



Kerewong centre-based ride

AUSTRALIA

Enjoy a **relaxing centre-based riding holiday** in the Lorne Valley of New South Wales, Australia. Join Kathy at her lovely farm and become part of the **Kerewong family**. Every day, you ride out in a different direction, exploring trails and riding across a variety of terrain and sub-tropical natural landscapes. Highlights of the trail include an exhilarating **beach gallop**, and a winery tour!

Centre based holidays	7 days (5 days riding)	From £1,420		Open to non-riders
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On horseback in Australia



Ride friendly, responsive horses - a mix of Arabians, Brumbies and Andalusians



Enjoy the Jacaranda trees in bloom from October to November

ITINERARY

Highlights

- Experience the best of the Australian hilly bush landscape, eucalypt-& rainforest, secluded beaches and green farm valleys of the NSW East Coast of Australia.
- Return to your comfortable farmhouse accommodation at the end of each day ride for relaxing late afternoons and evenings in scenic surroundings - a peaceful place to unwind, relax and enjoy the horses, hospitality and Australian nature and wildlife.
- You may encounter Wallabies, Pademelons, Bandikoots, Reptiles, Goanna's and many Australian bird species including Parrots, Lyrebirds, Black Cockatoo's. Occasionally you may even see a koala too!
- Ride fit and forward horses - Arabians, Brumbies or Andalusians, all very responsive and a pleasure to ride.

Day 1 — 1: PORT MACQUARIE - KEREWONG

Kerewong lodge

Fly to Port Macquarie, NSW. Flights are not included but we can help with this on request.

On arrival at Port Macquarie airport, you will be picked up by your guide and transferred to the farm, in Kerewong (1 hour drive). If you are already travelling throughout Australia, we can also arrange pick-ups from the Port Macquarie bus station or Kendall Trail station (20 min drive). Transfers are scheduled at set times – please see dates and prices for specific transfer information. You can also self-drive to the farm if you have a car.

You will arrive at Kerewong Farm in the late afternoon or early evening, on time to meet the Kerewong horse herd in their home pastures. You will have dinner with your host and co-riders, giving you a chance to be briefed on the week's riding program and discuss your previous riding experience with your guide.

Please note: The itinerary below is not a set order as riding days can vary according to circumstances. The tour guide chooses the order of the day rides to give riders the best possible experience in their specific riding week.

Day 2 — 2: KEREWONG FOREST RIDE - 3 hours riding / 22 km

 Kerewong lodge

Your first day in the saddle starts with an introductory forest ride through the hilly terrain of the Kerewong State Forest. Enjoy its tall eucalypt forests, pockets of rainforest, beautiful quiet bush trails and fun canters. You will stop for lunch under tall gum trees in the middle of the Aussie bush. You may encounter Wallabies, Pademelons, Bandikoots, Reptiles, Goanna's and many Australian bird species including Parrots, Lyrebirds, Black Cockatoo's. Occasionally you may even see a koala too!

This is a shorter ride with an easy-going pace, to enable riders to get accustomed to the terrain and horses and settle international travellers into the time- and climate zone. Back to the farm and relaxed afternoon before dinner.

Day 3 — 3: MOUNTAIN TOP RIDE - 5 hours riding / 30 km

 Kerewong lodge

Today's trail ride takes you to the impressive Comboyne Mountain (670 m), which peak can be seen from the farm. Enjoy magnificent 360-degree view at the top, over the expanding eucalyptus forest landscape, beautiful coastline, farmlands and the start of the Great Dividing Range. This is the most strenuous day ride for the horses with uphill cantering, long steep up-and downhill sections and some rough terrain. Horses and riders enjoy a well-deserved lunch break at the peak, brought to you by a Kerewong helper in the 4wd support vehicle. You ride back home downhill at an easy walking pace.

