Equus Journeys
HORSEBACK TRAVEL & EQUESTRIAN TRADITIONS SINCE 1972

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Cross-country training at Castle Leslie

IRELAND

Perfect for **hunters and eventers**, this programme involves up to 3 hours training every day with a focus on cross-country jumping. **Castle Leslie**, located in Co. Monaghan, Ireland, is one of Europe's finest equestrian playgrounds and boasts an impressive **cross-country course**. After your ride, enjoy a variety of activities including walking, fishing or clay-pigeon shooting, and relax in your cosy room at the Lodge. All levels are welcome and itineraries can be personalised.

Centre based holidays	**6 days (5 days riding) or 4 days (3 days riding)**	**From £2,329**		Family holidays from 11 y.o	Open to non-riders


Cross-country course at Castle Leslie


Riding in front of Castle Leslie, Ireland


A programme focusing on cross-country riding

ITINERARY

Highlights

- Impressive equestrian facilities, with excellent indoors/outdoors arenas and over 300 cross-country jumps
- A personalised programme to suit all riding abilities, from novice to experienced riders
- Highly qualified and competent instructors, all BHS approved
- A great selection of horses suitable for riders of all levels

Day 1 — 1 : UK - DUBLIN OR BELFAST - CASTLE LESLIE - 1 hour riding

The Lodge at Castle Leslie

Castle Leslie is easily accessible from either Dublin or Belfast airport.
You can either request a private transfer from the airport, take a bus to the closest city (Monaghan) or rent a car.

After you settle into your room at The Lodge, depending on your arrival time, you may like to take a walk around the estate. Your first assessment lesson will be at 4.15 pm: it is a good opportunity to discuss your requirements for the week ahead with your instructors.

Your package includes half-board accommodation, with dinners (2 course meals) at Conor's Bar.

PLEASE NOTE - The following programme is tailored for competent riders who have previous cross-country experience. However, all riding abilities are welcome to Castle Leslie and we would be happy to create an itinerary in keeping with your requirements and riding skills. Activities are weather-dependent and might change to work around weather conditions. Lessons scheduled below are just an example and we will construct an itinerary to

suit your flight times and other activities you may like to do while in Ireland.

Day 2 — 2 : CASTLE LESLIE - 3 hours riding

The Lodge at Castle Leslie

After a leisurely breakfast, head to the stables for your 10 a.m. Estate ride (2 hrs). You will have the chance to catch of glimpse of the impressive cross-country course that unrolls across the grounds of the Castle.

After lunch (to your own account), a jumping lesson is planned at around 3 p.m. All instructors at Castle Leslie are experienced and BHS qualified, and will be able to help refine any riding issues you may have.

After your lesson, you may like to relax in the spa or avail of one of the many activities on offer at the Castle: clay pigeon-shooting, kayaking, fishing... Activities and access to the spa are at an extra cost, payable locally. Please contact us for a full list of activities.

Dinner at Conor's Bar and night at the lodge.

Day 3 — 3 : CASTLE LESLIE - 3 hours riding

The Lodge at Castle Leslie

In the morning, another ride takes you around the stunning Castle grounds for around 2 hrs. There are over 21 miles of bridleways for you to enjoy, with good canters to be had.

Lunch (to your own account) will be followed by a jumping lesson to consolidate yesterday's skills.

In the afternoon, you may want to explore the surroundings, as the area teems with local attractions and opportunities for outdoors pursuits.

Dinner at Conor's Bar and night at the lodge.

Day 4 — 4 : CASTLE LESLIE - 3 hours riding

The Lodge at Castle Leslie

Now that you are familiarised with the horses and the instructors, it is time to get ready for your first cross-country training session. This morning, you are likely to ride in the indoors arena, focusing on your technique and position over indoors cross-country jumps.

The afternoon ride (2 hrs) will see you tackle Castle Leslie's renowned cross-country course! Probably one of the best courses in the country, there are jumps for all levels of riding and more than enough fences for thrill-seekers.

Dinner at Conor's Bar and night at the lodge.

Day 5 — 5 : CASTLE LESLIE - 3 hours riding

The Lodge at Castle Leslie

In the morning, another cross-country jumping lesson awaits. With over 300 jumps around the Estate, you may like to try out new jumps or combinations or go over your favourite jumps again.

Every rider knows that good flatwork is key to a successful course. This afternoon, a 1h lesson will focus solely on your skills over the flat.

If you wish, you may book an additional lesson at any time - why not try side-saddle riding? (subject to availability, at an extra cost).

Dinner at Conor's Bar and night at the lodge.

Day 6 — 6 : CASTLE LESLIE - 2 hours riding

Right after breakfast, enjoy your last cross-country ride. This is your last opportunity to work on your skills and ask your last questions to Castle Leslie's instructors before the end of your training programme.

You are transferred to the airport of your choice (Dublin/Belfast) after your ride.

