

Ireland is an island in northwestern Europe in the north Atlantic Ocean. After Great Britain and Iceland, Ireland is the third largest island in Europe. It is separated from Great Britain by the Irish Sea, St. George's Channel and the North Channel.

The island of Ireland is politically divided into the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. The Republic of Ireland is a separate country whereas Northern Ireland is part of the United Kingdom.

Ireland extends 486 kilometres from north to south and it is 275 kilometres wide. The central part of Ireland consists of plains and lowlands surrounded by a ring of coastal mountains. There are many cliffs, islands, peninsulas, headlands and bays along the western coastline of Ireland. Around 15% of the Irish landscape is covered by peat (torfowisko) or bog (bagnó).

Geographical facts:

the highest mountain – Carrantuohill 1038 (or 1041) metres above sea level

the longest river – the River Shannon – 386 km

the largest lake - Lough Neagh (located in Northern Ireland)

the climate: temperate and moist; mild winters, cool and rainy summers due to the influence of the warm Gulf Stream

the weather: changeable

