

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **Can I bring my dog?**

- Guide dogs are welcome at the National Ploughing Championships, however the event attracts approximately 80,000 people per day and owing to the large number of crowds we request patrons not to bring family pets.
- NPA does not permit patrons to keep animals in vehicles in car parks due to the dangers of heat exhaustion.

### **How much are the tickets for the event?**

- Adults - €20 (10% discount apply on pre-orders of **10+ online only**) Ticket can be used any of the three days.
- Senior Citizens - € 15 (ID will be required at the gate) Tickets are day specific.
- Secondary School Students - €15 (rate of €10 applies on pre-orders of 10+ when purchased through school only). Tickets are day specific.
- Children under 12 go free once accompanied by an adult.
- College Students - €20 each, 10% discount when 10 or more are ordered, online only. Tickets can be used any of the three days.

### **How do I purchase tickets for the Event?**

- Fast Track tickets can be purchased before the event online at [www.npa.ie](http://www.npa.ie) or over the phone on 059 86 25125 (please note 10% booking fee applies to tickets purchased over the phone).
- **Fast Track Tickets can be purchased up until Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September**, after which date the NPA cannot guarantee delivery of tickets before the event.
- Tickets can also be bought on the day of the event at the admission gates.

### **When will I receive my Fast Track tickets?**

- Fast Track tickets will be posted, via An Post, to customers within 5 working days of order being placed.
- If you have not received your tickets within 8-10 working days of placing your order please contact NPA HQ on 059 86 25125.

### **Is my Fast Track ticket valid for any day?**

- Fast Track Adult One Day Tickets may be used on any single day of the event but Student and Senior Citizen tickets are day specific i.e. you must select the day you wish to attend when purchasing ticket.
- Tickets are only valid for one day.

## What about Group Bookings?

- Pre-paid Group bookings of 10+ One Day Adult tickets are eligible for a 10% discount **online only**.
- Pre-paid Secondary School Student Ground bookings of 10+ are eligible for student discount of €10 per student ticket once order is placed through the secondary school. Group bookings for Secondary School Students must be placed online at [ww.npa.ie](http://ww.npa.ie).
- Senior Citizens (age 66+) are eligible for discounted price of €15 per ticket. ID must be presented at the gate with your pre-paid ticket.

## When does it all kick off?

- Exhibition Arena Opens: 9.00 - 18.00
- Ploughing Competitions: 10.30 - 14.30
- Entertainment Programme: 10.00 - 18.00
- Fashion Shows: 11.30/13.30/15.30

## Is the event suitable for children?

- The National Ploughing Championships is a child friendly event. Children under 12 go free when accompanied by an adult.
- The event offers picnic areas, a playground, baby changing & feeding facilities, Funfair and bandstand entertainment to cater for our younger visitors.
- In addition to these facilities we have over 1700 exhibitors, many of which offer their own entertainment on their stands for children of all ages so there is sure to be something for everyone in the family.
- FBD 'Keeping You Safe' wristbands also serve as a reassurance to anyone bringing children to the event. These wristbands are specifically for children and are handed-out at all entrances to the event allowing for a contact phone number to be written on the band in case the wearer wanders off amidst the crowd.

## How do I get to the event?

- The NPA work closely in conjunction with An Garda Síochána to develop a detailed event Traffic Plan that will ensure you get to the event safely and as efficiently as possible. We advise all attendees driving to the event to read this traffic plan before departure and follow the route specified from your direction.
- Please follow directional signage only on close arrival to the event as road closures and alternative routes are often put in place specifically for event purposes.
- Download a copy of the 2018 event Traffic Plan from our homepage on [www.npa.ie](http://www.npa.ie).

## **How do I get to the nearest car park?**

We have a large number of car parks located in close proximity to the Trade Arena to accommodate traffic coming from all parts of the country. You will be directed into the nearest available car park to the event on your arrival and car parking stewards will direct you to a space.

## **Is there bicycle parking?**

- There will be an area for bicycle parking in a dedicated car park. Please follow direction signage for bicycle parking on arrival to event.

## **Is there hard-core parking?**

- There is no hard-core parking at the event, all car parks are either stubble or grass fields so wear suitable footwear!
- In the event of wet weather conditions there will be stewards on hand should you require assistance.

## **How much is it to park at the event?**

Parking at the National Ploughing Championships is free!

## **What if I can't find my car park when leaving the event?**

- We know with an event this size it can be quite daunting to remember where you parked your car on departure so we have put provisions in place to assist you as best we can. Every car park is colour coded in our Traffic Plan depending on the route you are travelling. For example traffic travelling on the brown route will be directed into the brown car park on arrival, and so on. All routes to the event are colour coded with corresponding colour coded car parks.
- Furthermore every car park has a colour specific blimp which can be seen from the trade arena to direct you back to your car park, and colour coded signage on entrance/exit to the car parks. Please take note of the image on the sign when you enter/ leave the car park, for e.g. the sign could be a blue bear.
- There are numerous maps throughout the site displaying the direction of each car park.
- Finally, if you still cannot locate your car, all our wristbands are numbered so our stewards will be able to assist you in locating your car by identifying the number on your wristband.

