

DUBLIN, July 16th-28th, 2023

My stay in Dublin ...

... **wet** as the weather



... **snappy** as a squirrel in the botanic garden

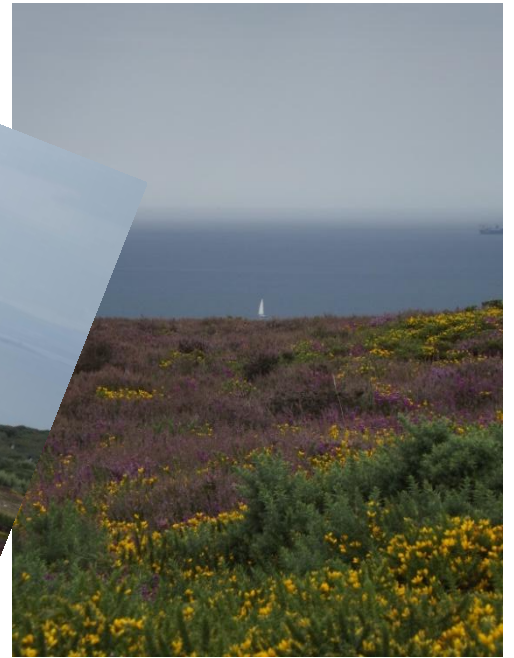
... **international** as the English course at YourEnglish School (where I met teachers from Spain, France, Germany, Austria, Poland and other participants from Russia, Colombia, Taiwan, Serbia ...)



... **empty** as the Long Room, the library of the Trinity College (because of the Decant: the books have been removed from the shelves to be cleaned and electronically tagged)

... **engaging** as the Epic Museum (the museum about Irish emigration and famine in the 19th century) and the story of the Jeanie Johnston boat (no photos, it was 'raining cats and dogs' ...)

... **colourful** as the heath near Howth



The experience has been really involving from many points of view: besides the opportunity of studying and practising English, the international context in the school has allowed me to widen my horizons to cultures from other European and non-European countries, to compare my way of living and teaching with teachers from Poland as well as from Austria or Spain, getting differences and similarities; above all, I felt a shared wish of demolishing linguistic barriers using a common language, which is probably not the academic English from Oxford, but a worldwide English, always developing and renewing, by which every people from all over the world can get and keep in touch. The town itself is full of young people from everywhere in the world, coming to learn English and work, or simply to travel and have an experience abroad, in both cases building friendly relationships with peers. For me, living in the town for a couple of weeks (despite the bad weather...) has also meant deepening my knowledge about Irish culture and history, opening my eyes over some dramatic pages like the famine of 1848-1852 and the emigration of Irish people overseas, which is still ongoing nowadays and could make us meditate about contemporary tragedies in a less superficial way.

Thank you, Erasmus!!

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