

Ireland 2011

Co. Kerry

Teachers:

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Where?

The venue for this trip is Co. Kerry in the south-west of Ireland. Kerry is known in Ireland as 'the Kingdom' and it is the home of some of the most rugged and beautiful scenery in Ireland.

Travel

This trip involves flights either with Luxair from Luxembourg to Dublin and coach transfer to Kerry or flights with Ryanair from Hahn to Kerry direct. Once in Kerry we will use a coach to travel from our accommodation to the activities planned for each day.

Accommodation

Accommodation will be self-catering and will be in modern fully equipped holiday cottages. Self-catering means that you have the joy of cooking for yourselves, and the even greater pleasure of cleaning up afterwards! Everyone who chooses this trip **must** be prepared to help with the housekeeping duties.

Activities

This trip will involve a combination of cultural activities with some more physical pursuits. Our intention is that the group will be able to appreciate the unique beauty and traditions of Ireland while at the same time being able to take part in some fun activities.

Physical & Fun

Surfing

The beaches in Co. Kerry are among the best in the world for surfing, with the Atlantic coast providing an endless supply of perfect waves. On this trip you will have three 2 hour sessions of surfing. These are designed for beginners and no previous experience is necessary. All equipment will be supplied and fully qualified instructors will take charge of the group. You don't even have to be a very good swimmer, just good enough to be comfortable in water.



Hill-Walking

There will be a number of hill-walks included on this trip. The countryside is ideal for such activity and these will be arranged by local guides. Walks can include crossing the base of waterfalls as well as having to jump across streams and rivers. These walks can be challenging. Despite their physical effort, these walks are a wonderful way to see the landscape and completely forget city living.

Paintball

Paintball is a stimulating adrenaline packed game. The group will be divided into two and will play a



number of scenarios against each other. Paintball is a fun way to improve teamwork, strategy and skills. It is an activity that provides a great way to learn how to work with and trust other members of a group, and it rewards teamwork and leadership.

It also happens to be great fun and provides useful targets (i.e. the teachers!)

2008 group

Climbing Adventure Centre

Visit an indoor climbing centre to try out a range of wall climbing activities of different levels of difficulty. In addition there is an outdoor freefall and zipwire activity for all.

playatheight activities



Outdoor Freefall

Have the freefall adventure of your life without the need for a parachute or bungee cord strapped to your ankle.... then have a gentle landing in a controlled environment with the first Outdoor Freefall in Ireland.

Zipwire

A fast, high adrenaline ride on our zipwire. A very safe way to get a rush.

Climbing Wall

Climb indoors on our wall. Take the easy route or meet the challenge on our advanced section. All equipment provided.

Abseiling

Extreme adventure descending a rope under control. Take the challenge descending our wall, especially if you have just dimbed up it.

Some other activities which we may include are attending a Gaelic football match, a night at the greyhounds, a visit to a local indoor waterpark.

Cultural activities

Tour around the Ring of Kerry.

The Ring of Kerry is a part this unspoilt region of Ireland that has attracted visitors for hundreds of years. The trip starts in Killarney and progresses past the Gap of Dunloe before reaching Killorglin. Once every year the people of Killorglin capture a goat and crown him king for 3 days, and all the

pubs remain open for 24 hours! The trip passes through many small villages and is famous for its beautiful sea scenes and pictures of Irish life.

The *Kerry Bog Village Museum*, located on the beautiful 'Ring of Kerry', gives people an insight into how people lived and worked in Ireland in the 18th Century. The village is the only one of its kind in Europe. The village and its buildings are exact replicas of those used in Ireland in the early 1800's.

Slea Head Tour

This is a tour by coach around the Dingle Peninsula. This area is one of the most beautiful parts of Ireland, and despite its attraction for tourists, is still largely unspoilt. The road is narrow with many twists and turns, and its combination of dramatic mountain and seascape views have become among the most photographed scenes in Ireland. The drive around Slea Head is spectacular on a sunny day (which we had) and 'wild and woolly' if it's stormy! On the trip stops can be made at the Blasket Island Centre, which celebrates thousands of years of human occupation on these remote islands off the south-west coast of Ireland. Other attractions are the Ogham stones which litter the landscape and the Gallarus Oratory which dates from the 6th century.



Trips will also be made to the major tourist towns in Kerry, **Killarney** and **Dingle** which is located in the Kerry **Gaeltacht** (Irish speaking area). There are a multitude of things to do and see in these picturesque towns.

Weather

If you are interested in walking about in shorts and t-shirts and enjoying warm October sunshine, then this trip is not for you. The weather in Ireland at this time of year varies from being bright, sunny and warm to being wet, cold and miserable. What is unusual about Ireland is that both of these conditions can happen in one day. So, if you are interested in this trip, be prepared for all types of weather. The beauty of Ireland is that after a while, the weather doesn't matter anymore. Just ask those who travelled last year!

Useful Links

Accommodation	www.sevenhogs.ie
Surfing	www.jamieknox.com
Gaelic Sport	www.kerrygaa.ie
Greyhounds	www.igb.ie/tralee
Paintball	www.predatorpaintball.ie
Hill walking	www.dodingle.com/pages/walking_routes.html
Climbing Centre	www.playatheight.com
Kerry	www.discoverireland.ie/southwest/kerry.aspx
Water park	www.aquadome.ie