



# Equus Journeys

HORSEBACK TRAVEL & EQUESTRIAN TRADITIONS SINCE 1972

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## Pack trip in the Kananaskis

### CANADA / CANADA

**Embark on a real horseback adventure** and uncover the beauty of the Rockies, experiencing Canada like never before. **Ride on horseback across the Kananaski country**, covering between 170 and 200 km of rugged mountain trails. As you ride deeper into the mountains, you will be in awe of the increasingly impressive landscapes as you explore the beautiful lakes that invite for a refreshing swim. Each night, reconnect with nature and camp out under the stars for an **authentic cowboy experience**. This trail is designed for **experienced riders with a keen sense of adventure**, looking to venture out of the beaten track.

<b>Pack Trip</b>	 <b>10 days (8 days riding)</b>	 <b>From £3,150</b>	
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Explore the spectacular, rugged scenery of the Kananaskis



A real pack trip experience in western Canada




A fantastic pack trip for adventurous riders

### ITINERARY

## Highlights

- Discover the breathtaking views of the Rockies in the beautiful season of summer
- Embark on an authentic cowboy experience in the heart of the wilderness
- Ride across 200km of Kananaski country as you uncover the beauty of this spectacular place
- Learn the basics of horse packing, horsemanship in the wild, sustainable horse camping and other skills useful for a pack trip adventure!

## Day 1 — 1 : ARRIVE IN CALGARY - BRAGG CREEK

 Kananaskis Ranch

Fly to Calgary. Flights are not included but can be booked upon request - please contact us.

Our guide will welcome you at the airport at 4:00 pm and transfer you to the ranch (approximately 1 hour drive). You will have a little time to relax before meeting the team and your fellow riders. Enjoy your first night at the ranch with a delicious welcome BBQ where you will discuss the plan for the week ahead. The itinerary below is an outline of what to expect, rather than a fixed agenda, as bear activity and water levels may cause some disruption!

## Day 2 — 2 : THE ROCKIES - 4 to 5 hours riding

After a hearty Canadian breakfast, it is time to meet your horse that has been carefully chosen by your guide. You will get the chance to acquaint yourself with your new friend with a short ride in the arena before packing your lunch, and leaving the ranch for your first experience of the Kananaski country on horseback. As you ride at the foot of the Rockies, you will get your first glimpse of the spectacular landscapes that surround you. You will reach camp at the end of the day in time for a good cup of cowboy coffee and a splash in a river to cool down from your first day in the saddle. You will look after the horses and help feed them before getting some rest - perhaps go for a splash in the small river! Overnight at camp, with an evening

spent around an open fire.

### Day 3 — 3 : IN THE HEART OF THE MOUNTAINS - 7 hours riding

Start your day with a delicious cowboy breakfast to prepare you for your biggest day in the saddle. Embark on a breathtaking ride across the mountainous slopes of the region and enjoy the magnificent panoramas of the Kananaskis valley. As you ride deeper into the valley, admire the spectacular views from the saddle- a picture perfect setting where you will set up camp for the night. Enjoy dinner under the stars before a good night's sleep and well deserved rest after a long day on horseback.

IMPORTANT: This ride is particularly subject to weather conditions, and this itinerary can be modified due to bad weather conditions.

### Day 4 — 4 : CANADIAN FORESTS AND LAKES - 4 hours riding

This morning, you set off on horseback and discover the superb surrounding landscapes, where you will ride across the magnificent mountains, forest, lakes and rivers of the Rocky Mountains. From horseback, discover the different wildlife that inhabits these areas as you observe an amazing array of biodiversity. Uncover the hidden beauty of the Rocky Mountains as you explore this impressive setting. Return back to camp where you will stay for the next two nights, and enjoy an afternoon of relaxation under the Canadian sun.

### Day 5 — 5 : KANANASKIS VALLEY - 7 hours riding

Get back in the saddle for another long day on horseback. Today's trail ride will take you through the forests and meadows of one of the most beautiful valleys of the Rockies. Where the terrain allows it, pick up the pace and gallop across this beautiful open space and explore every corner of this magnificent region. Enjoy a picture perfect picnic in the heart of the countryside, before heading back to camp for the evening.

### Day 6 — 6 : CANADIAN LAKES - 5 hours riding

Today you will leave behind your camp and head up the valley towards the pass. Here, you will explore the lakes located around the pass and enjoy the refreshing splash of the cooling waters. You may set up camp at the level of the pass, or push on to camp in the next valley. Dinner around the fire and a good night's sleep on preparation for the day ahead.


