

School Tour to Barcelona

On Friday 21st of April, 93 Second Year Ardscoil na Mara students and 12 teachers departed Tramore and travelled to Barcelona for 6 days. The sense of anticipation and excitement was palpable as students gathered in the school foyer and were waved off by their parents and guardians. Throughout the tour students were kept active and engaged as they enjoyed numerous activities and adventures and got a chance to experience a trip that they will no doubt remember and reminisce about in years to come.

The first day in Barcelona was action packed. After a hearty breakfast at the Hotel Calypso and a stroll along the local beach, the touring party were met by their tour guides and departed the hotel at 12:40. Students were treated to a guided tour of Barcelona and took in some of the city's most beautiful landmarks and cultural areas, the tour included stops at La Sagrada Familia, The Gothic Quarter and Cathedral, Passeig de Gràcia and Casa Mila before students were given some shopping time at L'Illa shopping centre. By 19:00 the touring party had worked up a healthy appetite and enjoyed dinner at 'The Hard Rock Café'. The atmosphere at dinner was fantastic and everyone was in great spirits. Tour leader Mr. Scott had identified a number of students whose birthdays fell during the tour and he presented them with presents after dinner, he also organised some after dinner entertainment in the form of party games which all the students really enjoyed. Hunger now satisfied the next stop was the Barcelona fountain display where the crowd was entertained by a number of street performers before the spectacular main event.

Day two did not fail to disappoint as again students were kept active throughout. The bus departed the hotel at 09:30 and headed for Barcelona FC Camp Nou. Students were very impressed by the stadium, many stating that it was the highlight of their trip. After lunch at the Camp Nou we made our way to Montserrat, the beautiful Benedictine monk mountain retreat located about 1 hour North West of the city of Barcelona. Here we were treated to some spectacular views and a cable car journey to the top of the mountain. To finish off the day students enjoyed an evening's bowling after dinner.

Excitement levels were high on Monday morning as students were looking forward to spending the day at Porta Ventura theme park where they enjoyed some of the highest and most thrilling roller coasters in Europe. Before our return flight on Tuesday we made the most of our final day in Barcelona. Our first stop was the CosmoCaixa Science Museum, which included an amazing Amazon Rainforest reproduction. We then travelled to Barcelona Zoo, followed by a stop at Maremagnum Shopping Centre for dinner, the bus then departed for the airport at 19:00. Students landed in a bitterly cold Dublin airport in high spirits having enjoyed some fine weather and a fantastic tour.

