

Profile: Rob Allen

Hometown:

Auckland, New Zealand

Program:

Work Ireland

Tell us about where you lived and what you got up to in Ireland?

I lived at Harolds Cross in Dublin for a year which was a magnificent spot, close to town and above a dinky old pub named Peggy Kelly's. I worked for ASH Animal Rescue to start with selling toys on the street and ended up travelling the country with some great people from around the world in a rental car. I then worked for a company who rented sunbeds and fitness gear for 8 weeks as a delivery boy and repair man. After that I worked at Hells Pizza in Dublin for 9 months. I worked in all areas of the restaurant and even managed it for a while. After saving for 1 year we bought a campervan in Holland and travelled 13,000 kms over 5 months through about 11 countries. EXPERIENCE!

What are some of the experiences that you had which made an impact on you?

- Meeting all sorts of people from around the world and opening my eyes to different cultures and ways of life.
- Living on "the bones of my ass" trying to get by day to day while doing charity work on commission.
- Drinking Guinness with the amazing locals. I've never had so many fun nights out.
- Bumping into kiwis and ozzies all around Europe and gaining some friendships that will last for life.



Were there any times that were hard?

Sure, but the good times outweigh the bad hands down. I was unemployed for weeks on end due to the economic climate (you just have to keep trying). Constantly saying goodbye to traveller friends was tough too! (thank god for Facebook..) I'd say the worst bit was leaving Dublin myself!

Top 3 experiences so far?

- 1) Fat Boy Slim gig at Marlay Park. Insanity.
- 2) Delivering pizza on a 50cc scooter in heavy snow and -12 degrees.
- 3) Working at the U2 gig at Croke Park, Dublin as a Blackberry promoter and getting free pitt-passes nightly. We even walked on stage as volunteers along side Bono and the crew.

How did you find employment?

I found the charity job on the USIT (IEP) notice board in Dublin. I found the U2 job through Verve Marketing which was also advertised in USIT (IEP). I met a guy at U2 who offered me the sunbed job. As for the Hell Pizza job I walked in with my CV and scored a job on the spot.



WORKING ADVENTURES WORLDWIDE

Did you find Ireland a good base to travel throughout the rest of Europe? Where did you go and what bargains did you find?

We didn't travel from Dublin as a base, instead we saved and travelled at the end of our visas.

Do you have any advice for someone who wants a Irish adventure?

People make the place! Friendly folk are certainly not hard to come by, just put yourself out there a bit (this coming from a pretty shy chap).

Did you have a good experience going on Work Ireland with IEP and did you feel supported by them?

Yes they were great with good advice, support and super value.

Did you find USIT helpful and did you use the inbound center?

Yes we spent a lot of time at USIT on the computers, talking to people, using the facilities and checking the job listings.

What did you find valuable in going to Ireland on an IEP program?

It was just nice to know you had people to talk to when you needed advice.

What is something unexpected/different/strange about Ireland compared with other places you have lived?

Everything, you can't explain this one 'til ya get there...

What is next for you?

London, mate!