### Day 7 — 7 : PARADISE VALLEY - 5 hours riding

Today, you will set out again through the heart of the Rockies to reach your next campsite situated in Paradise Valley. As your adventure continues across narrow and uneven paths, you will have the chance to explore a more rugged wilderness. Here, the mountains are steeper, the ground even rockier, and the rivers runs fast and cold- but once you reach the Paradise Pass, at 2,000 meters above sea level, you can enjoy a panoramic view, sweeping across the impressive peaks of the Rockies. Another night under the magical and clear Canadian night sky.

### Day 8 — 8 : PARADISE VALLEY - 6 hours riding

Wake up in the heart of Paradise valley and prepare for a day of great riding, and more exceptional views. Ride along the riverside , admiring the impressive natural formations that sculpt this spectacular landscape. Take advantage of the flatness of the land, and canter through the Canadian wilderness. Enjoy a picnic surrounded by nature before resuming your ride back to camp.

### Day 9 — 9: M&M RANCH - 4 hours riding

 Kananaskis Ranch

One last breakfast in the great outdoors before descending down into the valley where you will be met by the team with a truck and trailer. After eight fantastic days of horseback riding through the Kananaskis Country, you will return to civilisation, where you can enjoy a shower and night at the ranch for your last evening.

### Day 10 — 10: BRAGG CREEK - CALGARY - EUROPE

Say goodbye to the team and horses.  
Transfer to Calgary airport at around 9:30am. Return flight to Europe must be departing after 13:00pm.

## DATES & PRICES

DEPARTURE	RETURN	PRICE WITHOUT FLIGHTS	STATUS
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30/06/2024	09/07/2024	£3,150	Full
18/08/2024	27/08/2024	£3,150	Full
29/06/2025	08/07/2025	£3,330	Full
03/08/2025	12/08/2025	£3,330	Guaranteed departure
24/08/2025	02/09/2025	£3,330	Guaranteed departure

## Price details

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- Flights to your destination are not included, but can be booked on request - please contact us for rates.
  - Rates are per person, based on two riders sharing a twin or double room at the lodge/tent during the ride.
  - Groups are composed of a minimum of 2 international riders and a maximum of 8 international riders, plus guides.
  - There is no single supplement if you are willing to share a room/tent with another guest of the same sex. To guarantee your own room at the ranch there is a single supplement of around €80/£70/\$90. Single tents cannot be booked. If there is a single gender on a trip (no one of the same gender to share with) we will offer a single tent at no extra cost.
  - At the ranch, your hosts are usually tipped around CAD\$100- 150 per rider. This is not included.
  - Accompanied minors are welcome from 10 yo, upon request, provided they match the riding requirements.
  - Rider weight limit: 100 kg/15 st/220lbs. Heavier riders may be accepted with advance notice but you must match the riding requirements and be able to mount and dismount unassisted.
  - There is a supplement for riders requesting a specific menu (dairy free, gluten free...) at CAD 10 per person per day (around GBP 5 per person)
  - Riders flying into Canada are required to sign up for an electronic travel authorization. The ETA is a document that allows you to travel in Canada by plane and to travel freely inside the country. It is an entry requirement for visa-exempt foreign nationals travelling to or transiting through Canada by air: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/visit-canada/eta.html>. This is not included and yours to organise.
- 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

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### STAFF AND GUIDES

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English-speaking guides and wranglers

### LOGISTICS

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1 horse/rider

### DOMESTIC TRANSPORTATION

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Return transfers from/to Calgary airport at set times

### ACCOMMODATION

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Shared accommodation (rooms at the ranch, tent during the trail)

### MEALS

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Full board accommodation from dinner on D1 to breakfast on D10

### EXTRA

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Saddlebags

## Price doesn't include

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**MEALS**

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Alcohol is not included (payable locally by cash in CAD or credit card).

