

IRELAND

COUNTRY PROFILE



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Put **IRELAND** on Your Map





Fáilte



IRELAND

Ireland is an island in the North Atlantic ocean

The name of the State under the Irish Constitution is "Éire" or in English "Ireland"

A committed member of the European Union since 1973

First official language: Irish

Second official language: English

Currency: Euro (€)

FIGURES

The population of Ireland in 2022 is **5.1 million**.

Population by main cities:

- Dublin city: **1,450,000**
- Limerick city: **205,000**
- Cork city: **208,000**
- Galway city: **83,000**

Today **40%** of the population can speak Irish

70 million people around the world claim Irish ancestry

National symbol:

Shamrock

Legend has it that the shamrock was used by Saint Patrick when preaching in Ireland, as a symbol of the Holy Trinity, leading to its adoption as an Irish symbol.



Ireland has the youngest population in Europe with
33% under 25 years of age and almost
50% under the age of 34

#8 on the United Nations Human
Development Index 2022

#8 on the Good Country
Index 2022

National emblem **The Harp**

The harp has been regarded as the official emblem, or coat of arms, of Ireland since medieval times. The heraldic harp is used by the Government, its agencies and its representative at home and abroad. It is engraved on the seal of the Office of the President as well as on Irish euro coins.



A LAND OF
A THOUSAND WELCOMES

Céad mile fáilte

Ireland's breathtaking Wild Atlantic Way is the longest signed coastal road in the world.



2,500km of unspoilt coastline on the Wild Atlantic Way with natural, historical and cultural experiences and inspirations.

188 incredible Discovery Points along the way from Donegal to West Cork.

Climate

Influenced by the Gulf Stream, and with prevailing south-westerly winds, the climate of Ireland is temperate.

The coldest months are January and February which have mean daily air temperatures of between 4°C and 7°C, while July and August are the warmest, with regular temperatures of over 20°C.



SHANNON



CORK

How to get to
Ireland



Ireland's main international airports:
Dublin, Cork, Shannon.

Ireland's Ancient East, a land full of secrets, is carpeted by lush landscapes and small towns, framed by the River Shannon and the Irish Sea.

- **30,000 castles & ruins** in Ireland
- The River Shannon is the longest river in Ireland at **360.5 km**
- **900 A.D.** when **Seán's Bar** in **Athlone town**, Europe's oldest bar, was opened

**IRELAND'S
ANCIENT
EAST**
in numbers

- **15** counties
- **5,000** years of history
- **100's** of festivals
- **100,000** storytellers

DUBLIN



TOP Tourism
3 most peaceful country globally
(Global Peace Index 2022)

Ireland ranked the friendliest country in Europe by Condé Nast Traveller 2022 Readers' Choice Awards

On average, every Irish resident welcomes **2** overseas visitors

Dublin is in the **Top 10** friendliest cities in the world in 2022 (Time Out)

10 million overseas visitors were welcomed to Ireland in 2019, and their expenditure in Ireland was estimated to be **€5.6 billion**.

The National Day

St. Patrick's Day

17th March



WHO IS SAINT PATRICK?

- It is thought that St. Patrick was born in Britain to wealthy parents. At the age of 16, Patrick was taken prisoner by a group of Irish raiders who were attacking his family's estate. They transported him to Ireland where he spent six years in captivity.
 - During this time, he worked as a shepherd, in the remote countryside away from people.
 - Lonely and afraid, he turned to religion for solace, and became a devout Christian. After more than six years as a prisoner, Patrick escaped.
 - After escaping to Britain, Patrick began religious training, a course of study that lasted more than 15 years. After his ordination as a priest, he was sent to Ireland with a dual mission: to minister to Christians already living in Ireland and to begin to convert the Irish.
 - Familiar with the Irish language and culture, Patrick chose to incorporate traditional ritual into his lessons of Christianity instead of attempting to eradicate native Irish beliefs.
 - Legend tells us that Saint Patrick also banished snakes from the island of Ireland.
-



FIGURES

Ireland's Global Greening

Since 2010, a very special initiative called "Ireland's Global Greening" has grown to become a significant worldwide campaign in which landmark sites around the world 'turn green' to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. A record of **690 iconic landmarks** and sites in **66 countries** took part in Global Greening in 2022.

