



Consular Advice for Irish Citizens travelling to Rome for the Italy- Ireland Six Nations Rugby match on Sunday, 24th FEBRUARY 2019

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Please note that information contained in this document may be updated between now and 24th February 2019

1. Information on the Stadium and match

The venue for this match will be the **Olympic Stadium**, which is located in the north of Rome, about 4 kilometres north of the Vatican City.

Address of the Olympic Stadium: Via Foro Italico, 00194 Rome

The stadium opens at 14.00 pm and the match kick off time is 16.00 pm (Italian time). Irish supporters are advised to arrive well before (approx. 1 hour before) kick-off time in order to avoid long queues at the entrance.

The fan zone 'Terzo Tempo Peroni', at Parco del Foro Italico (next to the Stadium) is open from 10.00 am until 8.00 pm.

Match Tickets and Security Measures for access to Stadium

Ticket-checking and security checks (including individual checks) may be in place around the stadium. Please keep your ticket with you and have it available for inspection at all times.

Be prepared to show your **original passport** to the Police/Security Controllers, if requested.

Security measures:

1. No glass bottles or cans allowed in the Stadium
2. Plastic bottles of all sizes are allowed but without caps (water points are available in the Stadium)
3. No large and pointed umbrellas
4. No sharp objects (knives, forks etc.)
5. No helmets
6. No drones
7. No musical instruments
8. No animals
9. No suitcases or big bags. Backpacks will be checked before entering the Stadium
10. A video-surveillance system is in operation throughout the Stadium monitoring images and recording video
11. Banners, posters, placards and similar items must be authorized in advance

Means of Transport to and from the Stadium

It is advisable to use public transport to reach the Olympic Stadium.

It is not recommended to get to the stadium by car, as there will be a lot of traffic and streets may be blocked by the Police. There will be pedestrian access from Lungotevere Flaminio to the Stadium.

Tram no. 2 drops you close to the stadium (on the other side of the river) and can be taken from metro stop Flaminio on line A, which is close to the Villa Borghese gardens and Piazza del Popolo. Take this tram in the direction of Mancini and get off at stop Mancini.

Bus no. 32 can be taken just north of Vatican City at metro stop Ottaviano. Take this bus in the direction of Tor di Quinto and get off at stop Stadio Tennis.

Otherwise, bus no. 280 can be taken from the Castel Sant'Angelo or metro Lepanto. Take this bus in the direction of Mancini and get off at stop Stadio Tennis.

If you decide to get to the stadium by car, first make your way to the Rome ring road (G.R.A.), and then take exit N5 towards Flaminia (on the Northern side of the G.R.A.). From there follow the signs to Foro Italico.

Car parking areas will be available near the Stadium.

- If arriving from North or North/East: it is advisable to park along Viale di Tor di Quinto near the Caserma Salvo D'Acquisto/ex Gran Teatro;
- from South: parking area at Piazzale Clodio;
- from East: on Viale XVII Olimpiade.

Disabled car parking spaces are located in Viale Alberto Blanc.

Motorcycles can be parked on Via Roberto Morra di Lavriano and Via Salvatore Contarini; bicycles can be parked on via Leopoldo Franchetti.

Coach companies should comply with the new 2019 regulation available on the website of Comune di ROMA Capitale: <https://romamobilita.it/it/servizi/nuovo-piano-bus-turistici>. The parking area available for coaches that comply with the new regulation, will be on Viale Mario Toscano (close to Stadio dei Marmi).

Address of the Olympic Stadium: Via Foro Italico, 00194 Rome

2. Contact in event of Emergency

CONTACTING THE EMBASSY OF IRELAND IN ROME

The Embassy of Ireland is located at No. 1, Villa Spada, Via Giacomo Medici, 00153 Rome. (Gianicolo area)

Opening hours of the Embassy

The opening hours of the Irish Embassy in Rome are 9.15am to 1.00pm and 2.15pm to 5.30pm, Monday to Friday.

Consular office is open from 10.00am to 12.30am and 3.00pm to 4.30pm, Monday to Friday.

The telephone number is **0039 06 5852381(switch)**.

Emergency Consular Service

An emergency consular service will be provided by the Irish Embassy in Rome on Sunday 24th February 2019. If you require emergency assistance, please ring the Embassy at **0039 06 5852381 – (press 2 for consular services and follow instructions to leave message)**. You will be asked to leave a message on the answering machine. This answering machine will be monitored by the Duty Officer who will return your call as soon as possible.

