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Global Intelligence Report

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Ireland

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Ireland

Security Level 2 - Low



Health Level 1 - Lowest Risk

Executive Summary

COVID-19 Summary Status

- **Coronavirus-related entry requirements:** None
- **Domestic coronavirus-related restrictions:** None
- **Notes:** None
- **Last verified:** 5 May 2022

The above is provided as general guidance and is updated as new information is released. However those traveling to this location should remain aware that travel restrictions in and out of the country by the government or that are put into place by individual airlines could be imposed with minimal notice, and should verify airline and government requirements for their destination at national, state/county/province and city levels via official government announcements prior to booking travel and prior to departure. Travelers should also be aware of requirements to re-enter their home country or those of their next destination. UnitedHealthcare Global's materials are intended to provide general information and assistance during this health emergency and do not constitute medical or legal advice. Please contact your medical and legal advisors on how to respond to this situation. The materials and discussion topics do not constitute a binding obligation of UnitedHealthcare Global with respect to any matter discussed herein. UnitedHealthcare Global cannot guarantee health outcomes.

Executive Summary

The center-right Fianna Fáil party -- led by Micheál Martin -- heads a majority coalition with the Fine Gael and Green parties. Economic issues are the primary challenge facing the government, as the country remains focused on maintaining economic growth, as well as negotiating policies surrounding shared border areas with the United Kingdom in light of the latter's exit from the European Union.

Overall, the threat facing visitors to Ireland is Low. Crime – particularly non-confrontational incidents of petty theft – is the primary security concern for travelers to the country. Muggings and street robberies committed against foreign travelers occur relatively infrequently. Demonstrations related to political, social and economic developments occur occasionally; however, most are small in scale and nonviolent. Strikes occur periodically and may cause disruptions to public and private services used by travelers. The possibility of terrorist attacks perpetrated by Islamist militants is a general concern in Ireland, but the overall threat is relatively low and the country is a less likely target than many other Western countries. The threat of violence related to political developments in Northern Ireland is low but cannot be completely ruled out.

Quality of Care

Ireland's health care system is excellent, containing modern medical facilities, highly skilled practitioners and access to the latest medical equipment.

Both public and private facilities generally provide excellent care. The best hospitals, with the largest range of specialty services, tend to be located in large urban areas.

Language Proficiency

Hospital facilities all have practitioners who speak English, as it is the primary language spoken throughout the country.

Diseases and Health Risks

Ireland is considered to have an overall healthy environment with relatively minor health risks for visitors. Food and tap water are considered safe for consumption throughout Ireland.

Immunizations and Preventative Treatments

For **recommended** and **required vaccinations** as well as preventative treatment for travel to Ireland, visit the [US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#).

Security Issues

- The primary security concern for travelers in Ireland is crime, mostly in the form of petty theft. Organized crime affects the overall security situation in Ireland, but is unlikely to affect short-term travelers or expatriates.
- Demonstrations related to economic and political developments occur occasionally and may cause disruptions to traffic.
- Strikes also take place on occasion and may affect services used by travelers.
- Terrorist activity perpetrated by transnational terrorists and domestic terrorist groups remains a concern in Ireland.

Crime

The primary security concern for travelers to Ireland is crime, particularly in Dublin. Overall, a majority of criminal incidents involve nonviolent forms of petty theft, such as pickpocketing and bag snatching. In the past, travelers have been mugged or targeted for street robberies while in Ireland. Crime rates are higher in urban centers -- such as Dublin and Limerick -- than in rural areas of the country. In order to reduce the likelihood of becoming a victim of crime, travelers should undertake basic security precautions, including not overtly flaunting wealth and not leaving valuables unattended.

Violent incidents are relatively uncommon in Ireland. Violent crime in the country is generally related to organized crime. Organized criminal groups are almost exclusively involved in the drug trade, which normally presents no direct threat to visitors. However, criminal gangs are usually armed -- sometimes with semi-automatic rifles -- and turf battles between various criminal organizations have occurred in urban areas, such as Dublin. Gang-related shootings are responsible for a large number of murders recorded in Ireland. Violence does present a collateral risk to travelers who may be in areas where such incidents occur. However, short-term visitors are not frequently explicitly targeted.

