COURSES FOR HORSES
A GUIDE TO IRISH RACECOURSES

Horse Racing... Let yourself go!

goracing.ie
WHENEVER YOU ARE IN IRELAND YOU ARE NEVER FAR FROM A RACECOURSE.
26 RACECOURSES IN CITIES, TOWNS AND OPEN COUNTRYSIDE WELCOME
1.3 MILLION RACEGOERS THROUGH THEIR GATES EVERY YEAR.

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DISCLAIMER: EVERY CARE HAS BEEN TAKEN TO ENSURE ACCURACY IN THE COMPILATION OF THIS GUIDE. HORSE RACING IRELAND CANNOT, HOWEVER, ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR ERRORS OR OMISSIONS BUT WHERE SUCH ARE BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION, FUTURE PUBLICATIONS WILL BE AMENDED ACCORDingly.

FIXTURES AND PRICES ARE CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRINT. THEY MAY CHANGE OVER TIME AND RACE-GOERS SHOULD CHECK ALL INFORMATION BEFORE TRAVELLING TO A RACE MEETING. PUBLISHED IN JULY 2011.
IRISH RACECOURSES
AN INTRODUCTION

HORSE RACING IN IRELAND IS A MAJOR RURAL INDUSTRY, A SIGNIFICANT EMPLOYER AND CONTRIBUTOR TO THE EXCHEQUER, AND IS RECOGNISED EVERYWHERE AS A WORLD LEADER.

THE HORSE IS NEAR THE TOP OF THE LIST OF ASSOCIATIONS WITH IRELAND THAT PEOPLE NOMINATE WHEN ASKED, RIGHT UP THERE WITH MOUNTAINS, LAKES, GUINNESS AND RAIN.

There are twenty six racecourses in Ireland - more per head of population than any other country in the world. They say that it's the people that make the place and nowhere is that more true than at an Irish racecourse where the people, above all else, create a sense of place and shared experience which makes up that most elusive quality - atmosphere.

We Irish have a special talent for horsemanship and the heroes of our turf have carried the name of Irish racing to every corner of the world.

The love and respect for horses and the people who care for, train and ride them, runs deep. This is true even in the cities, where links to the land are, thankfully, still cherished.

While racing fans have a wealth of information and entertainment available to them at home via television, radio, newspapers and the internet, they still turn out in great numbers (c. 1.3m annually) to take in the live experience of racing.

WHY?
Without doubt it is the breadth of experiences on offer that gives Irish racing such drawing power. From the large well-endowed tracks which hold the prestigious races and festivals to the smaller "country" courses, dotted around the map where racing is conducted close to the way God (probably) intended, the measure of fun is the same.

Whether it is the unique one-day beach meeting at Laytown in September or one of the great festival meetings, such as Punchestown or Galway, there is no better way to see and touch the "real Ireland" than by spending a day at the races.

Just turn these pages to see where and when (and how often) you can do just that, because wherever you are in Ireland you are never far from a racecourse.

Horse Racing Ireland will assist you with any aspect of planning a day at the races.

Please call our Marketing Department on 045 455681 (Int: +353 45 455681) or email info@hri.ie

Our website www.goracing.ie has a wealth of detail and information about all aspects of racing in Ireland.

Follow us on facebook and twitter:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/goracing
Twitter: @GoRacing

Horse Racing Ireland... Let yourself Go!
AN INTIMATE PLACE SET IN A NATURAL AMPHITHEATRE WHERE THE ACTION IS NEVER TOO FAR FROM VIEW - IT’S EVERYTHING A COUNTRY RACECOURSE SHOULD BE.

BALLINROBE
(Gaelic: Baile an Rodhba. Meaning: The Town on the River Robe)

Contact:
Tel: 094 954 1811
www.ballinroberacecourse.ie

Course Info:
National Hunt & Flat / Grade 2
County: Mayo

RACE COURSE

FIXTURES
There are 9 meetings a year at Ballinrobe, seven of which are delightful Summer evening fixtures.

ADMISSION
Adults €12-15
Students & OAPs €8-10
Children under 14 Free
Books of pre-season tickets available

CONTACT DETAILS
Ballinrobe Racecourse,
Ballinrobe, Co. Mayo.
Tel: 094 954 1811
Email: manager@ballinroberacecourse.ie
Website: www.ballinroberacecourse.ie
Facebook: www.facebook.com/BallinrobeRaces
Twitter: @BallinrobeRaces
BALLINROBE REVEALED

In keeping with the West of Ireland’s reputation for being a relaxed, friendly part of the world the racecourses of the West of Ireland reflect that also. Race meetings in Ballinrobe are so relaxed one almost feels horizontal. Set before the picturesque vista of Lough Carra, an excursion to Ballinrobe will soothe any modern-life travails you may have. You will soon forget your boss’s haranguing or the fume-ridden traffic jam gauntlet you must run to get in and out of work every day.

An intimate place set in a natural amphitheatre where the action is never too far from view, it’s everything a country racecourse should be, and with eight meetings in the Summer (including seven evening meets) it is the ideal place to go to switch off and unwind. Ballinrobe is a racecourse that you will return to again and again.

CORPORATE FACILITIES

There is a 160-seater Coranna restaurant at the course which can serve ‘silver service’ 5 – course meals and is available to book for groups of 10 or more. There is also a self service restaurant in the new Pavilion building.

APRÈS RACING

There is a multitude of activities to occupy energetic visitors to the area, for both indoor and outdoor types. The area around Ballinrobe has been dubbed “The Lake Angling Capital of the West” with 60,000 acres of brown trout fishing between Lough Corrib and Lough Mask and also fishing on the river Robe.

There are scenic walkways in the area and regular traditional music and dancing in local pubs. There is also an 18-hole championship golf course at nearby Cloonacastle House.

LOCAL HOTELS

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<td>Ashford Castle Hotel</td>
<td>094 954 6003</td>
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<tr>
<td>McWilliam Park Hotel</td>
<td>094 937 8000</td>
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<td>Ryan’s Hotel</td>
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LOCAL RESTAURANTS

Carney’s Bar and Restaurant, Ballinrobe
Flannery’s, Ballinrobe
J J Gannon’s Bar and Restaurant, Ballinrobe
Marina’s Restaurant
Tí Bhurca Bar and Restaurant, Clonbur

LOCAL PUBS

Art O’Neills, Ballinrobe
Inch’s Bar, Ballinrobe
O’Malley’s, Ballinrobe

QUICK FACTS ABOUT BALLINROBE

- Race meetings have been recorded in the area since 1773. Racing has been held on the current course since it was purchased in 1921.
- Dorans Pride, a former Cheltenham Stayers Hurdle winner and twice placed in the Cheltenham Gold Cup, won his first race at Ballinrobe in 1993. Owned by Mayo man Tom Doran and trained by Michael Hourigan he went on to win €1 Million on the track.
- Traverse, the horse owned by the irrepressible Hector O’hEochagain and star of the series “Only Fools Buy Horses” also won his first Irish race at Ballinrobe in 2003.

Course Characteristics:

The course itself is a slightly elevated right-handed oval of about one mile and one furlong which features competitive flat and National Hunt (jump) racing.
WHAT’S RARE IS BEAUTIFUL AND IRISH RACEGOERS CERTAINLY SHOW THEIR APPRECIATION OF THIS PRECIOUS JEWEL IN THE RACING CALENDAR BY TURNING OUT IN DROVES FOR THE BELLEWSTOWN MEETINGS IN LATE JUNE/EARLY JULY AND MID-AUGUST.

FIXTURES
2 meetings a year, a 3-day festival in early July and a 2-day meeting in mid-August. It’s a favourite course for many people and first-time visitors will want to return again and cherish the rare evenings spent there.

ADMISSION
Adults €15
Students & OAPs €8
Children under 16 Free

CONTACT DETAILS
Bellewstown Racecourse, Bellewstown, Co. Meath.
Race day number: 041 982 3614
Tel: 041 984 2111
Email: kevin@bellewstownraces.ie
Web: www.bellewstownraces.ie
BELLEWSTOWN REVEALED
What’s rare is beautiful and Irish racegoers certainly show their appreciation of this precious jewel in the racing calendar by turning out in droves for the Bellewstown meetings in late June/early July and mid-August.

An evening spent there is a taste of something a little bit special, with racing in a beautiful, rustic, rural setting on the Hill of Crockafotha boasting magnificent views of the Mountains of Mourne to the North and the Irish Sea to the East. Racing there epitomises summer sport, and is evocative of the smell of strawberries and cream and freshly mown hay. It may be small in stature but it’s big in heart and atmosphere and is a place where followers of racing can fall in love with it again.

DISABLED FACILITIES
Designated car parking and toilet facilities.

APRÈS RACING
Bellewstown is located in the heart of the Boyne River valley and as such the area offers excellent fishing opportunities. There are also several 18-hole golf courses nearby and horseriding centres. The historic sites of Newgrange, Tara and Slane are also close by.

LOCAL HOTELS
Boyne Valley Hotel, Drogheda 041 9837737
Bracken Court Hotel, Balbriggan 01 841 3333
City North Hotel, Gormanstown 01 690 6666
Coneygahm Arms Hotel, Slane 041 9824155
Glenside Hotel, Drogheda 041 9829185
Neptune Beach Hotel, Bettystown 041 9827107

LOCAL RESTAURANTS
Bacchus, Bettystown
Black Bull Inn, Drogheda
Forge, Collow
Monasterboice Inn, Drogheda

LOCAL PUBS
Bellewstown Inn, Bellewstown
Cock and Hen, Gormanstown
McPhail’s, Drogheda
Whytes, Stamullen

QUICK FACTS ABOUT BELLEWSTOWN
- The first record of racing at the course appeared in the August edition of the Dublin Gazette and Weekly Courier in 1726.
- In 1780 George Tandy, the mayor of Drogheda and brother of the patriot Napper Tandy persuaded King George III to sponsor a race at Bellewstown. The race was called His Majesty’s Plate and was valued at £100, a large sum back then. All the English monarchs sponsored a race at the course until 1980.
- In 1975 Peerless Punter Barney Curley pulled off a mayor betting coup with Yellow Sam
- Madeira, the winner of the Irish Derby at the Curragh in 1868 (only the third running of the race), then ran on consecutive days at Bellewstown and was beaten both days.
- In recent times prominent horses to have run at Bellewstown include: Arkloin: dual Cheltenham winner. Bright Cherry: Dam of Arkle Haltons Grace, triple Champion Hurdle Lieberman: won Chenltham Bumper Freebooter: won the grand national in 1950

REFRESHMENT FACILITIES
There is a self-service dining room, snack bar and a number of bars.

CORPORATE FACILITIES
A separate corporate area can be provided by arrangement and tables can be booked by request.
CLONMEL IS AN IRISH RACECOURSE BLESSED WITH A SCENIC WOODED SETTING WHICH GIVES IT THAT TOUCH OF CHARACTER THAT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO CREATE ARTIFICIALLY.

(A Gaelic: Cluain Meala. Meaning: The Pasture of Honey)

Contact:
Tel: 052 61 72481
www.clonmelraces.ie

Course Info:
National Hunt & Flat / Grade 2
County: Tipperary

RACE COURSE

There are 12 fixtures annually at Clonmel including many Summer evening meetings staging competitive flat and jump racing.

ADMISSION
Adults €15
Sundays €15
Students & OAPs €10
Children under 14 Free
Discount of 20% for pre-booked groups of 20 or more people.

CONTACT DETAILS
Clonmel Racecourse, Davis Road,
Clonmel, Co. Tipperary.
Tel: 052 61 88508
Email: info@clonmelraces.ie
Web: www.clonmelraces.ie
Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/Clonmel-Racecourse
**Location**

Located 2 km from Clonmel Town centre on the Waterford/Cork to Limerick road.

**How To Get There**

**By Road:** It is 48 km north-west of Waterford, 38 km south-east of Tipperary Town, 80 km south-east of Limerick and 160 km south-west of Dublin, 85 km North-east of Cork

**By Bus:** Clonmel bus station is a short walk or a shorter taxi ride from the racecourse.

**By Air:** The airport in Waterford (52 km) is the closest to the course. Cork (85 km) and Shannon (95 km) are next closest.

**Course Characteristics:**

The course is right-handed, undulating, with a stiff uphill finish and is one mile and two furlongs in length.

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**CLONMEL REVEALED**

Clonmel is an Irish racecourse blessed with a scenic wooded setting which gives it that touch of character that is impossible to artificially create. In a wider setting it is nestled in the Suir river valley between the Comeragh mountains to the south and Slievenamon to the north, and is an equally charming place to be in the dead of winter as in the heat of summer.

It has been in the dead of winter that it has been most illuminated by some of the brighest stars in jump racing because its winter showpiece event in November, the Grade 2 Clonmel Oil Chase, has been contested and won by some great horses. Beef Or Salmon has been a regular competitor in the race and was involved in one of its most epic renewals, when he was just beaten by Edredon Bleu in 2003. The latter, who had previously been the Champion 2-mile chaser in Britain, won the King George Chase on his next outing, a demonstration of the quality of the event. But the horse that deserves special pride of place in the annals of this race is the gallant Dorans Pride, one of the great crowd-pullers of Irish racing in the last decade. He won the race an amazing 4 years in a row, 1997-2000.

**REFRESHMENT FACILITIES**

There has been major refurbishment to our self-service restaurant, 2 bars and snack bars.

**DISABLED FACILITIES**

Wheelchair Stand.

**CORPORATE FACILITIES**

Private catering can be arranged in our newly refurbished Supporters Club Bar.

**LOCAL HOTELS**

Clonmel Arms Hotel, Clonmel  052 61 21233  
Hearns Hotel, Clonmel  052 61 21611  
Hotel Minella, Clonmel  052 61 22388

**LOCAL RESTAURANTS**

Befani’s, Clonmel  
Emerald Garden, Clonmel  
La Scala, Clonmel  
Mulcahy’s Bar/Restaurant, Clonmel  
Mr Bumble, Clonmel  
Sean Tierney’s Bar/Restaurant, Clonmel  
The Emperor, Clonmel

**LOCAL PUBS**

Chawkes Bar  
Careys Bar  
Eldons  
Jerry Moynihan’s Bar  
O’Keeffes Bar

**APRÈS RACING**

Places of interest include Coolmore Stud in Fethard, Cahir Castle and the Rock of Cashel. There are several golf courses in the greater area.

**OTHER FACILITIES**

Clonmel hold schools after racing.

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**QUICK FACTS ABOUT CLONMEL**

- Racing was conducted at Clonmel (Powerstown Park) since the early 19th century and was free to spectators but in an era when racecourses were becoming commercial entities its owner Villiers Morton Jackson enclosed the park and charged the public 2 shillings for their pleasure.
- In return people had access to a grandstand and were protected from having their pockets picked by thieves or being ripped off by rogue 3-card trick men because Jackson hired detectives to root out such tricksters and pickpockets, it was like Wyatt Earp coming to clean up the place. There are no such nefarious activities going on there now, just enthusiastic people enjoying good racing in a fine setting.
- Course record crowd is 5,900.
A FEW MILES DOWN THE ROAD FROM CORK RACECOURSE WAS THE SCENE OF THE HISTORIC RACE WHICH GAVE THE WORLD THE PHRASE “STEEPLECHASING”, A DESCRIPTIVE TERM FOR A RACE OVER FENCES.
Cork has the reputation of being the friendliest part of Ireland and those from the “People’s Republic of Cork”, the status many of its denizens like to bestow on their home, like to embrace outsiders to their part of the world once you have a knowledge and appreciation of them and their county, of which they are very proud.

It is said (by Cork people mostly) of the legendary aphorism “Ireland, the land of 100,000 welcomes” that all but 236 of those welcomes come from County Cork.

The racecourse reflects this with a very informal homely feel to it which has not been compromised by the recent modernisation. Racing at Cork is a mix of quality jump and flat racing with mixed cards taking precedence in Summer and all jumps in Winter.

**EASTER FESTIVAL**

This Annual 3-day Easter Festival at Cork is as much a part of the Easter Season as getting an Easter Egg on Easter Sunday morning. The 3-day festival is full of great racing, fabulous food, music and craic, with lots of activities for the little ones as well. It is a great time to dust off those winter cobwebs get out your favourite outfit and be part of it all.
Organised racing in the Mallow region goes back as far as 1777 when 6 consecutive days racing was held under the auspices of the King’s Plate Articles. When Cork Park racecourse closed in 1917 it left a sporting void to be filled in Ireland’s largest county and so in 1924 Mallow racecourse was formed.

Mallow racecourse closed temporarily in 1995 and after a complete overhaul of the course and facilities with investment from local business people and Horse Racing Ireland it opened to huge crowds again May 1997.

Cork racecourse has continued to upgrade their facilities and track. They opened a brand new Pavilion Stand in November 2008, greatly adding to the facilities already provided. This along with the work on the track has made it one of the best racecourses in southern Ireland.

A few miles down the road from Cork racecourse was the scene of the historic race which gave the world the phrase “steeplechasing”, now a descriptive term for a race over fences.

In 1752 two sporting Cork gentlemen, Edmund Blake and Cornelius O’Callaghan, wanted to find out which of their horses was the better so they organised a 4 1/2 mile race across country from the steeple of the St John’s Church in Buttevant to that of St Mary’s in Doneraile. Blake won the match and the bet, which was a cask of wine.

In 2002 a re-enactment of the event was organised in celebration of the two participants, attracting many amateur jockeys for the fun of it. A bronze monument to Blake and O’Callaghan stands in the village of Buttevant and is worth a visit before or after a visit to Cork races. It is very fitting indeed because Cork people are probably the most enthusiastic supporters and followers of jump racing in Ireland and many of the best jump horses are bred in Cork.

REFRESHMENT FACILITIES
There are five public bars in the racecourse. There are three in the Grand Stand and two in the new Pavilion Stand. There is also a carvery restaurant, a hot roast beef and snack stand and a fast food restaurant.

