

IRELAND

EQUESTRIAN TOURS



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SANDY ISLES OF SLIGO

- A 6 NIGHT RIDING HOLIDAY -

The Atlantic Trail

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- ABOUT THIS ITINERARY -

Stay, Ride, Explore by the Sea!

This 6-night riding holiday is perfect for adventurous riders or small groups! Discover some of the most spectacular scenery on the west coast of Ireland (as well as your host's private island!) Explore quaint villages, sandy beaches, and rocky coastlines immersing yourself in the lush splendor of Ireland's Wild Atlantic Way. This region is filled with scenery, myth and folklore.

Expect to ride between 4 and 6 hours each day. All meals included: Enjoy pub lunches & picnics in the great outdoors and evening dinners in a local hotel.

This holiday begins every Monday from April to mid September.

(Suitable for Intermediate to Advanced Riders)

- YEATS COUNTRY: COUNTY SLIGO -

Also referred as 'Yeats Country' as it inspired many of the great works of the Nobel Prize winning Irish writer, W.B. Yeats. It is nestled between majestic Benbulbin Mountain to the north, ancient Knocknarea Mountain and the Atlantic Ocean to the west, beautiful Lough Gill to the east, and the rugged Ox Mountains to the south, Sligo is arguably one of the most picturesque places in Ireland.

There are many archeological sites in County Sligo. One of the greatest concentrations of megalithic tombs, known as Carrowmore, is located in this region. With almost two hundred tombs, a variety of passage graves, dolmens and stone circles that remain standing to date, Carrowmore is one of the largest and oldest Stone-Age burial sites in Europe. The tombs were built around 4600-3900 BC, making them older than the pyramids in Egypt!

- HOW TO GET HERE -

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

TRAIN: There is direct train service from Dublin City- we will arrange train station pickup and transfer to your accommodations in Sligo. The train journey is approximately 3 hours.

(We will also arrange return drop off to the train station.)

CAR RENTAL: Guests can rent a car at Dublin Airport or Shannon Airport.

Where Will You Be!



Grange Co. Sligo

DUBLIN AIRPORT

- THE FARM -

The farm at Island View is run by 3 generations of the O'Connor family.

Filled with old world charm, the equestrian center is situated in the scenic North West of Ireland overlooking the Atlantic Ocean and Donegal Bay on The Wild Atlantic Way. Originally from O'Connors Island, the family settled in the present mainland homestead in the 1950s. In 1994, horse breeding and riding stables were added to the cattle farm. For the next 27 years the O'Connor's have taught 2 generations of local children how to ride and introduced thousands of families and individuals from around the world to the joys of riding a horse on the beach!

- THE HORSES -

All the horses at the O'Connor farm are Irish-bred, many of them born, raised, and trained on the farm. The family views their horses as lifelong partners. All horses get solid foundation in training, based on a combination of natural horsemanship and the German training scale. The family incorporates elements of the philosophy of ease (*école de légèreté*) into their schooling.

- ACCOMMODATIONS -

Hotel accommodations are located on Mullaghmore harbor. This locally-owned hotel offers simple but cozy rooms, friendly staff, free wifi, bar & lounge, restaurant, and leisure center that includes a heated pool and sauna (the perfect end to a full days riding!)

With views of the Atlantic Ocean, Dartry mountains, and Mullaghmore harbor, enjoy locally-prepared food in the hotel's restaurant or outdoor patio. While always a part of the local harbor life, this unpretentious hotel has welcomed guests from all over the world including Prince Charles of Wales and Duchess Camilla of Cornwall!

- MEALS -

With the exception of one evening dinner, all meals are included in this itinerary.

Each morning enjoy a hearty full Irish breakfast complete with bacon, sausage, eggs, toast, hot tea/coffee and juices. Also available are a selection of yogurts, cereals, pastries, and oatmeal. Lunch is picnic style on the trail or in local pub or cafe. Evening meals are enjoyed at the hotel.

There are two eateries at the hotel: Quay Bar + Clashybana Restaurant.

Vegetarian or Gluten Free can be accommodated with advance notice.



DAY ONE : MONDAY

Failte go Sligeach!
(Welcome to Sligo!)

Relax and unwind from your journey at your harbor hotel. Stretch your legs and explore the village of Mullaghmore or relax in the hotel's heated pool and sauna.

Overnight: Mullaghmore Harbour Hotel
Meals: None

DAY TWO : TUESDAY

Today will be an opportunity to meet the guides and for the stables to assess how well-matched you are for the horse they selected for you.

After lunch, head out for a three-hour beach and bog ride. The ride will combine a coastal and rural experience. The first part of your ride will take you along sandy Trawalua Beach, then will follow quiet laneways and century-old bog tracks at the foot of rugged Benbulbin Mountain, one of Ireland's most distinct and iconic mountains.

Overnight: Mullaghmore Harbour Hotel
Meals: B, L, D

This itinerary includes quite a bit of beach riding and, as such, riding locations & departure times are dictated by tidal conditions. The following four rides will fall on days that will be arranged closer to dates as weather and tidal conditions will dictate the departure time.

Enjoy a packed picnic lunches or pub/tea room lunches during each of these coastal ride outs!

