# IRELAND EQUESTRIAN TOURS



## ICONIC CAUSEWAY COAST - A 3- NIGHT NORTH COAST RIDING HOLIDAY -County Antrim, Morthern Treland

www.IrelandEquestrianTours.com





## ABOUT THIS ITINERARY

This exclusive riding holiday includes a bit of everything that makes Northern Ireland's Causeway Coast world-famous: white sandy beaches, charming Irish villages, rugged coastlines, verdant countrysides, enchanting forests.

This 3-Night holiday kicks off with horseback riding in the Irish countryside before heading to the famous Causeway Coast. Heralded for its beauty and spectacular scenery, the Causeway Coastal Route includes some of Northern Ireland's top iconic locations: The Giants Causeway, Dunluce Castle, and Mussendun Temple.

This detailed itinerary highlights each day, the nights are to do as you wish!



## ACCOMMODATIONS

B&B 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.

Lunch is included each day.

(Special dietary requirements can be accommodated.)

## HOW TO GET HERE

This riding vacation takes place in County Antrim along the Causeway Coast of Northern Ireland. Guests can fly into Dublin City or Belfast International Airport. Once in country, guests may hire a car, use private transport or use public transportation.

The Causeway Coast is approximately 3 hours from Dublin and approximately 1.5 hours from Belfast.



## HORSES + RIDING ABILITY + TACK

The horses are a mix of Irish Sport Horses, Irish Draughts or Irish Cobs. The trekking horses are well-schooled for the North Coast terrain and and can accommodate a wide range of rider sizes & riding abilities.

#### **Riding Ability**

Novice to Advanced: Must be able to walk, trot (post), short canters.

This itinerary is not suitable for beginners. (Ask about our Beginner offerings.)



### - 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.

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, mussenden temple, binevenagh

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 whiterocks beach, dunluce castle, 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. Breath 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 <u>Giant's Causeway Visitor Experience</u>, housed in a state-of-theart ecofriendly building half-hidden in the hillside above the sea.

Overnight: North Coast



#### MONDAY ARRIVAL RATES



The above rates include:

3 Nights Accommodation (Sharing): 3 Nights North Coast B&B EnSuite + 3 Days Guided Riding Treks North Coast + Daily Pickup/Drop off to Ride Locations + Horse Hire + Tack & Equipment + Refreshments + Daily Full Irish Breakfast x 3 + Lunch at Local Eateries on the North Coast x 2 + Picnic Antrim Hills x 1 + Admission Fee to Giants Causeway/Dunluce Castle

> DEPOSIT: \$500 PER RIDER



NON RIDER RATE: \$445 NON RIDER DEPOSIT: \$150

(SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$325)

\*Single Rider Rate does NOT include Single Supplement

#### FLEX ARRIVAL RATES



The above rates include:

3 Nights Accommodation (Sharing): 3 Nights North Coast B&B EnSuite + 3 Days Guided Riding Treks North Coast + Daily Pickup/Drop off to Ride Locations + Horse Hire + Tack & Equipment + Refreshments + Daily Full Irish Breakfast x 4 + Lunch at Local Eateries on the North Coast x 2 + Picnic Antrim Hills x 1 + Admission Fee to Giants Causeway/Dunluce Castle

> DEPOSIT: \$500 PER RIDER



NON RIDER RATE: \$445 NON RIDER DEPOSIT: \$150

(SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$325)

\*Single Rider Rate does NOT include Single Supplement

#### **INFORMATION, SUPPLEMENTS & ADD ON'S**

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

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

This itinerary is available year round. This itinerary can begin any day of the week.

Closest Airports: Dublin or Belfast

We can add additional nights accommodation on the front end or back end of this itinerary.

This itinerary is located in County Antrim on the north coast of Northern Ireland -- approximately 1.5 hours from Belfast and 3 hours from Dublin City/Dublin Airport

#### **GROUND TRANSPORTATION**

We do not include ground transportation in 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 and coordinate as needed.

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

#### RATES DO NOT INCLUDE

Ground Transportation\* (Airport Transfers), Evening Meals, Travel Insurance, Activities Not Listed on Itinerary, Domestic or International Airfare, Discretionary Tips