

# Hidden Trails

Ph. 1-888-9-TRAILS

*Equestrian Vacations  
- on & with Hidden Trails*



## About Hidden Trails

Explore the World on Horseback

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: [info@hiddentrails.com](mailto:info@hiddentrails.com)

Website: [www.hiddentrails.com](http://www.hiddentrails.com)

### Address:

659A Moberly Road, Vancouver BC Canada V5Z 4B3 or

4406 Tennyson Road, Wilmington, DE 19802 USA

### Toll Free from the U.K.:

Ph: 0- 808 189-0420

Fax: 0-808-280-1860

### Toll Free Worldwide:

Skype: hiddentrails



# Slieve Aughty Mountains Ride - Ireland, Europe

Tour Code: IT-IRRT03-S

8 days / 7 nights ~\$1,445.00

Dates: April to Oct

Trip Rating : ●●●●●

Difficulty : ●●●●●

Lodging : ●●●●●

**Tack:** English, Western on request

**Horses:** Irish Hunter, Irish Cob, Connemara

**Pace:** Moderate with walk, trot and canter or...

Walk, Trot, Canter,

**Airport:** Shannon



## 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 140 Miles 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 Glandara, 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!

## Accommodation



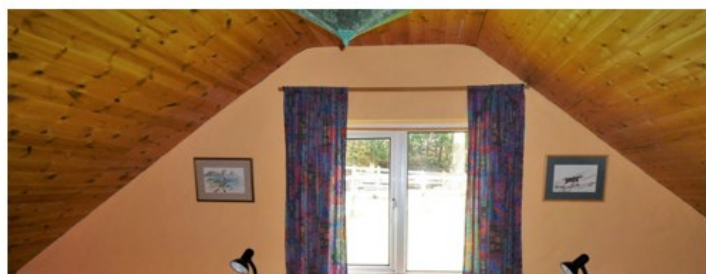
### Accommodations

This is a stationary ride so all nights will be spent in one location.

### Description

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.

In the comfortable dining room the guests enjoy the hearty Irish Breakfast and traditional farmhouse cooking, sitting by the open turf fire. You will enjoy fresh home cooked meals, gourmet-style with many locally grown ingredients, and traditional homemade bread and cakes.

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**







This is the perfect riding holiday for the novice or the experienced rider in the heart of the Irish nature. It includes 6 riding days with a total of 15 riding hours - trail riding or lessons.

The riding center is in the rural West of Ireland, just a few miles from the little village of Mountshannon with its unique monastic settlement on Holy Island in the Lough Derg. The riding centre is nestled in the rolling hills of the Slieve Aughty Mountains with miles and miles of riding tracks all around. Heather covered bog land and extensive woods invite you to discover the beautiful nature on our horses. Again and again the rider can enjoy the fascinating views over the majestic River Shannon and the juicy green fields enclosed by miles of storytelling stonewalls.

There are lots of beautiful and ancient places to be discovered on horseback day after day: from the remnants of the poteen makers cottage to the dolmens (Celtic burial sites up to 5000 years old) can be visited on horseback! The experienced rider can go for daily guided rides, always discovering a new area on little tracks, forest lanes and quiet roads.

The more novice rider will be introduced to the skills of horsemanship and can take part in the basic riding tuition in a relaxed atmosphere. Of course, every novice rider will also get to enjoy his/hers new equine friend on hacks through the lovely countryside.

#### **Sample Itinerary for Ballinasloe Horse Fair - subject to changes**

Each year, in late September / early October, we run a special program for the Ballinasloe Horse Fair.

##### **Day 1 (Saturday): Arrival**

Transfer (if booked) from Shannon airport to the Riding Centre in County Clare. Lunch at the riding centre. In the afternoon, boat ride to Holy Island to visit the ruins of one of Ireland's most important monastic settlements. Tonight, traditional home cooked dinner by the open peat fire.

*Meals included: Dinner*

*Overnight at Farmhouse*

##### **Day 2 (Sunday): Horse Fair**

After breakfast, drive to the famous horse fair in Ballinasloe. Spend all day between hundreds of horses – just looking...we are not bringing a horse trailer.

Drive back to the riding center in the late afternoon for dinner.

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

*Overnight at Farmhouse*

##### **Day 3 (Monday): Country Rides**

Full Irish breakfast followed by a 2-hour ride through the beautiful Irish countryside. Back to the riding centre for tasty lunch.

After lunch, go on a 1 hour ride on ancient Celtic trails.

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

*Overnight at Farmhouse*

##### **Day 4 (Tuesday): Ride & Pallas Castle Visit**

This morning, we go on a 2-hour ride across the magical landscape of peat and heather.

After the lunch at the riding centre, we visit the ruins of the impressive Pallas Castle, one of the best preserved tower-houses and walled castle grounds of the 14th century.

Drive back to the riding center for dinner.

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

*Overnight at Farmhouse*

##### **Day 5 (Wednesday): Full Day Ride**

We go on a full day ride. In the morning, we ride about 2 hours through rural farmland. We stop for picnic lunch along the trail. After our break, we get back in the saddle for an extra 1 to 1.5 hour in the saddle, passing a 5000 year old Celtic Dolmen.

Dinner in the comfy atmosphere of the riding centre.

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

*Overnight at Farmhouse*

##### **Day 6 (Thursday): Departure**

Time to say "slán abhaile" to your Irish mounts.

Transfer (if booked) back to Shannon airport.

