

WE'RE ALL  
A LITTLE  
IRISH  
TODAY



NEWSPAPER  
ST. PATRICK'S DAY



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# GEOGRAPHY & NATURE

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March 17th

● Ireland ●

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## A Journey Through Ireland's Rich Culture and Heritage

Irish Flag



People celebrating St. Patrick's Day



*Ireland, often referred to as the “Emerald Isle,” is a country known for its rich history, lush green landscapes, and vibrant culture. But how much do you really know about this beautiful island nation? Let’s take a closer look at some interesting facts about Ireland.*

The capital city of Ireland is **Dublin**. In the Irish language, the name for Ireland is “Éire.” While many know it as Ireland, “Éire” is a proud reminder of the country’s Gaelic heritage. Ireland is often called the “**Emerald Isle**” because of its **lush, green landscapes**.

Surrounded by the **Atlantic Ocean**, Ireland’s position has greatly influenced its climate and history. The Atlantic gives the country its temperate maritime climate, with mild winters and cool summers. The ocean also shaped Ireland’s maritime culture, making it an important seafaring nation for centuries.

One of the most recognized symbols of Ireland is the **shamrock**, a three-leaf clover. Ireland is located just to the east of Ireland is the **United Kingdom**, with which it shares a complex and rich history.



## Cliffs of Moher



## Carrauntoohil



Ireland is home to the longest river in the country, the **River Shannon**. Spanning over 360 kilometers, this mighty river flows through the heart of the island, offering breathtaking views and supporting both tourism and local communities along its banks.



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The highest mountain in Ireland is **Carrauntoohil**, towering at 1,038 meters above sea level. It's a popular destination for hikers and climbers who want to experience the island's stunning natural beauty from above, and it remains an iconic feature of the Irish landscape.

From its vibrant cities to its breathtaking landscapes, Ireland is a country rich in culture and history. Whether you're walking along the banks of the River Shannon or admiring the views from the top of Carrauntoohil, Ireland offers something for everyone. The "Emerald Isle" continues to capture the hearts of those who visit, making it one of the most cherished destinations in the world.



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# HISTORY

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Ireland

## History of the country

*The Republic of Ireland*

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Ireland was under the rule of England for many centuries, and later under Great Britain. The process of gaining independence was long and full of conflicts. However, it fully regained independence only in **1922**. The full name of Ireland is **The Republic of Ireland**.



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## Famous cities in Ireland



Ireland has many different and beautiful places to visit, but the most popular ones are: **Dublin** (the **capital**), **Galway** (the city of artists), and **Kilkenny** (famous for its medieval castle and whiskey).

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## Did you know?

Did you know that **Halloween** originates from the ancient Celtic festival of **Samhain**, which was celebrated in what is now Ireland? It was a festival marking the end of summer and the beginning of winter, also symbolizing the end of the harvest.



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# TRADITIONS



On St. Patrick's Day, people often enjoy traditional Irish dishes, including:

- Irish Stew – A hearty dish made with lamb or beef, potatoes, carrots, onions, and parsley.
- CORNED BEEF AND CABBAGE – A POPULAR DISH, ESPECIALLY IN THE UNITED STATES, CONSISTING OF SALTED BEEF, CABBAGE, AND VEGETABLES.
- Colcannon – Mashed potatoes mixed with cabbage or scallions.

## LEGENDS



### Pot of gold

According to legend, the leprechaun, a small, clever spirit in Irish folklore, hides his pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. The rainbow, which appears after the rain, is a symbol of the bridge between the world of humans and the magical realm, and its end is the place where treasures and mysterious things can be hidden.

### Turning a stone into water:

Legend has it that St. Patrick had the power to perform miracles. It is said that during his journey through Ireland, when he meet a group of people who were thirsty, he touched a stone, and it immediately turned into water.



