

TRAVEL SPECIAL PROMOTION

WESTERN VACATION ROUNDUP

If horses are in your blood, wide-open Western spaces make your heart happy and you dream of vacationing in horse country, don't miss *Western Horseman's* collection of travel destinations, events and clinics. To get you started, here's an overview of some great getaway options.



Top 5 Vacation Ideas for Horse People

1 Backcountry Excursions (outfitters, trail rides, etc.)

These types of vacations offer the best scenery that the West has to offer. You can soak up the peace and solitude at the cabins at southwestern New Mexico's Geronimo Trail Guest Ranch. For camping or cabin accommodations in the West, don't miss Montana's 7 Lazy P Outfitters and Utah's Hondo Rivers and Trails. Many of these destinations boast breathtaking scenery in National Parks best experienced by horseback, such as the Bob Marshall Wilderness (7 Lazy P Outfitting), Bryce Canyon National Park (Ruby's Horseback Adventures), Gila National Forest (Geronimo Trail Guest Ranch) and Capitol Reef National Park (Hondo Rivers and Trails). Some vacation trips traverse multiple national parks, like the Red Rock Ride and Sombrero Ranches Horse Drive. To find a dude or guest ranch, don't miss the locations curated by the Dude Ranchers' Association.

2 Cowboy Towns (historic towns and their attractions, such as museums)

History and community merge in some parts of the West, offering visitors a slice of a bygone era. Towns such as Wickenburg, Arizona, offer something for horse lovers, shoppers, outdoorsmen and history buffs alike. And Wickenburg is home to the Desert Caballeros Western Museum, which hosts events including the Cowgirl Up! Western Art Show.

3 Horsemanship Clinics

If your ideal vacation means brushing up on your horsemanship skills, many of the destinations listed here offer that chance. For example, Peter Campbell Horsemanship Clinics in Wyoming are designed to take you to the next level with your horse, whether it is green or finished, dressage-trained or a cutter.

4 Western Events (rodeos, art and gear shows, festivals, gatherings)

You can plan your vacation around special Western events for a chance to gather with tack or art enthusiasts. Events such as the Cowgirl Up! Art Show, Durango Cowboy Poetry Gathering, and Trappings of Texas gear and art show, and the Winnemucca Ranch Hand Rodeo offer attendees the chance to meet artisans and have an opportunity to purchase truly special pieces.

5 Working Ranch Vacations

Some vacations offer guests the experience of a real working ranch—nothing touristy about it. We've included Rowse's 1+1 Ranch as a great option for such a trip. You'll feel a part of the family as you contribute to the daily tasks of running the ranch. You'll leave rejuvenated, with a new respect for the ranching lifestyle.

TRAPPINGS OF TEXAS



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DESTINATIONS

7 Lazy P Outfitting

Choteau, Montana

Website: 7lazyp.com

Contact: 406-466-2245; 7lazyp@3rivers.net

Nestled in the forest on Montana's Rocky Mountain Front, 7 Lazy P Outfitting offers visitors peace and solitude. Facilities include five quaint guest cabins and a historic lodge. Guests stay in these accommodations prior to backcountry trips to the Bob Marshall Wilderness, as well as the night they return from the mountains.

Owned and run by Dusty and Danelle Crary, the 7 Lazy P can host special events at the ranch, such as family gatherings, retreats and meetings. Guests are well cared for by the 7 Lazy P crew, and are made to feel part of the family. The operation focuses on summer backcountry pack trips to iconic destinations in the "Bob," with an additional season of fall hunting. Pack-in archery hunts, bugle-season rifle hunts, and ranch and private land hunting opportunities are also available.

The Bob is 2 million acres of wild country with no motor vehicles allowed. Access is limited to those on foot or horseback. To be immersed in such a special place on the back of a horse with a string of mules packing all the gear, and led by a top-notch crew, makes a trip with 7 Lazy P Outfitting unforgettable. Passionate horse people will quickly recognize and appreciate the care and level of stockmanship that 7 Lazy P upholds. The company's stock is seasoned, well cared for and appointed with excellent equipment. Guests receive thorough horsemanship training and can build on it during the trip if they desire. Hearty, wholesome meals are provided to guests and include the company's own home-raised grass-fed beef and local products.

Rowses' 1+1 Ranch

Burwell, Nebraska

Website: 1plus1ranch.com

Contact: 308-346-5530;

tammy@1plus1ranch.com

If you're looking for a vacation where you have real riding freedom and a chance to be a genuine part of the ranch's riding and ranching lifestyle, don't miss Rowses' 1+1 Ranch in the Nebraska Sandhills.

