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# This St. Patrick's Day, Virtually Discover These U.S. Locations Connected To Irish History And Culture



**Michele Herrmann** Contributor ⓘ

Travel

*I write about destinations, travel news/trends, dining and culture.*

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Due to the cancellation of Denver's St. Patrick's Day parade, locals celebrate in an empty parking lot in Lower Downtown on Saturday, March 14, 2020.

Chang/MediaNews Group/The Denver Post via Getty Images) [-] DENVER POST VIA GETTY

IMAGES

While COVID-19 has led to the cancellation of Saint Patrick's Day Parades and the closing of locations tied to Irish culture across the United States, there's another way to recognize this holiday. It can be done by boosting up web traffic for various historic and heritage sites relating to those of Irish ancestry.

So go ahead and log onto the websites belonging to the following attractions.



The Tenement Museum in New York City has an exhibit on an Irish family who lived here in the 1860s. LIZ CLAYMAN

## Tenement Museum, New York City

New York City is associated with Irish history in many ways. To get a closer look at the Irish immigrants who arrived and settled here, read up on the Tenement Museum, a Lower East Side institution that once consisted of multiple dwellings housing many immigrant families between the 1860s and 1930s. The museum offers exhibition tours based on the real-life stories of those who once resided in this building such as Bridget and Joseph Moore, an Irish married couple who moved in in 1869. They're the focus of



the “Irish Outsiders” apartment tour, which illustrates the impact of the cultural bias that they experienced as Irish newcomers along with revealing a family tragedy.



Ireland's Great Hunger Museum at Quinnipiac University has a vast collection of art relating to the Irish famine. [-] COURTESY CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF TOURISM

## Ireland's Great Hunger Museum at Quinnipiac University, Hamden, Connecticut

This museum tells of the starvation and forced emigration that happened throughout Ireland from 1845 to 1852 by being home to the world's largest collection of visual art, artifacts and printed materials relating to this Irish diaspora. It features more than 100 original works of art by noted contemporary Irish and American artists in a variety of visual media, along with period paintings by major 19th- and 20th- century Irish artists including James Brenan, Daniel MacDonald and James Arthur O'Connor and Jack Butler Yeats (the brother of poet William Butler Yeats). Recently, the museum welcomed back its permanent collection, “Coming Home: Art

and the Great Hunger,” from its exhibition tour in Ireland. View its overall catalogue [here](#).

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The Irish Railroad Workers Museum in Baltimore highlights the legacy of the Irish workers involved in constructing the first railroad built in America. [-]

IRISH RAILROAD

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## The Irish Railroad Workers Museum, Baltimore, Maryland

Baltimore experienced a mass of newly arrived immigrants between 1840 and 1850 who settled in southwest Baltimore and went to work for the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, the oldest railroad in the United States. Opened in June 2002, the Irish Railroad Workers Museum portrays this history-rich community in presenting the still intact places where these Irish newcomers lived, worked, worshipped, and were laid to rest.

This interpretative site features a house furnished to depict daily life for an Irish immigrant living in the late 1840s that can be seen via a clear back wall along with a garden and other interpretive exhibits.

Future visitors can make the museum part of an Irish Heritage walk, which combines related buildings including the B&O Railroad Museum, Irish Railroad Workers Museum and St. Peter the Apostle Church. The route also includes the Hollins Street Market, which is west of downtown Baltimore in the city's old Lithuanian section.





The Museum of Newport Irish History Interpretive Center teaches about Irish immigration to Newport County from the 1600s to the present. [-] ALLAN MILLORA

## PHOTOGRAPHY

## The Museum of Newport Irish History Interpretive Center, Newport, Rhode Island

Newport, Rhode Island has a rich history of Irish culture, in that the Irish came here as far back as the 1600s. Overtime, the Irish would aid in the rebuilding of Fort Adams, that largest coastal fortification in the U.S., to working as domestic help for America's wealthiest industrialists who would have lavish summer homes in Newport during America's Gilded Age. In the present day, the Museum of Newport Irish History Interpretive Center tells more about Irish immigration to Newport County from the 1600s to the present and the many contributions made to the community by individuals of Irish descent via exhibits and artifacts their Trolley Tour of Irish History and other special events. Another cultural spot to visit is "40 Steps," a section along Newport's Cliff Walk marking where Irish domestic workers would play and dance to traditional Irish music whenever they had a day off.





Phoenix's Irish Cultural Center and McClelland Irish Library offers many ways to delve into your Irish ancestry. [-] THE MCCLELLAND IRISH LIBRARY

## Irish Cultural Center and The McClelland Irish Library, Phoenix, Arizona

In Downtown Phoenix, this center and library promotes Irish and Celtic heritage through the past and present via exhibits and experiences. Along with having a replica of an 1850s era Irish cottage, to show how the standard of living of the day, and an Irish Hunger memorial, the location puts on a full calendar of interchanging exhibits, cultural-related classes and genealogy workshops. Get even more hands-on through participating in activities including including Irish step dancing, Ceili dancing and musical instrument classes in guitar, flute and harp.



The Irish American Heritage Center in Chicago was featured on Conan O'Brien's TBS show. COURTESY OF IAHC



## Irish American Heritage Center, Chicago, Illinois

Located on Chicago's northwest side, this heritage center got some screen time with Conan O'Brien, who humorously paid a visit to the location for [his TBS show](#) in 2012. Jokes aside, the center serves as a gathering place for the city's Irish American community and those interested in Irish culture. It also provides many ways to connect to and celebrate one's pride in being of Irish descent through educational programming emphasizing Irish music, literature, drama, traditional dancing, fine arts and contributions by Irish immigrants and Irish-Americans to the U.S. The building holds a theater, library, museum, art gallery, an Irish pub, dance practice studios, meeting rooms and banquet rooms for parties.



The Patrick Andrew Collins statue on Boston's Commonwealth Avenue Mall is part of the city's Irish Heritage Trail. [-] LEISE JONES PHOTOGRAPHY

## Irish Heritage Trail, Boston, Massachusetts

On Boston's tourism board's website, take a glimpse at the lineup of stops belonging to the city's Irish Heritage Trail. Eventually, in person, your

footsteps can follow along this route comprised of 20 landmarks honoring Irish-American sculptors, poets, veterans and politicians and running from the parkland of Back Bay Fens to Faneuil Hall. Sightsee on your own or maybe reach out to the Boston Irish Tourism Association, which created the trail and offers tours of all kinds, when things are better.

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**Michele Herrmann**

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