

Andorra Ski Trip 2023

In the early hours of Monday the 2nd of January 38 students and 6 teachers from Colaiste Muire set off on our bus journey to Dublin Airport. Almost everyone was soundly asleep as the bus pulled into Dublin Airport, we then boarded our Aerlingus flight and we were on our way to Barcelona. We arrived in Barcelona approximately around 9:45 (10:45) Spanish time. Yet our day of travelling was still not over, we then took an approximately 3-hour bus journey to Andorra. As we arrived into Andorra, we were all blown away by the mountainous terrain surrounding the town of Andorra la Vella.



We arrived at our hotel, “Hotel Diplomático”, and we all got put into our rooms. We then took a bus journey up through the town to a ski shop where we were all fitted and collected our gear. After our long day of travelling’ we all rested in our rooms till it was time for dinner at 8 o’clock.

The next morning at around 7 o'clock, we all went down to have our breakfast in the hotel. We then brought our gear with us from the hotel onto to a bus which took us up through the town to where we would get the gondola up the mountain. We were all a bit worried as at this point there was no sign of snow but as we took the gondola further and further up the mountain, beautiful snowy terrain appeared before us and soon enough we were completely surrounded by white, powdery snow.



Our skiing lessons started at 10:00 and we were put into small groups with various different coaches to start off with and see our abilities. The majority of the students had not skied before but began to pick it up very quickly. We had 2 hours of lessons in the morning from 10:00 to 12:00, we had lunch on the mountain from 12:00 to 14:00 and then another 2 hours of lessons from 14:00 to 16:00. We were all very tired by the end of this, but that didn't stop us from having various activities throughout the week in the evening times, including: game night, bowling, quiz night and a disco.

Everyone progressed as skiers throughout the week, as well as the teachers, we went to different mountains on trails, taking chairlifts to

great heights and saw amazing views. We were split off into various groups according to abilities and progression speed and everyone was pushed to do the best they could and achieved great and difficult slopes by the end of our time there. We made new friendships, became closer and even developed friendships with each of our instructors who were amazing.





Although it was a trip of a lifetime, there were a few bumps along the way. On the third day 17 students and 1 teacher had all fallen very ill. Only 21 students and 2 teachers went up the mountains that day. While 3 other teachers stayed back to care for the rest. We all were very worried and hoped that all the students and teacher were okay. Overnight many recovered but unfortunately some did not, there was still a lot of students who missed the fourth day on the mountains.

Luckily by the fifth day most were recovered and feeling a lot better that they could return to the mountains and take part again. Fortunately, on our last day, which was the long day of travelling, everybody was feeling a lot better and nobody was ill on the journey back from Andorra.

On our last day, we went to the centre of Andorra la Vella and did 2 hours of shopping before returning back to the hotel at around 14:00 to collect our things and take the bus back to Barcelona. Almost everybody was exhausted by the end of the long 5 days and slept soundly on our travels back. As we were in Barcelona Airport, the teachers put together an awards ceremony for the students who really stood out to them on the trip. After, we then got our 21:30 flight back to Dublin and around 03:00 in the morning we arrived back in Cobh. Although we were all very happy to be back home in our own beds with our families, we all missed Andorra and skiing very much and would all say it was a fantastic trip.