

About Hidden Trails



Hidden Trails is owned and operated by nature enthusiasts who love horses and adventure activities. We have been involved with riding and other outdoor vacations for over 20 years.

With our partners Voyage du Cheval (France), Pegasus (Germany) as well as Equitour (Switzerland and France) we have collected the best riding destinations all over the world in some hidden places we would like to share with you.

These rides are about galloping on endless beaches, forging rivers, cantering through forests, trotting along age-old trails, gazing at beautiful vistas and encountering foreign cultures. But most of all, these trips are about getting away from the cycle of too much work and never enough free time.

Escape from the rituals, which long ago froze our nights and days into little more than routine and away from the worries of our new tense times. It is so satisfying when we take the plunge of adventure - it's unfortunate that we invent so many reasons to put aside living our dreams of adventure. It is sometimes a tangled web that we weave through life. Some of the threads reveal a work-a-day world of commitments, duties and obligations. Other threads are of a quiet fabric of hope, responsibility and refreshment.

On our adventures you see the real country, its back country and meet the locals. The love for horses has no boundaries but possesses a common language we all speak and understand. The majority of the overseas rides are from inn to inn, some from castle to castle and a few are camping rides.

You will experience new countries and their customs and make new friends. The Hidden Trails trips are the best you can find.

They have been tested by our staff or associates and received our stamp of approval. If you are considering a special riding vacation anywhere in the world, call us first and let our experienced consultants match the perfect trip with your dream.

We will listen to you and give you objective advice to help you choose the best destination and adventure.

Your vacation is the most precious time of the year and we are committed to making it the most memorable time of your life. Wherever you go, have a great time and bring back some peace of mind.

Thank you for your continued support.

Hidden Trails

Phone: 604-323-1141 Fax: 604-323-1148 Toll Free: 1-888-9-TRAILS from within the USA or Canada or

E-mail: <u>info@hiddentrails.com</u> Website: <u>www.hiddentrails.com</u>

Address

659A Moberly Road, Vancouver BC Canada V5Z 4B3 or 4406 Tennyson Road, Willmington, DE 19802 USA

Toll Free from the U.K.:

Ph: 0-808 189-0420 Fax: 0-808-280-1860

Toll Free Worldwide:

Skype: hiddentrails

Burren, Clare & Galway Trails - Ireland, Europe

Tour Code: IT-IRRT03 8 days / 7 nights ~\$2,230.00 Dates: April-August

Trip Rating: •••••
Difficulty: ••••
Lodging: ••••

Tack: English, Western on request Horses: Irish Hunter, Irish Cob, Connemara, Ir...
Pace: Moderate with walk, trot and canter m...
Walk, Trot, Canter,





Introduction

Connemara/Galway, Ireland

Ireland is undoubtedly a nature lover's paradise. In the West of Ireland, a truly unique combination of sand-and limestone soils, bog lands, lakes and woodlands exist.

The peat or bog land is one of Ireland's greatest natural assets, not only as an energy source, but as some of its last wild areas. In some places, you can even spot the Celtic toughers still crossing the bogs. The Burren is a unique limestone landscape with a truly spectacular beauty. The high degree of light, the Gulf Stream and the warm limestone enables arctic-alpine and contrasting Mediterranean plants to grow together. For thousands of years it has been used as excellent grazing land. The rich concentration of stone monuments, castles, churches and tower houses prove the significance of settlers in this natural treasure. Riding along the never ending stone walls and historical famine roads is an exclusive Irish experience. For six days you will be discovering Ireland's beauty and colorful history on horseback. Your horse will be carrying you about 150km from County Galway, westwards through the rural areas of County Clare and into the unique Burren region.