**TRANSPORTS**

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Transfers outside normal hours  
International flights

**EXTRAS**

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Tips to the local team

**INSURANCE**

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Visas and personal purchase  
Cancellation and travel insurance are not included in the above listed price. Please note that insurance is mandatory. We recommend taking out an insurance policy as soon as your trip is booked to cover you in case of cancellation

## Optional

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**ACCOMMODATION**

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Single room supplement

EQUESTRIAN INFO

## Horses

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A team of 37 beautifully bred horses, well adapted to the winter and demanding terrain of the region. You will find that there is a horse for everyone, with a variety of breeds including Percheron and Paint crusaders, Welsh Pony, quarter horses, as well as Arabian and Canadian bred horses. The horses are working horses- robust, tough and sure footed.

## Guide & local team

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Our guide Neil first founded the ranch in 1991, where he combined adventure and nature, with his love for history and horses. He is passionate about his region, and takes pride in showing riders the beautiful country and horses. His philosophy? Respect the magnificent nature that surrounds the region and the fantastic team of horses that will take you there. During the camps, Neil and his team do their utmost best to preserve the natural environment for the future generations to come. His wife Undine is also part of the team and looks after the guesthouse and helps train the horses.

## Minimum riding ability

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**MINIMUM RIDING ABILITY**

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You must be comfortable riding in all three paces, in outdoor space and across rough terrain. Although you do not have to be an advanced rider, you must be able to control your horse.

Rider weight limit: 100 kg/15 st/220lbs. Heavier riders may be accepted with advance notice but you must match the riding requirements and be able to mount and dismount unassisted.

**PACE**

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The main pace of the ride is walk, with opportunities for trots and canters where the terrain allows it.

**TACKING ABILITY AND PARTICIPATION**

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You will be asked to tack and untack your horse. From the outset, your guide will ensure that you know how to do this with Western tack and will be happy to answer any of your questions and alleviate any concerns. Help at camp would be appreciated as well.

**TRIP CONDITIONS AND REQUESTED EXPERIENCE**

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You need to be riding fit, with good levels of endurance. The terrain can be uneven at times with significant differences in level. There may be times in the ride where you will need to dismount from your horse and walk. The ranch is located at 130m above sea level, with the altitudes encountered on the hike varying up to 2000m.

On the trail: There is no cell reception anywhere while on the trail and being in the back-country. The guide carries a satellite phone which can be used by the guide in case of emergency. Please inform your family or friends that while on a packtrip, you can only be reached through the ranch staff and by method of a wrangler carrying a message to camp, which can take up to 36 hours to relay.

## EQUESTRIAN EQUIPMENT

Western saddles.

Saddlebags and water bottles provided. You will also be provided with a set of saddle bags to tie behind the saddle of your horse. Part of the saddlebags will be needed to pack “group” provisions such as lunch items or part of the horse first aid kit. The remaining volume can be packed with items you may need during the day.

Helmets are strongly recommended. We recommend our riders to wear a helmet to the correct standard and you should bring your own to ensure a proper fit.

## TRAVEL INFO

### COMFORT

2 nights at the ranch: The guesthouse at the ranch is an ideal place to get together, enjoy the summer scenery of the foothills and experience western hospitality. With aspen forests that shine golden yellow leaves while snow-capped mountains stand majestically behind them, you will feel like you stepped into a photograph. “The Barn” equally reflects the atmosphere of the foothills with a cosy and unique space to relax in at the end of the day. The guesthouse offers room for a total of 8 guests in 5 bedrooms. Laundry service is available at the Ranch at an extra cost.

7 nights camping, tents on a sharing basis, however, single tents available on request and subject to availability. You will normally move camp 3 times, which allows you to remain for 2 days in two of the prettiest valleys in the Rockies, explore the valleys further with the pack horses (and without having to reset camp!). There are several camp locations that the team uses frequently on their packtrips. Each camp has a slightly different set up. All of them are in a scenic location with water and forage for the horses nearby. There is no cell reception anywhere while on the trail and being in the back-country, the guide carries a satellite phone which can be used by the guide in case of emergency. Please inform your family or friends that while on a packtrip, you can only be reached through the ranch staff and by method of a wrangler carrying a message to camp, which can take up to 36 hours to relay.

### MEALS

All meals are homemade, using fresh and local ingredients. The menu changes daily and offers typical local dishes but also internationally inspired cuisine.

If you have a special diet or food allergies, it is of utmost importance that you specify this at the time of booking. Menus can be adapted: vegetarian, lactose-free and gluten-free menus (supplement of CAD\$10 per day for a gluten-free menu)

Alcohol is not included. You may bring and pack your own preferred beverage as long as your duffel bag that gets packed onto the packhorse does not exceed 25 lbs (11kg).

