
2021-22 Postcards

Postcards from Abroad

Spring 5-6-2022

The Last Hurrah!

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Recommended Citation

Green, Laney, "The Last Hurrah!" (2022). *2021-22 Postcards*. Article. Submission 7.
https://digitalcommons.linfield.edu/intl_postcards_2122/7

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Laney Green
Spring 2022, Ireland
May 6, 2022

The last hurrah

With my semester abroad coming to an end, I figured I shouldn't leave without exploring more of the country that has hosted me the past four months. So for one last hurrah, I took a trip up north. I ended up in Belfast, Northern Ireland; technically Ireland and yet, encompassed by the United Kingdom.



Giant's Causeway

I traveled to Belfast by bus and it took around five hours. As soon as I arrived I started exploring the city. I came across the Salmon of Knowledge, the Beacon of Hope, City Hall, and a popular outdoor mall downtown.



Salmon of Knowledge



Beacon of Hope

Once again, I eventually met up with Jakob who was on his last leg of traveling for his spring break. We had two full days to explore Northern Ireland, and half a day to spend in the city before making the trek back to Galway.

We spent the first day hiking at the Giant's Causeway, a World Heritage Site. This is a famous tourist attraction known for its green, scenic cliffs and irregular stones. Legend has it that the causeway was formed by two fighting giants!



Causeway Cliffs



The famous stones

After exploring the area and missing our bus, we decided to walk to Dunluce Castle. This castle is known as the most scenic castle in Northern Ireland. You have to pay a small fee in order to gain access and walk through it, but we opted to take in the view from the hillside.



Dunluce Castle

The next day, we set out to hike in the Mourne Mountains. We ended up choosing a route that would lead us to the summit of two mountains. The hiking was beautiful, scenic and grew more strenuous with each mile. We summited Slieve Commedagh

first after a tiresome uphill battle. We celebrated our summit with a lunch break at the top, looking out across the ocean.



Jumping at the peak

The clouds came in as we hiked back down, which left us debating whether or not to hike the second mountain, Slieve Donard. This particular mountain happens to be the tallest mountain in Northern Ireland, and while only a couple hundred feet taller than the last, the title itself made it seem more daunting.



Looking up at Slieve Donard

Once we reached the base, we ultimately decided we had to hike it since you can't come face to face with the tallest mountain of a region and not climb it!



Jakob at the summit of Slieve Donard

It was chilly at the top and the view was cluttered by clouds and fog, but of course it was still worth it. From there we hiked all the way back down and explored the little town beneath the mountains until our bus picked us up to return to Belfast.



Hiking down Slieve Donard

We spent our last day walking around Belfast on a self guided tour. We saw Queen's University, the Botanic Gardens and visited the Ulster Museum. By dinner time, we were on a bus back to Galway.



Queen's University



Jakob at the Botanic Gardens

Overall, we had a super fun time in Belfast and I'm glad I was able to see more of the island I have been lucky enough to call home.

Best,

Laney Green