



Ireland is the perfect place to go for a weekend away. You can fly to Dublin, the capital city on the east coast. You can walk around the famous old streets or by the river Liffey. Tourists can visit the art galleries and the museums in Dublin castle. You can walk around Trinity College – the university that Queen Elizabeth I started in 1592. Dublin is a famous city for its artists and writers.



Trinity College Chapel

You can also travel south to Cork, Ireland's second city. Cork is an important seaport on the south coast. Tourists can get there by train from Dublin, or fly to Cork Airport. You can visit the two cathedrals and the famous Shandon church tower.

The historic city of Galway on the west coast is also good for a visit. There are lots of festivals in Galway throughout the year: an international literature festival, a music festival and a children's arts festival. The Galway Races is a famous horse racing event which takes place every August.

King John's castle  
on the River Shannon



Thomond Park, Limerick, River Shannon



The city of Limerick is on the west coast, between Galway and Cork. You can get a bus from Dublin or fly to Shannon International Airport, 20km north of the city. Limerick is a great sporting town, famous for its rugby. It has an exciting music and modern arts scene, too.

### Questions:

Complete the sentences.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ has got two cathedrals.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ is the capital of Ireland.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ has got a horse racing festival.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ is a great sporting town, famous for its rugby.



**King John's Castle**



**Trinitarian Abbey in Limerick**



## **SYDNEY**

Sydney is the capital of the state of New South Wales. The Australian flag has three elements: The Union Flag in the top left-hand corner, the large Commonwealth star and the five stars which represent the Southern Cross, a constellation of stars.

### **SYDNEY HARBOUR**

Sydney is built on hills surrounding a beautiful natural harbour, Sydney Harbour. The Sydney Harbour Bridge carries trains, road traffic and pedestrians across the harbour to the north part of Sydney. Near the bridge is the Sydney Opera House. Apart from opera, you can also see a theatre, dance and concerts. On 31<sup>st</sup> December, Sydney Harbour hosts the spectacular New Year's Eve fireworks display.

*Sydney Harbour Bridge*



**Sydney Opera House**

## **PARKS AND BEACHES**

Sydney has many parks and open spaces. In the city centre, Hyde Park was originally a racecourse and sporting arena. Just outside Sydney is the 16,000 hectare Royal National Park with walking trails picnic and barbecue areas, camping areas, rivers, rainforests and beaches. Sydney also has beaches in the harbour, in quiet bays and on rivers. One of the most famous beaches is Bondi Beach, a paradise for surfers and swimmers.

## **TRANSPORT**

There is a wide variety of public transport in Sydney. Apart from buses, trains, taxis, in the harbour, ferries take people to and from their places of work. Cruise boats also offer sightseeing tours to visitors.

## **QUESTIONS:**

1. Where is the Sydney Opera House?
2. What can you do in the Royal National Park?
3. What can you watch at Sydney Opera House?
4. What means of public transport are there in Sydney?