

6 BLARNEY CARAVAN AND CAMPING PARK, CORK

Perfect for:

Families or friends looking for a break, which is a fusion of

city activity and nature.

What to do? Located just 8km from Cork city, Blarney Camping Park is well-sheltered and gently sloping, commanding views towards the world famous Blarney Castle and the surrounding countryside.

You can enjoy the scenery, while meandering around the site's beautifully-maintained 18-hole pitch and putt course, which caters for adults and teenagers.

Day trips include the Fota Wildlife Park, the Old Middleton Jameson distillery, Cobh Heritage and the Titanic Centre. Relax with a drink at the end of the day, with a country pub located just 100 metres from the site.

Prices: Unit for two adults costs between €22 and €24. Unit for two adults and two children costs between €28 and €30.

Website: www.blarneycaravanpark.com



7 BALLYNESS CARAVAN PARK, BUSHMILLS, CO ANTRIM

Perfect for: Nature lovers and those looking to relax.

What to do? Ex-

plore Northern Ireland from this award-winning base on the spectacular northern coast. Ballyness is the closest park to the Giant's Causeway, which is perfect for some memorable pics and is sure to take your breath away. It's also within easy access of the Bushmills distillery. If you're looking to spend more time with nature, the area is great for birdwatching, fishing, sailing, surfing and walks on the Blue Flag beaches. A day-trip to Belfast city is also a must.

Prices: Unit for two adults costs £24. Unit for two adults and two children costs between £24 and £26.

Website: www.ballynesscaravanpark.com



Everywhere you go, there you are

We find it very hard to relax and let go, even when we're supposed to be on our holidays, writes **Fiona Hoban**

www.fionahoban.ie

I recently took a week off and headed to Morocco to get a little bit of sun. When we got off the plane we duly headed towards immigration/passport control. It seemed to me that several other planes had landed at the same time because the queues were substantial.

However, there must have been 14 or 15 immigration boxes in service so I assumed it wouldn't take

long for us to get through.

Of course, I was met with the dilemma of deciding which particular queue to join.

Which one is moving the fastest, is it easier to process families rather than individuals, etc. I was tired so I just joined the one nearest to me.

But it wasn't long before I began to muse that I had picked the slowest queue and felt that every other queue was moving faster than mine.

I suppose most people were thinking along the same lines because, let's face it, most people are as nutty as I am.

Having realised that the thought process of "why did I pick the slowest queue?" would not make the queue go any quicker, I relaxed a little, happy in the knowledge that I'd get through passport control eventually.

Such zen-like insight lasted all of two seconds be-

cause I noticed that a rather sly fellow passenger behind me was inching her way up the queue, under the guise of trying to see was there a delay at the top.

Rather than standing behind me, in her rightful position, she had gained ground and was now level with me at my shoulder. "Get back, get back" I wanted to yell at her. Instead, I turned to look at her (who am I kidding, glare at her) but she blithely ignored me and continued to strain her neck as if trying to see ahead to the top of the queue.

I was incensed. Surely to heavens she wouldn't have the audacity to inch ahead of me, what was the world coming to?

I pushed my wheely suitcase in front and slightly to the right of me to ensure it was now also in front of her.

Oh yes, I was marking my territory. If she wanted

to overtake me, she would be blocked by my suitcase. Ha, that'll show her.

It worked. She was stopped in her tracks and inched back to her rightful position in the queue, where she spent the next 20 minutes or so mumbling under her breath, sighing with irritation and commenting to her partner how ridiculously slow the whole thing was.

This is how we relax. This is how we unwind. This is how we holiday.

But we cannot admit this, so we pretend, we edit and we post selfies of ourselves on Facebook telling the world of anonymous friends that we're having a ball in Morocco.

We say that we are taking a break to get away from it all. Impossible. As the saying goes: "Everywhere you go, there you are."

I wonder if the space travellers hell bent on living on Mars realise this? **CL**

CALVES IN THE CLASSROOM

The five winning schools of an ag science student competition* got to see their calves this week

The winning students* attended their training day this week, complete with a tour of the ABP factory in Cahir, Co Tipperary, and a chance to see their calves in Castledermot, where they are currently being reared.

"We are all delighted to be here," said Tim Dunne, chairman of the Angus producer group and a beef farmer from Mitchelstown.

"This will teach the students about the business of farming and open up avenues they never thought possible."

Seeing the calves was the best part of the day, but the factory tour was "really interesting and not what we expected". The whole process is very "quick, clean and efficient".

None of the students

were overcome by the experience. Sacred Heart, Clonakilty, even contacted their local vet to make sure they knew what they were letting themselves in for.

The girls from Presentation Secondary School, Thurles, were fascinated by the technology used to grade cattle. They said it gave them "confidence in how our food is produced" and what shops ABP supply so they can support the Irish beef industry.

The boys from Heywood Community College, Ballinakill, thought it was amazing to see the process and thought it was "very professional". After seeing the calves, they can't wait to take charge of them at the Ploughing Championships.

Unfortunately, Niall Moloney and Kieran Cummins, from CBS Thurles, couldn't make it as they were receiving an award from the Health and Safety Authority for their project on Wiel's disease, but were represented by their teacher Brendan Hogan.

Padraig Doyle and Tommy McGing, from Colaiste Bhríde, Carnew,



The students with George Lee and one of the calves.

had experience of factories before but had never seen meat being minced.

Having had the opportunity to see their calves, the students will go away for the summer to make plans for their projects and will meet again at the Ploughing Championships.

The five winning schools will be presented with five Angus Cross calves, each worth a total of €2,000, at the National Ploughing Championships this September and will rear the

calves for a year and a half before they are ready for slaughter. Each team will do a project about beef rearing and in March 2016 will present their research to a panel, who will select an overall winner. The winner come away with prize to the value of €2,000. **CL**

*The ag science student competition is organised by Irish Aberdeen Angus Producers Ltd in co-operation with ABP Ireland, the Kepak Group and Bord Bia. It aims to raise awareness of the certified Angus beef (CIAB) scheme.