



RIDE WORLD WIDE

WYOMING, USA

THE HIDEOUT 2024

RIDE INFORMATION

The Hideout Lodge & Guest Ranch is in Shell, northeast Wyoming, about an hour's drive east of the rodeo town of Cody and two hours east of Yellowstone National Park. Privately owned and owner managed, it is a very comfortable guest ranch run to high standards, with around 90 horses and access to 650,000 acres of varied landscapes. Lots of riding, a chance to try cattle work, fly fishing and various other ranch activities, as well as comfortable modern accommodation, a swimming pool and a 'can-do' guest-oriented ethos, make The Hideout is a wonderful way to experience the west.



DATES

The main season at The Hideout is April to end of October although with plenty of advance notice, the ranch will open for bookings of 8 or more between January and early March (and sometimes November to December). Stays are 6 nights, Sunday to Saturday, and 13 night, starting Sundays ending Saturday. Please contact us to check availability.

HORSES

There are about 90 horses at The Hideout, mainly registered Quarter Horses, with some Paints, several well-trained Mustangs and other mixed blood crosses. There is a good selection for novice to experienced riders and all are of a kind temperament, forward going and responsive to ride. They are well looked after by a team of wranglers, who tack up and prepare horses for rides although you are welcome to help if you wish.

TACK

Saddles are typical western style with a high pommel. Bridles are also western and most horses are ridden in pelham bits with a long shank. Saddle bags are provided.

RIDING

Whilst staying on the ranch you can ride for up to about 6 hours a day (occasionally more if on a long cattle drive), either split into morning and / or afternoon rides of between 2 and 3 ½ hours or full day rides with a picnic lunch out riding. Cattle work and informal lessons for beginners or anyone wishing to improve are an option if you wish. There is no riding on Sundays. Riding is in western style with horses trained to neck rein and a relaxed riding style of non-interference with the horse encouraged. There will be a short orientation and introduction to the horses, tack and riding technique on your first day, perhaps with a short ride out. This may be run for all guests together but riding groups are normally limited to a maximum of about 6 guests lead by a 'wrangler' / guide - although you may ride in a larger group if booking together or if you are moving cattle. You may also ride in a smaller group and the ranch's staff to guest ratio means you can always ride with a group of similar ability and perhaps even alone with a guide if that works best. The ranch has its own cattle; a small herd of yearlings graze on paddocks close to the ranch buildings year round, whilst the main herd use grazing allocations in the mountains, moving higher and further afield as the snow melts. There are opportunities to try cattle work each week, helping move cattle from one grazing area to another or to try 'penning' and sorting, a great cowboy skill. A full day drive, linking up with local ranchers, is also an option in most peak season weeks.



WEIGHT LIMIT

16 ½ stone (230 lbs / about 104 kgs) with a little flexibility for experienced riders. Please contact us if you are close to this so we can be sure suitable horses are available.

PACE

Overall riding is at a relaxed but well varied pace, so it is fun but safe for all. The pace will be varied by your guide to suit the terrain as well as riders' ability. You may ride slowly alongside winding rivers, crossing streams back and forth, heading through woodland, along steep or rocky tracks, narrow canyons, scree slopes and rough scrub-covered hills or faster, with energetic trots and long, relaxed canters on sandy paths and across open grassy pasture. The ranch has 7 superb stock trailers, pulled by comfortable air-conditioned 4x4s and, as is often the case on big US ranches, horses are routinely driven 5 to about 15 mins or so from the main base to start riding or to where cattle are grazing. This avoids tedious roadwork and riding the same route to start and finish, allowing riders of all abilities to enjoy the variety of terrain further afield.

RIDING EXPERIENCE

The Hideout accepts riders of all standards and with a good selection of horses and careful group planning, all levels are all well catered for. Children aged 8yrs and over are welcome, riding with parents. To get the most from your stay you should have some previous riding experience but riding is tailored to suit and informal lessons are an option for those who have not done much before or wish to improve during their stay. Riding fitness always means you will enjoy the riding experience much more and we recommend concentrated practice in the months before you go to accustom muscles to time in the saddle.