The ride begins with the peaceful forests of the Slieve Aughty Mountains and their fascinating views over the majestic Lough Derg and River Shannon. Along the track we will be passing old farm ruins and miles of stonewalls, before we head across the extensive areas of bog land. Leaving sheltered pasture, we then head for the top of the hills and onto the sandy shores of Lough Graney. Lovely wood tracks take us further westwards overlooking Glandaria, the wide fertile valley of the River Shannon, and we will cross the boggy uplands. County Clare unfolds around us, in the distance rising hills of the famous Burren National Park. The distinctive scenery of the world renowned Burren will accompany us for the last two days of the ride. The lunar like landscape of this limestone area not only bears an immensely individual flora and fauna, but boasts a stunning variety of prehistoric settlements. Dolmens and Wedge Tombs line up next to Norman stone fort ruins and Celtic ring forts. Eventually we head westwards through the Burren and up the last hill for the breathtaking view over the Atlantic Sea, the famous Aran Islands and the rugged Connemara Mountains. The extremely rough shore line of County Clare stretches out under us for the last hard gallop!

Accomodation



Accommodations

8-day trip: This is a progressive ride, so nights will be spent at different locations. You will be staying in 3 different locations total.

6-day trip: This is a stationary ride, so all nights will be spent in the same location.

Description

All accommodations host double/twin rooms with private bathrooms. Laundry can usually be done in Lisdoonvarna for an extra fee.

<u>8-day trip Accommodation Itinerary</u> - *subject to changes based on availability* Night 1, 2, 3, & 4: Farmhouse Night 5: Corofin

Night 6 & 7: Lisdoonvarna















Farmhouse

We will overnight in the tastefully restored 300 year-old farmhouse - the heart of the riding center. The ambiance of old times gone by is carefully maintained and yet all modern facilities for the riding guests are provided. You can relax peacefully in your individually decorated rooms with private bath. It's said that this special place, called "The Mountain", is an inspiration to all who stand on its threshold and recapture the simplicity and peace of this idyllic setting. You'll find yourself in a home away from home as you cozy up to the peat fire with a tea or coffee in hand with the sounds of the farm and life to serenade you.

Washing machines are available to use, but we do not have a dryer. There is WIFI access at the riding center and farmhouse.

Room Occupancy

Single supplement is mandatory if we are unable to find another rider to share.



Meals

All meals are included from dinner on Day 1 to breakfast on Day 8.

We'll enjoy our breakfasts at the accommodations we've stayed at the night before. Lunches are had while on the trail.

Country-style dinners will be eaten in restaurants.

Alcohol is not included, but can be purchased or guests can bring their own.

Dietary Restrictions

We can cater to dietary restrictions given prior notice.



Riding









Saturday is a resting day for our horses!

Horses

The Irish horse is renowned for its stamina, versatility and gentleness and will therefore provide an ideal companion for an unforgettable vacation. You will make friends here with proud examples of several typical Irish breeds such as the tall but gentle Irish Draught, the lively and clever Connemara, the fine and energetic Irish Hunter, the beautifully coloured Irish Piebald and the intelligent and comfortable Irish Cob.

Itinerary



Sample Itinerary: 8-day program - subject to changes

Note: Subject to changes due to weather conditions or circumstances beyond our control without prior notice

Day 1 (Saturday): Failte to Ireland

Transfer approximately 1.5 hours to our Riding Centre from Shannon airport. You will be staying here for the first four nights. On the arrival day you can just relax and recover from your journey, or take a stroll on the walking trails around our property. For the more adventurous among you, there is also the possibility to go on a guided boat tour to historic Holy Island with its monastic settlement of the 9th century. 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 our Riding Centre by candlelight and turf fire.

Meals included: Dinner Overnight at Farmhouse

Day 2 (Sunday): Binor Ride

After breakfast, you will be brought to the start of the trail, where your guide will allocate the horses according to your experience. Every rider can then get used to his 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 in the traditional way. A Neolithic dolmen with the legendary name Oisin's and Grainne's Grave - beside the track proves that this area was already mystified 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 guesthouse for lunch. For the afternoon, riders and horses take a rest and enjoy a relaxing evening.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at Farmhouse

Day 3 (Monday): Inis Cealtra Ride

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 where 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 surrounding peaceful trails through the Slieve Aughty Mountains and ride past some rural farms to a new overnight field for the horses.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Farmhouse

Day 4 (Tuesday): Lough Graney Ride

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. Long before we get there we can spot way under us the sandy shores of Lough Graney. After lunch 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 juicy green fields and the endless old stone walls surrounding the peacefully grazing sheep and cattle.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner Overnight at Farmhouse





