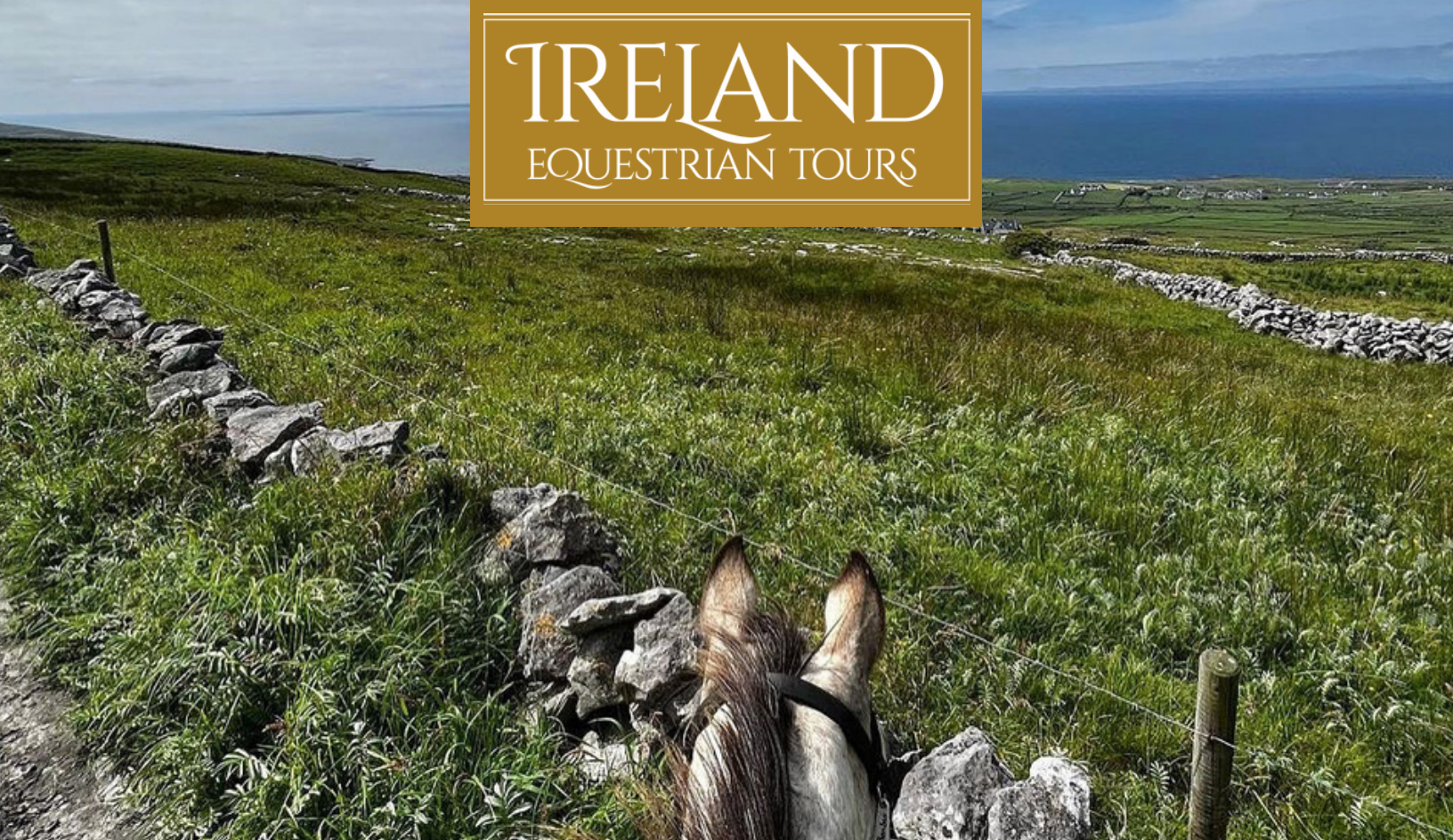


IRELAND

EQUESTRIAN TOURS



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THE GALWAY, CLARE & BURREN TRAIL

- A 7 NIGHT RIDING HOLIDAY -

The Burren Trail

WWW.IRELANDEQUESTRIANTOURS.COM



- ABOUT THIS ITINERARY -

Discover Ireland's diverse nature and colorful history on this exciting 7-Night riding journey!

Beginning at the Shannon River in County Galway, ride approximately 150 kilometers (thats almost 93 miles!) through scenic rural Ireland & the unique Burren region all the way to the west coast! Enjoy a wide variety of landscapes from bog, forest, rivers, lakes and the Burren National Park as you pass by ancient ring forts, tombs, and castles. This stunning ride ends with views of the Atlantic, the famous Aran Islands, the rugged Connemara Mountains and the mighty Cliffs of Moher in the distance!

Riding is available from April to the end of August.

- THIS IS A POST TO POST RIDE -

(Suitable for Novice to Advanced Riders)

- THE BURREN, GALWAY & CLARE, CLIFFS OF MOHER -

County Galway and County Clare are synonymous with rolling hills & fields divided by a latticework of stone walls, quiet country roads. From the shores of Lough Derg and River Shannon, this region is a kaleidoscope of landscapes.

