



OFF TO THE BEACH

JUNE 13, 2012



It's almost summer time and I am starting to book our tickets for holidays! We are going to spend a week at the beach this summer – so far so good.... but this year it is not the Mediterranean we are going to be lounging around, but the West Coast of Ireland! Yikes! I have spent many a cold summer in Ireland and around the age of 13 I vowed to myself that I would never, ever impose this on my children.

Thirty five years later, our tickets are booked and we will be off in the month of July. Conditions have slightly improved in the last 35 years: the cottages now have heating, fleeces have been invented and of course there is now hot water. There will also be a ton of cousins, empty, clean beaches, long days, and spectacular scenery. Still – it is going to be a different type of beach holiday and here is my little list of things we are going to pack.

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1) A good **hoody**: it is the business when you start running outside and need to keep warm.

2) **Plim Soles**: A good pair of sneakers, preferably canvas, as they can be chucked into the washing machine if they get too muddy.

3) **Wellies**: I don't think anyone should ever attempt to head to Northern Europe without a pair of wellies in their bag.

4) **K-Way**: I had totally forgotten about these macs that fold up into a little pouch and hang around your waist! They might be out of fashion but they are such a great idea, especially in a place like Ireland where a sunny day can turn rainy in minutes.

5) **Monopoly**: board games are essential for rainy days inside, Monopoly might have been around a long, long time but it is still one of our all-time favourites. Others include UNO, checkers and go fish.

6) **A beach robe**: essential to cozy into after a dip in the sea.

7) **The carré** (square scarf). I use these all the time for the girls and myself. I tie them into our hair to keep the hair out of our faces, use it around necks to cover from sun and to keep warm. I also use them as makeshift carrying devices, to wrap up treasures like shells, sparkly stones or anything else that can be found on the beach.

And here is a tiny list of things to bring for moms: a pair of **Uggs**, a **thermos**, a **good woolly jumper**, as we need to stay warm and cozy too!

- Emilie

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