Ireland: Home of Halloween

Discover the true birthplace of Halloween—Ireland! This enchanting land is where the ancient Celts celebrated Samhain, a festival marking the end of the harvest season and the start of winter over 2,000 years ago. During this time, people believed the veil between our world and the Otherworld was at its thinnest, allowing spirits—known as Púcaí (Púca)—and fairies to roam the earth. Traditions began that continue to this day: large communal bonfires were lit to ward off demons, embers were carried home in hollow turnips (the original Jack O' Lantern), masks were worn to disguise against evil spirits (the first Halloween costumes), and soul cakes were offered to children and the poor (the precursor

to today's trick-or-treating). A barmbrack cake was baked to forecast the future, and this fruit loaf is still enjoyed today. Emigrants carried these customs to North America, where they spread worldwide as Halloween, but its spiritual home will always be Samhain in Ireland.

From the hauntingly beautiful landscapes of the Emerald Isle to spirited tales of ghostly encounters in historic castles, Ireland offers an immersive experience for travelers seeking the origins of Halloween. Each year, the island hosts a wide range of celebrations, blending quirky local fare with sprawling festivals renowned around the globe. Embrace the magic

of Samhain, where every cobblestone street whispers a ghost story, and every turnip carries a hint of ancient lore. After all, who wouldn't want to celebrate Halloween where it all began.

HALLOWEEN FESTIVALS

The **Púca Festival** celebrates Ireland as the birthplace of Halloween in County Meath, featuring dazzling spectacles, music, and harvest food. In Northern Ireland, **Derry Halloween** is a must-see, showcasing over 35 years of creativity with a variety of exciting events.

Ireland

Website: : www.ireland.com
E-Mail: sydneyreception@tourismireland.com