

International Youth Gathering 2011, Ireland.
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Leaving Hawaii and going through a days worth of traveling was an adventure in itself, but it was only the beginning. During my first day in Ireland I went through a major culture shock. Meeting everyone from all over the world was amazing and an eye opening experience. Everyone apart of the IPA were working hard and made all the arrivals go smoothly while we all got to know each other.

Our trip began in Dublin, and we stayed at Dublin City University (DCU) for a few days. After leaving Dublin, we headed west to the Garda training college in Templemore. Next we moved north west to the Burren Outdoor Education Center. After that we traveled south and stayed in a hotel in Killarney before returning back to DCU. My last night I got to stay with Noel Geary in his beautiful house in Naas. I can't express how thankful I am for his and his wife's hospitality.

During all the traveling, came a lot of sight seeing. Ireland is a beautiful country and I feel so lucky for being able to explore it. I really liked the megalithic tomb, it had carvings all around it which in a lot of ways resembled the hieroglyphics we have in Hawaii. I also liked getting to walk through the castles, which were in much better shape



then I would had imagined them in. Also, on all of the hikes we went on there was beautiful scenery and the pictures don't even compare to how amazing it is in real life.

There were so many amazing activities that we took part of while in Ireland, almost too many to list. Out of all the activities, a few of my favorites were caving, rock climbing, boating, and riding on horse drawn carriages. I also enjoyed snorkeling (even though it was freezing) because it was my first time in the



Atlantic ocean. There were many other things we did, and I enjoyed all of them.

I can't leave out all the amazing people I met and connected with on this trip. All of the IPA staff were so nice and fun, they really made



this the best trip it could have been. The other kids from around the world became as close to me as my friends from home, which I didn't think possible. I loved learning about everyone's cultures and sharing about my own. When you put almost 50 people from all over the globe together, you begin to realize that we aren't as different as everyone says. We all were able to make friends whom I'm planning on keeping in touch with for a very long time.



Overall, this IYG was incredible. I will never forget this experience and all the beautiful places

I went while on it. The people are forever in my memories, and maybe I'll get lucky enough to see a few of them again. I wish it was possible to organize a new place for us to all meet again and travel together, but I can only dream.