The Burren, or Irish *Boireann*, means "great rock." The Burren is made up of limestone, a porous rock substance formed at the bottom of the sea. Over time, when the plates of the planet shifted, the limestone rose from the sea bed to form much of this unique Irish landscape.

Over millions of years, the plateaus of limestone were exposed to glaciers and several ice ages, resulting in its formation. As the glaciers melted, the icy water moved above the rock and below the surface to create intricate geological patterns. It is these patterns in the stone that make 'the Burren' so unusual.

The Cliffs of Moher are staggeringly beautiful. The entirely vertical cliffs rise to a height of over 700 feet, their edge abruptly falling away into a ceaselessly churning Atlantic below!



Where Will You Be!



The Cliffs of Moher ★

★ *The Burren*

★ *Whitegate*

- THE HORSES -

Renowned for its stamina, versatility and gentleness, the Irish horse provides an ideal companion for an unforgettable vacation. The homebred horses of Whitegate Farm are proud examples of typical Irish breeds: the tall but gentle Irish Draught, the lively and clever Connemara, the fine and energetic Irish Hunter, the beautifully colored Piebald, and the intelligent, comfortable Irish Cob!

- ACCOMMODATIONS -

If you are looking for fairytale accommodations, you're in for a real treat! Nestled in the rolling hills of the Slieve Aughty Mountains, your host's home looks like it's torn from the pages of Hansel and Gretel! The 300-year old tastefully restored farmhouse is filled with charm & character, EnSuite bedrooms are located in hidden nooks and hidden at the top of spiral stairs in storybook turrets. A stone garden cottage is also available for triple accommodation.

You'll spend 4-nights at Whitegate farm and 3-nights in village guesthouse accommodations.

- MEALS -

Most meals are included in this itinerary - see individual days for details.

If you love good food, you're in for a treat! Enjoy traditional & modern dishes prepared by the in-house chef and his team.

Breakfast offers a range of items such as oatmeal, fruit, yogurt, and cereals. Enjoy a hearty full Irish breakfast complete with bacon, sausage, eggs, toast, hot tea, coffee and juices. Lunch is "buffet style" at the farm & served in front of a peat fire or picnic style on the open trail. Evening meals are typically 3-courses with a variety of entrees during the week.

Vegetarian or Gluten Free can be accommodated with advance notice.

- HOW TO GET HERE -

This itinerary takes place on the West coast of Ireland in County Clare.

Shannon Airport is approximately 1 hour from the farm. Dublin Airport is approximately 2.5 hours.

We can arrange host pick up from Shannon Airport, or private transport. Additionally, we can arrange host drop off at Shannon Airport or private transport.

(See Transportation)



-DAY ONE -
(SATURDAY)

Welcome to Ireland!

Your vacation begins at a fairytale farm in County Clare! Your hosts, Bertie & Nicola, look forward to showing you a grand riding adventure! Today is a relaxing day where you can recover from your long journey. Explore the farmhouse willed with nooks & crannies and unique antiques, the breathtaking gardens or head out for a stroll on the well mapped East Clare Walking Trail. You are welcome to explore the stables and meet the horses of Whitegate! This evening, you will get to know all your fellow riders for the week. Enjoy a home-cooked dinner by an open turf fire in the tastefully restored 300-year old Irish stone farmhouse.

(Meals: D)

Overnight: Whitegate, County Clare

- DAY TWO -
(SUNDAY)

After breakfast, you will be brought to the start of the trail where your guide has a hand-picked horse waiting for you! Get acquainted with your horse as you brush and tack up -- don't worry there are always lots of helping hands around you! Head out for an easy ride across the extensive areas of bog land. There we might see local farmers cutting and drying the turf in the traditional way. A Neolithic dolmen - with the legendary name Oisín's and Grainne's Grave - beside the track proves that this area was already mystified about 5000 years ago. Much more recent (about 9th century) are the ruins of the monastic settlement on Holy Island, which can be easily spotted by the typical round tower. Finish the first day ride on one of our fields where the horses stay overnight and we drive back to the guesthouse for lunch. For the afternoon, riders and horses take a rest and enjoy a relaxing evening.

(Meals: B,L,D)

Overnight: Whitegate, County Clare

- DAY THREE -
(MONDAY)

Today's ride brings you up over the hills of the Slieve Aughty Mountains with fabulous views over the majestic Lough Derg and River Shannon. Along the track, you'll pass abandoned farm ruins with miles of stone walls, characteristic of this region.





Hear fascinating stories from your guide of Irelands most significant incident in history: The Irish Famine. About 150 years ago, many farms and villages where left because of the famine --this was the time of the severe potato blight, which destroyed for several years, the sole source of food supply for the rural and poor Irish peasant and their livestock.

After our lunch break in the forest we will head on along the surrounding peaceful trails through the Slieve Aughty Mountains and ride past some rural farms to a new overnight field for the horses.