DATES & PRICES

DEPARTURE	RETURN	PRICE WITHOUT FLIGHTS	STATUS
21/02/2027	26/02/2027	£2,399	Open
28/02/2027	05/03/2027	£2,399	Open
07/03/2027	12/03/2027	£2,399	Open
14/03/2027	19/03/2027	£2,399	Open
21/03/2027	26/03/2027	£2,399	Open
28/03/2027	02/04/2027	£2,399	Open
04/04/2027	09/04/2027	£2,399	Open
11/04/2027	16/04/2027	£2,399	Open
18/04/2027	23/04/2027	£2,399	Open
25/04/2027	30/04/2027	£2,399	Open
02/05/2027	07/05/2027	£2,399	Open
09/05/2027	14/05/2027	£2,399	Open
16/05/2027	21/05/2027	£2,399	Open
23/05/2027	28/05/2027	£2,399	Open
30/05/2027	04/06/2027	£2,399	Open
06/06/2027	11/06/2027	£2,399	Open
13/06/2027	18/06/2027	£2,399	Open
20/06/2027	25/06/2027	£2,399	Open
27/06/2027	02/07/2027	£2,399	Open
04/07/2027	09/07/2027	£2,399	Open
11/07/2027	16/07/2027	£2,399	Open
18/07/2027	23/07/2027	£2,399	Open
25/07/2027	30/07/2027	£2,399	Open
01/08/2027	06/08/2027	£2,399	Open
08/08/2027	13/08/2027	£2,399	Open
15/08/2027	20/08/2027	£2,399	Open
22/08/2027	27/08/2027	£2,399	Open
29/08/2027	03/09/2027	£2,399	Open
05/09/2027	10/09/2027	£2,399	Full
12/09/2027	17/09/2027	£2,399	Open
19/09/2027	24/09/2027	£2,399	Open
26/09/2027	01/10/2027	£2,399	Open
03/10/2027	08/10/2027	£2,399	Open

10/10/2027	15/10/2027	£2,399	Open
17/10/2027	22/10/2027	£2,399	Open
24/10/2027	29/10/2027	£2,399	Open
31/10/2027	05/11/2027	£2,399	Open
07/11/2027	12/11/2027	£2,399	Open

Price details

PLEASE NOTE - DURING WINTER MONTHS THE OUTSIDE CROSS COUNTRY COURSE IS NOT AVAILABLE. INSIDE ARENA ONLY.

- Flights or transportation to your destination are not included, but can be booked on request - please contact us for rates.

- Rates are per person, based on two riders sharing a twin or double room during the holiday. This package can also be booked from 3-7 nights and incorporate the same elements, please contact us for a personalised quotation.

- If you sign up to the ride as a solo rider and there are no other riders likely to share your room, you will be charged a single room supplement of approx. €885/£770/$1035 in 2026, or €915/£795/$1055 in 2027. You will then be reimbursed if a sharer is found for you at a later date.

- Lessons are held in groups of 6 riders max.

- Transfers from/to Dublin or Belfast airport are not included and are payable locally (rates per person, one way). Rates may increase in 2027.
1 pax: €190 in 2026, or €200 in 2027
2-5 pax: €95 in 2026, or €100 in 2027
6+ pax: €85 in 2026, or €90 in 2027
2027 only - please note that if a pick-up is from or to Belfast City Airport and between the times of 7am – 10am & 4pm – 7pm, there will be an additional charge of €40 per car.
Alternatively you can also take a bus from Dublin/Belfast to Monaghan and a taxi can be arranged between the station and the Castle. Please contact your advisor to know more.

- Children 7-11 yo are welcome and benefit from a discounted rate - €2480/£2145/$2860 in 2026, or €2610/£2260/$3010 in 2027.

- Non-riders are welcome. Their programme includes 5 nights Bed & Full Irish Breakfast and a choice of a 2-course meal in Conor's bar each night or a main course in Snaffles Restaurant. Starting from €1755/£1540/$2060 in 2026, or €1760/£1525/$2030 in 2027 per person (sharing a twin).
Please Note
The itinerary may be modified at anytime for security reasons, meteorological or events beyond our control such as blocked roads, rivers in flood, drought, strikes and local holidays. Equus Journeys, our local partners and their local guides will always strive to find the best solution and will alter the itinerary as needed.
The names of the hotels and accommodation are given for information only and depending on availability, they may be modified without notice and replaced by another of a similar standard.

Price includes

SUPPORT TEAM

1 or 2 BHS qualified instructor(s)

LOGISTIC

1 horse equipped with saddle and bridle

ACCOMMODATION

Double room at the lodge

MEALS

Half board from breakfast on day 1 to breakfast on day 6. Dinners are either a Conor's bar (two course meal) or Snaffle restaurant (one course meal)

EXTRA EQUIPMENT

First aid kit

Price doesn't include

MEALS

Lunches
Beverages and personal extras

TRANSPORTS

Transfers to and from Dublin or Belfast airport
International flights bookable on request

EXTRA

Tips to local team

INSURANCE

Cancellation and travel insurances are not included. Please note that insurance is mandatory. We recommend to take out an insurance policy as soon as your travel is booked in case of cancellation.

