Equus Journeys
HORSEBACK TRAVEL & EQUESTRIAN TRADITIONS SINCE 1972

+44 (0) 1905 388977 info@equus-journeys.com

Last updated 17/11/2026

Clare County Trail

IRELAND

On this six-day **Irish trail ride** you will discover one of Ireland's most picturesque regions and its colourful history on horseback. You will ride over approximately 80km of quiet country lanes and rugged terrain, between the Slieve Aughty Mountains and the river Shannon. This **trail riding holiday on the west coast of Ireland** is best suited to intermediate and competent riders looking for a relaxed equestrian experience.

Trail Riding	**6 days (4 days riding)**	**From £1,636**		Open to non-riders


Galway Clare County Trail


Galway Clare County Trail


Galway Clare County Trail

ITINERARY

Highlights

- Ride Irish horses and ponies: Connemaras, Irish Sport Horses, Cobs, Tinkers, many of them bred by your guides and well-suited to the rugged environment of the Atlantic Coast.
- Discover some of Ireland's most picturesque scenery in the Slieve Aughty Mountains.
- Enjoy a relaxed trail ride and warm Irish hospitality.
- Stay at comfortable, cosy accommodation on a renovated equestrian farm.

Day 1 — 1: Arrive in Shannon

An Sibin

Fly to Shannon on the West coast of Ireland. Flights are not included but can be booked on request.

At around 4:00 pm, you will be transferred from Shannon airport to the equestrian farm, approx. 2 hours away – this is where you will be staying for the first four nights. Please see “dates and prices” for notes on transfer arrangements and costs.

Today you can just relax and recover from your journey before starting your riding holiday tomorrow, or explore the walking trails around the property. In the evening, you will get to know all your fellow riders for this week. You will have dinner in a tastefully restored 300-year-old equestrian farmhouse by candlelight and turf fire.

Overnight at the farm.

Day 2 — 2: Slieve Aughty Mountains - 2-3 hours riding

An Sibin

After meeting your horse and getting to know one another through grooming and saddling, set out on an easy half-day ride.

The trail leads along the wooded slopes of the Slieve Aughty Mountains and across wide stretches of open bogland – a gentle introduction to the week ahead.

Overnight at the farm.

Day 3 — 3: River Shannon & Holy Island - 4-5 hours riding

An Sibin

Today's ride takes you past traditional turf-cutting areas, with sweeping views over the majestic River Shannon.

Along the way, you'll learn about the Neolithic tombs and the legends surrounding the ruined monastic settlement on Holy Island.

Overnight at the farm.

Day 4 — 4: Lough Graney - 4-5 hours riding

An Sibin

This morning you'll head for the top of the hills overlooking endless woods and grazing land to the north, west and south. Long before you get there, you can spot way below the sandy shores of Lough Graney.

After lunch, your trail ride follows the water and soon you will be splashing right across the refreshing lake with the horses! The riding trails in the later afternoon take you through the typical farmland of rural Ireland with its lush green fields and endless old stone walls, dotted with peacefully grazing sheep and cattle.

Overnight at the farm.

Day 5 — 5: Wildflowers & Boggy Uplands - 4-5 hours riding

An Sibin

Today's trail leads you along narrow country lanes and through tranquil forest tracks, where the air is filled with birdsong and the scent of pine.

Emerging onto the open boggy uplands, you'll feel the vastness of the countryside unfolding around you – a patchwork of soft green fields and rugged heather hills. The trails are lined with vibrant gorse, foxglove, and purple heather, painting the landscape with colour.

Overnight at the farm.

Day 6 — 6: Departure

After breakfast, you'll be transferred to the airport for your flight home. Please make sure to book a flight departing after 12:00 noon.

DATES & PRICES

DEPARTURE	RETURN	PRICE WITHOUT FLIGHTS	STATUS
01/05/2027	06/05/2027	£1,636	Guaranteed departure
15/05/2027	20/05/2027	£1,636	Guaranteed departure
29/05/2027	03/06/2027	£1,636	Open
12/06/2027	17/06/2027	£1,636	Open
26/06/2027	01/07/2027	£1,636	Guaranteed departure

10/07/2027	15/07/2027	£1,636	Open
24/07/2027	29/07/2027	£1,636	Open
07/08/2027	12/08/2027	£1,636	Open
21/08/2027	26/08/2027	£1,636	Guaranteed departure

Price details

- Flights 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 triple room during the ride.

- Groups are composed of a minimum of 4 riders and a maximum of 8 international riders, plus guides. The ride will also confirm from 2-3 riders on payment of a supplement - €185 / £165 / $215 per person.

- 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. €150 / £130 / $175. You will then be reimbursed if a sharer is found for you at a later date.

- Transfers will be arranged from and to Shannon airport but are payable locally in cash at €55 per person, per way, based on a minimum of 4 riders sharing the same transfer. The pick-up is scheduled around 4:00 pm on arrival. On departure, please book a flight departing after 12:00 noon. Transfers from/to Loughrea bus station can be arranged at a rate of €45 per person (each way), where you can catch a bus to Dublin if you'd like to fly into or out of the city.

- Accompanying non-riders are welcome and will benefit from from a discounted rate: €780 / £670 / $890 (full board + drinks included). Non-riders can enjoy sightseeing during the day (you will need a rental car), play golf, go fishing, cycling, hiking, etc. Please note that none of these activities is included in the price.

