

What makes Irish culture so popular around the world?



Festivities

The Irish celebrate Christian feasts such as Easter, which they look forward to, they celebrate Easter from the Friday before by practicing fasting and Sunday is a family holiday with the traditional egg hunt. As regards Halloween, the course of this festival is similar in many countries, it is celebrated all day on October 31. St. Patrick's Day is the National Day and takes place on March 17 and is one of the most popular celebrations in the country. St. Patrick's Day is also celebrated in many other countries. In Ireland this celebration is synonymous with festivals.



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Music

Irish music is rather easy to recognize. It has the advantage of having a unique identity: its sounds, its instruments, its rhythms...

Here is an overview of the instruments that characterize Irish music:

- 1- The bodhrán: a percussion instrument made of goat skin.
- 2- The uilleann pipe: a typical bagpipe, which is inflated with the arm and not with the mouth.
- 3- The Irish bouzouki: a guitar with a very particular sound.
- 4- The fiddle: a typical violin.

Music is very widespread in Ireland and has had an important place since Antiquity. Music and in particular traditional songs aimed to motivate combatants at war. As regards dances and instruments, one added them in order to enrich musical culture.



Customs and traditions

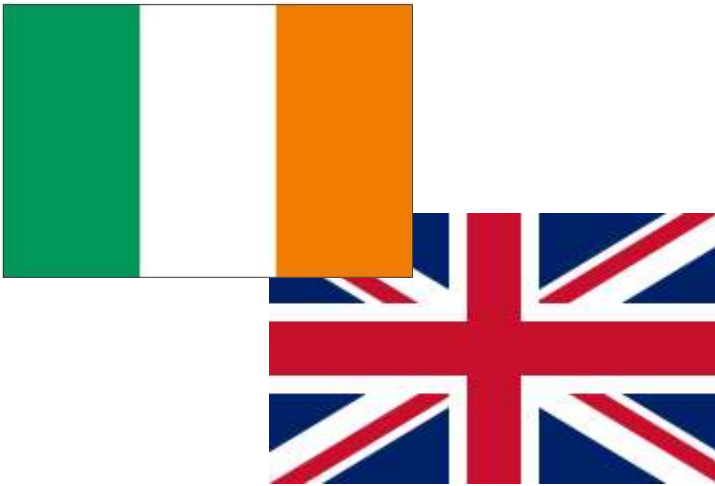
Ireland has a special relationship with the sea. Since Ireland is an island, it is not surprising that its culture is deeply linked to the sea. The Irish have not hesitated to travel as they consider themselves to be a travelling people. Why? Well, the island has long been extremely poor under British rule, especially during the Great Famine of the 19th century which killed about 1 million people and prompted massive emigration to the United States or Canada.

The Irish have the reputation of being very friendly and respectful and have good manners.

In Ireland, St. Patrick's Day is a serious affair, so there are several traditions to respect during this celebration:

- Dressing in green is a necessity as it is THE predominant colour (the country is even referred to as the Emerald Isle, due to its green landscapes, not to mention the shamrock which is the national symbol)
- Going to pubs to enjoy and listen to music
- Attending Saint Patrick's Day parades





Languages

Irish Gaelic and English are spoken in Ireland and are the official languages of the country. Irish was a Celtic language and the vernacular language of almost the entire population until the 19th century. It was replaced by English as the vernacular language. However, even today most school children still study the Irish language. Some Irish expressions :

- *Sláinte* usually used for toasting
- *Dia dhuit* which means "hello"



Folklore

Ireland is a land of tales and legends, whose colourful tales tell of the existence of Leprechauns, those mischievous little creatures, while others praise the ancient kings and queens of Ireland. Irish mythology still haunts the green valleys of Ireland, whether it is on the side of Tara, royal residence of the former great sovereigns, or more simply on the side of the great dolmens and old stone circles...

Each character and creature has its own story, each Celtic symbol has its own explanation.

It must be said that Ireland loves dark and heartbreaking tales, often full of morals and wisdom. But the heroes of Irish folklore do not always have a human face ! Fairies, leprechauns, or Jack O'Lantern are figures as endearing as they are ugly, and they fascinate adults and children alike.





port in Ireland is very popular and widespread. The number of participants and spectators is particularly high. The two main sports are Gaelic soccer and hurling. Other sports are Gaelic handball, rounders and shinty.

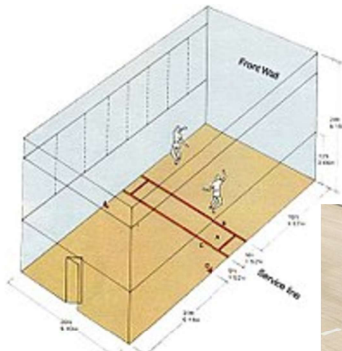


Gaelic soccer is a game where the player is not allowed to pick up the ball from the ground with his hands. You have to lift the ball with your foot, do a little juggling to get it in your hands (a pick-up). Hand passing is allowed, but the pass is made by punching the ball with the flat of the fist if it is made forward.



Hurling, or "camogie" if the team is female, is one of the three Gaelic sports of Ireland. It pits two teams of 15 players against each other, with a goalkeeper on each side and 2 halves of 35 minutes. With the help of their stick, called hurley, the players must score points by placing a small ball, the sliotar, in the opponent's goal.

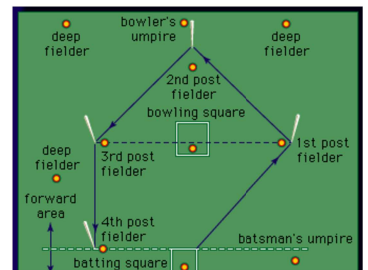




Gaelic handball is played on a court measuring 12.2 meters by 6.1 meters with a 6.1-meter-high back wall against which the ball must be sent. The objective is to score a set before your opponent. Points are scored only by the person serving.



Rounders is a British team sport similar to baseball. It has been played in England since the 16th century, in the English colonies of America since the 17th century and in Ireland since more recently. Rounders is one of the original sports of Ireland.



Shinty (camanachd or iomàin in Scottish Gaelic) or field hockey is a team sport of Scottish origin with two teams of twelve players, equipped with sticks, called camàn. The goal is to get the ball into the goal by propelling it with the sticks, in the manner of field hockey.



Boukrouh

Khamssa

