

LANGUAGE CALL

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DRIVING IN CANADA

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If you are planning to drive in Canada you should read this chapter as you will find information on using your Irish driving licence in Canada, International driving permits and applying for a Canadian driving licence.

There is also some information on buying a car in Canada.

Can I use my Irish driving licence?

If you are visiting Canada for a short period you may drive if you have a full Irish licence. If you are moving to Canada permanently you will need to take a Canadian driving test to remain licensed as you will need a valid Canadian driver's license to drive longer term. Find out more from your provincial ministry of transportation or from your provincial motor vehicle licensing agency. It is a legal requirement to carry your driver's licence with you whenever you drive. You should also carry your car registration and vehicle permit with you. You will need to have car insurance and it is good advice to carry a copy of your car insurance certificate.

Is there another type of licence I can get?

It is possible to obtain an international driver's permit. You should get this licence however before you leave Ireland to go to Canada. If you have a full Irish licence the international licence is not generally necessary. The law on driving with either an international drivers licence or an Irish licence can vary from province to province.

What is an international driving permit?

An international driving permit is a special driving licence that allows you to temporarily drive vehicles in other countries without further tests or applications. If you have an international driving permit this proves that you have a valid driving permit issued by a competent authority in your home country. If you are travelling abroad and wish to drive in another country you will very likely require an international driving permit.

International driving permits issued in Ireland are only available to Irish residents with a current full driving licence. Each international driving permit is valid for 1 year from date of issue.

An international driving permit (valid for 1 year) costs €5.08 (2007 figure). To apply for an International Drivers permit please contact:

AA Travel

56 Drury Street

Dublin 2

Ireland

Telephone: 00 353 (0) 1 617 9540

Website: www.aaireland.ie

Email: aatravel@aaireland.ie

What information do I need to know about buying a car?

- Cars can cost a lot of money, whether they are used or new
- Some Canadians choose to lease cars. Leasing can be handy, but there are a number of hidden costs involved, such as administrative fees and handling taxes
- Whichever option you choose, make sure you understand exactly what your financial obligations are
- All cars must be registered with the provincial motor vehicle licensing agency where you live, and must be insured. This is the law. For more information please see the website www.tc.gc.ca/road/menu.htm

Are there other factors I need to know?

Car insurance can be expensive, but it protects you and other drivers in case of an accident. You can obtain more information by calling the Insurance Bureau of Canada or visiting their Website at www.ibr.ca

You and your passengers must wear seat belts at all times when you are driving in Canada. This is the law and you can be fined for not wearing one. Babies and children who are too small to wear seat belts safely must be placed in car seats whenever you drive. There are different types of car seats for different ages and weights. For example, infants must be placed in special seats that face the back of the car. Children over 18 kg need a booster seat.

In case of an accident

- Call 911 or your local emergency number right away if you need medical help
- Stay where you are and get someone to call the police
- You should report the accident immediately to your car insurance company
- It is also important to exchange your name, address and telephone number, as well as your insurance and driver's license numbers with the other driver
- Never leave the scene of an accident, especially if you have hit someone.

Contact the public transit organisations, provincial ministries of transportation, provincial motor vehicle licensing offices or insurance companies listed in the telephone book or refer to the website www.tc.gc.ca/road/menu.htm for further information.