Founders Jerry and Tammy Rowse have

been ranching in the same area for six generations. Guests become true ranchers and friends to the couple while experiencing everyday ranch life. From driving and sorting cattle aboard well-trained Quarter Horses, to doctoring and looking for that lost stray in the thick junipers, you'll be involved in exactly what the ranchers are doing. You'll perform these vital ranching duties aboard a horse that's yours for the duration of your stay. The visit is enhanced for guests with delicious home-cooked meals taken with the ranchers in their home.

Jerry and Tammy's son Kyle and his wife, Traci, also work on the ranch. Guests are limited to a small number of adults, so you won't get lost in the crowd. As a guest, you'll be thrown into the ranching lifestyle from day one of your stay, allowing you to truly live the ranching experience. You'll enjoy genuine hospitality from the open, friendly ranch folks in the community. Guests traverse wide-open range in the Nebraska Sandhills, one of four remaining regional intact temperate grasslands in the world.

Ruby's Horseback Adventures

Bryce Canyon City, Utah

Website: horserides.net

Contact: 866-782-0002;

horserides@rubysinn.com

Ruby's Horseback Adventures guides trail riders though some of the most scenic areas around Bryce Canyon National Park. The company features a four-day horseback ride with nightly campfire cookouts and entertainment, and deluxe lodging at the Best Western Bryce Canyon Grand Hotel. The Bryce Canyon area has miles of horseback riding trails, and Ruby's Horseback Adventures is a great way to experience the park.

Riders can bring their own horses and camp, or stay in the hotel. Horse boarding facilities are available and included in the price of the ride. Ruby's also has horses available for rent.

Ruby's Horseback Adventures is located at the entrance to Bryce Canyon National Park. Visitors can stay in one of the area's three hotels and visit four restaurants and a general store. Horses can be boarded at an 18-stall horse motel. With rodeos four nights a week from Memorial Day through August, you'll have lots of entertainment options. Guided horseback rides range in length from 1½ hours to all day.

The most scenic rides available with Ruby's Horseback Adventures are in Red Canyon. The Thunder Mountain ride offers

great views and lots of "hoodoos"—or rock formations—in orange and cream colors. Other rides retrace some of the routes used by the famous outlaw Butch Cassidy. On the all-day ride, you will see one of the first hideouts used by Cassidy.

While in the Bryce Canyon area, let Ruby's Horseback Adventures be your source of adventure and make memories that will last a lifetime. Check out Ruby's Horseback Adventures on Facebook.

Dude Ranchers' Association

Website: duderanch.org

Contact: info@duderanch.org;

866-399-2339

Find your perfect vacation through Dude Ranchers' Association. Since 1926, the association has curated the best dude and guest ranches in the West. The more than 100 ranches listed on the association's website undergo a rigorous membership process that includes inspection and adherence to the association's values. You can quickly find all the information you need—including reviews—on the site. The organization has added three new member ranches this year.

For an unplugged vacation for your whole family, consider visiting a dude or guest ranch. Ideal for riders of all levels, these types of destinations have horses to match everyone's ability. Options include breakfast rides, fast rides, wine and cheese rides, all-day rides and half-day rides. At some ranches you get the opportunity to work cattle and hone your horsemanship skills.

Dude and guest ranches are located in some of the most pristine, spectacular country in the West. You can choose scenic mountain rides or vast open meadows, or meander along a creek bottom. You can find exactly what you're searching for in a riding program, and some ranches pair you with one horse for the entire trip, allowing you to bond at a greater level. With a dude and guest ranch vacation, you can personalize your experience.

Dude and guest ranch vacations have something for everyone, even the non-riders of the group. Dining at a dude ranch can range from home-style cooking to the finest in Western cuisine. Some of the ranches have added specialty experiences, such as cooking classes and wellness weeks. Through the association, you can find ranches that offer fishing on

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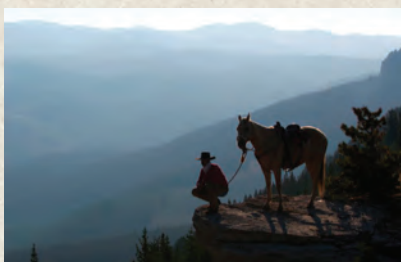