(Meals: B, L, D)

Overnight: Whitegate, County Clare

- DAY FOUR - (TUESDAY)

Leaving sheltered pasture for the top of the hills overlooking endless woods and grazing land to the north, west and south. Long before we get to the top, you'll spot the sandy shores of Lough (Lake) Graney -today's destination. The beach invites us to splash into the water and ride straight across the refreshing lake! The ride in the later afternoon takes us through the typical farmland of rural Ireland with its verdant green fields and endless old stonewalls surrounding peacefully grazing sheep and cattle.

(Meals: B, L, D)

Overnight: Whitegate, County Clare

- DAY FIVE - (WEDNESDAY)

Today, say goodbye to Whitegate! You'll trek further into the region, head deep into the woods and further westwards overlooking Glandaria, known as the the Valley of the Kings. This wide & fertile valley of the River Shannon was the preferred region of Ireland's Kings. After a picnic lunch break near a typical mountain river, you'll cross the boggy uplands. County Clare unfolds all around you as you enter the Burren National Park. On a clear day, you can even get a glimpse of Galway Bay.

This afternoon the horses will be transferred by lorry across the busy valley to tomorrow's start at the Mullaghmore Mountain in the Burren. You will be staying tonight in the charming village of Corofin, known for its countless pubs and friendly locals!

(Meals: B, L, D)

Overnight: Corofin Guesthouse B&B





- DAY SIX -
(THURSDAY)

The totally different and unique scenery of the world- renowned Burren will accompany you for the next two days. The moon-like landscape of this limestone area bears not only an immensely colorful flora and fauna (and a large number of very rare species), but also reveals a stunning variety of prehistoric settlements. Dolmens and Wedge Tombs line up next to Norman stone fort ruins and Celtic ring forts. Close to a “fulacht fiadh”, an ancient cooking site, you will enjoy a picnic lunch. It is amazing how many eye-catching sites this vast looking landscape can offer us.

The next two nights you will be staying Burren/Lisdoonvarna area, which is famous for its Irish traditional music scene!

(Meals: B, L, D)

Overnight: Guesthouse B&B, Burren Region

- DAY SEVEN -
(FRIDAY)

Today head westwards through the Burren learning about the Dolmen, and the vast (and dangerous) cave systems that dot this area.

You'll lead your horse down along an old Irish famine green road, then rest for lunch overlooking the story telling rocky landscape. After the break we lead our horses up the last hill for the breathtaking view over the Atlantic Sea, the famous Aran Islands and the rugged Connemara Mountains. The extremely rough shore of County Clare stretches out way below us as we enjoy the last canters along the old stone walled tracks on Slieve Elva. In the glittering afternoon sunlight the impressive silhouette of the Cliffs of Moher rise in the distance. Your ride ends near the ruins Near s of Ballinalaken Castle.

(Meals: B, L, D)

Overnight: Guesthouse B&B, Burren Region

- DAY EIGHT -
(SATURDAY)

After breakfast say goodbye to your friends.

(Meals: B)

(*Airport Transfers Available)





The above rates include:

7 Nights Guesthouse Accommodations (sharing), Fully Cooked Daily Breakfast (x 7), Tasty Lunch Buffet/Picnic (x 6), Home Cooked/Traditional Dinner (x 7), 5.5 Days Guided Trail Riding, Horse Hire + Tack + Experienced Guides, Luggage Transport

(SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$260)

DEPOSIT:
\$700 PER RIDER



NON-RIDER RATE: \$1,120

Includes: 7 Nights Guesthouse Accommodations (sharing), Fully Cooked Daily Breakfast (x 7), Tasty Lunch Buffet/Picnic (x 6), Home Cooked/Traditional Dinner (x 7)

DEPOSIT:
\$300 PER NON RIDER

- 2024 DATES -

- This riding holiday begins on Saturday and ends on Saturday -

27 APRIL - 4 MAY

4 MAY - 11 MAY

11 MAY - 18 MAY

1 JUNE - 8 JUNE

8 JUNE - 15 JUNE

15 JUNE - 22 JUNE

6 JULY - 13 JULY

13 JULY - 20 JULY

20 JULY - 27 JULY

3 AUGUST - 10 AUGUST

10 AUGUST - 17 AUGUST

17 AUGUST - 24 AUGUST

24 AUGUST - 31 AUGUST

SUPPLEMENTS & ADD ONS

NON -RIDER RATE: \$1,120

EXTRA NIGHT SHANNON AIRPORT HOTEL or DUBLIN AIRPORT HOTEL:
Priced on Request

GROUND TRANSPORTATION

Shannon Airport Transfers: €55 Per Person/Each Way (cash only)

Loughrea Bus Station Pick Up: €45 Per Person/Each Way (cash only)

Private Airport Transfers: Priced on Request

MISCELLANEOUS

Minimum Age: 12

Weight Limit: 188 lbs.

Western Saddles Available on Request: Limited Availability

RATES DO NOT INCLUDE

Airport Transfers

Travel Insurance

Domestic or International Flights

Discretionary Tips

Food/Beverages Not Indicated on Itinerary

Beer/Wine at Guesthouse