



# THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

*Poblacht na hÉireann*



**Official name:** *Éire / Ireland*

**Government:** *Unitary  
parliamentary republic*

**Capital:** *Dublin*

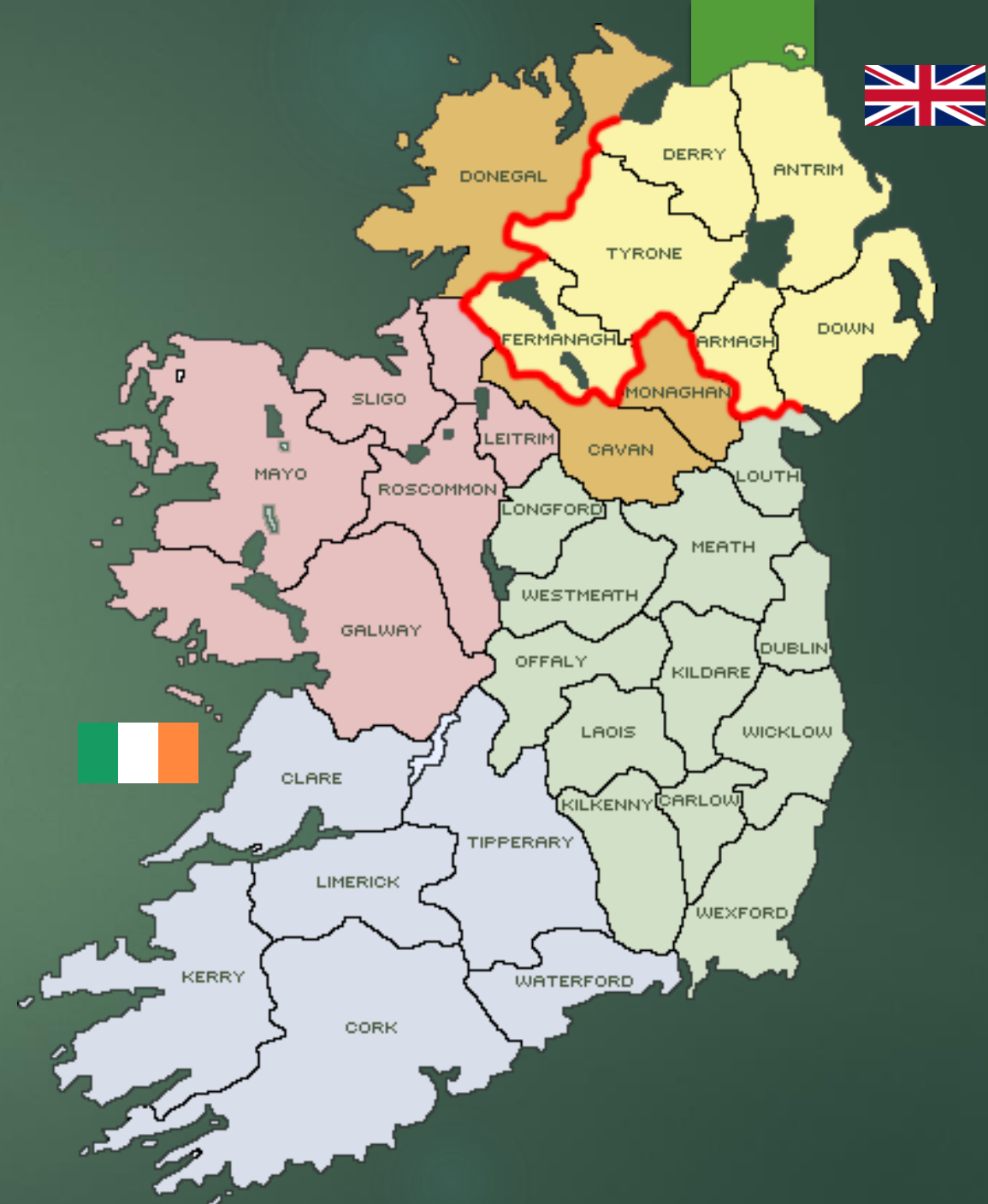
**Population:** *4,921,500*

**Official languages:** *Irish and  
English*

**Area:** *70,273 km<sup>2</sup>*

**Religion:** *Roman Catholic,  
Protestant*

**Currency:** *Euro*

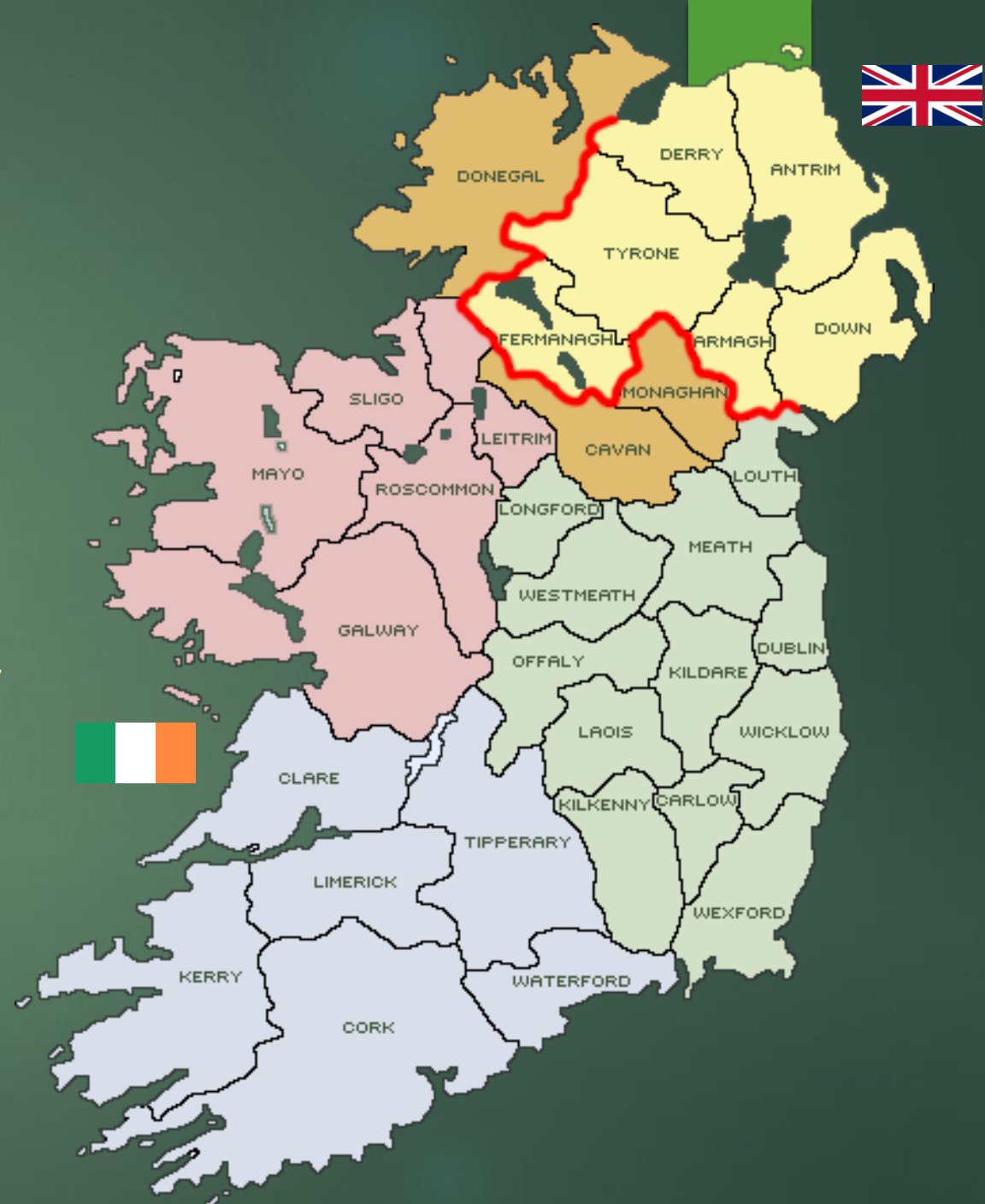


The Republic of Ireland is divided into 4 provinces:

- **Leinster** (in the East)
- **Munster** (in the South West)
- **Connacht** (in the West)
- **Ulster** (in the North)

and 26 counties.

There are 6 more counties in **Ulster** which belong to Northern Ireland, one of the four Nations of the United Kingdom.



# SYMBOLS OF IRELAND



The **green** represents the Catholic majority.

The **orange** is the colour of the Protestant population.

The **white** symbolises a hope of peace or unity between the two communities.



The **shamrock** is a symbol of the Irish because St. Patrick (Ireland's patron saint) used it to explain the mystery of the Holy Trinity to the pagans.

The **triskelion** and the **triquetra** are old pagan symbols of the Celtic traditions, adapted by Christianity to represent the Holy Trinity.



