

From 1 January 2021, you may be wondering how Brexit may affect travel plans for your clients to the island of Ireland.

After the transition period ends on 31st December, there will be no changes to travel to the Republic of Ireland. But there are some changes to travel to Northern Ireland so visitors will need to take some extra steps to ensure their visit to Northern Ireland is enjoyable, smooth and hassle-free.

How will the following be affected from 1 January 2021 and what will visitors need to do?

Latest Covid-19 restrictions?

Please check for the latest official updates for the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Republic of Ireland: The latest information and guidance on COVID-19 is available on the **Health Executive's** website. For the latest travel advice, please visit the website of the **Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade** and <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/Ireland>.

Northern Ireland: The most up-to-date information and guidance on COVID-19 is available on the official **Public Health Agency Northern Ireland's** website. For the latest travel advice, please visit the following website <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-travel-advice>.

Visa and passport requirements?

You can continue to use your National ID card to enter the Republic of Ireland but if you are planning on visiting Northern Ireland after September 30th, 2021 you will need to bring your passport with you.

Cross-border travel?

We do not anticipate any delays in border crossings between Northern Ireland (NI) and the Republic of Ireland (ROI) in either direction. Nor do we expect immigration controls.

Travel/Health insurance?

Healthcare is included within the EU UK agreement and the current arrangements should apply. This means that visitors will continue to benefit from necessary healthcare in Northern Ireland in a manner similar to the European Health Card. You should contact your local government authorities before travelling to Northern Ireland to ensure you have the appropriate documentation.

There will be no changes in the Republic of Ireland where visitors EHIC cards will continue to ensure health cover.

Car insurance, driving documentation and car rental?

If visitors have a valid EU driving licence and insurance documentation, they will be able to drive in both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. Their driving licence and insurance must be valid.

If bringing their own vehicle to the Republic of Ireland there will be no changes but if visitors are bringing their own vehicle to Northern Ireland, they should carry an insurance green card or other valid proof of insurance.

If renting a car, visitors should always check in advance for any additional requirements from the car rental company.

For more information see: [Driving licence and car insurance validity in the EU - Your Europe \(europa.eu\)](http://europa.eu), [Visiting the UK as an EU, EEA or Swiss citizen - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk) and <http://www.carrentalcouncil>

Coach & Escorted Tours?

Visitors travelling on coach or escorted tours will not have to change coaches crossing the border between Northern Ireland (NI) and the Republic of Ireland (ROI) in either direction.

If drivers accompanying coach/escorted tours have a valid EU driving licence they will be able to use this as before in both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. Their driving licence and insurance must be valid. If bringing their own vehicle to the Republic of Ireland there will be no changes but if tour companies are bringing their own vehicle to Northern Ireland, they should carry an insurance green card or other valid proof of insurance.

For more information please visit: [Driving licence and car insurance validity in the EU - Your Europe \(europa.eu\)](http://europa.eu) and <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/visiting-the-uk-after-brexith#driving-in-the-uk>

Travelling with pet(s)?

If your client plans to travel with their pet(s), please refer to these websites for further information <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/pets> and <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pet-travel-to-europe-after-brexit>

Mobile phone charges?

There will be no changes to charges applied in the Republic of Ireland, but all visitors should check with their mobile phone operator about potential roaming charges if they plan on visiting Northern Ireland.

Travelling with equipment (e.g. musical instruments, sports equipment)?

Existing arrangements for travelling with equipment remain in place for visitors to the Republic of Ireland, and visitors should check requirements for travelling with equipment with their air/sea carrier before travelling.

Current customs and immigration practices will continue to apply for those travelling with equipment via air/sea to Northern Ireland, and for travel from the Republic of Ireland to Northern Ireland (and back to the Republic of Ireland). Visitors should check requirements for travelling with equipment with their air/sea carrier before travelling.

For the most up-to-date information on visiting Northern Ireland after Brexit, go to [Visiting the UK: information for EU, EEA and Swiss citizens - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk) Visitors should also refer to their own government travel advice.