Demonstrations

Street demonstrations occur occasionally in Ireland in response to social, political and economic developments. Large-scale protest actions have the potential to cause disruptions to traffic in the vicinity of where they are taking place. These events are generally peaceful, and violence has been rare at past demonstrations. Nevertheless, travelers should avoid large gatherings as a general precaution.

Strikes

Unions are active in Ireland and strikes are relatively common, particularly in the transportation sector. Labor strikes may result in disruptions to public and private services. Strikes can occur with little prior notice, so travelers should keep abreast of announcements ahead of and during their trip.

Terrorism

The threat of terrorism by Islamist militants remains relatively low throughout Ireland. Compared to other countries in Europe, Ireland is home to relatively few immigrants from Arab and/or predominantly Muslim countries that are often affiliated with Islamist militant groups. Ireland is not known to be a target for a terrorist attack by al-Qaeda, the Islamic State (IS) or other Islamist terrorist organizations. There are concerns that Ireland’s military cooperation with the U.S. -- which includes allowing U.S. military aircraft to stop for layovers at Shannon Airport -- may expose the country to the threat of terrorism. In addition, Europol reported that in 2019, Ireland was one of three EU countries identified as having terrorist fighters leaving to fight abroad, specifically in northern Africa. While there have been no recent indications of any increased terrorist threats against the country, the possibility cannot be ruled out entirely as fighters return from terrorist organizations abroad.

In the past, Ireland has been affected by isolated incidents of violence stemming from the political conflict in Northern Ireland between Irish Republican Army (IRA) splinter groups and several Protestant Union loyalist paramilitary groups. Weapons caches and homemade bombs have been found in several different areas of Ireland and supporters and members of the IRA are known to live throughout the country. In general, IRA splinter groups confine their attacks to Northern Ireland.

Aviation Issues

Airlines

Aer Lingus is the national carrier of Ireland. The airline operates a fleet of largely modern Airbus aircraft, and has adequate security and safety histories. The airline has never suffered a fatal accident. Ireland also hosts several significant low-cost carriers, including Ryanair (whose fleet is many times the size of the national carrier's). Ryanair has never suffered a fatal safety-related mishap, despite concerns that it is skirting safety regulations to increase profits. The British Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has stated some concerns over the pressure Ryanair places on pilots to operate on schedule and on budget, which could potentially compromise safety.

Safety Concerns

Ireland’s aviation safety oversight program earned a very high score on the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) audit. The program did not score lower than a “9” out of “10” in any category. The program also met all of the requirements set out by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

Security Concerns

There are no extraordinary security concerns facing Ireland's aviation sector.

Dublin, Ireland

Security Level 2 - Low

Crime Rate 3 - Medium

Security Issues

Crime

Crime is the primary security concern for visitors to Dublin. The city reports the highest number of criminal incidents in Ireland, particularly in central Dublin. Petty theft -- such as pickpocketing, purse snatching and theft from vehicles -- is highest in areas frequented by tourists.

While less common, violent crime does occur in Dublin, and violent incidents, including muggings and street robberies, are more frequent than in the past. Illegal drugs are a growing factor in crimes throughout Ireland, particularly in Dublin. Racially motivated attacks against persons of African ethnic origin are a concern. There is also an increasing number of reported incidents of sexual offenses in Dublin.

Most violent crime in Dublin is a result of conflicts between gangs and branches of the Irish Republican Army (IRA). Such incidents are typically targeted rather than random. However, attacks have occurred during daylight hours and in populated areas in the past, raising concerns of collateral injuries to bystanders.

Strikes

Labor strikes occasionally take place in the city and may cause disruptions to public and private services. These actions often take place with little prior notice, so travelers should keep abreast of developments ahead of any trips to Dublin.

Demonstrations

As the capital of Ireland, Dublin is often the site of street demonstrations and protests. These events are generally peaceful, although the possibility of violence cannot be ruled out entirely. Travelers should avoid all gatherings as a general precaution.

