

Saturday, May 18

## Welcome to Dublin

Today we'll get started with an audio walking tour so you can see some of the city's highlights. We have two options, both produced and provided by the lovely people at the Fitzwilliam Hotel Dublin. We would have **loved** to stay there, but we barely managed to find a room block at our hostel, which just speaks to how popular Dublin is as a destination these days. So, thanks Fitzwilliam Hotel and local historian Donal Fallon (whose voice is an Irish delight), and maybe we'll return for tea or a pint!

You'll have two walking tour options. The [first](#) is a more general "Welcome to Dublin and its history" tour," and the [second](#) more specifically tells the story of the 1916 Easter Uprising that eventually led to Irish independence. Those links are to the podcast website, but you can also search for the podcast episodes on Soundcloud, "Dublin Walking Tour—The Fitzwilliam Hotel Dublin" and "Easter Rising: 1916 Walking Tour."

While you are taking the tour, remember back to some of the questions we asked when you were touring Hampton Court. This experience will be decidedly different because we are navigating a modern city amongst others going about their daily lives, but consider:

- How do you see the city differently as the backdrop for historical events and characters, whether those be the rebels of 1916 or the young musicians who would form the band U2?
- How might those who are going about their everyday lives perceive tourists wandering the city and looking for the bullet holes of a rebellion that occurred over a century ago?
- How might it be easier for someone unfamiliar with a city to perceive its historical past while walking its streets in the present?



#UKinMay assignment:

- Post an image that captures Dublin's past within Dublin's present.

## Sports and Spectatorship II

The Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) is Ireland's amateur sporting organization; it is (according to its own website) "part of the Irish consciousness and plays an influential role in Irish society that extends far beyond the basic aim of promoting Gaelic games." Its organization in 1884 was partially in response to the high number of people emigrating from Ireland and a

desire to preserve the island's national heritage. It has over 2000 local clubs in Ireland's 32 counties.



Hurling is one of the Gaelic Games, along with Gaelic Football, Handball, and Rounders. The hurling and footballs finals games each summer are huge events. We will be attending a championship round between Dublin (expect a large hometown crowd) and Kilkenny (always a strong team, I was told).

Parnell Park, by the way, doesn't have the best appearance from the outside. Do not be afeared. Also, this crowd is likely

to be less polite than the crowd we experienced watching cricket. Regardless, *we* will be polite, as we are there to observe.

Hurling is reportedly FAST, and it clearly takes a lot of skill to run with a ball balanced on a stick! The pace, therefore, will also differ from cricket. But still, similar questions:

- What distinguishes these spectators from others you've experienced?
- How is hurling spectatorship potentially emblematic of Irish culture?



#UKinMay assignment:

- Post an image that captures the essence of spectatorship at a sporting event, or the essence of watching hurling in Ireland.