

ROADS LESS TRAVELED

If you're yearning to explore new places aboard a good horse, you're in luck. Below is a selection of guest ranches, trail rides and destinations that will allow you to appreciate the great outdoors alongside a solid equine companion. But before you head off to your next adventure, it's a good idea to take stock of the essential items you'll need to pack—and what's best left at home.

Ryan T. Bell is an award-winning writer and photographer for print publications and other media, including *Western Horseman*, *National Geographic* and National Public Radio. He's known for his stories gathered while backcountry riding. Bell shared a quick list of items he always brings, and a few he doesn't.

ALLERGY MEDICATION. "You never know what you may be allergic to out there," Bell says. "If you're even remotely sensitive to a weed pollen or a tree pollen, it's a good idea."

MUCK BOOTS. Rather than wear a pair of nice riding boots suitable for the arena, Bell wears a well-fitted pair of rubber boots or muck boots on the trail. Knee-high rubber boots will make you waterproof from the knee down, which helps with walking through morning dew when you're camping. "The reality is you don't know if you may end up having to hoof it a lot, and you just need to be really comfy," Bell says. "A veteran outfitter I learned from would take his muck boots and tuck them into the ropes on his pack animal so they were always handy."

SADDLEBAGS. Bell prefers to bring his own saddlebags because he knows the exact volume available for his gear. "I've got a really nice nylon set. They're nothing beautiful, they're not leather," Bell says. "They're very hardy, good volume, good clasps. That way I can be sure I've got my stuff with me."

PONCHO. Bell won't travel without a good wool woven poncho. "It's incredibly handy as a rain barrier, a blanket, a top layer, for the layer closest to the ground under your sleeping bag," Bell says. "You can even use a poncho for blindfolding a horse should it be necessary."

BELT. The journalist also brings an extra-long belt so that in a pinch, he can use it as a hobble or a halter.

CAMERA GEAR. Bell says he carries his main camera slung around his body while he rides, with extra camera equipment in his saddlebag on the off side.

CHAPS. Good riding chaps are helpful as an extra layer against the elements.

SMALLER ITEMS. The horseman always brings long underwear, a flashlight, lighter, sunglasses, a book and bear spray on his backcountry trips. He even includes a musical instrument. "My harmonica just lives in the bag—it's always in there," Bell adds.

ITEMS BELL LEAVES AT HOME: Spurs, extraneous saddlebags, a cheap slicker and judgment about anyone's gear. "Leave your judgment behind," Bell says. "Horse people can be judgey about gear. But remember, you're a guest on your host's horses, and there's no need to look down your nose at the saddle provided for you. Insulate yourself by wearing clothes that will be comfortable in that saddle."





Geronimo Trail Guest Ranch
Winston, NM
575-772-5157
www.geronimoranch.com

Escape, unwind and reconnect. Explore deep canyons with crystal streams and mountain overlooks. Visit archaeological sites with pictographs, enjoy delicious meals, trained horses and comfortable tack.



Bar W Guest Ranch
Whitefish, MT
406-863-9099
www.thebarw.com

Your outdoor adventure headquarters awaits you! Enjoy western hospitality, a wide array of activities, comfortable accommodations and great food. A vacation you'll always remember!



Elkhorn Ranch
Tucson, AZ
520-822-1040
www.elkhornranch.com

Individually tailored horseback riding and guided hiking for all levels of experience in beautiful mountain and desert country. Enjoy Arizona sunshine at a ranch that embraces solo travelers, couples and families.



Greenhorn Ranch
Quincy, CA
530-283-0930
www.greenhornranch.com

A truly all-inclusive premier guest ranch experience. Beautiful Western themed accommodations and activities including horseback riding, golf, fishing, skeet shooting, archery and more. Cultivate your cowboy at Greenhorn Ranch.



Cherokee Park Ranch
Livermore, CO
970-493-6522
www.cherokeeparkranch.com

Escape the ordinary and set your inner cowboy free at USA's #1 Dude Ranch. Talented horses, breathtaking scenery, delicious food, incredible people, endless fun and memories that last a lifetime!



Gros Ventre River Ranch
Kelly, WY
307-733-4138
www.grosventreriverranch.com

Are you craving an adventure or an extraordinary travel experience? Visit the all-inclusive Gros Ventre River Ranch in 2020 and experience the West like never before.



