

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 island of Ireland for non-EU/EEA citizens.

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>.

The Irish Short Stay Visa Waiver Programme (SSVWP) has been temporarily suspended as part of COVID-19 measures. Further information is available on Temporary Suspension of Irish Short Stay Visa Waiver Programme as part of COVID-19 Measures to Restrict Travel and Protect Public Health (inis.gov.ie)

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?

When COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, immigration requirements, as appropriate, will continue to apply to non-EU and non-British citizens. Non-EEA nationals should be in possession of a valid travel document and, if required, an Irish entry visa or transit visa for Republic of Ireland. For further information, please visit

<http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/inis/pages/irish+short+stay+visa+waiver+programme> or
<http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/British%20Irish%20Visa%20Scheme>

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?

Visitors should always get appropriate travel insurance with healthcare cover before they travel abroad. Your clients should consult with their insurance provider before travelling to ensure they have appropriate health cover for the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Car insurance, driving documentation and car rental?

Current practices for non-EU and non-British drivers, who don't hold a valid UK or EU license, will continue to apply when driving in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. If renting a car, visitors should always check in advance for any additional requirements from the car rental company. For more information on renting a car please see [Information on Renting a Car in Ireland \(carrentalcouncil.ie\)](http://carrentalcouncil.ie)

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.

Mobile phone charges?

Current practices for non-EU mobile/cell service providers will continue to apply in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. Please advise your clients to contact their mobile/cell service provider to find out more about roaming charges that may be in place when travelling to Northern Ireland and the Republic of 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 visitors should also refer to their own government travel advice.

Visitors can also refer to their local Ireland.com page as listed below:

Australia	https://www.ireland.com/en-au
United States	https://www.ireland.com/en-us
Canada	https://www.ireland.com/en-ca and https://www.ireland.com/fr-ca
New Zealand	https://www.ireland.com/en-nz
Hong Kong SAR China	https://www.ireland.com/en-hk
India	https://www.ireland.com/en-in
GCC	https://www.ireland.com/en-ae
China	https://www.discoverireland.cn
International	https://www.ireland.com/en-en
Argentina	https://www.ireland.com/es-ar
Chile	https://www.ireland.com/es-cl
Columbia	https://www.ireland.com/es-co
Mexico	https://www.ireland.com/es-mx
Peru	https://www.ireland.com/es-pe
GCC	https://www.ireland.com/ar-ae
Japan	https://www.ireland.com/ja-jp
Brazil	https://www.ireland.com/pt-br
Russia	https://www.ireland.com/ru-ru