

Monday, May 20

Touring as Performance



Before you ask, yes, we do realize that the Cliffs of Mohr are a natural phenomenon and not a performance. But we will be visiting the site as part of a group tour, and our guide will be this dog, the Wild Rover. Or maybe one of the humans that works for him. As soon as you board the tour bus with large windows and hear the guide through the microphone to point out the locations we begin to pass on route, you'll quickly see how this becomes a performance.

The bus is our auditorium, and Ireland itself is the stage upon which the guides tell their story.



We've had excellent tour guides who can give a nuanced history of popular music in Ireland from U2 forward, and we've also had older gentleman who tell terrible, vaguely (or overtly) sexist jokes. It's the luck of the draw. But it is **always** interesting to see how the guide transforms the Irish landscape into a story for a bus full of people with their eyes glued to the windows.

We are leaving **ultra** early today, so if you snooze a bit on your way to the Cliffs of Mohr (our first stop), no problem. We'll spend 2 hours at the site, and once we board the bus again, that's the point to start thinking about the guide's performance. There will also be a stop at the Burren National Park before we arrive in Galway. If you are prone to motion sickness, maybe bring some Dramamine; big bus + small, winding roads.



Galway is the cultural capital of Ireland, and you'll have fun exploring. The tour offers a 30 minute walking tour, but this will be optional. Take your 2 hours in Galway and do what you like! Then feel free to snooze on the drive back to Dublin.

IMPORTANT: Listen to the guide's instructions before each stop, set your watches, and be back at the designated time. We will not be the reason why the tour is late leaving any of the destinations. It will be a **LONG**, fun day; pack a bag for the entire day, including a charging cord for your phone. The bus has wifi.

#UKinMay assignment:

- Post an image of a "wild rover."