*Meals included: Breakfast*

#### **Non-Riders**

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

## **Other Info**

**Meeting:** Whitegate

**Airport:** Shannon

**Train station:** Limerick

**Transfer:** Shannon

**Distance:** 40 miles (two hours)

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

**Pace:** Moderate with walk, trot and canter or instructions

Walk | Trot | Canter |

**Level:** 🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾 (2 to 3 out of 5) Novice to Intermediate

**Age:** Min 8

**Weight:** 188 lbs / 85 kg

**Riders:** Min 1 riders    Max 8 riders    Max Capacity 16  
(per riding group)

Riding helmets are mandatory for this ride.

Rates and Dates 2024 - IT-IRRT03-S

Rates include: Accommodations, All meals & 6 riding days (15 riding hours total with mix of trail or lessons)  
Hard hats can be provided

Packages and Options

Season	Description	EUR	~US\$
A 2024	8 day trip	€1315	\$1445

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

Transfer Option

Description

2024	Child discount (11 and younger)		
2024	Pick-up or drop off transfer from Loughrea, pp, one way	€55	\$60
2024	Transfer round trip from Shannon airport (9:00am-2:00pm) or hotel, per person, return	€130	\$145
2024	Non-rider rate, dbl, pp	€925	\$1020
2024	Single supplement	€210	\$230

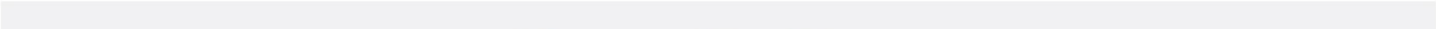
Tour Dates

Season	Tour Dates		
A 2024	03/30/2024 - 04/06/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip
A 2024	04/06/2024 - 04/13/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip
A 2024	04/13/2024 - 04/20/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip
A 2024	04/20/2024 - 04/27/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip
A 2024	04/27/2024 - 05/04/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip
A 2024	05/04/2024 - 05/11/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip
A 2024	05/11/2024 - 05/18/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip
A 2024	05/18/2024 - 05/25/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip
A 2024	05/25/2024 - 06/01/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip
A 2024	06/01/2024 - 06/08/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip
A 2024	06/08/2024 - 06/15/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip
A 2024	06/15/2024 - 06/22/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip
A 2024	06/22/2024 - 06/29/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip
A 2024	06/29/2024 - 07/06/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip
A 2024	07/06/2024 - 07/13/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip
A 2024	07/13/2024 - 07/20/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip
A 2024	07/20/2024 - 07/27/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip
A 2024	07/27/2024 - 08/03/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip
A 2024	08/03/2024 - 08/10/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip
A 2024	08/10/2024 - 08/17/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip
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
A 2024	08/31/2024 - 09/07/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip
A 2024	09/07/2024 - 09/14/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip
A 2024	09/14/2024 - 09/21/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip
A 2024	09/21/2024 - 09/28/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip
A 2024	09/28/2024 - 10/05/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip
A 2024	10/05/2024 - 10/12/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip
A 2024	10/12/2024 - 10/19/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip
A 2024	10/19/2024 - 10/26/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip
A 2024	10/26/2024 - 11/02/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip

Min/Max: 1/8

Available weekly from SA to SA. Shorter stays are possible on request.

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	Special diets													
						Special diets	Beginner	Novice	Intermediate	Strong Inter.	Advanced	ride English	ride Western	mostly arena	mostly hacking				
1. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Special Diets: \_\_\_\_\_

Your fitness level: Excellent ☐ Moderate ☐ Poor ☐ How long have you been riding? \_\_\_\_\_

How often do you ride? \_\_\_\_\_ Have you been on other riding tours? No ☐ Yes ☐ last trip when? \_\_\_\_\_

If Hidden Trails offers a transfer from the local airport/station: I would like the transfer to be included: YES ☐ NO ☐

In an emergency, name and phone number of contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Attention: Please, if there is more than one participant, all have to sign the reservation form - make copies if needed

With my signature I confirm my reservation of the listed program(s) under the Hidden Trails Booking Conditions. I'm aware, and I made all participants aware of the risk involved with these outdoor adventure activities. All participants have read and agree with the Hidden Trails Booking Conditions and the Hidden Trails Recreational Activity Release and Indemnity Agreement in this brochure or as listed on the Internet.

I (we) will sign and forward the Recreational Activity Release and Indemnity Agreement at least 10 weeks before trip starting date.

Last Name and First Name (The Traveler) \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Postal/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (wk) \_\_\_\_\_ (hm) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature (mandatory) 1. \_\_\_\_\_

Please, charge a 25% deposit (minimum \$ 350 per person) now and full payment 10 weeks before the travel date to my credit card.

For payments by VISA ☐ or Mastercard ☐ (no debit cards)

Cardholder: \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ 3 digit Security # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp.Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address for Credit Card (if different than mailing address):  
\_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed a check for the deposit ☐

Additional Signatures:

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
4. \_\_\_\_\_

**Travel Cancellation Insurance** Credit Card required

Sign me (us) up ☐ initial \_\_\_\_\_

No, we will provide our own ☐ initial \_\_\_\_\_

Hidden Trails Ltd. 659A Moberly Road Vancouver, BC V5Z 4B3 FAX: 604-323-1148 Phone: 604-323-1141



## Hidden Trails

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Website [www.hiddentrails.com](http://www.hiddentrails.com)

Office hours:

Mo-Fr 8:30 am to 6 pm

Pacific Standard Time