The **Irish harp** is in the Coat of Arms of Ireland. It reflects the immortality of the soul.



# SYMBOLS OF IRELAND



The **leprechaun** is a type of fairy in the Irish folklore, depicted as a little ginger bearded man, wearing a green coat and hat, with a hidden pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.

The **tree of life** represents the oneness with nature.



The **celtic cross**: St. Patrick combined the Latin cross (symbol of Christianity) with the circle (a pagan symbol which represents the sun) to appeal pagans, by linking the cross of Christ with the idea of the life-giving properties of the sun.

Other interpretations claim that placing the cross on top of the circle represents Christ's supremacy over the pagan sun.

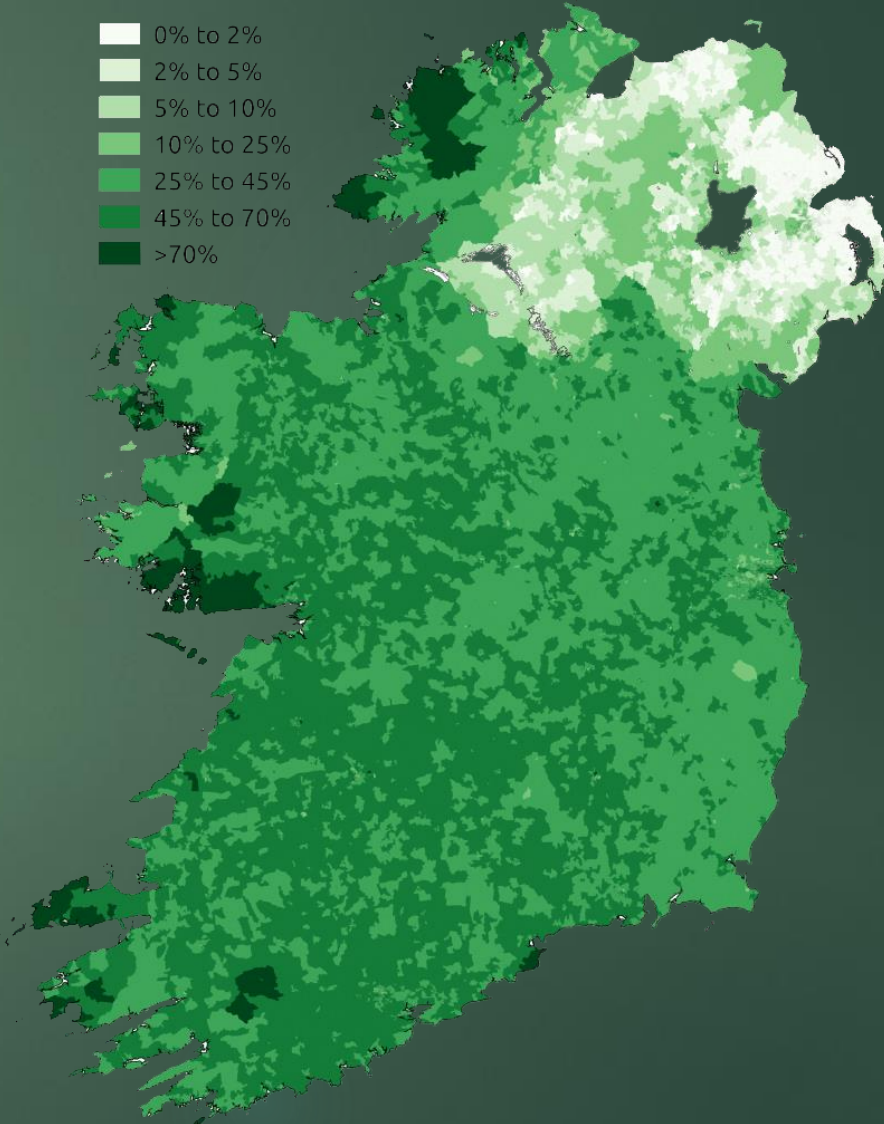
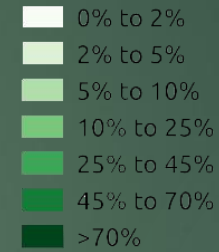
# LANGUAGES



In the Republic of Ireland, both **Irish** and **English** have official status, with Irish being the national and first official language.

Irish (Gaeilge) is part of the Celtic language families.

Since the late 18th century, however, English has been the predominant first language, displacing Irish. Today, a large minority claims some ability to use Irish, and it is the first language for a small percentage of the population (on the right, proportion of respondents aged 3+ who said they could speak Irish in the Ireland census 2011 or the Northern Ireland census 2011).



