

“A Galway experience”

From 15th to 21st February 2020
by Federica Colombo - IV D Ipsia “G. Magni”

Where we have been for a week



- Our experience took place from 15th to 21th of February in **Galway** (or **Gaillimh** in **Gaelic language**), a medium-big city in **County Galway**, province of **Connacht**, on the West coast of the **Eire** (European Irish republic), in front of the Atlantic ocean, with a population of about 80 thousand people. It is one the largest cities in Ireland, also known to be the **only medieval city** in its province with a history longer than 800 years. In 2020 Galway has taken the title of “**Capital of Culture of the year**”. What an opportunity to visit this city!

The day programme of our study-holiday

Parts of the day	Sunday 16th	Monday 17th	Tuesday 18th	Wednesday 19th	Thursday 20th
Morning	Free Discovering tour around the city	9 am - 1 pm First English lesson at school	9.30 am – 1 pm English lessons	9.30 am – 1 pm English lessons	9.30 am - 1 pm Irish music lessons, activities with new training games in English
Afternoon	Appointment with the cinema	2.00 -3.30 p.m: Historical walking tour in Galway	A breath-taking experience at the Cliffs of Moher	2.00 -3.20 pm English lessons 4.00 -5.30 pm Visit to the Galway Museum	2.00-3.20 pm Last English lesson 3.45 pm: Vision of the Irish film “ The van ” 5 pm Visit to the Galway Woolen Market
Evening	Time in our host family	Evening at the bowling	Time in our host family	Time in our host family and for some	Time in our host family

Saturday 15th: The arrival in Ireland and meeting with the host family



After a long trip in the late evening of Saturday 15th February we arrive in Galway, where we are welcomed by a responsible of the language school (and also by the strong storm that was in the list of the day in Ireland!).

We are introduced to our **host families** that host us during the stay in the Irish town. This has been an aspect I have really appreciated because I have had the opportunity to observe and understand their daily routine.

Sunday 16th: On the discovering of Galway

On Sunday morning, we have time to do a walking tour around the city, a **melting pot** of different historical periods with beautiful houses, awe-inspiring buildings and also two shopping centres very close one another.

The tour is not only an opportunity to discover new realites, but also a different way **to learn how to move** in the town without using Google maps!

During shopping I have bought three souvenirs: a little book with the most famous phrases by the Irish writer **Oscar Wilde**, a funny Irish rucksack and a necklace with a clover, the Irish symbol.

In the afternoon we spend some time at the cinema to see “Dolittle”, a fantasy film, in English, of course!



The Eyre Square

Monday 17th February: First day of English lesson at the **Atlantic language school**



The school

The **Atlantic language school** in Galway was founded in **1999** in order to give an accurate formation on the English language, involving people of different age, since the early years (**junior programs**) to the adults (**adults programs**) and also supplying, supporting and helping the foreign families, giving a responsible integration in their English country (**families programs**).

Atlantic language has always had a fundamental role in education and formation of the new English citizens. **It's never too late to learn a new language!**

Monday 15th February: the historical walking tour

On Monday afternoon, we have the opportunity to do a walking tour around the ancient city of Galway

The guide explains us its origins and the most fundamental historical events. Galway was founded with the original name of “**Dur Gallimhe**” in 1124, by the **King of Connacht**. During the Middle Ages, Galway was ruled by an oligarchy of **fourteen merchant families** (twelve who claimed to be of Norman origin and two of Irish origin). These were the “**Tribes of Galway**”. The city thrived on international trade and it became the **principal Irish port** for trade with Spain and France; maybe for its popularity in 1477 Galway was visited by the famous italian navigator **Christopher Columbus** . In the modern age Galway passed under control of the **United Kingdom** until 1922, the year of the Irish independence, after many conflicts with Great Britain.



Some historical attractions in Galway



Lynch Castle



Quay street



The Spanish Arch



Galway Cathedral

The breath-taking experience to the cliffs of Moher



On Tuesday afternoon we pass a beautiful time on **The cliffs of Moher**, one of the most famous tracts of Irish landscape that every year attracts thousand of tourists.

It proves to be very difficult to take some photos because of the very strong wind, but despite all we enjoy a creepy experience!

During the trip to the cliffs the excellent bus driver and guide shows us some features of the Irish landscape such as the characteristic stone hills which were given their shape by a big meteorite between twelve and ten thousand years ago. He also tells us about the hard life of the small rural villages of farmers around Galway, such as Kilcogan, and their endurance during the submission to the UK.

An interesting visit to the Galway museum



On Wednesday afternoon we visit the Galway City museum, a contemporary construction opened in July 2006. Inside you can find books, documents dating back to the Middle Age, but also military uniforms of the First world war. On the second floor there is a place dedicated to the flora and fauna around Galway with a explanation on the influence of the Atlantic ocean on the climate of the west coast of Ireland.

Here you can have fun with interactive activities about it.



Last day: a grateful visit to the “Galway woollen market”



- At last, I have had the great opportunity to visit the “Galway woollen market”, one of the stores of the “Aran Islands Knitwear” company.

Here I am received by two kind shop assistants and by the store manager who show me their well-supplied store and the great variety of products, in particular accessories such as slippers and woollen flat caps. This visit has been a unique occasion to see first-hand the work I want to do one day. You can find more about Aran islands knitwear company **here:**

[file:///E:/materiale%20scolastico/aran%20islands%20knitwear.odp#Aran islands knitwear](file:///E:/materiale%20scolastico/aran%20islands%20knitwear.odp#Aran%20islands%20knitwear)

A special royal visit in Galway



During their visit in Ireland between 3rd and 5th March 2020 their royal highnesses **the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge** passed some time in Galway, to support the Irish organizations that work for the country's conservation and to protect the environment, with particular focus on **sustainable farming** and marine conservation. They have been also to **Salthill GAA Club**, a sport club for adults and children in Knocknacarra, the neighborhood where we stay during our study holiday!



Five suggestions to live a foreign experience to the 100%

1. Buy some **souvenirs** to **remember** the place you have visited
2. Taste at least one **typical food**
3. Talk with the people about the country, establish a **contact**
4. Buy a book to read after coming back home
5. Think about how to live in that country and forget your home and gather the maximum number of curiosities about the place



“To regret one’s own experiences is to arrest one’s own development. To deny one’s own experience is to put a lie into the lips of one’s own life. It is no less than a denial of the soul”

Oscar Wilde

Thanks for your attention