CORPORATE & RESTAURANT FACILITIES
The main restaurant is situated on the top floor of the impressive 3-storey Grandstand overlooking the track and winning post. With an extensive menu and full bar and Tote facilities it can cater for groups of 2 to 300. The Grandstand also has 6 corporate hospitality suites, each of which has its own balcony overlooking the racetrack and winning post. These can cater for 15-25 people and are equipped with CCTV, bar and Tote facilities.

The New Pavilion Stand opened on November 2nd 2008 offers the ideal location for a corporate day out. It can seat up to 200 people in very sumptuous surroundings with a viewing balcony offering unrivalled views of the race track, betting ring and parade ring. Downstairs contains a state of the art Paddy Power Betting Shop along with fast food and bar facilities making facilities for the everyday punter as comfortable as possible.

DISABLED FACILITIES
Cork is a wheelchair friendly course with access to all areas for disabled people plus a designated disabled viewing area on the rails.

APRÈS RACING
The Blackwater River, upon whose banks the racecourse is situated is a renowned salmon fishing river and there are many local fishing clubs that will organise fishing expeditions and provide accommodation for visitors. The above mentioned steeplechase plaque in Buttevant is worth seeing. There are also many opportunities for golf, pony trekking and also archaeological sites of interest including Mallow Castle.

LOCAL HOTELS
Longueville House Hotel 022 47 156
The Charaville Park Hotel 063 81 600
The Hibernian Hotel 022 58 200
Springfort Hall Hotel 022 21 278

LOCAL RESTAURANTS
Gallery Bar & Restaurant 022 20 760
The Arches Bar & Restaurant 022 42 680
The White Deer Restaurant 022 57 337
The Wild Goose 022 21 934

LOCAL PUBS
Alberts Market Square
Maureens Mallow Town
The Arches
The Gallery
THE CURRAGH

(Gaelic: An Currach. Meaning: The Racecourse)

The Curragh is the home of Irish flat racing and the largest horse training centre in the country. It is named in early manuscripts as a meeting place of Celtic kings and chieftans.

Contact:
Tel. 045 441 205
www.curragh.ie

Course Info:
Flat / Premier Track
County: Kildare

Map of Curragh Racecourse:
1. Entrance
2. Info Point
3. Main Stand
4. Toilets
5. Bar
6. Tote
7. Shop
8. Food
9. Pre-Parade
10. Parade Ring
11. Turf Club
12. Weigh Room

Location:
County: Kildare
Kildare
Newbridge
Monasterevin
Kilmeague
Carragh
Kilcullen
Naas
Prosperous
Clane
Dunderry
Mullingar
Kilkenny
Limerick
Cork
Dublin
Map of Ireland:
Curragh Racecourse

A GUIDE TO IRISH RACECOURSES
Location

Situated on the Curragh plains, 3 km from the town of Newbridge in Co. Kildare and less than an hour from Dublin.

How to get there

By Road: 50km south-west of Dublin City on the main Dublin – Cork/Limerick road. Take the N7 southbound and exit at junction 12.

By Rail: A regular service from Dublin Heuston, Waterford, Cork Limerick and Galway stops in Kildare Town with a complimentary shuttle bus to the racecourse.

By Bus: A special bus leaves Busaras (Dublin Central Bus Station) for the Curragh on race days and leaves 30 minutes after the last race.

By Air: 25 miles from Dublin Airport and 16 miles from Baldonnell. There is also a helipad behind the main Grandstand.

Concessions available with valid train ticket for all race days (excluding Derby Day).

The Curragh Revealed

For those who enjoy seeing the best racehorses and horsemen in the world doing what they do best on a glorious stage then a visit to the Curragh is a must. This racecourse, steeped in tradition, is where the Five Classic races are held: Dubai Duty Free Irish Derby; The Darley Irish Oaks; The 1000 Guineas; The 2000 Guineas and Irish Field St Leger in addition to many more great races.

All season long, from the first meeting in March to the conclusion of the flat racing season in October the Curragh holds centre stage in Irish racing. All the best flat horses run there each year following the pantheon of former great horses that have tread the same famous turf. The jewel in this racing crown is the Dubai Duty Free Irish Derby which is usually run on the last Sunday in June.

Irish Derby = Irish Party

Make no mistake this is the biggest party of the year at an Irish racecourse and is not to be missed, where the beautiful people dress-up, turn-out and party-on all day. The occasion is impervious to weather conditions and there is always that essential feel-good factor which cannot be induced artificially at an occasion - it’s either there or it’s not and Irish Derby Day has got it in abundance.

Setting the Scene

“And straight I will repair To the Curragh of Kildare For it’s there I’ll find tidings of my dear” is the melodic precursor to the race itself and the crowd sings along to the song of Kildare as the runners make their way down to the starting stalls. There is a buzz of expectancy like for no other race in the calendar. This is wildly exciting and not just because it’s a great spectacle but also because of the meaning and resonance of the race.

The Dubai Duty Free Irish Derby often decides which is the best 3-year-old colt in Europe as it performs the role of a junction of sorts, attracting horses that ran in the big races earlier in the year and getting them to face each other in a dramatic showdown. It is truly a major world event in horse racing. It features some of the finest racehorses
in the world (collectively worth millions of Euro) owned, trained and ridden by masters of their professions, competing for a prize of 1.25 million euro. This matters.

PARADE OF CHAMPIONS
The crowd at the Curragh appreciates nothing better than a champion but even more so when it is won by an Irish horse ridden by an Irish jockey and trained by an Irish trainer. Irish trainers Dermot Weld, John Oxx, Aidan O’Brien and Jim Bolger have provided staunch defence of the prize in recent years (Irish trainers won every year (bar one) from 2000-2008). Home-trained winners always add an extra dimension to the post-race celebrations. Witness Grey Swallow’s battling win in 2004 against English Derby winner North Light that whipped the Curragh crowd into a frenzy as did Alamshar’s titanic winning battle up the straight with French champion Dalakhani a year earlier in front of a record crowd.

However, there doesn’t have to be a close finish to make for an exciting race. Sometimes it is just as thrilling to witness the crowning of a champion when a magnificent horse at his best crushes his rivals in an imperious display. The Aidan O’Brien-trained champions Galileo (2001) and High Chaparral (2002) followed up their Epsom Derby triumphs with effortless romps at the Curragh, while last year (2008) he became the first trainer to win the race on 3 consecutive occasions on Frozen Fire followed in the footsteps of stable companions Dylan Thomas and Soldier of Fortune, who took this prestigious event in 2006 and 2007 respectively. Back in 2000 the John Oxx-trained Sinndar demolished his field by 9 lengths and picked up a one-off $1 Million Millennium Bonus for having also won the English Derby. Back in 1992 St Jovite, trained by Jim Bolger, destroyed the opposition by 12 lengths in a record-breaking time with a truly awesome display of raw, unstoppable power that left everyone gasping at a memorably dry, sun-baked Curragh.

SHERGAR: POETRY IN MOTION
Probably the best, and certainly the most famous winner of recent times was the outstanding but ill-fated Shergar. Trained in England by Sir Michael Stoute and owned by the Aga Khan he never came out of third gear in cruising to victory under Lester Piggott in 1981. With his big white face and neat, handsome frame carrying the master jockey it made for a seamless bio-mechanical marriage of perfection. Truly a sight to behold.

And that image encapsulates what the Irish Derby is all about - aesthetics: that of the crowd itself and their appreciative response to the expression of it on the course.

CONTACT
Tel. 045 441 205/441 105 - E-mail: info@curragh.ie
www.facebook.com/TheCurraghRacecourse
@cruaghrace
DID YOU KNOW? DERBY DAY FACTS AND FIGURES

REFRESHMENT FACILITIES

BARS:
There are 3 public bars at the racecourse.

The Curragh View and Horseshoe Bar are located on the first floor of the grandstands overlooking the racecourse.

The Balcony Bar and Café on the Premier level of the grandstand serve a variety of hot and cold drinks and quality snacks.

RESTAURANTS AND FOOD OUTLETS:
The Horseshoe restaurant is one of the finest dining experiences in Irish racing. All-inclusive restaurant packages are available which include admission, race cards and lunch. These can be booked by calling the Curragh racecourse on 045 441205.

The Champagne Bar and Bistro, beside the Parade Ring serves an excellent selection of fine cuisine, and of course the finest bottles of Bollinger.

Silks Self Service restaurant located in the Tote Hall is open from noon and serves a selection of hot meals and snacks.

A Coffee Dock is located in the Tote Betting Hall serving a range of snacks and delicious coffees, while temporary food outlets are introduced for the major race days and a Food Festival featuring some of Ireland’s top restaurants takes place during the Dubai Duty Free Irish Derby Festival.

There are also many more sandwich bars and snack outlets on the course.

HOSPITALITY FACILITIES

There is a variety of hospitality choices for clients wishing to make a splash with customers, staff or family and friends, from private intimate suites to gatherings of 300 guests or more in the hospitality pavilion. The suites range in size from the flagship Derby Club Room with a capacity of 200 guests down to some of the Premier level suites with a cosy capacity of 10. Facilities for all of the above are, as one would expect, first class. Additional Hospitality Facilities are introduced for the Dubai Duty Free Irish Derby Festival.

FIRST RUNNING:
The first Irish Derby was run in 1866 and only three horses ran. Selim beat even-money favourite Tom King by three lengths.

DISTANCE:
The race was run over 1 3/4 miles until 1872 when the distance was changed to its current 1 1/2 miles.

LARGEST FIELD:
24 runners, in 1962.

SMALLEST FIELD:
Only 2 turned up in 1868.

FASTEST TIME:
St Jovite’s time of two minutes 25.6 seconds is officially the fastest time for the Derby although the accuracy of it is disputed. However, even allowing for a one second error it is still the fastest time on record.

MOST SUCCESSFUL OWNERS:
His Highness The Aga Khan (born 1878, died 1957) and his grandson, the current Aga Khan, jointly hold the record of winners, with five each.

Did You Know? Derba Day Facts and Figures

REFRESHMENT FACILITIES

BARS:
There are 3 public bars at the racecourse.

The Curragh View and Horseshoe Bar are located on the first floor of the grandstands over looking the racecourse.

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Longest Priced Winner: Zarathustra at 50-1 in 1954. He had finished unplaced in the Gallinule Stakes and only fifth in the Irish 2000 Guineas, hence his long price.

Shortest priced winner: Orby (which had previously won the English Derby) started at 1-10 in 1907.


10 Epsom Derby winners have failed to complete the double. Charlottown (1966), Sir Ivor (1968), Empery (1976), Dr Devious (1992) and North Light (2004) all finished 2nd. Teenoso (1983) was 3rd, Blakeney (1969) and Larkspur (1962) were 4th while Roberto (1972) and Quest For Fame (1990) were unplaced.


OTHER FACILITIES
A Garden Enclosure is located close to the parade ring. At the West End of the stand there is a quality outdoor playground for children together with a picnic area. There is a gift shop in the Tote Hall carrying a range of Curragh merchandise. For disabled customers there is a special viewing area located in the main grandstand. All areas of the course are wheelchair accessible. There is an on-course Ladbrokes betting shop and a big screen at all fixtures for enhanced viewing quality.

LOCAL HOTELS
Barberstown Castle, Straffan 01 628 8157
Curragh Lodge Hotel, Kildare 045 522 144
Keadeen Hotel, Newbridge 045 431 666
Killashee House Hotel, Naas 045 879 277
Kildare Hotel and Country Club, Straffan 01 601 7200
Maudlins House Hotel, Naas 045 896 999
Osprey Hotel Naas 045 883 910

LOCAL RESTAURANTS
Dunne and Crescenzi, Kildare Village Falls, Kilcullen
Hangman’s Arch, Miltown
Jardin Royale, Newbridge
Riverside Restaurant, Kilcullen
Silken Thomas, Kildare Town
The Granary, Newbridge

LOCAL PUBS
Bardons, Kilcullen
Cunninghams, Kildare
Harrigans, Newbridge
Mooneys, Monasterevin
Swifts, Newbridge
The Liffey Arms, Newbridge
The Hideout, Kilcullen
Judge Roy Beans, Newbridge

APRÈS RACING
The Irish National Stud and Japanese Gardens in Kildare is a must see. In the surrounding area of the Curragh there are many opportunities for playing golf, fishing, horse riding and shopping at the Kildare Village Outlet Shopping in Kildare Town or Whitewater Shopping centre in Newbridge.
IT IS ENTIRELY APPROPRIATE THAT DOWN ROYAL SHOULD HOLD SUCH A HIGH CLASS JUMP RACING MEET BECAUSE NORTHERN IRELAND IS FAMED FOR ITS BREEDING ACADEMIES IN THAT SPHERE.

A GUIDE TO IRISH RACECOURSES

DOWN ROYAL

(Gaelic: An Dún. Meaning: The Fort)

Contact:
Tel: 028 926 21 256
www.downroyal.com

Course Info:
National Hunt & Flat / Grade 1
County: Down

MAP
**Location**
Down Royal is located 4 km from the town of Lisburn, Co. Down.

**How To Get There**

**By Road:** 16 km south of Belfast City just off the A1, which is the main Belfast-Dublin road.

**By Rail:** The nearest railway station is Lisburn with a regular service from Belfast.

**By Air:** Two airports in Belfast, Belfast International and Belfast City.

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**DOWN ROYAL REVEALED**
Racing at Down Royal has a long and interesting history to it (see below) but what is of even more interest is the range of first-class racing it has been staging in more recent times. This has been attracting the best horses around, promoting strong betting markets, bumper crowds and a fantastic, lively atmosphere.

This isn’t happening by accident because you can’t have one without the other - good races attract good horses and good facilities attract big crowds and the investment in both in recent times has paid dividends.

The 75,000 Specsavers Ulster Derby is the highlight of the popular 3-day Summer Festival and the Northern Ireland Festival of Racing in early November is a showcase for the cream of National Hunt (jump) racing.

**FIXTURES**
There are 12 meetings annually at Down Royal including 2 festivals, the 3-day Ulster Derby meeting at the high point of Summer in mid-June and the Festival of Racing in early November.

**ADMISSION**
Adults £10-15
Students & OAPs Concessions
Children Under 12 Free

**CONTACT DETAILS**
Down Royal Racecourse, Maze, Lisburn, Co. Down BT27 5RW.
Tel: R.O.I: 048 926 21 256/ N.I: 028 926 21 256
Email:info@downroyal.com
Website: www.downroyal.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/downroyalracecourse
Twitter: @downroyal

**FESTIVAL OF RACING**
It is entirely appropriate that Down Royal should hold such a high class jump racing meet because Northern Ireland is famed for its breeding academies in that sphere. Also, the locals love their racing and this enthusiasm rubs off on the many visitors from Britain and the rest of Ireland. The showpiece of the 2-day festival is the J N Wine Merchant Chase which has attracted horses of the calibre of See More Business, Looks Like Trouble, Florida Pearl, Beef or Salmon, Kicking King, Kauto Star, War of Attrition to the track.

The 2-day meeting was only initiated in 1999 but has, like one of the sponsor’s fine imports, got better with time. It is by no means, a one-race meeting, however, the Killultagh Properties Chase and Anglo Irish Bank Hurdle, provide solid back-up to an event that’s very much on the up.

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**Course Characteristics:**
Down Royal is a right-handed, undulating course of one mile and seven furlongs in length with an uphill finish.
REFRESHMENT FACILITIES
The modern facilities include fast food counters, self-service restaurant, bars and a cafe. On festival days there are additional bars and food outlets.

CORPORATE FACILITIES
The VIP Suite on the first floor of the grandstand can accommodate up to 130 guests in tables of 10. Private marquees can also be provided for between 50 and 1,500 people. Facilities in both cases include CCTV, private Tote betting, private bar and of course quality food and service. There are also a number of private boxes available.

LOCAL HOTELS
Ballymac Hotel, Stoneyford 028 92 648 313
Beechlawn House Hotel, Dunmurray 028 90 602 080

LOCAL RESTAURANTS
Hillside Restaurant, Hillsborough
The Plough, Hillsborough
The Racecourse Inn, Maze
The Tidi Doffer, Ravernet

LOCAL PUBS
Clenaghan’s Bar/Restaurant, Lisburn
Quincy’s Bar/Restaurant, Lisburn
The Down Royal Inn, Lisburn
Treasure Inn, Lisburn

APRÈS RACING
Local places of interest are Irish Linen Centre, Lisburn Museum and the beautiful Georgian village of Hillsborough nearby.

QUICK FACTS ABOUT DOWN ROYAL
- Down Royal Corporation of Horse Breeders was founded in 1685 by Royal Charter from King James II to encourage horse breeding in the area. The original racing took place at Downpatrick but the association moved to the present course in 1789.
- In 1750 King George II donated £100 to run a King’s Plate and to the present day a Royal Plate has been held at the course contributed to by the Privy Purse.
- Media Puzzle, winner of the 2002 Melbourne Cup had previously won the Ulster Derby.
DOWNPATRICK HAS THE REPUTATION OF BEING ONE OF THE FRIENDLIEST RACECOURSES IN IRELAND AND IT IS SITUATED IN THE STUNNINGLY BEAUTIFUL COUNTY OF DOWN.

CONTACT:
Tel: 028 44 612 054
www.downpatrickracecourse.co.uk

COURSE INFO:
National Hunt / Grade 2
County: Down

FIXTURES
There are 10 individual fixtures annually at the course from February until December including some attractive Friday evening Summer meetings.

ADMISSION
Adults £10
Students & OAPs £5
Children Under 14 Free

CONTACT DETAILS
Downpatrick Racecourse, 24 Ballydugan Road, Downpatrick, Co. Down BT30 6TE
Tel: R.O.I: 028 44 612 054
Email: info@downpatrickracecourse.co.uk
Website: www.downpatrickracecourse.co.uk
DOWNPATRICK REVEALED
Downpatrick has the reputation of being one of the friendliest racecourses in Ireland and it is situated in the stunningly beautiful county of Down. It is strongly supported by the local community and race meetings there are intimate, cosy affairs with exciting flat and jump racing on offer. The course has recently been modernised with the completion of a new grandstand which can accommodate 1,500 spectators. The highlight of the year at the course is the Powers Whisky Ulster National run in late February over 3 1/2 miles and which is always an exciting affair.

