

# IRELAND

EQUESTRIAN TOURS



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### THE CLEW BAY TRAIL

- A 6 -NIGHT WEST COAST RIDING HOLIDAY -

### *County Mayo*

[WWW.IRELANDEQUESTRIANTOURS.COM](http://WWW.IRELANDEQUESTRIANTOURS.COM)



## ABOUT THIS ITINERARY

Overlooked by Croagh Patrick, Ireland's holiest mountain, lies Clew Bay. Quite possibly one of Ireland's most spectacular bays, it is said that Clew Bay contains an island for every day of the year. It is also home to Clare Island, the kingdom of Grace O'Malley, the legendary pirate queen who commanded a fleet of ships and maintained several castles, including those on Clare Island, Achill and Rockfleet.

The Clew Bay Trail gives riders the opportunity to soak in the history and charm of this special region. Your host comes from a long line of passionate horsemen, with the ride's base at the family's award-winning stud farm, which has produced and shown quality horses for decades. Follow the path of Saint Patrick through forests and peat bogs, then to the coast and over mountain passes. This riding itinerary gives plenty of opportunities for good riding and also to enjoy the hospitality and culture of the locals in the village.

This 6-night itinerary includes 5 days exploring the coastal & mountain areas in the West of Ireland from horseback! Explore the charming town of Westport, listen to traditional Irish music in popular local pubs, enjoy some of the best cuisine Ireland has to offer, and, most importantly . . . ride along miles of countryside, mountains, and beaches! This is a progressive ride with the pace varying from slow to fast depending on terrain and weather conditions.

## WESTPORT, COUNTY MAYO

The charming town of Westport is situated on the shores of Clew Bay, an inlet of the Atlantic Ocean, on the West coast of Ireland.

Westport is one of the few architecturally planned towns in Ireland, designed by James Wyatt, a well-known architect of the Georgian Period. The colorful town offers an attractive selection of specialty craft and woolen shops, traditional pubs with live music and an award-winning restaurant & pub scene.

Westport's most picturesque feature is the tree-lined and flower filled promenade featuring stone bridges that cross the river Carrow Beg.

The area is famous for the yearly pilgrimages to Ireland's holiest mountain, Croagh Patrick, which acts as a striking backdrop to this beautiful town.





## ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

Guest house accommodations for this trail have been carefully selected and approved by the Irish Tourist Board for its quality & personal service. The en-suite bedrooms are both comfortable and relaxing. Guests can relax by the open peat fire in the sitting room or in the beautiful landscaped gardens.

Daily breakfast is included in this itinerary including a traditional Full Irish Breakfast. (A typical full Irish consists of Eggs (scrambled, fried, poached), Bacon, Sausages, White pudding, Hashbrowns, Tomatoes, Toast & Butter, Jams, Marmalade.) There is also a selection of cereals, fruit, juices and tea or coffee. Special dietary requirements such as vegetarian, gluten free, and lactose intolerance can be accommodated.

Picnic lunches are included and consist of sandwiches, fruit, snacks, drinks etc. Dietary restrictions can be tailored to individual needs.

Dinner is not included. This allows our guests to choose from the many fine, award-winning restaurants & pubs in Westport for your evening meals.

## HOW TO GET HERE

This itinerary is perfect for those who don't want to hassle with driving in Ireland. Westport is a non-stop train ride from Dublin City! We will arrange train station pickup by the host and transport the accommodations.

Alternatively, guests can fly into Shannon Airport. We can arrange a driver\* to collect you at the Shannon airport and transport you to Westport.

(Bonus: A stop at the iconic Cliffs of Moher on the way!)

*\*Not included in pricing*

## THE HORSES

Ireland is known as 'The Land of the Horse'. A temperate climate and good soil conditions make it an ideal place to raise horses. The ability to cross any country has ensured that the Irish Horse is surefooted and looks after it's rider. The Irish people have a natural affinity with the horse and this is evident in the horses they have. The majority of the trekking horses at Clew Bay have competition experience and have been started professionally by the host family at Drummino Stud.

The horse teams at Clew Bay consists of Connemara Ponies, Irish Sport Horses, Irish Draughts, and Irish Cobs.



*Where You Will Be!*



*Clew Bay*



DUBLIN AIRPORT



SHANNON AIRPORT

DONEGAL

LONDONDERRY

ANTRIM

NORTHERN IRELAND

TYRONE

FERMANAGH

ARMAGH

DOWN

SLIGO

MONAGHAN

MAYO

LEITRIM

CAVAN

LOUTH

ROSCOMMON

LONGFORD

MEATH

WESTMEATH

GALWAY

DUBLIN AIRPORT

DUBLIN

OFFALY

KILDARE

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

LAOIS

WICKLOW

CLARE

CARLOW

SHANNON AIRPORT

TIPPERARY

KILKENNY

WEXFORD

KERRY

WATERFORD

CORK

## DAY ONE

### WESTPORT, COUNTY MAYO

Welcome to Westport, County Mayo!

Check into your accommodations, meet your hosts and head out to explore the charming town of Westport on your own.

*(Meals: None)*

Overnight: Westport

## DAY TWO

### AUGHAGOWER, CURVEY, LANKILL. KNAPPAGH LAKE, MOUNTBROWN

Transfer to Drummindoo Stud to meet your host Padraic Foy, your horse and the other riders. After an assessment ride in the indoor arena, riders and horses are transferred to the village of Aughagower for the Aughagower Ride. This takes you through the villages of Curvey, Lankill and Knappagh Beg where you'll picnic on the shores of Knappagh Lake, then on to Drumhill before returning to Aughagower via Peggy's Boreen. After riding there is a chance for riders to visit the round tower and monastic site which dates back to the 7th century.

