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Chapter 1 : Visas for Ireland - Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

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Major airports and ferry routes Common Travel Area If you enter the United Kingdom through Ireland, you will pass through passport control at your port of entry into Ireland, but you will not be required to clear UK passport control. However, you will only be limited to a stay of 90 days in the UK and Ireland or whatever the passport control officer in Ireland gives you a leave to remain for if you qualify for a visa exemption, not the usual six-month stay in the UK for visa-exempt nationals. Hence, especially if you attempt to enter the UK as a Student Visitor i. If you require a visa for either Ireland or the UK, however, you must possess a visa from each country that requires you to have one if you intend to visit both of them. Not passing through passport control does not exempt one from having a visa if needed, and you can be fined and deported for not having a visa if discovered. The United Kingdom is physically linked to two other countries. Immigration and visa requirements[edit] EU, EEA and Swiss citizens do not require a visa, and can enter with either a valid national identity card or passport. They have the right to reside and work in the UK. Irish, Cypriot and Maltese citizens have additional rights, including being able to vote in and stand in UK Parliamentary elections. That said, it is better to use a biometric passport, because only this document is accepted for the e-gates. Citizens of Oman , Qatar and the United Arab Emirates may apply for an Electronic Visa Waiver EVA , which is valid for tourism and study, and may stay for up to 6 months [1] A visa also referred to by UK border officials as entry clearance is required for citizens of most other countries to enter the UK and a number of countries to transit the UK airside. This can be obtained from the British Embassy, High Commission or Consulate where the applicant legally resides. Unless they are 6 years old or under or travelling directly to the Channel Islands and not passing through the UK or the Isle of Man, UK visa applicants are required to provide biometric data digit fingerprints and a biometric digital photograph as part of the application process. As part of the visa application procedure, it is necessary to attend a UK visa application centre in person to provide your biometrics. Check out different types of UK visa here [2]. The United Kingdom has converted the previous visa categories except for the visitor and transit categories into a five-tiered points-based system PBS , meaning that you will be required to satisfy specific and non-negotiable criteria before the visa is issued. Points-based system visa fees are very high, so it may be wise to see if the purpose of your visit can be satisfied under a different, non-points based system visa. Commonwealth citizens who are 17 or over and have a British grandparent or Irish grandparent before April can apply for an ancestry visa. This allows residency and work in the UK for five years. After five years, permanent residence indefinite leave to remain may be applied for; after 12 months of continuous permanent residence and five years of continuous residence in the UK, ancestry visa holders will be able to apply for naturalisation as a British citizen. All Commonwealth citizens living in the UK regardless of what type of visa they hold and whether they have a British grandparent are eligible to vote in all elections. Only a limited number of visas are issued for each nationality -- in particular, demand far exceeds supply for Japan and Taiwan. Visit the UKVI webpage. There are generally no immigration checks when entering the UK from Ireland. However, visitors who are not Irish or British citizens are still required to meet admission requirements and should carry their passport with appropriate visa stamps if required. Travellers subject to immigration control should expect to be asked by the immigration officer upon arrival to demonstrate that they have a a return ticket to leave the United Kingdom or sufficient funds to meet the cost of an onwards plane ticket, b a valid address at which they will be staying in the United Kingdom and c sufficient funds with which to support themselves during their stay. An inability to demonstrate these three basics may lead to a refusal of leave to enter together with cancellation of any existing UK visa or a grant of restricted leave. Character concerns[edit] The United Kingdom is known to be somewhat laxer than some other countries when it comes to character concerns of visitors. That said, if the