Terrorism

Domestic Terrorism – Irish Republican Army

In the past, Ireland has been affected by isolated incidents of violence stemming from the political conflict in Northern Ireland between the remaining elements of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) and several Protestant Union loyalist paramilitary groups. The majority of incidents have occurred along the border with Northern Ireland, but weapons caches and homemade bombs have been found in several different areas of Ireland as well. In addition, supporters and members of the Irish Republican Army are known to live throughout the country. In general, both the IRA and Loyalist paramilitary groups confine their attacks to Northern Ireland, with only a few attacks crossing over into the Republic of Ireland.

Transnational Terrorism

The threat of terrorism by Islamist militants remains relatively low throughout Ireland. Ireland is not known to be a high-profile target for a terrorist attack by al-Qaeda, the Islamic State (IS) or other Islamic terrorist organizations. There are concerns that Ireland's cooperation with the United States, such as allowing U.S. military aircraft to stop for layovers at Shannon Airport, may expose the country to the threat of terrorism. However, there have been no recent indications of any increased terrorist threats against Dublin or the country as a whole.

Dublin Tips

- Petty crimes against foreigners occur most frequently around the tourist centers from Trinity College to Temple Bar, Christchurch and the Guinness Hop Store on Thomas Street.
- Travelers should exercise caution if exploring the Ringsend/Sandymount area on foot. Although the levels have dropped considerably over recent years as the area has come under increasing residential and tourist development, crime can still be an occasional problem in this coastal area.

- Dublin's inner-city streets, located in the poorer housing districts in Tallaght and Summerhill, should be avoided, especially at night, due to higher crime threats. The western areas of Clondalkin, Ballyfermot and the northern region of Ballymun (north of the airport) should be avoided for similar reasons.
- Visitors should be aware that petty crimes are more common in the hours immediately after the local bars close, generally around midnight.
- Women should exercise additional caution if drinking in pubs, as several incidents involving women having their drinks spiked with drugs have occurred in the past.
- The use of a mobile phone when operating a moving vehicle is illegal in Ireland. Drivers caught using a mobile phone while driving will be fined.

Airports & Ground Transportation

DUBLIN AIRPORT (EIDW/DUB)

Dublin Airport (EIDW/DUB) is the busiest airport on the island of Ireland and the 14th busiest in Europe. The airport has separate terminals for commercial and general aviation flights. There are two commercial passenger terminals. Terminal two features a U.S. pre-clearance facility that allows passengers bound for the United States to clear security, customs and immigration checks prior to leaving Ireland. Those using pre-clearance at the airport will be treated as a domestic traveler upon arrival.

Upon landing, crew and passengers of general aviation (GA) flights are transferred by corporate minibus to the GA terminal, where customs and immigration procedures are performed. The handling agent escorts visiting crews.

The Irish national police (known locally as Garda) and the Airport Authority provide security at Dublin Airport. The airport perimeter is protected by security fencing, which is regularly patrolled. Mobile police also routinely patrol the grounds and parking area. Police officers man access points 24 hours a day, and access is restricted to individuals with a valid ID issued by the airport authority. Closed-circuit TV cameras are in use in some areas, including the parking area. Aircraft are generally parked on the north apron, located approximately 370 m (1,200 ft) from the general aviation terminal, and remain there for the duration of their stay. The area is monitored by regular security patrols and night lighting is good. There have been no recently reported security problems related to private aviation operating into this facility.

Transportation

Dublin Airport is located 10 km (6 mi) north of the city. The airport is served by taxis, express buses, and local buses; rental cars are also available. The drive to downtown Dublin takes 20-30 minutes. Express bus service to Busaras, the central bus station in Dublin, is available every 35 minutes. The trip takes 20-25 minutes. Public bus 41A leaves every 30 minutes and takes about a half-hour.

Travelers can get around Dublin by foot, bus, taxi, the DART (the local train) and by Luas, the light rail system. Luas is comprised of two lines, the Green Line, which connects Sandyford to St Stephen's Green, and the Red Line which connects Tallaght to Connolly. Trams run at minimum every 15 minutes, and are operational Monday through Friday from 0530-0030 local time/UTC, on Saturday between 0630-0030 local time, and on Sunday from 0700-2330 local time. Ticket prices typically cost two euros. Many tram stops are serviced by the Dublin bus system, and the Connolly and Heuston stops connect with the Irish rail system. Luas also offers several park and ride locations. Travelers should note that Luas employees strike relatively frequently.

