



Otázka: The Republic of Ireland

Jazyk: Angličtina

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THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

- **Area:** 70 000 km²
- **Population:** 4.8 Million
- **Flower:** Clover
- **Patron:** St Patrick
- **Head:** president Michael D. Higgins
- **Language:** English, Gaelic
- **Form:** parliamentary republic
- **Flower:** Shamrock

GEOGRAPHY

Lies in the **Atlantic Ocean** to the west of Great Britain from which it is separated by the **Irish Sea**, **St George's Channel** (between Ireland and Wales) and **North Channel** (between Ireland and Scotland).

The greater part is occupied by the **Central Plain** with hills round the coast.

The River Shannon - the most important river, the longest one in the British Isles

Killarney - famous for its **lakes** and **mountains**



CLIMATE

Typically **insular** [*ostrovní*], **mild**, with a lot of **rain**, similar to that of Great Britain. Ireland is even more exposed to the **influence** of the **Atlantic Ocean** (warmer winters, cooler summers, more rain, less sunshine than in Great Britain)

Due to frequent rains most of the island is beautifully green.

PEOPLE

Over 4.8 million inhabitants

The republic is **bilingual**, official languages are **Gaelic** (the Irish language, used only on the **west** coast where it is main language of about 50,000 people) and **English**.

The capital – **Dublin** (more than half a million people)

Cork – the 2nd largest city (120,000 inhabitants)

Limerick – one of the most beautiful cities in Ireland, situated on the **River Shannon**

– famous for its **cathedral** and **castle**

Religion: still plays an important role in Irish life.

More than 90% of the population are **Catholics**, most of the rest are Protestants.

ECONOMY



- there are large reserves of **peat** (the nation's greatest source of **energy**, used as a **fuel** for home fires for centuries, now provides about **20% of electricity**).

- There is very little **timber** because forest covers only **2 to 3%** of the surface.

Agriculture - Ireland has for a long time been an agricultural country and in spite of rapid industrial development in recent years, agriculture remains the basis of the country's economy

- an exporter of agricultural products
- nearly 50% of all land is used as pasture
- the main crops - barley, potatoes, turnips, sugar beet

Tourism has now become an important source of money (millions of tourists visit Ireland every year).

Industry - connected with agriculture (food processing, brewing, distilling)

- engineering, vehicle assembling, light manufacturing, electronics, mining
- main **exports**: livestock, meat, other food and drink
- **imports**: petroleum products, chemicals, machinery

THE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT

The President - the head of the state, elected by **direct vote** of the people for 7 years



- advised by the **Council of State** - composed of the **Prime Minister, former presidents and Prime Ministers**, some other **high state officials**, people nominated by the President

The National Parliament - 2 Houses:

- The House of Representatives
- The Senate - limited powers

The executive - headed by the **PM**, follows the British pattern

HISTORY

- About **300 B. C.** - Celtic tribes came
- About **432** - St Patrick converted the Irish to **Christianity**
- About **800** - the **Vikings** were coming
- **1169** - the next invaders were Anglo-Normans and Ireland became "**the 1st English colony**"
- Between 1500 and 1922 Irish history was the history of the resistance to British rule and oppression
- **1919-21** - the Anglo-Irish War
- **1922** - the Irish Free State established