



# Ten things to check before you travel



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

[www.dfa.ie](http://www.dfa.ie)

- 1 Where is my passport?** Before booking your holiday, check that you have your passport to hand, and that it is in date. Some countries and airlines require you to have a minimum of 6 months validity remaining on your passport. That's 6 months from the end date of your trip. Check with your travel agent or the relevant Embassy to find out if you will need a visa and if so, apply early.
- 2 What about the kids?** Check the kids' passports as well. Children must now travel on their own individual passport. Passports for children need to be renewed more frequently than adults' passports. Children under 3 receive a 3-year passport. All other under-18s receive a 5-year passport. The years fly by so check the validity in advance so the children can fly too!
- 3 Apply in good time:** If your passport is out of date or close to expiry, log on to [www.dfa.ie/passports-citizenship](http://www.dfa.ie/passports-citizenship) to learn how to apply for a new one. The easiest and cheapest way is through the Passport Express Service operated by An Post. Correctly completed passport renewal applications are targeted to be processed in 10 working days. Applications can also be made in person (by appointment only), in the Dublin or Cork Passport Offices. You can make your appointment using the same link.
- 4 Take Out Travel Insurance:** Having something go wrong while on holiday is bad enough without finding yourself unable to organise assistance and meet medical costs. It is recommended that you obtain comprehensive travel insurance. If you know you'll be undertaking activities that are considered risky, such as extreme sports, make sure your insurance policy covers this. The Department cannot pay for expenses as a result of a personal emergency while you are abroad. For further guidance see <https://www.dfa.ie/travel/know-before-you-go/travel-insurance-and-health/>
- 5 Check our Travel Advice:** Our website has regularly updated country specific information that will help you plan your trip, and help equip you with all you need to know to keep yourself safe and to have an enjoyable holiday:  
<https://www.dfa.ie/travel/travel-advice/>  
twitter: @dfatirl



**6 Register with us:** We encourage you to register with us if you are travelling abroad. People find this particularly helpful if travelling to remote or more unusual destinations where there may be a higher personal risk involved. By registering with us, we can contact you if there is any emergency in the area you are in while you are travelling. You can register on <https://www.dfa.ie/travel/citizens-registration/>

**7 Local Laws and Customs:** One of the greatest things about travelling the world is how different each country is. This diversity means that every country has its own laws and customs which should always be respected. Check out our travel advice for further guidance: <https://www.dfa.ie/travel/travel-advice/>

**8 Avoid unnecessary risks:** Holidays are great for relaxing. However, your welfare remains just as important abroad as it is at home. Don't take risks with your personal safety abroad. If something feels wrong or too good to be true, it probably is. Too many "great nights out" have turned into family tragedies so be careful.

**9 We are here to help:** Bring details of the local Irish Embassy or Consulate with you. They can assist if something goes wrong when you are travelling abroad. You can also call the Consular Assistance Unit at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Dublin on + 353 1 408 2000.

**10 Have a great time!**