

**IRELAND**

# Eire

*Éire* (/ɛərə/; Irish: /erʲə/ ) is the Irish name for Ireland. The modern Irish *Eire* evolved from the Old Irish word *Eriu*, which was the name of a Gaelic goddess.

While *Éire* is simply the name for Ireland in the Irish language, and sometimes used in English, *Erin* is a common poetic name for Ireland, as in *Erin go bragh*. The distinction between the two is one of the difference between cases, of nouns in Irish (*Erin* derives from *Eirinn*, the Irish dative case).

*I am of Ireland,  
And the Holy Land of Ireland,  
And time runs on,' cried she.  
"Come out of charity  
And dance with me in Ireland.'*

W. B. Yeats, from *The Winding Stair and Other Poems*, 1933

**Where is Ireland?**

# Ireland

North Atlantic  
Ocean

Northern  
Ireland

Scotland

United  
Kingdom

Dublin

Isle  
of Man

Wales

England



**Type of Government:** republic, parliamentary democracy

**Languages:** English and Irish (Gaelic, spoken mainly in areas located along the western seaboard)

**Independence:** 6 December 1921 (from UK)

**National Holiday:** Saint Patrick's Day, 17 March

**Religions:** Roman Catholic 88.4%, Church of Ireland 3%, other Christian 1.6%

**National Symbol:** harp, shamrock

**National Anthem or Song:** Amhran na bhFiann (The Soldier's Song), written in 1907

island.

The population of the Republic of Ireland is about 4.6 million.

It is the third-largest island in Europe. It is situated on the westernmost edge of Europe.

In 1801, Ireland became a part of the United Kingdom. A war of independence in the early 20th century led to the separation of the island, creating the Irish Free State, which became increasingly sovereign over the following decades. Northern Ireland remained a part of the United Kingdom and saw civil unrest from the late 1960s until the 1990s. This subsided following a political agreement in 1998.

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## Brief historical outlines

- The Irish people are mainly of Celtic origin. The Celts arrived in the 7<sup>th</sup> century BC.
- In 432 AD St. Patrick arrived on the island and began to work to convert the locals to Christianity.
- Ireland became part of the United Kingdom in 1801 with the signing of the Act of Union.
- In 1846 Ireland was hit with a great famine. The potato crop failed and millions died of starvation. Millions more left the country and many Irish emigrated to the United States.
- In the late 1800s and early 1900s the Irish began to want their independence from the United Kingdom. The Sinn Fein, which means "Ourselves Alone" became a political movement for freedom. From 1919-1921 Ireland and England went to war. At the end of the war the Irish Free State was formed. Ireland was divided into 2 parts: the Republic of Ireland, which is an independent country, and Northern Ireland, which is still a part of the UK.





*What is the capital?*

*Name the most important cities...*

The capital of the Republic of  
Ireland is DUBLIN.

The capital of Northern Ireland is  
BELFAST.

# Dublin



# Limerick



# Cork



# Galway



# Belfast (Northern Ireland)





How would you describe it?

How would you describe it?

It is known for its wide expanses of lush, green fields. In fact, its nickname is the Emerald Isle. Most of the country is less than 500 feet above sea level, with mountains situated mainly in the east and in the south, but the land is famous for the scenic beauty of its numerous lakes and rivers. Its highlands rise mainly in the southwest, often ending as sheer cliffs that plunge thousands of feet into the Atlantic Ocean.

# The Land of GREEN

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What are the most famous Irish things?

# Guinness



# Irish Coffee



**BAILEYS**

## Irish Whiskey





# LEPRECHAUNS

A leprechaun is a type of elf in Irish folklore, usually taking the form of an old man, dressed in a red or green coat, who enjoys partaking in mischief. The leprechauns spend all their time busily making shoes, and store away all their coins in a hidden pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. If ever captured by a human, the Leprechaun has the magical power to grant three wishes in exchange for their release. Popular depiction shows the Leprechaun as being no taller than a small child, with a beard and hat.