*(Meals: B&L)*

Overnight: Westport

## DAY THREE

### CULEEN RIDE: KILLSALLAGH, KINNOCK, DEREEN

Today's ride starts at the village of Culeen for the Culeen Ride. This ride takes you to the west of Croagh Patrick, through quiet country lanes at Kilsallagh and Kinnock and then to bog roads at Dereen where we will have some long canters. Enjoy a picnic on the bog and get to see the harvesting of the bog peat at close hand. You will return via a river crossing at Bellakip to finish the day at Culeen.

*(Meals: B&L)*

Overnight: Westport





## DAY FOUR

### FEENONE RIDE: CARROWNISKEY BEACH

Today's ride begins at Formoyle for the Feenone Ride. This route will take you over a mountain pass, close to a megalithic burial site (one of many in the area), through the Carrowniskey River and onto the bog roads at Feenone. Clare Island, the kingdom of Ireland's famous Pirate Queen who resided there in the 1500,s and the island of Inishturk Island can clearly be seen. The day ends at Carrowniskey beach for a canter and brisk gallop before returning to base.

*(Meals: B&L)*

Overnight: Westport

## DAY FIVE

### SKELP RIDE: CROAGH PATRICK, PROSPECT, TEEVNACROAGHA

Today's ride begins at Cloona just outside of Westport. The Skelp Ride will bring you towards the east side of Croagh Patrick, Ireland's Holy Mountain, which has been a site of worship for over 3,000 years. This mountain path will gives a great view of Clew Bay - which is said to have an island for everyday of the year!

You'll ride through Prospect and enjoy a picnic near the ruins of a holmestead, which dates back to pre-famine times. Then on to Teevnacroagha where we ride in the footsteps of St. Patrick, Ireland's famous Patron Saint, and Brackloon before finishing the day at Cloona.

*(Meals: B&L)*

Overnight: Westport

## DAY SIX

### CARROWNISKEY BEACH & CROSS STRAND

On the final day of 'The Clew Bay Trail', you'll make your way to Doughmakeon to ride the beach at Carrowniskey before crossing the Carrowniskey river and onto Cross Strand. There are ample opportunities to gallop today!







Picnic next to the Clapper Bridge, a prehistoric bridge made from a series of small pillars joined together by stone lintels laid across the top. From here you can see coastline of Connemara in the distance. There are many standing stones in the area dating back to megalithic times. After lunch, you'll along Cross Strand and Carrowniskey beach again before returning to our base where you will say goodbye to your equine companion.

(Meals: B&L)

Overnight: Westport

## DAY SEVEN

Depart Westport.

(Guests may add extra days in Dublin City, Shannon Airport either pre or post Clew Bay Ride)





***The above rates include:***

6 Nights Guesthouse Accommodation (sharing) + Daily Full Irish Breakfast + 5  
Picnic Lunches + 5 Days Riding + Horse, Tack, and Guide + Trail Ride Transfers  
+ + Westport Train Station Pick Up

(SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$410)

DEPOSIT:

\$780 PER PERSON

(NON REFUNDABLE)



NON-RIDER RATE: \$700

DEPOSIT: \$200 PER PERSON

(NON REFUNDABLE)

(Includes 6 Nights Accommodation + Daily Full Irish Breakfast  
+ Westport Train Station Pick Up)

(SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$410)

# 2024 CALENDAR

*(Rides begin on Sunday and ends on Saturday)*

APRIL 7 - APRIL 13

APRIL 14 - APRIL 20

APRIL 21 - APRIL 27

APRIL 28 -MAY 4

MAY 5 - MAY 11

MAY 12 - MAY 18

MAY 19 - MAY 25

MAY 26 - JUNE 1

JUNE 9 - JUNE 15

JUNE 16 - JUNE 22

JUNE 23 - JUNE 29

JUNE 30 - JULY 6

JULY 7 - JULY 13

JULY 14 - JULY 20

JULY 21 - JULY 27

JULY 28 - AUGUST 3

AUGUST 4 - AUGUST 10

AUGUST 18 - AUGUST 24

AUGUST 25 - AUGUST 31

SEPTEMBER 1 - SEPTEMBER 7

SEPTEMBER 8 - SEPTEMBER 14

SEPTEMBER 15 - SEPTEMBER 21

SEPTEMBER 22 - SEPTEMBER 28

SEPTEMBER 29 - OCTOBER 5

OCTOBER 6 - OCTOBER 12

## **SPECIAL NOTES**

This itinerary begins on a SUNDAY and ends on a SATURDAY. Return flight departures should be booked for Sunday or later - this allows ample travel time to Dublin or Shannon in preparation for the return flight home.

## **ADD ON AND SUPPLEMENTS**

**For Dublin Airport Departures:** Additional Night Available  
**For Shannon Airport Departures:** Additional Night Available  
**Dublin City:** Additional Night Available

## **ADDITIONAL NOTES**

**Riding Level:** Must be able to Walk, Trot Canter

**Pace:** This is a progressive ride with the pace varying from slow to fast depending on terrain and weather conditions.

**Weight:** Upper weight limit of 90 kg (200 lbs)

**Group size:** 2 to 5 people (Private groups of 6 to 8 people by request). For groups of 6 or more there is an accompanying backup guide.

**Age Limit:** Children 12 years and over are welcome if accompanied by an adult

### **RATES DO NOT INCLUDE:**

Airport Transfers  
Evening Meals  
Domestic or International Airfare  
Travel Insurance  
Discretionary Tips

## **GROUND TRANSPORTATION/AIRPORT TRANSFERS**

We can arrange airport transfers from Dublin Airport or Shannon Airport to Westport  
(additional pricing)

Car Rentals are available at Dublin Airport & Shannon Airport.

*Direct train service available from Dublin City to Westport - We can assist with train schedules.*