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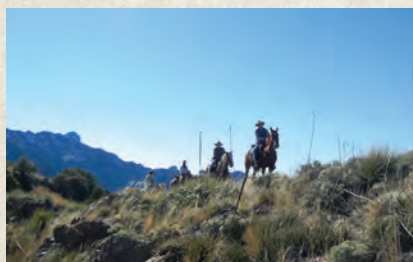


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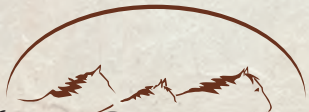


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Geronimo Trail Guest Ranch

Winston, New Mexico

Website: geronimoranch.com

Contact: 575-772-5157

In the middle of the breathtaking, untouched Gila National Forest in the mountains of southwest New Mexico lies Geronimo Trail Guest Ranch. This small ranch features a great variety of terrain, from open meadows to Ponderosa forest. Guests can climb to mountaintops with vistas for miles, or—a particular highlight—ride through 500-foot-deep canyons with sheer cliffs and crystal-clear spring-fed streams.

The area boasts a rich history spanning the last 2,000 years, beginning with the Mimbres people who lived in pit houses and cliff dwellings between 200-1150 AD. The famous Apache warrior Geronimo was born near the ranch, and this area is the homeland of the Chiricahua Apaches. Basque people came through the area with herds of sheep 100 years ago, and the shelters they built can still be seen. A few miles from the ranch, you can view the remains of a tin mine from 1930-1970.

At 3.3 million acres, the Gila National Forest is the largest federal land mass in the continental United States. Geronimo Trail Guest Ranch focuses on trail riding to see the beautiful scenery from horseback. This is an ideal destination for those who love horseback riding.

The ranch takes great care to have well-trained and well-cared-for horses, and uses good-quality, comfortable tack. Thanks to the small group size, the ranch's husband-and-wife owners can really get to know you and can cater your trip to fit your wishes.

Riding aside, guests can visit 1,000-year-old archeological sites right near the ranch, enjoy campfires at night complete with s'mores and sing-a-longs, fantastic stargazing, unguided hiking, outdoor and indoor games, roping lessons, photography, swimming in the creek, or just reading a good book on one of the ranch's bench swings.



Hondoo Rivers and Trails

Torrey, Utah

Website: hondoo.com

Contact: 435-425-3519; info@hondoo.com

Hondoo Rivers and Trails offers guests personalized service during backcountry exploration of Utah's Colorado Plateau. Since 1975, Pat Kearney and Gary George have run the operation based in the midst of the canyonlands at Torrey, Utah, near Capitol Reef National Park. The location has recently been designated a Heritage Dark Sky destination, providing guests with a spectacular view of the big Western night sky during overnight camping sessions.

Hondoo offers a full schedule of horseback riding, hiking and Jeep tours featuring camping or inn lodging. Options include custom day or multi-day trips that allow you to travel by Jeep, by horse or on foot. Pat and Gary implement low-impact and "Leave No Trace" techniques, such as small group size,



well-maintained equipment and top-notch horses.

Guests can enjoy the stunningly diverse Utah landscape featuring red rock formations and canyons, pristine meadows and alpine forests surrounded by mountains in solitude or with group itineraries. Because the region has such varied topography a short distance from Hondoo headquarters, the company offers trail-riding trips for a longer season than most destinations.

Hondoo offers flexibility when planning appropriate and always memorable trail rides, working with you to create a customized itinerary for you, your family or your group. Hondoo is locally owned and operated with a long history with and deep familiarity of the landscape and region. On camping trips, Hondoo features hormone-free, grass-fed beef, as well as locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables. The company provides all the necessary equipment for riding and camping in complete comfort.

Other activities available in the regions include hiking, biking, limitless horseback riding, fishing, wildlife viewing and even simply a quiet picnic within places such as Zion National Park, Bryce National Park and a multitude of state parks.

Wickenburg, Arizona

Website: wickenburgchamber.com and visitwickenburg.com

Contact: 216 North Frontier Street, Wickenburg, Arizona 85390; 928-684-0977; info@wickenburgchamber.com

Wickenburg, Arizona, is a desert paradise for horse lovers. Founded in 1863 by ranching and mining pioneers, Arizona's Most Western Community is located in the central part of the state, offering a mild climate ideal for horsemen seeking a welcoming community for the winter. Surrounded by high Sonoran desert and mountains and nestled into the Hassayampa Valley, Wickenburg is a beautiful setting for trail riding, team roping, barrel racing and relaxing.