Day 4 — 4: WINERY RIDE - 5 hours riding / 35 km

 Kerewong lodge

Today is a long riding day to local Bago Vineyards and Maze, a small family-owned and operated winery. Enjoy beautiful scenic creek crossings (platypus live here but are rarely seen) and maybe move some cattle while riding through neighbouring farm properties. As you follow Longworth's Tramway Heritage Trail, see the remnants of a historic timber railway line that was operational in the 1920's for timber log transport. Saddlebag sandwich lunch while sitting in the shade of tall eucalypt trees.

In the afternoon, get ready for an adventurous steep descent and fantastic long gallops of up to 4 km's on beautiful forest trails. On arrival, taste the wine of this unique little winery and enjoy a gourmet local cheese plate under the pergola. If riding in October – November, a highlight of this ride is the purple blossoming Jacaranda Trees. And the best news is... you can taste and drink as much as you like – you will be transferred back to the farm by car (45 minutes drive).

Day 5 — 5: BEACH RIDE - 2 hours riding / 15 km

 Kerewong lodge

One of this riding holiday's most popular features is definitely the beach ride... Get ready for long uninterrupted gallops on a deserted beach – an unforgettable lifetime experience for many horseback adventurers. Watch out for dolphins in the waves and a chance of a close encounter with kangaroos. Lunch will be had during a break on the beach, at the ride base near a colony of the unique native Australian Grasstrees, or you can have Fish & Chips at the local Fish Co-op. Transfers each way to the beach is by car (45 minutes each way).

Day 6 — 6: COMBOYNE PLATEAU - 5-6 hrs riding/40 km

 Kerewong lodge

Enjoy today's trail ride to the beautiful green rolling farmland of the Comboyne Plateau. Comboyne is a volcanic plateau with a unique topography and fertile red soil. You ride past dairy farms and avocado orchards, enjoying panoramic views over the Three Brother Mountains, an Australian Aboriginal Place of spiritual significance to the local Biripi Aboriginal people. On clear days the view goes all the way to the Pacific Ocean. Morning coffee stop and grazing for the horses on arrival at the Comboyne Plateau and a second stop for a late picnic lunch. There are several great galloping sections in the morning and afternoon, as well as long walks to take in the beautiful scenery. In the evening enjoy a farewell dinner.

Day 7 — 7: KEREWONG – PORT MACQUARIE - 2H à cheval

 Kerewong lodge

Depart Kerewong after breakfast. Transfer to Kendall Railway station or Port Macquarie airport or bus station (set times). Optional stop at Port Macquarie Koala Hospital (only included with departure transfer to Port Macquarie).

DEPARTURE	RETURN	PRICE WITHOUT FLIGHTS	PRICE INCLUDING FLIGHTS	STATUS
05/03/2021	11/03/2021	£1,420		Open
07/05/2021	13/05/2021	£1,420		Open
21/05/2021	27/05/2021	£1,420		Open

Price details

- Flights or transportation to your destination (international/domestic) 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 during the ride.

- Groups are composed of a minimum of 2 riders and a maximum of 4 international riders, plus guide. Please note: the ride will also confirm for 1 rider on payment of a supplement of c. €300/£275/US\$365 per person. Once the group has reached 2 people, we will remove this supplement from your invoice and refund you if you have already paid it.

- There is no single supplement on this ride and genuinely solo travellers will be given a single room (bathrooms may be shared).

- Transfers from Port Macquarie and Kendall (train station) are included at set times.

> Arrival Day Pick up: Port Macquarie: airport, central bus station or hotel: between 5:15 - 5:30pm - Kendall train station 6:15pm to meet the train from Sydney - Separate pick-up times for Brisbane train times possible on request.

> Departure Day Drop off: Port Macquarie airport from 10:00 am (earlier on request for international connections) - Kendall train station: to meet 09:00 am train to Sydney

Private transfers can be arranged and will be priced on request - normally around US\$110/€100/£90.

- The ride is full-board expect for one meal (lunch or dinner) at a local establishment, at your own cost.

- Children (15 years and older) with strong intermediate riding skills, and who are accompanied by a riding parent, may be able to participate on request.

