RIDE WORLD WIDE
WYOMING, USA
THE BITTERROOT RANCH 2027

RIDE INFORMATION

The Bitterroot Ranch lies at the head of a remote valley in the Absaroka mountains of northwest Wyoming. It borders the Wind River Indian Reservation and the Shoshone National Forest, lying in the heart of fabulous riding country. Riders at The Bitterroot are guaranteed an excellent selection of horses, small riding groups and the chance to ride through some of the most scenic landscape in the Mid-West. It is specifically geared to riders, with an emphasis on animal welfare and respect for the land around, and is a super traditional-style ranch destination for those who love beautiful scenery, horses and riding.



DATES

The Bitterroot is open every week from 30th May to 1st October 2027 and ranch stays are usually 7 nights, Sunday to Sunday, with daily riding except on Sundays. Some special riding / horsemanship clinics are planned on certain weeks of the season and there are occasional combined yoga and riding retreats. 4 night 'pack' (camping) trips are also occasionally possible in July & August. A late autumn Cattle Round Up, when cattle are brought in from summer grazing high in the National Forest and occasional Cattle Range Rider programmes, which include longer day rides on three days, helping check fences, cattle and so on, are other options. Please see dates below and contact us to check availability.

HORSES

The horses used are Arabs, Arab / Quarterhorse crosses and local ranch bred horses of mixed blood including Percheron, Appaloosa and Mustang. Many are home bred with the ranch's breeding focus Spanish and CMK Arab crosses for ranch riding. There are a few Shetlands, Welsh and Icelandic ponies of 12hh to 14hh for children and with around 170 horses in all, including foals, yearlings and youngsters and around 120 riding horses, there is an excellent selection for novice to advanced riders. The horses are of a kind, sensible temperament, fit, forward going and responsive to ride. Guests are normally allocated three horses to ride during a week's stay, so horses stay fresh, enthusiastic and well rested and riders have the challenge and variety of trying several different mounts.





TACK

Saddles are western style with a few Australian Stock saddles and English endurance saddles available.

RIDING

Whilst staying on the ranch you have the option to ride for about 3 to 6 hours a day (no riding on Sundays), with morning and afternoon rides of between 2 and 3 ½ hours each day, and a full day ride with picnic lunch usually arranged for the last Saturday of each week. The horses are trained to neck rein and a relaxed riding style of non-interference with the horse is encouraged - you will be asked to ride with loose contact with the mouth, to rise to the trot and take a forward seat at the canter, up hills or when riding over difficult ground. Those who cannot do this will be asked to have a lesson and / or only go on slower shorter rides to protect horses' backs. Riding groups are limited to a maximum of 8 guests and are lead by helpful, friendly guides (known as 'Wranglers', generally all female!) who look after you very well. On most standard weeks from July on (and occasionally earlier in the season if cows have been brought up to the ranch from lower grazing), there are opportunities to learn about working cattle, with an afternoon of 'penning and sorting' - a great cowboy skill - usually included and sometimes in July & August a chance to help move cattle from one grazing area to another. An autumn cattle round up is planned in late September and in early July there may be extra cattle work helping move cattle to summer grazing in the Shoshone National Forest - however dates of this are never guaranteed as it depends on weather locally and National Forest authority. Please contact us if you are interested in visiting the ranch particularly for cattle work.




WEIGHT LIMIT

Strictly 91kg (14 stone 4lbs or 200 lbs) in riding clothes. If you are close to this, contact us in advance.

PACE

The riding pace is varied to suit, with several rides usually taken out at any one time and guests split into small groups according to ability. Much of the going around the ranch is excellent and there are many places where you can canter, although usually on winding paths and game trails, and you are asked to stay one behind the other. There are also some steep climbs and rough, scrub-covered hills to negotiate where the pace is always slow. Overall the aim is to enjoy the natural landscape by horse rather than fast riding.

There is a small cross-country course advanced riders may try on request and lessons (often video-taped) with a certified instructor are available (usually twice a week) for beginners or for anyone wanting to brush up their technique (two group lessons are usually offered, one for beginners and one for intermediate riders). The pace on pack trips is always slow, almost all at a walk, as you climb high into the hills with a string of pack horses carrying equipment.