Global Greening aims to bring positivity to the **70+ million people** around the world with links to Ireland.



CULTURE & PEOPLE

“ THERE ARE NO STRANGERS HERE, ONLY FRIENDS YOU HAVEN'T YET MET. ”

William Butler Yeats (Irish poet 1865-1939)

From famous writers James Joyce, Oscar Wilde, to world-famous bands such as U2, Westlife, the Cranberries and the Corrs, and world-renowned dance performances such as Riverdance, Ireland has made a significant impact on culture around the world.

While our culture lights our own inner spark, we've always been proud to share it with others - to educate, entertain, inspire and learn from the rest of the world.



Literature

- Ireland makes a great contribution to world literature, with **four Nobel Laureates for Literature.**
- Ireland has a host of eminent female writers, including Anne Enright, Edna O'Brien, Anna Burns (who won the 2018 Man Booker prize, the leading literary award in the English-speaking world, for 'Milkman' which has been translated and published in Vietnamese.)

James Joyce (1882-1941)



James Joyce's masterwork, "Ulysses", is considered **one of the most influential novels of the 20th Century.**

THE IRISH ARE FAMED FOR THEIR ABILITY TO COLLECT AND SHARE STORIES - AND FOR GOOD REASON.

The Old Trinity College Library Dublin

- Constructed in the 18th century.
- Houses the world-famous Book of Kells - a 9th-century gospel manuscript.
- The magnificent Long Room houses 200,000 of the Library's oldest books.



Trinity College Dublin was founded in **1592** - the oldest university in Ireland

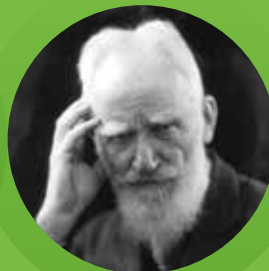
William Butler Yeats
(1865-1939)



Samuel Beckett
(1906-1989)



George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950)



Seamus Heaney
(1939-2013)



Anne Enright



Edna O'Brien



Anna Burns



A number of books from Irish authors have been translated and published in Vietnamese, including works by James Joyce, Oscar Wilde, Jonathan Swift, Anna Burns, Cecelia Ahern, Bram Stoker, Mary Costello, John Boyne, Maeve Binchy, William Trevor.

IRISH SPORTS

Football/Soccer

- The Republic of Ireland Men's National Football Team is governed by the Football Association of Ireland (FAI), and the Republic of Ireland Women's National Football Team is governed by the Women's Football Association of Ireland (WFAI).
- Competitive Record of the Women's team: qualified for the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup.
- Competitive Record of the Men's team: quarter-finals of the 1990 FIFA World Cup; round of 16 at the 1994 and 2002 FIFA World Cup; and round of 16 at the 2016 UEFA European Championship.

Gaelic Football, Hurling & Camogie



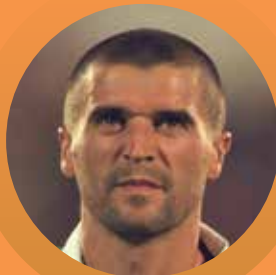
● Famous Irish football players:



John O'Shea
(118 caps)



Damien Duff
(100 caps)



Roy Keane
(number 11 in
The Times' list of
the 50 'hardest'
footballers in
history)



Rugby

**Ireland is
No. 1 in the
World Rugby
Men's Rankings
in 2022.**



- **Gaelic Football**, commonly referred to as “football” or “Gaelic”, is the most popular sport in Ireland. It is a team sport which is played between two teams of 15 players on a rectangular grass pitch. The objective of the sport is to score by kicking or punching the ball into the other team’s goals punching the ball into the other team’s goal, or by kicking the ball across the crossbar of the goal.

The Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) founded in 1884, is Ireland’s largest sporting and cultural organisation, and has grown to become the largest amateur sporting organisation in the world.

- **Hurling** is the world’s fastest field game and the world’s most skillful game.
- In 2018, Hurling and Camogie were granted UNESCO’s Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.



- The GAA has over **2,200 clubs** in all 32 counties of Ireland.
- **400 clubs** promote the activities of the GAA around the world.
- Hurling is **3,000 years old**, the oldest sport in the world.



- **Croke Park Stadium** in Dublin is the largest stadium in Ireland, and the third largest stadium in Europe, with a capacity of 82,300 and can accommodate all types of events.



COMPETITIVE RECORD

Ireland is in the Top 10 of the World Rugby Women’s Rankings in 2022.



Irish Dance

- Ireland is known throughout the world for its dance. Learning Irish dance is a regular extra curricular activity for many Irish children, and it always features prominently at Irish themed events like St. Patrick's Day.
- In the past few decades Irish dancing has seen a huge revival, partly because of the worldwide success of Riverdance which is a dramatic and original adaption of traditional Irish music and dance.



Riverdance received official 'Guinness World Record' title for the **'Longest Riverdance line'**, with **1,693 dancers** from **44 countries** taking part in the riverdance line in Dublin on the 21st July 2013.

Guinness Storehouse

- Arthur Guinness started his business in 1759 by renting a four-acre brewery at St. James's Gate in Dublin for 9,000 years. The annual rent is 45 pounds, including free access to a water supply.
- The Guinness Storehouse is one of the biggest attractions in Ireland.
- Although it's often called "Black Beer", the colour of Guinness is actually ruby red.



FIGURES

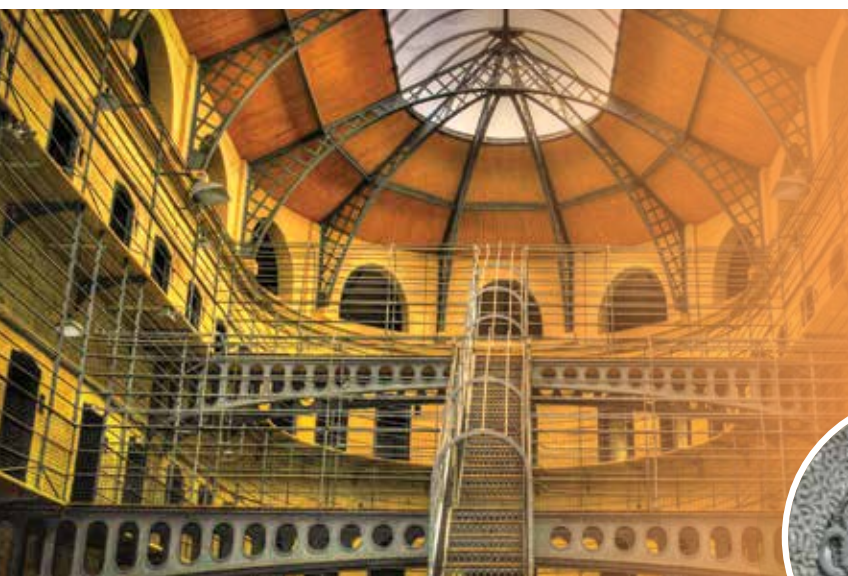
- Guinness is brewed in **49 countries** and served in **over 150 countries** around the world.
- Every day, **10 million** glasses of Guinness are consumed around the world.
- The perfect pint of Guinness should take **119.5 seconds to pour**.
- Since opening in **2000**, the Guinness Storehouse has received over **20 million visitors**.



