



Specializing in Group Travel to Europe, Latin America, China, and Canada for over 20 years

## Family Stay in Ireland and North Ireland

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**Home stay opportunities are a great way for students to learn about Irish culture and traditions. They will discover a new way of life, special customs, and traditional meals. Students are advised to "adapt" and live to the rhythm of Ireland. Certain rules must be respected, however, to ensure a wonderful home stay experience.**

### How Are Families Chosen?

- Families are chosen by our partners in Ireland and Northern Ireland based on the number of rooms available in the house, cleanliness of the house, and past home stay histories.
- Families provide beds for each student as well as planned meals: breakfast, a packed lunch (typically a sandwich, a fruit, a bottle of water) and finally a family dinner in the evening. Sheets will also be provided, however students are required to bring towels.
- Before a family is chosen to participate, they are visited by A La Carte Travel partners in Ireland.

### Location and Details about Families and Home Stay

- The families are typically 10 to 20 miles from the city centers of the cities visited.
- All families are able to accommodate between 2 to 4 students per family. The students are put into families based on gender. Students may share rooms, however each student will have his/her own bed.
- The group chaperones are also placed in families and they will either have shared rooms or single rooms (based on family availability). If chaperones wish to have single rooms, this is possible, upon request.
- On the first evening, the host families will pick students and chaperones from a fixed meeting point and accompany them the last morning to the meeting point with their suitcases.
- The entire group will be hosted in the same city, and typically in the same area of the city.
- Students and parents will receive information regarding their host families 10-15 days prior to departure.

### Group Correspondents

While in their home stay, groups are supported and supervised by a local partner of A La Carte Travel, who will welcome the group at the meeting point on the day of the group's arrival. The local partner will introduce the group to their families and organize the students into their host families. The local contact will be your contact person should a question or concern arise or should the group require assistance. Groups will have the contact information for their local partner prior to travel.

### Home Stay FAQs

- During the time spent in the home stay, students are prohibited to have evening excursions on their own unless the chaperones notify A La Carte Travel prior to their departure. The local partner will then notify the host family that there is an evening excursion planned. Chaperones must accompany students during their planned evening excursions. Engaging in unplanned evening excursions is grounds for dismissal.
- Possession, consumption, or distribution of alcohol, cigarettes or illegal drugs is prohibited during the home stay and grounds for dismissal.
- Chaperones are advised to prepare their students to be respectful to all members of the household throughout their time with host families. Dublin, for example, is a cosmopolitan city and families come from all ethnic and social backgrounds.
- Families will typically provide students with a WIFI code to access their household internet.
- If a student follows a special diet or has food allergies they should notify A La Carte Travel upon registration so the host families are made aware.
- Students who take medication, have allergies, or special accommodations, should notify A La Carte Travel on their home stay application and chaperones and host families should be aware of these.