

THE EUROPEAN RUGBY GAP

The European Rugby Gap, ERG, is an option for secondary school rugby players who are leaving school that provides the opportunity for them to learn a language, experience a new culture and primarily play rugby overseas all the while staying with and under the care of a New Zealand family.

The player can be of any level – he does not have to be a 1st XV player – because there is a team here for him.

If however the player is very good and, as a pure rugby experience, ERG provides an opportunity for him to decide if he can make a career out of rugby in Europe, taking into consideration the language and cultural challenges that it provides, once again with the support of a New Zealand family at hand.

WHO IS ERG ??

ROSINA DONNELLY AND BRYCE BEVIN

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Bryce Bevin and Rosina Donnelly are a New Zealand couple who have travelled and worked overseas extensively and now are settled in Getxo (Get – cho) in Northern Spain. They have two children- Brogan who is 17, and is finishing school in Australia then off to Spain, and India eight, who attends a local Spanish speaking school, she is already fluent in Spanish. The family also have a dog called Perro.

Bryce Bevin has been involved in rugby all of his life and is a fulltime professional rugby coach. He played for Auckland, Manawatu and Top 14 in France in the eighties then moved into coaching. He currently is Director of Rugby at the Getxo Rugby Club. He was awarded "Coach of the Year – 2008" in Portugal. In 2009 he received "Coach of the Year" for Spain. He also received Coach of the Year for the new Super Iberian League in 2009. He has previously coached the Spanish National team for 5 years.

In Auckland Bryce coached New Zealand Universities for six years and Auckland rep teams in the under 21 to 23 grades for 7 years. He is a graduate in law, education and physical education. Recently he taught for 5 years at Auckland Grammar School and coached rugby, tennis and cycling as well as

teaching French, English, Social Studies and Science. He speaks fluent French and Spanish. He loves all sports, especially cricket and cycling and tries to play golf when he can. Surfing is in his blood too.

Rosina has owned and operated a very successful café on Kohimarama's waterfront, a wine bar around the corner, and a delicatessen in the same suburb. More recently before joining Bryce in Europe she successfully renovated a number of properties in the Eastern suburbs area. Currently she is focused solely on running ERG and looks forward to providing young people with the opportunity to enjoy and experience another culture while in the safety and comfort of their home. Their home is located in a quiet leafy suburb in Getxo, near the sea, but still only a few minutes walk to town.

Getxo is located in Northern Spain near the French border. It sits in a province called Vizcaya on the coast of the Cantabrian Sea. The people speak Castellano (Spanish) and Euskera (the Basque language). People in this region are friendly and hard working, and they have an exceptional passion for sport. The climate is very similar to that of the North Island in New Zealand. The population of Getxo is approximately 80,000. There are beautiful marinas and surf beaches in Getxo and for miles along the coast towards Biarritz.

THE PACKAGE

We provide

- Flexibility with respect to the duration of the stay – it is over to the client but must be a minimum of one month.
- Pick-up from and delivery to airport
- Twin-share double room and board including continental breakfast, packed lunch, afternoon snack and home cooked hot meals for dinner every day. TV in the room. The room has its own entrance, own bathroom and shower but the boys will have their meals upstairs. If they are out the meals will be left for them to put in the microwave.
- We usually only accommodate two boys at the same time- we suggest two friends may want to come out together, this way they will have someone they know with them. If this is not possible they may room with another rugby-playing boy from New Zealand, Australia, England, USA, Canada, Argentina, etc.
- We provide safes for the boys to keep their valuables, such as their passports and cash.
- Mountain bikes to get around the town, which is very compact. The buses and metro service are excellent and very close at hand if they prefer. Bryce rides a bike around the village.
- All laundry done and we will provide the necessities in the bathroom, all linen, towels and bedding is also provided.

- Jobs for pocket money can be arranged but no guarantees given – best efforts made though. Jobs like giving children rugby classes at schools or teaching them English etc.

Introduction to Getxo Rugby Club team of your age and sports injury insurance.

The cost

- The cost for full room and board is \$NZ 1700.00 per calendar month.
- On making the reservation the client pays the first month and the last month. It can be paid into a NZ Bank account.
- Each month's fee in between the first and last month is payable in advance.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND SOME GUIDELINES

- **Coming and Going? Boys might want to go off touring for awhile and come back so what happens there?** To make it clear and simple it is best if we work in one calendar month blocks so the minimum stay period is one month and the minimum stay- away period is one month also.
- **No alcohol, smoking or drugs** are permitted in the boys' room and no friends staying overnight. Obviously friends can pop around but best to get home by 10pm.
- **Medical and insurance?** There are options; you may organize travel insurance which will cover their entire travel, this can be obtained from your travel agent or private insurer. However while playing rugby they are covered for any sporting injuries.
- **Visas and work permits?** In Spain non-EU visitors may stay for a period of up to 90 days. If they want to stay longer they may do so by renewing their visa. We recommend that you check out the web site for the Spanish embassy in NZ and look under- "NZers travelling to or living in Spain". Best thing is to make inquiries well in advance of your son's travel.
- **Travel agent?** If you do not have your own travel agent Bryce's brother Grant Bevin at Business World Travel in Auckland does all travel for us, our family and our friends. He has done so for 20 years.
- **How can I transfer money to my son?** It's easy. Go on-line to www.westernunion.co.nz and you can simply transfer ON-LINE. The location for your son to pick up the money will be as follows:

CORREOS Y TELEGRAFOS

C/TERRENE 6, GETXO

VISCAYA - 48990

This Post office (above) is very close to our home.

- **What if my son wants to return home early for whatever reason?** A full months notice is required.
- **What if my son has an allergy or illness?** We will need to be informed of any illness, allergy (food or other) or condition that your son has. If he is on medication we can organize a supply from this end- if required.
- **Hungry between meals?** We provide breakfast, lunch, afternoon snack and dinner. If this is not sufficient - grazing is at the cost of the young man and his appetite.
- **What do your "meals" consist of?** The following is a "general idea" of what the day to day meals consist of. They will vary from day to day.
- Breakfast- selection of cereals, toast , fruit and sometimes a smoothie and/or a cooked breakfast.
 - Lunch- filled baguette or sandwich, and baked goods(muffin, banana bread, or slice)
 - Afternoon snack – various.
 - Dinner - (Main Meal) various selections. Homemade hot meals- lasagna, chicken pasta, beef stew, fish pie, spaghetti and meatballs, roast dinners, etc., Bryce is a master on the BBQ and, will dish it up when he can.
 - Drinks- Milk or water is served with dinner.
 - If the boys have some serious food dislikes, we will certainly take this into consideration however the meals will not be solely designed around likes and dislikes.
 - We like plenty of salads and fresh vegetables as well.
- **Will my son need to have a different cell phone, or can he use his NZ /Australian cell phone?** He can still use his phone however will need to buy a new SIM card here.
- **How will my son learn Spanish?** Your son can take lessons which cost approximately 15 euro per hour however he will be playing rugby and generally immersed in the culture, therefore will

pick up the language fairly easily. It is important that each boy gets out and experiences the culture and way of life here.

- **What clothes will he required?** Warm fleeces, wet weather gear for winter and usual Kiwi attire for summer. It is good to always bring a set of warm clothes in the summer as well.
- **What about internet?** There are several internet cafes in Getxo .

TIPS

- **If at all possible when booking your son's travel, try not to have his flight connect through L.A.**
We have found the best route and connections : Auckland, Singapore, Frankfurt, Bilbao.

Below are a few pics of the region where we live.











