



TIPS FOR YOUR IRISH GOLF IMMERSION TO DONEGAL

BAGGAGE

Each person is permitted to check two pieces of luggage or one golf bag and one piece of luggage. Hang-up bags or garment bags are not recommended for international travel unless they are the sturdy folding kind with a handle clasp that secures both ends together. In addition, a hand carry bag may be taken and must fit underneath your seat or in the overhead bin on the aircraft. Please do not take large tournament type and heavy golf bags. Golf clubs should be placed in a locked coverall bag to prevent airport theft and damage. Make sure that your luggage is clearly marked with identification including your name and address. **Suggest similar ID info packed inside luggage.** Finally, with the current shortage of baggage handlers at many airports due to Covid, causing baggage to go missing, we suggest investing in a tracking system like Apple's Airtag.

SHIPPING GOLF CLUBS

If you wish to ship your clubs door to door and have them waiting for you when you arrive (approx. \$240 to Ireland and \$260 back to US) please contact Luggage Forward at the following site, please inform that you are staying at Glenmáire Cottage: <http://www.luggageforward.com>



DOCUMENTATION

A valid passport is required for travel to Ireland. Remember to carry it with you at all times and never pack your passport in your luggage for any reason. It is further suggested that you make photocopies of your passport, airline tickets, write down the account numbers of items in your wallet along with phone numbers to call if lost/stolen. Bring a copy of this information with you (do not leave in checked baggage). PLUS leave a copy of this information with a trusted person at home.

MONEY and PERSONAL FUNDS

The monetary unit of the Republic of Ireland is the Euro and in Northern Ireland, it is the UK Pounds sterling. You may exchange U.S. dollars at banks, main airports, local banks and hotel cashier's desk, with banks usually giving the best rate of exchange. However, please do not bring \$100 bills, as most banks and hotels refuse to accept them from non-customers because of potential counterfeit notes. Credit cards are accepted throughout Ireland. Banks are open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday-Friday. You can also withdraw Euro or GBP cash from all ATM machines using either Credit or Debit cards. Suggest you log on to the following website for more information:

[Ireland Money Tips](#)

TIPPING

The people of Donegal are extraordinarily kind and giving, and will want to make every minute of your trip memorable. When in and around the village please consider tipping those who serve you as you would your favorites at home.



ELECTRIC CURRENT

Electric current is 220 volts, 50 cycles in Ireland. You may wish to carry a three-pronged adaptor and converter for your small travel appliances such as laptop or cell-phone chargers (use both adaptor and converter together). It is advisable to use a hotel bedroom outlet for travel appliances as the bathroom outlet is usually for low wattage shavers only. Generally, computer laptops and cell phone/blackberry/iPhone chargers only require a plug adaptor, Glenmáire Cottage supplies hair dryers in their rooms.

TIME DIFFERENCE

Ireland is five (5) hours ahead of East Coast time and eight (8) hours ahead of Pacific Coast time.

VAT TAX REFUNDS ON PURCHASES

U.S. citizens can now collect VAT rebates before leaving Ireland at the airport. As each purchase €75 or more is made, you should obtain a VAT receipt from the store or Pro Shop and fill in the required information. Have the receipt stamped by customs officer at the airport prior to departure and either leave at the airport desk or mail back afterward to the address given. Once receipts are validated, visitors will receive refunds in dollars or pounds via the mail, or refunded to the provided credit card details. There is usually an established minimum purchase amount at each stop offering VAT reclaim and items should be hand carried for customs inspection at the airport. **Please note that some gift shops and golf Pro shops can now deduct the VAT content at source provided you can show your Passport.**



U.S. CUSTOMS

Each U.S. citizen is permitted to bring back \$400 retail duty free merchandise. A flat 10% is levied on the next \$1,000 worth. You may also mail purchases of \$200 or less to friends or relatives as long as you only send one per day. Keep all receipts and sales slips together in a handy place in the event customs has any questions upon your return to the USA.

TRANSPORTATION

We have booked ground transportation for your trip by a luxury private chartered coach and driver, the recommended tip for the coach driver is typically €10.00 - €15.00 per person per day and for a typical 7/8-day trip that the coach & driver will be with you, a tip of €80.00 - €100.00 per person is suggested.

WEATHER/CLIMATE/CLOTHING

Temperatures should range from the mid 50's to high 60's or low 70's during the time of year you will be visiting Ireland. Watch your local newspaper for daily temperatures or go to the internet's weather channel. As rainy weather is always a possibility, we recommend you take along a rain suit, wind shirt, and a golf umbrella. we suggest that you take clothing that can be layered such as light jackets or golfing sweaters that can be removed or added depending on the temperature. Cotton slacks and golf shirts will be appropriate for golfing. None of the clubhouses you will visit require you to wear a sports jacket. **Hats and caps should not be worn in the clubhouses.** You should also consider bringing some golf shorts in case weather is in the 70's and very often if it rains when weather is warm, shorts under rain pants can be the most comfortable attire.



CADDIES

Golf carts are not normally available in Ireland and walking is the standard method of play. However, it should be noted that there are a limited number of carts available for hire at some courses without a doctor's note, whilst others require a doctor's note, where there are limited caddies available. Should anyone wish to reserve a cart, it is recommended that they be reserved in advance. Caddies can be requested at each of the courses to be played and it is suggested that you confirm to us if you do wish to have a caddie. However, please note that all caddies are "independent agents" and neither the clubs nor Glenmaire Cottage can guarantee their availability on the day. Caddie fees will run approximately €60 - €75 per bag including tip which individuals pay directly to the caddie. It is a good idea to check with the Caddie Master at each club to see what the norm is at their Club and then add a gratuity at your own discretion.

GOLF BALLS:

It is recommended that participants bring a quantity of golf balls with them, as the cost of such items is very expensive in Ireland (- one dozen Pro V's could cost as much as €84.00 or close to \$100.00!).

TELEPHONE COSTS IN IRELAND:

Like most countries, probably the least expensive way to make telephone calls home is with a Pre-Paid Phone Card from IDT or similar. Roaming costs for standard cell phones, iPhones and Blackberries are very expensive, especially if you are downloading data or emails. Many guests chose to select an international plan from their service provider and that can run as little as \$10 day. Communication by email from the cottage is also an inexpensive method of keeping in touch and each cottage has free Wi-Fi available.

COVID-19:

If you do become sick and test positive for COVID it is your responsibility to self-isolate if required. If you are sharing a room with a companion and must split up, the extra expense of another room will be your responsibility. We will do everything we can to assist in finding another room.