# MUSIC

Music is always an important part in the life of Irish people.

The instruments used to play traditional Celtic music are, among others, the fiddle, the Uilleann pipes, the Irish flute, the tin whistle, the bodhrán and the Irish harp.



Fiddle



Uilleann pipes



Irish flute



Tin whistle



Bodhrán



Irish harp

# MUSIC



Traditional folk dancing, called **céilí**, with typical dresses

Traditional  
**Celtic music**  
played in pubs...



...and modern music, often played in **gigs** (small concerts played in pubs)

# FAMOUS IRISH SINGERS AND BANDS



U2



The Coors



The Cranberries



Enya



Ronan Keating



Sinéad O'Connor

# IRISH FOOD

Every morning starts with a **Full Irish breakfast**.

It's very filling!

It's usually accompanied by orange juice, coffee or tea.



Baked  
beans

Bacon  
(Rashers)

Toast

Black and  
white  
pudding

Fried  
egg

Sausage  
(Banger)



# IRISH FOOD



Irish stew



Irish cod fish cakes



Fish and chips



Soda bread

Cabbage, bacon and potatoes



Irish apple crumble cake



# IRISH PUBS

A **pub** (or public house) is part of the Irish culture. Irish pubs are characterised by a unique culture centred around a casual and friendly atmosphere, hearty food and drink, Irish sports, and traditional Irish music.

Most pubs focus on offering beers, ales and, of course, the iconic Irish stout, Guinness. As well, pubs often sell other alcoholic drinks, but also soft drinks, meals and snacks.



# SPORTS IN IRELAND

Irish people really love sports... some sports are even native to Ireland (Gaelic games), like Hurling and Gaelic football.



Rugby



Gaelic football

the ball  
is called  
*sliotar*

the stick  
is called  
*hurley*



Hurling

# IRISH IN THE WORLD

The population of Ireland (both Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland) is about 6.3 million, but it is estimated that 50 to 80 million people around the world have Irish forebears, making the Irish diaspora one of the largest of any nation.

Historically, emigration from Ireland has been the result of conflict, famine and economic issues.



*The Famine Memorial in Dublin, erected in commemoration of the Great Irish Famine (1845-1849), during which millions of Irish people died and emigrated.*

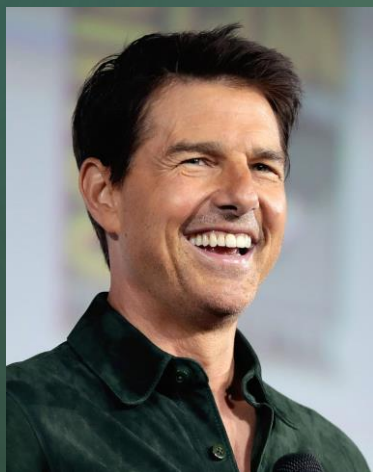
# FAMOUS PEOPLE OF IRISH DESCENT



John F. Kennedy  
is one of the 22  
U.S. Presidents  
with Irish roots

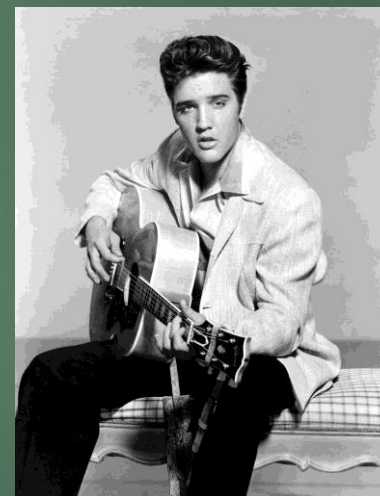


Meryl Streep,  
American actress



Tom Cruise,  
American  
actor

Mariah Carey,  
American  
singer



Elvis Presley,  
American  
singer



John McEnroe,  
American tennis  
player

and many more...

# DUBLIN

Let's have a sightseeing tour around the capital of Ireland...



Trinity College and College Green



# DUBLIN



Parliament Square

# DUBLIN



The Library of Trinity College Dublin, home of the Book of Kells



The Book of Kells

# DUBLIN



Grafton St.



Statue of Molly  
Malone on Suffolk St.



