By Yvonne Gordon

The story of Che Guevara’s involvement in the Cuban Revolution has been well documented, and even now there is huge interest in the story of the doctor-turned-revolutionary whose image became a worldwide icon. I met his brother, Juan Martín Guevara de la Serna, in Cuba recently, to hear about the new tourist trail which has been developed in Argentina, mapping the places that were significant in Che’s life.

Ernesto Guevara was born in Rosario, Argentina, in 1928, and visitors can now see his birthplace as part of the Caminos Del Che trail. The trail then goes to Misiones to visit Che’s first home (now a museum), where he lived from 1928 to 1929. It also visits the Ernesto Che Guevara House-museum at Alta Gracia in Córdoba province, where he lived for 11 years with his family. The final stop is La Pastora in San Martín de los Andes – where there is another museum dedicated to him.

The Caminos del Che was set up by Juan Martin, who explains that, although some of the stops on the trail are thousands of kilometres apart, there are plans to offer integrated packages in future – and to connect it with other cultural centres in Latin America visited by Che.

The 69-year-old says he gets a surprised reaction when people find out he’s Che’s brother - that he really is normal. That’s the reason he came up with the idea of the trail – he wants people to understand that his brother was also a normal person.

“In Cuba, he’s a perfect guy,” he says. “I am someone who can say that it’s not like that. I give another view... to make people understand that he was a normal person, who then was transformed into the least normal person and that anyone can do that!”

Juan Martin is proud of his Irish heritage – their father was Ernesto Guevara Lynch and his grandmother, Ana Lynch, was a descendant of emigrants who went to the US from Galway. Indeed, Ernesto once said that the ‘blood of Irish rebels’ flowed in Che’s veins.

And Che actually came to Ireland in 1961, a visit that will be celebrated by a Latin-American festival this month.

The second Che Do Bheatha festival, which takes place in Kilkee, Co. Clare, from September 28 to 30, will also focus on the huge Irish influence on many Latin American countries, and will include music, poetry, dance, film and workshops (see www.kilkeeefestival.com for details). Che’s daughter Aleida Guevara, a human rights advocate, will be guest of honour.

For more information on Los Caminos del Che, visit www.loscaminosdelche.gov.ar or www.lapastera.org.ar.

### Ashdown Park Hotel Gorey, Co. Wexford

**Sept 2012 - March 2013**

**Midweek Special**

- 2BB & 3rd BB FREE @ €80 pps
- 3BB & 4th BB FREE @ €120 pps

**November 2012 Sunday - Wednesday**

- 1BB @ €35 pps • 2BB @ €60 pps
- 3BB @ €80 pps • 4BB @ €100 pps

**October Bank Holiday:** 2BB 1D @ €155 pps

Some black out dates apply.

Call Now to Book: 1800 501 901
Web: www.ashdownparkhotel.com

---

As a first-time visitor to the city, it’s the scale of things that really strikes you. The buildings are big - very, very big - while the squares are majestic and also on a grand scale. The Palace Square, for example, with its Alexander Column centrepiece, is jaw-droppingly enormous. And Nevsky Prospekt, the main street, is jaw-droppingly huge. And Nevsky Prospekt, the main street, is jaw-droppingly huge. The Palace Square, for example, with its Alexander Column centrepiece, is jaw-droppingly enormous. And Nevsky Prospekt, the main street, is jaw-droppingly huge.