

# Saint Patrick's Day

第19回 English Extravaganza(Rebecca 先生放送原稿) Fri., March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
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Hi, everyone! An bhfuil tú go maith? (ウンウィルツゴマ)  
That's Irish for "how are you?" I want to tell you about Ireland today because today is Saint Patrick's Day, an Irish holiday. Today is a special day for me because my mom is from Ireland and I am half-Irish! So, today is a day I get to celebrate my culture!

Today is named after Saint Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. He was a missionary in Ireland and legend has it that he drove all the snakes out of Ireland. For a long time in Ireland, this holiday was very religious. Shops, restaurants, and buildings used to close for the day, but that is changing. Now, it is a very festive occasion, a chance to have a big party and celebrate Irish culture.

Millions of people in Ireland and around the world celebrate with all things Irish and the color green. In the United States, if you do not wear something green on Saint Patrick's Day, little kids might pinch(つねる) you! Also in the United States, cities like Chicago dye their river green(川を緑色に染める).



Many people eat Irish food, like corned beef and cabbage in the United States or bacon in cabbage in Ireland, and drink the Irish beer Guinness, which some places also dye green. There are also parades with Irish dancers and music. The one in Dublin is spread over five days but the one in New York is the largest, with two million people.

I think Irish music is very beautiful. Traditionally, the instruments involved in their music were bagpipes, whistles, and drums, although today many Irish folk tunes also incorporate new instruments such as the fiddle(バイオリン) and guitar. People sometimes play music at their table in a local restaurant, called a pub. You might even see someone playing the spoons! Some songs are sung in Irish but most people in Ireland speak English. In fact, many important authors have come from Ireland, including four Nobel Prize winners: James Joyce, Bram Stoker, Jonathan Swift, and Oscar Wilde.



Even though Ireland is a small country, Irish culture is very well known. St. Patrick's Day is celebrated nearly everywhere. Clovers and Celtic Harps are easily recognized symbols of Irish culture. From the popularity of Irish-themed pubs and restaurants to modern bands like U2, it is clear that there is something very strong and special about the Irish way of life. If you ever have the chance to visit Ireland, I think you will find it to be a very beautiful and friendly place. Lá Fhéile Pádraig Sona Daoibh (ラエイラパドリグソナジェーヴ), Happy Saint Patrick's Day, and see you next time!

