



Equus Journeys

HORSEBACK TRAVEL & EQUESTRIAN TRADITIONS SINCE 1972

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Kara Creek ranch with Ben Hobday

UNITED STATES

Spend a week on an **authentic working ranch** in the American state of Wyoming in the company of self-proclaimed “wannabe cowboy” **Ben Hobday**! Far from Ben’s usual international cross-country courses, you will ride in the grassy plains of Wyoming with a **family of authentic cowboys**: learn how to move and sort cattle, enjoy trail rides and "learn the ropes". This is a **real working ranch holiday**, where you will experience the practices of a modern cattle ranch and spend a week as a real Wyoming cowboy or cowgirl!

Ranches and Cattle Drives	 8 Days / 5 riding days	 From £1,920		Open to non-riders
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


ITINERARY

Highlights

- Join a real western riding holiday accompanied by UK eventer Ben Hobday
- Play an active role in the day-to-day tasks on a ranch riding over varied terrain of more than 12,000 hectares
- Ride alongside the cowboys, moving cattle, sorting and monitoring herds of more than 4000 animals
- Enjoy the freedom of riding in the vast open spaces between Wyoming and South Dakota.

Day 1 — 1 : ARRIVE IN RAPID CITY - TRANSFER TO THE RANCH


 Kara creek ranch

Flight to Rapid City in South Dakota (not included).

We recommend arriving in the mid-afternoon by 4:00 pm on time for the transfer to the Ranch. If you need to arrive on a later flight, we would suggest arriving a day early – we can help book a hotel in town if necessary. The ranch is a 2 hour drive from Rapid city, 15 minutes from Sundance in the state of Wyoming. Once at the ranch, you will have dinner with the team and enjoy your first evening at the famed Kara Creek saloon!

Flights are not included by can be booked upon request.

Day 2 — 2 : RANCH - 4-6h riding

 Kara creek ranch


IMPORTANT: The following program is provided as an indication, it is by no means exhaustive but reflects all the activities in which you will be asked to participate. Your time at the ranch is dictated by the needs of livestock, weather conditions as well as your expectations and your previous experience

on horseback. Plans change quickly on a working ranch!

You will head to the stables with the cowboys where they will allocate your horse - if you are not familiar with western riding, don't worry! The wranglers will use this occasion to train you.

You will then set off to see the vast ranch on horseback. You will have a chance to get to know your mount, an experienced ranch horse, that will help you with your daily tasks on the ranch. You will also be introduced to the proper way to approach and interact with the cattle. You will head back to the ranch late in the day and enjoy a drink at the saloon before a hearty dinner prepared by the team. Dinners are taken family-style in the main house.

Day 3 — 3 : RANCH - 4-6 hours riding

 Kara creek ranch

Every day at the Ranch is different and there is no set itinerary - the day's rides and round ups will be dictated by the ranch needs and local conditions.


Those who wish can get up early to help bring in the cavvy from the pastures and back to the ranch. This is an amazing experience and worth the early wake up call!

You could be setting off to see the vast ranch on horseback. You will be introduced to the proper way to approach and interact with the cattle. You may be able to join a mini round-up, helping rotate cattle between fields and checking fences or water troughs along the way. Learn how to group the cattle and drive them smoothly in the right direction. Based on your abilities you will be asked to either herd them from the rear, to chivvy the reluctant cattle and bring back in line those making a bid for freedom.

Head back to the ranch in the afternoon to relax, learn to use a lasso on the cow dummy, or help out with the cattle and horses.

Enjoy a drink at the saloon before a hearty dinner prepared by the team. Dinners are taken family-style in the main house.


Day 4 — 4 : RANCH

 Kara creek ranch

The 4th of July is the national US holiday. You will be taken off-site to a local rodeo to enjoy the festivities - rodeo demonstration, line dancing, burgers and fireworks are all to be expected!

Rodeo entry fees are included. Food and drinks consumed at the rodeo are not included.

Day 5 — 5 : RANCH - 4-6 hours riding

 Kara creek ranch

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
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Day 6 — 6 : RANCH - 4-6 hours riding

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Day 7 — 7: RANCH - 4-6 hours riding

 Kara creek ranch

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Day 8 — 8: RANCH - DEPARTURE

After breakfast, you will be taken to the airport to catch your flight back home (plan a flight after 11:00 am)

If you wish, it is possible to extend your stay and explore the beautiful landscapes of South Dakota; the Black hills, Devil's tower, Deadwood, Yellowstone National Park... Ask us for more information!