Sundance Guest Ranch
Ashcroft, BC
250-453-2422
www.sundanceguestranch.com

Just 4 hours from Vancouver – 120 horses, twice-daily trail rides, large heated pool, a/c accommodation, bar lounge and famously-delicious food! Free babysitting ages 4-7 offered. July/August, kids under 4 free!



The Hideout Lodge & Guest Ranch
Shell, WY
307-765-2080
www.thehideout.com

An upscale riding, horsemanship and working cattle ranch East of Yellowstone. 650,000 acres to ride and an exceptional diversity of scenery. Limited to 27 guests weekly. We welcome travelers from around the world!



7 LAZY P OUTFITTING



A horseback vacation with 7 Lazy P Outfitting will have you exploring Montana's Rocky Mountain Front and the Bob Marshall Wilderness. Start your vacation at the historic 7 Lazy P Guest Ranch, and then get horseback and let the 7 Lazy P crew and mule train professionally guide you through the remote Bob Marshall Wilderness to climb the Chinese Wall, fly-fish pristine waters, hike to high elevations, relax and unplug. This is a great all-around vacation for any rider level. 7lazyp.com

ANCHOR D OUTFITTING



Located in the Kananaskis area of the Alberta Rockies—1,200 square miles

of mountainous terrain—Anchor D Outfitting is an hour southwest of Calgary, Canada. With seven different mountain ranges, selecting some seven-day trips means you can go from start to finish without meeting another person. The incredible mountain scenery and homegrown mountain horses keep guests returning. Enjoy guest cabins or lodge, or camp with your gear hauled in a covered wagon. Trout fishing in the high mountain lakes is a popular bonus. anchord.com

DUDE RANCHERS' ASSOCIATION



For almost 100 years The Dude Ranchers' Association has curated the best dude and guest ranches in the West. Each of the more than 95 ranches listed at the association's website undergo a rigorous membership process that includes inspection and adherence to the association's values, and you can quickly find all the info you need on their site. You'll also find advanced searchability, one-on-one guidance and expert tips to plan your perfect Western adventure vacation. duderanch.org

GERONIMO TRAIL GUEST RANCH

Geronimo Trail Guest Ranch is a welcoming, relaxing escape in the beautiful Gila National Forest of New Mexico. Enjoy horseback riding

through deep canyons with crystal-clear, spring-fed streams; as well as ponderosa forests, open meadows and high mountain overlooks. Visit 1,000-year-old Mimbres cliff dwellings and pictographs while exploring the nearly untouched wilderness. Reconnect with family, friends and nature while enjoying warm hospitality, delicious meals, well-trained and responsive horses, and comfortable tack. geronimoranch.com, 575-772-5157



HONDOS RIVERS AND TRAILS



Since 1975, Hondoo Rivers and Trails has offered guests backcountry exploration near the red rocks of Utah's Capitol Reef National Park. Enjoy a vacation by horse, hiking or

Jeep tours that feature your choice of camping or inn lodging. International Dark Skies designation of both the park and town of Torrey promise guests a unique opportunity. Small group sizes, well-maintained equipment and top-notch horses assure personalized attention. Thanks to varied topography a short distance from Hondo headquarters, the company offers trail riding trips from April through October.

hondoo.com

RED ROCK RIDE



As a participant of the Red Rock Ride, you'll start and end in Las Vegas, Nevada. During the seven-day ride, you'll visit Zion National Park, Bryce Canyon National Park, Thunder Mountain Trail, Butch Cassidy Trail and the Paria River in the Grand Staircase National Monument, concluding with the Grand Canyon. The Houston and Mangum families have more than 35 years' experience guiding guests through these national parks. Transportation to and from trailheads and cabin lodging is included with this all-inclusive vacation. redrockride.com; facebook.com/redrockride



COWBOY UP

FOR THE RIDE OF
YOUR LIFE!