- Accompanied young riders are welcome from 12+ yo, provided they match the riding requirements.
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 English-speaking horse guide

LOGISTIC

1 horse per rider (same throughout the week)

INLAND TRANSPORTS

Inland transfers as mentioned in the itinerary

ACCOMMODATION

Double or triple room at the equestrian farm

MEALS

Full-board accommodation from dinner on arrival to breakfast on departure

EXTRA EQUIPMENT

First aid kit

Price doesn't include

MEALS

Beverages and personal extras

TRANSPORTS

Airport transfers at set times (see dates and prices)
International flights

EXTRA

Tips to the 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

EQUESTRIAN INFO

Horses

The Irish horse is renowned for its stamina, versatility and gentleness and will provide an ideal companion for an unforgettable horse riding holiday in Ireland. The horses at the equestrian farm are proud examples of several typical Irish breeds such as the tall but gentle Irish Sport Horse, the lively and clever Connemara, the fine and energetic Irish Hunter, the beautifully coloured and surefooted Tinker/ Gypsy Vanner and the intelligent and comfortable Irish Cob.

Our local team breeds many of their horses at home. Each year some new foals join the growing herd. They are specifically trained by our guides to become the willing, safe and sure-footed trail horses they are – really the perfect mount for a week-long riding holiday in the Burren!.

Guide & local team

Bertie and Nicola are your hosts. They are very friendly and open people. They have been operating trail rides in the west coast of Ireland and the Burren for many years.

Minimum riding ability

MINIMUM RIDING ABILITY

You need to be a strong intermediate rider, able to control your horse at all paces and in open spaces. You should be able to canter in forward seat and be balanced with good hands.

Rider weight limit: 85 kilos, 187 lbs, 13.3 st.

PACE

The pace varies depending on the terrain. There are opportunities for long trots and canters when the terrain is suitable. There are also long stretches of walking. Canters are in single file.

TACKING ABILITY AND PARTICIPATION

You will be responsible for your assigned horse during the week: grooming, tacking and untacking. You can also help feed and water the horses in the evening. Assistance is always on hand if needed.

TRIP CONDITIONS AND REQUESTED EXPERIENCE

Guests who do not ride regularly are requested to get fit prior to your riding holiday. It is of particular importance to ensure you are comfortable and balanced when riding across rough terrain and open spaces.

EQUESTRIAN EQUIPMENT

English saddles and bridles. Saddlebags are not provided - we recommend bringing a small bum bag.

Helmets are mandatory. There are a few helmets available locally. We recommend all our riders to bring their own to ensure a proper fit.

TRAVEL INFO

COMFORT

On this riding holiday, you will be staying at a renovated equestrian farm that is our guides' home base. Riding guests stay in double or triple en-suite rooms and can enjoy the cosy ambiance of the sitting rooms. This is charming farm setting is perfect for those who want to reconnect with nature, including many friendly pet farm animals and sign-posted walking trails.

A laundry room is available (no dryer).

MEALS

Full Irish breakfasts are served in the morning, or a choice of home-made bread, yoghurt, cereal...
Light picnic lunches are provided during the day and eaten on the trail: salads, bread, cakes, cheese platters...
Three course dinners at the farm always tasty and fresh – meat, potatoes and salads are a staple! On the nights you're staying in guesthouses, dinners will at a local pub or restaurant.

Wine, cider and beer, and sodas can provided at an extra cost (in cash).

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

CLIMATE

The west coast of Ireland has an oceanic climate which is changeable and can be wet. In spring the temperatures range from 8-12c. April is particularly pleasant. In summer (May-July) the highest average temperatures are 18-20c, whilst in Autumn (Aug - Oct) the temperatures range from 14-18c. September is considered to be mild and temperate. The coldest months are January and February and sometimes temperatures drop below zero. Snow is rare, but there can be heavy rainfall at any time of year.

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
- Sunhat: cap for when not riding
- Sunglasses - with a cord attached so they don't fly off when riding

Upper Body
- Thermals in case of cold weather (long or short-sleeved T-shirts)
- Short or long-sleeved cotton shirts (to provide protection from the sun) or T-shirt in a quick-drying material
- Lightweight fleece or jumper
- Warm polar fleece or equivalent (plus a spare in case one gets wet)
- Warm Goretex-style jacket (water-proof and breathable)

Legs
- 2 pairs of jodhpurs or long leather trousers
- 1 change of trousers for the evening.
- 1 pair of waterproof over trousers
- Cotton or synthetic underwear (non-irritant)

Hands and feet
- 1 pair of comfortable riding boots. We recommend short boots with half chaps but you may wish to take long chaps or long boots.

- Lightweight shoes or trainers for the evenings
- Several pairs of socks
- Gloves

Other useful items
- Water bottle
- Toiletries
- Ear plugs (may be useful)

Medical kit
- Sunscreen and lip balm - should be high factor
- Insect repellent
- Any medication you regularly take
- Vitamin C tablets
- Blister plasters in case of any rubs
- Antiseptic cream, plasters, aspirin, anti-histamine, insect-bite salve etc..
- 10cm wide bandage
- Painkillers
- Spare prescription glasses/contact lenses
- Eye drops
- Imodium or similar anti-diarrhoea medication
- Re-hydration sachets
- Antiseptic wipes
- Handwash gel

Our Recommendations
- Backpacks cannot be worn whilst riding. We recommend a small bumbag or a coat with pockets so that you can carry small items with you during the day (passport, camera, sunscreen, lipbalm etc)
- 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 .