REFRESHMENT FACILITIES
Snack bar and 3 public bars in the stand.

CORPORATE FACILITIES
There are private boxes available at the course and corporate lunches can be organised in the top-of-the-range marquees. Packages include Tote betting facilities, 4-course lunch and a private bar.

LOCAL HOTELS
Burrendale Hotel and Country Club, Newcastle 028 43 722 599
Denvirs Hotel, Downpatrick 028 44 612 012

LOCAL RESTAURANTS
Justines, Downpatrick

LOCAL PUBS
Hogans, Downpatrick

APRÈS RACING
There are lots of opportunities for fishing and golfing enthusiasts to indulge themselves after racing. There are also lots of sites of archaeological interest in the area.

For more details visit www.kingdomofdown.com

Course Characteristics:
The course is right-handed, undulating of one mile and two furlongs in length with an uphill finish.

QUICK FACTS ABOUT DOWNPATRICK

- As well as being one of the friendliest courses in Ireland it is also the oldest because racing started here in 1685 and, apart from occasional disruptions has continued since.
- More recently, famous horses which started their careers there include English and Irish Grand National winner Rhyme n’ Reason and Cheltenham winners Tourist Attraction and Sparky Gayle.
- Probably the most famous horse to run at the course was the Byerley Turk, one of the founding fathers of the Thoroughbred breed, which ran there in 1690 en route to the Battle of the Boyne.

Location
Situated 2 km from the centre of Downpatrick in Co. Down.

How To Get There

BY ROAD: 35 km south of Belfast City on the A2. From the South take the N1 from Dublin to Newry and from there the A1 to Lisburn.

BY RAIL: High-speed trains run from Belfast to Dublin, stopping at Station (45 mins from racecourse).

BY BUS: The course is 1 km from the main bus station.

BY AIR: The closest airports are Belfast City and Belfast International.

Location
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BY AIR: The closest airports are Belfast City and Belfast International.
Dundalk is Ireland’s first and only floodlit all-weather racecourse.

(Gaelic: Dun Dealgan. Meaning: It takes its name from Dun Dealgan, Dalga’s Fort, a home closely associated with the famous mythical warrior Cu Chulainn)

Contact:
tel: 042 933 4438
www.dunkalkstadium.com

Course Info:
10 furlong polytrack
all-weather floodlit flat
County: Louth

A Guide to Irish Racecourses

Map

Race Course

Dundalk Racecourse

Race Track

1 - Turnstile Entrance
2 - Silks Bar and Convery
3 - Sprinter’s Bar
4 - Gallop’s Bar
5 - Champion’s Restaurant
6 - ATM machine
7 - Mullen’s Traditional Fast Food
8 - Meeting Point
9 - Parade Ring
10 - Bookies Square
11 - Weigh Room & Stewards Room
12 - Reception / Courtesy Desk
13 - First Aid
14 - Racing Press
15 - Public Toilets

A Guide to Irish Racecourses
FACILITIES
Dundalk Stadium presents the most modern entertainment facility in the North East. This €35m facility incorporates all the elements of a night time experience combined with the thrill and excitement of live racing. Choose from the luxurious surroundings of Champion’s 400 seat restaurant, where you’ll enjoy panoramic views of the race track, to the culinary delights of Silk’s carvery and Mullen’s traditional fast food. Whatever you choose, there is something for everyone at Dundalk Stadium.

HOSPITALITY SUITES
There are four private suites, which combine privacy along with the full excitement and atmosphere of racing. The suites overlook the restaurant and each has an exceptional view of the racetrack. They offer full formal dining with extensive choices in food and wine. Each suite has its own private bar, an at-the-table tote betting service and race viewing screens.

CHAMPIONS RESTAURANT
This restaurant features an excellent dining establishment on the upper level of the stadium and racecourse caterers put an emphasis on seasonal local produce. Panoramic views of the racing circuit complement the ultimate dining experience where patrons can choose from an extensive range of food and wines. Diners can also enjoy a dedicated tote and bar service, without having to leave the comfort of their tables.

APRÈS RACING
One can enjoy an eight race programme of greyhound racing on Friday evenings after the last horse race followed by music in Gallop’s Bar to 12:30am. Dundalk Stadium – For a night with a difference.

For further details visit: www.dundalkstadium.com

Dundalk is in the county town of Louth. This busy manufacturing centre is a great base for pursuing a range of activities including nature walks, salmon and trout fishing, golf and horse riding. Dundalk has good nightlife and a greyhound track, and is home town of one of the most successful rock bands of the nineties - The Corrs.

For more details visit: www.countylouth.com or www.louthholidays.com

FIXTURES
There are 37 fixtures at Dundalk with floodlit meetings every Friday evening throughout the winter. Greyhound racing takes place every week throughout the year.

ADMISSION PRICES
Adult €15
OAPs €10
Students €10
(Upon production of a valid ID card)
Under 14’s Free
(Once accompanied by an adult)

CONTACT DETAILS
Dundalk Stadium, Racecourse Road,
Dundalk, Co. Louth
Tel: +353 (42) 9334438
Email:bookings@dundalkstadium.com
Web:www.dundalkstadium.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/dundalkstadium
Twitter: @DundalkStadium

Course Characteristics:
The race track is a left handed, floodlit, 10 furlong polytrack with a 5 furlong chute.

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The race track is a left handed, floodlit, 10 furlong polytrack with a 5 furlong chute.
LOCAL HOTELS

Ballymascanlon House Hotel, 042 935 8200
Dundalk
Crowne Plaza Dundalk 042 933 5453
Park Hotel, Carnbeg, Dundalk 042 939 5700
The Fairways Hotel & Conference Centre, Dundalk 042 932 1500

LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

Carlingford Adventure Centre 042 937 3100
JJB Soccer Dome 072 939 1301
FAIRYHOUSE IS THE VENUE FOR MANY OF THE BIGGEST RACES OF THE IRISH JUMP SEASON, WITH THE CROWNING GLORY COMING ON EASTER MONDAY WHEN THE HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS REACH FEVER PITCH FOR THE RUNNING OF THE IRISH GRAND NATIONAL.
Location

Situated north-west of Dublin near the village of Ratoath in Co. Meath.

How to get there

**By Road:** Only 23 km from Dublin city centre, just off the N3 or the N2 via Ratoath.

**By Rail:** Heuston Station, Dublin is the nearest station.

**By Bus:** Bus Eireann provides a special bus service from the Central Bus Station (Busaras) on race days. Contact Dublin Bus on +353 (0)1 836 6111 for timetables.

**By Air:** Dublin airport is 19 km away and the N3 is reached via Blanchardstown bypass. Helicopter landing at the course can be arranged in advance.

FAIRYHOUSE REVEALED

Fairyhouse is the venue for many of the biggest races of the Irish jump season, with the crowning glory coming on Easter Monday when the holiday celebrations reach fever pitch for the running of the Irish Grand National. This is without doubt one of the biggest days in the Irish racing calendar and is the main course on a 3-day Easter menu of appetising racing which begins on the Sunday and ends on the Tuesday. The big race itself is complemented by numerous other top-class races including the Grade 1 Powers Gold Cup on the Tuesday.

The Grand National is the most valuable handicap jump race run in Ireland with a prize-fund of €250,000. It is a thrilling roller-coaster event over 3½ miles and 24 fences. It’s a true test of horse and rider and the combination that comes home in front after that journey deserves the big cheer it gets from the 20,000 plus crowd. All the participants are heroes and are rightly celebrated but the winning horse and jockey deserve to be lauded to a height and they are. Not only is it one of the signature races in Irish racing, it is one of the biggest events in Irish sport.

It is also a most exciting, enjoyable way to spend this holiday time. Above all it’s the people’s race.

DAYS LIKE THESE

There have been some truly memorable Grand National days over the years and here are just a few to remember:

The great English Champion Desert Orchid winning in 1990 under 12 stone. This grey 11-year-old warrior was one of the most celebrated horses in recent times and received a huge cheer on returning to the winner’s enclosure.

Commanche Court winning in 2000 for the immensely popular Ted Walsh and ridden by his son Ruby which made it a great family affair.

Two years previously another famous Irish racing family had an equally memorable day. Jockey Paul Carberry triumphed on Bobbyjo which was trained by his father Tommy just down the road in Ashbourne. The celebrations went on and on…

Course Characteristics:

The course itself is right-handed, relatively flat and is one mile and six furlongs in length.

**FIXTURES**

There are 20 fixtures at Fairyhouse annually including the Easter Festival, several glorious Summer Evening meetings featuring live music and BBQ’s followed by a winter of content with some of the best jump racing action in the country. If you are a follower of great racing then follow the roads to Fairyhouse.

**ADMISSION PRICES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>€15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students and OAPs</td>
<td>€10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children under 16</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

20% Online discount for adult admission.
20% Discount for groups of 20 or more people.

**CONTACT DETAILS**

Fairyhouse Racecourse, Ratoath, Co. Meath.
Tel: 01 825 6167
Email: info@fairyhouseracecourse.ie
Website: www.fairyhouseracecourse.ie
Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/Fairyhouse-Racecourse
Twitter: @Fairyhouse
The first running of the Grand National was in 1870. The winner was a grey gelding called Sir Robert Peel, and the prizemoney was 167 sovereigns.

The winner of the 1929 renewal was Alike, who was owned and ridden by 5’ 4” Frank Wise who was missing three fingers and had a wooden leg.

The 1995 winner Flashing Steel was owned by former Taoiseach Charles Haughey and trained by his son-in-law John Mulhern.

From 1960-66 the legendary trainer Tom Dreaper trained the winner a remarkable 7 years in a row during a golden era for the race. His winners were:

- Olympia-1960
- Fortria-1961
- Kerforo-1962
- Last Link-1963
- Arkle-1964
- Splash-1965
- Flyingbolt-1966

Just as remarkably the legendary Irish stallion Fortina, who stood in Co. Cork sired 4 of Dreaper's winners: Olympia, Fortria, Last Link and Splash.

Grand National Heavyweights: The following horses won the Grand National with top weight of 12 Stone weight or more in the last 50 years and deserve to be celebrated for such a heroic feat:

- Flashing Steel (12-0)-1995
- Desert Orchid (12-0)-1990
- Browne Lad (12-2)-1978
- Brown Lad (12-2)-1976
- Flyingbolt (12-7)-1966
- Arkle (12-0)-1964
- Fortria (12-0)-1961

The longest priced winners in recent years have been Granit d’Estruval (2004) and Bentom Boy (1984) who both started at 33/1.

The shortest priced winner was Arkle (The Greatest) at 1/2 in 1964.

The Bobbyjo Bistro in the Powers Gold Label Stand offers superb views of the racecourse and parade ring/winners enclosure. It offers a four-course silver service lunch and has its own Tote and full bar facilities.

There is also a self-service restaurant, several fast food outlets and a choice of bars.

The Arkle Room with a capacity of 200 is ideal for company outings and social events. Situated on the first floor of the Jameson Stand, it has an excellent view of the parade ring and easy access to the viewing stand. The Jameson Stand Suites, on the top level of the Jameson Stand, provide an excellent view of the racecourse and can cater for 12 for a silver service meal and 20 for a buffet. On the top level of the Powers Gold Label Stand are suites that can accommodate 30 for a silver service meal or 40 for a buffet and also provide excellent views of the racecourse and parade ring.

All areas of the stands are wheelchair accessible via lifts where there are a number of designated disabled viewing areas. There are also disabled toilet facilities and ample car parking spaces.

Fairyhouse is close to the historic sites of Newgrange, Tara and Slane with plenty of opportunities for fishing and golfing.

Ashbourne Court Hotel 01 835 9300
Ashbourne House Hotel 01 835 8400
Ardboyne Hotel, Navan 046 9023119
Ashbourne Marriott Hotel, Ashbourne 01 835 0800
Carlton House, Tyrellstown 01 827 5600
Castle Arch Hotel, Trim 046 9431516
Duffys of Ballybin, Ashbourne 01 802 7829
Dunsany Lodge, Dunsany 046 9026339
The Bellinter House, Navan 046 9030900
The Dunboyne Castle Hotel & Spa 01 801 3500
The Hamlet Court Hotel, Enfield 046 9541200
**QUICK FACTS ABOUT FAIRYHOUSE**

- The first meeting held in 1848 when the Ward Union Hunt held their point-to-point races there.
- The record attendance at the course is just over 25,000.
- Easter Monday is “Ladies Day” and the stylish lady crowned “Best Dressed” walks away with fantastic prizes.
- The Irish Grand National is Ireland’s richest handicap steeplechase worth €250,000.

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**LOCAL RESTAURANTS**
- Big Cicero’s, Ashbourne
- Caffrey’s, Batterstown
- La Bucca, Ratoath
- Mulan (Chinese), Ratoath
- The County Club, Dunshaughlin
- The Mill House, Clonee
- Ryan’s Steakhouse, Ratoath

**LOanalysed by https://www.sickoanalysis.com**

**LOCAL PUBS**
- Caffrey’s Batterstown
- Ryans, Ratoath
- The Auld Stand, Ratoath
- The County Club, Dunshaughlin
- The Snail Box, Killooone
- The White House, The Ward

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Dublin City Centre hotels are only 30 minutes away.

The Newgrange Hotel, Navan 046 9074100
The Station House Hotel, Kilmessan 046 9025239
Trim Castle Hotel, Trim 046 9483000
Yellow House B&B, Navan 046 9073338
IT HAS BEEN SAID ABOUT THE FESTIVAL THAT IT ONCE BROUGHT GALWAY CITY TO A STANDSTILL BUT NOW BRINGS THE COUNTRY TO A STANDSTILL.
Location
Situated about 6 km outside Galway city off the Galway-Tuam road.

How to get there

By Road: Galway is 80 km north-west of Limerick and 217 km west of Dublin.

By Rail: Regular service to Galway from many regions including Dublin. A bus service runs from Galway station to the track.

By Air: Galway airport has daily flights from Dublin and regular flights from several UK destinations. Helicopter landing at the racecourse can be arranged in advance.

GALWAY REVEALED

A HIGHER STATE OF MIND
The great Irish playwright John B. Keane said that the “Galway races are a state of mind”. Indeed they are, a state of mind that is distinctly Irish, often copied but never equalled. It has been said about the festival that it once brought Galway city to a standstill but now brings the country to a standstill. Those who have been there will understand that, those who have yet to visit are still strangers to this country’s greatest sporting festival.

Whether or not they are regular followers of horse-racing is immaterial, the salient pre-requisite for Galway racegoers is that they know how to have fun because that is the currency of the occasion. Starting in late July, the high point of the Summer holiday season, it has become the Irish equivalent of Mardi Gras, and is the fastest growing festival in the world.

It effects an almost magnetic force on the population and once this force draws you into its field the experience that follows is almost hypnotising. The sights and sounds of the occasion all assail your senses at once; sight of constantly changing faces; horses; myriad colours of silks and clothing; sound of laughter; roars of triumph; challenging tone of bookies; children screaming; parents gently scolding; smell of the newly intruded-upon turf; horses’ sweat; quixotic odour of perfume. Such sensory bombardment on this grand scale leaves you powerless to resist, it’s too exciting, too seductive. It’s easiest to just give into it and get swept away by the thrill of it all.

HAS EVERYTHING
The place just has that indefinable “je ne sais quoi”, but not in the sense that it’s like some places that nearly everyone is familiar with (pubs, nightclubs or sporting venues) where there is always a naturally vibrant atmosphere in spite of, rather than because of, modern facilities.

Galway has a compelling quality and has the infrastructure, facilities and personnel, both in front of and behind the scenes, that gives a synergising effect to the whole occasion, elevating the experience to even greater heights. It attracts big crowds but can cater for them and because of that they come back.

Course Characteristics:
Right handed course of one mile and two furlongs with a steep incline into the dip.

FIXTURES
Racing in Galway is not just all about the week in mid-Summer, altogether there are 12 fantastic days to enjoy racing in the “City of the 14 Tribes”: 7 days Summer Festival, 3 days Autumn Festival and 2 days October Festival.

ADMISSION
Summer Festival
Adults €20-30
Children €2
Students & OAPs are given a discount.
September & October Meetings
Adults €15
Children Free
Students and OAPs are given a discount.

CONTACT DETAILS
Galway Racecourse, Ballybrit, Co. Galway.
Tel: 091 753 870
Email: information@galwayraces.com
Website: www.galwayraces.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/GalwayRaces
Twitter: @Galway_Races
THE PEOPLE’S FESTIVAL

Among those crowds are people from all corners and all backgrounds, who flock to the place year in year out, and it’s not just to press the flesh. They love it too.

That’s one of the great aspects of the festival, it is an egalitarian occasion, something which a lot of great sporting occasions are not, and the great and good of the land mingle with the chap in the battered peak cap who still has muck on his shoes and is only there because he sold a few sheep the week before to pay for the B+B and the few pints of stout.

It is an event that captures the imagination of everyone who has been privy to its pleasures and has been eulogised in song, verse and on canvas by many noted artists. W. B. Yeats captured it thus in his poem “At Galway Races”

“There where the course is, Delight makes all of the one mind, The riders on the galloping horses, The crowd that closes in behind: and it again Crying aloud as the racecourse is, And we find hearteners among men That ride upon horses.

DAYS LIKE THIS
Scenes like the following are surely what the great poet had in mind.

The money had poured on Cloone River to win the 2004 Guinness Galway Hurdle, bringing his price down from 9/1 to 7/2 favourite. It seemed like everyone had backed him. It had been a long range plan for the trainer Paul Nolan and local owners Kathleen and Bernard Gillane to win this race and the execution of it was about to unfold.

Finally, the race was off and the horse was settled nicely in mid-pack when the runner in front of him fell and checked Cloone River’s momentum causing him to fall back in the field. The crowd took a huge swelling intake of breath and exhaled it in a groan. Nolan was out on the track feeling faint with his heart ready to explode in his chest. But what was this? With 3 hurdles to go Cloone River was picking off the opposition with ease and challenging the leaders in the straight he stormed to a famous win.

