

Journey Diary Entry – Dublin

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If you think of Ireland, you probably think of sheep. Many sheep. But in fact, Ireland is more. The trip to Dublin opened the view to a city you don't usually get to visit in your lifetime. However, many of us rather wanted to go to London, which didn't work out because of the Paralympics, and Dublin was really just our second but finally maybe even the better choice.

There was so much to see, and everything turned out to be much more beautiful than in any tour guide. Right on our first day, we went out to see Trinity College, and in fact, I was pretty surprised to actually hear how funny our Irish campus guide was. The long library was stunning, moreover hearing all the stories about the campus was more interesting, than any other museum I've ever gone to. The next day, we went out to visit Kilmainham Goal, which was actually pretty cold, but it's funny how you get used to Dublin's weather in a short time, and you forget to worry about your hair as soon as there are some raindrops falling from the sky.

Another highlight we had was Wicklow Mountains. After an hour and a half long bus drive, we all were eager to move around a bit. We didn't expect to go on a hike for about 3 hours, however, being in nature between beautiful grass covered hills and some flowers along the road really relaxed your mind after a couple days of Dublin's craziness. When you are supposed to draw a picture of how you imagine the Irish countryside, you would probably paint a picture of the Wicklow Mountains. It is an incredible landscape, and I think everybody was happy that we went there.

Of course, we needed to feed our bodies to stay warm and tough. It didn't take long to check out Burger King's "King of the Day", everyday. But especially around Thursday, our bodies needed a break from fast food. Luckily, we could catch some apples at the local Tescos (by the way, food in Ireland is expensive. 50 cents for a green apple! No wonder that the Irish don't like to cook and go eat out.) Also, our hostel might not have been the greatest, but at least it was clean and the receptionist was a really neat man. What might not be so well done was the breakfast. It was enough, for sure, but the fact that everybody stuck their knife into the same jar of marmalade really helped me to eat less for breakfast! :D

The Irish are really friendly minded people when it comes to host guests. The best example for that was probably Joe, as I call him, the barkeeper at the Irish pub we went to for our last night. Since the Irish in pubs only know self service and I was in the lucky position to be the one closest to the bar, I had a couple of opportunities to get to know him. He kept talking to me while we waited for the multiple Guinness to be ready. Apparently, he has even been to Germany once!

I could continue to list up all kinds of things I like about Dublin. However, I think one has to go there and convince himself, and, of course, I don't wanna spoil everything. Dublin has so much to explore, and you can't even see everything in just five days. So much for that, and now there is only one more thing to mention: James Joyce! He is one of the most famous Irish poets – so for us as an English LK a must, at least our teacher thought so...if you can't travel to Dublin right away, start reading his works and you are half way to Ireland☺