Visitors and locals hike trails lined with wildflowers and cacti, ride horses, and then ride in a Jeep to experience natural trails and historic places. You can fish nearby lakes, participate in or watch team roping at local arenas, ride a mountain bike, golf, take a stroll around Wickenburg's historic downtown, attend annual heritage events, or sit and watch the sunset. The community boasts active

horse groups, daily equestrian events in the winter and spring, and many competitions, such as the National Senior Pro Rodeo held during Gold Rush Days.

Local attractions include the Desert Caballeros Western Museum, where artwork, new and existing exhibits, programs and Western memorabilia capture your attention. Wickenburg is also home to the Webb Center, a 600-seat performing arts facility where national entertainers from Western

music to jazz to ballet perform throughout the year.

Annual heritage events include Gold Rush Days & Rodeo in February; Desert Caballeros Ride and Las Damas ride in April; Fiesta in September; Fly-In & Classic Car Show in October; Bluegrass Festival in November; and Electric Light Parade and Cowboy Christmas Poets Gathering in December. All upcoming event information is located on the calendar of events at outwickenburgway.com. You can also



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check out the community's Facebook page at facebook.com/wickenburgaz.

EVENTS

Durango Cowboy Poetry Gathering

Durango, Colorado

Website: durangocowboypoeetrygathering.org

Contact: 970-749-2995,
lindamannix.durango.net

The 29th annual Durango Cowboy Poetry Gathering is slated for October 5–8, 2017, at the historic Strater Hotel in downtown Durango, Colorado. Started in 1989 by hatmaker Kevin O'Farrell, the Gathering has grown to a full four-day event celebrating the ranching industry and the cowboy culture.

This year, the Durango Cowboy Poetry Gathering will focus on the funny side of ranch life. The Premier Show on Thursday, October 5, is called "Laughing Stock," and it will feature four well-known cowboy humorists: Andy Nelson, R.P. Smith, Gary McMahan and ranch woman Terry Henderson. This theme of cowboy humor will be carried through to the Saturday Daytime

Sessions, where another special show called "Cowboy Comedy Revue" will feature many of the performers doing their best and funniest poetry and songs.

New for 2017 will be the return of the youth show, "Rising Western Stars," featuring young poets and musicians showing their talents. The Gathering will be screening Doug Morrione's new documentary film *Everything in the Song is True*. This film features Gary McMahan, Yvonne Hollenbeck, Brice Chapman and Jeff Nourse, all telling their stories about life in the West. McMahan and Hollenbeck are featured performers at the Gathering, and will have a question-and-answer session after the screening of the film.

Evening performers for the 2017 event include Hollenbeck, Trinity Seely, Otto Rosfeld, Floyd Beard and many others. Visit the event website for a complete list of performers.

Visit the Durango Cowboy Poetry Gathering website or Facebook page for updates and to order tickets. Book your hotel or motel reservations early, as the town is usually sold out during the Gathering. Stay at the Strater Hotel (strater.com) to be close to the action.

Museum of the Big Bend's Trappings of Texas

Alpine, Texas

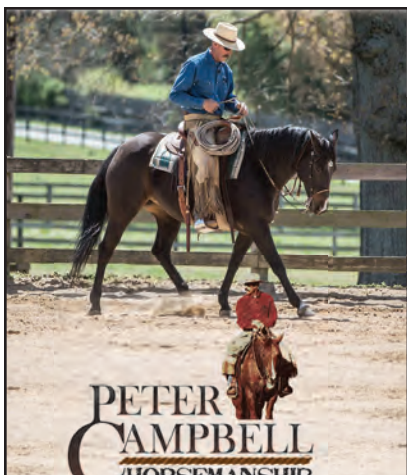
Website: museumofthebigbend.com

Contact: 432-837-8143;

maggie.rumbelow@sulross.edu

Trappings of Texas is celebrating its 31st year of bringing together the best in Western art along with custom cowboy gear. The show is hosted by the Museum of the Big Bend on the campus of Sul Ross State University in Alpine, in the heart of cattle country in the Big Bend area of Texas—the Last Frontier of Texas. Opening Weekend is April 20–22, and the works will remain on exhibit until May 28.

Trappings of Texas began as a way to bring working cowboy gearmakers and artists together for camaraderie and collaboration. It became an avenue where cowboy culture could blend together; and today, it draws buyers from around the country with a deep appreciation to excellence in the artistry, standards and craftsmanship of Western trappings. It offers a great opportunity for collectors to meet up-and-coming artists and purchase their work.



