

RHAPSODY IN GREEN

Tour Managers, Tipping and Currency Exchange



MEET YOUR TOUR MANAGERS



Conor Ellard and his family live in County Kerry, Ireland. He has been guiding over 20 years in Ireland. You will love his stories, extensive knowledge, and sense of humor! And he sings!!



Elva Deegan has worked in the tourism/hospitality industry for 30 years and is experienced with both performance and general tours.

TIPPING

Tour Managers & Drivers



You will come to appreciate the knowledge and professionalism of your tour managers and bus drivers. As you may recall, when you registered for this tour, tips for your tour managers and drivers were added to your tour cost. They were included in your final payment.

If you feel you have received exceptional service or special assistance from guides or drivers, you may tip an additional amount directly to the service provider, but it is not required.

Tiping Etiquette for Restaurants, Taxis, Housekeeping, Etc.

The Republic of Ireland

- **Restaurants** - 10-15%, but check to see if the tip has already been added to your bill. You do not need to tip on group dinners that are part of your tour.
- **Taxis** - Tips are not really expected, but no taxi driver will object if you ask him to round the bill up.
- **Porters and bellhops** - 2 EUR per bag.
- **Housekeeping** - 1 or 2 EUR per day.
- **Pubs** - Tipping floor wait staff in pubs and bars is always a good way to get good service, but isn't necessary for behind-the-bar staff. If you've been given especially good service, you might offer to buy the bartender a drink that he/she can enjoy later.

Belfast and Scotland (U.K.)

- **Restaurants** - 10-15%, but check to see if the tip has already been added to your bill and if it will go to the server.
- **Taxis** - 10-15%
- **Porters and bellhops** - 2 GBP per bag

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- **Housekeeping** - 2 GBP per day
- **Pubs and Bars** - Tipping floor wait staff in pubs and bars is always a good way to get good service, but isn't necessary for behind-the-bar staff. If you've been given especially good service, you might offer to buy the bartender a drink that he/she can enjoy later.

ESTIMATED DAILY SPENDING

The amounts below are estimates. You may spend more or less on meals depending on your choices.

Breakfasts are included in your trip cost.

Lunch – plan on \$15-\$20 U.S. daily. Lunch on July 1 is included.

Dinner –Dinners on June 29 and July 5 are included. You are responsible for your own dinners on June 30, and July 1, 2, 3 and 4. If you are on the Belfast/Scotland Extension, dinner is included on July 7 and 8; you are responsible for your own dinner on July 6. For dinners on your own, plan on spending \$35-\$50 daily.

Snacks – plan on \$10-\$15 daily for snacks, bottled water, etc. Your coach driver may have bottle water to sell, and if so, it will cost less than other places.

CURRENCY EXCHANGE

The Republic of Ireland

The currency used in Ireland is the Euro (EUR) Currently, 1 EUR is worth \$1.13 U.S.

Belfast and Scotland (U.K.)

The currency used in the United Kingdom is the British Pound (GBP). Currently, 1 GBP is worth \$1.32 U.S.

[Click here](#) for updated exchange rates.



Exchanging Money

Currency exchange should be done by one of the priority methods:

- You can use debit/credit cards to withdraw cash in the local currency at ATMs.
- Allow sufficient time at your departure airport for exchanging currency.
- Exchange money needed with your local bank PRIOR to leaving on your tour. Allow one week for your bank to do this.

TRAVELERS' CHECKS

We do not recommend the use of travelers checks as you may experience difficulty using and/or cashing them. In addition, banks usually charge a significant handling fee when cashing travelers checks.

CREDIT CARDS

Credit cards are recommended for larger purchases. VISA and MasterCard are much more prevalent than Discover and American Express.

Remember to notify your bank and credit card companies to let them know you will be using your cards in Ireland and the United Kingdom. Otherwise, your debit and credit card could be blocked for fraud prevention after the first use. You should visit your banks' websites as you should be able to register your travel online.

