



# What Is The History Of Irish Bars?

A pub is an establishment where beer and whiskey are served. It's also where people go to appreciate traditional music and celebrate holidays such as St Patrick's Day. But the concept of a pub originated in a far different time, in a completely different place.

The word "pub" actually stands for public houses, which were once one, come all enterprises designed to serve the blue-collar working class of Ireland. They were a central gathering spot for people of the same socioeconomic background to unwind, socialize and come together as a community. In contrast, upper class Irish were typically members of private, members-only clubs, and they didn't frequent public houses.

When the Irish were displaced during the Great Famine in the 19th century, they took their pub culture with them, starting to open up pubs around the world. These new Irish pubs were often taverns that combined drinking and dining with retail business, such as a grocery store or hardware shop. They also tended to have a lot of historical memorabilia and photos on the walls, reflecting their origins in Ireland.

Today, Irish bars are a major part of global culture. They offer a place to enjoy some of the best beers and spirits in the world, as well as a taste of traditional Irish food. They have also become a cultural hub for people to meet and gather, particularly in urban areas where large populations of Irish live.

In the United States, Irish bars are a popular destination for both tourists and locals alike. Many of the large cities in the US, like Boston, Chicago and New York City, have a good number of Irish bars. These are places where people can come to relax, have a drink or two and listen to some of the best Irish musicians in the country.

Interestingly, it wasn't until the 1970s that the celebrations now associated with St Patrick's Day started in America, with parades taking to the streets. Until that time, the holiday fell during Lent, which meant alcohol was only available to those who could prove they were bona fide travellers.





Patrick Kavanagh is reputed to have once rented a dog to get into a pub for a pint, while his arch-nemesis Brendan Behan stole a poodle on another occasion.

In 2019, London-based mixologist Dave Mulligan returned home to Dublin and opened Bar 1661, named after the year that the British Crown criminalized poitin (clear grain whiskey). He used this native spirit as the foundation of his cocktails and created a markedly modern drinking den inspired by Ireland's rich past. In addition to being an exemplary Irish bar, the establishment has received numerous accolades and awards over the years. It's no wonder it's been called a "bar to rival the very best in the world".

## RELEVANT KEYWORDS

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