RIDE WORLD WIDE
WYOMING, USA
THE HIDEOUT 2027

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. The ranch caters for around 25 guests each week, has over 100 horses and access to 650,000 acres of varied landscapes. Lots of riding, a chance to try simple 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 for any rider 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 nights, starting Sundays ending Saturday. Please contact us to check availability.

HORSES

There are over 100 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 owners Marijn and Peter and their 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 western style 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, 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. There is often a chance to learn about stockmanship and some basic cattle skills - the ranch has its own small herd of cattle (mostly yearlings) which usually graze on paddocks close to the ranch buildings and there is an opportunity most weeks to learn how to move cattle in a gentle stress-free way and to try 'penning' and sorting, a great cowboy skill. Lessons are not offered but the 'wranglers' who ride with you are happy to give informal assistance to novice riders or anyone wishing to improve if you wish. There is no riding on Sundays. Riding is western style with horses trained to neck rein and a relaxed riding style of non-interference with the horse encouraged. Marijn, who is overall horse manager at the ranch, has a Level 4 Parelli certification and the focus is on gentle stress-free horse and stockmanship techniques. There will be an 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 trying cattle work. You may also ride in a smaller group (and perhaps even alone with a guide if that works best) - the ranch's staff to guest ratio means you can always ride with a group of similar ability. You will usually ride at least two different horses during your stay, depending where you are riding each day.





WEIGHT LIMIT

Strict 16 ½ stone (230 lbs / about 104 kgs). Please contact us (and be honest - you will be weighed on arrival!) if you are close to this so we can be sure suitable horses are available. No riding if over this limit.

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 will 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. There are also chances for experienced riders to enjoy a faster pace where the ground allows, with energetic trots and relaxed canters (‘loping’) on sandy paths and across open grassy pasture. The ranch has 7 or so large stock trailers, pulled by comfortable air-conditioned 4x4s and, as is often the case on big US ranches, for most rides horses are ‘trailered-out’, that is driven 5 to about 15 mins or so from the main base to start riding. This avoids tedious roadwork and repeatedly 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 as far as possible to suit. There are no formal lessons but informal assistance is given to those who have not done much before or wish to improve during their stay. These focus on ‘understanding’ your horse as well as basic riding technique. Riding fitness always means you will enjoy the riding experience much more and we strongly recommend concentrated practice in the months before you go to accustom yourself to the saddle hours.



TERRAIN

The ranch is a few miles from the small hamlet of Shell (population about 74) 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 wildflowers 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 lovely swimming pool and various optional activities for your downtime, make it a great choice for those with mixed interests. There will be a chance each evening to chat with your hosts about what you would like to do the next day. For those interested, Marijn often offers a non-riding clinic aimed at understanding horses - popular with guests of all riding levels. 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 (except during 'spring melt' which is usually around mid-May to end June) in the 10 miles of streams and creeks that run through the ranch property. Private fishing guides are bookable on request (extra charge) for experienced fisherman wishing to test rivers a little further afield (book professional guides well ahead, they are much in demand). A Wyoming fishing licence is required for each day you fish (extra charge - buy locally). Other on-site activities include archery and trap-shooting (minimum age 12 years) with access to a remote control thrower and targets set up on one or more afternoons each week. There are always plenty of opportunities to walk (from a leisurely stroll close to the ranch to an energetic hike in the mountains) and you can also explore on a mountain bike (relaxed around the ranch or more challenging trails further afield - let us know in advance if you would like to bike so suitable equipment can be organised). The Shell Store café and Shell Bar are popular meeting places to hear local stories and in June, July and August, if you have transport, Cody night rodeo is great fun – drive into town, have dinner in a restaurant and visit the famous evening rodeo at 8pm (all extra charge). The ranch's 60' x 18' heated swimming pool is open (usually) mid to late May until mid-October 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 a secluded, shady pool-house with sun loungers and closer to the ranch, a hot tub open year-round. A number of games (table football, pool table etc) are available in the main ranch building to keep children fully occupied.



ACCOMMODATION

Ranch accommodation 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, heating / air conditioning and extras such as hairdryer, fridge, coffee maker and iron, as well as their own Wi-Fi. 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 est 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. This has 2 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.