The crowd went wild - it was bedlam. Afterwards the parade ring was thronged to welcome the horse and rider John Cullen back, it was like a pitch invasion after an All-Ireland hurling win. The whole place was reeling as though in the aftermath of an electric storm. A truly memorable day.
“The scenes of rowdyism and drunkenness, to mention no worse, which took place in this city in the last few days have offended and alarmed all decent and God-fearing Christians... [scenes] are due to three main causes.

Firstly, the influx into Galway of a large number of undesirable persons....

Secondly, to the notion among visitors and some residents that they can abandon all restraint during race week.

Thirdly, to the violation of the licensing laws by many bars and hotels."

Thankfully nothing like that goes on during raceweek nowadays!

All this was put aside when In spite of such activities supposedly caused by the racegoers Pope John Paul II held a mass on the grounds of the racecourse in 1979.

The cumulative attendance for the 7 days of the Galway races is over 160,000 every year.

The amount bet during the whole week is around €22 Million between the Tote and Bookmakers.

The Galway races are worth approximately €60 Million to the local economy.

COUNTING DOWN THE DAYS
So don’t let this year’s festival go by without making an appearance, start planning now, get that time off work, get everything organised and let yourself go. Just a word of warning to first timers, after attending the Galway Races you will never be the same again because it’s as near as dammit addictive, and the cold turkey lasts a full 12 months. Get out that calendar and start ticking the days off. How long before it starts again?

REFRESHMENT FACILITIES
On both the ground floor and the first floor of the Killanin Stand there are food and bar facilities including a carvery restaurant.

In the impressive Millenium Stand there is a Panoramic restaurant on the top floor and food facilities on all three floors including a seafood and wine bar on the first floor. The spacious Long Bar on the ground floor also serves hot drinks. During the festival there are Budweiser and Guinness & Oyster bars. There are 2 Champagne Tents in the Mayor’s Garden area and adjacent to the main Tote Building. In the amenity building there is a buffet and carvery restaurant. There are 2 ATM Bank machines to the rear of the Millenium Stand. The whole course is wheelchair friendly with a special disabled viewing stand adjacent to the stewards stand and the parade ring. Disabled WCs are provided.

CORPORATE FACILITIES
The Killanin Stand accommodates up to 7,000 people with seating for 700 on the balcony. The state of the art stand consists of four floors; the ground floor and first floor are available to all patrons. Food, bar, toilet and Tote facilities are available on both floors. Patrons can also have the added comfort of 700 free seats on the seating balcony, accessible from both the ground and first floor.

Hospitality suites are available on the second and third floors in the form of the Plate & Hurdle Suites.

The Panoramic restaurant on the top floor of the Millenium Stand also provides an ideal forum for corporate entertainment catering for tables of ten, providing top-class food in a luxury air-conditioned environment.
### LOCAL HOTELS
- Carlton Hotel, Galway 091 381 200
- Claregalway Hotel, Claregalway 091 738 300
- Hotel Meyrick, Galway 091 564 041
- Radisson Blu Hotel and Spa, Galway 091 538 300
- Skeffington, Galway 091 563 173

### LOCAL RESTAURANTS
- Donnelly’s, Barna 091 592 487
- Kirwin Lane, Galway 091 568 266
- Mc Swiggans, Galway 091 568 917
- Park House, Galway 091 564 924
- The Huntsman, Galway 091 561 985

### LOCAL PUBS
- Busker Brownes, Galway 091 563 377
- Front Door, Galway 091 566 186
- The Kings Head, Galway 091 566 630
- The Quays Bar, Galway 091 568 347
IF SOMEBODY ASKED YOU TO PUT A RACECOURSE ANYWHERE IN IRELAND THE CHANCES ARE YOU WOULD SET IT DOWN IN GOWRAN PARK.

GOWRAN PARK
(Gaelic: An Gabhran. Meaning: The Pass of Gabhran)

Contact: Tel: 056 772 6225 Website: www.gowranpark.ie
Course Info: National Hunt & Flat / Grade 1 County: Kilkenny

FIXTURES
16 meetings spanning the whole year from January to December.

ADMISSION
Adults €15
Adults (Thyestes Day) €17
Students & OAPs €10
Children under 14 Free
Discounts available for pre-booked groups of 20 or more.

CONTACT
Gowran Park, Gowran, Co. Kilkenny.
Tel: 056 772 6225
Email: reception@gowranpark.ie
Website: www.gowranpark.ie
Facebook: www.facebook.com/gp2010
Twitter: @gowranpark
GOWRAN REVEALED

If somebody asked you to put a racecourse anywhere in Ireland the chances are you would set it down in Gowran Park. There is something very homely and localised about the place, it’s probably something to do with the wooded parkland, in the centre of which the racecourse is cuddled, giving it a warmth and character that is not to be found on any other course in Ireland. You just can’t create places like it any more, it really is the perfect setting for horseracing and furthermore it’s augmented by modern facilities and competitive racing.

REAL HORSE COUNTRY

If Kildare is considered to be the home of the horse in Ireland then the Kilkenny/Carlow region around Gowran Park must be the equivalent of the cosy country retreat of the horse in Ireland. The area is awash with famous training establishments and stud farms and has been a hotbed of famous horses and horse people for over a hundred years. Red Rum, the only triple Grand National winner was bred by the McEnery family nearby. Legendary trainer Paddy Mullins and his sons Tom, Willie and Tony train locally. The famous Ballylinch, Ballyhane and Burgage Studs are situated in the area. It’s part of the fabric of local society. And it shows in the attendance at Gowran. People in the area really appreciate and know their racing and they have a course that they can be proud of.

RACING SEASON

There is a fine symmetry to the racing season at Gowran with quality fixtures evenly spread throughout the year. The Thyestes Chase starts the ball rolling in January with many of the finest Irish steeplechasers in action in this demanding 3-mile race. Such legendary horses as Arkle have triumphed in this race. Incidentally Arkle (voted by readers of the Racing Post as the most popular horse of all time) won 4 times at Gowran Park in all. February brings another flagship day, the highlight being the Red Mills Trial Hurdle which is often used as a prep run for Cheltenham. In early April the Tetratema Cup is a popular hunter chase event followed by the PriceWaterhouseCoopers Classic Trail in early May.

The summer meetings, some of which are evening fixtures, feature lots of competitive and some high-class jump and flat racing. The latter in particular often throws up some talented young performers. The highlight of the Autumn/Winter meetings is the Kilkenny Racing Festival in early October.

REFRESHMENT FACILITIES

There is a range of Hospitality Suites on the top level of the Main Stand with a balcony overlooking the entire racetrack and directly opposite the winning post. Various group sizes can be accommodated. Catering/bar options tailored to your budget are available to facilitate client entertainment, family celebrations and individual bookings. A self service restaurant, numerous bars and snack bars are available throughout the Enclosure.

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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>How to get there</th>
<th>Course Characteristics:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Situated just 1 km outside the village of Gowran on the Dublin-Waterford road.</td>
<td><strong>BY ROAD:</strong> Gowran is 13 km east of Kilkenny, 130 km south of Dublin and 48 km north of Waterford. <strong>BY RAIL:</strong> Regular train service to Kilkenny station from Waterford and Dublin. A short taxi ride to the course. <strong>BY BUS:</strong> Bus Eireann provides a regular service from Dublin for most race meetings. Tel: 01 836 6111. There are also regular Rapid Express coaches from Waterford and Dublin. Tel: 051 872 149. Tom Duffy special race-day coaches from Dublin. Tel: 01 832 8169. <strong>BY AIR:</strong> Waterford airport is 54 km away with daily flights. Helicopter landing at the course can be arranged in advance.</td>
<td>The course is a right-handed undulating track of one mile and four furlongs in length that stages flat and National Hunt racing.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HOSPITALITY FACILITIES
The Roof Top Suites on the top floor of the Main Stand can cater for 30-400 people and dining choices are tailored to your budget. The Helen Sheane Suite on the ground floor is available for group sizes up to 70 people with a private bar and full dining service. The Club House Bar is available for private bookings on race days.

DISABLED FACILITIES
There is a designated wheelchair viewing area in the new stand with access via lifts.

LOCAL HOTELS
Kilkenny Ormonde, Kilkenny 056 775 0200
Lord Bagenal, Leighlinbridge 059 977 4000
Mount Juliet Conrad, Thomastown 056 777 3000
Springhill Court, Kilkenny 056 772 1122

LOCAL RESTAURANTS
Kyteler’s Inn, Kilkenny
Langton House, Kilkenny
Lord Bagenal, Leighlinbridge
The Long Man of Kilfane, Kilfane

LOCAL PUBS
Langton’s, Kilkenny
Loughlin’s, Gowran
The Lord Bagenal Inn, Leighlinbridge

APRÈS RACING
Kilkenny city and its environs are peppered with interesting castles, cathedrals and houses, chief among which is Kilkenny Castle in the city. There are also plentiful opportunities for golf, fishing and horse riding.

www.kilkenny.ie
A GUIDE TO IRISH RACECOURSES

KILBEGGAN

(Gaelic: Cill Bheagain. Meaning: The Place of Beagan’s Church)

SET IN THE HEART OF THE MIDLANDS KILBEGGAN IS ONE OF THE BEST ATTENDED RACETRACKS IN IRELAND, AND IT’S NOT HARD TO SEE WHY.

Contact:
Tel: 057 933 2176
www.kilbegganraces.com

Course Info:
National Hunt / Grade 2
County: Westmeath

FIXTURES
The Kilbeggan races are the social events of the year in the midlands but they can’t keep something this good to themselves. Their secret is out and crowds from all corners of the country want to go there to get a piece of this unique festival atmosphere that’s spread out over 8 individual days racing from early May until early September.

ADMISSION PRICES
Adults €15
A discount for students & OAPs.
Children under 16 accompanied by an adult get free entry.
15% discount for groups of 10 or more.
20% discount for groups of 30 or more.

CONTACT DETAILS
Kilbeggan Racecourse, Loughnagore,
Kilbeggan, Co. Westmeath.
Tel: 057 933 2176
Email:info@kilbegganraces.com
Website:www.kilbegganraces.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/KilbegganRaces
Location
Situated 1.5 km outside Kilbeggan town in Co. Westmeath.

How to get there

**By Road:** 13 km north of Tullamore, 21 km south-east of Mullingar, 92 km west of Dublin and 125 km north-east of Limerick.

**By Rail:** Tullamore is the closest rail station from where taxis can be hired to the racecourse.

**By Bus:** There is a Bus Eireann service from Dublin Central Bus Station (Busaras) to the town.

**By Air:** Dublin is the closest airport.

KILBEGGAN REVEALED
Set in the heart of the midlands Kilbeggan is one of the best attended racetracks in Ireland, and it’s not hard to see why. All but one of its race dates are Summer evening meetings and this fact attracts hordes of people from the large surrounding areas and visitors from further afield alike, all unhindered by work commitments.

At first the message was a bit slow to get around the country that this was the place to go to have fun on Summer evenings but word has spread rapidly with the effect that attendances doubled from 24,000 to 50,000 annually between 1995-2000 and they are still increasing. It is also the only racecourse in Ireland that stages National Hunt (jump) racing only, which adds to the overall spectacle of its meetings.

The view of the races is excellent as the runners are never too far from the stands which promotes a more involved feeling among the spectators, like you’re jumping every fence/hurdle with the jockey.

REFRESHMENT FACILITIES
The Pavilion bar overlooks the winning post, there’s live music in the tented bar on the hill overlooking the racecourse, plus a self-service restaurant and snack bars.

CORPORATE FACILITIES
The glass-fronted Balcony Suite on the first floor of the new pavilion provides first class hospitality facilities for up to 200 guests or subdivided in tables of 10 with its own private balcony overlooking the racecourse. It offers a buffet lunch, CCTV, private Tote betting and private bar facilities. The tented village can cater for up to 2000 guests offering the same facilities as above.

DISABLED FACILITIES
Designated carparking, toilets and access.

LOCAL HOTELS
- Bloomfield House Hotel 044 93 40894
- Bridge House Hotel & Leisure Club, Tullamore 057 93 25600
- Greville Arms Hotel 044 93 48563
- Hilamar Hotel, Kinnegad 044 93 91719
- Mullingar Park Hotel 044 93 37500
- Sheraton Hotel Athlone 090 64 51000

LOCAL PUBS
- Largin’s

APRÈS RACING
Locke’s Distillery in Kilbeggan Town is the oldest licensed distillery in the world and is worth a visit. Also Tullnally and Birr Castles are open to the public. Plentiful opportunities for golf and fishing.
THE MAGNIFICENT SCENERY IS WHAT DRAWS THE HUGE CROWDS TO KILLARNEY AND THE MOUNTAINS AND LAKES THAT CRADLE THE RACECOURSE MAKE IT ARGUABLY THE MOST BEAUTIFUL IN THE COUNTRY.

KILLARNEY
(Gaelic: Cill Airne. Meaning: The Church of the Sloes)

Contact:
Tel: 064 31 125
www.killarneyraces.ie

Track Info:
National Hunt & Flat / Grade 2
County: Kerry

RACE COURSE

Admission
Adults
Students and OAPs
Children under 12
€15 - €20
€12
Free

Discounts available for pre-booked groups of 20 or more.

CONTACT DETAILS
Ross Road, Killarney, Co. Kerry.
Tel: 064 66 3125
Email: info@goracingkillarney.ie
Web: www.goracingkillarney.ie
Facebook: www.facebook.com/KillarneyRaceCompany

MAP

FIXTURES
There are 11 days racing during the year at Killarney incorporating 3 festivals in early May, the centre-piece event in mid-July plus a new 4-day festival in August which replaces the Tralee Rose Festival to sign off the summer in style. When you get there you won’t want to leave.
KILLARNEY REVEALED
Killarney is the premier tourist destination in Ireland and the Killarney races provides eleven cracking days of racing during three festivals in May, July and August, set to a backdrop of feverish, non-stop, Summer-time holiday activity. It’s party time all Summer long in Killarney and there is an energy to the area that has seeped into the pores of every facet of life there. The racecourse is no exception, providing no small amount of high quality racing to fulfill the dual role of both family fun day out and satisfying punter-friendly competition.

The magnificent scenery is what draws the huge crowds to Killarney and the mountains and lakes that cradle the racecourse make it arguably the most beautiful in the country. Couple that scenery with a well-appointed racecourse, exciting racing and a large fun-seeking crowd and you have the ingredients for a heady cocktail of pleasure. You’ll find the time flying down there.

REFRESHMENT FACILITIES
A large restaurant, selection of bars with hot lunches served in the main bar, also several snack (including seafood) outlets on course.

CORPORATE FACILITIES
Corporate events can be arranged in advance by contacting the racecourse.

DISABLED FACILITIES
Viewing area, restaurant access and toilets. Parking by arrangement.

LOCAL HOTELS, RESTAURANTS AND PUBS
If you were dropped from the sky into any part of Killarney or its environs you would invariably be within crawling distance of a high quality hotel, restaurant, guest-house or pub. As it would take up the rest of this publication to name most of them you are best advised to ring the Killarney Tourist Office at 064 31 633.

QUICK FACTS ABOUT KILLARNEY
The first recorded racemeetings in Killarney were in 1822 and between that date and 1901 they were staged between two different courses in the area. They were then discontinued until the present course was opened in 1936.

APRÈS RACING
Killarney, as mentioned above, is the tourist capital of Ireland and there is lots to see and do both in the town and the surrounding area. Some attractions of note include the 26,000 acre Muckross House National Park located 6 km outside of Killarney. The magnificent MacGillicuddy Reeks mountain range is located to the west of Killarney and merits closer inspection. There is also a plentiful supply of golf courses in the area, also lots of opportunities for fishing, horseriding and many sites of archaeological interest locally. For those just looking for a few drinks after racing in a lively, friendly setting then Killarney is second to none for such venues.
THAT WORD UNIQUE IS BANDED AROUND A LOT BY PROMOTERS OF EVENTS THAT HAVE SPURIOUS CLAIMS TO SUCH WORTHINESS BUT THIS SPECTACLE IS WORTHY OF THE MONIKER BECAUSE IT’S THE ONLY OFFICALLY APPROVED BEACH RACING IN EUROPE.

RACING is scheduled to take place at Laytown in early September.

ADMISSION
Adults €15
Discount for students & OAPs €8
Children under 16 Free

CONTACT DETAILS
Laytown Races, Laytown, Co. Meath
C/O Kevin Coleman (Manager),
9 Palace Street, Drogheda, Co. Louth.
Tel: 041 984 2111
Email: klaybell@eircom.net
Web: www.goracing.ie
Location

Laytown is a small seaside resort in Co. Meath on Ireland’s east coast.

How To Get There

**By Road:** 46 km north of Dublin, turn right off the Dublin-Belfast road (N1) at Julianstown.

**By Rail:** There are regular train services from Drogheda and Dublin (Connolly Station) to Laytown Station.

**By Bus:** There is a special bus service from Drogheda.

**By Air:** Dublin is the nearest airport.

**Course Characteristics:**

Racing takes place on the Laytown stand on a straight near-level course over six and seven furlong distances.

**Laytown Revealed**

People travel from far and wide, including many annual overseas visitors, to see this unique event on the beach at Laytown. That word unique is bandied around a lot by promoters of events that have spurious claims to such worthiness but this spectacle is worthy of the moniker because it’s the only officially approved beach racing in Europe. Crowds as large as 5,000 turn up to see it every year.

The last time that many people were on a beach in Ireland was when the native Irish were trying to drive back the hordes of invading vikings in the middle ages. The enclosures at Laytown consist of a three acre field elevated above the beach and the grandstand is hewn from steps cut into the sand dunes. Marquees are erected to use as weighing room, jockeys’ room and bars etc. The course itself is a section of the 3 mile long golden strand, which is closed on the morning of the races, which take place when the tide goes out.

**Refreshment Facilities**

Snack bars and bars provided in the marquees.