- Non-riders are welcome to stay at the lodge with accompanying riders. We recommend you rent a car to explore your surroundings - fishing and golf are available locally, and the beach is a 30-min drive. It is possible for you to meet the group of riders during their picnic lunches.

- Rider weight limit: Maximum weight is 80 kilos/176lbs/12st6. Advanced riders up to 85 kilos/187lbs/13st4 will be considered depending on their height. We will request your height/weight before confirming your booking.

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 horse guide

LOGISTICS

1 vehicle and driver

1 horse per rider

INLAND TRANSPORT

Airport transfers at set times (see above for details)

ACCOMMODATION

Double, twin or single room - guesthouse

MEALS

Full board from dinner on day 1 to breakfast on day 7, except one meal (lunch or dinner) at local establishment, at own cost.

All non-alcoholic drinks and wine served with dinner

ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT

Saddle bags

Price doesn't include

MEALS

Extra beverages and personal extras

Excludes meal (lunch or dinner) at local establishment, at own cost.

TRANSPORT

International and domestic flights or transportation to Port Macquarie/Kendall

Local airport fees

EXTRAS

Tips to the local team

Small group supplement - see above for the details

INSURANCE

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

Visas and personal purchase

EQUESTRIAN INFO

Horses

The small herd of a dozen horses is made up of Australian-bred Arabian horses, with some Andalucians and Brumbies. They are level-headed and sure-footed, well adapted to the varied terrain. The horses are small, between 14.1 and 15 hands. There are only 2 taller horses: a 15.3 hh Arabian and the 16.2 hh Andalusian-TB. Each horse has its own personality and there is a horse for every rider at the farm. They are part of the family and well looked after by Kathy and her team. They live outside in the herd year-round and are occasionally stabled in bad weather.

All Arabian horses come from good endurance bloodlines and have completed 40 km endurance competitions as part of their early training. The Brumbies were originally captured as wild horses in the Guy Fawkes River National Park, NSW using humane passive trapping yards. They were then professionally trained using Natural Horsemanship Techniques.

Minimum riding ability

MINIMUM RIDING ABILITY

This ride has the option for a slow-moderate pace for intermediate riders or a moderate-fast pace for strong intermediate-advanced riders. Strictly no novice riders. You ride in open, varied, sometimes challenging country so need to be balanced in the saddle with an independent seat, and must be able to mount and dismount unassisted. Riders are requested to canter and gallop in a two-point position. You must be able to ride in English saddles.

Rider weight limit: Maximum weight is 80 kilos/176lbs/12st6. Advanced riders up to 85 kilos/187lbs/13st4 will be considered depending on their height.

PACE

There are options for a slow-moderate pace for intermediate riders or a moderate-fast pace for strong intermediate-advanced riders. Expect long downhill walks, fast pace uphill gaits. There are regular canters for all, and exhilarating gallops for experienced riders.

TACKING ABILITY AND PARTICIPATION

Guests can offer to help with the horses and get their horse ready in the morning, saddle / unsaddle and wash & clean up the horses and tack, if they want (always supervised), but this is by no means compulsory or expected.

TRIP CONDITIONS AND REQUESTED EXPERIENCE

Most country is undulating to steep terrain with some narrow overgrown rainforest trails. Rides go into remote and isolated areas, with limited mobile phone reception and assistance from third parties not immediately available. Leading the horses on foot over short distances may on occasion be required and a reasonable level of fitness is required for all horse riding tours. After each stop riders lead the horses for a few minutes to loosen the horses' (and the riders') muscles before mounting.

EQUESTRIAN EQUIPMENT

Tack is of a very high standard and kept in good condition: Australian endurance saddles and GP saddles. The horses are ridden in snaffle bits, hackamores or bitless bridles/ Natural Horsemanship halters.

There are small saddlebags to carry a water bottle (supplied), personal items for the day, lunch on some days.

Helmets are mandatory and Equus Journeys recommend you bring your own.