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MAY 27-29	WILLIAMS LAKE, BC
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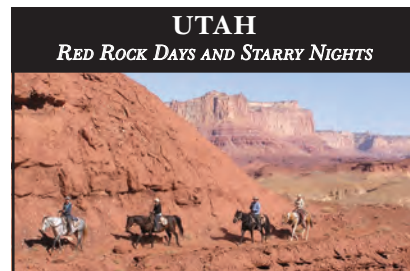


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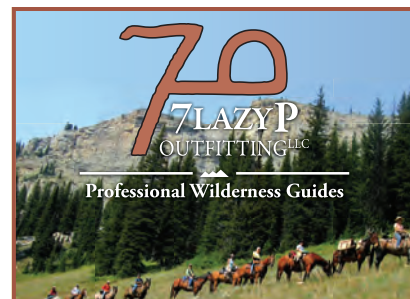
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Trappings artists Brody Bolton and Kathryn Leitner will talk about their areas of expertise. Leitner, of Kingfisher, Oklahoma, will lead a talk and demonstration on colored pencil work; while Bolton, of Gardendale, Texas, will demonstrate the fine art of leather tooling.

The third annual Ranch Round Up Party will be held on the historic Neville Ranch, south of Alpine. Past Ranch Round Up parties were hosted at the Flying W Ranch and the Meriwether Ranch. The Ranch Round Up events are on private ranches and gives attendees the rare opportunity to visit these ranches while enjoying a great meal in a spectacular West Texas setting.

Winnemucca Ranch Hand Rodeo Winnemucca, Nevada

Website: ranchrodeonv.com

Contact: 800-962-2638;

michelle@winnemucca.com

The Winnemucca Ranch Hand Rodeo began with a little friendly competition hosted by the Dufurrena brothers. Originally held in the fall at the end of haying season, the rodeo is now held at the beginning of March. Everyone has

been holed up over the winter and is just itchin' to get into town to have some fun and visit with friends and family. The event takes place at the Winnemucca Event Complex in Winnemucca, Nevada, March 1–5, 2017. Focused on ranching culture, it is the largest and most exciting ranch rodeo in Nevada.

The rodeo's Barrel Bash includes a Futurity Derby co-sanctioned by ACBRA, Barrels for Bailey, BBR, BRN4D, and SIBRA. Added money totals more than \$13,000. Other activities include one of the biggest two-day cow dog trials in the West. The Ranch, Rope, and Performance Horse Sale continues to earn prestige with high-quality consignments from some of the best horsemen in the West. Other activities include pee wee events, a ranch horse competition and a huge Western trade show. And the highlight of the event is the rodeo itself, which runs Saturday and Sunday. Rodeo attendees are treated to the Jeff Palmer Band on Friday, and Saturday evening at the Winners Casino.

Cowgirl Up! Western Art Show Wickenburg, Arizona

Website: westernmuseum.org

Contact: 928-684-2272

For a dozen years, Cowgirl Up! Art from the Other Half of the West has been an award-winning invitational exhibition and sale offering a variety of contemporary and traditional artwork by premier women artists of the West. Held at the Desert Caballeros Western Museum in Wickenburg, Arizona, surrounded by the Sonoran Desert of central Arizona, the exhibition begins March 24–27, with most of the artists in attendance for the opening weekend. The exhibition and sale runs through Sunday, May 7, 2017.

Much more than a one-time exhibition, Cowgirl Up! is a gathering place for the women artists themselves. Many have said this is one of the few exhibitions they personally attend because of the comfortable community atmosphere and interactive experiences with fellow female contemporaries. For the first time, a glass mosaic artist—Angela Babbly—will be featured.

Beginning on Friday, March 24, the opening weekend kicks off with an exhibition preview from 2 to 3 p.m.,

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Andy Nelson ★ R.P. Smith ★ Terry Henderson
Gary McMahan



"SAMMY" painting by ELIZABETH KINAHAN

DurangoCowboyPoetryGathering.org
Information: 970-749-2995 



followed by the Patron & Artist Party and Miniature Sale. The exhibition preview is Saturday, with an artists and collectors forum at 11 a.m. The Bash n' Bid Sale and Live Auction is Saturday from 4:30 to 9 p.m. The Artist Quick Draw on Sunday Morning from 9 a.m. to noon is popular. About 20 artists are stationed along Frontier Street in front of the Museum, and they have 90 minutes to create a work of art from scratch. The Quick Draw concludes with a lively auction where attendees bid on the pieces, often before the paint is even dry.