Ireland on screen

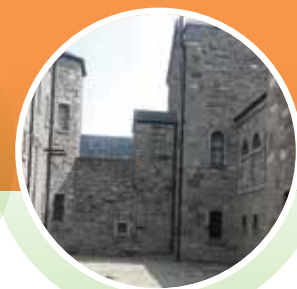
Ireland's mix of dramatic scenery, quaint villages and wide-open spaces has made it a dream for film location scouts. You might have seen us on screen:

- **THE SKELLIG MICHAEL ISLANDS** (Co. Kerry) are the setting for scenes in Star Wars Episode VII: The Force Awakens (2016) and Star Wars Episode VIII: The Last Jedi (2017).
- **CLIFFS OF MOHER** (Co. Clare) have been featured in Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince and Westlife's My Love MV.
- **THE DARK HEDGES** (Co. Antrim) featured in Game of Thrones. This iconic avenue of Beech trees was voted one of the most beautiful places in the world.



- **KILMAINHAM GAOL** (Dublin): The Italian Job and Ireland's most famous rock band U2's MV.

This prison (gaol) opened in 1796 and closed in 1924, and is now a famous tourist attraction.



FIGURES

- The Skellig Michael: **600 steps** to climb to the top; only **20,000 visitors** can visit Skellig Michael in a year; named the leading #1 tourist attraction in Europe (World Travel Awards 2017).
- The rocks that make up the Cliffs of Moher were formed over **300 million years ago**; They reach their maximum height of **214 metres**; Cliffs of Moher Coastal Walk runs for **18 km**; Number one popular tourist destination in Ireland; **1.5 million visitors** annually.
- The Dark Hedges: number seven in **the top 10 of the most beautiful streets on the planet** (Architectural Digest Magazine).



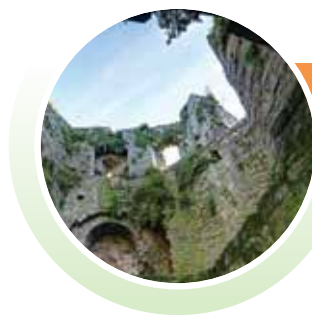
● **GRAFTON STREET,**
Dublin City Centre: ONCE

Ireland's most famous street and a shopping haven for both locals and visitors alike. Many famous musicians, including The Script and U2, return to Dublin each December to busk on Grafton street on Christmas Eve, in what is now a much-loved Christmas tradition.



● **TRIM CASTLE (Co. Meath):**
Braveheart

Built in 1173, Trim Castle is the largest Anglo-Norman castle in Ireland.



EDUCATION & RESEARCH

Education in Ireland

Ireland has one of the best education systems in the world, renowned internationally for academic quality. This long standing reputation for high quality education is built on a strong commitment to excellence.

27 higher education institutions offer a remarkable 5000+ programmes! Covering a huge and diverse range, these courses lead to internationally recognized, quality assured qualifications. So whether you want a strong, focused business school, a centre of scientific and technology excellence, or a world-renowned English language, humanities and arts faculty... you'll find it in Ireland.

No matter where you choose to pursue your career, your Irish qualifications will be recognised and highly regarded all over the world.

- Warmest of welcomes in a safe, English-speaking country.
- 1 or 2 year post study work opportunities.
- Irish Universities work with 1,400+ Multinational companies based in Ireland.





FIGURES

Ireland is 14th in global scientific ranking, and holds these impressive rankings:

- 2nd for Immunology
- 3rd for Agricultural Sciences
- 3rd for Neuroscience & Behaviour
- 6th for Pharmacology & Toxicology
- 6th for Materials Sciences
- 7th for Microbiology
- 7th for Molecular Biology & Genetics



Did you know Ireland has the highest level of STEM graduates per capita in the EU?



I AM TOMORROW, OR SOME FUTURE DAY, WHAT I ESTABLISH TODAY



James Joyce
(1882-1941)

BUSINESS & INNOVATION

Economy

The economy of Ireland is a highly developed knowledge economy, focused on high-tech, life sciences, financial services, agribusiness and agrifood.