### THE MOST IMPORTANT TRADITION

The most important tradition of St. Patrick's Day celebrations is wearing green clothing. Green is the national color of Ireland, referring to the island's grassy landscape and symbolizing the shamrock, which is traditionally associated with Saint Patrick.

# MYTHS AND LEGENDS OF IRISH FOLKLORE

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## THE SYMBOL OF IRISH LUCK

Ireland is a land of magic and legends. One of its most famous folklore figures is the leprechaun—a small, red-bearded fairy in green. A clever trickster, he guards hidden treasures, including a pot of gold at the end of a rainbow, but always outsmarts those who try to catch him.



If you're seeking luck, kissing the **Blarney Stone** at **Blarney Castle** is said to grant the "gift of gab," making you more eloquent. Another well-known tale tells how **St. Patrick** banished all snakes from Ireland, a symbolic legend tied to the spread of Christianity.

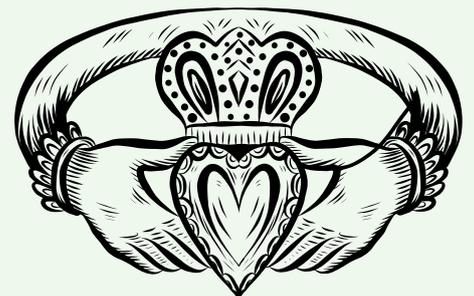


Blarney Castle



## A TRADITIONAL IRISH TOKEN OF AFFECTION

The **Claddagh ring**, with its hands, heart, and crown, symbolizes friendship, love, and loyalty. Often given as a token of affection, it also represents Irish heritage and identity.



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# WHY THIS LEGEND STILL CAPTIVATES IRELAND?

The Children of Lir

Irish mythology is rich in tragic tales. One of the most famous, **The Legend of the Children of Lir**, tells of four royal children turned into swans by their jealous stepmother and condemned to wander Ireland's waters for 900 years.

A darker figure in Irish folklore is the **banshee** —a ghostly spirit whose mournful wail foretells death. Described as a pale woman with long hair, dressed in white or gray, she has instilled fear in Irish stories for centuries.



Banshee

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These legends not only form an important part of Irish culture but also attract visitors from all over the world, eager to see the places connected to these extraordinary tales. While many of these stories are mere folklore, their magic still lives on in the hearts of the Irish and all those who cherish mysterious, enchanting myths.



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# IRISH MUSIC & DANCE

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Music

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## Irish traditional music

Irish music, a key part of Ireland's cultural identity, includes lively jigs, reels, and soulful ballads. Instruments like the fiddle, tin whistle, uilleann pipes, and **bodhrán** are common, with the **Celtic harp** as a national symbol. "Molly Malone," a famous folk song, tells the story of a young fishmonger who haunts Dublin after her death. A statue of Molly Malone stands in Dublin as a tribute to the song.

Bodhrán



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## Most popular Irish artists and songs

Modern artists like U2, Hozier, The Script, and Niall Horan—who was part of One Direction—have achieved global fame. U2's hits include "With or Without You," Hozier is known for "Take Me to Church," The Script for "Hall of Fame," and Niall Horan for "Slow Hands." Kneecap blends hip-hop with the Irish language, bringing a fresh twist to Irish music. Irish music continues to evolve, staying connected to its heritage.

Niall Horan



U2



Harp

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# IRISH DANCE DAZZLES WITH FAST FOOTWORK AND VIBRANT ENERGY

Riverdance at Eurovision



Riverdance



## *Riverdance at Eurovision, traditional Irish dance – stepdance*

Irish dance is a key part of Ireland's cultural heritage, known for its rhythmic precision and energetic movements. **Riverdance**, which gained global fame during the 1994 Eurovision Song Contest, helped bring Irish dance to a wider audience.

The most iconic style is **Irish stepdance**, with rapid foot movements and a still upper body. It requires skill and strength, often performed to traditional Irish music in competitions and social events.

