

My stay in Tralee

Hello everyone,

I am Lisa and for the last two and a half months, Tralee was my new home abroad. Saying goodbye to my family and friends wasn't easy but I meet such lovely people up here, it isn't that bad.



My host family consists of my lovely host parents, four dogs, a cat and chickens. More animals than people in this family but I love them. It was quite easy getting along with them; after this time, I am almost part of the family. The children from Brenda are all grown up and have their own kids. As they all live in Tralee and on almost the same street, there is always someone over. I love kids and playing with them and like that, I got a little job next to my work at Meadowlands Hotel which I will tell you more about later. I babysit three of these monsters from time to time and earn some money.

During the day, you find me in the small but beautiful Meadowlands Hotel. It's a family-run hotel located a bit outside of Tralee. The reception wasn't mine so I asked if I could help our marketing and sale manager. Instagram and Facebook are now something I don't only use in my free time. I like going around the hotel and finding the perfect spot to take a picture or a quick video. Most of my friends must make their lunch; I can just go into the kitchen and get something delicious to eat.

On Tuesday and Thursday, we have school. I decided to try to pass the proficiency exam in December. We will see if I am going to pass it or not. Nevertheless, I will give my best. I played volleyball back in Switzerland and planned to continue with it up here. Unfortunately, there are no volleyball teams in Tralee. That's why I started taking Nat (one of the dogs) on evening walks. He is such a good dog who loves to go for long walks.

At the beginning of this adventure, we had some extraordinary hot days here in Tralee. We used them for trips to the beach or the Killarney National Park. Mid-September, my mother visited me for a weekend, so we rented a car and drove to the Bridges of Ross. Nearly nobody has heard about them, but they are definitely worth a visit. If you go, go for sunset. It was just breathtaking! Except that, I haven't seen much because of the bad public transport here in Ireland. There are no trains leaving every half an hour or busses arriving on time.



One trip I have done was going to Dingle for the Food Festival. We took the bus as it would be too expensive to go by taxi. It took us an hour to get to Dingle. On the way, we saw beautiful houses, green hills and of course the ocean. Despite some short rain showers, we were lucky with the weather. The food festival was great. Lots of different things to eat, see and buy. There was even Raclette. Unfortunately, the queue was too long and you needed a coupon.

The weather has changed drastically in the last week. Now it is raining all day long and the sun is something you nearly never see. Typical Irish weather I would say. I have to get used to it, but now I have a good excuse to sit inside, sipping on my tea and reading a good book.

I really love Ireland. I am excited to explore more of it in the next months and especially over Christmas as I decided to stay here. It's going to be hard to say goodbye to my host family when I leave in January but till then, I enjoy every minute!

A big thank you to the KV plus program! Without this, I wouldn't be here and met all these incredible people. It's a once in a lifetime opportunity and I am grateful that I took it.

See you!