TERRAIN

The ranch is a few miles from the small town of Shell (population about 87) in a valley below the Big Horn Mountain range. It has access to over 650,000 acres of private and public land covering a huge variety of terrain. The local elevation ranges from about 4,200 feet in the valley to 13,200 feet in the Cloud Peak Wilderness. Terrain ranges from rough sandstone hills and gravel scree slopes as you ride to the Five Fingers or Devil's Peak; to wooded river valleys along Trapper Creek and gorgeous wide open, alpine-like pasture scattered with wild flowers in spring and summer, as you explore the mountains high above the ranch. There are also ancient pine forests, rocky gorges and jutting rock outcrops with awe inspiring views in the mountains - known habitat for moose, elk and coyote all of which you may see when riding.



NON-RIDING ACTIVITIES

Although the main ranch activity is riding and horsemanship, a swimming pool and various optional activities for your downtime, make The Hideout a good choice for those with mixed interests and there is a chance each evening to chat with your hosts about what you would like to do the next day. Wyoming is well known for its wonderful fly fishing and the ranch offers basic fly fishing and casting tuition, as well as opportunities to practice on stocked ponds and the 10 miles of streams and creeks that run through the ranch property. Private fishing guides are bookable on request (extra charge) for more experienced fisherman wishing to test rivers a little further afield. Other on-site activities include archery and trap-shooting with targets set up on one or more afternoons each week; there are plenty of opportunities to walk (from a leisurely stroll close to the ranch to an energetic hike in the mountains), to mountain bike (relaxed around the ranch or more challenging trails a little further afield) and for 4 x 4 drives into the hills. In June, July and August, a visit to the Cody night rodeo is great fun - an afternoon drive into town, dinner in a local restaurant and visit to the famous Cody rodeo (extra charge). The ranch's 60' x 18' swimming pool was completed in 2018 (open June to August) and is a wonderful way to cool off after riding - resembling an infinity pool as you swim towards Shell Canyon and the Big Horn Mountains! There is also a hot tub, sun loungers in the grounds and a number of games (table football, pool table etc) in the main ranch building to keep children fully occupied.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation at the ranch is in 10 spacious, modern and comfortable western style cabins, with four larger 'casitas' and a private house also available. The cabins, which are duplex (2 adjoining), are set out in a well-kept lawn area, landscaped with shady trees, ponds and well-lit pathways. They are thoughtfully equipped and furnished with king or queen beds (2 queen beds in a twin) made up with sheets, duvets and quilts, have private en-suite shower room and loo and extras such as hairdryer, fridge, coffee maker and iron as well as their own Wi-Fi and flat screen TV. All have a wooden decking veranda ('porch') outside with rocking chairs to relax on. A short walk from the cabins along well kept pathways, is a spacious central lodge which has a large dining room with lovely 'picture' window view to the Bighorn Mountains, a good sized upstairs bar / sitting area, a further sitting and games rooms downstairs and a small shop selling souvenirs and western gear. For families or couples wanting a little more privacy, one of the four separate 'casitas' (suites) a few minutes' walk from the main lodge, is a good choice. Two of the casitas have one large bedroom (large kingsize bed), living area with sofa and small kitchen and two have two bedrooms and bathrooms - a large master bedroom (kingsize bed) with sitting area and another separate bedroom (you have to walk through the master bedroom to get to the second bedroom, so best for families or close friends). You can also book (supplement payable) The Hideout Home, a comfortable 3 bedroom western style house in a secluded position about 10 minutes' away from the main lodge. It has 2 large master suites, each with large bathroom (bath and walk-in shower), a smaller twin guest bedroom with bathroom, a modern kitchen and open plan living room with views to the mountains.

ACCOMMODATION cont.