Though rooted in tradition, Irish dance continues to evolve with modern influences, maintaining a strong connection to Irish culture.

Stepdance



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# FAMOUS IRISH PEOPLE

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Ireland is a country with a rich history, outstanding literature, talented actors and unique traditions. Here are some curiosities that show how much the Green Island has influenced world culture. One the most recognisable Irish actors is **Cillian Murphy**, known for his roles in *Peaky Blinders* and *Oppenheimer*. His mesmerising acting makes him one of the brightest stars of modern cinema. However, he is not the only Irishman who has achieved international success. **Pierce Brosnan**, who played the role of James Bond, is also from Ireland.

Ireland is not only about acting, but also about literature. This is where such outstanding writers as **Bram Stoker**, author of *Dracula*, or **James Joyce**, creator of *Ulysses*, one of the most important novels of the 20th century, were born. Oscar Wilde and Jonathan Swift (author of *Gulliver's Journey*) also come from the Green Island, which shows how much contribution Ireland has made to the development of world literature.

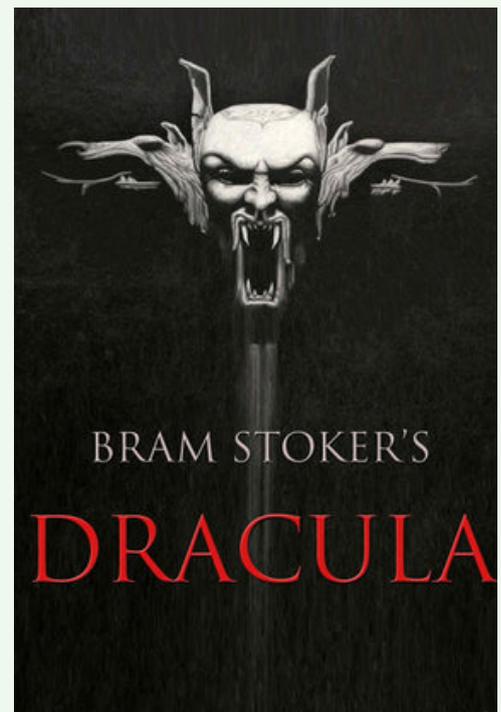
Cillian Murphy



Pierce Brosnan



Bram Stoker's Book



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# IRISH SPORTS



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You can't forget about sport, which is an integral part of Irish culture. Although football or rugby have gained popularity in the world, **hurling** is the most popular and most distinctive sport on the Green Island. It is a dynamic team game whose roots go back hundreds of years.

Politically, Ireland also has its own unique traditions. Its parliament is called Dáil Éireann, abbreviated **Dáil**, and it is in it that the most important decisions regarding the country are made.

Ireland is a country that fascinates on many levels - from culture and literature, through cinema, to sports and politics. Without a doubt, Green Island still has a lot to offer the world!

*Lets Get*   
**GREEN** 

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# Fun Facts and Traditions



irish stew



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Ireland is a land full of history, culture, and fascinating traditions. Here are some interesting facts you might not know about this beautiful country:

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Ireland's most famous beer is undoubtedly **Guinness**. Known worldwide, this iconic stout is a must-try when visiting Irish pubs. The legal drinking age in Ireland is **18**, which allows young adults to enjoy the country's renowned pub culture. The official language of Ireland is **Gaelic (Irish)**, a language that holds deep cultural significance and is still taught in schools today. If you're visiting an Irish pub, look out for the **Snug** — a cozy, private booth where you can enjoy a drink in a more intimate setting.

A traditional Full Irish Breakfast typically consists of **bacon, sausage, eggs, and black pudding** — the perfect way to start your day in Ireland. The official currency of Ireland is the **Euro**, making it easy for travelers from other European countries to visit without the need for currency exchange. If you're ever in the mood for comfort food, try a traditional Irish stew, made with **lamb and potatoes** — a dish that's as hearty as it is delicious.