

IRELAND/UNITED KINGDOM

The Irish Walking People

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Appleby-in-Westmorland (England, UK). Galloping in the River Eden during the Appleby Horse Fair.

Travellers have abandoned their old colorful wagons, but they maintain a close bond with their beloved horses

Every year hundreds of Irish Travellers gather to buy and sell the horses they have bred. They do this in Appleby in England (in June) and in Ballinasloe in Ireland (in October), and these gatherings are an ideal opportunity to meet family and friends. But who are the Irish Travellers? They are also known by other names: in Ireland they are called minkiers, lucht siúil (“the walking people”) or pavees, and in England tinkers. They are a mysterious nomadic people of Irish origin whose roots, which are passed down orally, are steeped in legend. According to one story, they are descended from a tinsmith who smelted

the nails from the cross of Christ, and that is why they are condemned to wander forever. They are of pre-Celtic origin and are mistakenly thought to be related to the Roma people. Today's Travellers are devout Catholics, live in large families and have abandoned their traditional colorful wagons, replacing them with more modern and spacious caravans. Governments have long been trying to get them to settle, but their life largely remains on the margins of society, with a romantic and rebellious element. And it is a life in which horses still play a key role.



Dublin (Ireland). The Dublin Halting Site. Lillian Rose in a vintage caravan.

Ballinasloe (Ireland). The Ballinasloe Horse Fair is Europe's oldest and largest horse fair, dating back to the 18th century. It is held annually at Ballinasloe, the second largest town in County Galway, in the western part of Ireland. It is a meeting point for members of the Irish Traveller community who, alongside farmers and other buyers and sellers, have been coming here for centuries.





Appleby-in-Westmorland (England, UK). A Traveller and his vardo. The vardo is the traditional horse-drawn wagon used by British Travellers as their home. It is typically highly decorated, intricately carved, brightly painted, and even gilded.



Ballinasloe (Ireland). Emily during the Ballinasloe Horse Fair.



Ballinasloe (Ireland). Tom O' Reilly is a young Traveller. He attends the horse fair every year.



Appleby-in-Westmorland (England, UK). Shannon, Sarah and Marc in a Travellers camp during the Appleby Horse Fair.



Ballinasloe (Ireland). An Irish Cob Horse among the caravans at the Ballinasloe Horse Fair.

Ballinasloe (Ireland). Traveller boys with pellet guns.





Galway (Ireland). Jimmy weight training at the Cúl Trá Halting Site - Salt Hill.



Ballinasloe (Ireland). Family and friends meeting up during the Ballinasloe Horse Fair.



Appleby-in-Westmorland (England, UK). Two girls with their horse at the Appleby Horse Fair.



Appleby-in-Westmorland (England, UK). The gypsy queen portrait.



Appleby-in-Westmorland (England, UK). A young Traveller on his way back home from Appleby.



Limerick (Ireland). A little Traveller boy at the Limerick Halting Site.



Appleby-in-Westmorland (England, UK). Ella at the Appleby Horse Fair. Like most teenage Travellers, she is fun-loving and fashion-conscious.



Cork (Ireland) Everyday life at the Cork Halting Site. An Irish horse waits to be washed down after a ride.



Cork (Ireland). A little girl at the Cork Halting Site.



Dublin (Ireland). A vintage caravan at the Dublin Halting Site.



Dublin (Ireland). Travellers' ceramic ornaments.

Appleby-in-Westmorland (England, UK). A young Traveller tethers his horses to a corral.





Ballinasloe (Ireland). Traveller girls in Ballinasloe during the horse fair.



Appleby-in-Westmorland (England, UK). Coloured gypsy feet.

Appleby-in-Westmorland (England, UK). Riding bareback in the River Eden is a tradition that attracts hundreds of spectators every year during the horse fair.





Appleby-in-Westmorland (England, UK). Travellers and locals on the banks of the River Eden at Appleby-in-Westmorland during the horse fair.



Cork (Ireland). Three little girls at the Cork Halting Site.



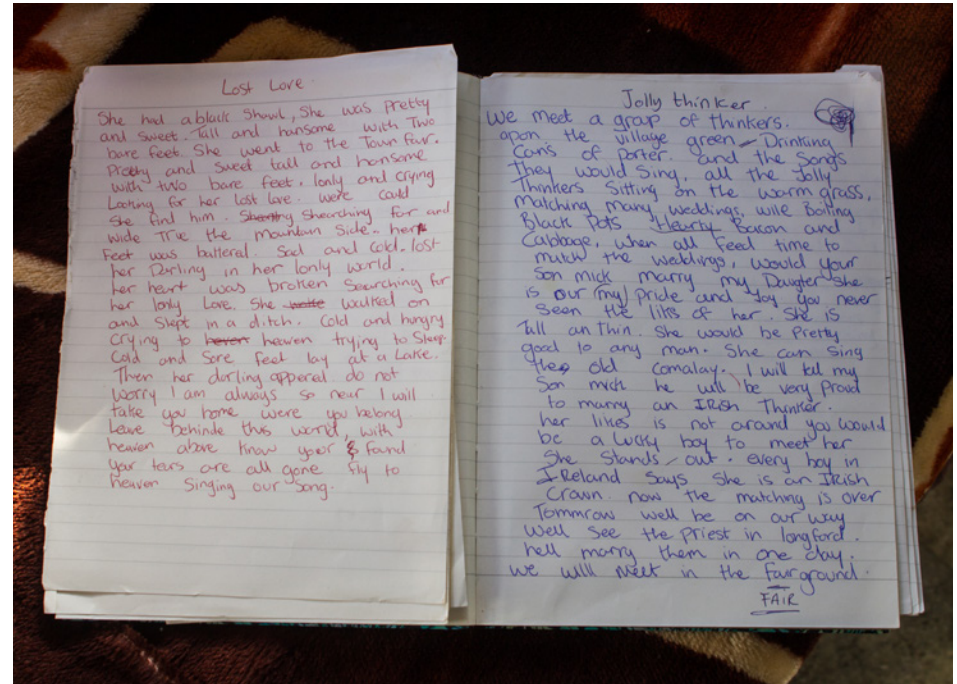
Appleby-in-Westmorland (England, UK). A little girl at the River Eden.



Ballinasloe (Ireland). Austin with his horses at the Ballinasloe Horse Fair. He is from Ballyfermot, near Dublin.



Dublin (Ireland). Dublin roadside camping. The interior of Lily's caravan, featuring a pottery collection and a photo of one of her children who died young.



Dublin (Ireland). Christine Donoghue's book of poetry.

Galway (Ireland). Martina at the Cúl Trá Halting Site where she lives with her family.





Appleby-in-Westmorland (England, UK). Horses in the River Eden.



Galway (Ireland). A holy dog cart at the Cúl Trá Halting Site.

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