DATES & PRICES			
DEPARTURE	RETURN	PRICE WITHOUT FLIGHTS	STATUS
01/07/2024	08/07/2024	£1,920	Guaranteed departure

Price details

- International flights are not included. The above prices are calculated on a double room basis for a 7-night stay.
- A small number of single rooms can be allocated on a first come first served basis, at an extra cost of £150.00 per room.
- Return transfers from Rapid city to the ranch are not included and have to be paid for locally. Return transfer costs \$150 per person
- Tips are compulsory in USA. The local team expects to get 15-20% of the cost of your stay - around \$350-\$400.
- The minimum group size is 6 guests. Maximum group size is around 15 guests. Riders may go out in different groups, depending on what is going on that day.
- An electronic travel authorisation (ESTA) is required to enter the USA. It is your responsibility to organise this. Please visit <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/> and contact us if you need help.
- It is possible to arrive a day early and spend the night in Rapid City. We suggest this as it will give you an opportunity to get over your jetlag so you can fully appreciate your first day on the ranch. We can help book this.

- This holiday is only open to guests aged 21+.

Please Note

The itinerary may be modified at anytime for security reasons, meteorological or events beyond our control such as blocked roads, rivers in flood, drought, strikes and local holidays. Equus Journeys, our local partners and their local guides will always strive to find the best solution and will alter the itinerary as needed.

The names of the hotels and accommodation are given for information only and depending on availability, they may be modified without notice and replaced by another of a similar standard.

Price includes

SUPPORT TEAM

1 English speaking ranch team

LOGISTICS

Horses and western tack

ACCOMMODATION

7 nights on the ranch - priced based on a shared room

MEALS

Full board from dinner on arrival at the ranch to breakfast on departure

ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT

Western equipment

EXTRAS

Activities on the ranch

Laundry facilities which are at your disposal

Rodeo entry fees

Price doesn't include

MEALS

Beverages and personal extras outside the ranch

Meals outside of the ranch

TRANSPORT

International flights that we can book for you upon request

Return transfers by car from Rapid city to the ranch - see above

Visa fee (ESTA) - this must be arranged in advance

EXTRAS

Tips to the local team are compulsory in the USA and represent around 15% of the cost of your stay - payable locally

Park, museum and other site entry fees

INSURANCE

Cancellation and travel insurance are not included. Please note that insurance is mandatory. We recommend taking out an insurance policy as soon as your trip is booked in case of cancellation.

Optional

ACCOMMODATION

Hotel accommodation in Rapid City

Horses

The ranch has more than forty Quarter and Paint horses. They are trained throughout the year by the wranglers and are experienced ranch horses that are used to working with livestock. They spend the year turned out in the pastures living as a herd.

Horses on a working ranch are working horses and as such may not be looked after the way we do in the UK and Europe. However, they are healthy, happy, and love their job.

Guide & local team

The ranch is supervised by an environmental protection agency. The ranch's pastures and land are managed in an ecological and holistic way. The wranglers and the rest of the team are either employed or volunteers.

The team is very friendly and they do their utmost to ensure you make the most of your time on the ranch.

Minimum riding ability

MINIMUM RIDING ABILITY

A trip for intermediate and experienced riders. To get the most out of this trip, you should be at ease at all paces. You should be able to trot and canter outside in an independent seat with ease.

PACE

All 3 paces are used, although the majority of interaction with the cattle is done at a walk to keep them calm. Gently trotting, or 'jogging', is often used for covering long distances.

You will spend between 4-8 hours riding, depending on the ranch activities.

TACKING ABILITY AND PARTICIPATION

You will be asked to groom, tack and untack your horse. Someone will on hand to help if you have never used western tack before.

You may also be asked to feed and water your horse after the day.

TRIP CONDITIONS AND REQUESTED EXPERIENCE

Experience of Western riding and cattle work is not compulsory for this holiday. You can enjoy it without any previous experience. If you have never experienced working with cattle, it will take you a few days to feel useful. That's completely normal!

EQUESTRIAN EQUIPMENT

Western tack.

Leather straps to fix your jacket to the back of the saddle

Some saddlebags are available.

We recommend our riders to wear a helmet to the correct standard. There are no helmets at the ranch.

TRAVEL INFO

COMFORT

Accommodation is either in a private or shared cabin (2 bedrooms) or in a double room in the house.

The main house is a communal space where you will have your meals each day. Here, you can also choose to relax in front of the fire, listen to music or play snooker. This is a home away from home and your help will be appreciated when it comes to putting away dishes and clean up after yourself. A washing machine and tumble dryer are available for you to use.

The saloon is a recent addition to the ranch and is a place where riders gather after their rides and in the evenings for a cold drink and a bit of music. Neighbours and legends from the rodeo circuit are known to stop by a few times a week!