Emergency numbers in Italy are:

- Police: 112 or 113
- Emergency Ambulance: 118
- Fire brigade: 115

3. Consular Information: Information and advice for Irish citizens visiting Italy

Make Ireland Proud!

Irish fans have a deservedly positive reputation abroad. Make Ireland proud again during your visit to Italy by following the instructions of the Police and other officials at all times. In the event of any trouble or accident at the match, cooperate with officials to ensure your own safety. Act responsibly and keep your distance from any trouble-makers. Move away from anyone who appears to be acting in a violent or provocative way. Arrested fans will be subject to the local judicial process and may face detention or imprisonment in Italy.

During your visit, you should respect the laws and local customs of Italy. This document will provide you with some useful guidance.

General Safety and Security

Rome is generally a safe city for visitors and incidents of violent crime against tourists are rare but be aware that there have been recent instances of tourists being offered drugged drinks in the city centre leading to disturbing memory loss and theft. Major events such as rugby matches can be seen as an opportunity by criminals. Please always remain as sensible and careful as you would at home, if not more so.

Beware of pickpockets, muggers and bag snatchers, especially in areas where large numbers of people crowd together (stadium, train stations, city squares etc.). Keep all valuables safe, secure and out of sight. Take sensible precautions such as wearing hand- and shoulder-bags with the strap across the shoulder and locking valuables in hotel safes when not required. Usual personal safety rules should be applied when walking in cities at night.

If you decide to rent a car while in Italy never leave your luggage and valuables unattended.

Travellers are advised to carry just one credit card and a small amount of cash. Other money and credit cards should be left in a secure place such as a hotel safe. Leave copies of your passport, travel and insurance details with family or friends in Ireland. You may also want to keep a record of the details in your e-mail account, but check that your account is absolutely secure before you do this.

Local Laws and Customs

Identification/Passport

Whilst in Italy, Irish citizens are required to carry their original passport at all times and present it to the police if asked to do so. Please see Pg 10 for information on what to do if your passport is lost or stolen while you are in Italy.

Consumption of Alcohol

Visitors should be aware that alcoholic spirits are usually sold in significantly larger measures in bars and restaurants than in Ireland. Visitors should also be aware that there is a cultural taboo and intolerance regarding public intoxication and in particular anti-social behaviour as a result of excessive alcohol consumption.

Illegal Drugs

The Italian authorities take the possession of illegal drugs in any quantity extremely seriously and such activity may result in imprisonment.

Use of the Road

Pedestrians/Cyclists

Pedestrians should remember that traffic will be coming from the opposite direction to traffic in Ireland. They should pay particular heed to this additional danger at night when walking along roads without a proper pavement and when crossing roads even at a designated crossing place. Most pedestrian crossings are not controlled by signals, but rather are similar to zebra-crossings in Ireland; however drivers, especially on motorbikes and mopeds, sometimes do not respect these, so particular caution should be used.

Driving

Caution and vigilance should be exercised when driving abroad. Traffic can be faster-paced than in Ireland and driving customs are different. It is important to note that when turning right at junctions, even if there is a green signal, pedestrians crossing the road into which one is turning have precedence. All drivers are required to wear a reflective vest and to use a reflective triangle warning sign if they need to stop at the roadside. Dipped headlights must be used at all times when driving on the motorways (Autostrada).

You must hold a full driving licence to drive in Italy. Ensure that you have a valid Irish or international licence. If driving an Irish registered car, ensure that it is fully insured and that you carry your logbook, proof of insurance and NCT certificate (if appropriate) if you rent a car. Please also carry your rental contract at all times.

Drive within the speed limit and do not drink and drive. As in Ireland, there are severe penalties for driving under the influence of alcohol. Driving violations can lead to heavy on-the-spot fines, imprisonment or immediate confiscation of your driving licence.

Public Transport

Buses, trains, trams and the metro all require valid tickets. These must be purchased in advance and validated in a validating machine either in the station or in the small yellow ticket machine found on buses and trams as soon as you start your journey. Failure to have a valid ticket will result in a heavy on-the-spot fine. Inspectors will make no exceptions for tourists. Tickets can often be purchased from most tobacconists (look out for the blue T sign which signifies *Tabaccheria* (Tobacco shop)), bars and vending machines at metro stations and major bus stops and cost €1.50 each.

