



Otázka: The Republic of Ireland

Jazyk: Angličtina

Přidal(a): Nat

AREA: 84,421 km²

LANGUAGE: Irish, English

CURRENCY: Euro

FLAG: is tricolor with vertical stripes of green, white and orange. The green symbolizes the Emerald Isle and the Catholic majority of the population. White in the centre expresses the need for peace and understanding between Catholics and Protestants, represented by the orange stripe.

CAPITAL: Dublin

HEAD OF STATE: the President

GEOGRAPHY:

The Republic of Ireland occupies about five-sixths of the total area of Ireland- the Emerald Isle. The rest of the island-the large part of the province of Ulster-is occupied by Northern Ireland. The Republic covers 70,273 kilometres and consists of four provinces (Ulster, Munster, Leinster, Connaught) and 26 counties, of which the county of Tipperary in the north-east of Munster has probably been the most popular county. Most of the island is a central plain, ringed by low mountains in the west and south and by lowlands in the east.



The Shannon River, the longest river in British Isles, goes through one fifth of the country. It forms many important lakes.

CLIMATE:

The climate is temperate, with mild winters and cool summer. Heavy rainfall in all seasons encourages green vegetation.

POLITICAL SYSTEM:

The Republic of Ireland is an independent country with its political system set up on a democratic principle close to that of the United States of America. The head of the state is the President elected for 7 years by the direct vote of the people.

The president is advised by a Council of state. He appoints members of the government headed by the Prime Minister. The government is responsible to the House of Representatives which, together with the Senate, forms the National Parliament.

ECONOMY:

Ireland has always been primarily agricultural, producing mainly beef and dairy products. Irish linen and Irish whisky have a long tradition, but recently the growth in light engineering, synthetic fibres and electronics is quite remarkable.

ST PATRICK'S FESTIVAL:

Cultural and religious holiday, is celebrated on 17 March, the anniversary of his death. It commemorates Saint Patrick, the most commonly recognised of the patron saints of Ireland, and the arrival of Christianity in Ireland. It is observed by the Catholic Church, the Anglican Communion, the Eastern Orthodox Church and the Lutheran Church. Saint Patrick's Day was made an official feast day in the early seventeenth century, and has gradually become a celebration



of Irish culture in general. The day is generally characterised by the attendance of church services, wearing of green attire, public parades and processions, and the lifting of Lenten restrictions on eating, and drinking alcohol, which is often proscribed during the rest of the season.