RIDING EXPERIENCE

With the option of joining other experienced, intermediate or novice riders (or of riding alone with a guide if this works best) and of longer, faster, or shorter, slower paced rides, both experienced & less experienced (or less energetic!) riders will be well catered for. Lessons are also a great way to improve your riding whilst on holiday

TERRAIN

The area's diversity of terrain lends itself to good riding. You can ride in all directions from the ranch and there is a huge area to cover. Even riding out for several hours, twice a day, for a week, you will only cover a small cross section and there are new routes and areas to visit each day. Terrain varies from gentle sagebrush (rather like heather) covered hills and plains, flat grassy meadows cut by streams and rivers, to steep forested hills, rocky gorges and alpine clearings with marvellous views.





PACK TRIPS

In high summer a 'pack' (camping) trip, riding over high passes and into more remote areas of the Shoshone National Forest and Absaroka Mountains, may be an option. 4 night Washakie Wilderness Rides can be organised in July and August when the weather is most stable and for a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 6 riders. These are usually Tuesday to Saturday. Other 4 night camping trips from the ranch's Cow Camp can also be organised to suit (usually Wednesday to Sunday). Contact us for more information.

WILDLIFE & HISTORY

The Shoshone National Forest is part of the largest ecosystem in the lower 48 states of the US and is an ideal habitat for moose, elk, deer and coyote as well as black and grizzly bear. You have a good chance of seeing deer, quite large herds of elk (particularly early season when snow on the peaks encourages game to venture lower down in search of food), moose and may come across signs of bears. There are also several historical and geological sites to ride to, including an old hideout of Butch Cassidy and a place in the 'badlands' with petrified bones of prehistoric animals.



NON-RIDERS, FISHING, YOGA

Non-riders are very welcome and although the ranch does not offer an organised non-riding programme, it is a wonderful place for keen fisherman, walkers, painters, anyone who enjoys yoga and those who simply want to relax and 'switch off'' in peaceful surroundings. Fly fishing for trout is excellent and the ranch has its own private stream, one or two stocked ponds and access to rivers in the Shoshone National Forest and neighbouring lakes and streams around Dubois (which is under much less fishing pressure than the area closer to Jackson Hole and many places in Montana, Colorado and Idaho). There is often at least one member of staff who will happily take time off to fish with you and local professional guides can be hired for day or half day trips at an extra charge. Please contact us for more information on fishing in the area. Yoga is another excellent offering, pioneered by Hadley Fox, a certified Vinyasa Yoga teacher who has been practicing for over 14 years. Having seen how well yoga compliments riding, Hadley holds informal yoga sessions in the dedicated 'Yoga Yurt' (usually Wednesday afternoon as an option instead of riding and Saturday after riding) which guests are always welcome to join. There are also special yoga and riding weeks (usually July and August - ask for details). Walkers can easily fill their days with several good short hikes directly from the ranch and some spectacular longer day walks in the Wind River Mountains (you may need to drive a few miles to start). The nearest town, Dubois is about 26 miles away (40 mins drive) and has several bars and shops. Those with their own transport usually enjoy visiting on a Tuesday for the weekly square dancing evening and / or on a Friday for the evening rodeo (mid-June to mid-August).



FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

Families are very welcome at The Bitterroot. There are no specially organised childrens' programmes but Richard and Hadley have a young son, there are a few childrens' ponies of 12hh to 14hh and where possible, Wranglers are happy to take children out on shorter rides, on a leading rein if required. When there are a few children staying, afternoon sessions of pony western games in the sand school may be organised and lessons, cattle sorting and penning are popular. Many children also enjoy fishing - there is usually someone to help them learn how to cast in the ranch ponds - and as well as this, the foals, dogs, lamas, pigs, chickens and sense of freedom the ranch offers, are a highlight for most children.

