

Interesting Facts About Ireland

1. One traditional cure for a hangover in Ireland is to be buried up to the neck in wet river sand.
2. Saint Patrick was actually born in Roman Britain and not in Ireland.
3. In the Irish language, Ireland is called Éire (pronounced *AIR* or *AIR uh*).
4. An Irishman by the name of James Hoban designed and built the White House—twice! After the original White House (then known as the Presidential Mansion) was destroyed by fire in 1814 during the War of 1812, the Irish-born architect designed and helped build the current White House.
5. Only 9% of the Irish population are natural redheads.
6. Saint Patrick's Day is Ireland's official national holiday.
7. The song "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling" was written by two American composers in 1912, George Graff and Chauncey Olcott. There are no records of them ever visiting Ireland.
8. An old Irish legend says that "while Christ will judge all nations on judgement day, St. Patrick will be the judge of the Irish."
9. Boxing is Ireland's most successful sport at the Olympics.
10. Lakes are called *loughs* (pronounced *LOCKS*) in Ireland.
11. Ireland's first official language is Irish Gaelic. However, English is the country's second official language and is more commonly spoken.
12. Samhain (pronounced *SAH win* or *SOW in*) is an Irish festival that marks the end of the harvest season and the beginning of the winter season. The holiday of Halloween is thought to be derived from Samhain.
13. To reach the top of the Irish music charts, an album needs to sell only 5,000 copies in Ireland. A book needs to sell only 3,000 copies to make it to the top of the bestsellers list.
14. Some historians claim that 40% of all American presidents have some Irish ancestry.
15. The oldest known harp resides in Trinity College, Dublin. It dates back to the 1300s.
16. The harp, shamrock, and Celtic cross are the most famous symbols of Ireland.
17. The *Titanic* was built in Belfast, Ireland. The ship took over three years to build and sadly sank in just under three hours in 1912 in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean after running into an iceberg. Designed to be the world's largest steamship, it measured nearly 883 feet long and 104 feet high.



18. Ireland's capital city, Dublin, began as *Dubh Linn*, which means "Black Pool."
 19. There are no words in the Irish language for *yes* or *no*. If one wants to confirm or deny something, they say "I did" or "I didn't."
 20. Catherine Kelly (died 1785) was known as "The Irish Fairy" because she allegedly was the smallest Irish woman ever. She was 34 inches tall and weighed only eight pounds.
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