

Get in training for the Camino Way with a walk in Wicklow and a bowl of paella



Holiday snaps

BY JIM MURTY

I BLAME Mark Zuckerberg. You're cramped on a bus or train on your way to work and someone you barely know posts on Facebook to say they're at the airport – off to sunny climes – again! Yes, they usually stick an annoying emoji on it too – a smiley face with shades. I resist the temptation to add a comment and I definitely don't give it a like. And then this Monday, an acquaintance sets me the challenge to name all the countries I have visited. Of course he had been to 238, if I remember correctly. On getting to work I checked and found out that there are only 196 in the world. I'm not sure that Babylon still exists – and Atlantis definitely never did! All of which got me thinking about what is a very human need to expand our horizons and see ourselves as having a greater place in the

world than the little patch of land from which we hail. Stephen Dedalus did it when daydreaming in geography class and listed Clongowes Wood College/Sallins/Co. Kildare/Ireland/Europe/The World/The Universe. It's healthy and to be encouraged, and without this outward thinking we wouldn't have found Pluto, but let's not treat travel as a fridge magnet-collecting exercise. Less can be more and there's no harm in knowing what you like, and returning there again and again.

■ HOW many of us, for example can say we've been to all 32 counties of this country? And how many of us do not feel slightly embarrassed when a visitor to our shores knows more about our county than we do? I hold my hand up here and admit I'd not heard of the Caminoways.com Walking Festival which sets off from Laragh, Co. Wicklow next Saturday (9.30am). It also came as news to me that it was St James's Day on the 25th – and you'd think I'd know that! Caminoways has two treks – suitable for all walkers (8km); and for trekkers (13km). There will be prize draws and a giant paella. And you can also help out CMRF Crumlin. Price is €20 for adults and €40 for families (two adults and two children under 16). See Caminoways.com.

The site has details for five summer Camino festivals and a Camino tour for beginners: walk and coach.

■ FRANCE commemorates two great Gallic institutions this month... Le Tour, which we feature above, and Bastille Day. Aer Lingus has played a stormer marking Bastille Day by announcing cut-price fares.

- Dublin to Paris one-way from €39.99
- Cork to Paris one-way from €39.99

- Dublin to Nantes one-way from €39.99
- Dublin to Nice one-way from €49.99
- Dublin to Bordeaux one-way from €49.99
- Dublin to Perpignan one-way from €45.99
- Dublin to Lyons one-way from €54.99

- Dublin to Toulouse one-way from €54.99

And as they're in a generous mood, they have extended it further afield.

- Dublin to Frankfurt from €39.99 one-way
- Dublin to Dusseldorf from €39.99 one-way
- Dublin to Berlin from €49.99 one-way
- Dublin to Barcelona from €39.99 one-way
- Cork to Barcelona from €45.99 one-way
- Dublin to Madrid from €39.99 one-way

Book by midnight July 20 to avail of these deals. Travel from September 1 until October 31, 2015. All prices quoted are one-way including taxes. See aerlingus.com