Day 5 (Wednesday): Glandaria Ride

Today's lovely wood tracks take us further westwards overlooking Glandaria (the valley of the Kings) the wide fertile valley of the River Shannon, where hundreds of years ago Irelands kings preferably used to settle. After the lunch break near a typical mountain river, we will cross the boggy uplands. County Clare unfolds all around us up to the in the distance rising hills of the famous Burren National Park. On a clear day we will even catch the first glimpse of Galway Bay. This afternoon our horses will be transferred by lorry across the main road to tomorrow's ride across the fascinating landscape of the Burren. You will be staying tonight in the charming village of Corofin with its countless pubs and great Irish music sessions.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight in Corofin

Day 6 (Thursday): Mullaghmore Ride

The totally different and unique scenery of the world renowned Burren will accompany us for the next two days. The moon-like landscape of this limestone area bears not only an immensely colourful flora and fauna with a large number of very rare species, but also reveals a stunning variety of prehistoric settlements. Dolmens and Wedge Tombs line up next to Norman stone fort ruins and Celtic ring forts. With a beautiful view across the Burren landscape, we will enjoy our lunch. It is amazing how many eye-catching sites this at first sight so vast looking landscape can offer us. The next two nights you will be staying in the Lisdoonvarna area, which is famous for the traditional music in the pubs.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight in Lisdoonvarna

Day 7 (Friday): Atlantic Coast ride

Today we head westwards through the Burren, learning about the impressive Poulnabrone Dolmen, and the extensive - and dangerous - cave systems in this special area. We rest for lunch overlooking the story-telling rocky landscape. After the break we lead our horses up the last hill for the breathtaking view over the Atlantic Sea, the famous Aran Islands and the rugged Connemara Mountains. The extremely rough shore of County Clare stretches out way below us as we enjoy the last canters along the old stone walled tracks on Slieve Elva. In the glittering afternoon sunlight the impressive silhouette of the Cliffs of Moher rise in front of us. Near the ruins of the spooky looking Ballinalaken Castle our ride ends.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight in Lisdoonvarna

Day 8 (Saturday): Slan Abhaile

After breakfast onwards journey or transfer back to Shannon Airport.

Meals included: Breakfast



Sample Itinerary: 6-day program - subject to changes

Follows same first 6 days of the 8-day itinerary.

Day 1 (Saturday): Failte to Ireland

Transfer approximately 1.5 hours to our Riding Centre from Shannon airport. You will be staying here for all nights. On the arrival day you can just relax and recover from your journey, or take a stroll on the walking trails around our property. For the more adventurous among you, there is also the possibility to go on a guided boat tour to historic Holy Island with its monastic settlement of the 9th century. 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 our Riding Centre by candlelight and turf fire.

Meals included: Dinner Overnight at Farmhouse

Day 2 (Sunday): Binor Ride

After breakfast you will be brought to the start of the trail, where your guide will allocate the horses according to your experience. Every rider can then get used to his 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 in the traditional way. A Neolithic dolmen with the legendary name Oisin's and Grainne's Grave - beside the track proves that this area was already mystified 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 guesthouse for lunch. For the afternoon, riders and horses take a rest and enjoy a relaxing evening.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner Overnight at Farmhouse

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

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Farmhouse



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Overnight at Farmhouse

Day 6 (Thursday): Departure

After breakfast onwards journey or transfer back to Shannon Airport.

Meals included: Breakfast

Non-Riders

Non-riders are also welcome, there is plenty to for them to do including hiking, cycling, sightseeing, fishing, golf

Other Info

Meeting: Whitegate Airport: Shannon Transfer: Shannon Distance: 40 miles

Pick-up/ drop-off for this trip is from Shannon Airport (SNN). Pick-ups are available on Saturdays between 9:00am and 2:00pm and drop-off the following Saturday is at 10:00am.

