



Co-funded by
the European Union

Some tips on slow travelling to/from [Galway, Ireland](#)



As part of my role with Music for Galway, I slow travelled from Galway to Hamburg in February 2023. I was so used to just getting online and booking a flight, I was initially quite daunted by the prospect! But the more I planned my journey, the more I was looking forward to it 😊 It took me 2 days to get to Hamburg, and a little longer to get home, as I stopped off in the UK to visit friends. I really enjoyed the whole experience; in fact, I was so taken by it that I inter-railed with my husband and two children from Italy to Denmark over 4 weeks in Aug 2023.

As a way to travel, it takes longer and can be more costly financially, but what you gain in experiences, enjoyment, and emission-saving, it is certainly worth it. As American philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson said *"It's not the destination, it's the journey"*.

The two main ways to reduce your travel carbon footprint, and to travel in a more sustainable way, is to **avoid flying**, and to **take public transport** whenever possible. The [INTERRAIL](#) website has loads of useful info and metrics on [SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL](#), and why it really is a cleaner and greener option! For example: Travelling from London to Brussels on the Eurostar Vs Flying has [96% LESS EMISSIONS](#) and takes [LESS THAN HALF THE TIME!](#)

Getting to [Ireland](#)



As Ireland is an island without a land bridge or tunnel to the UK or mainland Europe, then one must take the ferry. Depending on where you are travelling from, there are a number of options from the UK, France, and Spain. Ireland has four international ferry ports in Dublin, Cork, Rosslare, and Belfast, all of which have public transport connections to Galway.

Firstly, how to get from wherever you are to the ferry using public transport? The [INTERRAIL PASS](#) is a flexible, inexpensive, and low carbon way to travel through Europe. Everything is managed using an app on your phone. If travelling within one country,



Co-funded by
the European Union

the [ONE COUNTRY PASS](#) is an option. National rail companies also have various offers and passes, and there are usually significant discounts for students, young adults, and seniors. Another option is to buy a [SAIL-RAIL](#) combined ticket between Ireland and the UK and France. It can be better value than buying train and ferry tickets separately.

The [DIRECT FERRIES](#) website has a good overview of services, complete with maps and prices. NOTE: If you are travelling on an [INTERRAIL PASS](#) to Ireland, you receive a discount when booking the ferries directly with the service provider. E.g. [Irish Ferries offer a 30% discount](#). In 2023, the Irish Times published an interesting news article on [travelling by the ferry to/from Ireland](#)

Getting to Galway from within Ireland

Once you arrive in Ireland, there are both bus and rail services to Galway. The [TRANSPORT FOR IRELAND](#) website is a great way to plan your journey, as it shows you the options available to travel by public transport to Galway.

The main national services are [IRISH RAIL](#), [BUS EIREANN](#) and [EXPRESSWAY](#), which offer services from all over Ireland. There are also a number of private services from larger towns and cities to Galway, listed below:



From around Ireland

[Ballina](#), Co. Mayo

[Ballinrobe](#), Co. Mayo

[Cork](#)

[Donegal](#)

Dublin: [City Link](#) * [GoBus](#) * [Aircoach](#) * [Eireagle](#)

[Limerick](#)

[Roscommon](#)

From within County Galway

[Athenry](#)

[Clifden](#)

[Loughrea](#)

[Tuam](#)

[Local and rural bus services within County Galway](#)

Getting around Galway city

Galway is a small city on the west coast of Ireland. The city centre is compact and very walkable, and there is a fantastic 5km coastal path called The Prom from the city centre to Salthill. There is a [BUS NETWORK](#) across the city, and a [BIKE SHARE](#) bike rental in place: A 3-day bike share pass costs only €3.00! Discover Ireland has a [CAR FREE](#) guide to Galway city.

This is not an exhaustive list of sustainable travel options, but it will hopefully give you some useful information on alternatives to flying and/or driving.



Valerie Parker Chang, Songs of Travel Project Coordinator