## **Can I avail of public transport to the event?**

- Yes, you can avail of public transport to the event. Tullamore Train Station is 10 minutes from the event Site.

- A Shuttle Bus service operated by Bus Eireann will be in operation from Tullamore Train Station. The times of this service will operate to suit train times with pick up times from Tullamore Train Station starting at 06.55am until 12 noon. The Shuttle Bus service will start return runs from the site to Tullamore Train Station at 14.00pm up until 18.30pm. The drop off and pick up point is located near the main entrance along the N52 and very close to the 3 main entrances along the front of the site.

You do not have to purchase a train ticket to avail of these services, you can use the Bus Eireann drop off / pick up service from Tullamore Train Station for a small fee –

Return Ticket prices - €9 adult

€5 children (16 & under)

€20 family ticket (2 adults & 3 children)

- See [www.irishrail.ie](http://www.irishrail.ie) & [www.buseireann.ie](http://www.buseireann.ie) for scheduled timetables and fees.
- Check local media for coach companies bringing tours to the event too.
- Taxis dropping off patrons will be facilitated as close to the car parks as is possible once there is no interference with the flow of traffic. There is no designated Taxi pick up area in or around the event site.

## **Do I have to queue to enter the event?**

- The National Ploughing Championships attracts an average of 80,000 people per day so we advise patrons to take their time arriving and allow for some queuing time when attending the event.
- Pre-paid Fast Track ticket holders will gain entry to the event quicker. Gates open to the public at 9am but for patrons arriving early there will be tea/coffee units and toilet facilities available in the car parks.

## **What provisions are in place for Disabled Access?**

- Disabled car parking is available in every car park for the event. Please note the official Government issued Disabled Parking Permit must be clearly displayed in front windscreen of vehicle on approach to site.
- All of the internal roadways throughout the Trade Arena are double tracked to allow for disabled access movement around the site.
- Disabled toilets are available in every toilet block and in every Disabled Car Park. We also have Mobiloo units on site which have an electric hoist, adult-sized changing bench, toilet and wash basin, catering for all our visitors needs
- Lifestyle Mobility provide rental of mobility scooters on site. To avoid disappointment we recommend these to be pre-booked by contacting Linda Lee in Lifestyle Mobility on 057 8644793. Rate for rental is €7 per hour.
- The Irish Wheelchair Association supply wheelchairs on site for a small refundable deposit.

## **Can I leave & re-enter the event during the day?**

If you need to leave the event at some stage and intend on returning please ask the gate stewards to stamp your hand on departure. Without this stamp you may not regain access to the event free of charge.

## **Where can I find the Programme of Events?**

We have a jam packed schedule of events over the 3 days. Please check [www.npa.ie](http://www.npa.ie) regularly for updates to our programme of events. There will also be programme of events schedule signage at our bandstand and throughout the site.

## **What type of stands exhibit at the event?**

We have over 1,700 exhibitors at the event featuring exhibits in; Energy, Forestry, Livestock, Machinery, Construction, Agri Business, Auto Arena, House and Home, Food and Beverage, Health and Wellness, Lifestyle and Tourism, Information Technology, Business and Education.

## **What are some of the best bits to look for at the event?**

Food Fayre, Celebrity Chefs, Cookery/Craft Demonstrations, Auto Arena, Fashion Shows, Machinery Exhibition, Tented Trade Village, Livestock Exhibition, Innovation Arena, National Brown Bread Baking, Sheep Shearing, Sheep Dog Trials, Live Tractor Build, Ploughing Competitions, Live Radio & TV, Pony Games, Hunt Chase, Treshing, Vintage Display, Funfair, Loy Digging, Meggars Competition and much much more.

## **What is the NPA Innovation Arena?**

- The NPA Innovation Arena puts inventions from Ireland on show to the world and helps establish their success by introducing them to the marketplace and facilitating networks that will help them take steps towards achieving commercial success. We've seen a number of individuals and companies launch new products and innovations at the NPA Innovation Arena, going on to achieve global success.
- The NPA Innovation Arena is the ideal place to demonstrate ground-breaking developments, whether they are back-yard inventions or professional innovations, to thousands of Innovation Arena visitors.
- With a prize fund worth over €70,000 in business mentoring, advertising & cash, the NPA Innovation Arena (in association with Enterprise Ireland & Irish Farmers Journal) is promising to take centre stage at Ploughing '18. See [www.innovationarena.ie](http://www.innovationarena.ie) for details on how to apply.

