

IRELAND

GEOGRAPHY & BASIC FACTS

Ireland is an island [aj-lend] located in the Atlantic Ocean, next to Great Britain. The island is divided into / has two parts: Northern Ireland, which is part of the United Kingdom, and the Republic of Ireland. The Republic of Ireland covers just over 80 % of the island and about 4.5 million people live there. Around 1.8 million people live in Northern Ireland. People speak English and Irish, which is a Celtic language.



THE SYMBOLS OF IRELAND



are for example the Irish flag, St. (Saint) Patrick's Day, Irish tap dance - stepování, leprechaun [lep-ri-šn], green colour, shamrock – trojlístek/ jetelinka, black Irish beer or Irish music – with the violin.



THE FLAG has green, white and orange vertical stripes [strájpš].



THE GREEN COLOUR represents the green colour in spring. The countryside in Ireland is breath taking. It is green as there's a lot of sheep and beautiful, especially the Cliffs of Moher, the famous high cliffs. That's why Ireland is often called the Emerald isle because it has lots of green fields and beautiful countryside.



SAINT PATRICK'S DAY

People in Ireland celebrate St Patrick's Day on the 17th of March. They go into the streets, there are parades – průvody, they drink beer, sing, dance and they celebrate. The green colour can be seen everywhere. People wear green and orange costumes, they colour/ dye the river in Dublin green, the brewers make green beer etc.



THE IRISH MUSIC AND TAP DANCE ([tep] stepování) Irish dancing is very well known around the world. A lot of people watch Riverdance every year. Irish music, both



traditional and modern, is popular too. Traditional Irish folk music is based on the sound of violin. Modern music is represented by for example NEILL HORAN, one of the One Direction boys, or U2 is one of the biggest rock bands in the world. Ireland has won the



Eurovision Song Contest more times than any other country. Well-known Irish actors include Liam Neeson, COLIN FARRELL, who played the role of the penguin in the new Batman film, or stars in the Fantastic beasts and JONATHAN RHYS MEYERS famous for his Henry VIII in the film called the Tudors or Elvis Presley in film Elvis.



THE LEPRECHAUN

The Leprechaun is a part of Irish mythology and folk stories. According to (podle) some stories leprechauns were little people who invaded Ireland and were banished to live under the ground.

According to others, they were gleeful dwarfs (škodolibí trpaslíci). Short, quick, smart and they had magical powers to vanish into the air/ disappear. It was difficult to catch a leprechaun. If you were lucky to catch one, he granted you 3 wishes. They used to hide their pots of gold at the end of rainbows. They wore green clothes, a belt, big hat and they had red hair, red beard and thick red eyebrows.

THE IRISH HISTORY

For about 800 years, England ruled / controlled Ireland and there was a lot of fighting between the two countries. Then, in 1922, Ireland won / got its independence from the UK / United Kingdom. But part of Ireland wanted to remain / stay in the UK / United Kingdom. That's how the two different countries were formed / created in the north and south of the island. Today, Ireland and England are friendly neighbours. Like all the countries of the British Isles they share / have a similar culture and way of life. In the past they fought a lot.



DUBLIN

The capital city of Ireland is Dublin. It can be compared to Prague, as there is the DUBLIN CASTLE, you can visit the ZOO, walk along THE RIVER - Grand Canal, you can also go to the cathedral called



SAINT PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, which is the largest cathedral in Ireland. It is from the 12th century. **Jonathan Swift, an Irish writer and author of Gulliver's Travels was a priest in the cathedral in 1713-1745. He is buried there) or go to local Irish pubs to have Irish dark Guinness beer.**



GUINNESS BEER is dark, bitter (hořký) and you get it in **pints** [pájnts], 0.7l glasses, not half a litter. The beer you get is bigger than you get in the Czech Republic. In Dublin you can **have a tour in the Guinness brewery**, to see how the beer is made. (Can I have a pint?- můžu dostat pivo?)



DUBLIN LIBRARY is one of the largest libraries in the world. It is a part of the **Trinity College Dublin**, the oldest university in Ireland (Kolej Nejsvětější Trojice). There are more than 200,000 books there. You can see there valuable hand-written manuscripts/ documents. The oldest in from the year of about 800,

written by monks.

Another sight to see can be the National Museum, showing the Gaelic history of Ireland.

To get to know more about Dublin see **Visit DUBLIN TOP 10 PLACES on Youtube.com**



sheep herding/ stádo
hnání ovcí



Ed Sheeran was born in England, but his family comes from Ireland. His Grandma was born in Ireland and she still lives there. One of his albums, Devine, is dedicated to her. Some of his songs are typical Irish, with the Irish violin sound.



In Galway girl song he cooperated with an Irish band, it is influenced by traditional Irish music. The song is about a girl from Galway, a town in the West of Ireland. Ed Sheeran released the song on Saint Patrick's Day on March 17th 2017.

She played the fiddle in an Irish band
But she fell in love with an English man
Kissed her on the neck and then I took her by the hand
Said, "Baby, I just want to dance"

I met her on Grafton street right outside of the bar
She shared a cigarette with me while her brother played the guitar
She asked me what does it mean, the Gaelic ink on your arm?
Said it was one of my friend's songs, do you want to drink on?
She took Jamie as a chaser, Jack for the fun
She got Arthur on the table with Johnny riding a shotgun
Chatted some more, one more drink at the bar
Then put Van on the jukebox, got up to dance

You know, she played the fiddle in an Irish band
But she fell in love with an English man
Kissed her on the neck and then I took her by the hand
Said, "Baby, I just want to dance"
With my pretty little Galway Girl
You're my pretty little Galway Girl