ACCOMMODATION

Ranch accommodation is in simple, rustic but reasonably comfortable log cabins each with private bathroom with shower and / or bath and loo. There are 12 cabins built along the banks of a clear mountain stream, all well situated and separated for seclusion and all a little different. Most were not purpose built but are either re-purposed settler cabins that have been relocated and modernised or farm buildings that have been converted.

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The aim has been to retain their rustic authenticity but also provide sufficient comfort - the cabins are cosy on cold spring and autumn nights with wood burning stoves and / or individually controlled electric heat, most have wonderful mountain views and all have a veranda outside with chairs to relax on. Beds are made up with sheets, duvets, quilts or blankets and towels are provided. Ranch evenings are in the main lodge building where there is a large informal dining room (several tables to seat groups of different numbers), a decking area outside and a sitting area, with comfortable sofas and chairs set around a large open fireplace, inside to relax in. There is also a small library room and a small games room with pool table. There is a video reorder with a few films (including some childrens' films) but no television or organised entertainment at night. Evenings are quiet and for relaxing, reading, an evening walk or spot of fishing after supper! Cabins are mainly twins / doubles with one single and two or three family cabins which have adjoining bedrooms sharing two bathrooms. Maximum capacity is 30 guests in all. On pack trips, riders camp at night, with tents, mattresses, all equipment and food carried by packhorse. These trips offer a 'wilderness' camping experience - simple camping with small tents and sleeping bags, eating around a campfire. Some help setting up camp is appreciated.





MEALS

A special effort is made with meals and much of the food is home produced. As well as home reared beef and lamb, fish is home smoked and cured, salads and vegetables come fresh from the garden and bread is home baked. The day starts with a cooked breakfast for those who wish; lunch is two courses served buffet style in the dining room and in the evenings, hors d'oeuvres are served with drinks before dinner. There is a good choice of menu including vegetarian options at every meal and a variety with an international influence, as well as US favourites. On pack trips, your guide will cook a hearty meal which is eaten around the campfire. Wine is served at the ranch as a pre-dinner drink and with dinner, and tea, coffee and soft drinks (squash or lemonade) are always available. If you prefer beer or spirits (or would like other wine or canned / soft drinks), you might wish to take your own as the ranch is not licensed to sell these.

WEATHER

The area's summer climate is perfect for riding, but mountain weather is changeable and often unpredictable so warm clothes are essential. Summer days are generally quite warm with temperatures between 15 and 30 C (60-85 degrees F), though early mornings and evenings can be cool dropping to 5C (40 F), occasionally even frosty. Rain showers are possible year round - the yearly average at The Bitterroot is about 12 inches / 30 cm. Humidity is low. Late May and June are often lovely with snow still on mountain tops, spring flowers starting to appear and days clear with blue skies - although sudden storms and snow showers are always possible early in the season so you need to be prepared. From late July to September daytime temperatures get up to about 30C (85 F), but as you are in the mountains the air is always fresh and it is never too hot to ride.



WHAT TO BRING

We will send you a list when you book.

ITINERARIES

The following is an example itinerary for a standard 7 night ranch stay. The normal daily routine is breakfast served in the main lodge dining room between 7.30 and 9.00am each day, then riders usually meet by the corrals at about 9.15am for a morning ride of up to 3 hours, returning to the ranch for lunch and a siesta at about 12.30 / 1pm. In the afternoon, a ride normally sets out at about 2.45pm for 2 or 3 hours to explore a new area. Dinner is served at the ranch at about 6.30 to 7.30pm.

Day 1 (Sunday) Transfer to the Ranch arriving between 2 and 5pm. Settle into your cabin before meeting your hosts and other riders for drinks at about 6pm. Dinner at about 7pm and the night in cabins at the ranch. (D)

Day 2 (Monday) After breakfast, meet by the corrals at about 9.15am for an introduction to the wranglers, horses and a short demonstration of riding techniques used on the ranch. Mount up and ride to the ring for a brief evaluation to ensure you are well matched with your horse, tack and fellow riders. Then time to head out into the scenic wilderness surrounding the ranch for a first view of the area and to get used to your horse. Return to base for lunch at about 12.30 - 1pm and a siesta. In the afternoon a ride out at about 2.45pm to explore a different area returning to the ranch in the late afternoon. Meet for a drink at about 6pm, then dinner and night (B,L,D)