A 6 NIGHT 7 DAY HORSEBACK & CAMPING
ADVENTURE VACATION THROUGH THE LARGEST,
MOST BEAUTIFUL NATIONAL PARKS IN THE WORLD

ZION • BRYCE CANYON
GRAND STAIRCASE ESCALANTE
NATIONAL MONUMENT
GRAND CANYON

RED ROCK RIDE LC DBA

The
RED ROCK RIDE

P.O. BOX 128 / TROPIC, UTAH 84776 / 435-679-8665

Call or Write for a **FREE**

Red Rock Ride
DVD and Brochure

Website: www.redrockride.com

RUBY'S HORSEBACK ADVENTURES



Ruby's Horseback Adventures guides trail riders through Utah's 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. Riders can bring their own horses and camp, or stay

in the hotel. Horse boarding facilities are available as well as horses available for rent, and guided rides range from 1½ hours to all day. horserides.net

WICKENBURG, ARIZONA



Wickenburg, Arizona, was founded in 1863 by ranching and mining pioneers. "Arizona's Most Western Community" is surrounded by high Sonoran desert and mountains, and nestled into the Hassayampa Valley, making it a

beautiful setting for trail riding, team roping, barrel racing and relaxing. Heritage events such as the 72nd annual Gold Rush Days & Rodeo in February, and the 74th Annual Desert Caballeros Ride make this historic town a horse-lovers paradise. outwickenburgway.com, facebook.com/wickenburgaz.

THE HIDEOUT LODGE AND GUEST RANCH

The Hideout Lodge and Guest Ranch is an upscale riding, horsemanship and working cattle ranch in the hamlet of Shell, Wyoming, with access to over 650,000 acres in the Big Horn Mountains. Elevations range from 4,200 feet to well above 10,000 feet, and exposed formations offer a seldom seen variety of scenery. Many guests of all riding abilities visit from around the world year after year, seeing new country every time. Choose from a string of 130 Quarter Horses and Mustangs for your adventures. Off-horse activities include

ANCHOR'D
Guiding & Outfitting Ltd.

EXPERIENCE THE ALBERTA ROCKIES

- 4 - 7 day wilderness trips
- Weekender Packages
- Great Divide Ride
- 2 and 3 hour rides
- guest cabins at ranch

www.anchor'd.com
403-933-2867
15 km West of Turner Valley
45 minutes SW of Calgary

It's Simple...

Visit Historic Durango, CO
+ The Best Mountain Horses
+ Incredible Scenery (Weminuche Wilderness)
+ Spectacular Mountains (San Juan Range)
+ Friendly, Experienced Guides
+ Exceptional Food
+ Backcountry Horsemanship
+ Western Photography

Craig Cameron
Christopher Marona

Horseback Adventure of a Lifetime

(970) 385-7656
ottho@frontier.net
OverTheHillOutfitters.com

CODY LODGING Co

IT'S NOT JUST A PLACE TO STAY, IT'S AN EXPERIENCE TO REMEMBER!

Small cottages, Cabins and Large Log Homes

Pet friendly, family friendly and horse friendly options

Near hiking trails, scenic drives and Yellowstone National Park

307-587-6000
www.codylodgingcompany.com

trapshooting, archery and fly-fishing.
thehideout.com, 800-354-8637.



OVER THE HILL OUTFITTERS



Based at Palmer Quarter Horse Ranch in Durango, Colorado, Over the Hill Outfitters takes horseback adventures deep into the Weminuche Wilderness, the largest wilderness area in Colorado, with an average elevation over 10,000 feet. Basecamp five-day pack trips explore the Florida River's magnificent glacial valleys, dramatic peaks and spectacular waterfalls with few other visitors. Trips can include visits to historic cabins, fishing and relaxing around campfires. A 90-mile progressive trip along the spine of the Continental Divide takes place in August. Specialty trips such as backcountry horsemanship clinics, yoga trips and wilderness photography are also available. overthehilloutfitters.com

Ruby's Grand Adventure Ride

4 day trail ride adventure
 2020 Ride Dates are Currently Sold Out
 2021 Dates
 April 18 - April 23, 2021
 April 25 - April 29, 2021
 May 9 - May 14, 2021
 August 22 - 27, 2021
 September 26 - October 1, 2021
 October 10 - October 15, 2021

Rides are in areas surrounding Bryce Canyon National Park
 Day Trips and Wagon Rides Also Available

For ride details and information
1-866-782-0002
www.horserides.net
 Located at Ruby's Inn Lobby

Geronimo Trail Guest Ranch

575-772-5157

1 Wall Lake Rd. | Winston, NM 87943

www.geronimoranch.com

UTAH
 RED ROCK DAYS AND STARRY NIGHTS

BACKCOUNTRY TRAIL RIDING
 WITH CAMPING OR INN LODGING SINCE 1975

RIVERS & TRAILS
 TORREY, UTAH • 435-425-3519
WWW.HONDOO.COM

7 LAZY P
 OUTFITTERS LLC

Professional Wilderness Guides
 Since 1931

Montana's Bob Marshall Wilderness

Authentic Horseback
 Vacations!

