

Go to
The Irish National Stud
 Japanese Gardens
 Saint Fiachra's Garden
 Irish Horse Museum
 One admission charge covers all four



Irish National Stud

Home to some of Ireland's finest thoroughbreds

The farm at Tully, Kildare, which today is the home of the Irish National Stud, was purchased in 1900 from a local farmer James Fay by Colonel William Hall-Walker, a member of a wealthy Scottish brewery family. He decided, much against the wishes of his father, to breed thoroughbred horses at Tully. Hall-Walker's views on breeding have been described as inspired, preposterous and eccentric.



In 1945 the Irish National Stud Co. Ltd., was formed and it officially took over the running of the Stud on 31st of August 1946. Since then it has continued to expand and develop and is now a source of national pride and an international tourist attraction.



Its primary aim was to promote the interest of the bloodstock industry in Ireland by providing the services of the high class stallions on the farm. The stud consists of 958 acres of land and there are 288 boxes on the farm for mares, foals and stallions.



Irish National Stud

The Black Abbey which lies in ruins since its storming during the reformation in the 16th century, is carefully preserved on its own grounds on the Tully farm. There are rumours of underground passages connecting the Black Abbey to the other monastic sites of the White Abbey and the Grey Abbey in Kildare town.



The Stallion paddocks run the length of the Oak Walk, whilst the mares' and foals' paddocks are to be found along the Tully Walk.

Facilities include

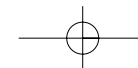
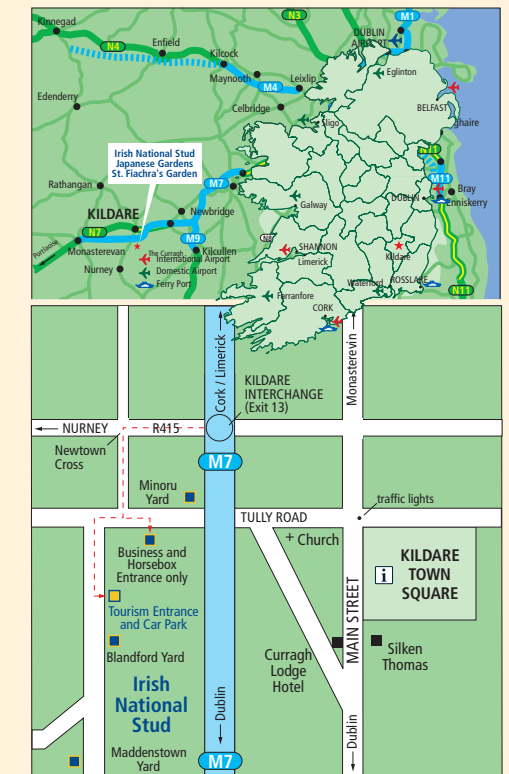
- ◆ Daily guided tours of the stud
- ◆ World famous Japanese Gardens
- ◆ Gift Shop with many items of clothing, suitable gifts for all occasions & Irish National Stud branded goods
- ◆ Free Car and Coach Park
- ◆ Home cooking in the Restaurant
- ◆ Picnic area
- ◆ 4 acres of woodland walks
- ◆ Ideal venue for wedding photographs



How to find us

Just 30 miles from Dublin, Kildare town is easily accessible by road (just off M/N7), by rail (to Kildare train station) and by bus (on the main bus route to Kildare town). The Irish National Stud and Gardens are situated less than one mile outside the town.

Courtesy Bus: The Kildare Village shopping outlet operate a Courtesy Bus from Kildare rail station to Kildare town, the Village outlet and the Irish National Stud - please telephone or email for times.



One of the gems of Ireland's heritage



Opening hours

First week-end in February - 31st October, 9.30 a.m. - 6 p.m.

1st November - 22nd December, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Last admission 1 hour before closing (in both cases)

Tully, Kildare, Ireland.

Exit 13 off the M7 onto the R415

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Japanese Gardens

The world famous Japanese Gardens at Tully were created between the years 1906 and 1910. Devised by Colonel William Hall-Walker, who later became known as Lord Wavertree, the gardens were laid out in their paths of beauty by the Japanese gardener Tassa Eida and his son Minoru. The gardens are situated in the grounds of the Irish National Stud, and have been carefully preserved as one of the gems of Ireland's heritage.



The significance of the Japanese Gardens is not only artistic and horticultural but also philosophical, religious and historical. The symbolism of Life that the Garden portrays, traces the journey of a soul from Oblivion to Eternity. The landscapes are now of international renown and are acclaimed as the finest Japanese Gardens in Europe.



Some rare plants growing in the Japanese Gardens

Sophora japonica

'Japanese Pagoda Tree' (228) an ornamental medium sized tree native to China and planted widely in Japan.

Cupressus funebris

'Mourning Cypress' (473) an elegant small conifer native to China. There are only a handful of these trees in Irish gardens.

Tetradium daniellii (307)

a deciduous small tree native to China and Korea.



Saint Fiachra's Garden

Woodland and lakeside walks

In 1999 the Irish National Stud created a commemorative garden to St Fiachra, Patron Saint of Gardeners, to celebrate the Millennium. It was designed by Professor Martin Hallinan, award winning landscape architect.



The entrance to the garden is via an underground stone passage, taking the visitor beneath the earth into the inner garden, another world of woodland and lakes, momentarily leaving behind the pastures and horses of the Stud Farm.

The centre of the garden is dominated by a peninsula of fissured limestone surrounded by water upon which a stone hermitage has been created. Within this hermitage is found a second garden, deeper and finer, but still of rock. This inner subterranean garden is of handcrafted Waterford Crystal rocks and plants such as ferns and orchids, which lights the darkness of the hermit's cavern.



Seated on a rock peninsula, beside the monastic cells, the garden reaches its nucleus in

the vision of St. Fiachra himself. He is depicted as the spiritual hermit reaching skyward as if linking heaven and earth. In his hand is a seed, the kernel of nature and creation.

The philosophical concept of the garden is not to create a conventional garden of any style which could be found anywhere in the world, or one which represents any particular style of garden or type of planting, but rather searches for the basis of St. Fiachra's love for nature and the soil. The garden seeks to present to the visitor the landscape which inspired the spirituality of the 6th and 7th centuries monastic movement in Ireland. The woodland walks and aquatic plants as seen within a natural setting, and creating in effect a national watergarden served by the natural springs of the Curragh.

Irish Horse Museum

The 'Sport of Kings' comes to life



When you step into this ultra modern exhibition area it's hard to believe that the building was once the home of a groom and was later converted to stallion boxes to house such famous horses as Tulyar and Royal Charger. The exhibition tells the story of man and horse uniting

for sporting competition. More specifically, the story is of Ireland's long love affair with horse racing, and horse racing's love affair with Ireland.