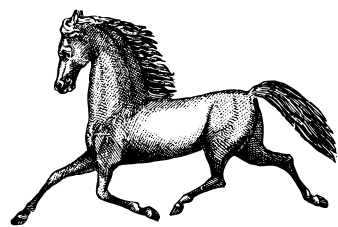


ACTIVE



RIDING TRIPS

**IRELAND'S
CASTLES AND MONASTIC
RUINS RIDE**



IRELAND'S CASTLES AND MONASTIC RUINS RIDE



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

On this 4 day ride you will visit the impressive Portumna Castle which was the seat of the Earl of Clanricarde and Pallas castle - one of the best preserved tower houses and castle grounds of the 14th century.

You will also take a boat ride to Holy Island on the river Shannon to explore the ruins of one of Ireland's most important monastic settlements, and you will ride to a 5000 year old Celtic tomb.



duration:
6 DAYS



2-8
MEMBERS



country
IRELAND



airport
GALWAY



accommodation
B&B



all meals
INCLUDED



Suggested ITINERARY

Day 1 Saturday

Arrival in Shannon Airport and transfer (if booked) to An Sibin Riding Centre. Transfer from Shannon to Whitegate approx. two hours.

You will be staying here for 5 nights. On the arrival day you can just relax and recover from your journey, or take a stroll on the well sign-posted nearby walking trails. In the evening, you will get to know all your fellow riders for this week. You will have dinner in the tastefully restored 300 year old farmhouse in the An Sibin Riding Centre by candlelight and open turf fire.

Day 2 Sunday

After breakfast we will go out to the horses and every rider can then get used to their own horse for the next days by brushing and tacking up themselves - don't worry there are always lots of helping hands around you!

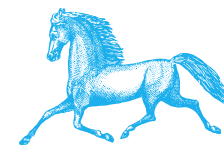
Our first ride (2 hours) takes us along forest tracks and country lanes, passed abandoned farms of the 18th century famine times. After lunch you will be driven to nearby Mountshannon harbour, from where you will visit Holy Island by boat. Pilgrims travelled to this island until the mid-19th century. You will see the ruins of five churches, early monastic cells, a pre-12th century cemetery and a round tower. After this visit you will have time for a stroll through the village and drop into the pub for a glass of porter before returning back to the riding centre for a delicious dinner.

Day 3 Monday

On today's ride (2 and 1/2 hours) you will ride into the hills of the Slieve Aughty Mountains and enjoy fascinating views over the majestic River Shannon.

In the afternoon you will get to visit the Portumna workhouse museum, where the poor and destitute took shelter many years ago during the famine times. You will also visit the impressive Portumna Castle of the 17th century with its beautifully restored walled garden. The 4th Earl of Clanricade built this Renaissance castle and lived a lavish life here.

You will also have time for shopping in the town or enjoy another Irish pub. Relax by the peat fire and a traditional home cooked dinner back at the riding centre.



HOURS RIDING PER DAY
2-4 hours of daily riding

PACE OF RIDE
50% walking
50% trotting and cantering



Suggested ITINERARY

Day 4 Tuesday

This morning's ride (2 and 1/2 hours) will take you on quiet tracks through Ireland's beautiful rural countryside. This afternoon's visit will bring you to the ruins of Pallas castle, one of the best preserved tower-houses and walled castle grounds of the Irish gentry in the 14th century.

In the evening you will enjoy your dinner again at the riding centre.

Day 5 Wednesday

Today is a full day ride. The 2 hour morning ride brings us across the magical landscape of bog and heather. We will have our lunch picnic out on the trail, where we meet our minibus with all the supplies for horses & riders.

On the 2 hour afternoon ride we will pass by a typical Celtic dolmen, which is believed to be 5000 years old! The ride will finish on a field where the horses are happily turned out.

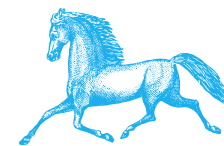
Tonight is the final dinner in the comfy atmosphere of the riding centre.



Day 6 Thursday

After breakfast it is time to say "slan abhaile" and to get ready for the transfer (if booked) back to Shannon.

This itinerary might change due to weather conditions or circumstances beyond the control of the guides without prior notice.



BREEDS OF HORSES

Irish Sport Horses, Cobs
and Gypsy Vanners

TYPE OF TACK

English cross county saddles
with comfortable, deep seat and
good knee rolls. Only a few
western saddles – which must be
requested in advance.



Rider REVIEWS



The ride was wonderful – after seeing similar areas of Ireland from a car in 2008, nothing compares to the up-close of riding through that beautiful landscape. *The horses were incredible – extremely well cared for, with excellent manners, sensitive to the leg, and sound minds and bodies!* I'm proud to say I did my first gallops on an Irish Cob! Bertie and Nicola have the logistics of that trip down to a science, and there the food at their place was incredible too! In short – loved it! Thanks for everything, Stacey – it was a blast! **Adrienne J.**



*“We had a great time in Ireland – **beautiful scenery – great hospitality** (Bertie and Nicola were very gracious hosts), great food – both Heather and I loved our horses (Jasper and Nina). The day we crossed the lake was hot and sunny – that was a blast!! A most memorable vacation in every way – we’re already thinking about where we can ride next. Thank you again!!” **Glenda B.***

*“Nicola and Bertie are exceptional hosts! Their many years of experience provide a seamless schedule that affords you the opportunity to truly relax and enjoy their **OUTSTANDING horses and beautiful countryside.** The delicious food, comfortable accommodations, amazing rides and overall experience were an exceptional value for the price we paid for the trip.” **Hollie G.***



Additional INFORMATION

We offer 3 versions of this ride: 7 night, 5 night, and a stationary ride.



INCLUDED:

5 nights accommodation
at the riding centre
All meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner)
Entry fees
Guided horse riding for 4 days
All local taxes

NOT INCLUDED:

Airfare
Airport transfers
Travel Insurance
Alcoholic beverages
Gratuities for the team
at the end of the stay