**Après Racing**

How about a nice refreshing swim in the sea? If that sounds too cold in September there are golf courses in the area and plenty of sites of archaeological interest including Newgrange (ancient burial tomb older than the pyramids), Slane Castle (if there isn’t a rock concert going on there) and ruins of Tara settlement, all in Co. Meath.

**Local Hotels**

- Boyne Valley Hotel, Drogheda 041 983 7737
- Conyngham Arms Hotel, Slane 041 988 4444
- Glenside, Hotel, Drogheda 041 982 9185
- Neptune Beach Hotel, Bettystown 041 982 7107
- West Court Hotel, Drogheda 041 983 0965

**Local Restaurants**

- Bacchus, Bettystown
- Black Bull, Drogheda
- Forge, Collon
- Monasterboice Inn, Drogheda

**Local Pubs**

- Cottage Inn, Laytown
- Seaview Bar, Laytown

**Quick Facts About Laytown**

- It is said that it was the parish priest who organised the first race meeting on Laytown in 1876. Held sporadically between that date and 1901 they were properly established in the racing calendar in the latter year by local landowner Paddy Delaney and have been held since without interruption, not even by the two world wars.
LEOPARDSTOWN
(Gaelic: Baile an Lobhair. Meaning: The Town of the Lepers)

Contact:
Tel: 01 289 0500
www.leopardstown.com

Course Info:
National Hunt & Flat / Premier Track
County: Dublin

LEOPARDSTOWN HOSTS SOME OF THE BIGGEST RACES IN THE CALENDAR, BOTH JUMP RACING IN WINTER AND FLAT RACING FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR.
**LEOPARDSTOWN REVEALED**

Leopardstown hosts some of the biggest races in the calendar, both jump racing in Winter and flat racing for the rest of the year. These experiences range from the Christmas festival, to fun-filled Leopardstown Summer Series evening meetings in Summer with live music afterwards, to the Autumn season when the highlight is the Irish Champion Stakes.

Augmenting this great racing, the facilities ensure that every need of the racegoer is amply catered for in terms of sustenance and entertainment. Any time of the year is a good time to come to Leopardstown.

The Christmas meeting offers a golden opportunity to get out of the house for four days of fresh air and sport, and away from the dreaded turkey and ham sandwiches, thereby helping tens of thousands of people each year avoid insanity sitting at home during this time watching movies they’ve already seen!

**BEST MATE VERSUS BEEF OR SALMON**

This was the biggest steeplechasing match-up since Buck House and Dawn Run (see Punchestown). The two heavyweights of steeplechasing, triple Gold Cup winner Best Mate, one of the best of the modern era, squaring up to his main Irish challenger Beef Or Salmon in the Lexus (formerly Ericsson) Steeplechase, not just once but twice.

In 2003 Best Mate set the place abuzz when his brilliant jumping saw him win easily and was given a rousing reception by the huge crowd. But a year later round 2 went to his nemesis Beef Or Salmon who put up an equally dominant display and gave the festive crowd just as big a thrill.

**FIXTURES**

Leopardstown hosts 23 meetings per year and these are pretty evenly spread over the course of 12 months. You just can’t ask for any more on a day out. Good company and great horses, all together in a great setting with a real sense of occasion. Perfect.

**ADMISSION PRICES**

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<th>Category</th>
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<th>Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td>Adults</td>
<td>€15-25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top-Level Seats</td>
<td>€30-50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OAPs &amp; Students</td>
<td>€10-15</td>
<td>Discounts of 15% are available for pre-booked groups of 20 people or more, depending on the meeting. 10% online discount for most fixtures. Reduced online price for the Christmas Festival.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CONTACT**

Leopardstown Racecourse, Foxrock, Dublin 18.
Tel: 01 289 0500
Email: info@leopardstown.com
Website: www.leopardstown.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/LeopardstownRacecourse
@LeopardstownRC

**Course Characteristics:**

The course is a left-handed oval of one mile and six furlongs with an uphill finishing straight.
ISTABRAQ AND MOSCOW FLYER
The best Irish hurdle horse of the last 20 years, Istabraq strutting his stuff in the Festival Hurdle, which he won three times. The champion speed chaser Moscow Flyer showing his class (he has won four times at the meeting) and many other champions, with a supporting cast of the cream of jump racing’s emerging young stars taking each other on to see which are true contenders and which are mere pretenders. How could you spend post-Christmas days in any other way?

SUPER SERIES, LEGS 5, 6 AND 7
Following on from this Christmas feast there is more self-indulgence in January when the valuable MCR Handicap Hurdle and Toshiba Irish Champion Hurdle are staged. In early February Leopardstown then plays host to the most prestigious steeplechase run in Ireland, the Hennessy Gold Cup. Its roll of honour is adorned with the names of champions including Florida Pearl (4 times), Beef Or Salmon (3 times), Jodami (3 times), Dorans Pride, Danoli, The Listener and Neptune Collonges.

THE CHAMPION STAKES
The Irish Champion Stakes is the highlight of Leopardstown’s flat racing season and every year attracts the crème de la crème of flat horses from Ireland, Britain and the continent for the €1 million prize.

Aidan O’Brien’s Dylan Thomas is the only horse to win the race twice (2006 & 2007) before he went on to Paris to take the Prix de l’Arc. Past winners of the race have been crowned world champions: Daylami (1999), Fantastic Light (2001), High Chaparral (2003) and New Approach (2008). Its timing in early September is perfect for horses who have contested the big races during the Summer and who have had a break before their Autumn campaigns. Its intermediate distance of 1 1/4 miles accommodates horses coming back from 1 1/2 miles and those going up from 1 mile. It also provides one of the most meaningful comparisons of different generations of horses with the classic three-year-olds taking on the tough, battle-hardened older veterans.

DEFINITION OF EXCITEMENT
There have been some titanic battles between horses and between their jockeys in recent years and since World Champion Daylami streaked home by 9 lengths in 1999, nostrils, short-heads and heads have been the standard winning distances. In fact if you were to get a cent for every inch of the aggregate winning distance in this race since then you wouldn’t have enough money to buy the cheapest wooden ruler with which to measure it.

It is the epitome of what top-class international horseracing should be, everything about the race shouts excitement. In fact so exciting has this race been that it was recently proposed by the union of Irish doctors that it’s members, when prescribing heart and blood pressure medicine for patients, affix the following addendum onto the bottle’s label; “N.B. Under no circumstances should the patient attend Champion Stakes Day at Leopardstown”.

But seriously, the Tattersalls Millions Irish Champion Stakes owns the potential to excite and enthral like few other events and if the earth doesn’t move for you afterwards the only way it ever will is if you fly...
into outer space and observe it moving. Witness the following:

**FANTASTIC LIGHT VERSUS GALILEO**

Nominated by the readers of the "Racing Post" as the 7th greatest race of all time is the Fantastic Light versus Galileo battle in the 2001 Champion Stakes. Galileo, trained by Aidan O'Brien and ridden by Michael Kinane, had won the English and Irish Derbys that year and had beaten the older Fantastic Light when they met at Ascot in July but he, together with his jockey Frankie Dettori and owners Godolphin, were looking for revenge.

The race followed a familiar pattern with two pacemakers setting the race up for the main players until, turning into the straight Dettori made a decisive move and shot his horse into the lead. Galileo and Kinane went in pursuit. All the way up the straight they battled, neck and neck as they each willingly strained every muscle and used every ounce of energy to try to edge ahead and all the while the crowd roared them on.

At the finish Fantastic Light won by a short head. Afterwards the scene at the course bore more resemblance to that of a Glastonbury rock festival because everyone in the crowd was high on sheer adrenaline. Garda checkpoints must have had a perplexing time that evening as they looked at these glassy-eyed, obviously intoxicated people driving home but none of whom had a trace of stimulant in their bloodstream.

**SEA THE STARS VERSUS FAME AND GLORY**

The 2009 rematch between the truly exceptional Sea The Stars and his Epsom Derby victim Fame And Glory had been the focus of the build-up to the race for many weeks and the rematch did not disappoint. Despite seemingly the entire Irish racing nation resigning themselves to the horse not running in the days leading up to the race due to the ground conditions, Oxx decided that the good-to-yielding ground was just good enough for him to let his colt take his chance. With Ballydoyle declaring not only Fame And Glory, but also the four-time Group 1-winner Mastercraftsman the scene was set for arguably the most anticipated Flat race on Irish soil in decades.

In scenes more traditionally associated with jumps racing, the crowds surged into Leopardstown and piled 10-deep around the parade ring to catch a glimpse of the returning hero. A Cheltenham Festival-style roar went up as the stalls opened and with the Ballydoyle pacemakers haring off into a clear lead, Kinane was content to settle his mount into mid-division. As the race began in earnest, Mastercraftsman struck for home early in the straight and Johnny Murtagh fired Fame And Glory past Sea The Stars in an effort to get first run on him. However, Kinane remained ice-cold and he gradually eased his mount into the race before unleashing his withering turn of foot to scythe down Mastercraftsman and then Fame And Glory, with a deafening roar erupting from the stands as he hit the front. He eventually came home 2½ lengths in front of Fame And Glory and before he had even crossed the line, the stampede for the winner’s enclosure had already begun. The winner was greeted with scenes of rapturous celebration from a knowledgeable crowd who recognised they had witnessed the best performance yet from a true Champion, despite the ground not being near suitable.

It was a truly remarkable race and occasion and one that will live forever in the memories of those lucky enough to be present to witness it.

**REFRESHMENT FACILITIES**

There is an extensive range of bars and restaurants including the Fillies Café Bar, which operates Pub hours throughout the year. On racedays there are four public bars: Jodami, Club 92, Tetrarch and Madigans. There are also private bars for Annual Members and Seat Holders. The Fillies Café Bar, Paddock Food Hall and Silken Glider Restaurant provide a range of eating options.

See www.leopardstown.com for more information on packages and hospitality.

**CORPORATE FACILITIES**

The Private Suites are located on the top level of the Reserved Stand. A single suite can accommodate 12 for silver service meal or 24 for a buffet. Double suites can accommodate 50 guests buffet style.

The Levmos and Centenary Rooms can cater for 120 and 90 people respectively and combined up to 220. Facilities include CCTV, private bar, private balcony and accessible Tote betting.

The magnificent Pavilion is a glass-fronted building with its own balcony overlooking the straight and can cater for groups of 200-1000. CCTV and private Tote betting facilities are provided.
OTHER FACILITIES
A permanent AIB Bank ATM machine on site.

Leopardstown boasts its own Golf Centre, an 18 hole ‘pay as you play’ course in the centre of the track also incorporating a 48-bay floodlit driving range. To help with your game there is a McGuirks Golf Shop.

West Wood Health and Fitness Centre, with a special children’s area-Fit Zone.

Leopardstown’s Club 92 is a popular nightclub which opens from Thursday to Sunday from 11 PM.

Fillies Café Bar- An award winning bar and restaurant, open daily.

LOCAL HOTELS
Beacon, Sandyford 01 291 5000
Bewleys, Leopardstown 01 293 5000
D4 Hotel Group 01 437 3444
Fitzpatricks Castle Hotel, Killiney 01 230 5400
Stillorgan Park Hotel, Stillorgan 01 200 1800
Radisson SAS St Helens Hotel, Blackrock 01 218 6000
The Merrion Hotel 01 603 0600

LOCAL RESTAURANTS
Beaufield Mews, Stillorgan
Coopers, Kilternan
La Casa, Stepaside
Leopardstown Inn, Leopardstown
My Thai, Beacon Hotel
The Goat Grill, Goatstown

LOCAL BARS
Crystal Bar, Beacon Hotel
Leopardstown Inn
Stillorgan Orchard

APRÈS RACING
There are more interesting places to see and things to do in Dublin than you can shake a stick at and it would be a futile exercise to try to list them all but here are some: Dundrum Town Centre, Art Galleries, Museums, Theatres, Shopping, Dublin Zoo in Phoenix Park, beautiful beaches nearby and lots more.
A GREAT DAY OF HORSE RACING, FOOD, FLUTTER, CRAIC AND LIVE ENTERTAINMENT. LIMERICK RACECOURSE’S CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE ST. PATRICK’S WEEKEND, SUMMER TWILIGHT RACING FESTIVAL AND THE MUNSTER NATIONAL IN OCTOBER. THE LIMERICK CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL CONSISTS OF 4 DAYS OF NATIONAL HUNT RACING AND IS A HIGHLIGHT OF THE SOCIAL CALENDAR IN THE CITY EACH YEAR.

FIXTURES
Limerick racecourse’s grade 1 racetrack hosts 18 race days throughout the year. Highlights include St. Patrick’s weekend, Summer Twilight Racing Festival with live music from May to July and the Munster National in October. The Limerick Christmas Festival consists of 4 days of national hunt racing and is a highlight of the social calendar in the city each year.

ADMISSION PRICES
Adults €10-20
Students & OAPs €10-15
Children under 16 Free

CONTACT DETAILS
Limerick Racecourse, Greenmount Park, Patrickswell, Co. Limerick
Tel: 061 320 000
Email: info@limerickraces.ie
Website: www.limerickraces.ie
Facebook: www.facebook.com/limerickraces
Twitter: @LimerickRace
**Location**
Situated at Greenmount Park, Patrickswell, 8 km south-west of Limerick city on the N20. Signposted along the N20.

**How to get there**

**By Road:** 100 km north of Cork, and 80 km south of Galway.

**By Rail:** Regular service to Limerick City station from various routes. Buses run from the station to the racecourse on racedays.

**By Air:** Shannon airport is 15 km away. Helicopter landing at the course can be arranged beforehand.

**By Bus:** Bus Eireann operate a shuttle bus service to and from Limerick racecourse on the day from Colbert station. Buses run 1 hour and 30 minutes before the first race and straight after the last race. We offer free car parking for 2000 cars on site.

**Course Characteristics:**
It is a right-handed oval track of about one mile and three furlongs.

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**LIMERICK REVEALED**
Limerick racecourse has something for everyone, a race meeting to suit your style, pocket, taste in music, taste in beer, taste in jockeys. In fact racing in Limerick probably hosts the most varied series of meetings of all the courses in the country. That’s not just some vacuous promotional gimmick. It’s true - let me demonstrate.

The following eclectic mix of themed racing is what (some of, not all) Limerick has to offer over the year. Chronologically, it goes a little something like this.

**NATIONAL STUDENT RACE DAY**
A chance for the students of Ireland to take a break from the punishing, hectic life of dedicated scholarly endeavour, to leave behind the cycle of lectures, tutorials, assignments, late night studying, exam stress, harassment from greedy landlords and head to Limerick for a thoroughly enjoyable, inexpensive (most importantly) and different day out. Even if you can’t bear to miss that macro-economics lecture you were so looking forward to, think of it as therapy, you can get the notes and you know the old saying; all work and no play... Seriously though, this is a great day out, a chance to meet students (thousands of them) from other colleges, think of it as a widening of opportunities, and it’s early enough in the year (March/April) when things are still pretty cool and the summer exams are still over the hills and far away.

The package includes: entry into racecourse, free shuttle to après racing party after racing. Special buses run from most colleges in the country. Check out your student union office for details.

**BARBEQUE AND TWILIGHT EVENINGS**
For those who like to mix good racing, good food and the best in headline music then Limerick racecourse’s ‘Twilight Racing’ has a treat in store for you. A series of evening meetings feature packed racing programmes with barbecues afterwards and on a number of special nights the best music acts in Ireland will keep things swinging until the witching-hour. Past performers at these fantastic events include the chart topping The Blizzards and Paddy Casey. On these occasions a free bus service into a top nightclub will operate after live entertainment.

**MUNSTER NATIONAL**
In October some of the best steeplechasers in the business take to the stage in this competitive and historic race. Among the stars to have competed in this €100,000 event over the years include Foxchapel King, More Than A Stroll, Dear Villez, former Grand National winner Monty’s Pass and the magnificent Beef Or Salmon.

**FESTIVE FUN**
This annual 4-day (26-29 Dec) Christmas Festival at Limerick is as much a part of the Christmas season as Santa Claus and mulled wine. After indulging in the feast on Christmas Day get stuck into a feast of racing that will satisfy even the heartiest of appetites but which won’t leave an unpleasant legacy of indigestion and wind. It is an ideal setting in which to meet and socialise with friends and relations old and new where you can have fun, a few drinks, a few flutters and catch up on old times while not feeling cramped or uncomfortable.
QUICK FACTS ABOUT LIMERICK

- Limerick racecourse opened in October 2001 to a record crowd of 18,000. It is the first built from scratch racecourse in Ireland for 50 years and has first rate modern facilities in the Hugh McMahon Stand.
- It is the seventh different location for racing in Co. Limerick since the first recorded fixtures in 1790. It’s predecessors were Bruff, Rathkeale, Newcastle, Lemonfield, Ballinacurra and Greenpark.
- The previous course at Greenpark closed in 1999 having held racing for 130 years.
- The present course is built on the site of a stud farm 250 acres of which is occupied by the racecourse.

REFRESHMENT FACILITIES
There are 3 bars, several fast food and self service outlets within the Hugh McMahon stand. Limerick is the only sporting venue with a Supermac’s outlet.

CORPORATE FACILITIES
A reserved table in the Panoramic Restaurant on the 2nd floor of the Hugh McMahon Stand offers first class cuisine to groups of all sizes in a modern setting. Enjoy your own reserved table and a sweeping view of the racecourse, with deluxe catering.

The restaurant has full bar and Tote facilities. On the 3rd floor the Private Corporate Suites can accommodate groups of up to 100. Standard packages include deluxe catering, private bar and exclusive Tote access. Packages can also be tailored to suit. Alternatively, both venues can be amalgamated to cater for 450 guests.

PARKING
A state of the art venue providing ample FREE car parking space.

LOCAL HOTELS
- Adare Manor 061 605 200
- Dunraven Arms Hotel, Adare 061 605 900
- The Lynch South Court Hotel 061 487 487
- The Radisson Blu Hotel & Spa Limerick 061 326 666
- Woodlands House Hotel, Adare 061 605 100

LOCAL RESTAURANTS
- Dragon I, Patrickswell
- The Blue Door, Adare
- The Locke Bar and Restaurant, Limerick
- The Wild Geese, Adare

LOCAL PUBS
- Aubars, Limerick
- Clohessy’s Bar, Limerick
- Dark Horse, Patrickswell
- Nancy Blakes, Limerick

APRÈS RACING
There are many sites of archaeological interest in the area, including King John’s Castle in Limerick, and many opportunities for horse riding, golfing, fishing and sight seeing.

