

DISCOVER DONEGAL TRAIL RIDE & A TASTE OF DONEGAL TRAIL RIDE



DONEGAL EQUESTRIAN CENTRE



Discover Donegal Trail

Sample Itinerary – Please note our rides are subject to tide times so days and routes may alter at short notice.

Day 1 Sunday – Arrive at your allocated guest house. Then a visit to the stables to meet horses and staff. The trail guide will discuss your riding ability and pick a horse suitable for you. Times for this day are to suit your travel arrangements.

Day 2 Monday – 10am: You will be picked up from your guest house and taken to the stables. (This is a very short journey and you can walk if you wish to) Your horse will already be tacked for you and will be loaded on to the horse box. You will then be transferred to the start of the Breezy Mountain Trail.

This trail is designed to be an easy introduction to the start of your week, giving you chance to get to know your horse and guide. The pace is relaxed with trotting and a few short canters. You will ride for 2 and a half hours before stopping for lunch at the local village inn.

START DATES AVAILABLE FOR 2012

- Sunday 8th April
- Sunday 6th May
- Sunday 20th May
- Sunday 27th May
- Sunday 10th June
- Sunday 24th June
- Sunday 1st July
- Sunday 8th July
- Sunday 12th August
- Sunday 19th August
- Sunday 26th August
- Sunday 2nd September
- Sunday 9th September
- Sunday 16th September

Other dates available for bookings of 4 or more riders.

Please email/phone for availability.

CONTACT US

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Web: <http://www.donegalequestriancentre.com>



After lunch you ride back out into the village and through the Forests and lanes. Arriving back in Cashelard for your pick up.

Take some time out, relax and enjoy the unrivalled beauty of the stunning Donegal land and seascapes.

ABOUT US

Donegal Equestrian Centre is situated on Ireland's beautiful North West Coastline, near the town of Bundoran.

The centre is approved by:-

A.I.R.E (Association of Irish Riding Establishments),

B.H.S (British Horse Society) and Failte Ireland

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is provided in local approved B & B's. The town has a wide range of accommodation available from hostels to 4 star hotels. There is a non accommodation option available for those guests wishing to book their own accommodation.

THE HORSES

The centre has a wide selection of horses all picked for their temperament and suitability. Whatever your experience we will have a horse to suit your ability. Breeds include Cobs, Irish Sport Horses, Connemaras and part bred. Ponies are also available for younger riders. All horses are ridden in English Tack.

Day 3 Tuesday – 10am Pick up and transfer to start of the Benbulbin Trail

This morning will give you the unique opportunity to view and ride through three of the most breathtaking counties of Ireland; Sligo, Leitrim and Donegal. All located at the foothills of the Darty Mountain Range which includes one of Ireland's most unique landmarks Benbulbin, which is nestled between Truskmore and Benwisquin. Benbulbin's unusual shape was created during the ice age by glaciers which carved the landscape we see today. You then go for a wonderful gallop along Trawalua Strand towards Classie Bawn Castle.

This is a long morning ride of 3 hours which means a late lunch by the beautiful Mullgahmore Harbour. After lunch you will enjoy a relaxing amble around Mullgahmore head and watch the waves crashing against the rocks. This is a wonderful opportunity to admire the beautiful Atlantic coastline. The afternoon ride is a shorter ride of an hour and a half.



Enjoy unhindered access to deserted beaches, country moors and trails, and the unrivaled beauty of the Donegal Mountains

ABOUT THE AREA

Bundoran is known as Ireland's Premier Seaside resort and Surf Capital. Set along Donegal's rugged coastline you will find everything you would expect from a seaside town along with stunning beaches and breathtaking views. Bundoran offers a wealth of activities for non riding partners such as surfing, golf, hill walking, fishing and cycling. With many traditional Irish pubs offering live music it is easy to find something to do in the evenings.

WHY RIDE WITH DONEGAL EQUESTRIAN CENTRE

We organise everything apart from the weather! Superb horses, quality accommodation, adventurous rides through magnificent unspoiled scenery. Explore the beauty of the beaches, bogs, mountains and surrounding countryside. Our guides are friendly, knowledgeable and experienced. So all you have to do is enjoy your time with us whilst experiencing the Irish charm and hospitality.

Day 4 Wednesday - Tullan Strand Trail– 10am pick up and transfer to stables. Today's ride starts and finishes at the stables.

