

A horsey holiday haven!

Many of us are turning our thoughts to riding holidays in the summer months - maybe it is the chance to escape from the kids for a long weekend; to have a change of scenery with friends or family; to add-on the chance to relax and be pampered, or of course to learn new horse riding disciplines, and practise our riding skills on new horses. If you prefer to stay close to home, with a short, cost-effective flight, then Ireland could be the perfect riding holiday destination

for you. Horse riding aside, the country is the ideal location for any holiday, not least because of the warm welcome you will receive. Readers of the 'Yahoo! Travel' service recently voted three Irish cities within the top four of its friendliest cities list, worldwide. The top three slots were Galway, Dublin and Cork. There's something for everyone at Castle Leslie Estate in County Monaghan, where I am based. From side saddle lessons to a relaxing massage at the venue's organic spa, guests are certainly spoilt for choice. The venue's one night, 'Sparkling Summer Special' package is a very nice overnight trip for couples - it includes Sparkling Pink Prosecco, Summer

Inspired Chocolates, our venue's self professed Best Breakfast in Ireland, and a €25 estate voucher to use on Afternoon Tea for two, or the Table D'Hote Dinner for two at Snaffles Restaurant. The cost is from £67 per adult for the overnight trip. Guests can then add on riding tuition as required, with a 45 minute private lesson costing £40, and a one hour hack costing £32.

Boosting confidence

But while many of us love to rest and recuperate, it is the centre's extensive, Willis Bros-designed cross country course that pulls many customers back, year after year. From beginner fences to what are described as more



By Jenny Richardson of Castle Leslie Estate
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challenging, 'knee trembling fences', guests at Castle Leslie are sure to improve their cross country skills and boost their riding confidence. In fact, the Estate's 'Get Back Your

Confidence' package is a five day holiday featuring three hours' of daily lessons, culminating in a two hour estate ride, from £1,089 per person sharing. (Available from August onwards). Dublin and Belfast airports are of course very well served by East Anglia's airports, notably Norwich and Stansted. Why not browse our website at www.castleleslie.com and see if anything takes your fancy this summer?

Fun Facts

- Ireland is the only country in the world that has a musical instrument (the harp), as its national symbol.
- The festival of Halloween is said to trace its origins back to the Gaelic harvest festival of Samhain.
- Ireland is the third largest island in Europe and the twentieth largest in the world.
- James Joyce, the Irish novelist and poet, once described Guinness stout as 'the wine of Ireland.'
- The renowned Irish Sports Horse is well-loved the world over - the breed is the result of a cross between the Irish Draught and a lighter breed, typically an English Thoroughbred.



Riding holidays offer a change of scenery with friends or family

Wish you were here...

Escape on the Sparkling Summer Special package with a loved one



Fizz for two!

Why not have a change of scenery at Castle Leslie Estate?