Taxis

Taxis in Rome are licensed, with clearly marked signage. They run on a meter, and a list of supplementary charges (late hours, luggage etc) will be listed inside. Air- and seaports often attract unlicensed drivers posing as taxis, which should be avoided as they will generally grossly overcharge tourists. It is therefore recommended that only official taxis be hired. There is a fixed fare for travel to and from the cities two main airports, within the Aurelian walls. This cost is €48 for Fiumicino and €30 for Ciampino, one way.

When you call for a taxi, the meter starts running the minute the taxi is dispatched to your location. So, for example, if the taxi dispatcher or recording tells you that "Taxi X" is arriving in 5 minutes, you should know that there will be 5 minutes' worth of fare on the meter when it arrives.

You can also pick up taxis at ranks across the city. There are taxi ranks near most of the major tourist sites, including Piazza Risorgimento which is less than 4kms away from the Olympic Stadium.

Some local Taxi numbers are:

06 3570

06 6645

06 4994

06 0609

06 5551

06 8822

Communications / Mobile Phones

The international code for dialling Italy from Ireland is 0039. For example, if calling the Irish Embassy in Rome from Ireland dial: 00 39 06 5852381.

To call Ireland from Italy, use the prefix 00353. For example, to call the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Dublin dial: 00 353 (0) 1 408 2000.

If using your mobile phone while in Italy, you should ensure that it is equipped for roaming before you travel. If you use a pre-paid mobile ensure that you top it up with plenty of credit before you leave home. You may wish to register with your provider to allow you to top-up via the internet, through your mobile, or by text.

Money

As in Ireland, the Euro is the currency of Italy. Irish ATM cards displaying the Maestro and Cirrus symbols can usually be used easily in ATMs displaying those and/or the EC symbol; please check with your bank for further information. When using ATM machines, take the usual precautions, such as checking that the machine has not been interfered with before use and hiding your PIN number from others as you enter it into the machine. Credit Cards can usually be used in ATMs also, though costs may be substantially higher and can involve interest charges. You may find that the use of credit cards is not as extensive in Italy as it is in Ireland. Therefore do not be surprised if some shops and services do not accept credit cards, and where you intend to pay for a meal by credit card it is prudent to check if your credit card/card type can be accepted before ordering.

If your credit card has been lost or stolen, you should cancel the relevant card(s) immediately, to prevent illegal use:

For lost/stolen AIB Credit Cards call	In Ireland: 1800 242 227 From abroad: +353 1 2695022
For lost/stolen Bank of Ireland Credit Cards call:	In Ireland: 1890 706 706 From abroad: +353 56 7757007
For lost/stolen Permanent TSB Credit Cards call:	In Ireland: 1800 687 687 From abroad: +353 1 212 4290

Health and Travel Insurance

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade strongly recommends that comprehensive travel insurance, including medical insurance, is obtained before travelling abroad. Insurance could cover the entire cost of hospitalisation, and repatriation should that become necessary.

European Health Insurance Card

Make sure that you bring your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC), which is valid in Italy. Application forms can be downloaded at www.ehic.ie or by calling to your local Health Office, Community Care office or Health Centre.

The EHIC will only cover essential emergency treatment (i.e. any medical treatment that becomes necessary because of either illness or an accident.). This is not a substitute for travel insurance.

As an EU citizen you are entitled, upon presentation of your EU Health Insurance Card (EHIC) to be visited by a doctor for a small sum. In case of emergencies, you can go to any Pronto Soccorso (First Aid) free of charge. If the hospital believes that it wasn't a real emergency, it may charge a small fee.

The card gives access to state-provided medical treatment only, and treatment is on the same basis as an 'insured' person living in the country being visited.

The EHIC also covers treatment needed for a chronic disease or pre-existing illness. Arrangements need to be made in advance for kidney dialysis or oxygen therapy. The EHIC will not cover a person if the main purpose of their trip is to get medical treatment.