Days 3 to 6 (Tuesday to Friday) Four full days to enjoy the ranch with morning, afternoon and full day rides. Optional riding lessons are usually offered on Tuesday and Thursday each week (generally group lessons for different standards of rider) and (depending on the season) cattle work may be another option, either moving cattle between grazing, or a friendly sorting and penning competition (teams against the clock!) usually organised for Friday afternoons. Tuesday night between July and mid August is Square Dancing night in the local town of Dubois and Friday is Rodeo Night when dinner is at 6.30 pm prompt to allow those who wish to go into town for the 8pm start (B,L,D)

Day 7 (Saturday) On Saturday each week, there is normally an all day ride with picnic lunch carried in saddle bags. This takes you high into the mountains where there are marvellous panoramic views of the whole area. Day rides may also be arranged earlier in the week on request. If you don't wish to ride, there are some wonderful places to fish (fishing guides arranged on request), walk, or to simply relax in glorious, peaceful surroundings with a good book! (B,L,D)

Day 8 (Sunday) Breakfast on your final day before departing. (B)



Autumn Cattle Round Up - 24th September to 1st October:
During this week cattle will be moved from grazing allotments in the Shoshone National Forest back to the ranch. There are five grazing 'allotments' in all in the National Forest and each year the Forest Service tell the ranchers which to use. Although the amount of cattle work depends on the grazing allotments allocated, this week is usually a wonderful opportunity to test your skills at gathering, driving and sorting cattle from the back of a good horse. Nights are spent at the ranch with dinner there each day. Lunches is normally be a picnic out riding. (Note - first option on places on this week are given to return guests and it generally fills quickly!)

DATES & RATES 2027

Please note that 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.

7 night stay, Sunday to Sunday, 30th May to 19th September 2027
[NB private riding / training clinics and yoga and riding retreats are running during some weeks although non-clinic riding guests may also be taken - please contact us to check availability]

Adult, riding - USD 3960 per person
Adult, non-rider (including fisherman) - USD 2880 per person
Children 4yrs - 12 yrs (25% discount) - USD 2970 per person

Cattle Range Rider Programme - USD 4080 per person
(includes day rides on 2 days in the week, as well as Saturday, checking cattle, fences etc)
2nd to 9th August 30th August to 6th September

Autumn Cattle Roundup - USD 4080 per person
24th September to 1st October

Yoga and Riding retreats - USD 4080 per person
4th to 11th July 15th to 22nd August

Rates INCLUDE - All riding (6 days), guiding and equipment, 7 nights **twin share** cabin accommodation, meals (dinner first day to breakfast last day), wine with dinner, some soft drinks, optional group yoga sessions, Wyoming Sales tax and a mandatory 10% service charge which covers all gratuities. A laundry service is also available at the ranch.
(Contact us for Yoga & Riding Retreat details)

Rates EXCLUDE - Flights, transfers to / from the ranch, single occupancy supplements (see below), personal medical / travel insurance (which you must have), extra drinks (beer, spirits, upgraded wine, cokes etc - please bring your own), any fishing licenses required, any visa fees.

Single rooms - Rates are based on **twin / shared** cabins and a supplement of **USD 360** per person per week (including 10 % service charge and 10% sales tax) is charged for single cabin occupancy. There is one single studio cabin which can be booked without a supplement if available (contact us to check), OR if you are travelling alone but prepared to share let us know and we will see if we can find a sharer (not guaranteed as it depends on another guest being willing to share! You will need to pay the supplement to confirm your booking and if we find a sharer, this will be refunded).



FLIGHT & TRAVEL INFORMATION

The nearest airports to the ranch are Jackson Hole and Riverton (about 105 and 85 miles from the ranch respectively) and we can arrange for you to be collected from and returned to either by a local taxi company for an extra charge. Most people use Jackson Hole. There are no direct flights from the UK but are various routings via US 'hub' cities (eg Denver, Salt Lake City, Dallas Fort Worth) with US airlines such as American, United and Delta and you can also fly to Denver direct from the UK with British Airways. If you would like a quote for flights please contact us or if you plan to travel around in the USA, for flight information we suggest 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 £750 to £1200 for an economy return to Jackson.

