



Fáilte Ireland

National Tourism Development Authority

THOROUGHBRED TRAIL WEEKENDS 2010

A horse racing weekend break with a difference!

Your chance to go behind the scenes at the races — including a trip to a top trainer's yard. Experience the thrill of the gallops and enjoy top class racing action at Co. Kildare's racecourses.

DISCOVERIRELAND.IE/DUBLINSDOORSTEP

YOUR HOST FOR THE THOROUGHBRED TRAIL

A specialist host will be accompanying you to answer your questions and provide interesting information on the world of horse racing in Ireland....



Frances Crowley and her family have been involved in horse racing all their lives. She is a former Classic-winning Trainer and Champion Amateur Jockey. Frances lives on the Curragh with her husband, Pat Smullen, the Champion Flat Jockey.



Kevin O'Ryan has been involved in horse racing all his life. He has ridden 70 winners as an amateur and has been amateur jockey for both Dermot Weld and Frances Crowley. Kevin now works as a pundit for "At The Races" television channel and as a jockey's agent.

Your Trainers Yards

- **Tom Taaffee, Naas - February, 2010.** Based in Portree Stables near Straffan in Co.Kildare, the Taaffee family is steeped in history, Tom's father Pat rode the mighty Arkle to multiple victories then Tom himself went onto to be a top National Hunt Jockey and then turned his hand to training. Amongst his many high profile winners he has trained Kicking King to win the Cheltenham Gold Cup, Jump racing's most prestigious race.
- **John Oxx, Curragh - May, 2010.** Based in Curraghbeg Stables, is one of Ireland's most respected and successful trainers and has enjoyed many big race successes including the English and Irish Derbys, Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, the Breeders Cup Mile, the English and Irish Guineas. 2009 was the year of the Oxx and John trained Sea the Stars to become the World Champion, the highest rated horse in the world. In 2010 his principal Jockey will be Fran Berry.
- **Dermot Weld, Curragh - September, 2010.** Based in Rosewell House, is one of Ireland's top flat trainers and, having trained winners in every continent (bar Africa!), including the winner of the Melbourne Cup no less than twice, has international renown. His principal jockey is multiple Champion Flat Jockey Pat Smullen.
- **Dessie Hughes, Punchestown - November, 2010.** Started his racing career as a successful National Hunt Jockey but his plan was always to train. He is based at Osborne Lodge and has trained such stable stars as Hardy Eustace, Central House Schindlers Hunt and Colonel Braxton.

You will also have the opportunity to see horses working out on the gallops and learn about the behind the scenes preparations and operations of a racecourse on Race Day. Your hosts will organise some surprises during the day and of course a tipster will be there to mark your cards!

Thoroughbred Trail Weekend Breaks 2010

— (for booking details see over page)

20th – 22nd February – Trainer: Tom Taaffee
Naas Racecourse

(please note this is a Saturday and Sunday night)

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21st – 23rd May – Trainer: John Oxx
Curragh Racecourse

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10th – 12th September – Trainer: Dermot Weld
Curragh Racecourse

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12th – 14th November – Trainer: Dessie Hughes
Punchestown Racecourse



Your weekend includes

2 nights Bed & Breakfast with one Dinner at a hotel of your choice.
Transportation to and from your hotel to the Trainer's Yard and Races.
Admission, race card & lunch at the races

Of course, apart from the horses there are lots of things to see and do during your weekend in the area and included in your Welcome Pack at your hotel will be discounted vouchers for the following attractions:

The Irish National Stud, including the Horse Museum, Japanese Gardens and St. Fiachra's Gardens www.irish-national-stud.ie

10% Discount voucher to be used at Kildare Village Outlet Shopping giving you a further reduction off your purchases www.kildarevillage.com

Russborough House – built in 1741 in Palladian style. www.russborough.ie
(Russborough House visit available May and September weekends only)

TO BOOK YOUR THOROUGHBRED TRAIL WEEKEND

– select hotel (contact details below) and make booking directly quoting the Thoroughbred Trail 2010.

PARTICIPATING HOTELS - (where you should direct your bookings)

The K-Club, Straffan, Co. Kildare – www.kclub.ie Tel: 00 353 (0)1 6017200

€365.00 per person sharing

Barberstown Castle, Straffan – www.barberstowncastle.ie Tel: 00 353 (0)1 6288157

The Heritage Golf & Spa Resort, Killenard – www.theheritage.com Tel: 00 353 (0)57 864 5500

Rathsallagh Country House, Dunlavin – www.rathsallaghhousehotel.com Tel: 00 (0)45 403 112

€275.00 per person sharing

Carlton Abbey Hotel, Athy – www.carlton.ie Tel: 00 (0)59 8630100

Clanard Court Hotel, Athy – www.clanardcourt.ie Tel: 00 353 (0)59 8640666

Keadeen Hotel, Newbridge – www.keadeenhotel.ie Tel: 00 353 (0)45 431666

Maudlins House Hotel, Naas – www.maudlinshousehotel.ie Tel: 00 353 (0)45 896999

The Osprey Hotel & Spa, Naas – www.osprey.ie Tel: 00 353 (0)45 881111

Westgrove Hotel, Clane – www.westgrove.com Tel: 00 353 (0)45 989900

€214.00 per person sharing

(single supplement applies on all above rates)

For general enquiries on the Thoroughbred Trail Weekends please contact Aspects of Ireland at 00 353 (0)1 4972003 or email trail@aspectsofireland.com

While every attempt will be made to adhere to the programme as laid out on the selected weekends, circumstances beyond our control may lead to changes in named premises or programme layout. Where this happens every care will be taken to substitute with a premises of equal standing. Fáilte Ireland cannot, however, accept responsibility for errors or omissions, but where such are brought to our attention, future publications will be amended accordingly. Some sporting activities may by their nature be hazardous and involve risk. It is recommended in such cases to take out personal accident insurance. While most operators would have public liability insurance, it is desirable to check with the establishment or operator concerned as to the level of cover carried. © Fáilte Ireland. Published by Fáilte Ireland

