

Life on the Green Island – Ireland

Hi everyone!

My name is Livia and I have been living in Ireland for almost half a year now. I came here expecting loads of stereotypes such as rain, exuberant cheerfulness and red hair. Although I wouldn't necessarily agree with the red hair, the other two are certainly true. Irish people are incredibly welcoming and no matter where you go, people will greet you joyfully. As for the frequent rain, it usually only lasts a few minutes and you'll see sunshine again only moments after the rain started, so just take an umbrella with you everywhere you go and you'll be fine.

My hostfamily consists of my hostmum Noreen and her little dog Millie. Thanks to them, Ireland felt like home right from the start. We often watch Irish TV together or have long talks when we go for a beach walk with Millie. To me it was particularly special, that I was welcomed to spend Christmas with Noreen and her family. The Irish open their presents in the morning of December 25th and later on, a huge turkey with loads of side plates gets served. Although it was not easy to spend Christmas apart from my own family, I am glad that I didn't miss out on this precious once in a lifetime experience.



Galway Christmas Market

During the week I work at a solicitor's office. It's incredibly interesting to get an insight into how the Irish Legal System differs from ours. When I want to, I even get to join a solicitor in court on a regular basis. These are definitely my favourite days, even though it can be fairly oppressive at times as my office specialises on Criminal Law. The work environment in Ireland is generally more at ease than in Switzerland, for example you rarely have to call someone by their last name. In my office every single person has been nothing but nice to me and I always get shown a lot of appreciation even for the smallest jobs.



Dunquin Pier

Even though Tralee isn't exactly a big city, it has loads to offer. Tralee is the capital of County Kerry, which is arguably the County with the most outstanding nature. If you are lucky enough to have a car at your disposal, you can visit amazing landscapes which in parts seem nearly extra-terrestrial, and I mean that literally, because even parts of the Star Wars movies were filmed in Kerry. My personal must-see is the Dunquin Pier and the most western bar of Europe nearby. Thanks to public transport you can also quickly

get to other Irish towns such as Galway, Cork, Killarney - or if you have more time even Dublin and Belfast. What I love most about Tralee itself is the amount of Coffeeshops here. Having a coffee with your friends is probably the best activity when it's raining cats and dogs outside. On the other hand, if you are fortunate to get warm weather, you can go surfing or swimming at beautiful beaches just short drives away from Tralee. Apart from that, I also attended an Irish Dance course, which was a lot of fun, as the dancing style was rather energetic.

I took an instant liking to Ireland and its unique spirit, and I already know that I am going to miss the lightness of this country when I leave in a few weeks' time. I am forever thankful that KV Plus allowed me to make all these incredible experiences!



Exploring Dublin



Hiking in County Kerry



Beach day



Spotting a pod of dolphins