# CASTLES AND HISTORIC BUILDINGS

When you think of the Emerald Isle, you think of the people, the landscape, the culture and of course the rich history of the country.

Just some chapters of Ireland's history are perfectly embodied in the spectacular castles scattered around the country which remain one of the biggest draws for tourists around the world.

What are  
the typical dishes?

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the typical dishes?

**Irish stew**



**Boxty, a potato pancake**



**Colcannon,  
an Irish potato  
and kale dish**



**Crubeens are made  
of boiled pigs' feet**



**Barmbrack (brack) is a kind of  
cake (containing a golden ring,  
traditionally eaten around  
Halloween).**

**What is the Irish  
national symbol?**

# Harp

From early times to the end of the 19th cent. Ireland is unique in having a musical instrument, the harp, as its national emblem.

It once graced the flag of the Republic, it still appears on official government documents as well as the Presidential flag, and it is displayed on Irish coins. For centuries, the harp has been a beloved emblem of Ireland. Up to at least the 17th cent. harpists enjoyed a high status among all other musicians and in society.



The harp on a green background symbolising Ireland first appeared in 1642 when Eoghan Rua O'Neill returned from Spain to head the Ulster armies in the 1641 rebellion. Gradually the green flag with yellow harp came to be seen as the emblem of Ireland. The national flag, throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, was known as the *Green Flag* and always showed a gold harp on a green background. The tricolour did not come into use until the 1916-19 period.

# SHAMROCK

The shamrock is a three-leaved clover. It is known as the national symbol of Ireland, with St. Patrick having used it as a metaphor for the Christian Trinity, when christianising Ireland in the 5th century, according to legend. The name shamrock is derived from Irish *seamróg*, which is the diminutive version of the Irish word for clover (*seamair*).



# The Legend of Shamrock

Long ago, when Ireland was the land of druids, there was a great bishop, Patrick by name, who came to teach the word of God throughout the country. One day, however, a group of his followers came to him and admitted that it was difficult for them to believe in the doctrine of the Holy Trinity.

St. Patrick reflected a moment and then, stooping down, he plucked a leaf from the shamrock and held it before them to explain the concept of the Holy Trinity. The simple beauty of this explanation convinced these skeptics, and from that day the shamrock has been revered throughout Ireland.

A four-leaf clover has always been considered a symbol of good luck in Irish culture. According to legend, the leaves of a four-leaf clover represent hope, faith, and love, and God added another leaf for luck.

# ST PATRICK

St Patrick (c. AD 387-461) is the patron saint of Ireland. He was a Christian missionary and a legend credits him with teaching the Irish about the doctrine of the Holy Trinity by showing people the shamrock. For this reason, shamrock is the central symbol for St Patrick's Day.

St Patrick's Day is a cultural and religious holiday celebrated on March,17, the anniversary of St Patrick's death. It also commemorates the arrival of Christianity in Ireland.





# FAMOUS IRISHMEN



Bono & U2



Bob Gedolf



Liam Neeson



Colin Farrell



Pierce Brosnan



Kenneth Branagh



Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds



Damian Rice



Van Morrison



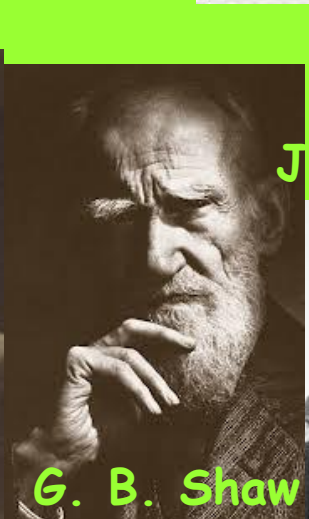
George Best



J. Swift



W. B. Yeats



G. B. Shaw



Oscar Wilde



Oscar Wilde



Samuel Beckett