The main industries are pharmaceuticals, chemicals, computer hardware and software, food products, beverages and brewing, and medical devices, contributing to nearly one third of GDP.

The Irish economy is one of the most open economies in the world.

#3rd

most competitive country in the euro area

#3rd

on the Index of Economic Freedom

#3rd

on the EU's largest inflows of FDI

#11th

in World Competitive Rankings 2022

Did you know that Ireland ranks 4th on both the IMF table and the World Bank ranking in terms of global GDP per capita?



Ireland - best country globally to invest in.



1st in the EU for availability of skilled workers for tech roles.



1st globally for labour productivity.



1st globally for flexibility and adaptability of people.



2nd globally for investment incentives.



FIGURES

THE ECONOMY OF IRELAND

- The fastest growing economy in the Eurozone.
- One of the world's most innovative ecosystems.
- A global technology centre.
- A culture of entrepreneurship.

ICT

- Home to world's leading technology companies.



- **Ireland is home to:**

- Top 5 global software companies
- Top 5 global industrial automation companies
- 5 of the top 10 cybersecurity companies
- 8 of the top 10 global financial services companies

Pharma/Medtech

- **In life sciences, Ireland is home to:**

- Top 10 pharma companies
- 14 of the top 15 medtech companies



- **Did you know? Ireland is the:**

- No. 1 exporter of contact lenses in the EU and globally.
- No. 1 exporter of stents in the EU and globally.
- 3rd largest exporter of artificial joints globally.



Aviation

Over 50 leasing companies
based in Ireland.

**Over 60% of the world's leased
aircraft** are managed from Ireland.

Ireland key stats:

- **9 of the top 10** lessors by fleet size
- **8 of the top 10** by fleet value
- **8 of the top 10** by number of aircraft

**Did you know Ireland is becoming
a centre of excellence for drones?**



Irish Agri-business

Ireland's agri-food industry is export-oriented. We are a world leader in food safety and sustainability.



FIGURES

- **Over 18,000** dairy farms milk Ireland's **1.6 million** dairy cows. They produce over **8 billion litres** of milk per annum.
- With a temperate climate, Irish dairy farmers can grow large quantities of grass over a long season. Irish dairy herds enjoy on average 240 days per year out on pasture, with **95%** of their diet consisting of grass.
- This outdoor grazing system enables Irish dairy to be one of the most environmentally efficient in the world.
- Irish food and drink exports are thriving on the global stage – Ireland exports the majority of what we produce. Irish agri-food is exported to **180 countries**.

Did you know the agri-food and drink sector accounts for 7.6% of Ireland's GDP?



- Ireland is also one of the world-leading producers and exporters of dairy products.
- Ireland exports dairy products to over **147 countries**
- Ireland produces over **10%** of global infant formula

Did you know that Ireland ranks third worldwide for highest cheese production per capita?



Ireland's seafood industry

- Ireland has clean, unpolluted waters around its 3,200km coastline, **rich in aquatic life**.
- In terms of seafood, Ireland is known for **oysters, salmon, and Dublin Bay prawns**.
- Irish seafood is now available in Vietnam, including shellfish, brown crab, mussels, salmon, and whitefish.





IRELAND IN VIETNAM

- Opened in Hanoi in 2005, the Embassy of Ireland in Hanoi works to promote a positive relationship between Ireland and Vietnam.
- Enterprise Ireland, Ireland's trade promotion agency, established an office in Ho Chi Minh city in 2020.
- **2021 marked the 25th anniversary of Ireland – Vietnam diplomatic relations.** This relationship has been underpinned and strengthened over the past decades by a Government of Ireland development cooperation programme and increased trade links.
- Bilateral trade in goods and services between Ireland and Vietnam has grown significantly in recent years, approaching **three billion Euro** in 2020.



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The Government's Global Network includes over **92 diplomatic and consular offices** abroad; and **state agency offices** located in international markets to promote investment, trade and business.