This ride will begin on Tullan Strand, which is situated on the most north westerly point of Europe. You will gallop along the golden sands with the wonderful Atlantic Ocean to your left facing the Blue Stack Mountains. Tullan Strand is renowned for its surf and has hosted the European surfing championship. As you continue for 2.5km on the golden sands, the guide will then enter the sand dunes famous for having some of the biggest dunes in Ireland. When you reach the pinnacle of the dunes you can admire the Erne estuary.



Unwind and blow those cobwebs away, by enjoying a gallop down Tullan Strand

FAUNA & FLORA

There are 31 species of mammals found in Ireland. During your ride you may see Hares, Red Deer, Rabbits, Foxes, Grey Seals & Common Seals. There are no snakes in Ireland and the only reptile is the common lizard.

Ireland is important colony for seabird and migratory waterfowl. Inland waters support colonies of Swans, Geese, Waders, Duck, Tern and Gulls.

Rivers and lakes contain a wide variety of fish life. Salmon, Brown Trout, Char, Pollan and Eel occur naturally. Other varieties such as Pike, Roach and Rainbow Trout have been introduced from outside.

Ireland owes its designation as The Emerald Isle to its mild winters and damp summers, which result in a year-round greenness. A range of heaths, rushes & bracken can be found on the bog land. Rhododendrons, fuchsia can be found in abundance in the hedgerows. Springtime will see a wealth of primrose and bluebells.

Day 5 Thursday - 10am Pick and transfer to start of Rosstown Trail
The ride starts at Wardtown castle at Creevy.

The castle commenced building in 1600's. After the Act of the Settlement 1541, English landlords were given large areas of land in Ireland. Folliot came here and the Castle was finished in 1715. A local senator, Speaker Connolly bought out some local landlords and owned much of the land from Ballyshannon to Donegal.

You then wind through the country lanes to Rosstown beach. Rosstown - 'The Heavenly Cove' is regarded by many as the most scenic and dramatic beach in the whole of the Northwest. Located on the dramatic Atlantic coast the beach has fantastic views of the Donegal Bay coastline including Slieve League the highest sea cliffs in Europe.



After a good gallop along the beach you arrive at Murravagh Beach. An extensive sandy beach, it is calm and sheltered. The extensive dune system in this area is a designated Special Area of Conservation. The beach is flanked by sand dunes which lead in to Murravagh Forest. Here you will stop for a picnic lunch.

After lunch you ride back along the beach to Rosstown and then through the country lanes to your pick up.



Donegal, the wildest and most romantic of all the Irish Counties

OPTIONS

Discover Donegal trail Ride
7 nights & 5 days Riding
Price:- €965 includes transfers from Ballyshannon bus station, 7 nights B & B, 5 days riding, lunches on riding days, transfers from accommodation to stables and return.

A Taste of Donegal
4 nights & 3 days riding
Price:- €595 includes transfers from Ballyshannon bus station, 4 nights B & B, 3 days riding, lunches on riding days, transfers from accommodation to stables and return.

Riding Only Option
Discover Donegal Trail - €650
A Taste of Donegal - €390

Extra Day Riding - €120 inc lunch

BOOKING

A 20% deposit is required to secure your booking. Balance is payable 21 days before your arrival date. Bookings can be made by email or phone. A booking enquiry form can be found at:-

<http://donegalequestriancentre.com/trail-rides/trail-ride-enquiry-form>

Day 6 Friday 10am pick up and transfer to the Leitrim Tail.

Your ride today starts at Glenade Lough a naturally occurring lake. It is situated close to Manorhamilton, between the Arroo and Benbulbin Mountain ranges. Your ride then climbs along the lanes reaching 400m into the Darty Mountain range. Where you get spectacular views of the surrounding countryside and Donegal Bay. We stop here for a picnic lunch.

After lunch you ride back down towards Kinlough exploring the quiet but beautiful Leitrim countryside.

Your ride continues through lanes to your pick up at Tullaghan.



Day 7 Saturday – Non Riding Day - A chance to explore shop and relax. The Tullan Strand Trail can be booked on this day as an extra if required.

Day 8 Sunday - Departure



Delight at the beauty of the countryside, but most of all enjoy the people, the fun and the sheer bliss which makes our trail holidays unique.

Further Information

Your required ability to do this ride, what the terrain will be like and age we cater for.