The Ha'penny Bridge

# DUBLIN

The GPO (General Post Office)



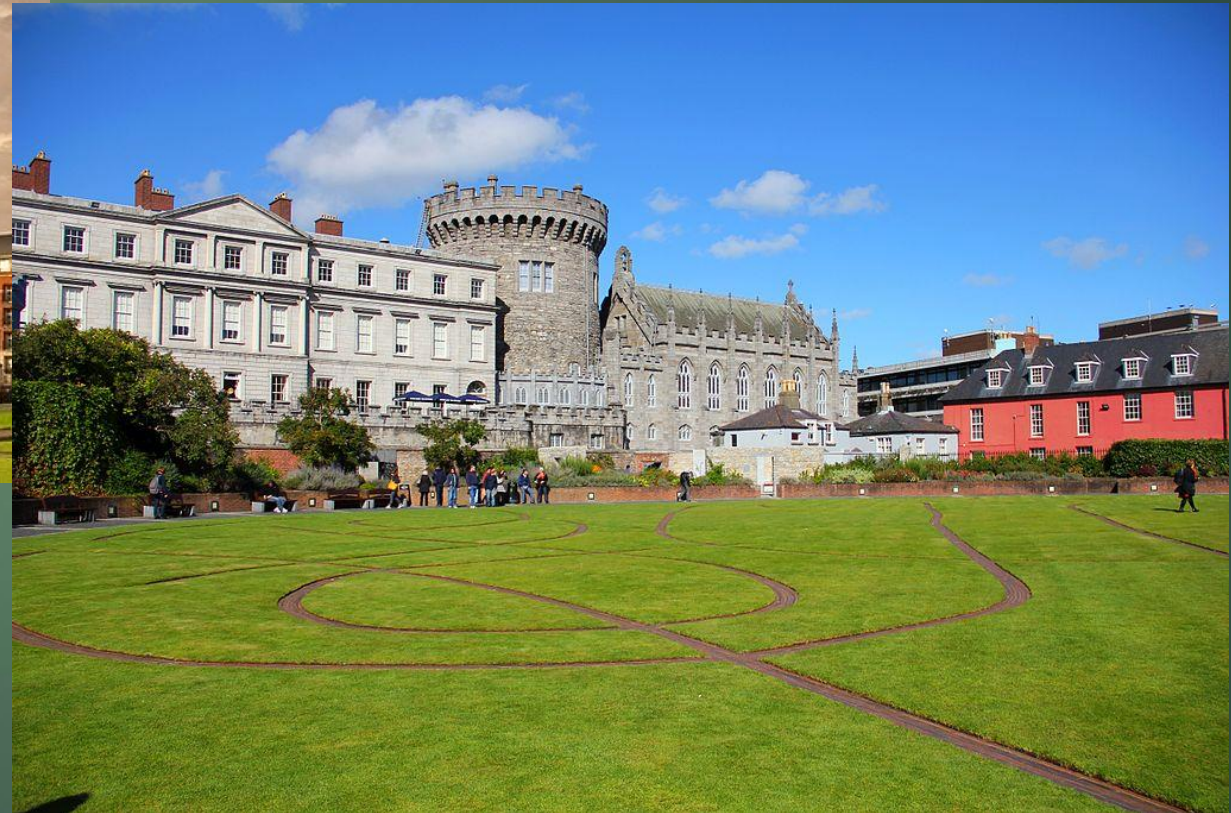
Christ Church Cathedral

# DUBLIN



St. Patrick's Cathedral

The Dubhlinn Gardens with Dublin Castle  
in the background



# DUBLIN



Samuel Beckett Bridge, designed by the famous architect Santiago Calatrava.

Its iconic shape evokes the image of a harp lying on its edge.

# GLENDALOUGH MONASTIC SITE



Glendalough (from the Irish *Gleann Dá Loch*, meaning "Valley of two lakes") lies south of Dublin and is home to one of the most important monastic sites in Ireland.

# GLENDALOUGH MONASTIC SITE



# CLIFFS

Ireland is renowned for its fantastic scenery and dramatic cliffs; the most famous ones are probably the Cliffs of Moher, which sit above the Atlantic Ocean, stretching along Ireland's west coast for approximately nine miles. With their astounding height and breathtaking views, these cliffs are one of the Emerald Isle's most visited natural attractions.



*The Cliffs of Moher*

But you can also enjoy wonderful cliffs on a fantastic coastal walk only a few miles away from Dublin, in the district of Howth.

# HOWTH





*Na daoine teacht agus dul,  
ach na cnoic fós.*

*People come and go,  
but the hills remain.*  
**Irish proverb**

*Thanks for your attention*  
*Bompieri Marco and Marseglia Maria Rosaria*