4. **How the Embassy can assist you**

If your passport is lost or stolen while in Italy

- Loss or theft must be reported to the police and the Embassy at the earliest opportunity. Ask the Police for a written statement that you have reported the loss/theft. You will require this to obtain an emergency travel document from the Embassy.
- The Embassy will make every effort to issue the relevant replacement travel document for your journey within the shortest period of time. To assist the Embassy in this regard please contact the Embassy immediately if you discover that your passport has been lost or stolen.
- Airlines vary in the travel documents they require, so citizens should check with their chosen airline/transport before travelling.
- If you require an emergency travel document, you will have to obtain two passport photographs and other supporting documents before coming to the Embassy.
- Please consult www.passport.ie for full detailed instructions and regulations regarding lost/stolen passports. Please note for those not returning to Ireland or an EU destination, all documentation requested online is required before the Embassy can issue a temporary passport.

If you require urgent medical treatment

Please note that you should ensure that you arrange travel insurance before you leave Ireland.

The Embassy can:

- Offer general advice on the local medical services

- Provide a list of local English-speaking doctors
- Assist in liaising with doctors or hospitals
- Arrange interpretation if necessary
- Advise relatives or friends about accidents or illnesses
- Liaise with the Irish and Italian authorities to facilitate repatriation to Ireland where such a move is deemed medically advisable

However, the Embassy **cannot**:

- Pay medical or hospital bills
- Provide medical advice
- Pursue insurance companies about payment or refund of the cost of medical treatment
- Pursue claims for compensation relating to negligence, injury or any other matter
- Pay for visits by relatives

If you have been the victim of a crime

The Embassy can:

- Inform family or friends of your situation
- Help you to transfer funds from home if this is necessary
- Provide a list of English-speaking lawyers
- Assist in liaising with the local police
- In very exceptional circumstances, advance funds to you, but only on the basis of a strict undertaking to repay the funds when you return to Ireland
- Assist in arranging repatriation to Ireland

However, the Embassy **cannot**:

- Give legal advice or act as your lawyer
- Intervene in court proceedings
- Investigate a crime
- Pay legal costs

If you are arrested or imprisoned

One of the most important functions of Irish Embassies and Consulates is to ensure that the rights of Irish citizens who are arrested or imprisoned abroad are fully respected. If you are arrested, be sure to ask the local authorities to contact the Irish Embassy.

The Embassy can:

- Visit you or arrange for you to be visited by an Embassy official or Honorary Consul
- If necessary, provide you with a list of local English-speaking lawyers
- Advise you about the prison system and about your entitlement to visits, mail and other facilities
- Bring details of any medical condition you may have to the attention of prison officials
- Pursue with the prison authorities on your behalf any complaints about ill-treatment or discrimination
- Pass messages to and from your family

However, the Embassy cannot:

- Secure better treatment for Irish citizens than local or other nationals receive
- Give or pay for legal advice

- Interfere with or influence the proper operation and application of the local judicial system
- Provide any financial assistance while you are in prison
- Pay bail bonds or fines

If you need help accessing funds

Irish citizens travelling abroad sometimes experience financial difficulties, due to unforeseen circumstances. Money can be transferred easily and quickly from Ireland by using one of the well-known commercial agencies (the best known being Western Union) who have an extensive network in Italy. To arrange a transfer of funds using Western Union you take the following steps:

- Contact a relative/friend at home in Ireland.
- Give your relative/friend the contact details for Western Union in Ireland (1800 395 395 or www.moneytransfer.ie)
- Your relative/friend will need to contact Western Union and arrange to transfer money to you. Western Union charges a fee for this service. The money transfer is instant and you will be able to collect the money within a few minutes of receiving confirmation from your relative/friend
- In order to collect the money, you will need to have ID. *If you do not have your passport or any other form of ID, ask your relative/friend to transfer the money in the name of somebody who is travelling with you and has ID.*
- Make sure that your relative/friend gives you the Money Transfer Control Number (MTCN), which is necessary to collect your money.
- Western Union offices can be identified by the yellow sign. Your relative/friend should ask the Western Union representative where your nearest collection point is when they transfer the money.

5. Further information...

For queries on local public transport and air travel please contact:

Enquiry type	Contact
Tourism queries	Rome Tourist Board http://www.turismoroma.it
Local Public Transport	http://www.atac.roma.it
Trenitalia (intercity rail services)	http://www.trenitalia.com
Fiumicino (Leonardo Da Vinci) and Ciampino Airports	http://www.adr.it
Airline ticket and flight information queries	Please contact your airline.
Match and ticketing enquiries (incl. lost tickets)	Please contact the IRFU: www.irishrugby.ie