www.7LazyP.com 1-406-466-2245

BUTTE CREEK OUTFITTERS

Known for its deep wilderness destination pack trips, Butte Creek Outfitters is 24 miles east of Yellowstone Park, and all of the company's outfitting is done adjacent to the park. Guests can take trips to both Shoshone and Bridger Teton National Forests. Often drawing from historic maps and diaries, the company covers

most of northwest Wyoming with trips ranging from 84 miles through wilderness from Cody to Jackson Hole, as well as shorter, three- to five-day trips. Family-owned for more than 40 years, Butte Creek breeds, raises and trains its own horses for any level of rider.

buttecreekoutfitters.net




Howdy pard'ner! You are now in –

WICKENBURG

TEAM ROPING CAPITAL OF ARIZONA

VISITWICKENBURG.COM

ALTITUDE 2,100 FEET *Wickenburg* POPULATION 10,000
LET'S RIDE

ROWSES' 1+1 RANCH



Jerry and Tammy Rowse are sixth-generation ranchers in Nebraska's rolling Sandhills. Rowses' 1+1 Ranch offers guests real riding freedom and a chance to join the family to work together, riding and participating in the everyday ranching lifestyle. Aboard well-trained Quarter Horses, guests ride all day performing tasks such as driving and sorting cattle, checking pastures and doctoring, and can take roping lessons. Guests can expect to be in the saddle for more than six hours a day. Each small group of guests enjoys delicious home-cooked meals taken with the ranchers in their home.

1plus1ranch.com, 308-346-5530




RIDE GOOD HORSES

Through Wild Country!

Join us for a customized trip through the fabled Thorofare country adjacent to Yellowstone Park. We specialize in deep wilderness horseback adventures featuring our own ranch raised horses. Unsurpassed scenery, unlimited riding, wildlife, and experienced staff will make this a special family vacation.

Now booking for the 2020 season!

Operating on Shoshone and Bridger Teton NF. Wy BG 208

For More Information - buttecreekoutfitters.net • buttecreekoutfitters@gmail.com

CODY LODGING COMPANY



Cody, Wyoming, is a horseman's paradise, as well as the closest community to the east and northeast entrances to Yellowstone National Park. You'll find miles of backcountry trails and hundreds of thousands of acres of public lands, yours to discover. The Cody Nite Rodeo runs every night throughout the summer and the Cody Stampede PRCA Rodeo is July 1–4. This horse-centric area offers restaurants, museums, shopping and other family-friendly activities and attractions. Plan your trip with the expertise of Cody Lodging Company to help you find just the right vacation rental and activities. codylodgingcompany.com

COWBOY CATTLE DRIVE



Cowboy Cattle Drive is an authentic 1800s cowboy vacation. Come experience a once-in-a-lifetime trip to the Wyoming Big Horn Mountains and live the life of a real working cowboy. You'll work alongside the Rafter Star Ranch Cowboys, riding, pushing and wrangling cattle over 120,000 acres of open mountain pastures. Be ready for lots of riding, roping, fishing, hiking and other

tasks on the ranch while taking in the breathtaking Big Horn Mountains. You'll sleep in real cowboy tents as you eat cowboy meals cooked on a real 1800's chuckwagon. Evenings are filled with card games and campfire stories. With zero Internet or cellular signal, be prepared to be completely untethered from the modern world. cowboycattledrive.com. ■

1800's
COWBOY SUMMER
VACATION

\$2500
FOR A COMPLETE ALL-INCLUSIVE WEEK

USE COUPON CODE ON CHECKOUT
WHM20
FOR AN EXCLUSIVE WALL TENT UPGRADE.
A \$600 VALUE.

COWBOY CATTLE DRIVE
RAFTER STAR RANCH, WYOMING

BOOK YOUR VACATION PACKAGE ON
WWW.COWBOYCATTLEDRIVE.COM OR CALL 307-737-2680.
LOCATED IN THE BIG HORN MOUNTAINS OF WYOMING

THE TRUE
COWBOY ADVENTURE
Experience a real working cattle ranch!

BOOK YOUR VACATION TODAY
1Plus1Ranch.com • 308-346-5530

Rowse's 1+1 Ranch
BURWELL, NEBRASKA