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border officer questions you about criminal history, you must answer truthfully. Declared bankruptcy, no matter how long ago. Been sued for debt i. The UKVI takes a dim view of both these situations, as there have been recent abuses of the UK banking and lending system by foreign visitors and immigrants, and unpaid debt or a bankruptcy abroad can be grounds for refusal. Like with criminality, each case is evaluated based on the totality of the circumstances and denial of entry or a visa for credit problems is very unlikely for visitors unless you owe money in the UK see below. Customs and goods[edit] The UK has relatively strict laws controlling which goods can and cannot be brought into the country. Selective customs checks are run by the UKBF at arrival ports. Particularly stringent laws apply to the movement of animals, except from within the EU, where an animal passport system operates, providing proof of vaccination against rabies. The British Isles are rabies-free, and the government and the people want to keep it that way. Signs in several languages are displayed prominently at even the smallest of boat landings all around the coast. Owing to the abolition in of customs duty on goods for personal use when travelling across EU borders, it has become popular among the British to bring back large quantities of alcohol and tobacco bought at lower tax rates in Continental Europe. However, the practice is open to abuse, with organised criminals trying to illegally import large amounts for the purposes of selling on at a profit. The fines can be severe, and you also run the risk of the goods and the vehicle they are being transported in being confiscated. Importing an excessive amount of alcohol in a private car is more likely to result in action being taken for overloading the vehicle, which is a police matter rather than a customs matter. Ports of entry from EU origins are still manned by customs officers who take more of an interest in controlled substances e. KLM has a large number of feeder flights to almost every UK regional airport from its international hub in Amsterdam Schiphol. Recently, many airports in southern England have added "London" to their names. Major airports outside of the London area: This could be a more convenient arrival airport for visitors to North Wales, the North of England and Scotland. Outside London and Manchester, many of the regional airports offer a wide range of direct links to European and some long-haul destinations. The airport has good European services and some long haul services to far flung places. It is an ideal gateway to Central England and Wales. Birmingham Airport also has a direct train route to London Euston journey times approximately 75 minutes on the fastest trains and is a hub for the low cost airline FlyBe. Advanced rail fares are often cheaper than standard fares from London to Gatwick, Luton and Stansted airports. Blackpool has an international airport nearby offering a lot of package-holiday flights. Newcastle International Airport is the only airport in the North East of England offering a daily service to and from Dubai, with connecting flights into Australia and the far east, it is also a hub for easyjet, Thomson, Thomas Cook and Jet2, with flights available to over destinations. Smaller regional airports include: Southampton and Bournemouth Airports are medium-sized, though they have bargain-price flights with Ryanair and Flybe and can be accessed from London Waterloo train station. Norwich has a busy route to Amsterdam, as well as Flybe flights across the UK. Durham Tees Valley formally called Teesside International before - some tickets and flight booking sites outside the UK still refer to it as Teesside and Humberside have KLM feeders via Amsterdam to the Skyteam worldwide network, and irregular low-cost and charter flights to European tourist destinations. Neither airport is easily accessible by public transport, apart from taxis. Kent International Airport is similarly small. In Scotland , the major airports with links to London and abroad are: Cardiff International , the only international airport in Wales , is a major hub of Flybe and Thomas Cook, which has a few long-haul flights, such as Barbados. Anglesey Airport is the only other noteworthy airport of Wales, which has one flight a day to the Isle of Man and Cardiff. Belfast International has several North American long-haul flights, while Belfast City is very conveniently situated 19 minutes from the centre of Belfast by local bus. City of Derry Airport serves the northwest with a limited number of international and domestic flights. Isle of Man, Guernsey and Jersey all have their own respective airports, with well-serviced flights from around the UK, as well as to France and further afield. Flying is probably more convenient than ferry to these islands. Due to an increase in airport security and aviation security in general, long delays are possible when checking in for a flight. Additionally a passport or valid photo ID such as photo driving licence, national ID

card, etc. During the summer an additional weekly train operates to Avignon and during the winter a weekly service runs a ski service direct to the French Alps. Through tickets and connections are available through Lille, Paris and Brussels from many European cities to most large UK cities. Journey times to central London average two hours fifteen minutes from Paris and one hour fifty minutes from Brussels. While it can be cheaper to fly from London to Paris using a low-cost airline, bear in mind that the journeys to the airports can be expensive and time-consuming. When arriving in Calais, Lille, Paris or Brussels, there is no immigration or check - passengers simply walk onto the platform, then into the station. Pancras is slightly slower than on the continent, but it should still take less than 15 minutes from the Eurostar platform to the tube platform. However, UK customs checks take place on arrival in the UK. Eurostar passengers not travelling to the UK e. Combined train and ferry tickets are available to travellers from stations in the Netherlands to train stations in East Anglia , Essex and East London. This service may be a useful alternative to Eurostar for travellers from Northern Europe, or for those wishing to travel to East Anglia. The interchange between the ferry terminal and the train station at both ports is very simple and user friendly. Express trains from Harwich International are timed to meet the ferry and allow a simple transfer to London Liverpool Street. The Dutch Flyer website gives prices only for tickets purchased in Great Britain; it does, however, give timetable information. Tickets can be bought from the railway company and ferry operators. Through tickets are available on most sea corridors. Fares are slightly higher during July and August. Shuttle trains operated by Eurotunnel carry cars from Calais , France to Folkestone , the journey taking around 40 minutes. On arrival at Folkestone, you can drive on to the M20 motorway which heads towards London. Drivers entering Northern Ireland from the Republic of Ireland will usually find they have done so without noticing. There are no border controls, and only the major roads will display signs stating that you are leaving one country and entering the other. It should be noted that road signs in the Republic of Ireland are in kilometres while those in Northern Ireland are in miles so it is advisable to take note of the differences in signs and road markings when driving in border areas. When first entering the tunnel waiting zones at Folkestone or Calais, you need to choose the correct type of lane indicated by the symbols so that the machine, or booth is on the easiest side of your car for you to reach. As you exit the tunnel onto the M20 in England you will be reminded in three languages to drive on the left. By bus[edit] Coaches are the cheapest way to travel to the UK from France , the Benelux and western Germany owing to the high amount of competition. Daily overnight coaches and limited day coaches travel between the UK and Ireland. Journeys take about hr. Companies such as this usually come and go. By boat[edit] See the city articles for more details on routes, timings and costs. Newcastle serves a route from Amsterdam in the Netherlands. Harwich has ferries from Hoek van Holland in the Netherlands.