Cowgirl Up! Is a culturally rich art experience not to be missed. Tickets for opening weekend events may be purchased online or over the phone. And for the first time, the Cowgirl Up! art will be available to view and purchase on the museum's website beginning on Monday, March 27, 2017.

TRAIL RIDES

Red Rock Ride

Arizona and Utah

Website: redrockride.com;

facebook.com/redrockride/
Contact: keela@redrockride.com;
robert@redrockride.com

The Red Rock Ride is an adventure through unbelievable, varied scenery aboard quality horses and mules. Beginning in Las Vegas, Nevada, the 7-day ride visits Zion National Park, Bryce Canyon National Park, Thunder Mountain Trail, Butch Cassidy Trail and the Paria River in the Grand Staircase National Monument, which guests cite as a particular highlight, as riders travel through a slot canyon for 30 miles with breathtaking scenery. The ride concludes with the Grand Canyon before returning to Vegas. Every day offers a different visual experience for riders.

For more than a dozen years, the Houston and Mangum families have partnered to provide a truly special experience for guests. The Mangums have more than 35 years' experience guiding riders through Zion, Bryce and Grand Canyon national parks. They have 250 horses in their operation and dozens of mules. This ride has a 24-year history, and

the group has guided more than 2,000 riders on the Red Rock Ride through the years. The company will embark on its 100th ride since 1993 in 2017.

Guests stay in a set of cabins with a meeting area called "The Barn" for most of the trip. The Barn features a stage, dance floor, entertainment and meals. Guests are transported from lodging to trail heads and back each day by a coach bus before starting the trail rides. Many riders find themselves forming lasting friendships with fellow adventurers. These vacations are all-inclusive, but there'll be time to shop throughout the trip, so bring some cash.

Sombrero Ranches Horse Drive

Craig, Colorado

Website: sombbrero.com

Contact: 303-442-0258; lee@sombbrero.com

Sombrero Ranches have been family-owned since 1958, and are home to the largest herd of horses in North America—more than 1,500 animals. For more than 40 years, Sombrero Ranches have driven herds of horses from one location to another across the state of Colorado. For

Winnemucca

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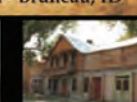

Photo By: WT Bruce



2017 RHR Champions TL Ranch - Bruneau, ID

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nearly 20 of those years, guests have been invited to join the adventure.

Participants on the Great American Horse Drive travel more than 60 miles to help the ranch herd more than 400 horses from one ranch in northwest Colorado in Browns Park, to a second ranch west of Craig, Colorado. As part of the drive, you'll spend two days aboard a stable horse, traversing the beautiful open range for an unforgettable experience. Sombrero Ranch assures that you will be treated to "The Real Deal" Western experience.

Three days prior to the drive, Sombrero Ranches host guest riders at Big Gulch ranch for herd gathering, branding, a Steak Fry Ride, and ranching seminars on horse selection, branding, roping and ranch management.

The 2017 drive is set for May 3-8. Space is limited, so book your adventure today. Even if you don't join the drive, you can see the herd come through Maybell, Colorado, on Sunday morning, May 7, 2017.

CLINICS

Peter Campbell Horsemanship Clinics

Wheatland, Wyoming

Website: petercampbellhorsemanship.com
[facebook.com/Petercampbellhorsemanship/](https://www.facebook.com/Petercampbellhorsemanship/)

Contact: 307-322-4478; trc@wildblue.net

For an unforgettable bonding experience with your horse in a beautiful Wyoming ranch setting, consider enrolling in Peter Campbell Horsemanship Clinics. Horses and riders of all types—from dressage and three-day eventers to cutters, reiners and backyard riders, green-broke to finished horses—all gather knowledge of the heritage and traditions of ranch life while learning true horsemanship.

Clinic attendees gain knowledge, lifetime friendships and enjoy incredible food, all while riding across the Wyoming range with antelope, deer and jackrabbits, moving cattle by day and dancing to the live music of Trinity Seely by night. The 10-day clinic is held during the first two weeks of August at the Campbell's home ranch in Wheatland, Wyoming.

Most guests bring either a living-quarters horse trailer for overnight accommodations or a tent to camp on the grounds. You can choose a spot with power plugins and water, or you can dry camp and use the ranch's bath house. Lodging is also available in town. ■



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