## **Where can I see the Brown Bread Baking Competition?**

- The National Brown Bread Baking Competition is a huge attraction at the event and is run in conjunction with ICA and Aldi.
- The Semi-finals of the competition take place in the Aldi marquee on the Tue & Wed of the event with the final taking place on Thursday. You can watch the finalists bake their bread live in the marquee over the 3 days as they compete for a prize fund worth over €15,000.

## **What about food and beverages?**

- We have 3 catering blocks on site accommodating in excess of 40 individual catering stands so there is something to suit all our visitor's needs.
- We also have catering units in every car park to serve patrons arriving early to the event.

## **What Visitor Amenities are provided at the event?**

We have over 100 acres of Trade Exhibition, Tracked trade arena to all stands, Free Maps and Stand Listings, Medical Centre & First Aid, Baby Changing and Feeding Facilities, Food Courts / Bars, Wheelchair Hire, Media Hub, Toilets, Mobiloo, Playground, Picnic Areas, WIFI Hotspots, Public Address, Campervan Park, Public Transport, Information Booths, Grandstand Seating and Live Traffic Reports.

## **Where are the toilets located?**

There are toilet facilities located in each of our 3 catering blocks and additionally throughout the Trade Arena. There is a combination of portaloos, wheelchair accessible portaloos and flush toilets provided. We will also have Mobiloo units at the event which have an electric hoist, adult-sized changing bench, toilet and wash basin, catering for all our visitors needs. See our Trade Exhibition Map for exact locations.

## **Are there baby changing and feeding facilities?**

Yes, Mothers Union provides baby changing and feeding facilities in a dedicated marquee at the event. See our Trade Exhibition Map for stand location on site.

## **Can my Club/Charity fundraise at the event or in the car parks?**

There is no fundraising allowed on-site or in the event car parks, with the exception of a maximum number of 12 charities who have received written permission by NPA to do so.

## **When are the results of Ploughing Competitions announced each day?**

The Ploughing Competitions results are officially announced each day of the event on the Bandstand at 6pm and will be available to view afterwards on the side of the NPA HQ stand. See our Trade Exhibition Map for NPA HQ location on site.

## **What if I get lost in the Trade Arena?**

- You will be provided with a free map on entrance to the event, and we have a number of Information Booths and Information Personnel dispersed throughout the site that will be happy to assist you should you become lost.
- The NPA HQ will also have a large green blimp flying from its marquee which can be seen throughout the site. It is always a good idea to arrange a meeting point like NPA HQ should you become separated from your group. If you are lost, or have lost someone and are concerned please come into NPA HQ at any point during the event and we will have a team on hand to assist.

## **What if I become unwell during the event?**

- Should you feel unwell at the event we have 7 different First Aid posts dispersed throughout the site, trained medical staff on mobile First Aid foot patrol and ambulance services on site at all times.
- We also have a purpose built Medical Centre on site, fully staffed with a doctor, nurses and paramedics should you require further assistance.
- If you need medical assistance at any stage of the event please ask one of our Information Personnel for directions to the nearest First Aid post or see map for exact location of Medical Centre.

## **How do I enquire about exhibiting at the event?**

- If you are interested in exhibiting at the event you must complete our online questionnaire and submit (questionnaire can be found on our website [www.npa.ie](http://www.npa.ie)).
- Please note the questionnaire is not a booking for space. Once fully completed and submitted it will go for review by our exhibition team. Once reviewed, we will revert back to you with further information (reviewing usually takes 5-10 days and can be longer).
- If approved, you will be sent access to Trade Prospectus and given the opportunity to book exhibition space.
- NPA will determine if company is suitable for indoor or outdoor exhibition (there are certain restrictions on outdoor exhibition).

## Can I camp out at the event over night?

- You are not permitted to stay in the Trade Arena overnight as the site is in shutdown for repair works, but the NPA provide a free, un-serviced site dedicated to Campervan / Caravan parking for patrons of the National Ploughing Championships.
- This site is for Campervan / Caravan parking only – pitching of Tents is not permitted.
- The official NPA Campervan/Caravan Site will be located in close proximity to the trade arena – please follow directional signage. Campers found parked in any other car parks will be towed away.
  
- Park At Your Own Risk – the official NPA Campervan Site is for your convenience and you park at your own risk.
- Fire Safety is of the utmost importance. Download the Caravan Fire Safety leaflet on [www.npa.ie](http://www.npa.ie)

## What about accommodation?

- If you live locally to the event and have spare rooms or a property to rent you can register your private accommodation on [www.visitoffaly.ie](http://www.visitoffaly.ie) or email [info@visitoffaly.ie](mailto:info@visitoffaly.ie).
- Alternatively, if you are looking to browse unregistered private accommodation to rent in close proximity to the site you can also visit [www.visitoffaly.ie](http://www.visitoffaly.ie) or email [info@visitoffaly.ie](mailto:info@visitoffaly.ie).