

OUR LANGUAGE TRIP TO GALWAY



a time we'll never forget

day 1 – sunday, 15.09.2019

Our class and 7C met at the **airport** at five o'clock because our flight to **Frankfurt** was at 7:00 a.m. Luckily, everything went fine catching our connecting flight from Frankfurt to **Dublin**. When we arrived in Dublin, we had to wait really long for our luggage. Following that we took a three-hour bus ride to **Galway**. When we arrived in Galway in the pouring rain our **host families** picked us up and everyone went home with them to their houses.

day 2 – monday, 16.09.2019

The second day started when we met at the **language school** at 9:30 a.m. On our first day in Galway we had two English classes which were really interesting and fun. After school we had a lunch break and then we went on a **first day walking tour** around the city centre. When the tour was over, we had the rest of the day off and everyone could spend their afternoon as they wanted, exploring the city centre and enjoying the different shops, pubs and street performers on **Shop Street**, Galway's main shopping street.



day 3 - Tuesday, 17.09.2019

This day started just like the second day: We all met at the language school for our **English classes** which finished at 1:00 p.m. After school we went on a 50-minute walk to **Salthill**, a seaside area with a 2 km long **promenade** overlooking Galway Bay. There we took a tour of **Atlantiquaria**, Ireland's largest aquarium, where we could feed big fish and touch stingrays, starfish and small sharks. After our visit to the aquarium our class split into groups and relaxed at the beach or in the city for the rest of the day because the weather was really nice.



day 4 - Wednesday, 18.09.2019

On the fourth day of our language trip to Ireland, we had **morning and afternoon classes** at the language school. That day we had to work on our projects and in the last lesson we played some fun games. Later in the evening, we all met to go **bowling**. Most of us were pretty good at it and we had a lot of fun. In the end we were all happy but also very exhausted from the day.

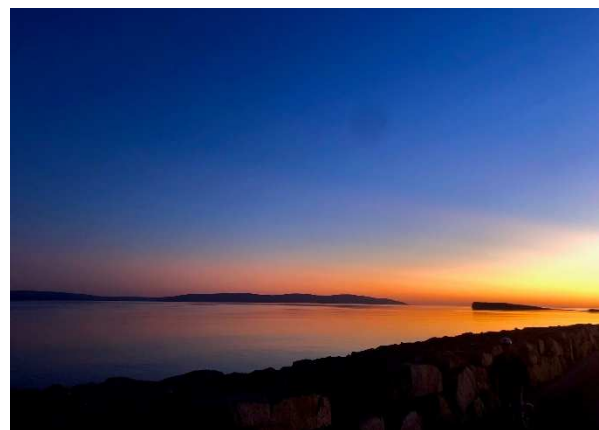


Day 5 - Thursday, 19.09.2019

Thursday was our **last day of English classes** at the language school. For our final project we created some video clips which were pretty funny to film. After classes we went on a **treasure hunt** around the city centre of Galway. In groups we had to follow clues and solve riddles and the first team who made it back to the language school and had the most correct answers won a prize. We had to do a lot of walking and exploring different locations and famous sights and had lots of fun running around the city centre on this amazingly warm and sunny day.



At 7:30 p.m. everyone who fancied a traditional pub experience met with our teachers at a **pub** in Salthill called **Oslo Bar**. The food was very good there, especially the fish and chips and the sweet potato fries. We enjoyed our food and some good conversations while soaking up the traditional Irish pub atmosphere and some of us also played a round of pool with the locals. All in all, it was a great evening and we had a really good time at the pub.



Day 6 - Friday, 20.09.2019

On Friday, we went on an all-day trip to **Connemara National Park** and **Kylemore Abbey**, Ireland's oldest Benedictine monastery. A very talkative bus driver was our faithful companion and tour guide for the day. While we were on the road, we made a couple of stops to take in the beautiful scenery and to visit some sights like **Ross Errilly**, one of the best-preserved medieval friaries in the country. When we arrived at Kylemore Abbey it was really windy, but the weather was actually wonderful and very sunny by Irish standards. We explored the magnificent grounds of Kylemore Abbey and walked around the **Victorian Walled Garden** where some of us tried the famous Irish scones with butter and raspberry jam at the **Tea House**.

After visiting the beautifully restored period rooms in the Abbey, we hopped back on the bus and made a couple more stops on the way back to Galway. When we stopped for a short walk in the **countryside** some students spontaneously decided to climb up a hill and join the sheep which were grazing there. That was kind of stressful since we had to wait for them to climb down again, but eventually we could continue our journey back to Galway.



day 7 - saturday, 21.09.2019

Unfortunately, Saturday was our last day in Ireland before we had to fly home on Sunday. However, we did not let this sad fact dampen our spirits and excitedly embarked on our second all-day trip to the **Cliffs of Moher**, Ireland's most famous sea cliffs. The Cliffs of Moher run for about 14 km at the southwestern edge of the Burren region and rise up to 214 m above the Atlantic Ocean. Again, we met in front of the language school at 9:30 a.m. and hopped on the bus where yet another friendly bus driver/tour guide was waiting for us.

On our way to the cliffs we stopped at **Dunguaire Castle**, a beautiful 16th-century castle on the southeastern shore of Galway Bay.



Later, we had our second stop near the small village of Fanore, where we made our way to the sea through the mesmerising karst landscape of **the Burren**. Although the weather forecast had predicted rain for the Burren region, the Irish weather gods were on our side yet again and spared us a drenching.



When we arrived at the **Cliffs of Moher**, it was extremely windy and overcast, however the grey and stormy skies added a nice gloomy, mysterious atmosphere to this breathtaking, impressive scenery. Without a doubt, the Cliffs of Moher were the scenic highlight of our trip to Ireland. Luckily, we had enough time to explore them on our own, starting at **O'Brien's Tower**, a stone tower built in 1835 near the midpoint of the cliffs to mark their highest point, and hiking all the way to **Moher Tower**, a tower ruin at **Hag's Head**, the most southerly point of the cliffs. In the afternoon, everyone was tired from the high winds and rough weather conditions at the cliffs and so we made our way back to Galway to enjoy our last evening with our host families.



Day 8 - Sunday, 22.09.2019

On Sunday, the day of our **departure**, our day started very early because our bus to **Dublin** took off at 3:30 in the morning. At 7:10 a.m. our flight departed for **Frankfurt**. After a three-hour layover at Frankfurt Airport, we finally boarded our connecting flight to Vienna. At 4:30 p.m. we had finally made it, exhausted but happy to be back home in **Vienna** and to see our families again.

All in all, we enjoyed our language trip to Ireland very much. We had a lot of fun, experienced lots of new things and got to know lots of new, friendly people. We were able to improve our English and to become more self-confident. Even as a class, we grew stronger together. This language trip was a great experience for us all which we'll never forget.

Also a big thank you to Ms Lamezan and Ms Stejskal who supported and listened to us and spent time and laughed with us all week.