

IRELAND



GENERAL FACTS

- The population of Ireland is 4.24 million people
- The native population consisted mostly of Irish.
- The national language of Ireland is Irish and English.
- The name of Ireland «Eire» come from the Irish mythology, which meaning the name of Irish prophet (пророка) and seer (ясновидца).
- The currency of Ireland is the Euro.
- The religion is Catholicism.



GEOGRAPHY



- Ireland is located on the Irish island and is washed by Atlantic Ocean to the north, south and west, and the Irish Sea to the east.
- The country is rich in natural resources: gold, silver, copper (медь), natural gas, coal, zinc.
- The central part is occupied by fields and meadows.
- In the southwest there are mountains of Kerry.
- East bank consists of cliffs.
- The largest river is the Shannon.



CLIMATE

- The climate of Ireland is moderate sea.
- In the south-west of Ireland windy and rainy weather.
- Winters are warm and summers are cool.



NATURE

- In the Ireland there are 26 variations of mammals. The most popular animals are red fox, hedgehog and badger (барсук), Irish hare, red deer and pine marten (лесная куница).
- In Ireland, there are about 400 variations of birds that come here from Iceland and Greenland.
- The flora of Ireland so poor.
- In Ireland there are oaks (дубы), birch (берёзы), willow (ивы), alder (ольха), ash (ясень).
- In Killarney National Park are unique yew (тисовые) forests and groves of ancient oaks.



CITIES



- Ireland consists of four provinces, which are divided into 32 counties (графств). The 9 counties of Ulster six are Northern Ireland.
- The capital of Ireland is Dublin. Dublin - the center of cultural, political and economic life of Ireland, its heart and pride.
- Cork City - the second largest city in Ireland. It is popular among tourists for its nightlife - clubs and pubs.
- Clifden very unusual city, because here you can find the old abbey ruins of ancient castles and fortresses, so it is called "five thousand years of living history."

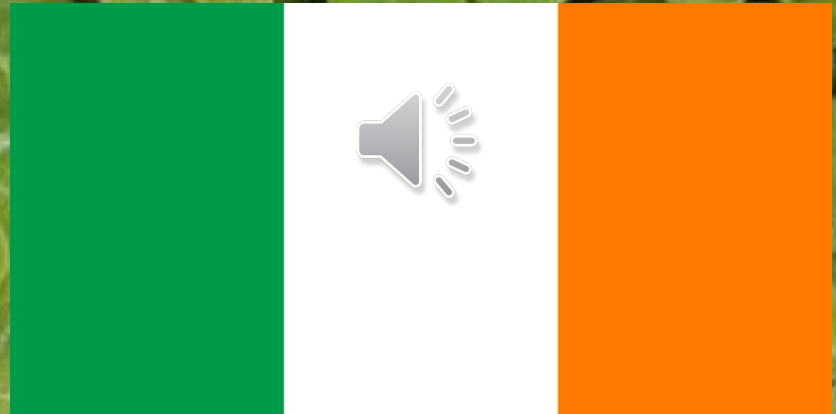
SIGHTSEEING

- Ireland is rich in culture and history, it has so many castles and fortresses.
- Dublin Castle - the main government building.
- St. Patrick's Cathedral - the biggest cathedral in Dublin and Ireland. Rector of the cathedral was the writer Jonathan Swift.
- The most strange construction is Spire of Dublin, which longs 121 meters. It seen from any part of the city.
- Bunratty Castle - a wonderful treasure of Ireland, which may be envy (позавидовать) all the world. Atmosphere 15-16 centuries - a rarity (редкость) on our times therefore she attracts tourists.



SYMBOLS AND EMBLEMS

- The rectangular (прямоугольный) flag of Ireland consists of vertical green, white and orange stripes. The green color symbolizes Catholics, orange - Protestants, white – peace
- Leprechaun is a character of Irish folklore.
- The main symbols of Ireland - clover and harp.
- Harp (арфа) is drawn on the emblem of Ireland and it is the national instrument of the Celts.
- Clover - a symbol of good luck.



INTERESTING TRADITIONS, FACTS AND NATIONAL CUISINE.



- Ireland - the only country in Europe where people are smaller than dogs.
 - According to ancient tradition, many families still leave the door treats for good forest creatures (существ).
 - In Ireland, August is the month of autumn.
 - On the day of St. Patrick's students can hit (стукнуть) the one who didn't come in green clothes.
 - March 17 is celebrated St. Patrick's Day.
 - February 17 is celebrated Pancake Day.
- The most important dish of Ireland is Irish stew (пary), and a drink - whiskey and Irish Coffey.

POLITICAL SYSTEM

- Ireland - a parliamentary republic.
- Michael D. Higgins (Micheál D. Ó hUigínn) – the ninth president of Ireland governs the country, who is called “Uachtarán”.
- Laws are published by the Parliament.

