

A HISTORY OF... St. Patrick's Day

St. Patrick's Day, celebrated on the 17th of March, is a global celebration of Irish culture and heritage. Marking the death of St. Patrick, Ireland's patron saint, the day is steeped in history and tradition, with parades, music, and festivities held worldwide to honour Irish pride and legacy.

ST. PATRICK

St. Patrick, born in the 5th century, was abducted by pirates from Britain. After escaping, he returned to Ireland, dedicating his life to spreading Christianity. Using the shamrock to explain the Holy Trinity, his legend grew, with stories of miracles. By the 7th century, he became integral to Irish culture.

IMMIGRATION

Migration and adoption are central to Irish history. From the Celts, who brought Samhain (Halloween), to the Vikings founding Dublin and Wexford, to modern migrants from Asia, South America, and Europe, each group has shaped Irish culture, contributing to the evolving definition of Irish identity and traditions.

EMIGRATION

Emigration has been a defining part of Ireland's history, with over 10 million people leaving since 400 AD. The first recorded movement was by monks who sailed to Scotland in currach boats. Many later emigrants were driven by poverty, disease, and persecution, much like St. Patrick.

THE GREAT FAMINE

During the Great Famine alone, over 1.5 million Irish left for new lands. Despite their hardships, they were united by a shared hope for a better life and their deep Irish identity. Their love for Ireland ensured that Irish culture survived long journeys, enduring and continuing to influence communities across the world.

ST PATRICK'S DAY

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated globally on March 17th. The first parade began in St. Augustine, Florida, USA, in 1601. The first Irish parade occurred in 1903; the same year it became a public holiday. Today, Tourism Ireland's 'Global Greening' initiative highlights how Irish culture has been embraced worldwide.



ST. PATRICK'S DAY

