

IRELAND

EQUESTRIAN TOURS



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IRISH CASTLES & MONASTIC RUINS

- A 5 NIGHT RIDING HOLIDAY -

County Clare + County Galway

WWW.IRELANDEQUESTRIANTOURS.COM



- ABOUT THIS ITINERARY -

Discover Ireland's diverse nature and colorful history on this exciting 5-Night riding itinerary!

Enjoy a combination ancient Irish castles and monastic ruins with lovely guided trail rides through Irish bogs, fields and local farmland.

You'll visit the impressive Portumna Castle, which was the seat of the Earl of Clanricarde and Pallas Castle, one of the best preserved tower houses & castle grounds of the 14th century. Enjoy a boat ride to Holy Island on the river Shannon to explore the ruins of one of Ireland's most important monastic settlements, and a horseback ride to a 5000 year old Celtic tomb!

Riding is available from April to the end of September.

(Suitable for Novice to Advanced Riders)

AN SIBIN: COUNTY CLARE

Located in the West of Ireland, nestled in the rolling hills of rural County Clare, An Sibin is surrounded miles of quiet lanes and paths with panoramic views of the River Shannon -- perfect for a relaxed horse riding vacation in the picturesque landscape.

The lovingly restored 300 year-old traditional Irish stone cottage is the heart of An Sibin. The ambiance of old times gone by is carefully maintained and yet all modern facilities for the riding guests are provided. This truly is a horse riders' country idyll, perfect for getting away from it all.

Guests stay in comfortable, individually decorated ensuite rooms.

The old-world decoration in the lodge from antique furniture to old farm implements makes for a relaxed and rustic country setting. The hearty Irish breakfast, tasty lunch snack and great home cooked dinner are enjoyed by candle light in front of the traditional turf fire.

It was always said, that this place called "The Mountain" and is like an inspiration to all who stand on its threshold and recapture the simplicity and peace of this idyllic setting.



Where Will You Be!



REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

NORTHERN IRELAND

An Sibir

Dublin Airport

Shannon Airport

DONEGAL

LONDONDERRY

ANTRIM

NORTHERN IRELAND

TYRONE

FERMANAGH

ARMAGH

DOWN

SLIGO

MONAGHAN

MAYO

LEITRIM

CAVAN

LOUTH

ROSCOMMON

LONGFORD

MEATH

GALWAY

WESTMEATH

OFFALY

KILDARE

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

LAOIS

WICKLOW

CLARE

Shannon Airport



LAOIS

CARLOW

LIMERICK

TIPPERARY

KILKENNY

WEXFORD

KERRY

WATERFORD

CORK

- 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 coloured Piebald, and the intelligent and 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.

- MEALS -

Enjoy homecooked, traditional Irish & modern dishes prepared in house.

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, Lactose Intolerant, and 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.

Airport Distance

Shannon Airport: 1.5 hours

Dublin Airport: 2.5 hours

Airport transports can be arranged from Shannon Airport **or** Dublin Airport.

(Airport transports are additional)





- 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 An Sibin!

This evening, you will get to know all your fellow riders for the week. Enjoy a homecooked meal by an open turf fire in the tastefully restored 300-year old Irish stone farmhouse.

Meals: D

- DAY TWO - (SUNDAY)