We need all our riders to be ride fit, capable of riding a forward going horse at all paces and in control in open spaces such as the beach. The terrain we go over varies - beaches, hills, roadwork, tracks, bridleways, rocky paths, boggy moors. So it can be technical, requiring balance, suppleness and control as well as faith in your horse!! We will take younger riders **only** if they meet the ability criteria and if accompanied by their parents or a guardian with assumed responsibility. If you are not at this level or wish to ride as a family group we can tailor a ride for you but need a minimum of four people. Please note that we do not mix riding abilities so please do not over estimate your ability.

What to expect?

We aim to give you an amazing holiday on the right horse for your ability on a variety of terrain led by an experienced rider leader. We cannot control the weather we can only plan for it! We ask that you treat our horses with respect, love and firmness. Please tell us if there is anything we can improve upon. Have a fantastic time!

Accommodation

Accommodation is provided in local approved B & B's. The trail price includes seven nights Bed, Breakfast, & lunch on riding days. There are a variety of pubs & restaurants in Bundoran serving food so evening meals are your responsibility. If you would rather stay in hotel accommodation we recommend that you book this direct with the hotel yourself and take the riding only option.

What to bring.

We advise the following: **Jods/breeches** for 5 days riding, min 2 pairs jods **Riding Hat** (to current safety standards) and gloves **Socks, undies, toiletries** as per usual to include sunscreen, midge repellent A choice of **tops** to encompass both foul weather and fair. The weather in Ireland cannot be predetermined and we have had occasional wet spells! A **fleece** and/or a **sweatshirt** or two. Good **waterproofs** - we have found over years of off-road riding that the long trail coats **do** work.

Footwear Please do not wear flat soled plastic riding boots, you will find them very uncomfortable, ideally an off road/all terrain riding boot with half chaps. You must have a distinct heel for safety reasons. A good long boot e.g. some of the Mountain Horse or Ariat ranges amongst others where there is a good sole to provide grip would also be suitable. Casual clothes for evenings and non riding days. Some guests like to try surfing whilst here so bring swimwear if you think you might like to have ago.

Riding style

We would like you to ride in a relaxed style when on the trails, you are not in a school and do not require a firm contact with the horse's mouth. The horse uses its head for balance and, particularly on uneven terrain, needs to have the freedom to use it. When either on a road or near other path users we expect you to take up a contact for safety reasons. We still expect to see your riding position as normal, upright, sitting lightly and sympathetically, if you slouch in the saddle your weight goes to the back of the saddle and can cause sores. On steep ground we expect to see our riders helping the horses by getting their weight well out of the saddle, up in the stirrups, to assist, and downhill leaning gently back. When on the ride do not ride right up the backside of the horse in front, and watch each other's horses for their body language, if a horse's ears are back it may mean a threat of a kick or at the least, discomfort/unhappiness. Most of the horses will ride happily alongside each other.

Choice of horses

We determine who is riding what horse by the information you give us, we may be able to leave you on the same horse for the duration of the ride, or we may not. Again, other folk may wish to try a variety of mounts, we will endeavour to give you the horse you want but it is at our judgement and discretion.

Delight at the beauty of the countryside, but most of all enjoy the people, the fun and the sheer bliss which makes our trail holidays unique.

Testimonials

Don't take our word for it read what our clients say about us!

I wanted to send you a quick note to tell you what a fabulous ride we had at your farm this August. The horses were great, the riding gorgeous and Morris was great company.

Kate and I both feel so fortunate to have had the opportunity to ride your beautiful beaches. I have attached a snapshot that I took the day we rode - how cute are these little ones? Thanks again for a fabulous ride!

Ann and Kate

Here you have some photos of our trek,

Thank you so much!

It was one of the best experiences of our life!!

We'll come back again!!

See you soon

Annalisa & Antonio

A little late in getting this to you but just wanted to thank all of you for a dream come true. I really enjoyed my ride while we were in Ireland last month.

Thank you again so much for all your kind attention and maybe I'll be back some day.

Rita Koechowski

I want to let you know that I enjoyed my ride through the dunes and over the beach. What beautiful scenery. And special thanks to Shauna who was hospitable, entertaining, passionate about horses (but of course you know that), telling about the area, interested in her guest and she felt free enough to talk about herself. Top girl to have in your team!

Maybe until next time,

with kind regards,

Jader Franklim Pinto

We would like to thank you for the wonderful holiday. All kids absolutely loved the riding part!! Your horses are great! They are the most healthy and happy looking from all animals I've seen in the riding schools up to now.

They are friendly and willing to work. And a BIG THANK YOU to the riding instructors, who were very cheerful and smiley all the time. Our kids had a fantastic holiday in your centre.

Once again thank you for a high quality riding holiday!

Joanna

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