



# DDI Top 10 Insider Tips!

1. **Think Passport.** The average wait time to process a passport application is 3 months. Don't procrastinate!
2. **Save Money.** Avoid foreign credit card transaction fees with a travel credit card: I've been very pleased with Capital One Venture. Check out Chase Sapphire and Bank of America to compare.
3. **Save Time** and money: Convert your dollars to euros in Ireland. US banks charge currency exchange fees. The **Irish banks** do not charge conversion fees for ATM cash withdrawals. I only use the ATM in the airport once- so that I can get a coffee. The rest of my banking is done via the ATM machine at an Irish Bank. Specifically, **Bank of Ireland** on Main Street in Dingle). Contact your U.S. bank in advance for a breakdown of any ATM transaction fees. They vary.
4. **Pack Light:** Navigating the airports with a bunch of bulky luggage is a real drag. You can do laundry in Ireland. Some B & B hosts will do laundry for a fee. There's also a laundry on the Spa Road across from Lidl Supermarket.
5. **Pack Casual:** You won't need to dress up in Dingle. Think layers: T-shirts, comfortable pants, zip up fleece, waterproof jacket, and sneakers. Bring a nice shirt or two for better restaurants. McKenna's in Dingle sells apparel at very reasonable prices.
6. **Stay Charged and Connected:** Bring a travel plug adapter for your devices and download "What's App" on your smart phone. Invite key contacts to download "What's App" in order to receive your texts or calls.
7. **Avoid Awkwardness. Ask for the bill.** You'll need to ask for the bill at restaurants. The Irish don't rush you along.
8. **Tipping tip:** Leaving a tip isn't mandatory, but it is appreciated. Tip at your own discretion 10-20%.
9. **Reduce Excess:** Of course, it's best to support the local village shops, but if you don't want to pack/carry additional items for your departure, the Duty Free Shop at Shannon Airport is beautiful, massive, and sells many of the items you see in the shops in the villages. Get to the airport early- go through security, then shop! (Remember, you need to go through customs- so leave enough time).
10. **Decrease Stress:** Be prepared for two checkpoints at the airport when you are departing from Ireland. The first one is the usual security check. The second one is U.S. Customs. Here you will be required to submit a form listing all items that you are bringing to the US from Ireland. You will also be asked some questions. The customs process alone can take an hour, so make sure to plan properly.

**For the full Discover Dingle, Ireland experience** including, the video course, lessons, links, maps, and itinerary go to: <https://discoverdingleireland.com>