DAY THREE : WEDNESDAY

- MULLAGHMORE COASTAL RIDE -
(4.5 HOURS)

After an exhilarating ride on Trawalua Beach, you will follow the boundary of Classiebawn Estate to Mullaghmore. This little fishing village boasts a picturesque 19th-century stone-built harbor. The ride will take you along the headland with some breathtaking views of majestic sea cliffs and the castle – a signature viewpoint of the Wild Atlantic Way. Fans of the TV Hit Series, 'The Crown' will recognize the iconic Classiebawn Estate perched high above the beach. It was here, in 1979, that Lord Mountbatten, the great-grandson of Queen Victoria, was killed by a bomb planted on his boat by the IRA.



On days with a serious swell, top surfers from all over the world come here to take on the waves of up to 50 feet. On this trail, you will take a lunch break in the pub overlooking the harbor.

Overnight: Mullaghmore Harbour Hotel

Meals: B, L, D

DAY FOUR : THURSDAY

- GLENIFF HORSESHOE RIDE -

(5.5 - 6 HOURS)

or

-DAY EXCURSION TO STRANDHILL/SLIGO -

Today you have a choice of two options: Take the day off to relax and do a bit of sightseeing or you can venture inland on one of the longest rides of the week.

OPTION A: Gleniff Horseshoe is a long ride with spectacular views! There is quite a bit of walking on quiet tarmac roads. Only a few miles inland from the coast, you will ride in the barren Gleniff Horseshoe valley which is nestled beneath Benwisikin Mountain. The valley is steeped in history and legend.

Set in a spectacular cliff face is Diarmuid and Grainne's Cave, legend has it that this was the lovers' hiding place on their flight from Fionn Mac Cumhaill. Barium Meal had been mined in the Dartry Mountains until the middle of the 20th-century. You will have your break and picnic snack at the old barites mill site before you return home along quiet country laneways. The ride will offer you breathtaking views of the 10 townlands and the Atlantic Ocean. You will sleep well tonight!

OPTION B: After a nice lie in and breakfast, we will collect you from the hotel and bring you via Sligo town to the village of Strandhill. This bustling seaside village invites you to roam its beach, stroll around the few little shops, eat in one of the hip eateries or taste Ireland's best ice cream at Mammy Johnston's! A hotspot for surfing, you can either watch or participate in riding the "white horses" (we can arrange a surf lessons for you in advance - not included in package price.) Alternatively, spoil yourself with a relaxing traditional Irish seaweed bath or massage at Voya seaweed baths. (Two week advance booking essential, price not included in package price.) For hiking fans, towering over the village is Knocknarea Mountain which can be ascended from the village via a track with self-guided information points along the way. On top you will enjoy spectacular views over Sligo and Donegal Bay and admire the huge mound that is the grave of Queen Meave, an ancient warrior queen! A map and packed lunch is provided for your hike. When you have finished exploring Strandhill we will collect you again and bring you back to the hotel. Alternatively you could also spend the day in Sligo, shopping and sightseeing .

Overnight: Mullaghmore Harbour Hote

Meals: B, L, D

DAY FIVE : FRIDAY

- O'CONNORS ISLAND RIDE -

(4 HOURS)

This is our signature experience, a rider's dream! Feel the thrill of crossing an Atlantic channel to O'Connor's Island - seals and migratory birds can often be spotted in the lagoon. You will enter the magic world of our private island and see the ancient homestead of the family. Follow the narrow paths as you traverse the contours of the large sand dune system, where scenic viewing points pop up between the sandhills. 360 degrees of stunning views on the horizon, no matter where your eye roams - it is beautiful!

This area of special conservation is rich in biodiversity, only the toughest plants survive exposure to the salty winds here , so it is reminiscent of the wild flower meadows in the high alps. Our dry stock cattle herd roams the island and you might meet some school horses on their holidays by the sea.

Your horse can enjoy the salty island grass while you relax, have a snack among the horses and explore the sites of ancient farm life on the island. Departure time depends on the tide.

Overnight: Mullaghmore Harbour Hotel

Meals: B, L, D

DAY SIX - SATURDAY

DERNISH ISLAND TREK RIDE

(5 HOURS)

Dernish Island was once the home to 6 families. This little island is now only a weekend home and populated mostly by cattle and wildlife, here you will get a sense of island life in a bye-gone era. From a different view point, see Donegal bay, Trawalua beach and Classiebawn castle from across the channel. Seals and migratory birds can often be spotted in the estuary. The shallows around Dernish island invite for a hearty canter or even a spot of galloping. Depending on weather. this ride is with either with a picnic lunch or lunch in the quaint, Jam Pot cafe.

Overnight: Mullaghmore Harbour Hotel

Meals: B, L, D

DAY SEVEN: SUNDAY

After breakfast, depart Sligo.

Meals: B



The above rate include:

6 Nights Hotel Accommodation (sharing) + 5 Days Riding + Full Irish Breakfast x 6
+ Picnic /Pub Lunch x 5 + Evening Meals x 5 + Horse Hire, Tack, Guides +
Daily Pick Up/Drop Off to/from Hotel

DEPOSIT:
\$600 PER RIDER

(INCLUDES \$250 NON- REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT)

(SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$275)

NON RIDER RATE:
AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

(*Child = Age 15 years and younger)

SUPPLEMENTS & ADD ONS

Sligo Train Station - Pick Up: €40 - Cash Only

Sligo Train Station - Drop Off: €40 - Cash Only

ADD ON: ADDITIONAL HOTEL NIGHTS AVAILABLE

Galway City
Shannon Airport
Bunratty Village
Dublin City
Dublin Airport



PACKAGE RATES DO NOT INCLUDE:

Domestic or International Airfare
Meals Not Indicated on Itinerary = Dinner on Arrival Day
Gratuities/Tips
Train Station Pick Up/Drop Off