Transfers outside of these times are possible at request for an additional cost

Tack: English, Western on request

Horses: Irish Hunter, Irish Cob, Connemara, Irish Piebald and Irish Draught

Moderate with walk, trot and canter mixed every day. 4-5 hrs of riding each day. Approx Pace:

Walk | Trot | Canter |

Level: *** (2.5 to 3 out of 5) Intermediate

Age: Weight: 188 lbs / 85 kg

Riders: Min 3 riders Max 8 riders

Riding helmets are mandatory for this ride.



Rates and Dates 2024 - IT-IRRT03

Rates include:

8-day trip: Accommodation, All meals, 5.5 riding days & Luggage transport. 6-day trip: Accommodation, All meals, 3.5 riding days & Luggage transport. Hard hats can be provided

Packages and Options

Season	Description	EUR	~US\$
A 2024	8 day trip	€2025	\$2230
	Single supplement Non-rider rate, dbl, pp	€210 €925	\$230 \$1020
B 2024	6 day trip (3.5 riding days)	€1485	\$1635
	Single supplement Non-rider rate, dbl, pp	€150 €715	\$165 \$785

The US Dollar Rate is based on a EUR Exchange Rate of 1.1 and subject to currency fluctuation

Transfer Option

Description

2024 Pick-up or drop off transfer from Loughrea, pp, one way	€55	\$55
2024 Transfer round trip from Shannon airport (9:00am-2:00pm) or hotel, per person, return	€130	\$135
2024 Pick-up or drop off transfer from Portumna, pp, one way	€18	\$20

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Tour Dates	T 8		
Season	Tour Dates		
A 2024	04/27/2024 - 05/04/2024	8d/7n	8 day trip
B 2024	04/27/2024 - 05/02/2024	6d / 5n	6 day trip (3.5 riding days)
B 2024	05/11/2024 - 05/16/2024	6d / 5n	6 day trip (3.5 riding days)
A 2024	05/11/2024 - 05/18/2024	8d/7n	8 day trip
A 2024	06/01/2024 - 06/08/2024	8d/7n	8 day trip
B 2024	06/01/2024 - 06/06/2024	6d/5n	6 day trip (3.5 riding days)
B 2024	06/15/2024 - 06/20/2024	6d / 5n	6 day trip (3.5 riding days)
A 2024	06/15/2024 - 06/22/2024	8d/7n	8 day trip
A 2024	07/06/2024 - 07/13/2024	8d/7n	8 day trip
B 2024	07/06/2024 - 07/11/2024	6d/5n	6 day trip (3.5 riding days)
B 2024	07/20/2024 - 07/25/2024	6d/5n	6 day trip (3.5 riding days)
A 2024	07/20/2024 - 07/27/2024	8d/7n	8 day trip
A 2024	08/03/2024 - 08/10/2024	8d/7n	8 day trip
B 2024	08/03/2024 - 08/08/2024	6d/5n	6 day trip (3.5 riding days)
B 2024	08/17/2024 - 08/22/2024	6d/5n	6 day trip (3.5 riding days)
A 2024	08/17/2024 - 08/24/2024	8d/7n	8 day trip
A 2024	08/24/2024 - 08/31/2024	8d/7n	8 day trip
B 2024	08/24/2024 - 08/29/2024	6d/5n	6 day trip (3.5 riding days)

Weekly departures from Saturday to Saturday!

Rates do not include:Insurance (mandatory), Airport transfers & Gratuities

Reservation Form

Tour:	Code #:	from:	to :
The Travelers (Last Name, First Name)	Male Female Single room / or tent Birth Date MM/DD/YY	Height Weight	2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
Special Diets:			
Your fitness level: Excellent Moderate	Poor How I	ong have you bee	n riding?
How often do you ride?	_ Have you been on oth	er riding tours? N	o Yes last trip when?
If Hidden Trails offers a transfer from the loc	al airport/station: I wo	uld like the transfe	er to be included: YES NO
In an emergency, name and phone number o	f contact:		
Attention: Please, if there is more than one p	participant, all have to s	sign the reservation	n form - make copies if needed
I made all participants aware of the risk involuments with the Hidden Trails Booking Conditions and brochure or as listed on the Internet. I (we) will sign and forward the Recreational A	d the Hidden Trails Rec	reational Activity F	Release and Indemnity Agreement in this
Last Name and First Name (The Traveler,			
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