



[Home](#) [News](#) [Opinion](#) [Movies](#) [Music](#) [Events/Exhibits](#) [About Us](#)



## Do you feel lucky?

**St. Patrick's Day is right around the corner — especially if you're standing on the world's shortest street.**

by Cheré Coen

The crowds are huge but the parade route is tiny. In fact, if you blink, you just might miss this St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Historic one-block Bridge Street in Hot Springs, Ark., has been designated the "shortest street in the world" by Ripley's Believe It or Not. City residents have turned this mini honor into a major event by rolling "the World's Shortest St. Patrick's Day Parade" down Bridge Street every March 17 while thousands watch and cheer.



Submitted photo

**Post-parade pub crawl in Hot Springs, Ark.**

The parade actually lines up down one of the main arteries in Hot Springs, turning on to the 98-foot-long Bridge Street one float, organization or band at a time as the emcee, dressed as a very large leprechaun, announces its arrival. As the belly dancers, Elvis impersonators, Irish bands and a host of decorated dogs, among many others, roll down the minuscule Bridge Street, the crowd dressed in green, wearing green beads and drinking green beer goes crazy.

Celebrities visit Hot Springs as grand marshals and enjoy a special place of honor in the parade. Mike Rowe, host of the Discovery Channel's Dirty Jobs, headed down Bridge Street last year on top of a rolling toilet holding a plunger as his royal scepter.

Other past honorees have been Pauly Shore, Mario Lopez and George Wendt. This year's celebrity grand marshal is Wendt's sidekick from Cheers, John Ratzenberger.

Festivities precede the giant-tiny parade and music usually follows. Last year, the parade featured MiniKiss, a tribute band made up of "little people" that performed Kiss numbers to the leftover crowds. Also following the parade is a pub crawl through Hot Springs's many bars and lounges that features live music, revelry and, of course, green beer.

For more information, visit [www.hotsprings.org/festivals\\_events/stpat\\_parade.asp](http://www.hotsprings.org/festivals_events/stpat_parade.asp).

### Other St. Patrick's Day events

The Irish Channel in **New Orleans** turns into a miniature, albeit green Carnival with its **62nd Annual**

**Mass and Parade** celebration on Saturday, March 14. The festivities, sponsored by the Irish Channel St. Patrick's Day Club, begins with a noon Mass at St. Mary's Assumption Church at the corner of Constance and Josephine streets, followed by the parade, which begins at 1 p.m. at the corner of Felicity and Magazine streets, and travels uptown.

The parade consists of floats and the like, with riders throwing ingredients for a traditional Irish stew (don't be insulted if you're hit in the head by a flying cabbage). Men in tuxedos and top hats will gladly pass off green, orange and white flowers and "good" green beads to paradegoers of the female persuasion, but they expect payment in the form of a kiss.

A block party to benefit St. Michael's Special School will occur from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 17, at the Annunciation Square Playground.

For more information, go to [www.irishchannelno.org](http://www.irishchannelno.org).

**Natchitoches** gets into the spirit of the Irish with an 11 a.m. parade and continuing live entertainment on March 14 at the **St. Patrick's Day Celebration & Pub Crawl** downtown. Everyone can join the parade, which begins at the First Baptist Church on Second Street; call Jokie Taylor at (318) 352-5304 for more information. The Pub Crawl begins at 5 p.m. and visitors can register for a chance to win prizes at each stop. Following the crawl will be live music until midnight.

The **Baton Rouge Wearin' of the Green** parade will roll, as usual, on the Saturday before St. Patrick's Day. The parade starts at 10 a.m. at the corner of Hundred Oaks and South Acadian Thruway by the Catholic Life Center and rolls down Eugene, Terrace and finally Perkins Road before ending just under Interstate 10.

For a map of the parade route and information on how to participate, go to [www.paradegroup.com](http://www.paradegroup.com).

 [Print this article](#)  [E-mail this to a friend](#)

Copyright ©2007 The Times of Acadiana. All rights reserved.  
Use of this site indicates your agreement to the [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#)  
(Terms updated 7/20/05)