

- 2024 -



IRELAND EQUESTRIAN TOURS

CASTLES | COASTLINES | COUNTRYSIDES

- AN ICONIC 5-NIGHT RIDING HOLIDAY -

Castle Leslie Estate + The Causeway Coast

WWW.IRELANDEQUESTRIANTOURS.COM



ABOUT THIS ITINERARY

This 5-Night, “Iconic North Coast” riding holiday is everything that makes County Antrim & County Monaghan world-famous: white sand beaches, rugged coastlines, verdant countryside, enchanting forests, historic castles, mountainous trails, and genuine Irish hospitality!

This holiday kicks off with horseback riding in the lush Irish countryside before heading to the famous Causeway Coast for 2 days of coastal riding. Heralded for its beauty and spectacular scenery, The Causeway Coast includes some of Northern Ireland’s top iconic locations: The Giants Causeway, Dunluce Castle, Carrick A Rede Rope Bridge, and Mussendun Temple. This exclusive itinerary ends with a 2-night stay at Castle Leslie Estate, one of Europe’s premier Equestrian estates!

This itinerary highlights each day – the nights are to do what you wish. There will be plenty of time in the afternoons & evening to explore the area.

Ireland has a vibrant and progressive food scene. Irish dishes are created with locally sourced ingredients or caught directly from cold Atlantic waters. Special dietary requests such as gluten-free & vegetarian can be accommodated.

This itinerary is available year round.





County Antrim

LONDON DERRY ANTRIM

NORTHERN IRELAND

TYRONE

County Monaghan

FERMANAGH

ARMAGH

DOWN

MONAGHAN

SLIGO

LEITRIM

CAVAN

MAYO

LOUTH

ROSCOMMON

LONGFORD

Dublin City

MEATH

WESTMEATH

GALWAY

DUBLIN

OFFALY

KILDARE

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

LAOIS

WICKLOW

CLARE

CARLOW

TIPPERARY

KILKENNY

LIMERICK

WEXFORD

KERRY

WATERFORD

CORK

- WHAT YOU WILL SEE -

CASTLE LESLIE ESTATE

THE CROGHAN

BINEVENAGH MOUNTAIN

KARN FALLS

DOWNHILL FOREST

GORTMORE

BENONE BEACH

MUSSENDEN TEMPLE

DOWNHILL DEMESNE

CASTLEROCK

WHITEROCKS BEACH

DUNLUCE CASTLE

PORTBALLINTRAE

GIANT'S CAUSEWAY

KNOCKLAYDE MOUNTAIN

BALLYCASTLE BEACH

PORTRUSH

RATHLIN ISLAND

MAGILLIGAN POINT

... AND MORE!



ACCOMMODATIONS

North Coast accommodations have been carefully selected to provide our guests with personal service and comfortable en-suite bedrooms. Ideally located in coastal villages along the Causeway Coast, they are the perfect base for this exciting North coast holiday.

Accommodations at Castle Leslie Estate are spacious en-suite rooms located in Lodge, a cut-stone stable courtyard, lovingly restored and imaginatively decorated retaining its period features and original character. All guestrooms in the Lodge have spacious bathrooms include roll top baths and separate power showers, and the magnificent comfortable beds are guaranteed to induce a wonderful night's sleep!

HOW TO GET HERE

This riding vacation takes place in County Antrim on the North Coast of Northern Ireland and the midlands of County Monaghan. Guests can fly into Dublin City or Belfast International Airport.

Once in country, guests may hire a car, use private transport or, in part, use public transportation.

THE HORSES

Ireland is known as the “Land of the Horse” so its no surprise that Irish horses are reputed the world over for their amazing jumping ability, gentleness, intelligence, and stamina. The equine teams consist of Irish Sport Horses, Connemara Ponies, Irish Cobs, Irish Draughts, and even a Clydesdale!

Chosen for their experience and temperament, they're the perfect partners for your Ireland riding vacation.



- DAY ONE -

COUNTY ANTRIM - THE CAUSEWAY COAST

Arrive at the private farm of your North Coast hosts. On arrival Mr. McKinley, members of the farm team and “Sheba”, the Border collie farm dog, will greet you with a warm, genuine welcome before heading to the barn for a stable tour and to meet the team of horses (if you wish, you can assist with grooming and tacking.)

