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JOYCE COUNTRY & WESTERN LAKES UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK • CONG, CO. MAYO, IRELAND

Leaving Cert & A-Level Geography Field Trip Itineraries

Curriculum-aligned physical geography & Geographical Investigation stays at Lakeland House, Cong, Co. Mayo, Ireland

Accommodation: Lakeland House (up to 60 people in private ensuite rooms & shared dorms with shared bathrooms) + Michaeleen's Manor (up to 20 people) | **Season:** Groups welcome from Easter until the end of September (ideal in April, May, June & September)
Catering: Catered meal packages (breakfast, field packed lunch & evening dinner) or self-catering | **Guiding:** Local guides arranged on request

Option A: Sample 2-Night / 2-Field-Day Leaving Cert Geography Trip

Focus: Karst Processes, Subterranean Drainage, Glacial Landforms & Geographical Investigation Data Collection

Time	Arrival Day (Overnight 1): Check-In & Evening Orientation
Afternoon / Evening	**Arrival & Check-In at Lakeland House:** Settle into rooms, optional evening dinner, and introductory Geopark briefing in our sitting room / mini-cinema. *(Overnight 1 at Lakeland House & Michaeleen's Manor)*

Time	Day 1 (Overnight 2): Karst Hydrology & Limestone Weathering (Cong & Lough Mask)
8:30 AM	**Breakfast & Field Packed Lunch Collection** at Lakeland House, then meet your local Geopark guide.
9:30 AM	**Cong Woods & Pigeon Hole Cave (Walking Distance):** Examine Carboniferous limestone bedrock, swallow holes, dry river valleys, and subterranean drainage descending into Pigeon Hole Cave.
12:30 PM	**Picnic Lunch & Cong Spring:** Observe one of the world's largest karst springs (3 million m³/day at low flow), where underground water from Lough Mask emerges before flowing into Lough Corrib.
2:00 PM	**Lough Mask Shoreline Epikarst Study:** Short coach transfer to study textbook chemical weathering—limestone pavement, clints and grikes, *eggbox pitting*, upward-dissolved *tube-karren (röhrenkarren)*, and globally unique *boulders in their sockets*.
5:00 PM	**Return to Lakeland House:** Evening meal in our group dining room.
7:00 PM	**Evening Geographical Investigation Workshop:** Supervised sitting-room session for field sketching, data logging, and workbook write-ups. *(Overnight 2 at Lakeland House & Michaeleen's Manor)*

Time	Day 2 (Departure Day): Quaternary Glaciation & Rock Cycle (Joyce Country & Killary Fjord)
8:30 AM	**Breakfast, Room Check-Out & Packed Lunch Collection** at Lakeland House.
9:30 AM	**Corr na Móna & Maam Valley:** Stop to examine folded metamorphic Dalradian Marble (rock cycle comparison) before travelling through a classic glacial U-shaped valley.
11:00 AM	**Killary Harbour (Leenane):** Study Ireland's only true fjord (over-deepened to −40 m behind its terminal moraine) alongside the flat-topped glacial lake delta above Leenane.
12:30 PM	**Packed Lunch** overlooking Killary Fjord.
1:15 PM	**Owenbrin Valley & Lough Nafooey:** Identify glacial corries (*The Deircs*), lateral and terminal moraines, drumlins in Lough Mask, and sharp V-shaped glacial meltwater channels on Aill Dubh.
2:45 PM – 3:00 PM	**Mid-Afternoon Departure for School** (or return to Lakeland House for optional 3rd overnight extension).

Option B: 3-Night / 3-Field-Day Comprehensive Extension

- **Arrival Evening + Days 1 & 2:** Full Cong Karst Trail and Quaternary Glaciation Tour as outlined above, with two evening Geographical Investigation write-up workshops.
- **Day 3 (Following Overnight 3):** Morning visit to **Lough Carra** (calcite-precipitating marl lake ecosystem and alkaline habitat study) *or* the **Kilbride Peninsula** (ancient underwater volcanic pillow basalts, marine transgression fossils, and Doon Rock Fault), followed by packed lunch and **mid-afternoon departure**.

Why Teachers Choose Lakeland House: Capacity for up to 60 people in a mix of private ensuite rooms and shared dorms with shared bathrooms (plus up to 20 people at adjacent Michaeleen's Manor) • Catered meal packages (breakfast, field packed lunches & evening dinner) or self-catering • Laundry/drying facilities • Sitting room, mini-cinema & free WiFi • Free on-site coach parking.

Groups welcome from Easter until the end of September — Contact us for prices based on your group requirements:

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Websites: **www.lakelandhouse.net** | **www.michaeleensmanor.com** | **www.congholidaygroup.com**