MEALS

Good food is an important part of a stay at The Hideout! Meals include traditional American favourites cooked with an international flair and menus are carefully thought out. For breakfast you can help yourself to a selection of cereal, fruit, toast, bagels or muffins; there will be a daily cooked option such as quiche or pancakes and staff are always happy to prepare eggs as you wish. Lunch might be salads (many vegetables are home grown) with homemade pizza or a 'proper' burger with crisp potato wedges followed by a brownie and dinner is three courses, perhaps a soup starter, chicken or fish dish and pudding, served after evening drinks. Meals are normally eaten 'family style' at a large table in the dining room, where picture windows look out to the mountains. There is a varied bar for pre-dinner drinks, red and white wines are served with dinner and tea, coffee and soft drinks are always available (all included). When riding for a full day, a picnic is taken in saddle bags - a hearty sandwich made to your order from a selection of breads and fillings, along with snacks and a drink. Vegetarians and special diets can be well catered for but please give us notice of any special requirements when you book.



WEATHER

In summer (June, July, August), daytime temperatures in the valley around the ranch are usually between the mid to high 20sC and low 30sC (80s to mid 90s F), although it is generally 10C cooler in the mountains so there are always areas with a lovely climate for riding. In September, the average day time temperature in the valley is in the mid 20s C (75 F) and as autumn (Fall) progresses through late September / early October, day time temperatures average 16 to 20C. In late October snow often starts in the mountains, whilst midday temperatures in the valley may still be a pleasant 16C.

WHAT TO BRING

We will send you a list when you book.

ITINERARY

The following is an example itinerary for a 6 night stay at the ranch.

Day 1 (Sunday) Arrive at the Ranch in the afternoon (check-in after 14.00). Settle into your cabin and perhaps a tour of the ranch, before meeting your hosts, wranglers and other riders for drinks in the upstairs bar at about 6.30pm. Dinner at about 7.30pm and night at the ranch. (D)

Day 2 (Monday) After breakfast, meet in the Barn at about 8.30am for an introduction to the wranglers, horses and a short demonstration of riding techniques used on the ranch. Mount up and after ensuring you are well matched with your horse, tack and fellow riders, either head off on a first ride close to base or horses may be loaded into trucks and taken a little further afield to explore. Return to base for lunch at about 12.30pm and a rest before an afternoon ride or different optional activity, returning to the ranch in the late afternoon. Drinks in the main bar at about 6.30pm, then dinner and night (B,L,D)



Days 3 to 5 (Tuesday to Thursday) Three full days to enjoy the ranch with morning, afternoon and full day rides on offer. Daily riding will be organised to suit – you can chat with head wrangler Tom, manageress Rebecca and Peter and Marijn your hosts each evening to decide how much riding you would like to do the next day and there are numerous routes for morning, afternoon and full day rides. Optional riding lessons may also be available and cattle work is often on offer, moving cattle between grazing or trying your hand at penning and sorting. You can also learn to fly-fish with the ranch's guide and if you do not wish to ride, might try your hand at archery targets or trap shooting or perhaps take the afternoon off to swim and relax or for a drive into Cody, some shopping and dinner before visiting the night Rodeo in summer (extra charge). Three nights at the Hideout (B,L,D)



Day 6 (Friday) Breakfast and perhaps an all-day ride to the dramatic Copman's Peak with picnic lunch carried in saddle bags. Return to the ranch in the late afternoon for showers and time to relax before a friendly end of week BBQ with wranglers and guides. Final night at the ranch (B,L,D)

Day 7 (Saturday) Breakfast on your final day before departing (check-out 10.00). (B)

DATES & RATES 2024

Please note that due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, ride rates are quoted in USD. The sterling price will be the equivalent sterling rate using the USD/sterling exchange rate in force when you book/pay.

