law, Arbitrary Detention, Official Harassment, Corruption &/or Transparency

The law provides criminal penalties for corruption by officials, and the government generally implements the laws effectively. There have not been any reports of central government corruption.

The Transparency International Corruption Perceptions [Index](#) ranks Ireland 11 out of 180 worldwide, where 1 means most transparent.

The World Justice Project Rule of Law [Index](#) measures how the rule of law is experienced and perceived worldwide based on surveys in 142 countries and jurisdictions, and is the leading source for original, independent data on the rule of law. The most recent index ranks Ireland 10

## Communication Issues

The law provides for freedom of expression, including for members of the press and other media, and the government generally respects this right. An independent press, an effective judiciary, and a functioning democratic political system combines to promote freedom of expression, including for members of the media.

The law prohibits words or behaviors likely to generate hatred against persons because of their race, nationality, religion, ethnicity, national origins, or sexual orientation. The law places a duty on broadcasters not to broadcast any material which may reasonably be regarded as causing harm or offense, or as being likely to promote or incite crime or which undermines the authority of the State.

The government does not restrict or disrupt access to the internet or censor online content, and there have not been any reports of the government monitoring private online communications without appropriate legal authority. Consistent with an EU directive, the government requires telecommunication companies to retain information on all telephone and internet contacts (not content) for two years.

The Reporters Without Borders World Press Freedom [Index](#) ranks Ireland 2 out of 180 worldwide, where 1 means most freedom. The Freedom House Freedom in the World [report](#) rates Ireland's freedom of speech as Free.

Review OSAC's report, [Lèse Majesté: Watching what you say \(and type\) abroad.](#)

## Health Concerns

Patients who do not receive benefits from Ireland's Department of Social Protection are expected to pay all costs up-front at the time of treatment and apply for reimbursement from their insurance provider later.

Modern medical facilities and highly skilled medical practitioners are available in Ireland. Expect long waits for access to medical specialists and admissions to hospitals for non-life-threatening medical conditions. It is not unusual for emergency room services to be very busy or for post-treatment admissions to include a long wait (sometimes overnight) on a gurney in a hallway.

Carry your medical history, along with a detailed list of any current medications, including dosage and brand name, in your wallet or purse and luggage. Most types of over-the-counter medications are available but many U.S. brands are not. Some medications available over the counter in the United States may require a prescription in Ireland. Irish pharmacists may not be able to dispense medication prescribed by U.S. physicians and may direct you to obtain a prescription from an Irish doctor. Always carry your prescription medication in original packaging, along with your doctor's prescription. Check with the [Government of Ireland](#) to ensure the medication is legal in Ireland.

Be aware that U.S. Medicare/Medicaid does not apply overseas. Most hospitals and doctors overseas do not accept U.S. health insurance. Travelers are advised to have supplemental insurance to cover medical evacuation.

Ambulance services are widely available.

For emergency services in Ireland, dial **112** or **999**.

Find contact information for available medical services and available air ambulance services on the U.S. Embassy [website](#). The U.S. Department of State strongly recommends purchasing international health insurance before traveling internationally. Review the State Department's [webpage](#) on health insurance overseas.

The U.S. Department of State has not included a Health "H" Indicator on the Travel Advisory for Ireland. Review the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) country-specific [Travel Health Notices](#) for current health issues that impact traveler health, like disease outbreaks, special events or gatherings, and natural disasters.

See OSAC's [Guide to U.S. Government-Assisted Evacuations](#); review OSAC's reports, [The Healthy Way, Shaken: The Don'ts of Alcohol Abroad](#), [Health 101: How to Prepare for Travel](#), and [Fire Safety Abroad](#); and visit the State Department's webpage on [Your Health Abroad](#) for more information.

## Vaccinations

Review the CDC [Travelers' Health](#) site for country-specific vaccine recommendations.

## Issues Traveling with Medications

Carry your medical history, along with a detailed list of any current medications, including dosage and brand name, in your wallet or purse and luggage. Most types of over-the-counter medications are available but many U.S. brands are not. Some medications available over the counter in the United States may require a prescription in Ireland. Irish pharmacists may not be able to dispense medication prescribed by U.S. physicians and may direct you to obtain a prescription from an Irish doctor.

Always carry your prescription medication in original packaging, along with your doctor's prescription. Check with the [Government of Ireland](#) to ensure the medication is legal in Ireland.

Review OSAC's report, [Traveling with Medication](#).

## Water Quality

Water in Ireland is potable.

Review OSAC's report, [I'm Drinking What in My Water?](#)

## Environmental Hazards

[Coastal erosion](#) can be a hazard in Ireland, especially where housing or roads abut cliffs. Ireland is indirectly affected by volcanic ash, given its location relative to Iceland. Other hazards, such as sinkholes, landslides, and flooding occur on occasion. [Landslides](#) occur mainly in areas with steep slopes, where rock meets the surface and peat covers the terrain. [Sinkholes](#) occur in Karst landscapes, which are characterized by solution and voids in the bedrock. An uneven bedrock surface, gradual ground subsidence, or sudden collapse associated with subsurface voids can result in significant problems for engineering.

Ireland has experienced an increased frequency of [groundwater flooding](#). Groundwater flooding occurs when the water table rises above the land surface. It generally requires sustained rainfall over relatively longer duration than other forms of flooding, its location is discontinuous, and can last for weeks or months. Geological Survey Ireland has established a network of permanent monitoring stations providing real-time information on water levels at key sites which are representative of the spectrum of groundwater flooding conditions in Ireland.

Review OSAC's report, [Central Asia Earthquake Preparedness](#).

## Cybersecurity Concerns

Cybercrime is a major concern, particularly with more than 800 U.S. companies and many of the leading technology firms locating their European headquarters in Ireland. The Irish government has been taking proactive steps to address this growing threat, including approving a new National Cyber Security Strategy.

Review OSAC's reports, [Cybersecurity Basics](#), [Best Practices for Maximizing Security on Public Wi-Fi](#), [Traveling Abroad with Mobile Devices](#), and [Guide for Overseas Satellite Phone Usage](#).

## Counterintelligence Issues

Be mindful of having sensitive conversations in public, especially online, as the expectation of privacy is always diminished. Do not leave personal electronic items unattended in hotel rooms.

## Other Security Concerns

### Landmines

This country has no known issues with landmines.

### Import/Export Restrictions

There are no restrictions on satellite phones in Ireland.

A country-specific listing of items/goods prohibited from being exported to the country or that are otherwise restricted is available from the U.S. International Trade Agency [website](#).

### Photography

There are no photography restrictions unique to Ireland.

Review OSAC's report, [Picture This: Dos and Don'ts for Photography](#).

### ID Requirements

There are no identification requirements unique to Ireland.

### Critical Infrastructure Concerns

There are no critical infrastructure concerns unique to private-sector operations in Ireland.

## OSAC Country Chapters

The Country Chapter in Dublin is active.

Contact [OSAC's Europe team](#) with any questions.

## Embassy Contact Information

[U.S. Embassy](#): 42 Elgin Road, Ballsbridge Dublin 4. Tel: +353-01-630-6200; After-hours emergency: +353-1-668-8777. Hours: 0730-1630, Monday – Friday.

## Trustworthy News Sources

- [RTE](#)
- [Independent](#)
- [Irish Times](#)

## Other Helpful Info

- [State Department Country Information](#)
- [OSAC Risk Matrix](#)
- [OSAC Travelers Toolkit](#)
- [State Department Travelers Checklist](#)
- [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#)
- [How OSAC Analysts Can Benefit Your Global Security Operations](#)