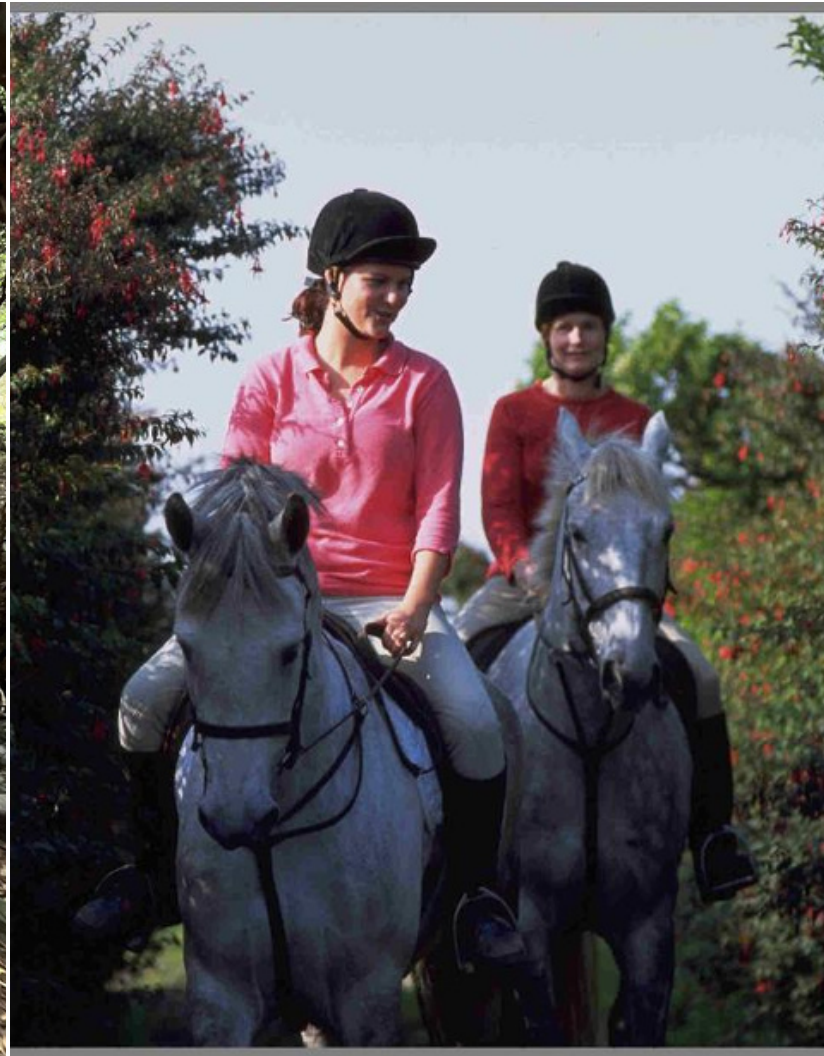
After breakfast we'll head out to the horses where you'll meet your mount for the next few days. Every rider will get acquainted with their own horse by brushing and tacking up themselves - don't worry there are always lots of helping hands around you!

The first ride will take you along forest tracks and country lanes, passing abandoned farms of the 18th century famine times.

After lunch you will be driven to nearby Mountshannon Harbour on Lough Derg, from where you will visit Holy Island by boat. Holy Island is one of the most famous monastic sites in Ireland. Its many attractions include a well-preserved Round Tower, the ruins of six churches and a bargaining stone where marriage vows are still renewed. Pilgrims from all over the world come to visit the Monastic site on Holy Island also referred to 'Inis Cealtra.' People from County Clare are still laid to rest in the cemetery on Holy Island just off the shoreline on Lough Derg.

Back on the mainland, you will have time for a stroll through the village and a drop into the local pub for a porter!





The day will end back at An Sibin for a delicious home cooked dinner.

Meals: B, L, D

Ride Length: 2.5 Hours

- 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.

This afternoon you'll head to Portumna, one of the prettiest towns in County Galway. It boasts a stunning location at the edge of the River Shannon and Lough Derg close to the Galway border.

Portumna is renowned for the famous 'Portumna Castle & Gardens.' Here you'll visit the impressive 17th Century Portumna Castle and beautifully restored walled garden. The 4th Earl of Clanricade built this Renaissance castle and lived a lavish life here. Constructed in 1618 by the 4th Earl of Clanricarde, Richard de Burgo, this semi-fortified house is a Jacobean-style building with geometrically-laid gardens to the north. A truly awe inspiring structure. The gardens incorporate several varieties of trees and shrubs and, equipped with a Willow Maze, the sea of green's central path is lined with ornamental fruit trees. The scent of lavender will fill your senses as you make your way through the twists and turns.

By stark contrast, you'll pay a visit to the 'Portumna Workhouse Museum'. The Portumna Workhouse Museum is the only center in Ireland dedicated to telling the story of the Irish Workhouse. It is of the best-preserved workhouse in the country. The workhouse was the last resort of the destitute poor from the 1840s to the 1920s.

