



# go!trekking! with us!

go!trekking! at Westport Woods Hotel has the best possible combination of great trekking, excellent accommodation and plenty to do while you're not riding and for partners. The hotel is located on the outskirts of the award winning heritage town of Westport, between the mountains and the sea. Just perfect. Our horses aren't typical trekking stock, they're sport horse and cob types, some homebred, and all full of character.

One of our most popular activities is beach riding. It's a dream of so many horse riders to canter through shallow waves on a sandy beach and we're happy to be able to

make that dream come true. We're lucky to have many beaches to choose from, some at the foot of Croagh Patrick, others (for longer treks) further out into Clew Bay. Of course the most unique feature of our equestrian holidays is the combination of quality riding with excellent hotel accommodation, complete with leisure centre, swimming pool and spa.

The Westport Woods is proud to be Ireland's greenest hotel.

Some of our treks are inland, around the foothills of Croagh Patrick, on country lanes and woodland tracks.

One of our favourites is The Skelp, starting from the stables and climbing through byways up a mountain track. The view from the top is a truly magnificent panoramic vista stretching right out over Clew Bay, Achill Island and Clare Island. This trek is for more experienced riders, there is plenty of opportunity for trotting and cantering and the horses love to stretch out on the hillside. The route goes through some lovely unspoilt areas with whitewashed cottages and the scent of turf

smoke through the air. Keep an eye out for lazy beds, these undulating ridges are remnants of the small potato growing fields of famine times. We also have shorter treks in the same area for less experienced riders.

## Cross country fun

Back at base our cross country jump training is great for riders and horses alike. Don't worry if you're a bit nervous, our expert tutors will build your confidence and skill levels.



## New this year! Post-to-Post Christian Heritage Trek

Up to six days trekking through the historic landscape of the West of Ireland, staying at our hotel and B&Bs along the way.

### Routes include:

#### Croagh Patrick

Ireland's holiest mountain, site of pilgrimage for more than 2,000 years. St. Patrick, our patron saint, spent 40 days fasting on its summit. (Optional climb – on foot of course.)

#### Boheh Stone

Just beside our stables. One of the finest examples of Neolithic rock art in the country. Site of the celebrated 'rolling sun' on April 18th and August 24th.

#### Murrisk Abbey

Augustinian Friary dating back to 1457. In a secluded seaside setting, beside the National Famine Memorial.

#### Kilgeever Abbey

12th century abbey where pilgrims traditionally performed 'the stations' before ascending Croagh Patrick. Cross slabs and a holy well in the graveyard.

#### Deserted Village

A cluster of ruined houses, a poignant reminder of the potato famine. In this area the population fell from 2,200 families in 846 to 600 families in 1900.

#### Srahwee Megalithic Wedge Tomb

One of the finest in Ireland, named for its tapering wedge shape. Nearby is an ancient forest with stumps of 4,500 year old trees.

#### Bunlahinch Clapperbridge

An attractive stone footbridge, very unusual in Ireland.

### April-June and Sept-Nov

6 night post-to-post riding

Hotel/B&B from €999

Hostel/B&B from €799

