

By the numbers: St. Patrick's Day

By Amy Roberts, CNN Library
updated 9:07 PM EDT, Thu March 13, 2014



St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland, but [he was actually Scottish](#). He was captured by raiders as a teen and was taken to Ireland, where he was enslaved for many years. He converted to Christianity during this time and had prophetic dreams about leaving and ultimately saving Ireland. After he was ordained a bishop, he preached the Gospel and converted Irish pagans for 40 years. But he didn't actually drive away snakes from the country, as legend has it. That's because [there were never any snakes in Ireland to begin with](#).

(CNN) -- When you suit up in green on Sunday and head to the St. Patrick's Day parade or your favorite Irish bar to celebrate, dropping these facts and figures about the holiday's origins will impress your fellow revelers!

5: St. Patrick's Day began as a religious holiday to honor the saint who, in the [fifth century](#), introduced Christianity to Ireland.

1762: The first [St. Patrick's Day parade](#) happened in New York on March 17, 1762.

133 million: People in the U.S. who [plan to celebrate St. Patrick's Day](#) in 2014.

By the numbers: St. Patrick's Day

83.2%: Percentage of those celebrating who [plan to wear green](#).

\$4.8 billion: Expected [St. Patrick's Day spending](#) in 2014.

30.5: Percent of Americans [who plan to go to a bar or restaurant to celebrate](#).

2,900: [Species of snakes](#). According to [legend](#), St. Patrick drove all of the snakes from Ireland.

1 in 10,000: Occurrence of a [white four-leaf clover](#) for every common three-leaved clover.

40: Pounds of dye needed to turn the [Chicago River green](#) for the city's St. Patrick's Day parade.

7: Places in the U.S. named Shamrock.

16: Places in the U.S. named [Dublin](#).

6: Movies in the original "[Leprechaun](#)" franchise. Jennifer Aniston had one of her first starring roles in the original "Leprechaun," released in 1993. A seventh movie, "[Leprechaun: Origins](#)," is planned for release this year.

4: Ireland's [global rank in beer consumption](#) per capita in 2011, with 101.1 liters.

15: The [U.S. rank](#) in beer consumption per capita, with 76.6 liters.

\$19.99: Price of a "Kiss Me, I'm Irish" T-shirt on [Cafe Press.com](#)

142: Rank in popularity in the U.S. of the [baby name Patrick](#) in 2012.

34.2 million: People in the U.S. with [Irish ancestry](#), as of 2012.

530: [Calories](#) in a 12-ounce McDonald's limited-edition green Shamrock Shake. The large 22-ounce size has 820!

To view the other nine photos and additional facts about St. Patrick's Day, please check out the link for this article:

Source: http://www.cnn.com/2013/03/15/living/btn-st-patricks-day/index.html?hpt=hp_bn11