

2011 - IRELAND

30 May 2011



Fermanagh Lakelands

We savoured the peaceful waters of Lough Erne and a morning of sunshine. I even stripped off like the locals do when the sun comes out.

A SLOW DAY

After a very late night solving banking issues back home we decided to sleep in, set off later than normal and only travel a short distance today. The 9 hours time difference between here and Australia can be problematic. We were extremely thankful that we had strong wifi access at our B&B because we needed to use Skype to make numerous phone calls to Australia. On the whole, when the internet signal is strong, Skype has been a great communication tool for us, but it has also had its moments, especially when our phone calls don't get through. This time everything worked well - thankfully.

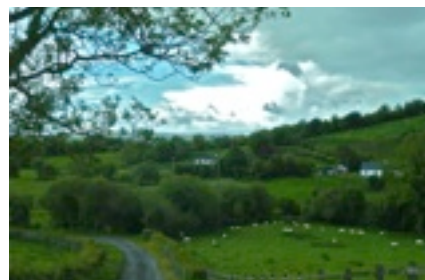
RUINED CASTLES

The drive along Lower Lough Erne was dotted by a number of small castles that were built about the same time - around the start of the 17th century. They are all in ruin today. The first castle we came to was Tully Castle. Tully was ransacked and destroyed by the British soon after it was completed. The soldiers slaughtered the inhabitants of castle's nearby village (69 Irish women and children and 16 men) but surprisingly spared the castle owners.

Monea Castle did not share the same fate but it was also destroyed during prolonged conflict between the Irish and their British conquerors.



Enniskillen Castle



Green lakeside farms



Innovative shoe cleaner

Petrol in both Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic is expensive - around \$A2.10 per litre - about the same price as bottled water!





Magnificent scenery alongside Lough Erne



Tully Castle ruins

FLORENCE COURT

We spent an hour walking around this georgian estate. Unfortunately we were too late for the house tour, but the rain held off as we walked around the extensive gardens and viewed the old creamery, laundry, stables and water

wheel. Very impressive old memorabilia. The garden was one of the nicest we had seen. It was full of azaleas and lovely trees. The outbuildings were in terrific condition. We then drove on to Enniskillen where we booked into a B&B for an early night.



Florence Court



Local demented sun worshipper



Nationally trusted worker?



Tully Castle

