

## Travelers spend a week exploring sights of Ireland

Written by Becca Brandt

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The rolling hills and rocky cliffs of Ireland greeted Holyoke travelers as they joined Education First Tours on a week-long adventure on the island.

Tracy Trumper first discovered EF Tours when she was teaching and toured Italy and Greece with the company. She enjoyed the tour design of getting to see many places in a short amount of time. After seeing pictures of her parents' trip to Ireland, she knew it was a location she would enjoy visiting.

Trumper, Carrie Anderson, Paula Strode, Tammy Noyce, Linda Nevins and Bonnie Wells began their journey with many other travelers through EF Tours in Dublin, Ireland on June 6. While in Dublin, the group visited Trinity College.

Trumper noted they spent time looking at books in the Old Library and busts of many prominent Irish writers, philosophers and scientists.

The Long Room, extending nearly 65 meters in length, houses many historical texts including a copy of the 1916 Proclamation of the Irish Republic.



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**Local travelers are pictured from left, Paula Strode, Linda Nevins, Tracy Trumper, Carrie Anderson, Tammy Noyce and Bonnie Wells, in front of Taylors Three Rock pub in Dublin, Ireland. The group spent a lot of their time checking out the shops and businesses in the towns they visited.**

The Library's extensive collection includes the Book of Kells which was on display for the group to see during their time in Dublin.

Another interesting aspect of the trip was seeing Ireland's national symbol, a Gaelic harp, depicted on windows and money. One of the few remaining medieval harps can also be found at Trinity College.

Moving on from Dublin, the tour traveled to Galway and Killarney.

Another highlight on the tour was stopping at Blarney Castle and kissing the Blarney Stone.

The next stop was County Cork where the group visited Cobh. Formerly know as Queenstown, Cobh was the final port of call for the Titanic as it set out on its maiden voyage.

Cobh proved to be a very historical stop on the tour as the group learned more about the Titanic and immigration.

The final stop was Killkenny where the group got a chance to visit a marketplace and explore the city before the tour ended on June 13.

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Everywhere the tour went there were gorgeous castles and cathedrals, according to Trumper.

The travelers had an amazing experience as they met the local people and sampled Irish cuisine.

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