

What makes Irish culture so popular around the world ?

Symbols

The Irish flag consists of 3 visible colours: green, white and orange. Green represents the Catholic national liberation movement. White represents a symbol of peace and orange represents (for Protestants) the victory of the King of England William III.



St Patrick's Day is a Christian holiday celebrated on March 17 in honour of St Patrick (evangelizer of Ireland). The clover was brought as a symbol by St Patrick when he explained the concept of the Holy Trinity to the Irish and the Celtic harp is the official emblem of the country. The harp is the main instrument accompanying Celtic music, it is notably present on coins becoming the symbol of the State of Ireland (also present on the flag of the presidency).

The Irish national anthem is called *Amhrán na bhFiann* (in Irish), was composed in 1907 in English and was renamed *A Soldier's Song*.



Religious feasts

Samain is the traditional festival that celebrates the transition from the clear summer season to the dark winter season.

Imbolc is the traditional festival that celebrates the beginning of esoteric spring. In some areas, milk from the first milking is poured onto the ground to encourage new life to bloom.

Beltaine is the traditional festival that celebrates the transition from the dark season to the clear season, as well as the renewal of life.

Lughnasad is the traditional festival that celebrates the arrival of fruits on the earth.

Food

Beef and Guinness pie where the beer is used to cook the meat for taste



Irish stew, which consists of lamb, onion, potatoes and carrots and can be paired with brown bread



Colcannon (sometimes served on Halloween) consists of mashed potatoes, kale and butter



Dublin coddle or pot made with bacon, onion, potatoes and sausages



Irish coffee



As for drinks, the most famous is the Guinness beer, brewed at the Arthur Guinness brewery in Dublin ; it comes from high fermentation and its color is very dark.

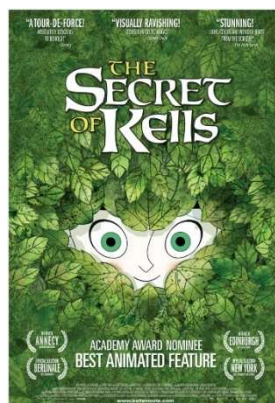
Irish Coffee is based on whiskey, red sugar, coffee and a touch of fresh cream.

Other drinks in Ireland include Tom Crean Ale, Smithwick's (beer) and Armagh Cider.



Cinema

At the beginning of cinema, Ireland was often used for its landscapes. But this was quickly stopped because an act of film censorship was passed in 1923. The first images of Ireland in cinema were taken by foreigners. Little by little over the years, thanks to the development of Europe and its single market, Irish cinema has finally been able to develop, giving rise to masterpieces such as Jim Sheridan's *My left foot* (1989), inspired by Christy Brown's eponymous autobiographical novel, or low-budget films by Neil Jordan that alternate with big-budget films in the United States like *We're no angels* (1989) or *In Dreams* (1999). This allowed the export of Irish cinema throughout the English-speaking world.



Thanks to the development of Europe and its Single Market, the expansion of Irish culture has been able to develop throughout the English-speaking world and globalisation spreads it worldwide.

Bulet Anita, Robert Chloé