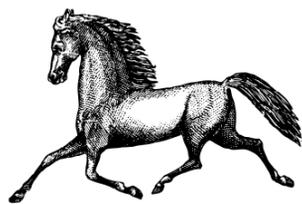


ACTIVE



RIDING TRIPS

**IRELAND'S
GALWAY SHORT BREAK
TRAIL RIDE**





Nestled in the foothills of the Slieve Aughty Mountains, your wonderful Irish sport horse or cob will take you on a fun and adventurous ride through the quintessential parts of Ireland.

Explore some of the dense forest land and lochs of western Ireland, including views of Holy Island, sheep spotted farmland neatly parceled out with low stone walls, ancient celtic tombs and celtic ring forts.

Passing through charming Irish villages, you will be introduced to wonderful Irish jigs as well as the chance to enjoy a rest and a pint of your preference. This is quintessential Ireland.



duration:
6 DAYS



2-8
MEMBERS



country
IRELAND



airport
GALWAY



accommodation
B&B



all meals
INCLUDED



ACTIVE RIDING TRIPS *The premier provider of equestrian vacations*

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Suggested ITINERARY

For several days you will be discovering Ireland's beautiful nature and colourful history on horseback. Your horse will be carrying you for about 80 km from County Galway which is situated in the Midwest of Ireland westwards through the rural areas of County Clare.

Day 1 Saturday

Transfer (need to be booked) to the unique old worldly setting of our guesthouse in the An Sibin Riding Centre. You will be staying here for all five nights. On the arrival day you can just relax from your journey, enjoy meeting our various farm animals, or take a stroll with our happy dogs on the walking trails around our property. In the evening, you will get to know all your fellow riders for this week. You will have dinner in the tastefully restored quaint 300-year-old farmhouse in our An Sibin Riding Centre by candlelight and turf fire.

Day 2 Sunday

After breakfast you will meet your trusted Irish companion for this trail ride. Riders can get used to their horse for the week by brushing and tacking up - don't worry there are always lots of helping hands around you! We will then leave for an easy ride across the extensive areas of bog land. There we might see local farmers cutting and drying the turf / peat 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 settled by the Celts about 5000 years ago. Much more recent (about 9th century) are the ruins of the monastic settlement on Holy Island, which we can easily spot by the typical round tower.

We finish the first day ride on one of our fields where the horses stay overnight and we drive back to the An Sibin guesthouse for lunch. For the afternoon riders and horses take a rest and enjoy a relaxing evening.

Day 3 Monday

Today's ride brings us across huge areas of heather and bog land with fascinating views over the majestic Lough Derg and River Shannon.

Along the track we will be passing old farm ruins and miles of stonewalls and your guide will tell you about Ireland's most significant incident in history: About 150 years ago many farms and villages were left because of the Famine. This was the time of the severe potato blight, which destroyed for a couple of years the sole source of food supply for the rural and poor Irish peasant and their livestock. In addition to that a Typhus- and Cholera epidemic enforced the disaster, leading to a flood of thousands of people emigrating to other countries.

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



HOURS RIDING PER DAY

5-7 hours per day

PACE OF RIDE

50% walking
50% trotting and cantering



Suggested ITINERARY

Day 4 Tuesday

Leaving the sheltered pasture we are heading this morning for the top of the hills overlooking endless woods and grazing land to the north, west and south. After lunch, long before we get there we can spot in the distance the sandy shores of Lough (lake) Graney where we are heading for. Our trail ride goes along the water and then we will be splashing right across the refreshing lake with our horses!

The ride in the later afternoon takes us through typical farmland of rural Ireland with its lovely green fields and the endless old stone walls surrounding the peacefully grazing sheep and cattle. We will leave the horses on a small family farm for the night.

Day 5 Wednesday

Today's full day ride takes us first on old narrow country lanes of rural Ireland, then on quiet forest tracks and finally up to the boggy uplands. County Clare unfolds all around us up to the in the distance rising hills of County Tipperary. Many colourful flowers all along the wayside and in the hedges line our trail. The wild growing gorse, rhododendron, fuchsia, foxglove and heather grow in abundance in the peaty soil. This afternoon you will bid good bye to your four legged Irish friend.

Day 6 Thursday

After breakfast it is time to say "slan abhaile" and you will be leaving for your onwards journey.



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.

The itinerary might change due to weather conditions or circumstances beyond our control without prior notice.



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



INCLUDED:

5 nights accommodation
4 days of riding
All meals
All beverages
Horse and all tack
Guiding services
All local taxes

NOT INCLUDED:

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

