

Maynooth, Ireland

Ireland: Ireland is a country rich in folklore from myths to legends and beautiful greenery. This island is separated into two territories: Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland which is part of the United Kingdom. Maynooth, where Saint Mary's students will be staying is close enough to Dublin, the capital of Ireland. Ireland consists of 32 counties, 26 in the Republic and four in Northern. Two official languages are spoken: English and Irish. Irish is the national language and English the second official language. Although Ireland is home to only five million people, the island's influence in the world far exceeds its size. It is extremely attractive to the young because of the renowned creativity of the Irish in literature, film and popular music. Most importantly for the study abroad student, education is considered the cornerstone of all economic and cultural activity in Ireland. Ireland is surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean, Celtic Sea, and Irish Sea. This land consists of cliffs, hills, mountains, but mostly farmland. Temperatures are quite comfortable; however, expect rain and lots of it.

Ireland is one of Europe's top culinary destinations. Eating the Irish way would basically include dishes with meat, potatoes and vegetables such as onions and cabbages. Potatoes are a staple in an Irish meal. The Irish love traditions and two of the most enduring and internationally acclaimed are the Irish traditional music and Irish dancing. Traditional music can be heard from pubs to rural festivals. The pub lies at the heart of Irish cultural, social and musical life. The Irish love to meet friends and family in pubs where they drink, chat, sing, listen to poetry reading, tap their feet to traditional music, feast on good food or simply enjoy the buoyant atmosphere and while away time. The Irish revel in sports and recreation. Hurling or camogie, similar to hockey and lacrosse is a distinctly Irish sport. Another traditional sport is Gaelic football. Horsebreeding and equestrian are popular throughout the country.

Read more: http://www.studyabroad-cis.com/Ireland/Facts/ireland_facts.htm
<http://we.tenfootsquare.com/united-kingdom/top-cultural-facts-in-ireland/>

Dublin: Dublin is the capital and largest city in Ireland, near the midpoint of Ireland's east coast, at the mouth of the River Liffey and at the centre of the Dublin Region. Founded as a centre of Viking settlement, the city has been Ireland's capital since mediæval times. The city of Dublin is the entire area administered by Dublin City Council. However, when most people talk about 'Dublin', they also refer to the contiguous suburban areas that run into the adjacent local authority areas of Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal and South Dublin. This area is sometimes known as 'Urban Dublin' or the 'Dublin Metropolitan Area'. Here you will find three largest universities, governmental buildings, theatres, bars, etc...

Click for more: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dublin>

Things to do:

http://www.tripadvisor.com/Attractions-g186605-Activities-Dublin_County_Dublin.html

http://www.dublintonist.com/popular_dublin/

Looking for things to do for FREE? <http://www.living-dublin.com/10-free-things.htm>