TRAVEL INFO

COMFORT

The farm is located in lush surroundings with gently sloping horse paddocks, timber post & rail horse fences, a few orange trees, macadamia nut trees and many Australian native trees and plants, with an abundance of visiting birds and wildlife. The Kerewong Farm stay offers a total of 4 bedrooms (single, double or twin) for up to 7 guests (maximum of 4 riders in any group). Enjoy a comfortable night's sleep in one of the Lodges bedrooms or in the separate studio-style Cabin. Guests can enjoy a saltwater swimming pool (4m x 9m) with a tropical garden feel (In use October - April). All linen and pool towels are provided. There are two friendly dogs on-site: Jedda and Bowie.

There is no mobile phone or television reception on the farm. Guests can use the main phone for emergency calls and enjoy free WiFi Internet.

MEALS

All meals are organized by your host. There is a focus on healthy home-style cooking and fresh ingredients with well balanced menus for your stay and when on day tours and treks.

- Breakfast: Buffet style continental breakfast with toast, condiments, cereals, yoghurt and fresh fruit. Cooked eggs & bacon, on some mornings on request.
- Lunch: Light salad lunches and picnics brought by support vehicle or saddle bag sandwiches
- Dinner: 2-course dinners are served at the dining table in the communal area and are home cooked International and Australian dishes.

Juice, soft drinks, filtered rain (tank) water, tea, coffee and hot chocolate are freely available on a self-service basis. Wine is served with dinner. Beer and additional wine can be purchased at a local bottle shop on arrival (during pick-up transfer), the winery ride destination or BYO (Bring Your Own).

Guests with special dietary requirements can be accommodated and must indicate their needs at the time of booking.

CLIMATE

During the month of April, May, August, September and October, the weather is generally pleasant with temperatures between 20-25°Celsius (68°F - 77°F). The months of January, February, March, April, May, June, August, October, November and December have a high chance of precipitation. The summer months from December to February are rather hot and humid.

GUIDE AND LOCAL TEAM

This is a one-woman (Kathy) operated small business. Local volunteers, international travelling helpers (backpackers) and casual workers (depending on group size) provide additional support (e.g. support vehicle for transfers and bringing lunch). The guide carries a special mobile phone for regional areas (but not with 100% reception), UHF radio for communication with forestry workers and first aid kit.

TIPS

Tips are not expected. It is, however, always welcome to show appreciation for exceptional service

PACKING LIST

Head

- Helmets are mandatory and we recommend you bring your own. 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
- Light and waterproof jacket

Legs

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

Hands and Feet

- Comfortable riding boots. We recommend 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
- Trainers or equivalent light shoes for evenings
- Socks
- Gloves - your hands are particularly exposed to the sun, cold or rain whilst riding.

Other useful items:

- Bathing suit
- Camera and high capacity memory card. Spare battery
- Bumbag for carrying your camera and small items whilst riding
- Water bottle (2 litres or 2 x 1 litre) – one is provided.

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
- Antiseptic wipes
- Handwash gel

Miscellaneous

- Backpacks cannot be worn whilst riding. We recommend a small bumbag 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!
- You should also bring a copy of your passport/insurance in case you lose your documents. You can also save a copy into your mobile phone.

VISA & HEALTH

Formalities

Unless you are an Australian or New Zealand citizen, you will need a valid Australian visa to enter the country. New Zealand passport holders can apply for a visa upon arrival in the country. All other passport holders must apply for a visa before leaving home. You can apply for a range of visas, including tourist visas and working holiday visas, at your nearest Australian Embassy or Consulate. You can also apply for certain types of visas on the Australian Department of Home Affairs website: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-finder>

eVisitor:

This is a free visa for multiple visits to Australia for tourism or business purposes for up to three months at a time within a 12-month period. This visa is available to passport holders from a number of European countries and it cannot be extended.

Electronic Travel Authority visa:

This visa allows you to visit Australia as many times as you want, for up to a year, and stay for three months each visit. This visa is available to passport holders from a number of countries and regions, who live outside Australia. There is no visa application charge for an ETA, however a \$20 service charge applies for online applications only.