There will be plenty of time for shopping in the town or to relax and enjoy another Irish pub.

Back at the farm, relax by the peat fire and enjoy a traditional home cooked dinner.

Meals: B, L, D

Ride Length: 2.5 Hours





- DAY FOUR - (TUESDAY)

Today's ride will take you on quiet tracks through Ireland's beautiful rural countryside.

The afternoon's visit will bring you to the secluded ruins of Pallas castle, one of the best preserved tower-houses and walled castle grounds of the Irish gentry from the 14th century.

This evening you will enjoy dinner back at Whitegate.

Meals: B, L, D

Ride Length: 2.5 Hours

- DAY FIVE - (WEDNESDAY)

Today is a full day ride! The 2.5 hour morning ride takes you across the magical landscape of bog and bright heather. Enjoy a picnic out on the trail, where we meet our minibus with all the supplies for horses & riders.

After lunch you'll embark on a 2- hour afternoon ride through fields and hills where you'll see a Celtic dolmen which is believed to be 5000 years old. The term dolmen means stone and make up the majority of the megalithic monuments in Ireland.

The ride will finish on a field where the horses are happily turned out.

Enjoy a farewell dinner in the comfy atmosphere of Whitegate.

Meals: B, L, D

Ride Length: 4 Hours

- DAY SIX - (THURSDAY)

After breakfast, it is time to say "Slan Abhaile" (goodbye) to your new friends.







The above rates include:

5 Nights Accommodation (sharing), Daily Full Irish Breakfast (x 5), Daily Lunch (x 4), Evening Meals (x 5), 4 Days Riding, Horse Hire + Tack + Experienced Guides, Tours and Entry Fees as outlined in itinerary

(SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$200)

DEPOSIT:

\$600 PER PERSON

(INCLUDES \$350 NON REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT)



NON RIDER RATE: \$1,150

NON RIDER DEPOSIT: \$400

(INCLUDES \$350 NON REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT)

Includes: 5 Nights Accommodation (sharing), Daily Full Irish Breakfast (x 5), Daily Lunch (x 4), Evening Meals (x 5), Tours and Entry Fees as outlined in itinerary

- 2024 DATES -

(This riding holiday begins on SATURDAY, ends on THURSDAY)

6 APRIL - 11 APRIL

13 APRIL - 18 APRIL

20 APRIL - 25 APRIL

4 MAY - 9 MAY

18 MAY - 23 MAY

25 MAY - 30 MAY

8 JUNE - 13 JUNE

22 JUNE - 27 JUNE

29 JUNE - 4 JULY

13 JULY - 18 JULY

27 JULY - 1 AUGUST

10 AUGUST - 15 AUGUST

31 AUGUST - 5 SEPTEMBER

7 SEPTEMBER - 12 SEPTEMBER

14 SEPTEMBER - 19 SEPTEMBER

21 SEPTEMBER - 26 SEPTEMBER

28 SEPTEMBER - 3 OCTOBER

5 OCTOBER - 10 OCTOBER

12 OCTOBER - 17 OCTOBER

19 OCTOBER - 24 OCTOBER

SUPPLEMENTS & ADD ONS

NON- RIDER RATE: \$1,150

EXTRA NIGHT SHANNON AIRPORT HOTEL OR DUBLIN AIRPORT HOTEL:
(Priced on Request)

GROUND TRANSPORTATION

Shannon Airport Transfers: €55 Per Person/Cash Only
Loughrea Bus Station Pick Up: €45 Per Person/Cash Only
Private Airport Transfers: Priced on Request

MISCELLANEOUS

Minimum Age: 12

Weight Limit: 210 lbs.

Western Saddles Available on Request: Limited Availability

Riding Level: Advanced Beginner to Advanced
(Riders can join if they can only 'Walk & Trot' as the groups can be split up the groups according to the riding levels.)

RATES DO NOT INCLUDE

Airport Transfers
Travel Insurance
Domestic & International Airfare
Discretionary Tips
Food/Beverages Not Listed on Itinerary
Beer/Wine at Guesthouse