

Switchback Tour Frequently Asked Questions

1. How do I sign up?

Print an application from Switchback's website for the trips, complete, and scan and email to Susan Sheehan at Celtic Tours to susans@celtictours.com, or fax to 518-862-1820, or physically mail to Celtic Tours, 1860 Western Ave., Albany NY 12203.

2. How much do I need to pay to sign up initially?

You would send in the deposit amount listed on the flyer per person + travel insurance payment (insurance is optional).

3. Can I sign up if I still have to apply for or renew my passport?

Yes. Just fill in your complete name with middle name, as it will appear on your passport. You will need to send a copy of your passport to Celtic Tours no later than the second payment due date showing on the application. Please scan and email or physically mail passport copies, as faxed passport copies do not come through clearly. NOTE: Your passport must be valid for 6 months after your return date.

4. Will the flight be available and from where?

Group air will be available from Chicago's O'Hare Airport. If you need help booking air from another outlying city, please contact Susan at Celtic Tours to discuss at 800-833-4373.

5. If I am booking a connection flight on my own and would like to use the group's Chicago air, when should I book and what should I consider?

You should contact Susan at Celtic Tours at 800-833-4373 first to be sure the tour has reached enough participants to guarantee the tour, then you may book your flight. IMPORTANT: You will want to check the group flight schedule again with Susan at Celtic Tours to see if there have been any schedule changes. It is recommended you leave at least a 4 - 5 hour layover in between flights, in case there are any schedule changes with the group air, which may occur right up until departure.

6. What if I want to sign up for both trips?

Complete both applications and make a note at the bottom that you will take both trips.

7. Is there a discount for taking both trips?

We are working on this and will update with more information.

8. Why is it that some of the optional tours for Italy cost more than the optional tours for Ireland?

In Ireland, the driver is also the guide; whereas, in Italy, there is a driver and a separate local guide. Also, the bus in Ireland is usually factored into the main tour cost; while the bus for Italy is specifically priced in separately for each optional tour requiring a bus.

9. Will Switchback perform on the trips?

Yes. Switchback arranges specific concerts, TBA, for their tours, which will be offered to you, some at a cost if it is a benefit concert, and some included in the tour cost. Don't be surprised if the band pulls out their guitars during a day's sightseeing excursion!

10. What will the weather be like in Ireland and Italy in September / early October?

Italy temperatures in late September will be in the 60 - 70F range during the day, dropping slightly at night. Ireland will be the same.

11. What type of clothing should I pack?

It's best to go with layered clothing and comfortable shoes for during the day. Usually you would dress casually, unless you plan on going to a fancy restaurant on your own. It is best to bring a jacket with you that has a hood in case of a passing shower. Umbrellas don't always hold up well in Ireland due to higher wind gusts. You will be more inland in Italy, so you could bring an umbrella.

12. Is a visa required to enter Ireland or Italy?

No. Just a US passport valid 6 months beyond your travel dates is required to travel to Ireland and Italy.