

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I purchase tickets for the Event?

- Tickets **MUST** be pre-purchased **ONLINE** at www.npa.ie to guarantee entry on day of choice. **NPA can only guarantee entry of pre-purchased tickets.** Tickets available at Gate **ONLY** if event is not sold out. Gate price €30.
- Tickets are **DAY SPECIFIC**. Visitors must attend the event on the day their ticket is purchased for. **NPA can only guarantee entry for the day stated on the ticket.**
- Tickets are available to purchase on www.npa.ie.
- **NB Tickets must be scanned at entry to event.** NPA strongly advise visitors to **PRINT YOUR TICKET** and bring it with you or take a **SCREENSHOT** of your ticket barcode on your phone for scanning to avoid delays at gate.

How much are pre-purchased e-tickets for the event?

- Adults €25 - 10% discount applies on orders of 10+ Adult tickets purchased in one transaction online.
- Senior Citizens €20 - ID may be required at the gate.
- Secondary School Students €20. Rate of €15 applies on orders of 10+ online only when purchased through group bookings.
- College Students €25 - 10% discount apply on orders of 10+ Adult tickets in one transaction online.
- **Children under 12 go free once accompanied by a paying adult.**
- Campervan Site parking bays **MUST** be pre-booked online @ www.npa.ie . Flat rate for parking bay is €60 which entitles you to stay up to 5 nights (Sun 15th Sept. – Fri 20th Sept.). There is no rate per night available.

When will I receive my pre-purchased e-tickets?

- E-Tickets will be received directly to your email address upon purchase. Please allow up to 2 hours for your e-tickets to arrive, especially during busy periods.
- If you cannot locate your e-tickets within your inbox folder, NPA recommend that you check your junk or spam folders. If you still cannot locate the e-tickets please contact NPA HQ office and we can manually re-send your confirmation email.
- **NB Tickets must be scanned at entry to event.** NPA strongly advise visitors to **PRINT YOUR TICKET** and bring it with you or take a **SCREENSHOT** of your ticket barcode on your phone for scanning to avoid delays at gate.

Can I purchase tickets for the event at the gate?

- Tickets may be available at the Gate **ONLY** if event day is not sold out. NPA cannot guarantee tickets will be available at gate and therefore recommend pre-purchasing ticket in advance.
- Gate price €30.

Is my ticket valid for any day?

- Tickets are day specific.
- Visitors must select the day you wish to attend when purchasing ticket. **NPA can only guarantee entry for the day stated on the ticket.**
- Tickets are valid for one day only.

What about Group Bookings?

- Pre-purchased group bookings of 10+ Adult tickets in one transaction are eligible for a 10% discount online only.
- Pre-purchased Secondary School Student group bookings of 10+ tickets in one transaction are eligible for discount of €15 per secondary school student ticket. Tickets are day specific. Schools must make their bookings online @ www.npa.ie .

When does it all kick off?

- Trade 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

Do I have to queue to enter the event?

- The National Ploughing Championships attracts an average of 80,000 people per day. NPA advise patrons to take their time arriving and allow for queuing time when attending the event.
- Purchase tickets in advance to gain fast track entry to the site.
- Gates open to the public at 9am but for patrons arriving early there will be toilet facilities available in the car parks.

Is the event suitable for children?

- The National Ploughing Championships is a child friendly event. Children under 12 go free once 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, the event has a showcase of over 1,700 exhibitors, many of which offer their own entertainment on their stand 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 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.

Can I bring my dog?

- Guide dogs / Assistance 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 NPA 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 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. Everyone driving to the event should check out the traffic plan before they leave and stick to the designated route for their 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.
- A copy of the event Traffic Plan is available for download from the NPA homepage on www.npa.ie. Please ensure you are downloading the **2024 NPC Traffic Plan**.

How do I get to the nearest car park?

- There are a large number of car parks located in close proximity to the Trade Exhibition Arena to accommodate traffic coming from all parts of the country. Visitors will be directed into the nearest car park available on arrival to the event.