For more information check out www.limerickraces.ie
WHEN IT COMES TO FESTIVALS NOBODY DOES IT BETTER THAN THE PEOPLE OF KERRY. TRADITIONALLY IT WAS THE MEETING WHERE THE FARMERS OF IRELAND CAME TO SPEND/GAMBLE THE MONEY THEY MADE FROM THE HARVEST.
### Location

Situated just outside the town of Listowel in Co. Kerry.

### How to get there

**By Road:** Listowel is 25 km north-east of Tralee, 110 km north-west of Cork and 80 km south-west of Limerick.

**By Rail:** Regular train service from Dublin (Heuston Station) to Tralee and Limerick from where there are special bus services to Listowel during the festival.

**By Air:** Kerry airport at Farranfore is 56 km away. Helicopter landings at the course can be arranged in advance.

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#### Listowel Revealed

When it comes to festivals nobody does it better than the people of Kerry. Holding festivals is what they are best at. Enter the words “Kerry” and “Festival” into an internet search engine and you’ll get hundreds of thousands of hits giving details of festivals of all sorts, from swimming with dolphins (which they do at nearby Dingle) to the famous racing festival in Listowel, which runs in conjunction with the Harvest Festival, so-called because it was traditionally held to celebrate the saving of the Autumn harvest. Two Kerry festivals for the price of one! That has to be good, and it is.

#### Kerry National

The racing consists of an even mix of jump and flat races. The feature race of the week is the €150,000 Guinness Kerry National Chase which has been won by some great horses in the past including Dorans Pride and produced some fabulous races down the years, none more so than the memorable 2003 running. What about this for a story. Co. Tipperary garage owner Donal O’Connor (who isn’t a hugely wealthy owner) owned two horses in the race, Native Performance and River Cora and both seemed to have decent chances on the formbook and started at 8/1 and 12/1 respectively. But what happened was the stuff of fairytales because from the 2nd last fence to the winning line they fought out a great finish with Native Performance prevailing by a neck.

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#### Course Characteristics:

The course is a flat, left-handed oval of just over one mile in length.

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#### Fixtures

There are 9 days racing at Listowel during the year, 2 days in June and the 7-day spectacular in September.

#### Admission

- Adults: €15-20
- Students & OAPs: Half-price
- Children under 14: Free

At the Festival meeting the admission price of €20 includes access to the reserved enclosures.

#### Contact Details

The Racecourse, Listowel, Co Kerry
Tel: 068 21 144
Email: info@listowelraces.ie
Web: www.listowelraces.ie
QUICK FACTS ABOUT LISTOWEL

- Racing in the area was originally held at Ballyeagh, near Ballybunion but due to faction fighting was moved to Listowel in 1858. It was originally known as the North Kerry Hunt Steeplechase Meeting.
- It started as a 2-day event but because of its popularity has been gradually extended over the years and in 2002 became a week long affair.
- 2003 Irish Derby winner Alamshar won his first race at Listowel in 2002.
- The record attendance is 93,000, in 2003, over 7 days.

It was a thrilling race for the large crowd watching but was wildly exciting for O'Connor who admitted he didn’t know which of them had won. “It could only happen in Kerry”, he claimed afterwards. Stories such as that are what make this the great occasion that it is.

REFRESHMENT FACILITIES
There is a dining room, self-service restaurant, snack bars, fast food outlets and many bars.

CORPORATE HOSPITALITY
A corporate hospitality room is available which can cater for 40-100 people.

OTHER FACILITIES
There are 2 wheelchair designated viewing areas in the stands.

APRÈS RACING
There is always a lively atmosphere in the town during the week and always something going on such as street entertainment, busking competitions, music and dancing in pubs. Listowel and the surrounding area is known as the Literary Capital of Ireland and has produced many famous writers most notably the late John B. Keane, Bryan McMahon, and Brendan Kennelly. The Kerry Literary and Culture Centre in Listowel celebrates this great literary tradition.

There is a fine golf course in Listowel and nearby is the world renowned Ballybunion Golf course which has played host to such as Bill Clinton and Tiger Woods. Tom Watson is also a regular visitor to the club.

LOCAL HOTELS
Cliff House Hotel, Ballybunion 068 27 777
Golf Hotel, Ballybunion 068 27 111
Listowel Arms Hotel, Listowel 068 21 500
Marine Links Hotel, Ballybunion 068 27 139

LOCAL RESTAURANTS
Bunker Bar and Restaurant, Ballybunion
Harty Costello’s Pub/Restaurant, Listowel
Maid of Erin, Pub/Restaurant, Listowel
Woulfe’s Horseshoe Pub/Restaurant, Listowel

LOCAL PUBS
Lynch’s Pub, Listowel
John B. Keanes, Listowel
Pure Drop, Listowel

NAAS

(Gaelic: Nas Na Riogh. Meaning: The Meeting Place of Kings)

Contact:
Tel: 045 897 391
www.naasracecourse.com

Course Info:
National Hunt & Flat / Grade 1
County: Kildare

A GUIDE TO IRISH RACECOURSES

RACE COURSE

1 - Entrance 5 - Bar 9 - Stable Yard 13 - Press Stand
2 - Info Point 6 - Tale 10 - Parade Ring 14 - Office
3 - Main Stand 7 - View Stand 11 - Weigh Room 15 - Ticket Collection
4 - Toilets 8 - Food 12 - Press Room
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>How To Get There</th>
<th>Course Characteristics:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Located about 1km from Naas town centre in 'the Thoroughbred county' of Kildare.</td>
<td><strong>By Road:</strong> 32 km from Dublin city centre. Take the N7 southwards, take the turn for Naas and the racecourse is on the left en route into Naas town. 130 km north of Waterford 165 km west of Limerick. <strong>By Rail:</strong> Arrow rail service from Dublin Heuston to Sallins (about 5 km away) with feeder bus into Naas town. For more details contact Iarnrod Eireann (Irish Rail) at 01-8366222. <strong>By Bus:</strong> On racedays a special bus leaves Busaras (Dublin Central Bus Station) for the racecourse. Also Bus Eireann and private bus services to Naas from Waterford via Carlow. <strong>By Air:</strong> Dublin airport is 40km away (take M50 then N7).</td>
<td>The course is left-handed, undulating and one mile and four furlongs in length with a stiff uphill climb to the winning post. Also a chute for sprint races that joins the straight.</td>
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**NAAS REVEALED**

It is entirely fitting that there should be a racecourse at Naas, in fact it must have been pre-ordained by some sort of divinity. For Naas is set in the heart of Kildare which is renowned as the "the Thoroughbred County" of Ireland and the town is also famously, as in it's Gaelic translation, the "Meeting Place of the Irish Kings".

Well, horses are the real Kings of Ireland (if public devotion is anything to go by) so it's appropriate that they have a place of competition in the heart of their spiritual home. As for the kings who met here in the middle ages: what did they do in Naas when they met? Chances are they organised a few horseraces as entertainment and organised a feast afterwards.

They would probably have had some activities to occupy the energies of the children: face painting, funny shows and the like and they would certainly have had some music afterwards. Funny how some things never change and others stay the same because you will get all of the above entertainment at Naas races today only the facilities are a lot better and it's much easier to get a cappuccino now than it was back then. On the BBQ Summer Nights, as well as good food there is live music after racing and on Bank Holiday Family days there are bouncy castles, clowns, face painting and a host of activities for the whole family to enjoy.

**ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS**

Some outstanding horses have competed at Naas down the years including in the 60's the great Arkle and Mill House and several winners of the Grand National.

More recently the roll call of winners at Naas is just as impressive and includes 2004 Champion Irish 2-year-old Damson who won at Naas before winning at Royal Ascot and other Cheltenham Festival winners who have also triumphed at Naas include Dorans Pride, Danoli, Pizarro and Gold Cup hero Imperial Call.

2008 was an exciting year over Jumps and on the Flat at Naas. Cuis Ghaire won the Group 3 Swordlestown Sprint Stakes in Naas before going on to win the Group 3 Albany Stakes for Jim Bolger and Kevin Manning at Royal Ascot.

In 2009 the NH action heated up on Cheltenham Trial day in February when it produced three Grade 1...
QUICK FACTS ABOUT NAAS

- The first racemeeting took place at Naas in June 1924 when the card was comprised of flat, hurdle and steeplechase events.
- When it comes to flat racing there are many highlights throughout the season at the Woodlands Park venue most notably The Coolmore Group 3 Sprint in June worth €90,000, The Garnet Stakes Listed Race with a purse of €60,000 and The Derrinstown Stud European Breeders Fund Birdcatcher Premier Nursery of €70,000 both fixtures are run in October.
- The fixture in late February is an important trial day for Irish horses going to Cheltenham and the impressive list of races on the day includes the paddypower.com Newlands Steeplechase (Grade 2) of €60,000, The Woodlands Park 100 Club Nas Na Riogh Novice Chase and The paddypower.com Johnstown Novice Hurdle (Grade 2) of €50,000. There is in excess of €225,000 in prize money on offer on this day that has been dubbed 'The paddypower.com Cheltenham Trial Day' as it is the last run out before Cheltenham for many Festival contenders.

winners, Go Native was an impressive winner of the 2009 Supreme Novices hurdle, three weeks after his victory at Naas. Joncol was also a winner at the 2009 Cheltenham Trial Day; subsequently won two Grade 1 Chases, including the Hennessy Gold Cup at Leopardstown. An Cathaoir Mor completed the hat trick for Naas when he won the Grade 1 Arkle Chase also at Leopardstown.

REFRESHMENT FACILITIES
There are three bars at the course: The Opera Hat Bar and Snack Area with seating. The Tote Bar is located on the ground floor of the Grand Stand building and the Guinness Champion Bar is located on the first floor of the Grand Stand. Behind the Grand Stand is the carvery restaurant with a choice of hot and cold meals.

OTHER FACILITIES
There is a special viewing area for disabled people with wheelchair access between the stands and wheelchair accessible toilets.

CORPORATE FACILITIES
Located on the first floor of the Grandstand building, the Panoramic Restaurant lends the racegoer a spectacular view of the course from your own reserved table. Package includes a four course silver service meal, CCTV, private Tote facilities, bar and easy access to the stand and bookmakers arena. The corporate suites located on the second floor of the Grandstand building can cater for 16 people for a silver service meal and 18 for a buffet. Double suites can cater for 40 for silver service and up to 50 for a buffet, the Premier Suite can cater for 60 for Silver Service and up to 100 for a buffet. Each suite offers a private balcony with sweeping views of the track, a private bar, private Tote facilities and CCTV. Extras such as betting vouchers for your guests, a Tipster and a champagne reception can be arranged.

APRÈS RACING
The Irish National Stud is a must see. Excellent fishing and golfing facilities in the area.

LOCAL HOTELS
Keadeen Hotel, Newbridge 045 431666
Killashee House & Villa Spa, Naas 045 879277
Maudlins House Hotel, Naas 045 896999
Osprey Hotel & Spa, Naas 045 881111
Tulfarris House and Golf Resort, Blessington 045 867600

LOCAL RESTAURANTS
Butt Mullins, Naas
Johnstown Inn, Johnstown
La Primavera, Naas
Lemongrass, Naas
Maloti Indian, Naas
Storehouse, Naas
Vie de Chateaux, Naas

LOCAL PUBS
Fletchers
Graces
Haydens
Ivy Inn
Kavanaghs
McCormacks
“SURE THEY WOULD BE MAD NOT TO” AS HECTOR O’HEOCHAGAIN MIGHT HAVE SAID ABOUT HIS HOME TOWN TRACK BECAUSE NAVAN’S IMPRESSIVE BIG RACE SCHEDULE OFFERS NOT JUST TRIALS FOR BIG RACES ELSEWHERE BUT LOTS OF RACES THAT CAN STAND ON THEIR OWN AS IMPORTANT EVENTS.

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“A GUIDE TO IRISH RACECOURSES

NAVAN

(Gaelic: An Uaimh. Meaning: The Place of the Cave)

Contact:
Tel: 046 902 1350
www.navanracecourse.ie

Course Info:
National Hunt & Flat / Grade 1
County: Meath

FIXTURES
There are 17 fixtures annually at Navan with a break in racing from July until October.

ADMISSION PRICES
Adults €10-15
Students & OAPs €10
Children under 14 free
Discount available for groups of 20 or more.

CONTACT DETAILS
Navan Racecourse, Proudstown, Navan, Co. Meath.
Tel: 046 902 1350
Email: info@navanracecourse.ie
Website: www.navanracecourse.ie
Facebook: www.facebook.com/navanraces
Twitter: @NavanRacecourse
NAVAN REVEALED
Navan is one of the fastest improving courses in Ireland and it shows in the quality of its racing which naturally attracts some of the best horses in the land. It stages both flat and jump racing but it's best known for the latter, especially in the Autumn and Winter months, the wraps come off the jump-racing stars and almost inevitably they will turn up at Navan at some point during the season.

“Sure they would be mad not to” as Hector O’Héochagáin might have said about his home town track because Navan’s impressive big race schedule offers not just trials for big races elsewhere but lots of races that can stand on their own as important events. This schedule includes the following: Tara Hurdle, Boyne Hurdle, Fortria Chase, Lismullen Hurdle (all worth €50,000), the Barry and Sandra Kelly Memorial Novice Hurdle worth €70,000 and Troytown Chase (€85,000) the showpiece of the season.

What was the line in that film again? “If you build it they will come”, well Navan, through significant investment in the course and generous dollops of prizemoney has attracted large crowds and a list of top-class horses as long as your arm. Recognise some of these? Mac’s Joy, Watson Lake, Back In Front, Moscow Flyer, Limestone Lad, Davids Lad, Solderina, Hardy Eustace, Emotional Moment. Thought you might. Well Navan is the place to catch them in action. Navan has numerous themed racedays with Family day on first Sunday in May with lots of activities for all the family, there is also a Country & Western evening in June, ideal for summer staff outings and not to forget Ladies Day in October each year.

NAVAN’S RECENT DEVELOPMENTS
In 2005 Navan invested in a new development consisting of 140 new stables, weighroom, jockeys complex, press room and childrens play area. Also a new owners & trainers and members bar with a parade ring view and balcony was built. An added extension to the current bars and food halls, with a new facility on the first floor level of the grandstand were also included in the development.

REFRESHMENT FACILITIES
Self-service restaurant, several bars and snack bars.

CORPORATE FACILITIES
Navan has a number of suites that can be hired for race days;

The Proudstown Suite can cater for 125 people.
The Boyne Suite can cater for 125 people.
The O’Sullivan Suite has a capacity of 75.
The Bective Restaurant Silver Service seating 65 people.

The latter two suites can be made into one to cater for 200. All these suites come with first-class service and facilities include CCTV, private Tote facilities and excellent views of the racecourse. Larger groups can also be catered for in the marquee.

Course Characteristics:
The course is left-handed, one mile and two furlongs in length and undulating with a stiff uphill climb to the winning post.

Location
Situated 3 km outside Navan town on the Kingscourt Road (R162).

How to get there
By Road: Navan is 48 km north-west of Dublin on the N3.

By Rail: Drogheda (24 km away) is the closest railway station. There are bus transfers to Navan.

By Bus: Buses leave from Busaras (Dublin Central Bus Station) every hour from 7.30 AM (9.00AM on Sundays) to Navan stopping about 3 km from the course. Tel. Bus Eireann 01 836 6111 or log onto www.buseireann.ie.

By Air: Dublin is the closest airport. Helicopter landing at the course can be arranged in advance.
Corporate racedays at Navan are tailored to individual company needs and are guaranteed to provide great racing, superb hospitality and excellent live entertainment after racing. It’s the ideal opportunity for entering clients or employees.

The restaurant and bar facilities are open seven days a week. Private functions can also be catered for. Events previously held include Home Improvement & Motor Show, Irish American Youth Team Fun Day Out, New Years Eve Gala Ball. Navan Golf and Racecourse can also facilitate marquees for weddings, musical events, gala dinners, etc.

OTHER FACILITIES
Navan has a beautiful 18-hole golf course within it’s grounds so you can indulge in two of Ireland’s consuming passions in one place. There is also a 12 bay golf driving range on-site where you can warm up for the holes ahead.

DISABLED FACILITIES
Designated parking, lift and toilets.

LOCAL HOTELS
Ardboyne Hotel, Navan 046 902 3119
Newgrange Hotel, Navan 046 907 4100

LOCAL RESTAURANTS
Racecourse Restaurant open 7 days a week
China Garden, Navan
Hudson’s Bistro, Navan
The Loft, Navan

LOCAL PUBS
Henry Loughrans, Navan
Round O Bar, Navan
Scanlons, Kilberry

APRÈS RACING
The world famous burial tomb of Newgrange is just 15 km from the course. Other attractions include Trim Castle, Kells Heritage Centre, the site of the Battle of the Boyne and Slane Castle.
THE PUREST, MOST SATISFYING MOMENT OF ANY SPECTATOR SPORT IS WHEN SEEING ITS BEST PERFORMERS DOING WHAT THEY DO BEST, AT THEIR BEST, AND THE SPRING FESTIVAL AT PUNCHESTOWN DELIVERS ON THAT REMIT WITH EXCITING RESULTS FOR THE VIEWING PUBLIC.

PUNCHESTOWN
(Gaelic: Baile Fuinse. Meaning: The Valley of the Ash Trees)

Contact:
Tel: 045 897 704
www.punchestown.com

Course Info:
National Hunt / Premier Track
County: Kildare

A GUIDE TO IRISH RACECOURSES
Location

Situated 5 km from Naas on the Naas-Ballymore Eustace road. Signposted from Naas.

How to get there

By Road: 37 km south of Dublin on the N7. 115 km north-west of Rosslare port.

