

A blacksmith's workbench in a forge. In the foreground, a horseshoe is glowing red-hot and resting on an anvil. Sparks are flying from the hot metal. In the background, a person wearing a leather apron is working at the forge. The scene is dimly lit, with the bright glow of the fire and the hot metal being the primary light sources.

SAMPLE ITINERARY

Horse Country and Ireland's Ancient East

TARGET MARKET

General Leisure and Premium

January 2025



Day One Kildare	Day Two Kildare to Tipperary	Day Three Tipperary
Morning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lullymore Discovery and Heritage Park Newbridge Silverware 	Morning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Curragh Plains The Curragh Racecourse or Kildangan Stud 	Morning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rock of Cashel or Cahir Castle Hore Abbey Cashel Folk Village Suir Greenway Swiss Cottage
Lunch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Japanese Gardens Restaurant at the Irish National Stud 	Lunch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Bakery Coffee Bar at Horse and Jockey Hotel 	Lunch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eateries in Cahir or Cashel
Post Lunch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irish National Stud & Japanese Gardens Kildare Heritage Centre and Tourist Office or St Brigid's Cathedral and Round Tower St Brigid's Festival Kildare Shopping Village 	Post Lunch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Littleton Labyrinth or Holycross Abbey (Butler Trail) Fethard Town or Slievenamon Golf Course Fethard Horse Country Experience (and Coolmore Stud package) Augustinian Friary 	Post Lunch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Museum of Hidden Histories Ormond Castle St Declan's Way
Experience Upgrades <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Behind the Scenes Tour of the Irish National Stud Racing Experiences Mondello Park Racing Track 	Experience Upgrades <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Johnny Murtagh VIP Experience 	Experience Upgrades <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forge Experience at Museum of Hidden History, Clonmel

Day 1: Arrive in Kildare

County Kildare is known for heritage, history, horses and, of course, hospitality. Kildare town is under one hours' drive from Dublin Airport with accommodation to suit all tastes and budgets and with a warm and welcoming base to explore the county.

Morning:

Only around 1.15 mins from Dublin Airport, **Lullymore Discovery and Heritage Park** will bring you down to earth throughout the breathtaking landscape of the Bog of Allen, County Kildare. An outdoor trail reveals the unique biodiversity of Ireland's raised bogs as well as heritage spaces that reconstruct snapshots from Irish history. Families will also enjoy the playground, pet farm and even a road train.

Newbridge Silverware is only 17-minutes' drive from Kildare town. Home to the Museum of Style Icons visitors can see a collection of iconic dresses worn by celebrities such as Marilyn Monroe, The Beatles and Princess Grace of Monaco. Don't miss the inspiring 45-minute guided

tour of Newbridge Silverware factory floor to meet designers and craftspeople engineering innovative jewellery and cutlery famous across the world.

Experience Upgrade

'Where Legends Are Made' Irish National Stud Private Tour

Pre-book an incredible 1.5-hour personalised tour of behind-the-scenes at the Stud to meet the 'Living Legends Team' of Stallions and Mares.



Lunch:

Less than 30 minutes' drive from Lullymore, arrive at the **Irish National Stud & Japanese Gardens** in time for a fantastic lunch at the



Lullymore Discovery and Heritage Park, Co. Kildare



Japanese Gardens at the Irish National Stud, Co. Kildare



Museum of Style Icons, Newbridge Silverware Visitor Centre, Co. Kildare

Japanese Gardens Restaurant run by Ballymaloe-trained head chef.

Post Lunch:

Spend the afternoon exploring the beautiful grounds of the [Irish National Stud & Japanese Gardens](#). Visit the interactive [Irish Racehorse Experience](#) in the stud before hopping on a free guided group tour of the stud farm at 2pm. Finish with a stroll through the 100-year-old [Japanese Gardens](#) thoughtfully designed to reflect the journey of the human soul.

Five minutes' drive from the Irish National Stud brings you to [Kildare town](#) and offers a glimpse into the town's medieval past. Said to have been founded by Ireland's premier female saint, St. Bridget over 1400 years ago, visitors can enjoy the new [Legends of Kildare VR experience](#) in [Kildare Heritage Centre and Tourist office](#) to find out more about this intriguing character.

If you are unlucky to miss [St Brigid's Festival](#) around Feb 1st, the monastic origins of her nunnery can still be explored in the beautiful [St Brigid's Cathedral and round tower](#) today.

Experience Upgrade

Mondello Park Driving Experiences

For adrenaline seekers, Ireland's premier racing track, Mondello Park, will put you in the driving seat of one of their high-speed racing cars. From Porches, Formula Racing experiences, to the ultimate 'Adrenaline Supercar' option, there's an experience and price for every level of dare devil.



Formula Race

Nearby you can shop into the evening at [Kildare Shopping Village](#) packed with over 100 lifestyle boutiques. Complete with a Concierge team, the village offers complimentary personal shopping, luggage storage, mobility aids and even complimentary kennels for dogs. With

several eateries in the Village and within strolling distance to the historic ruins of [Grey Abbey](#) nearby there's plenty to eat, explore and enjoy.

Day 2: From Kildare to Tipperary

From the vast plains of Kildare to the picturesque peaks of Tipperary, exploring the county's charming heritage towns, iconic castles and mountainous landscapes will create unforgettable memories during your time in Tipperary.

Morning:

Before leaving Kildare, a trip to one of Europe's most significant protected landscapes, [The Curragh Plains](#), is a must. For walkers, hikers, culture seekers or horse racing enthusiasts, the plains welcome everyone in need of outdoor excitement. During summer racing festivals such as The

Irish Derby, **The Curragh Racecourse** is the only place to be.

