



Savannah Children's Choir

Uniting Savannah's
Children Through
The Power Of Song

Taxes on
"goods and
gifts" may
be refundable
to tourists!

VAT (Value Added Taxes)

Ireland, like some other European countries, have very high taxes on consumer goods, which can be up to 23%. The great news is that a portion of these taxes are refundable to tourists.

Taxes aren't typically charged on food, but it is on gas, hotels, and drinks. These taxes are not refundable.

However, on any "goods and gifts" purchases, such as souvenirs and Waterford chandeliers, a portion of taxes can be refundable.

There are a few things to note:

There are two MAIN services, Tax Free and FEXCO, that work with retailers to manage their tourist tax returns, but it is an opt-in service, and not universal.

Each service has a different way of tracking purchases.

FEXCO is the company that uses a Horizon Card. This looks like a credit card, and you'll swipe it every time you buy something to track your purchases. At the end of the trip, you go to a kiosk in the airport, swipe your card, and are given a refund.

Tax Free uses a different system. When the VAT is enough to be refundable, you'll be given an extra-long VAT receipt that says "Tax Free" at the top. When you get to the airport at the end of the trip, you turn in your receipts and they give you a refund.

Fortunately, both of these are next to each other in the airport in case you've encountered both during the trip.

Please note:

Purchases have to be over a certain amount or they won't even offer a Horizon Card or a VAT voucher.

One store might offer a VAT receipt or have a Horizon terminal, but the one next door might never have heard about it. Most major tourist shopping destinations will have one or the other.

You'll need to swipe your Horizon Card every time you make a purchase, because the representatives at the airport can't add in random receipts at the airport.

Finally, this is a cash-free refund. They do NOT give cash refunds, even if all purchases have been made in cash. They can only refund to a MasterCard, Visa or American Express credit card, or a MasterCard or Visa debit card.

You can get a [Horizon Card](#) before you even get to Ireland, and register online before you go.

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