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BRIDGES EQUESTRIAN PRESENTS

Ireland 2012!!



August 10, 2012 – August 20, 2012

East to west, south to north, a whirl-wind journey of horses, castles and “Grand Craic!”

First Draft Itinerary: (and oh yes, it will change)

Fri Aug 10 Fly out of LAX

Meet up and board our plane for flight across the pond

Sat Aug. 11 Land Dublin

Yup, crossed the date line. Exhausted and excited, we taxi to Broadmeadows Country House where we pick up our rental cars, have a quick ride there at the Equestrian Center and nurse our jet-lag. Tea anyone?

Sun Aug 12: Off and Driving!

Starting at the far East of Ireland, we race across the country on the WRONG SIDE OF THE ROAD headed for County Galway and Bunratty Folk park. We will be staying in the beautiful Bunratty Grove B&B, stopping along the way to see and ride at the Horse Park... maybe dinner at the castle??? Hummm...

Mon Aug 13: Galway and the Atlantic

Rock walls and all that is the real drama of Ireland, wrapped up in castles, heather, bogs and sheep on the road. WATCH OUT FOR THE TOUR BUSES!!! AAAaaaAAAAaa!!! Spook the sheep... BAAAAA!!!

Tue Aug 14: Flowerhill

Back down the road to Oliver at Flowerhill for some of our favorite cross country riding at the fabulous Flowerhill Equestrian Center. Afterward, we check up on our favorite “Castle in Progress,” Portumna Castle. Grand Craic! BRILLIANT!! South on the 7 to Horse & Jockey Inn, and pointed toward Cork.

Wed Aug 15: Cork & Catch your breath day

‘done these trips enough to know to build in a day for something unexpected, or to just hang out. Haven’t planned where we will stay for this, as we need it to be somewhere close to everything for lots of leg stretching (maybe a little shopping, Hummm????), and our favorite place for this burned down! Oh NO’S!!!

Thurs, Aug 16

Off to Sligo and the monolithic tombs of the North of Ireland. Not to be confused with Northern Ireland, which is a whole different country, we will be staying in the Republic of Ireland. This windswept and poetic land hosts some of the oldest man-made structures in the world, predating the Great Pyramids of Egypt!

Friday – Sunday, Aug 17 – 19 DUBLIN!

After some more exploration of the north, Devon’s expert navigation will race us cross- country (stop panting, it’s a 2 hour drive) and into Dublin where we will check out the Dublin Horse show. Our last 2 days will be spent here in my favorite city in the whole world. Museums, On-Off bus, Incredible cathedrals, and oh yeah... did I mention the largest horse show in Ireland? The Dublin Horse Show at the RDS? Sunday we will have grand-stand seats for the great Grand Prix and hopefully cheer on some of our USA Riders! We got to cheer for Beezy Madden on her BIRTHDAY last time we were there! Grand Craic!! HUGE booths and stuff at the RDS. Hopefully we’re there for the Pony Club Games!

Monday, Aug 20

To the Airport at 6am? Oh man... that’s harsh. But, the taxi picks us up at the foot of ElizaLodge and delivers us 30 minutes later to a comfortable Dublin Airport. If you’re like me, the tears will come as the plane lifts off, but you promise yourself “Ireland will always be here. I will be back.”

Approximate cost: \$1800 WITHOUT AIRFARE. Airfare is usually about \$1200.**

Email Ruthanna if you are interested. There will be 10-14 spots available.

**If I can’t keep it under this budget, we will make the trip shorter, leaving after the Aug 10 date. I start booking in January, so we will need “definites” and deposits by Jan 1, 2012.