



◇ Ireland（アイルランド）

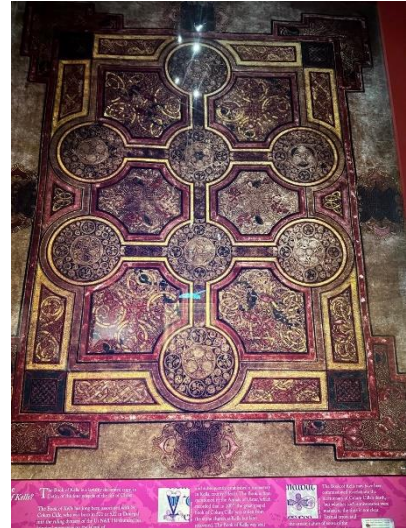
ルクセンブルクから空路ダブリンへ。分かっているがそうした訳ではないけれど、2022年（最新）の世界の一人当たりの購買力平価 GDP ランキング 1位はルクセンブルク、2位がアイルランド。



ダブリン城



トリニティ大学図書館



現在、修復・保存プロジェクトが進められており、すべての書籍等は特別な倉庫に移動中。オーディオガイドによると、一生に一度しか見ることのできない歴史的な大仕事が行われている（と慰められている気がしないでもない）のだそうです。

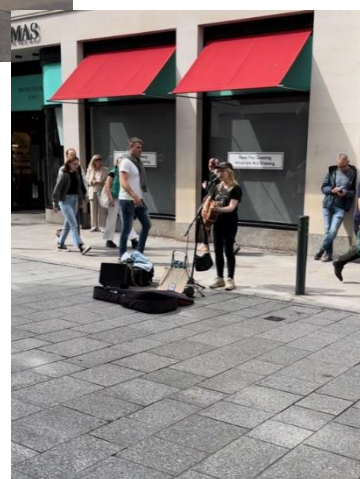




ダブリンのテンプルバーと呼ばれる一画では、店の至るところからライブ音楽が流れてきます。音楽の好きな国民性だということがよく理解できます。



路上ライブもたくさん見かけました

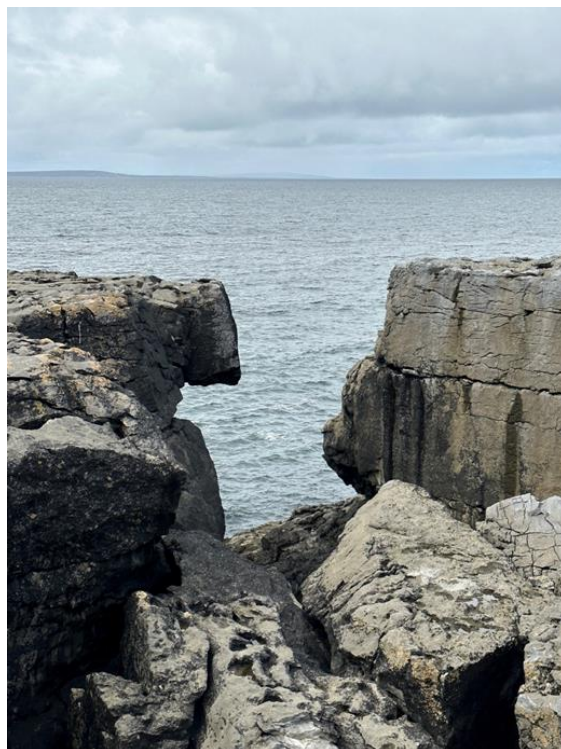


ライブ音楽を聴きながらアイルランド産ビール片手に食べた Bangers and mash



モハーの断崖

モハーの断崖からゴールウェイに向かう
途中（ドゥーリン近辺）
沖に見えるのがアラン諸島



◇ Northern Ireland (北アイルランド)

Trip to Northern Ireland(5時間前のツアー・キャンセルにもなんとか対応！)



I had made a booking for the "Giant's Causeway & Belfast One-day Rail Tour." Since my hotel was close to the meeting point of the station, I had scouted the meeting place the day before and went to bed early for the tour. As I rose around 3 am, and checked my email, I found a message stating that the tour had been

canceled because it didn't meet the minimum number of participants. The time stamp was 2:12.

I hadn't expected to receive a cancellation e-mail with less than 24 hours' notice, but I had already made up my mind that if it got canceled, I would go to Belfast by myself, not by tour. There were a few slight hiccups even before I got on the bus to Belfast, but anyhow I was able to catch the 5:25 am bus and reached Belfast around 8 am.

When I went to the Visit Belfast bureau in front of the city hall, I was fortunate to be told that there were available slots for a day tour to Giant's Causeway, so I decided to join it.





北アイルランド最北部の島
Rathlin Island



Giant's Causeway



I was quite interested in Belfast, having also watched "Belfast" nominated for the Best Picture at the 2022 Academy Awards, and was inquisitive about the current situation there. There was no border control when the bus crossed the border into Northern Ireland or upon arrival in Belfast. From leaving Dublin to returning, I never had to take out my passport. When I entered a coffee shop and saw the prices displayed in pounds, I realized that this was indeed a part of the United Kingdom.

The city of Belfast was incredibly peaceful, completely different from the image I had in mind of Northern Ireland while I was in Japan. I had always believed there was tension in the city, and it appeared absurd to me that I had been worried about visiting Belfast alone.