

February 2008: Camp Juice Snowboarding

We began an excellent week when all twenty-three congregated at Stevie's parents house, a period home from the sixteenth century just beside Bunratty Castle. In eager anticipation and excitement of our early start the following morning, and awe & wonder at this beautiful home, we were very grateful for the hospitality and kindness given to us by the Mayo man's family!

Saturday morning saw a bleary eyed bunch of travellers pack into the bus, head to the airport and shuffle through all the appropriate checks while making new friends from Mayo, Sligo and Cork alike. Arriving at Krakow airport, we were greeted by a very sunny bunch from our company "Sunshine World" and headed to our destination amidst the traffic of the midterm season.

Our chalet was a welcome sight, and even more welcome as we discovered our en-suite cosy rooms and place to ourselves. The girls were even more delighted to discover the 'jacuzzi!', and later to discover the mood setting pink, blue and yellow bathroom lights-complete! As soon as all were settled, we headed in a b-line for our rentals; snow boots and snazzy boards! Vitals in hand, we returned to the chalet for an early dinner... the first of the sausage shaped pork delights!

That evening we got to know one another better and played lots of random games including a name game that will forever remind me of **Ben Johnson** the **Boomerang Jacelope!**

The theme for the week was **Life on the slopes** and each morning we looked at a particular word in relation to both snowboarding and life such as; commitment, courage, teamwork, perseverance, steadfastness, and love. Each evening, these themes were developed by looking at the book of Nehemiah. Following this the small groups met to discuss the theme. These times were a wonderful opportunity to chat and get to know one another, as well as really having conversations that made us all think and question and wonder at the works of God.

Each day we visited a new slope and had opportunity to try out our newfound skills acquired from the classes each day. The company catered for all individuals of the group depending on whether they were beginners, intermediate or advanced and we had so much pain, mangling our bodies in the name of fun and learning! It's all very laudable but the rationale is really quite hard to decipher... Each day we would drag our aching limbs out of bed and each day we would try and try again to accomplish some new skill and landing on the "sore bit" each time! But it was fun, and my goodness how fast people got good! That being said, I don't think anyone could honestly argue that they managed to 'get' the button lifts!

The most spectacular moment of the week must have been when we took the gondola up to the peak of one of the Tetra Mountains. Having been cloudy on the way up, we didn't imagine it would clear, but after an hour at the top having lunch, within about 20 seconds, the sky cleared to set the blue background for the gleaming snowy mountain views in all directions, what opportunity to marvel at God's creation. At a height of 2,000metres, we walked along the ridge of the mountain and couldn't but be awestruck at the magnitude of the mountains and the pleasure the ride down would bring!

If glasses were to be raised I would raise them to the friendships and times spent, the experiences shared and the opportunities had, being a perfect semblance of the Lord of Lords, who's purpose is perfect and his care for us is endless.

Carolyn Smith

Feedback from young people about Snowboard Trip

It ain't over yet and can't wait 'til next year!

Was really good in lots of ways, made new friends, kept old ones and learned to snowboard
I love Mark and Stevie, thank you for looking after us, 'twas perfect!

Ah it was great craic, one of the best weeks ever, can't wait for the next one.

It was sooo fun. Totally awesome dude!

Best thing was everyone got on together so well. Thanks a mil.

Had a great week, thanks for making me come Clive.

Had so much fun. A really nice group of people, can't wait 'til next year!

One of the best hols ever, great craic, can't wait 'til next year again!

I love you guys xx

Best holiday ever, great craic, next year again!!

My favourite holiday ever. Don't want to go home. Please do it again next year! Thanks guys!

Thank you so much for looking after me Emer, really great camp, love all you guys, next year again!!

Best experience ever, All the leaders and guys were so genuine. A really unforgettable experience xxx

Great craic, best fun in a long time, can't wait for the next one!!!

'Twas great, I'd do it again next year!!

Great craic, Can't wait 'til next year!

Can't wait 'til next year, thank you leaders. Good craic!!

Great would defo do it again!!

Thanks Stevie and Emer for telling us about it. Was the best trip ever!!!

Cheers Ben for helpin' us all on the slopes, really helped a lot!!

Was a great week, thanks to everyone!!

