

ESPERANTO TRAVEL AND EVENTS

Esperanto offers speakers a unique opportunity to travel cheaply and extensively. Tutmonda Esperantista Junulara Organizo (TEJO) offers a useful service called *Pasporta Servo*. Speakers of Esperanto can purchase an address book, which lists the contact details of around 1350 people in 85 countries who are prepared to accept Esperanto-speaking guests into their homes, often virtually for free. For more information, visit www.tejo.org/eo/ps_lingv_en

Young British Esperantists are in an especially favourable position, because there exists a charity, the *Norwich Jubilee Esperanto Foundation (NoJEF)*, whose aim is to give young people the financial means to travel through Esperanto. If you are under 26 and speak Esperanto well enough to write a letter of request, you can apply to NoJEF for the funds necessary to attend Esperanto events, both at home and overseas. When you return, you will have to submit a report to NoJEF about your experiences, but that's hardly much of a catch when you've just had a free holiday! See www.esperanto-gb.org/nojef/nojef-en.htm for further information.

Thousands of Esperanto-related events take place around the world every year. If you visit the *Plena kalendaro de Esperanto-aranĝoj* at www.eventoj.hu you'll start to get a picture of just how many opportunities there are. With so much to choose from, it's hard to know where to go, so here's a list of the biggest and most popular international events:



[Universala Kongreso de Esperanto \(UK\)](#)

This is the largest event in the international calendar, which takes place one week every summer in a different country each year. The first UK took place at Boulogne-sur-mer, France in 1905 when 688 Esperantists gathered to hear Zamenhof speak. Over the course of the last century, average attendance has increased to over 2000 people from a wide range of backgrounds.



[Internacia Junulara Kongreso \(IJK\)](#)

This is the young person's version of the UK. It typically takes place in a neighbouring country, the week after the UK, so there's no reason why you can't attend both if you want to. Attendance is lower, somewhere around the 300 mark, but the atmosphere is probably livelier.



[Internacia Junulara Semajno \(IJS\)](#)

Not to be confused with the IJK, this week-long event takes place in a different Hungarian city each July. There are usually a wide range of excursions and activities to participate in, and Hungary is both a cheap and interesting destination, making the IJS well worth a visit.



[Internacia Junulara Festivalo \(IJF\)](#)

Not to be confused with either the IJK or the IJS, the IJF is an annual festival organised by young Esperantists in Italy. This is a relatively event which takes place one week around Easter each year. The size of the event means it's supposed to be quite intimate, and the location means there's a good chance the food will be excellent!



[Junulara Esperanto-Semajno \(JES\)](#)

A brand new Esperanto event will debut the week after Christmas 2009. JES combines the best bits of two Esperanto events, the [Internacia Seminario](#) and [Ago-Semajno](#), which historically occurred at the same time each year. Now Esperantists no longer have to choose which to attend – JES 2009/10 will take place in Poland and promises to be a great opportunity to celebrate New Year in a fun and friendly environment.

All the above links are available at:

www.jeb.org.uk/memberlinks