After selecting a horse and a brief riding assessment with the instructors, you will spend 4-5 hours riding out into the wilderness of the North Antrim Hills with its heather clad slopes. Looking down from the top of the farm onto green pastures, take in the magnificent panoramic views over the North Coast and 5 counties of Ireland. (On a clear day, you may even see Scotland!)

You will stop at the glass-sided mountain side cabin, high in the hills where a picture-perfect picnic or traditional afternoon tea awaits you. Enjoy a nice lunch while taking in the magnificent views of the Northern Irish countryside.

Overnight: North Coast

- DAY TWO -

BEACHES, DOWNHILL FOREST, KARN FALLS, GORTMORE

Today's ride begins at Castlerock Beach before heading to the white sands of Downhill & Benone Beach. With a magnificent mountain backdrop, cliff scenery and views across to Scotland & Donegal, you can take a swift canter or gallop across miles of flat open beach towards the lonely Mussenden Temple regally perched 120-feet above the Atlantic Ocean. Inspired by the Roman Temple of Vesta in Tivoli, Rome, Mussenden Temple was as a summer library for Frederick Augustus Hervey, Bishop of Derry and Earl of Bristol and sits behind the ruins of the Earl's 18th century home, Downhill House.

A short trek from Downhill Beach leads to Downhill forest and onwards towards picturesque Karn Falls. Deeper through the forest arrive at St. Mary's Church. Built in 1855, St. Mary's Church is steeped in rich history and legend. One legend recalls a magical cow that could produce unlimited amounts of milk as long as it was kept by the right person.

Our ride finishes back at Downhill, where we load the horses and enjoy a relaxing lunch after an exhilarating ride. You'll be transported back to Ballycastle after lunch.

Overnight: North Coast



- DAY THREE -

DUNLUCE CASTLE, WHITEROCKS BEACH, GIANTS CAUSEWAY

Today's ride begins at Whiterocks beach, named after the white chalk cliffs and caverns that flank this picturesque beach. The west end of the beach is adjacent to the seaside town of Portrush and backs up to the grassy links of the world-famous Royal Portrush Golf Course.

Enjoy some beautiful trots and canters by the sea. After conquering the beach, it's time to storm the 13th Century Castle ruins of Dunluce Castle. Ride along the epic coastline leading to Dunluce Castle before taking a tour of the castle and learning some of its intriguing history (especially the bit about the kitchen & staff plunging into the sea during a storm!)

Continuing on to the tiny harbour town of Portballintrae en route to the Giants Causeway. As you ride through the quaint coastal village of Portballintrae, you'll see the rugged headlands surrounding the Giants Causeway. You'll cross the River Bush meeting the Atlantic for a second beach ride of the day. Breathe in the fresh sea air as you trot and canter across the sand and in the gentle swell of the sea. The ride continues on an old tram trail across sand dunes before arriving at Northern Ireland's most famous site: The Giants Causeway.

This spectacular rock formation – Northern Ireland's only Unesco World Heritage site – is one of Ireland's most impressive and atmospheric landscape features, a vast expanse of regular, closely packed, hexagonal stone columns looking for all the world like the handiwork of giants. The phenomenon is explained in the Giant's Causeway Visitor Experience, housed in a state-of-the-art ecofriendly building half-hidden in the hillside above the sea.

Overnight: North Coast

- DAY FOUR -

CASTLE LESLIE ESTATE

Nestled on 1,000 acres of the undulating Irish countryside, dotted with ancient woodlands and glittering lakes, Castle Leslie Estate is one of the last great Irish estates still in the hands of its founding family. Considered to be one of the finest castles Ireland has to offer, Castle Leslie is the epitome of Irish aristocracy. It is the perfect place to discover the thrill of exploring the countryside on horseback!





The Leslie family motto "grip fast" originates from a famous horse journey by Bartholomew Leslie in the 11th century. His passion for horses was passed down through the ages. Today enjoy a picturesque (and exhilarating) afternoon ride on some of the 21 miles of bridleways on the estate.

The evening is open to do as you wish -- enjoy a pint in Lodge bar or explore the grounds on foot! Be sure to pay a visit St. Salvator's Church, you'll be surprised which famous couple exchanged vows at St. Salvators!