Rates are seasonal. 2024 seasons as follows:

Spring - 31st March to 19th May

Summer - 26th May to 13th October

Autumn - 20th to 27th October

The ranch is sometimes open on request during out-of-season dates for bookings of 8 or more guests. Please check with us for availability & rates.

Inclusive rates per person (NOTE These INCLUDE 15% compulsory gratuity & 5% Wyoming sales tax, added to all rates - see below)

6 nights (twin occupancy) - Spring USD 4020 / Summer USD 5280 / Autumn USD 4620

13 nights (twin occupancy) - Spring USD 8880 / Summer USD 10920 / Autumn USD 9360

Children - Children aged 8yrs and over are welcome at the ranch. No special children's programmes are offered but there are plenty of easy safe horses and activities such as fishing and rodeo visits to keep children occupied. Children **must** be supervised by parent(s) or a responsible adult when riding and taking part in all activities.

Rates INCLUDE - All riding (5/12 days as appropriate), guiding and equipment, other on-site activities offered (eg fly-fishing tuition, trap shooting, archery, hiking, mountain biking, and 4x4 tours), 6/13 nights twin / double cabin accommodation (single if paying supplement), meals (dinner first day to breakfast last), house wines with dinner and selection of soft drinks, wines & spirits at cocktail hour, laundry service, 5% Wyoming tax and mandatory 15% service charge which covers all gratuities.

Rates EXCLUDE - International Flights and taxes, transfers to / from the ranch, personal medical / travel insurance (which you must have), off-ranch fly fishing guides, excursions to Cody /Rodeo entrance, any visa fees.

Supplement for single occupancy (including sales tax and gratuity) -
6 nights USD 690; 13 nights USD 1170

Casitas can be booked for 2 or more people subject to availability, there's an extra charge of USD 200 per Casita. Weekly supplement to upgrade to Hideout Home - USD 2000 per party (minimum 2 people)





FLIGHTS & TRAVEL INFORMATION

The closest airport for access to the ranch is Cody (about 75 miles / 1 ½ hour's drive). You can also fly to Billings in Montana (about 150 miles / 3 hours drive). There are several flight options to Cody, generally via Denver or Salt Lake City (with United or Delta). You can also fly to Denver direct from London Heathrow with British Airways. If you would like advice on flights please contact us or you can try calling a specialised North American flight agent such as Trailfinders in London (tel. 020 7 938 3939). Airfares vary with the airline and season but budget around £950 to £1200 for an economy return. Please contact us for more flight / travel information or a quote. Our ATOL number for flight bookings is 6213.

It is recommended that guests have their own rental car. The drive from both Cody and Billings is easy and all on a tar road. There are several car hire companies in both towns (Billings has more options). Transfers can be arranged from Cody for an extra charge - please enquire.



FLIGHTS & TRAVEL INFORMATION cont.

Cody is about an hour's drive east of Yellowstone National Park. It is also home to the famous Buffalo Bill Centre of the West, one of America's largest museum complexes, which includes a Gallery of Western Art, a Firearms Museum, a Plains Indian Museum, the Buffalo Bill Museum and a Natural History Museum. Other major attractions including a nightly rodeo in summer. There are several good places to stay - for more details look at www.codywyomingnet.com and (Cody chamber of commerce) www.codychamber.org

GENERAL VISA & HEALTH INFORMATION

NB this is a brief outline - further information will be sent to you if you make a confirmed booking.

Visas If you hold a full British machine readable passport and are visiting the US for a holiday only and staying less than 90 days then you do not need a visa BUT you need to apply in advance for the visa waiver. Applications are online only and currently cost USD 21.

Health No injections are currently required as a condition of entry to the US from the UK and Europe, but the TravelHealthPro website (NaTHNaC) recommends most travellers are vaccinated against Polio and Tetanus, particularly Tetanus when spending time around horses. Please also ensure you have adequate medical / travel insurance in case of an emergency. This is particularly important for visits to the US because of the cost of medical treatment.

(DRAFT 02/10/2023)