### CLIMATE

Calgary experiences long winters and short, hot summers. The climate is very influenced by the elevation of the city and the proximity of the Rocky Mountains.

Calgary experiences summer day temperatures above 30 ° C about four days a year.

Summer evenings can be quite cold; the average minimum in summer is 8 ° C and frost can occur in any month of the year.

Most of the precipitation falls from May to August; June sees the heaviest rains on average.

Autumn is the driest period. The averages for this period are around 20 ° C. Night temperatures; however, frequently drop below 0 ° C.

### TIPS

In Canada, it is customary to leave a tip - primarily in restaurants and other service-based establishments. Expect to leave around 10-15% of the bill. At the ranch, your hosts are usually tipped around 100- 150CA\$ per rider.

## PACKING LIST

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You will be provided with a waterproof duffel bag to pack all your gear and personal items for the week. The weight limit for the packed duffel bag (including sleeping bag and mat) is 11kg (25 lbs). Please respect this limit as the wranglers and horses have to be able to handle the bags for you.

### Head

- Helmet - strongly recommended. Equus Journeys recommend you bring your own in order to ensure a proper fit.
- Sunhat for when not riding
- Wollen hat in case it gets cold at camp or during the night
- Sunglasses - with a cord attached so they don't fly off when riding
- Buff or bandana

### Upper body

- Long sleeved shirts provide protection from the sun
- T-shirts
- Thermal clothes
- Fleece, jumper or jacket - the evenings can be cold (at least two)
- Waterproof gear: good quality rain coat and waterproof trousers - the rains can be difficult to foresee and it's better to be prepared.
- Casual clothes for the evening

### 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
- Waterproof over trousers. Please don't bring ponchos instead as some of the horses may not be used to them.
- Warm leggings
- Casual clothes for the evening
- Swimsuit for bathing in the river or/and in the lake or just in case there is somewhere for a dip!

### Hands and Feet

- Comfortable riding boots. We recommend short hiking boots with half chaps but you may wish to take long chaps to protect against thorns. We don't recommend taking your favourite long leather boots in case they get damaged, and because they can be slippery when navigating certain sections on foot.
- Waterproof shoes/boots can be useful for abundant dew in the mornings or when it rains
- Sandals, flip-flops or trainers - something comfortable for the evenings
- Gloves - your hands are particularly exposed to the sun whilst riding and the evenings can be cold. It gets windy and cold in the mountains as well.

### Nightwear

- Sleeping bag. You need at least a comfort factor down to minus 5 celsius, but would recommend at least minus 8 or 10 celsius. Sleeping bags can be provided (please enquire in advance)
- Sleeping bag liner - silk, cotton or fleece - adds an extra layer
- Inflatable mattress for your comfort sake. Mattresses can be provided (please enquire in advance)
- Pyjamas or tracksuits or thermals for sleeping in

### Other useful items

- A good swiss army knife (please make sure to pack it in your checked luggage)
- Towels - camping ones will both dry and pack more easily
- Bumbag for carrying your camera and small items (passport, camera, sunscreen, lipbalm etc) whilst riding
- Camera and high capacity memory card. Spare battery
- Headtorch or small torch for moving around camp at night - bring spare batteries and bulbs
- Water bottle (2 litres or 2 x 1 litre)
- Wet Wipes or equivalent (for when washing facilities aren't available - non scented)
- Small plastic bags for rubbish
- Ear plugs (for light sleepers)

Toiletry bag and personal items: please refrain from packing too many perfumed creams or soap as they do attract wildlife. Ideal is biodegradable soap, a small microfibre towel, toothpaste and brush and deodorant.

### 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

#### Our Recommendations

- Hard sided suitcase are not permitted on this ride as your luggage is carried by packhorses. The riding team will provide a waterproof soft bag for the riders to put their luggage in during the trail. Your belongings during the ride must fit in this bag.
- Backpacks should not be worn whilst riding. Saddlebags are provided and we recommend a small bum bag or a coat with pockets so that you can carry small items with you during the day (passport, camera, sunscreen, lipbalm etc)
- 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!
- We recommend taking a copy of your passport and insurance documents with you in case you lose your originals
- Please take your rubbish home with you. There are no recycling facilities in this area, so take your used batteries, aerosols etc back home and dispose of them appropriately. Try to leave excess packaging material at home before travelling.

## 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](#) .