Limerick, Ireland

Security Level 2 - Low

Crime Rate 2 - Low

Security Issues

Crime

The primary security concern for travelers to Limerick is petty crime, much of which is drug-related. Drugs are increasingly a causal factor in crimes throughout Ireland. Drug-related crime has also generated a growth in criminal gangs in southwestern Ireland, the competition between which can sometimes result in violent incidents. Such incidents do not usually directly affect travelers; nevertheless, visitors to Limerick could be collaterally affected by gang-related crime. Drug addicts are rarely involved in serious violent crime, such as assault or crimes involving weapons, although the same cannot be said for dealers and small gangs, which are growing in number. Basic precautions, such as not overtly displaying wealth and using caution while walking on foot through unfamiliar areas, should lower the likelihood of travelers becoming victims of these types of crimes.

Terrorism

Domestic Terrorism – Irish Republican Army

Ireland has been affected by isolated incidents of violence stemming from the political conflict in Northern Ireland between the remaining elements of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) and several Protestant Union loyalist paramilitary groups. The majority of incidents have occurred along the border with Northern Ireland, but weapons caches and homemade bombs have been found in several different areas of Ireland as well. In addition, supporters and members of the Irish Republican Army are known to live throughout the country. In general, both the IRA and Loyalist paramilitary groups confine their attacks to Northern Ireland, with only a few attacks crossing over into the Republic of Ireland.

Transnational Terrorism

The threat of terrorism by Islamist militants remains relatively low throughout Ireland. Compared to other countries in Europe, Ireland is home to relatively few immigrants from Arab and/or predominantly Muslim countries and is not known to be a target for a terrorist attack by terrorist organizations such as the Islamic State (IS) or al-Qaeda. There are concerns that Ireland's cooperation with the U.S., including allowing U.S. military aircraft to stop for layovers at Shannon Airport, may expose the country to the threat of terrorism. However, there have been no recent indications of any increased terrorist threats against the country or Limerick in particular.

City Tips

- Visitors should be aware that petty crimes are more common in the hours immediately after the local bars close, generally around midnight.
- Travelers should avoid O'Connell Street at night due to a higher crime rate.
- The use of a mobile phone when operating a moving vehicle is illegal in Ireland. Drivers caught using a mobile phone while driving will be fined.

Airports & Ground Transportation

SHANNON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (EINN/SNN)

Shannon International Airport consists of one terminal. The airport serves both commercial domestic and international flights, as well as general aviation aircraft. In addition, the facility is used by the U.S. military

as a refueling point for flights to the Middle East.

There are two access gates to the tarmac, which are controlled by the airport police. Ramp access is strictly controlled and entrance is restricted to those who have an approved pass. Perimeter fencing and lighting are excellent. Corporate aircraft parking is located either on the main ramp or in a parking area. Both areas reportedly have good lighting. Parking areas are situated in secure zones that can be observed from the tower.

Several security breaches have occurred at Shannon Airport. For example, in May 2016, two activists were arrested after gaining access to the runway in an attempt to protest the U.S. military's use of the airport. They reportedly gained access via a perimeter fence. A similar incident occurred in 2014.

Transportation

Shannon Airport is located approximately 30 km (20 mi) northwest of the city. Taxi services are available for transportation from the airport to the city center of Limerick and cost approximately 35 euros. Bus service is available for travel to Limerick train station. Several car-rental businesses are also located within the airport. If self-driving, travelers should note that the use of a mobile phone when operating a moving vehicle is illegal in Ireland. Drivers caught using a mobile phone while driving will be fined 65-435 euros for the first three offenses. Subsequent offenses require up to three months in jail and substantial fines. There are no specific security concerns with public transportation in Limerick. Travelers can get around town by foot, bus, or taxi. The local bus, called Bus Eireann, offers service within Limerick and its environs. Limerick in general is considered a safe city, though travelers should still exercise caution, especially in the poorer areas of the city.

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