

My exchange year in Ireland

What I did during my exchange year

During my exchange year in Ireland, I had the opportunity to take part in many amazing activities and discover Irish culture. I visited several beautiful places, including Dublin, Achill Island, Galway, and the lakes of Connemara. One of my favorite experiences was attending the St. Patrick's Day parade in Dublin, which was a fantastic celebration. For Halloween, I went to Farmaphobia, a famous haunted attraction that was both exciting and scary. Thanks to my school, I met friends from many different countries, including France, Germany, Italy, Brazil, India, and Ukraine. I also joined the Claremorris football club, where I made Irish friends and learned more about local life. Through sport, I discovered how important it is in Ireland, especially when I went to the stadium to watch a Gaelic football match between Mayo and Dublin. This exchange year allowed me to make unforgettable memories, improve my English, and meet people from all over the world.

The school

I went to St Colman's College during my exchange year in Ireland. It was a boy school located in Claremorris in the County of Mayo. It was quite different from my school in Switzerland. The rules were hugely different from schools in Switzerland which took me some time to get used to, but the teachers were helpful even if they were not the best by teaching us the lessons. The school was small and the buildings were not attractive at all. Because it was an all-boys school, most of the students were easily distracted. The students were also very annoying with the exchange students, and they were not helping us to integrate well with the school, and the principal was extremely strict by following the rules. Overall, it was interesting to know how schools work in Ireland, but I did not like it much.

The family

During my year-long school exchange in Ireland, I lived with a very kind and welcoming host family. Their house was a farm located in the countryside, quite far from the town centre and cannot be accessed another way than by car. There were lots of animals, which made the experience even more interesting and different from what I used to do. The big problem is that there was no wi-fi in the house. The children were very friendly and made me feel part of the family from the beginning. Although my host family was always supportive and helpful, I also had some responsibilities. I had to do my own laundry, change my bed sheets regularly, and prepare my own lunches for school. This experience helped me become more independent while allowing me to discover Irish culture in a warm and welcoming family environment. Overall, I found this experience nice but hard to live without wi-fi and have my own responsibilities.

Conclusion

In conclusion, my exchange year in Ireland was one of the most memorable and rewarding experiences of my life. It helped me become more independent, improve my English, and gain confidence in myself. I met amazing people, discovered a new culture, and created unforgettable memories. Even though there were some challenges along the way, they helped me grow as a person. I will always be grateful for this experience and everything it taught me.



Croagh Patrick (School field trip)



Connemara lake



Keem Beach Achill Island