



## 4-Night Itinerary

### Day 1: Welcome to Belcarra

Campsite facilities at Belcarra include toilets, metered showers (€1 = 4 minutes), laundry facilities (€1 per 20/30 mins), camper's kitchen and lounge area. Our village amenities include – Costcutter supermarket (tea, coffee, hot chocolate, sandwiches) post office, fishing area, Flukie's Cosy Bar & Corley's Bar. Fishing rods and bicycles are available for your use. On your first evening you should try our way-marked Riverside Walk (50 minute walk). Belcarra has a population of approximately 200 people and in the past has been awarded the tidiest village in Mayo. The seven flower-beds in the village date from 1966 and are in memory of the seven signatories of the Proclamation of the Irish Republic at Easter 1916. Ireland's independence from Britain was eventually secured in 1921.

Explore other aspects of the village: visit the Fishery Area beside the Community Centre; walk over to the "Common". You can shorefish for pike at Cloonagh Lake (2km). The village shop is open from 8am to 8pm Monday – Saturday and 2pm on Sundays. Stock up with food for the next few days. The two pubs in Belcarra are worth visiting at night. The National Museum of Country Life and Horkan's Lifestyle Centre at Turlough, Castlebar (10 km) are well worth a visit on your last evening in Belcarra. Admission is free. All-day restaurant onsite. Knock Shrine is 20 km away.

On the evening of your arrival we meet our guests in our reception area (red door) to talk about the history and landscape of the area, about the route you will take and the places you will visit with your horse and caravan. You will spend the first and last night of your holiday here in Belcarra. Tomorrow morning you will be introduced to your horse and instructed in grooming, harnessing and driving.

Take note. At the overnight stops you pay €30 per night to the farmer for your pitch and hot showers typically cost €1. Tents (max 4 persons) are €16 per pitch per night.

### Day 2: Belcarra to Ballintubber (9kms)

Today we will accompany you until you feel at ease driving your horse and caravan. You will follow a lovely route through Carramore bog. The green hills to the right and left of you are "drumlins" carved out by glacial movements during the last ice age. On top of some of them you'll notice circular enclosures called 'ringforts' or 'fairyforts'. These are the remains of 2,000-year-old farmsteads. Until about 60 years ago they were used as children's burial grounds. It is unlucky to interfere with fairyforts because they are reputed to be the homes of the 'slua-sí' – the fairy hosts. To your right you'll notice Croagh Patrick, Ireland's holy mountain peeping over the drumlins. The map you are using is an Ordnance Survey map (2cm = 1km). Note the names of the townlands through which you pass engraved on stones at road junctions.

At Ballintubber, you'll be welcomed by the Dempsey Family at their farm. This afternoon enjoy a tour of Ballintubber Abbey - built by an Irish King, Cathal of the Wine Red Hand O'Connor, 750 years ago and still in use. Walk part of the "Tochar Phadraig", the old pilgrim road to Croagh Patrick – St Patrick's pyramid-shaped mountain in the West. Or just walk to Castleburke – a picturesque ruin about 2 kms away. The Abbey Pub/Restaurant (meals 1-3pm daily) is near your overnight stop and the Mace Supermarket, with Coffee Shop/Restaurant serving french fries/eggs/sausages/beans/bacon etc all day - 1 km.



### **Day 3: Ballintubber to Carrownacon (10kms)**

Leaving Ballintubber at about 10 a.m. you travel along a lovely lakeside route to Burriscarra. Can you spot Castlecarra, (1km) built by Adam Staunton, a Norman baron 1238 A.D. - an imposing ruin? There's a natural swimming area here. Maybe you can come back and visit Burriscarra Abbey built by Adam Staunton for the Augustinian Friars in 1295 after you settle in at your next stop. There are beautiful country paths to the lakeshore.

Continue to make your way through beautiful Moorehall to Carrownacon. Here you will stay at Hughes' Pub with Kevin and Marie Hughes. You will be within walking distance of Moorehall House and Forest Park. George Moore, the renowned writer, was born here. His novella "Albert Nobbs" was recently made into a major film. Moore's ashes are scattered on Castle Island in the lake. Visit Kiltome, the burial place of the Moores, deep in the forest of Ballycally headland. Here you can catch the best of trout. Have a drink in Hughes pub (open nightly from 9pm). A small shop for your essentials is across the road.

### **Day 4: Carrownacon to Belcarra (9kms)**

Heading back to Belcarra today. Travel from Carrownacon to Clogher. See the small two teacher school at Clogher crossroads. Continue straight on and you will arrive back in Belcarra village on the same road you left. Why not have a drink in Flukie's or Corley's, after you have cared for your horse?

### **Day 5: Fairwell**

Today you will be bidding goodbye to your faithful horse and your Mayo Hosedrawn holiday. After an active, but relaxing holiday, during which you will have made many new friends, we hope that that you will return to your home renewed and refreshed and with a new zest for life.