By Rail: Newbridge (14 km) is the closest railway station, from where a taxi can be taken to the racecourse.

By Bus: During the 4-day Festival a special bus is available from Busaras in Dublin city centre (Store Street). For other meetings Bus Eireann and private bus services provide a regular service to Naas.

By Air: Dublin is the closest airport. Helicopter landing at the racecourse can be arranged in advance.

PUNCHESTOWN REVEALED

Punchestown stages some of the finest jump racing, not just in Ireland but in the world because, simply put, it is the place where the champions of jump racing meet. Racing at the course is always about quality and the Autumn and Winter seasons there include many excellent fixtures, the highlight being the Grade 1 John Durkan Memorial Chase in December, won in recent years by such greats as Kicking King and Beef or Salmon. As good as those meetings are they are merely warm-ups.

For, just when the jump racing season is coming to its end in April, Punchestown, like a sleeping giant which has been waiting in the wings while other festivals have come and gone, awakes from its slumber and delivers the piece de resistance of the season giving vigour to the old truism of “saving the best until last”. The purest, most satisfying moment of any spectator sport is when seeing it’s best performers doing what they do best, at their best, and the Spring Festival at Punchestown delivers on that remit with exciting results for the viewing public.

RACING NIRVANA

With 11 Grade 1 races over the now 5 days, the festival attracts the best horses from Britain (and some from France to give extra flavour) to take on the best of the Irish contingent and this is what makes it so special: the crunch and sometimes grudge races. The principal players from the Fairyhouse, Cheltenham and Aintree Festivals all hook up again with some looking for revenge for previous defeats and others looking to frank their superiority. Then there are the dark horses, which for one reason or another did not run at those previous festivals and are now looking to topple the interim leaders from their pedestals. This is serious stuff for owners, trainers and jockeys but for the spectators it is racing nirvana.

MEMORIES

In recent years there have been some truly memorable performances from such stars as Istabraq, Moscow Flyer, Rhinestone Cowboy, Brave Inca, Back in Front, Beef or Salmon, Master Minded and Hardy Eustace - the roll of honour sounds like a racing edition of Debretts. Like the Oscars Awards.
Ceremony, all the stars turn up all the stars turn up and perform for us in such prestigious events as the Punchestown Guinness Gold Cup, Champion Chase, Rabobank Champion Hurdle, Ladbrokes.com World Series Stayers Hurdle, Champion Four Year Old Hurdle – the list of big races goes on. You simply can’t ask for any more from a festival.

DAWN RUN VERSUS BUCK HOUSE
Down the years there have been many, many great days at this mecca of jump racing but the meeting of Dawn Run and Buck House on April 23rd in 1986 must rate a position in the top one! The idea had been the brainchild of legendary trainer Vincent O’Brien and though such match races seldom happen this one famously came to pass. The crowds gathered in a zealous devotion not seen since the royal visit almost 120 years previously. The attraction of this match-up for the public was not hard to comprehend. One month earlier Dawn Run, trained by Paddy Mullins and ridden by Jonjo O’Neill had won the Cheltenham Gold Cup with a courageous effort that made her a national hero. At the same meeting fellow Irish steed Buck House, trained by Mouse Morris and ridden by Tommy Carmody had won the Queen Mother Champion Chase and was himself an outstanding champion. O’Neill was injured and the trainer’s son Tony who had ridden the mare to many of her wins before Cheltenham was back on board. The story of the race was that Dawn Run led until Buck House challenged her and took the lead coming to the second last fence but Mullins galvanised the mare at the last and she went on to record a famous victory. Both gladiators returned to a deeply appreciative reception from the enormous crowd. It was a momentous day, not just in Irish racing history but Irish sporting history and one about which people can proudly say they were there and tell their grandchildren about.

REFRESHMENT FACILITIES
De Robeck Restaurant: Overlooking the parade ring is a buffet restaurant with its own bar and tote betting facilities.

Dobbins Food Hall: This new improved self-service facility is adjacent to the parade ring with a wide choice of hot and cold meals.

La Touche Bar: On the ground level of the main grandstand.

Double Bank Bar: Also on the ground level of the main grandstand.

Tote Sports Lounge: Equipped to facilitate fans of sports who want to see the golf, soccer or tennis action in between races. Fitted out with soft, comfortable furnishings and a wall of wide-screen televisions.

Lawlors Bar: This convenient bar is located on the second level of the main grandstand just a flight away from all the action but a bit more relaxed than the ground floor bars. It also serves hot and cold snacks.
The first recorded race meeting at Punchestown was in 1824 when the racing was quite different to what we are used to today. Races were based on a cross-country style back then, each one involving the negotiation of obstacles that were part of the local terrain such as single/double banks and stone walls and were staged over distances of four miles and more.

Racing continued in this fashion until 1850 when some members of the Kildare Hunt wisely decided to take over the location for its annual race meeting. In 1860 the organisers decided that permanent stands and enclosures should be erected and artificial fences created to facilitate some shorter races. By 1865 the two-day meeting was drawing a crowd of 40,000 and more.

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CORPORATE HOSPITALITY

Panoramic Restaurant: Offers spectacular views of the racecourse and a full 4-course menu with a wide choice of dishes. Packages are available for groups.

Private Suites: Each suite has its own private bar, viewing terrace with ready access to Tote facilities. The Presidents Suite on the 2nd floor can accommodate up to 80 guests. The Panoramic Suites on the top floor are ideal for more intimate gatherings and accommodate up to 20 guests.

A selection of corporate hospitality packages are available for the Festival Village at the Spring National Hunt Festival.

DISABLED FACILITIES

The racecourse is completely wheelchair friendly with reserved areas overlooking the parade ring and racecourse. Lifts provide access to all levels of the grandstand. There is also a reserved car park for disabled racegoers close to the entrance.

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LOCAL HOTELS

Killashee House Hotel 045 879277
Louis Fitzgerald Hotel 01 4033300
Avon Rí 045 900670
Tulfarris Hotel & Golf Resort 045 867600

LOCAL RESTAURANTS

Ballymore Inn, Ballymore Eustace
Butt Mullins, Naas
Johnstown Inn, Johnstown
Lemongrass, Naas
Silken Thomas, Kildare
The Thatch, Ballymore Eustace

LOCAL PUBS

Bardons, Kilcullen
Bill McCormacks, Naas
Graces, Naas
Ivy Inn, Naas
Kavanaghs, Naas

APRÈS RACING

The Irish National Stud and Japanese Gardens in Kildare town is certainly worth a visit to see some of the best stallions in Ireland. Stately homes, Russborough House and Castletown House are also worth seeing. There are also plentiful opportunities for golf, fishing and pony trekking.

DID YOU KNOW?

QUICK FACTS ABOUT PUNCHESTOWN

COURSES FOR HORSES
In 1868 the presence at Punchestown of the Prince of Wales, the future King Edward VII drew a crowd that was reckoned to be 150,000, which if accurate is the biggest crowd to ever attend a racemeeting in the world. A local newspaperman of the time wrote:

“Every residence in the neighbourhood, from that of peer down to peasant, bore evidence of the approaching meeting for days previous, and every train has the brougham, family omnibus or private car awaiting its arrival with the visitors to partake of Kildare hospitality during the meeting and to judge by the highway one could suppose Dublin to be deserted.”
A GUIDE TO IRISH RACECOURSES

ROSCOMMON

(Gaelic: Ros Comain. Meaning: The Grove of Coman)

Contact:
Tel: 09066 63 494 or 26 231
www.roscommonraces.ie

Course Info:
National Hunt & Flat / Grade 2
County: Roscommon

A DAY AT ROSCOMMON RACECOURSE REVEALS THE PLEASURE TO BE HAD IN THE SOMETIMES HIDDEN PARTS OF IRELAND.

Fixed fixtures:
There are 9 meetings annually at Roscommon from May until September featuring mostly Summer evening meetings providing a great location for family outings.

ADMISSION PRICES
Adults
Sunday meeting €13
Students & OAPs €8
Sunday meeting €10
Children under 14 Free

Contact details:
Roscommon Racecourse, Lenabane
Racecourse Road, Roscommon, Co. Roscommon.
Tel: 090 662 6231
Email: roscommonracecourse@eircom.net
Web: www.roscommonracecourse.ie
Facebook: www.facebook.com/RoscommonRacecourse
Twitter: @RoscommonRaces
Roscommon is a favourite course with trainers for introducing talented, inexperienced young horses to racing and if you keep a close watch at the course you will see some stars of the future competing there (see below). The racing consists of good quality, full fields featuring lively betting markets and the view of the racecourse from the stands and enclosures is excellent, making it very spectator friendly. The €40,000 Grade 3 EBS Kilbegnet Novice Chase, run at the October meeting is the feature race of the year.

After the racing there is a great atmosphere in the local pubs and hotels (of the sort that you only get in the smaller towns in Ireland) and even more so during the 2-day meetings in June and July. A day at Roscommon racecourse reveals the pleasure to be had in the sometimes hidden parts of Ireland.

REFRESHMENT FACILITIES
There is a spacious dining room, self-service restaurant, snack bar, tea room and several bars.

CORPORATE FACILITIES
There are hospitality rooms available to cater for 20-60 people and there is also space for a tented village on site.

OTHER/DISABLED FACILITIES
There is a designated disabled viewing area in the stands.

LOCAL HOTELS
Abby Hotel, Roscommon 0906 626 240
Coachmans Inn, Roscommon 0906 626 459
Gleesons Hotel, Roscommon 0906 626 954
Hannons Hotel, Roscommon 0906 637 644

LOCAL RESTAURANTS
Gleeson’s, Roscommon
Horan’s, Roscommon

LOCAL PUBS
Central Bar, Roscommon
Railway Bar, Roscommon

QUICK FACTS ABOUT ROSCOMMON
- The first recorded race meeting took place in 1837. It was organised by the British military which had a base in the town then.
- Racing officially began there in 1885 and with the exception of a 12 year period (1936-48) has continued ever since.
- Famous horses to run there include:
  - 1996 Cheltenham Gold Cup winner Imperial Call ran in his first novice chase at Roscommon, and finished only third. 1999 Ascot Gold Cup winner Enzeli (Ireland’s first winner of the race since 1969) won a race at Roscommon the year before his famous triumph.
  - The course won the 2004 Stable Staff Award for the most improved racecourse in Ireland.

APRÈS RACING
Nearby Lough Key Forest Park, County Heritage Centre in Strokestown, fishing and cruises on the River Shannon and horseriding.
A GUIDE TO IRISH RACECOURSES

SLIGO
(Gaelic: An Sligeach. Meaning: Abounding in Shells)

IT’S ONE OF THOSE RARE PLACES WHERE THE JOURNEY TO AND FROM (PASSING THROUGH SOME OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL COUNTRYSIDE IN IRELAND) IS IN ITSELF PLEASURABLE.

Contact:
Tel: 071 918 3342
www.countysligoraces.com

Course Info:
National Hunt & Flat / Grade 2
County: Sligo

FIXTURES
There are 8 fixtures each year at Sligo, the first in early May and concluding with a two day fixture at the end of September/start of October. There are two Sunday fixtures and six week day fixtures.

ADMISSION PRICES
All fixtures
Adults €15
OAPs & Students €10
Children Free

Special discounts are offered for groups.
Coach tours welcome.
Free Parking.

CONTACT DETAILS
Sligo Racecourse
Cleveragh Road, Sligo.
Tel: 071 918 3342
Email: info@countysligoraces.com
Web: www.countysligoraces.com
www.facebook.com/pages/Sligo-Races
@SligoRaces
SLIGO REVEALED

Sligo racecourse is nestled among some of the most scenic countryside imaginable with the mountains Benbulben and Knocknarea looking down from either side of the town. The area is considered as one of the unheralded beauty spots of Ireland and it’s certainly worth the effort to get to Sligo racecourse for one of its nine fixtures.

It’s one of those rare places where the journey to and from (passing through some of the most beautiful countryside in Ireland) is in itself pleasurable. The racing is exciting with competitive cards making for very lively betting markets especially the early August meetings which feature a continuation of Summer festivities from the nearby Galway races.

REFRESHMENT FACILITIES

The track has a spacious bar, self service restaurant and snack bar.

CORPORATE FACILITIES

The Cleveragh Room can cater for groups of 50 people and features its own viewing area, an exit onto the reserved balcony of the stand, betting facilities and close circuit television.

APRÈS RACING

There is much to do after or indeed before racing around Sligo. There are hundreds of archaeological sites to visit in the area and miles of idyllic sandy beaches to explore. For the younger, more energetic types those beaches also have some of the best surfing in the country, dude. Sligo is, of course where the brothers William and Jack Butler Yeats spent much of their time and from where they derived much of their creative influences. William regarded it as the “Land of Heart’s Desire”. Their influence on the town’s art world is immense: there is a W.B. Yeats society based in the town and much of Jack B. Yeats’ work is displayed in the local Municipal Art Gallery. There are also ample opportunities for angling, golfing and pony trekking.

LOCAL HOTELS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hotel</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Castle Dargan</td>
<td>071 9118080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarion Hotel</td>
<td>071 9119000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cromleach Lodge</td>
<td>071 9165155</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LOCAL RESTAURANTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Restaurant</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bistro Bianconi</td>
<td>071 9141744</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clevery Mill</td>
<td>071 9127424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cromleach Lodge</td>
<td>071 9165155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molly Fulton's</td>
<td>071 9160027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Belfry</td>
<td>071 9161250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Embassy</td>
<td>071 9161250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Mandarin Court</td>
<td>071 9142568</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Waterfront</td>
<td>071 9177122</td>
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LOCATION

Situated at Cleveragh 1km from Sligo town centre, just off the Pearse Road.

How to get there

**By Road:** Sligo is located 137 km north east of Galway and 217 km west of Dublin.

**By Rail:** Dublin (Connolly Station) to Sligo. Taxi service from Sligo Station to the racecourse.

**By Bus:** Local bus service with stops adjacent to enclosure.

**By Air:** The closest airports are Strandhill airport (10km) and Knock international (56km) airport with daily flights from Dublin. Knock also has a service from Liverpool. There are helicopter landing facilities at the racecourse (to be arranged in advance).

Course Characteristics:

Sligo is a right-handed course of 1 mile in length with a steady incline from halfway to the finish line.

QUICK FACTS ABOUT SLIGO

- Racing has taken place in Cleveragh since 1955, but there is a tradition of racing in the area dating back to 1781, when racing was first recorded at Bowmore on Rosses Point. It was written in the Sligo Journal of the races in 1893 that the “beauty and fashion of the county attended the races”.

- Nothing has changed then in the meantime! For the next hundred years the races were halted intermittently because of political turmoil and/or faction fighting and in 1898 moved to a site at Hazelwood until 1942.

- There was no racing for the 13 years preceding the opening of the present course.

- The programme at all meetings is comprised of Flat and National Hunt (jump) races.

- Among the top-class horses to run at Sligo are Jazz Princess, who later went on to win a Group 3 race at the Curragh in 2004 and became one of the best two-year-olds in Ireland. Brewster, one of the top novice hurdlers in Britain in 2005 won a bumper at Sligo in 2002.
PROPER DYED IN THE WOOL, QUALITY JUMP RACING TO WARM THE COCKLES OF YOUR HEART IS WHAT YOU WILL FIND ON A JAUNT TO THURLES RACECOURSE.

THURLES

(Gaelic: An Durlas Éire. Meaning: The Stronghold)

Contact:
Tel: 0504 22 253
www.thurlesraces.ie

Course Info:
National Hunt / Grade 2
County: Tipperary

PROPER DYED IN THE WOOL, QUALITY JUMP RACING TO WARM THE COCKLES OF YOUR HEART IS WHAT YOU WILL FIND ON A JAUNT TO THURLES RACECOURSE.

FIXTURES
There are 11 fixtures held at Thurles every year in the Spring and Autumn/Winter. Most of the meetings are on Thursdays so make sure you can get off work to go, it’s a great way to begin your weekend racing as forays. Remember, it’s Thurles on Thursdays.

ADMISSION PRICES
Adult €13-15
Students & OAPs Half-price
Under 14’s Free
Discount available for pre-booked groups of 20 or more.

CONTACT DETAILS
The Racecourse, Thurles, Co. Tipperary.
Tel: 0504 22 253
Email: info@thurlesraces.ie
Web: www.thurlesraces.ie
Location
Situated 1.5 km west of Thurles town, 8 km west of the main Cork-Dublin road.

How to get there

By Road: Thurles is 16 km north of Cashel, 48 km west of Kilkenny and 64 km east of Limerick.

By Rail: There is a regular train service from Dublin (Heuston) and Cork to Thurles Station. There is a free minibus service from the station to the racecourse.

By Air: Shannon (approx 80 km away) is the nearest airport. Helicopter landing at the course can be arranged in advance.

THURLES REVEALED
Proper dyed in the wool, quality jump racing to warm the cockles of your heart is what you will find on a jaunt to Thurles racecourse. Its Gaelic translation, as above, is stronghold and this course is certainly a fortress for action packed, quality jump racing, where it’s very likely that you will see a future Cheltenham or Punchestown winner in action. The town of Thurles and the surrounding area is one of the best locations for country pursuits in Ireland, and has a populace that loves its sport, be it hunting, greyhounds or their favourite, horseracing.

And Thurles is an enthusiasts’ course, nothing flashy or snazzy about it but it’s all about the horses and when you are there you can’t help but get caught up in that enthusiasm, that anticipation engendered by a novice hurdle or chase and the thought that one of these horses could be a future festival winner. The Grade 2 £50,000 Kinloch Brae Chase in late January/early February is the highlight of the year at the course and always attracts a top-class field.

Course Characteristics:
An undulating right-handed oval course of one mile and two furlongs with an uphill climb to the winning post.

REFRESHMENT FACILITIES
Self-service restaurant, several bars and a tea room.

CORPORATE FACILITIES
Hospitality room which can cater for 50-100 people.