Chapter 2 : Short Stay Visas (less than 3 months)

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In fact, the border is rarely signposted and it is often difficult to tell when you have crossed from the Republic into the Northern Ireland and vice-versa. The most obvious signal is that the roadsigns on the Republic side are mostly bilingual, in Irish and English, and speed limits and distances are shown in kilometres. You may also notice changes in lines in the road; yellow thick lines in the south and white thin lines in Northern Ireland. However, despite the lack of border controls, be keenly aware that you must possess a valid Irish visa if required for your nationality, or you risk being deported for illegal presence in Ireland. Nationals of some countries may be able to take advantage of mutual recognition of certain short-stay tourist visas through the British-Irish Visa Scheme BIVS. This will be indicated by a BIVS mark on your visa. If in doubt, confirm with the Irish embassy serving your region that your visa type and nationality are covered by the BIVS scheme. If you are flying with Ryanair [25] - into Ireland from the UK you must be in possession of passport or equivalent national identity card. You can pick up in the cities or at the airports, though it may cost more to pick up at an airport. Note that most Irish car hire agencies will not accept third party collision damage insurance coverage CDW for example with credit card when you rent a car. Conventional wisdom suggests renting hiring a car that is an automatic transmission model. However, selecting a manual transmission stickshift model will allow the driver to select a smaller vehicle which better fits the small roads and saves gas petrol without a noticeable loss of power. In addition, roundabouts are more common in Ireland than in many other countries. Navigating roundabouts is easier with a stickshift because you downshift for extra power to speed up coming out of the turn. It should be noted that traffic already on the roundabout has right of way over traffic entering it, just as in the US. This network is a single unified system for Northern Ireland and the Republic and currently free of charge. An access card can be acquired for foreign registered vehicles by submitted proof of registration to ESB eCars. Caravanning[edit] Holidaying using your own wheels is a popular and very enjoyable experience in Ireland. As the weather can change very rapidly, having the benefit of shelter whilst you drive caught on quickly in this corner of Europe. Unlike most of the rest of Europe, numerous free sites are available throughout the country for those on campervan style excursions across Ireland. However, finding these sites is not always easy- they are not documented on the web yet, although if you arrive in an area early, a simple query at the local council office will usually suffice. If you arrive into a town outside of office hours, normally the local person you ask will display typical Irish hospitality and point you in the right direction. Facilities vary, but fresh water and waste disposal are usually the required minimum. If facilities are poor, inform the local council, they will usually help. Taxis[edit] It is highly recommended that you call ahead to book a taxi. The hotel, hostel, or bed and breakfast you are staying in will usually call the cab company they work closely with for your convenience. Taxis should be reasonably easy to pick up on the streets in Dublin, Belfast and Cork but may be harder to find cruising the streets in smaller cities and towns so it is often best to telephone for one. Work with the same cab company your hotel does and let them know your final destination if there is more than one stop. You will also need to give them a contact phone number over the phone, so if calling from a pay phone, be prepared for them to deny your claim for a taxi cab. The average waiting time may be anywhere from 5 to 30 minutes depending on demand and time of day. All Taxis in Republic of Ireland operate on a National Fare basis, so the price should be relatively easy to calculate. For more information, see the Commission of Taxi Regulation website [31]. Always ensure that the taxi you use has a meter, and that it is used for the duration of your journey. Tolls and certain other regulated fees such as a per passenger fee are added by the driver to the metered fare using buttons on the meter. Please note that after midnight the hailing apps may involve longer wait times as many drivers log off, preferring