WiFi available.

MEALS

Meals are taken family-style in the dining room at the lodge.

Breakfast: hearty breakfast with eggs, crispy bacon, toast, jam.

Lunch: simple lunches of salads, pasta, sandwiches.

Dinners: typical "cowboy style" with home-raised meat, potatoes, pasta and vegetables.

Drinks at the ranch (in reasonable quantities) are included.

CLIMATE

Wyoming's outstanding features are its majestic mountains and high plains. Weather and topography have more contrast than in most other states. Surface elevations range from the summit of Gannett Peak in the Wind River Mountains, at 13,804 feet, to the Belle Fourche River Valley in the state's northeast corner, at 3,125 feet.

Wyoming is located deep within continental North America, far from the moderating influence the oceans. Wyoming, therefore, has some long winters, but also some pleasant summers. A typical Wyoming summer day will start out bright and sunny. Clouds will appear on the western horizon about noon and thunderheads will develop mid-afternoon. Scattered, isolated thundershowers will dot the landscape in late afternoon and early evening. Autumn in Wyoming is a pure delight. Most places will start to see snow in mid-September, but winter weather won't start to stick until late November. For most of the two months in between, the state enjoys a special season called Indian Summer, with warm days, cool nights and spectacular colors. It's a delightful change-of-season experience.

TIPS

Tips are compulsory in USA. The local team expects to get 15-20% of the cost of your stay.

PACKING LIST

Head

- Equus Journeys strongly recommend that you wear a riding helmet and that you take your own to ensure a correct fit. There are many lightweight options available nowadays.
- Sunhat for when not riding
- Sunglasses - with a cord attached so they don't fly off when riding
- Buff or bandana

Upper body

- Thermals (long or short sleeved)
- Long sleeved shirts provide protection from the sun and are an extra layer
- T-shirts
- Lightweight fleece or jumper
- Warm fleece or jumper (and a spare in case one gets wet)
- Warm and waterproof jacket - it can rain at any time of year and the evenings can be particularly cold

Legs

- Lightweight, comfortable riding trousers or jodhpurs - we recommend riding in them at home before taking them on holiday to ensure they don't rub
- Thermals
- Casual trousers for the evenings, such as jeans or tracksuit bottoms

Hands and Feet

- Comfortable riding boots. We recommend western boots or short boots with half chaps but you may wish to take long chaps as an extra layer against inclement weather. We don't recommend taking your favourite long leather boots in case they get damaged.
- Waterproof shoes/boots can be useful for abundant dew in the mornings or when it rains
- Trainers or equivalent light shoes for the evenings
- Several pairs of warm, thick socks
- Gloves - your hands are particularly exposed to the sun, cold or rain whilst riding. Waterproof gloves can be particularly useful.

Nightwear

- Pyjamas

Other useful items

- Camera and high capacity memory card. Spare battery
- Bumbag for carrying your camera and small items whilst riding - there are no saddlebags.
- Water bottle (2 litres or 2 x 1 litre)
- Swiss army knife (or equivalent)
- Ear plugs (for light sleepers)

Medical kit

- Any medication you regularly take
- Sunscreen and lip balm - should be high factor
- Insect repellent, preferably containing DEET
- Blister plasters in case of any rubs
- Antiseptic cream, plasters, aspirin, anti-histamine, insect-bite salve etc...
- Spare prescription glasses/contact lenses
- Eye drops
- Imodium or similar anti-diarrhoea medication
- Re-hydration sachets
- Water purification tablets
- Antiseptic wipes
- Handwash gel

Miscellaneous

- We recommend taking a copy of your passport and insurance documents with you in case you lose your originals
- We recommend travelling in your riding boots and carrying your hat and some riding clothes in your hand luggage - then if your luggage goes astray you are still able to ride!

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

1. **Travel light.** It's a little known fact, but the lighter you pack, the better for the environment as heavy bags will produce higher emissions (when flying a plane or driving a car!).
2. **Reduce plastic waste.** Take your favorite reusable bottle with you. Avoid single-use bags, cups, or straws.
3. **Preserve nature.** Always take your rubbish with you during the ride and recycle them. Leave all the flowers or plants as you found them, and never get too close when observing wildlife. Make sure to use eco-friendly products such as body wash or laundry detergent (if camping) to protect both your skin and the environment.
4. **Choose your experiences carefully.** Respect animal life by not participating in any activities that abuse wild animals (shows, elephant rides, etc.).
5. **Support local populations.** Buy local handicrafts, be respectful of customs, and learn about the culture of local communities.
6. **Share!** Raise awareness among your family and friends about sustainable tourism.

For more information please [see this page](#).