LOCAL HOTELS
Anner Hotel, Thurles 0504 21 799
Cashel Palace Hotel, Cashel 062 62 707
Dundrum House Hotel, Dundrum 062 71 116
Horse and Jockey, Thurles 0504 44 192

LOCAL RESTAURANTS
Chez Hans, Cashel 062 61 177
Inch House, Thurles 0504 51 348
Mitchel House, Thurles 0504 90 776
Rolys at Park Avenue, Thurles 0504 58 658

LOCAL PUBS
Arch Bar, Thurles 0504 22 250
Doyle Pub, Urlingford 056 88 31184
Eddie Joe’s, Templemore 0504 32 272

QUICK FACTS ABOUT THURLES

The earliest recording of race meetings in Thurles is 1732 when a three-day meeting was held there.

Famous horses to have run at Thurles in recent years include:

Klairon Davis, winner of the Arkle and Champion Chases at Cheltenham.

Native Upmanship, a standing dish at Thurles and a real favourite there, won the Kinloch Brae Chase 3 times in succession (2002-04). Also won the Grade 1 Melling Chase at Aintree twice.

Rule Supreme. The winner of the 2004 Grade 1 Sun Alliance Chase at Cheltenham and 2005 Grade 1 Hennessy Gold Cup at Leopardstown.

Vintage Crop. Melbourne Cup winner. Won his debut here.

APRÈS RACING
There are lots of equestrian activities to pursue in the area including hunting and pleasure riding. For golfers there is an excellent 18-hole course in Thurles.
“IT’S A LONG WAY TO TIPPERARY”. SO THE POPULAR 1912 SONG WENT BUT IN FACT, IT’S MUCH NEARER THAN YOU THINK, IS VERY STRAIGHTFORWARD TO GET TO AND WORTH IT WHEN YOU DO.

TIPPERARY

(Gaelic: Tiobraid Arainn. Meaning: The Spring of Ara)

Contact:
Tel: 062 51 357
Website: www.tipperaryraces.ie

Course Info:
National Hunt & Flat / Grade 2
County: Tipperary

FIXTURES
There are 11 fixtures held every year at Tipperary including many very enjoyable Summer Evening Meetings, where there is a lively atmosphere. Like its county neighbour Thurles, most of its meetings are on Thursdays so, repeat the mantra, Thursdays For Tipperary.

ADMISSION
Adults €15
Students & OAPs €10
Children Under 18 Free

CONTACT DETAILS
Tipperary Racecourse, Limerick Junction, Co. Tipperary.
Tel: 062 51 357
Email: info@tipperaryraces.ie
Website: www.tipperaryraces.ie
Facebook: www.facebook.com/TipperaryRaces
Twitter: @tipperaryraces
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>How to get there</th>
<th>Course Characteristics:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Situated 3 km west of Tipperary town on the Tipperary-Limerick road.</td>
<td><strong>BY ROAD:</strong> 37 km east of Limerick City and 100km north of Cork City.</td>
<td><strong>A flat, left-handed course of one mile and two furlongs in length with a chute for five furlong races.</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **BY RAIL:** Regular train services from both Dublin (Heuston Station) and Cork to Limerick Junction Station, which is within easy walking distance of the racecourse. | **TIPPERARY REVEALED**
“It’s a long way to Tipperary”. So the popular 1912 song went, but in fact, as shown above, it’s much nearer than you think, is very straightforward to get to and worth it when you do. Tipperary is a county steeped in every facet of horse tradition, from the world famous Coolmore Stud to the volume of outstanding horsemen to have come from there and this racecourse, as its centrepiece, reflects this tradition providing high-class racing both on the flat and over jumps.

During the Spring and Summer meetings it is possible to see future champions in action. Recent top class performers to have won at Tipperary include 2008 Champion 2-year-old Bush Ranger, Dual Breeders' Cup Winner High Chaparral and other Group 1 Winners, Heat Seeker, Hawk Wing, Yesterday and Irish Derby Winner, Dylan Thomas. But the course saves the best for last in the form of “Super Sunday”, held on the first Sunday in October, their last meeting of the year. This is the highest quality National Hunt and Flat meeting staged in the country featuring a plethora of high-class that attract some of the best horses around including some from Britain. |
| **BY AIR:** Shannon international airport is 60km west. Helicopter landing at the course can be arranged in advance. | The main attraction is the Grade 2 Tipperary Hurdle which has been contested by such stars as Istabraq, Limestone Lad, Accordion Etoile and Harchibald. |
| **REFRESHMENT FACILITIES**
A recently refurbished self-service restaurant plus the Winning Post and Istabraq Bars which also serve a range of snacks. | **CORPORATE FACILITIES**
The recently renovated High Chaparral Dining Room can cater for groups from 10-170 with facilities including CCTV, Tote betting and a choice of silver service or buffet style dining. The room overlooks the parade ring and racecourse. |
| **CORPORATE FACILITIES**
The recently renovated High Chaparral Dining Room can cater for groups from 10-170 with facilities including CCTV, Tote betting and a choice of silver service or buffet style dining. The room overlooks the parade ring and racecourse. | **OTHER FACILITIES**
There is on-course entertainment for children at all evening and Sunday meetings. |
| **DISABLED FACILITIES**
There are male and female disabled toilets, a viewing area overlooking the parade ring and race course. There is also access to the bar and restaurant. |

**LOCAL HOTELS**
- Aherlow House Hotel, Glen of Aherlow 062 56 153
- Ballykisteen Hotel & Golf Resort (opposite racecourse) 062 33 333
- Cashel Palace Hotel, Cashel 062 62 707
- The Woodlands House Hotel, Adare 061 605100

**LOCAL RESTAURANTS**
- Ballykisteen Golf and Country Club (opposite racecourse)
- Bit and Bridle Bar/Restaurant (opposite racecourse)
- Mary Hanna’s, Tipperary
- Stables Restaurant, Tipperary
LOCAL Pubs
The Bit and Bridle, Limerick Junction.
The Hideout, Sologhead.

APRÈS RACING
Places to visit include the scenic Glen of Aherlow, Mitchelstown Caves, Cahir Castle. There are also opportunities for fishing, golf and shooting.

QUICK FACTS ABOUT TIPPERARY
- The first meeting of Tipperary races was at Barronstown Course in March 1848. These races were abandoned in 1871/72 due to an outbreak of smallpox but were revived in 1881.
- The first race meeting on the present site (Limerick Junction) was in September 1916.
- The name was changed from Limerick Junction to Tipperary in 1986.
- The only racecourse in Ireland to stage a graded Flat and National Hunt on the same card.
TRAMORE AND WATERFORD PEOPLE IN GENERAL ARE AN ENTHUSIASTIC RACING CROWD AND THIS, COUPLED WITH A STRONG FOLLOWING FROM SURROUNDING COUNTIES, ENSURES A GOOD ATMOSPHERE AT ALL THE MEETINGS.

TRAMORE AND WATERFORD RACECOURSES

Gaelic: Tra Mor. Meaning: The Long Strand

Contact:
Tel: 051 381 425
www.tramore-racecourse.com

Course Info:
National Hunt & Flat / Grade 2
County: Waterford

FIXTURES
There are 11 fixtures during the year, the highlights being the New Year’s Eve/Day and August Festival meetings.

ADMISSION
Adults €12-20
Students & OAPs €8-10
Accompanied children under 16 Free

Group discounts / Annual Badge available. Please contact the racecourse office.

CONTACT DETAILS
Waterford and Tramore Racecourse,
Tramore, Co. Waterford.
Tel: 051 381 425
Email: racing@tramore.ie
Website: www.tramore-racecourse.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Tramore-Racecourse
Twitter: @TramoreRaces
TRAMORE REVEALED

Tramore racecourse is where the turf meets the surf and it is one of the most intimate stages for racing in Ireland. The 4-day mid-August festival (incorporating 3 evening meetings) has everything a summer racing festival should have: sun (usually), sea, sand, spectacular racing and anything else that takes your fancy on a hot summers day. It offers a great opportunity to take a racing holiday because of the great amenities on your doorstep in Tramore, one of the premier seaside resorts in Ireland.

You won’t have to work so hard to keep the children amused before or after the racing because they are catered for like at no other venue in the Tramore funfair and amusement park. During the Winter holiday season the first day of the 2-day New Year’s Eve/Day meeting is a great place to start off those end of year festivities and the following day an even better place to finish them off in style. Tramore and Waterford people in general are an enthusiastic racing crowd and this, coupled with a strong following from surrounding counties, ensures a good atmosphere at all the meetings. The racing is an even mix of flat and jump races.

REFRESHMENT FACILITIES

The Inside Track bar has a cozy, intimate atmosphere with a large conservatory and a capacity of 600. The Front Room is a comfortable setting for 250 people with panoramic views of Tramore Bay and the Graun Hill Suite is the latest addition, providing a smaller intimate room for 50 people. There is also a self-service and a take-away restaurant. Additionally there is always live music after the racing.

CORPORATE FACILITIES

For the four days of the August Festival meeting the Front Room can be hired for groups of up to 200. A three-course buffet meal service is available throughout the day and afternoon tea will be served after the fifth race. A private bar will be available until one hour after the last race. Private Tote and CCTV facilities are available.

DISABLED FACILITIES

All areas of the course are wheelchair accessible with wheelchair accessible toilets. There is also a baby changing facility.

LOCAL HOTELS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hotel</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grand Hotel, Tramore</td>
<td>051 381 414</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Granville Hotel, Waterford</td>
<td>051 305 555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Majestic Hotel, Tramore</td>
<td>051 381 761</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O’Shea’s Hotel, Tramore</td>
<td>051 381 246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tower Hotel, Waterford</td>
<td>051 862 300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterford Castle, Waterford</td>
<td>051 878 203</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LOCAL RESTAURANTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Restaurant</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Esquire</td>
<td>Tramore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Ship</td>
<td>Dunmore East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Vee Bistro</td>
<td>Tramore</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
QUICK FACTS ABOUT TRAMORE

Racing in Tramore originally began on the beach back in 1785 and had become so popular with the locals that a 6-day meeting was held there in 1807 in mid-August (a tradition that continues to this day).

These early events consisted of all flat races but steeplechasing was soon incorporated into the fixture. Racing continued uninterrupted until the 1860’s when disturbances at the meetings led to the local gentry withdrawing their support.

Then in 1888 a race committee under Martin J Murphy renovated the facilities and revived the racing. However, the course and facilities were in constant danger from stormy seas and in 1911 the course was so badly breached that time had to be called on the event. Undeterred, the racecourse company established a new course at Graun Hill on the outskirts of Tramore, where racing continues to this day.

The course underwent a €5 million complete refurbishment in 1997 under the new ownership of local racing enthusiasts. It continues to go from strength to strength.

On 1 January 2002 Tramore was the first racecourse in Europe to use the Euro currency and on 1 January 2000 held the first racemeeting of the new millenium in Europe when a record crowd of 11,000 turned up.

The first race of the millenium, The Mean Fiddler Handicap Steeplechase was won by No Problem, trained in Cork by Gerard Cully, owned by Tommy Cronin and ridden by Waterford jockey Shay Barry.

The 1983 English Derby runner-up Carlingford Castle was galloped the ‘wrong way round’ at Tramore beforehand in preparation for the big race. The reason his trainer Liam Browne did this is because going left-handed at Tramore closely resembles (on a smaller scale) the unique gradients of Epsom racecourse. It nearly brought off a famous Irish win but Teenoso and a certain Lester Piggott were just too good.

LOCAL PUBS
O’Neills, Tramore
Rocketts, Tramore
St Leger, Tramore
Victoria House (The Vic), Tramore

APRÈS RACING
There are 16 fine golf courses within a 60 km radius of Tramore including renowned local courses at Tramore, Waterford Castle and Faithlegg. Tramore holiday resort is within walking distance of the course and there are many villages along the picturesque Waterford coastline worth visiting. There are also numerous places of archaeological interest locally, especially in Waterford City.

A GUIDE TO IRISH RACECOURSES
A GUIDE TO IRISH RACECOURSES

WEXFORD
(Gaelic: Loch Garman. Meaning: The Sea Washed Place)

Contact:
Tel: 053 9142307
www.wexfordraces.ie

Course Info:
National Hunt & Flat / Grade 2
County: Wexford

THE RACING INvariably FEATURES LARGE FIELDS OF COMPETITIVE FLAT AND JUMP RACING WITH THE TOP JOCKEYS FROM BOTH CODES IN ACTION.

RACE COURSE

Wexford Racecourse
Newtown Road, Wexford.
Raceday phone: 053 9142307
E-mail: info@wexfordraces.ie
Website: www.wexfordraces.ie
Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/Wexford-Racecourse

FIXTURES
There are 11 fixtures held every year in Wexford including 5 Friday evening Summer meetings, which are an absolute treat. There is simply no finer place to be in the country than Wexford on such an occasion.

ADMISSION PRICES
Adults €15
OAPS & Students €8
Children under 14 Free

Discounts available for pre-booked groups of 10 or more people.

CONTACT DETAILS
Wexford Racecourse
Newtown Road, Wexford.
Raceday phone: 053 9142307
E-mail: info@wexfordraces.ie
Website: www.wexfordraces.ie
Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/Wexford-Racecourse
**FIXTURES**

There are 7 meetings each year at Sligo, the first in late April and concluding in mid-August. All but 1 are evening meetings (and that’s on a Sunday) so there is no excuse for not being able to get there.

**ADMISSION PRICES**

**Weekdays**
- Adults: £12
- Students & O.A.P’s: £8
- Children: Free

**Sundays**
- Adults: £15
- Students & O.A.P’s: £10
- Children: Free

Special discounts are offered for groups of 10 and over. Coach tours are welcome. Free parking.

**CONTACTS DETAILS**

Sligo Racecourse, Cleveragh, Sligo, Co. Sligo
Tel: 071-9183342

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**WEXFORD REVEALED**

Wexford racecourse, and the county in general, is a very friendly, welcoming place (they’re used to being invaded by outsiders such as Vikings and Normans so they know how to deal with strangers). Furthermore its located in one of the most pleasant parts of the country, the sunny south-east. It’s true!

Wexford’s average sunshine quota is 4.48 hours per day against the national average of 3.75 hours so it’s much more likely to be sunny for your visit, whatever time of year that is. Even the name of its location, Bettyville, has a titillating appeal that reflects the feeling of bonhomie prevalent at the course.

It’s a fun course. The racing invariably features large fields of competitive flat and jump racing with the top jockeys from both codes in action. There is also an excellent view of the track from the stands. You will find that there is always a warm, lively atmosphere in Wexford and afterwards in the local hostellries.

**REFRESHMENT FACILITIES**

The main stand houses two bars upstairs, the Bettyville and Carriglawn bars. Also on the grounds is the Long Bar and a cafeteria serving tea, coffee and hot snacks plus the Ivy Room Bar incorporating a spacious carvery restaurant.

**CORPORATE FACILITIES**

The Carriglawn room can be used to cater for up to 100 people.

**WHEELCHAIR FACILITIES**

There is a dedicated wheelchair viewing stand and are wheelchair friendly toilets in the Ivy Room.

**APRÈS RACING**

There is much to see and do in the environs of Wexford. There are three local 18 hole golf courses: Wexford, St Helens and Rosslare, the latter also features a 12-hole play anytime course. There is much of archaeological interest in Wexford town and the local area plus a Heritage Centre in Ferrycarraig. Of more recent historical interest are the John F Kennedy Arboretum and the Dunbrody Famine Ship, both in New Ross. Also extensive fishing in local rivers Slaney and Barrow in addition to sea fishing.

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**Location**

The racecourse is located just outside Wexford town off the Dublin-Rosslare bypass.

**By Road:** Racecourse is 48 km East of Waterford City and 24 km North-West of Rosslare Ferry Port.

**By Rail:** The nearest railway station is in Wexford town from where there is a taxi service to the racecourse. Regular rail service from Dublin. Tel Irish Rail (Iarnrod Eireann) 00 353 1 836 6222 for train timetables.

**By Air:** The closest airport is Waterford (57 km west). Regular service from Luton to Waterford airport. Helicopter landing can be pre-arranged at the racecourse.

**Course Characteristics:**

It is a gently undulating right-handed course of one mile and two furlongs which features flat and National Hunt (jump) racing.

**QUICK FACTS ABOUT WEXFORD**

- The earliest record of racing in the area is in the 1870s but these races had ceased by 1902.
- The present racecourse at Bettyville was opened in October 1951 when an estimated 17,000 people attended.

**LOCAL HOTELS**

- Ferrycarrig Hotel, Wexford 053 9120 999
- Maldron Hotel, Wexford 053 9172 000
- Talbot Hotel, Wexford 053 9122 566
- The Riverside Park Hotel, Enniscorthy 053 9237800
- Whitford House Hotel, Wexford 053 9143 444

**LOCAL RESTAURANTS**

- Forthside Bar at Whitford House Hotel
- Fordes, Wexford
- Heavens Above, Wexford
- Mange 2, Wexford
- Riverside Park Hotel, Enniscorthy
go racing!
go online!

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“FORGET ALL THAT NONSENSE ABOUT RACING BEING A BUSINESS OR AN “INDUSTRY”, IN IRELAND THE SPORT REMAINS WHAT IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN - PART OBSESSION, PART RELIGION AND WHOLLY FUN.”

“RACING FANS WHO HAVE NEVER BEEN TO IRELAND ARE LIKE FOOD LOVERS WHO HAVE NEVER VISITED FRANCE OR ARTISTS WHO RESTRICT THEIR PAINTING TO A COAT OF EMULSION ON THE BATHROOM CEILING.”

ALASTAIR DOWN, RACING POST

“ONCE I HAD BEEN RACING IN IRELAND, I WAS HOOKED… THERE ARE CERTAIN THINGS ABOUT IT THAT ARE DELIGHTFULLY DIFFERENT FROM RACING IN ENGLAND, OR INDEED ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD.”

“MOST OF ALL, THERE ARE THE SMILES. PEOPLE NOT ONLY ENJOY THEMSELVES AT IRISH RACING, THEY SEEM GENUINELY CONCERNED THAT EVERY VISITOR SHOULD HAVE A BALL, TOO.”

ALAN LEE, UK TIMES

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