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 mid 30sC, 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 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.



ITINERARIES

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 daily riding organised to suit - you can chat with your hosts each evening to decide how much riding you would like to do the next day. There are numerous routes for morning, afternoon and full day rides and low-key cattle work may also be an option with an afternoon learning how to gently move cattle between grazing or to try 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, trap shooting or perhaps take the afternoon off to swim and relax, or visit Cody (own transport required). Three nights 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 2027

Please note Ranch 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. 2027 seasons as follows:
Spring - 28th March to 23rd May
Summer - 30th May to 17th October
Autumn - 24th to 31st October
The ranch sometimes opens on request out of seasons for bookings of 8 or more. Please check with us for availability & rates.

Rates per person (NOTE Rates below are the **BASE** rates charged to which **an additional 15% service charge, 5% Wyoming Sales tax and (lodging element only) 5% Wyoming Lodging tax** will be added**.** The service charge and taxes are **compulsory** and will be added to base rates below - please ask for a detailed costing when you enquire (for budgeting purposes assume 25% added to base rates below although the way Wyoming taxes apply, means the total will be a little less than this).
6 nights (twin share) - Spring USD 3,990 / Summer USD 5,300 / Autumn USD 4,580
(To incl. taxes & service budget approx.: Spring USD 4,988 / Summer USD 6,625 / Autumn USD 5,725
13 nights (twin share) - Spring USD 8,600 / Summer USD 11,225 / Autumn USD 9,150
To incl. taxes & service budget approx. Spring USD 10,750 / Summer USD 14,030 / Autumn USD 11,438)

Children - Children aged 8yrs and over are welcome at the ranch. No special children's programmes are offered but there are plenty of easy and reliable horses that competent children can ride. Children **must** be supervised by parent(s) or a responsible adult when riding and taking part in **any activity**.

Rates INCLUDE - All riding (5/12 days as appropriate), guiding and equipment, other on-site activities offered (eg basic fly-fishing, trap shooting, archery, hiking, mountain biking), 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.

Rates EXCLUDE - International Flights and taxes, 15% service charge, 5% Wyoming Sales tax and 5% Wyoming Lodging tax, transfers to / from the Ranch, lunch on first / last day, personal medical / travel insurance (which you **must** have), off-ranch fly fishing guides, Wyoming fishing licences, any off site excursions eg to Cody, Rodeo entrance fees, any visa fees and personal extras.

Supplement for Single occupancy (excludes taxes & service charge) - 6 nights USD 575; 13 nights USD 975
Supplement for Casita (if available) - usually USD 200 (per week per Casita). Please ask.
Supplement for Hideout Home - USD 2000 per party (min 2).



FLIGHT & TRAVEL INFORMATION

The closest public airport to the ranch is Cody (about 75 miles / 1 ½ hours' drive) or you can fly to Billings in Montana (about 145 miles / 2 ½ hours' drive). Only United fly to Cody, generally via Denver or Salt Lake City; there are a few more options to Billings. You can also fly direct from London Heathrow to Denver with British Airways. It is then about 8 hours' drive to Cody.

We do not book flights to the US but for advice on flights you might like to contact a specialised North American CAA authorised flight agent (such as Trailfinders in London tel. 020 7 938 3939) who can access various options. Airfares vary with airline and season but budget around £950 to £1200 for an economy return.

We highly recommend hiring your own car to get to The Hideout. The drive from both Cody and Billings is easy and all on tar. There are several car hire companies in both towns (Billings has more options). If you prefer not to drive, transfers can be arranged from Cody with an independent transfer company for an extra charge but these are quite expensive unless sharing (around USD 700 round trip for up to 4). Please ask for more details.

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 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 of less than 90 days you do not need a visa BUT **you DO need to apply in advance for the visa waiver (ESTA).** Applications are online only and currently cost 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 Tetanus, particularly as you will be spending time around horses. It is also **very important** to ensure you have adequate medical / travel insurance in case of an emergency due to the cost of medical treatment in the US.

(DRAFT 09/11/2026)

