

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION:
RE: THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND AND THE NETHERLANDS VAT INCREASE – FOR
ALL TRIPS TRAVELLING FROM 1st JANUARY 2019**

1. What is VAT?

- A value-added tax (VAT) is a consumption tax placed on a product or service.
- VAT is assessed and collected on the value of goods or services that have been provided every time there is a transaction (sale/purchase). The seller charges VAT to the buyer, and the seller pays this VAT to the government.

2. What is happening with the Republic of Ireland and The Netherlands VAT tourism tax?

- The Government of the Republic of Ireland announced on 9 October 2018 their intent to restore the VAT tourism tax's from a reduced 9pc rate to 13.5pc on 1 January 2019, despite strong resistance from Tourism Minister Shane Ross.
- The VAT tourism tax was set at 9% in 2011 in an attempt to boost tourism in Ireland.
- The Irish Government has apparently decided that due to a "buoyant tourism sector", the lower tax rate is no longer required.
- Equally in the Netherlands a 3 pc increase in VAT was announced by the Government in October

3. How does this increase in VAT impact TTC brands?

- Every trip that visits the Republic of Ireland or The Netherlands, from 1 Jan 2019, will be impacted by these increases of 4.5% and 3%.
- This unforeseen change came post our 2019 costings, which were completed in August, preceding to this increased VAT

4. What does this mean for our guests:

- For all guests that already have booked a trip to Ireland and/or The Netherlands we will **NOT** be passing this surcharge on. They are protected at the original price.
- All bookings made from 14th November 2018 for a journey that spends 3 or more nights in Ireland or The Netherlands will be subject to this surcharge.
- This will vary from \$20 to \$100 per person depending on duration in Ireland and The Netherlands and will be applicable to following series:

5. What does this mean for Trade Partners

- The additional VAT charge is not commissionable, and therefore trade partners must request the surcharge from their customers without any commission payable.

6. What about brochure pricing?

- Brochures for 2019 travel are already printed and therefore we must rely on T&C's where it states – 'Taxes and fees are subject to change without notice and will be confirmed at time of booking'.
- Online pricing will be updated, with a clear message on all pricing panels that this is due to Government VAT increase.

FAQs:

Q: When will the new surcharge be introduced?

A: The surcharge will be introduced for all relevant bookings taken from 14th November 2018

Q: What trips and departures will this affect?

A: This will only apply to new bookings. The attached outlines the applicable trips and surcharge amounts. The surcharge will be applicable for departures from 01-Jan-2019

Brand	Trip Code	Description
IV	B904	Britain & Ireland Explorer
IV	B906	Focus on Ireland
IV	B907	Irish Elegance
IV	B908	Romantic Britain & Ireland
IV	B909	Country Roads of Ireland
IV	B935	Best of Ireland & Scotland
IV	B959	Britain & Ireland Discovery
LG	G209	Ultimate Ireland
IV	E918	Country Roads of Belgium, Luxembourg & The Netherlands

Q: How can I tell a surcharge has been applied to a booking?

A: The surcharge will be built in Costing and Pricing and will automatically be added to the applicable trips/departures when making a booking.

Q: Will this impact existing bookings?

A: No. This is for new bookings only which have a duration in Ireland or The Netherlands of 3 days or more

Q: Will the invoices be updated?

A: Yes the VAT will be updated on the invoice

Q: Will Travel Agents receive commission on the surcharge?

A: No. Commission will not be applied to this surcharge

Q: Will the new surcharged price be reflected to our 3rd Party feeds

A: Yes, Content Hub, v3, v4 will show the increased surcharged price from the effective date

Q: Will the surcharge show on the website?

A: Yes. The price will be included in the shown website price. The additional note will be applied to the pricing panel on all websites. **'Total price includes an unexpected local Government Tourist VAT tax increase. This small additional cost is included in the above price and will be passed directly to the Government'**.