Are there Electric Car charging facilities in car parks?

- There will not be electric car charging facilities in the car parks for the event as these areas are only temporary car parks for the duration of the event. See <https://chargemap.com> for exact locations as to where the closest charging points are to the event.

Is there bicycle parking?

- There will be an area for bicycle parking in a dedicated car park on either side of the event site. 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 of charge!

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

- NPA 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 the event 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.
- There is colour-coded signage on entrance/exit to 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. NPA recommend, where possible, to take a picture of the car park signage.
- There are numerous maps throughout the site displaying the direction of each car park.

Can I avail of public transport to the event?

- Bus Eireann will be operating a Shuttle Bus service from the Portlaoise, Portarlington and Athy Train Stations to the event. Bus Eireann charge a fee for this service. Fees and operating times of this shuttle bus service are available on www.npa.ie
- NPA also recommend checking local media for coach companies bringing tours to the event.

Are there designated taxi drop off / pick up points for the event?

- Due to large volumes of traffic accessing the site there will be a number of one way routes in operation, therefore there is no designated taxi drop off / pick up points. Bus Eireann are running a shuttle bus service from Portlaoise, Portarlington and Athy train stations to and from the site. See www.npa.ie for shuttle bus timetable.

What provisions are in place for Disability Access?

- Disability car parking is available in dedicated car parks for the event. The official Government issued Disability Parking Permit must be clearly displayed in front windscreen of vehicle on approach to site in order for stewards to direct you into the correct car park.
- All of the internal roadways throughout the Trade Exhibition Arena are double tracked to allow for disabled access movement around the site.
- Disability access toilets are available in every toilet block and in every Disability Car Park. Two Accessoloo Welfare Units are located on the trade exhibition arena, equipped with an electric hoist, adult-sized changing bench, toilet, and washbasin to meet the needs of all visitors. For exact locations, refer to the Trade Exhibition Arena Map when published.

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 hand stamp you will not regain access to the event free of charge.

Are there baby changing and feeding facilities?

- Baby changing and feeding facilities will be available in a dedicated stand area at the event. See Trade Exhibition Arena Map for exact location.

What Visitor Amenities are provided at the event?

The event has over 150 acres of Trade Exhibition; Trak access to all Exhibits, Free Site Map & Stand Listing, Information Guides, Picnic Areas, Food Courts & Bars, Disability Welfare Facilities, Disability Parking, Medical Centre & First Aid, Baby Changing and Feeding Facilities, Media Hub, Playground and Campervan Parking (pre-booking essential).

Where are the toilets located?

- Toilet facilities are located in each of the three main catering blocks and additionally throughout the Trade Exhibition Arena.
- Disability welfare units are located at either end of the trade exhibition arena. These units are equipped with an electric hoist, adult-sized changing bench, toilet, and washbasin to meet the needs of all visitors. For exact locations, refer to the Trade Exhibition Arena Map when published.

What type of stands exhibit at the event?

- The event features exhibits in;
Livestock, Machinery, Construction, Agri-Business, Forestry, Sustainability, Motor Show, House and Home, Food and Beverage, Health and Wellness, Lifestyle and Tourism, Information Technology, Business and Education.

Where can I find the Programme of Events?

- We will have a jam packed schedule of events. Please check 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 are some of the best bits to look for at the event?

Machinery Exhibition, Livestock Showcase, Food Fayre, Celebrity Chefs, Cookery & Craft Demonstrations, Motor Show, Fashion Shows, Tented Trade Village, Innovation Arena, National Brown Bread Baking Finals, Sheep Shearing, Ploughing Competitions, Best Dressed "Ploughing Style", Hunt Chase & Pony Games, Treshing, Vintage Show, Funfair, Loy Digging, Meggars Competition, Live Radio & TV and much more.

What is the Enterprise Ireland Innovation Arena in association with NPA?