En route to the M7 towards Tipperary (and the rest of Horse Country) stop off en route at **Kildangan Stud** less than twenty-minutes' drive from The Curragh. Owned by royalty, the ruler of Dubai His Highness Sheikh Mohammed, Kildangan Stud's Foal to Fame public walking tour welcomes all visitors on an insightful 1.5 hour around the historic estate celebrating the Sheikh's collection of established and up-and-coming racing champions.

Lunch:

An hour from Kildangan Stud, off the M7 and then M8, join loyal locals at the Bakery Coffee Bar in **Horse and Jockey Hotel** for a cozy lunch and some light holiday shopping in their cozy retail store and artisan bakery.

Post Lunch:

Walk-off lunch with a refreshing power walk on the nearby **Littleton Labyrinth** bog trail or

Experience Upgrade

Johnny Murtagh VIP Experience (The Curragh)

Join one of Ireland's top trainers, Johnny Murtagh and his wife Orla on the Johnny Murtagh VIP Experience at the famous gallops on The Curragh. An early morning start begins with a warm Irish welcome before jumping into the jeep to follow thoroughbreds in training across the famous Curragh Plains. This four-hour morning experience includes a full Irish breakfast with Johnny and a personalized gift.



drive ten minutes away to absorb and wander around the hallowed cloister of **Holycross Abbey**, (one of **the Butler Trail** heritage site sign locations) by the banks of



Fethard Horse Country Experience, Co. Tipperary



Holycross Abbey, Co. Tipperary



Coolmore Stud, Co. Tipperary

the River Suir. Founded around 900 years ago visitors can view a relic said to be a fragment of the cross on which Jesus was crucified.

An afternoon in the quaint Norman town of **Fethard** is a must to understand what makes the people of Tipperary tick. Take time out for a game of golf in Fethard's **Slievenamon Golf Club** or grab a coffee and explore the most complete medieval town wall in Ireland via a 2km trail. **Fethard Horse Country Experience** is the town's newest attraction. A modern, thoroughbred-themed interactive exhibition housed in the town's historical Tholsel building also hosts an extra treat! Just ask the helpful staff to unlock the gates to the **Augustinian Friary** ruins next door for more adventure.

For a top tip, every Tuesday at 2pm, Fethard Horse Country Experience staff will guide you on a once-in-a-lifetime tour of the largest thoroughbred stud in Europe, **Coolmore Stud**. Guides will introduce you to world-class stallions and teach you the tricks and trade of thoroughbred horse breeding.

Experience Upgrade

Ireland Chauffeur Travel

Take the stress out of planning your itinerary by booking a tailor-made chauffeur driven luxury private tour with Ireland Chauffeur Travel. Passionate about showing you the highlights of Tipperary and Ireland, their personalised service will help curate a bespoke itinerary such as story-telling evenings, ancestry tours and even arrange accommodation, local farm visits and surprise scenic picnics among lots more.



Day Three: Tipperary

Morning:

Start the day exploring Cashel where local heritage towns of **Cashel** or **Cahir**, with artisan bakeries, artisan gift shops and award-winning restaurants around the town of Cashel, are home to Ireland's most iconic heritage sites, **The Rock of Cashel** monastic ruins. On the way 'down' from, what locals refer to as 'the Rock,' you'll be enticed to visit **Hore Abbey** visible as your decent back into the town. For even more immersion visit **Cashel Folk Village** and **St John's Cathedral** in the town to satisfy even the hungriest culture vultures. At Cahir, **Cahir Castle**, dominates the town's vista along with a cannon ball still embedded in the castle's curtain wall. A walk along the river on a sunny day is unbeatable, especially with a visit to the **Swiss Cottage** en route.

Lunch:

Both Cahir and Cashel have several tasty lunch location.

Post-Lunch:

Moving south through Horse County and past fields of thoroughbred horses and stud farms, many visitors love making a detour to Dove Hill Shopping Centre, home of Irish Design before visiting the [Museum of Hidden History](#) in Clonmel. With a focus on interactivity and active enjoyment and with one of the largest collections in Ireland, the museum regularly includes local photographic exhibitions of life in Tipperary in times gone by.

[Carrick-on-Suir](#) is home to one of Ireland's best kept secrets, [Ormond Castle](#). A guided tour here feels private and personal as tour guides bring you through the illustrious lodgings of Black Tom while regaling stories of heartache in a historic love triangle woven into the historic architecture. [St Declan's Way](#), a revived historic pilgrim route, goes through Carrick-on-Suir and offers incredible scenery.

Experience Upgrade

Forge Experience at Tipperary Museum of Hidden History

Breath in the rich fire, smell of burning iron and hear metal on metal during an exclusive behind-the-scenes experience with local farrier Joe Channon. Joe, a third-generation farrier, will demonstrate his family's legacy so you experience the rich traditions, techniques, and raw materials in this unique hands-on event.



Ormond Castle, Carrick-on-Suir, Co. Tipperary



Tipperary Way on St Declan's Way, Cahir, Co. Tipperary

Kildare Hotel Options

The K Club Hotel, Lawlor's of Naas Hotel, Carton House Hotel, Kilkea Castle Hotel and Golf Resort, Killashee Hotel and Spa

Tipperary Hotel Options

Cashel Palace Hotel, The Anner Hotel, Horse and Jockey Hotel, Talbot Hotel Clonmel, Minella Hotel and Leisure Centre.