Optional

ACCOMMODATION

Single room supplement
Room upgrade (please consult us)

EQUESTRIAN INFO

Horses

An excellent selection of Irish draughts, Irish sport horses and cobs, ranging from 14'2 to 17'. Some are suitable to nervous riders while others will be perfect for riders looking for a challenge.

Rider weight limit: 16 stone/100Kgs/224lbs

Guide & local team

All the instructors at Castle Leslie are all fully qualified and BHS approved.

Minimum riding ability

MINIMUM RIDING ABILITY

No particular conditions. The listed programme is tailored to competent riders with previous jumping experience, but we are able to organise holidays for riders of all abilities. Please contact us for full details.

Children aged seven years old or older are welcome to ride.

PACE

The pace of the rides and lessons will be dictated by your riding abilities. There is plenty of excellent riding for good riders, while less experienced riders will ride according to their skills.

Please note that the cross country course is usually closed from November-February.

TACKING ABILITY AND PARTICIPATION

Your horse will be looked after for you but you are welcome to help should you want to.

TRIP CONDITIONS AND REQUESTED EXPERIENCE

No particular conditions. The listed programme is tailored to competent riders with previous jumping experience, but we are able to organise holidays for riders of all abilities.

EQUESTRIAN EQUIPMENT

You ride in English tack.

It is compulsory to wear a helmet at all times, and it must comply with the official regulations (fixed peaks are not acceptable when cross-country jumping).
Body protectors are mandatory for jumping and cross-country jumping.

The centre has helmets and a selection of body protectors to lend, however we always recommend you bring your own. The below riding great is provided on a complimentary basis to all guests:
· Skull and Peaked hats to the correct standard (Snell E2001, SEI ASTM 95,
ASTMF1163 2004 and PAS 2015)
· Jodhpur boots
· Long rubber riding boots
· Riding Crops
· Back Protectors to the correct standard (Beta Level 3)

TRAVEL INFO

COMFORT

Accommodation is normally in the Lodge, located close to the stables, with very comfortable and tastefully-decorated rooms. Upgrades to the Castle are available, please contact us.

Self-catering cottages are also available for groups or families at a very interesting rate.

MEALS

Half-board accommodation.
Breakfast: full Irish or continental
Dinner: two-course meals at Conor's bar or one one course meal in Snaffles restaurant.

Dietary requests can usually be accommodated if mentioned in advance - please inform your travel advisor upon booking.

CLIMATE

The weather in Ireland is similar to that in the rest of the British Isles, although it is more likely to rain. You should always be prepared with a good quality raincoat and dress in layers as you might enjoy a glorious sunny day followed by one which is rather more wet and cold.

TIPS

Tips are not mandatory but very welcome if you are pleased with the service provided.

PACKING LIST

Please pack carefully and sensibly: the following guide is here to give you an idea of what to bring. This list must be adapted depending on the season and individual needs.

Head
- Riding helmet (fixed peaks are not acceptable when cross-country jumping).

Upper Body
- Body protector
- Half or long-sleeved cotton shirts (to provide protection from the sun) or T-shirt in a quick-drying material
- A light raincoat
- A lightweight fleece or jumper
- A swimsuit

Legs
- Jodhpurs or riding trousers
- Trousers suitable for dinner at the Conor's bar
- Cotton or synthetic underwear (non-irritant)

Hands and feet
- Short boots and half chaps are the best option as they are much cooler and easier to transport, but if you are used to riding in your long boots and want to wear them this is fine.
- Lightweight shoes for the evenings
- Several pairs of socks
- Gloves

Other useful items
- Toiletries
- Small medical kit

Our Recommendations
- We recommend travelling in your riding boots and carrying your hat and some riding clothes in your hand luggage - then if your luggage goes astray you are still able to ride!
- You should also bring a copy of your passport/insurance in case you lose your documents. You can also save a copy into your mobile phone.

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

1. **Travel light.** It's a little known fact, but the lighter you pack, the better for the environment as heavy bags will produce higher emissions (when flying a plane or driving a car!).
2. **Reduce plastic waste.** Take your favorite reusable bottle with you. Avoid single-use bags, cups, or straws.
3. **Preserve nature.** Always take your rubbish with you during the ride and recycle them. Leave all the flowers or plants as you found them, and never get too close when observing wildlife. Make sure to use eco-friendly products such as body wash or laundry detergent (if camping) to protect both your skin and the environment.
4. **Choose your experiences carefully.** Respect animal life by not participating in any activities that abuse wild animals (shows, elephant rides, etc.).
5. **Support local populations.** Buy local handicrafts, be respectful of customs, and learn about the culture of local communities.
6. **Share!** Raise awareness among your family and friends about sustainable tourism.

For more information please see this page .