Transfers from / to Jackson and Riverton We generally recommend car hire and driving to the ranch as this is usually the cheapest transfer option and also gives the most flexibility - we will send directions. It is an easy drive, taking about 2 ½ hours from Jackson and 2 hours from Riverton, with the last 16 miles on a dirt road. There is no need for a 4X4 - although one is useful if you wish to fish /explore off road when at the ranch. There are several car hire companies in Jackson / Riverton (Avis, Hertz, Budget) and car hire can be booked through central reservation offices in the UK. Having your own transport also enables you to visit the local town, Dubois, during the week.

If you prefer, a taxi service from Jackson /Riverton can be arranged with a local transfer company. As a guide (always subject to change) rates from Jackson airport will be approx. USD 280 per vehicle each way.



Accommodation & information for before / after your stay
In Jackson Jackson is a small town that has grown to service tourists visiting the area for its wonderful winter skiing and summer walking and riding. There are many hotels, motels, shops and restaurants and it is a pleasant place to stay if you need accommodation for a night or two before or after your ranch stay. Accommodation is largely split between the older 'downtown' area and the newer 'Teton village' with some lodges and ranches in their own grounds further out of town. Hotels get booked well ahead so **forward planning** is essential in summer. Downtown accommodation includes the 4* Wort Hotel; The Lexington; Inn on the Creek; Rusty Parrot Lodge and The Alpine House all of which are centrally located on, or a very short (maximum about 5 minutes) walk from, the main downtown area, where there are shops, bars and restaurants. There are plenty of others.

In and around Yellowstone National Park Yellowstone (South Entrance via the Grand Teton National Park) is about a 2 hour drive from Dubois and about 58 miles from Jackson. A few days touring the Park and surrounding country makes a good add-on to a stay at The Bitterroot**.**

All commercial operations within the Yellowstone Park boundaries (lodging, restaurants, tour guides, etc.) are operated by specially allocated concession - no one else is allowed to operate within the Park itself. For lodging (including camping reservations) within the Yellowstone Park boundaries, reservations can be made through their website http://www.yellowstonenationalparklodges.com/
(Telephone + 1 307 344 7311) or through Xanterra Parks and Resorts (www.xanterra.com), the official provider of all in-park lodging in Yellowstone.

There are 11 serviced campgrounds within the Park, 5 of which can be reserved through the website as above. The others operate on a 'first come first served' basis. If you are thinking of camping, bear in mind that you will need your own tent(s) and equipment - and also that weather in the Park area is often unreliable!

Just outside the Yellowstone Park boundaries, you can stay in the spectacular **Grand Teton National Park**, south of Yellowstone and north of Jackson. Lodges here include Jackson Lake Lodge or Jenny Lake Lodge.

Colter Bay is another simple option. There are also 3 campgrounds (Colter Bay, Gros Ventre and Jenny Lake). Space in these for small groups (up to 10) and single sites is available on a 'first come / first served' basis.
For more information visit the Grand Teton website at http://www.gtlc.com or
http://www.nationalparkreservations.com

West Yellowstone is at the **west** gate of Yellowstone, about 45 miles from Jackson Hole. For hotels here look at www.wyellowstone.com

Cody, Wyoming is an interesting town **east** of the Park. It is home to the famous Buffalo Bill Historical Centre, 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. Cody also has several other
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

Guiding / getting around the Parks Maps are provided at the entrance gates to Yellowstone and you can easily find your way around using these. There are a large number of walk-ways and places of interest are signed. If you stay at a lodge by the Park gates / just outside the Park, your lodge will be able to arrange guides (for both Parks) but guides are not really necessary.

GENERAL VISA & HEALTH INFORMATION

(NB this is only 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 around USD 40.

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 02/11/2026)