- In November 2016, President Michael D. Higgins made the first State visit by an Irish President to Vietnam to mark twenty years of diplomatic relations between Ireland and Vietnam.

“ WE ARE TWO PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN SHAPED BY HISTORICAL CHALLENGES OF SUCH SIMILARITY AS GIVES AS AN INSTINCTIVE UNDERSTANDING OF ONE ANOTHER ”

President
Michael D. Higgins

● Ireland & Vietnam:

- Both Hanoi city and Dublin city are 1,000 year old cities
- Dublin is a UNESCO City of Literature - Hanoi is a UNESCO City of Peace

Irish State Agencies

- **BORD BIA (The Irish Food Board)** acts as a link between Irish food, drink and horticulture suppliers and existing and potential customers throughout the world. www.bordbia.ie
- **ENTERPRISE IRELAND (EI)** is the government organisation responsible for developing and growing Irish enterprises in world markets. www.enterprise-ireland.com
Enterprise Ireland manages the Education in Ireland national brand, and is responsible for the promotion of Irish Higher Education Institutions overseas. www.educationinireland.com
- **INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (IDA)** is responsible for attracting and developing inward foreign investment. www.ida.ie
- **TOURISM IRELAND** markets the island of Ireland as a holiday destination overseas. www.tourismireland.com



Ireland's Development Cooperation



Irish Aid is the Government of Ireland's official development programme administered by the Development Cooperation and Africa Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

2023 is the 50th anniversary of Irish Aid.

Ireland's ODA total globally in 2023 is **1.2 billion Euro**, an increase of **177 million Euro** from 2022. This is the largest increase in funds since 2006. The Government of Ireland has outlined a commitment to reaching the UN target of allocating **0.7% of our GNI** to ODA by 2030.



IN VIETNAM, IRELAND WORKS:

- Support Vietnam's sustainable development
- Reduce poverty and inequality
- Support equality and diversity
- Promote respect for human rights

IRELAND WORKS WITH:

- Government partners
- UN agencies
- Civil society partners
- Universities and research institutions



Did you know that Ireland provides all of its ODA globally as grants?



In the past 15 years, over 360 Vietnamese students (63% female and 37% male) have received full scholarships from the Government of Ireland to study at post-graduate level in Irish Higher Education Institutions.



- The budget for development cooperation for Ireland in Vietnam and the Mekong sub-region is based on funding of over **€8 million each year**.

The Irish Community in Vietnam

- Gaelic sports are becoming increasingly popular in Vietnam. There are active GAA clubs in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh city including the Viet Celts Hanoi GAA, Saigon Gaels GAA Club, and Na Fianna Ho Chi Minh GAA. The Clubs draw their members from the Irish, Vietnamese and international community.



- Youth Gaelic football programmes are also run in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh city for girls and boys.

A resident Irish community of about **1,000** who are particularly active in education and in business.



Friends of Ireland in Vietnam



The Friends of Ireland in Vietnam (FOI) is a network of people and organizations who are interested in fostering the multi-faceted relationship between Ireland and Vietnam.

KEY EVENTS:

- Ireland Day
- Irish Literature Day
- Halloween
- Sports camp
- Networking events

-  Facebook: @friendsofirelandinvietnam
-  Fb group: @groups/irelandinvietnam
-  Instagram: @friendsofirelandinvietnam
-  LinkedIn: @foivietnam
-  Twitter: @foivietnam
-  www.irelandinvietnam.com

'Ireland Day' organised annually around the 17th of March in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh city, has become a unique event to share Irish culture with people of all ages, as well as to connect Irish affinity in Vietnam.



Irish Literature Day was first organised in Hanoi and in Ho Chi Minh city in 2022 to celebrate Bloomsday2022 making the centenary year of Ulysses and introducing Irish culture and literature to Vietnamese audience.

IRELAND COUNTRY PROFILE

2023 Edition 3.0

IRELAND

d f a . i e / v i e t n a m

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