Overnight: Castle Leslie Estate

- DAY FIVE - CASTLE LESLIE ESTATE

Breakfast at Castle Leslie plays a big part of the dining experience! Choose from an array of delectable breakfast dishes created from locally sourced ingredients. From the traditional Full Irish Breakfast to Eggs Benedict, you'll love the breakfast affair at Castle Leslie!

Today you'll have the option of exploring another part of the estate on horseback or head out to the XCountry course for a morning of cross country jumping! The estate offers 300 cross-country jumps including natural obstacles such as rivers, ditches, fallen tree trunks, hedges, stone walls, drops and banks in many shapes and sizes. Don't forget to have your picture taken in the famous lake in front of the castle - it is the perfect keepsake of your castle stay and riding holiday!

The afternoon is on your own -- relax with a spa service in the Victorian Treatment rooms or indulge in Afternoon Tea in the Castle's Blue Room. The evening enjoy Irish country cooking in Conor's Bar or gourmet dining in the 2AA Rosette award-winning Snaffles Restaurant.

Overnight: Castle Leslie Estate

- DAY SIX -

Say goodbye to Castle Leslie. Return to Dublin Airport for your return flight home or next journey.

Slán Abhaile!
(Safe Travels)





MONDAY ARRIVAL RATES



The above rate includes:

5 Nights Accommodation (sharing)**: 3 Nights North Coast + 2 Nights Castle Leslie, 3 Days Riding North Coast + 2 Days Riding Castle Leslie (2 Estate Treks or 1 Estate Trek/1 Cross Country Jumping) + Daily Pickup/Drop off to Ride Locations on North Coast + Horse Hire + Tack & Equipment + Picnic on North Coast + Daily Full Irish Breakfast on North Coast & Castle Leslie x 5 + Lunch at Local Eateries on the North Coast x 2 + Admission to Giants Causeway/Dunluce Castle

(**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$565)

DEPOSIT:
\$750 PER PERSON

(*Single rider rate does not include single supplement)

FLEX ARRIVAL RATES



The above rate includes:

5 Nights Accommodation (sharing)**: 3 Nights North Coast + 2 Nights Castle Leslie, 3 Days Riding North Coast + 2 Days Riding Castle Leslie (2 Estate Treks or 1 Estate Trek/1 Cross Country Jumping) + Daily Pickup/Drop off to Ride Locations on North Coast + Horse Hire + Tack & Equipment + Picnic on North Coast + Daily Full Irish Breakfast on North Coast & Castle Leslie x 5 + Lunch at Local Eateries on the North Coast x 2 + Admission to Giants Causeway/Dunluce Castle

(**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$565)

DEPOSIT:
\$750 PER PERSON

(*Single rider rate does not include single supplement)

SUPPLEMENTS & ADD ONS

NON-RIDER RATE: \$975

(Includes 5 Nights Accommodation (sharing) + Daily Full Irish Breakfast x 5)

RIDING AT CASTLE LESLIE: 2 Estate Treks OR 1 Estate Trek + 1 XCountry Jump Session is included in the itinerary pricing. If you would like 2 Days of XC Jumping: Add \$50 Supplement

EXTRA NIGHT NORTH COAST: \$280 TOTAL (\$140 PER PERSON - SHARING)

EXTRA NIGHT DUBLIN AIRPORT HOTEL OR DUBLIN CITY: PRICED ON REQUEST

RATES DO NOT INCLUDE

Ground Transportation* (Airport Transfers, Transport to Castle Leslie, etc.), Evening Meals, Lunches Not Indicated on Itinerary, Travel Insurance, Activities Not Listed on Itinerary, International or Domestic Airfare, Discretionary Tips.

GROUND TRANSPORTATION

*We do not include ground transportation on our itineraries as some of our guests prefer to rent a car, use public transportation, or hire private transport.

We are partnered with several private drivers and will provide transportation quotes for roundtrip transfers to include: transport to the North Coast, transport to Castle Leslie, and return airport transport.

Alternatively, we can assist with public transportation.

Whatever the preferred mode of transportation, we manage all the logistics so your riding vacation is completely seamless.

PLEASE SEE COMPLETE TERMS & CONDITIONS

