

Holiday local: entry 1

County Fermanagh is almost seen as a unknown county in Northern Ireland, with many people forgetting that it not only exists, but has many great places to visit on a day out.

In late March, my family and I decided to take a day trip to Castle Archdale Country Park. We often visited this place when I was little but we hadn't been there in a few years. So, I threw on my comfiest outfit, packed some snacks, and we got on the road.



We had ourselves a little adventure because we decided to take a different route to get to our destination, so we didn't really know where we were going at one point. However, the result was that our journey took us through some areas with stunning scenery despite the dreary day that it was.

When we arrived, we had our snacks, took a little walk around and watched the birds for a while. We were limited on time on this day, so we didn't get to do everything that we wanted to do, but we were surprised at how many activities there were to do.

There are plenty of nature walks through woods and beautiful gardens. There are also kayaks for hire during the summer months. There's also a caravan/glamping area with great amenities so it's a great place to spend a weekend.

It was a peaceful day, which showed me how much there is to offer in your local area if you know where to look.



Holiday local: entry 2

This week, my family and I decided to visit the North Coast in Northern Ireland. So, on a cool but bright Saturday Spring morning, we packed ourselves a picnic and set off mid-morning.

We arrived about an hour and a half later and had our lunch. After that, we decided to take a walk along a coastal path near the beach as the weather was nice. However, as we headed off, the sun seemed to immediately disappear, and clouds began to gather as a rainstorm moved in. Luckily, we had our raincoats and decided to keep going and we made the short walk down to the path.

As we walked along it, we had a stunning view of the choppy sea being whipped up by the wind and seagulls attempting to stay on course as they searched for their next meal. However, as we headed to the top of the hill at the end of the path, the rain stopped, and beautiful, vibrant blue patches of sky and beams of sunlight began to break through the dark grey storm clouds.

I grew up walking regularly on this path and know it well. It's a lovely, relaxing walk no matter if the sun is shining or the rain is beating down on you. When you look out into the distance, ahead of the waves, you can usually see Mussenden Temple, perched atop the cliffs. In case you didn't know, this small temple was built in the 1780s by the then Earl-Bishop of Derry as a summer library for his niece.

Nowadays, it's part of an expansive estate owned and managed by the National Trust. If you ever get a chance to visit, you should because it's brilliant.

This day out reminded me that my region is full of wonderful places to explore, and you don't need to travel far to make beautiful memories and have magical experiences.

Whether you're looking for places rich in history or natural beauty, you are guaranteed to find it on the North Coast. I hope to make some more trips to the area to learn more about the local history and explore the landscape further.

If this inspired you to explore more of your local region/area, my advice is to look at tourist websites for your local area or websites such as the National Trust to find out about the places you could explore near you!

Holiday local: entry 2

