

Tourism in the West of Ireland - 2019 Q4B

The Irish region that I have studied is the West of Ireland. Tourism in the West of Ireland is extremely important to the area as approximately 66% of people in the West of Ireland are employed in the tertiary sector.

Natural Attractions

One of the factors that influences the development of tourism in the West of Ireland is its natural, unspoilt scenery. This region is famous for its beautiful landscape and this attracts tourists from all over the world. Many tourists like to visit the region's bays, which were shaped by the Atlantic ocean. Some people have set up surfing schools in these areas in recent years to encourage surfers from around the world to visit the region. This has furthered the development of tourism in the area.

The west of Ireland is possibly most famous for its scenic mountains and rolling green hills. These landscapes attract tourists who are interested in hillwalking, nature and geography. Connemara National Park is very popular with tourists as it has almost 3000 hectares of woodlands, grasslands, bogs and mountains.

Initiatives such as the Great Western Greenway, which is a cycling and walking trail along the west coast of Ireland, have been set up to help develop tourism in the area. Many companies have also set up boat trips on the River Shannon, to cater to tourists who are looking to experience the natural beauty of the river.

Cultural Attractions

In addition to its spectacular scenery, the West of Ireland is also rich in culture. The West of Ireland contains the country's largest Gaeltacht area; Connemara Gaeltacht, which attracts approximately 20,000 students each summer who hope to learn the country's language and culture. Galway City is a very popular tourist destination. In 2020 it was named the year's

European Capital of Culture. Every year, events such as the Galway Arts Festival and the Galway Races attract tourists to the city. The Galway Races generate approximately €70 million each year. There are also several popular golf courses located in Galway, attracting golfers from all over the world. In 2009 the motorway M6 was built which connected Dublin to Galway, attracting international tourists from Dublin airport and domestic tourists. Rail routes also travel from Galway to Dublin regularly. These transport links to Galway City in the West of Ireland have influenced the development of tourism in the area greatly. Knock Airport in Co. Mayo also allows foreign tourists to fly directly to the West of Ireland. This area welcomes many religious pilgrims to the area of Knock, both from Ireland and international.