more financially lucrative street hails. This can be confusing to anyone travelling across the border from Northern Ireland, which, like Britain, uses miles and miles per hour. The legal blood-alcohol limit is low, so it may be best to abstain. It is perfectly legal to temporarily use the hard shoulder to allow a faster moving vehicle overtake you, but remember that this manoeuvre is not allowed on a motorway. Road signs in the Republic are nominally bilingual, with place names displayed in Irish in italic font, with the corresponding English name in capitals immediately below. In the "Gaeltacht" areas Irish-Speaking districts in the south-west Kerry , west Galway, Mayo , and north-west Donegal , as well as other smaller gaeltacht areas in Meath and Waterford , road signs are written in Irish only. In Northern Ireland road signs are in English only and all distances are given in miles. There are five types of road classification: Speed limits are defaults for the road classification only - if a lower speed limit is signed, it must be obeyed. The main motorways are: The M2 from Dublin to Ashbourne towards Derry. Tolls are displayed a few kilometers from the plaza. The M50 is barrier free and accepts no cash. If you have not registered, you must go with details of your vehicles registration number to a Payzone branded outlet or online to etoll. For , the tolled sections and their charges for private cars are as follows: Tolls MUST be paid online before Lesser roads, are, in many parts, poorly signposted, the only indication of what route to take often being a finger-sign at the junction itself. Driving on regional and local roads in Ireland requires etiquette, courtesy and nerves of steel. Roads are generally narrow with little to no shoulder or room for error. Sight lines can be limited or non-existent until you are partway into the road. Caution should be taken when entering onto the roadway as well as when driving along it, with the understanding that around the next turn may be another motorist partway into the road. This is especially true in rural areas. Parking along the road, farm animals, as well as large lorries or machinery may also appear around the bend and be the cause for quick thinking or braking. It is not unusual for oncoming cars to navigate to a wide spot in the road to pass each other. On the other hand, when driving slower than following cars, it is common for drivers to allow others to pass or signal if the way is clear. Speed Limits[edit] As mentioned above, speed limits in the Republic of Ireland but not in Northern Ireland are in kilometres per hour. The general maximum speed limits are as follows: Also when roads are being maintained or worked upon in some way, the limit may be temporarily changed. There is occasional use of average speed cameras. These record your journey time through number plate recognition between cameras placed at fixed distances from each other. If your travel time between the two cameras is quicker than the measured time for a vehicle travelling at the speed limit you are automatically issued a ticket. Car rental companies[edit] There is no shortage of car rental companies in Ireland with all of the major airports, cities, major towns and ports throughout Ireland being well catered for. Most car rental companies in Ireland apply a minimum age of 25 in order to rent a car, but in many cases you will need to be 28 in order to rent a full-size car. Car rentals in Ireland comes with the minimum insurance which will cover the car, but leave you with an excess deductible in the case of an accident. Additional insurance, known as Super Collision Damage Waiver, can be purchased to protect yourself against this excess when picking up the car. Short term car sharing is available in many cities, with GoCar being the most popular option. Fees are per 30 minute time slot with a per km fee added waived for electric vehicles. These Car Sharing services also have the advantage of free parking in Dublin City and designated bays throughout the city painted Car Club Only. It is also possible to rent a campervan, and there are quite a number of companies offering campervans for hire. By plane[edit] With improvements to the Motorway network, Domestic flights in Ireland have been reduced drastically, and are now only available between Dublin and Kerry and Donegal. Enormous expenditure on modernising the state-owned Irish Rail system is ongoing, including the introduction of many new trains. The frequency and speed of services is being considerably increased, especially on the Dublin-Cork line. If you book on-line for Intercity travel, be aware that there may be a cheaper fare option available to you at the ticket office in the train station itself. Not all special rates, e. Advance booking can result in big savings and booking can be made a month in advance, e. Pay notice to this if planning to travel on weekends during August and September. The 1st and 3rd Sunday of September see both All-Ireland finals held and buses and trains see a massive upsurge in Travel as well the

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main roads to the counties participating. Free WiFi is available on all services. An interchange with main line services and the Luas Red line is available at Dublin Connolly. There are two lines. Tickets must be purchased from machines before boarding the tram. Tickets are checked in the Luas at random by guards but generally ticketing works on a trust system. Public transport smartcards Leap Cards must be tagged on and off at terminals on the platform. Fines for fare-dodging can be quite high, and forgetting to tag on is considered such. A Metro line from Dublin Airport to the city center is planned to begin construction in Ulsterbus [37] operates bus services throughout the North. A number of privately-owned companies also provide intercity services. Dublin Coach [40] connects Dublin with Limerick and Portlaoise. Aircoach [42] connects Dublin with Belfast, Cork and other small towns in the Dublin area. Several bus companies accept the Leap public transport smartcard. Though it is advisable to check in advance that both the company and the particular route you will travel on accept the card. Some services may only accept stored credit from the card and not honor daily or weekly passes. Most intercity bus services have free WiFi on board and are served by large comfortable modern coaches. By boat[edit] Shannon cruises are a leisurely way of traveling from one town to another. Dromineer and Carrick on Shannon are good bases.

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