- The Enterprise Ireland Innovation Arena in association with the NPA offers a superb platform to showcase pioneering innovations to the marketplace. Located at the core of the activity, the Innovation Arena attracts thousands of visitors over the three days where an exhibitor is guaranteed prime positioning in front of a targeted stakeholder audience.
- The 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. The Innovation Arena promises to take centre stage at Ploughing. See <https://www.enterpriseireland.com/en/innovation-arena> for more information.

Where can I see the Brown Bread Baking Competition?

- The National Brown Bread Baking Competition is a huge attraction at the event, sponsored by Euronics and run in conjunction with ICA.
- Come see the finalists as they bake their bread live in the during the 3-day event, with the semi-finals of the competition scheduled for Tuesday 17th & Wednesday 18th, and the final set for Thursday 19th.

What about food and beverages?

- There are three catering blocks on the trade exhibition arena with over 50 different food stands, catering to all the needs of our visitors.

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

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

When are the results of Ploughing Competitions announced?

- The Ploughing Competitions results will be officially announced from the Bandstand at 6pm each evening of the event, and can be viewed later on the side of the NPA HQ stand. See Trade Exhibition Arena Map for location of NPA HQ.

What if I get lost in the Trade Exhibition Arena?

- A free map will be given to attendees upon entry to the event, and there are a number of Information Guides positioned throughout the trade exhibition arena who are happy to help.
- NPA HQ marquee has a large green blimp flying overhead which can be seen throughout the exhibition site. It is always a good idea for visitors to arrange a meeting point like NPA HQ should someone become separated from the group. If you are lost, or have lost someone and are concerned please come into NPA HQ at any point during the event and NPA will have a team on hand to assist.

What if I become unwell during the event?

- There are a number of First Aid posts dispersed throughout the trade exhibition arena and ploughing competition fields, trained medical staff on mobile First Aid foot patrol and ambulance services on site at all times.
- The event has a purpose built Medical Centre on site, fully staffed with a doctor, nurses and paramedics should visitors require further assistance.
- If you need medical assistance at any stage of the event please ask one of our Information Guides 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 please complete the online questionnaire and submit (questionnaire can be found on www.npa.ie).
- Questionnaire is not a booking for space but rather an expression of interest. Once fully completed and submitted it will go for review by NPA exhibition team. Once reviewed, NPA will revert back to you with further information (reviewing usually takes 5-10 days and can be longer at busier times).
- If approved, you will be sent access to Exhibitor Online Booking Portal 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).

Are there Campervan/Caravan Parking Facilities?

- The NPA provide an un-serviced grass field site (no hardcore ground & no water or electricity supply) dedicated to Campervan / Caravan parking ONLY for patrons of the National Ploughing Championships which will be accessible from Sunday 15th Sept. to Friday 20th Sept. 2024. To guarantee space parking bays MUST be pre-booked online @ www.npa.ie
- Campervan / Caravan parking site will be in proximity to the event site and will have portaloos only, visitors are advised to bring their own water, etc.
- This is a grass field site and in the event of inclement weather, or events outside of NPA control, visitors may be instructed to use alternative parking sites.
- Flat rate fee for parking bay is €60 which entitles visitor to stay up to 5 nights. There is no rate per night available.
- No pitching of tents allowed.
- There will be no access to the campervan/caravan site without valid pre-purchased ticket.
- Park At Your Own Risk – the official NPA Campervan Site is for your convenience and you park at your own risk. The National Ploughing Association Company Ltd. by Guarantee assumes NO responsibility for personal injury, loss or damage to vehicles/campervans/caravans parked in the NPC dedicated Campervan Site.
- Fire Safety is of the utmost importance. Download the Caravan Fire Safety leaflet on www.npa.ie
- Visitors / Exhibitors are not permitted to stay in the trade exhibition arena overnight as the site is in shutdown for repair works.

What about accommodation?

- If you live locally to the event and have extra rooms or a property to rent, please get in touch with NPA to see if you can list your private accommodation on our website.
- If you are looking for accommodation to rent please contact the local tourist office for more information, <https://laoistourism.ie>