Visitor visa:

The Visitor visa is designed for people who are not eligible for the eVisitor or Electronic Travel Authority visa. This visa allows you to visit Australia, either for tourism or business purposes, for up to three, six or 12 months. Applicants will have to pay a fee to submit their application.

If you hold an ePassport you can use SmartGate to pass through passport control when arriving in Australia. See the Australian Border Force website for more information: <https://www.abf.gov.au/entering-and-leaving-australia/smartgates>

For up-to-date information please visit the FCO office website: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/australia/entry-requirements>

ADDRESSES OF CONSULATES

- Ambassade d'Australie
4 rue Jean Rey
75015 PARIS
Tél. : 01 40 59 33 00
Fax :
info.paris@dfat.gov.au
- Ambassade de France
6 Perth avenue
Yarralumla
2600 CANBERRA
Tél. : +61 (2) 621 601 00
Fax :
info@ambafrance-au.org
- Ambassade d'Australie
Avenue des Arts
56
1000 BRUXELLES
Tél. : 02-286-0500
Fax :
austemb.brussels@dfat.gov.au

Health

Before visiting Australia you may need to get the following vaccinations or take the following precautions. It is best to seek medical advice as your individual health and your planned activities will be a factor. Seek advice 4-6 weeks before travel.

Required Vaccinations

There is no risk of yellow fever in Australia. The government of Australia requires proof of yellow fever vaccination from travellers 1 year of age or older who are arriving from a country with risk of yellow fever, including transit in an airport located in a country with risk of yellow fever.

Routine and Recommended Vaccinations

It is recommended that travellers are up to date on routine vaccinations including measles-mumps-rubella (MMR), diphtheria-pertussis-tetanus (DPT), varicella (chickenpox), polio, and yearly flu shots.

As hepatitis A outbreaks occur throughout the world and sometimes in countries with a low risk for hepatitis A, travellers should consult with their doctor prior to travel to see if the hepatitis A vaccine is necessary.

A hepatitis B vaccination is recommended for those who may have sexual contact with a new partner, who may get a tattoo or piercing, or have any medical procedures.

Travellers may need a Japanese Encephalitis vaccination depending on their travel plans, particularly if they will be in Australia longer than a month or plan to visit rural areas or spend significant time outdoors. Consultation with a doctor regarding this vaccination should be sought prior to travel. For further information on this recommendation, please visit the CDC Japanese Encephalitis Advice.

A rabies vaccination is recommended for those planning an outdoor holiday, for wildlife professionals and researchers, or for those who may come into contact with bats.

General Advice

Dengue cases have been reported in Australia. For further information, please visit the CDC Dengue Advice.

The standard of healthcare in Australia is very good. Under the reciprocal healthcare arrangements, British citizens resident in the UK and travelling on a British passport are entitled to limited subsidised health services from Medicare for medically necessary treatment while visiting Australia. This does not cover pre-existing conditions, or treatment that does not need prompt attention. These provisions do not apply to non-visitors, for example those who are studying in Australia. Other exclusions under the reciprocal agreement include pharmaceuticals when not a hospital in-patient, use of ambulance services and medical evacuations, which are very expensive.

If you need emergency medical assistance during your trip, dial 000 and ask for an ambulance. You should contact your insurance/medical assistance company promptly if you're referred to a medical facility for treatment.

Insurance

It is a condition of your booking with Equus Journeys that you have travel insurance which covers you for the riding activities to be undertaken. Your travel insurance should cover you for medical expenses and repatriation. Your guides will require your travel insurance details before they allow you to ride and may refuse to let you ride if you cannot provide them. You should take your insurance documents with you.

Voltage

The plugs in Australia have two flat metal pins, forming an inverted 'V' shape, and occasionally a third pin in the centre. The electrical current in Australia is 220-240 volts, AC 50Hz.

Budget and money

The Australian dollar (sign: \$; code: AUD) is the currency of Australia, including its external territories: Christmas Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, and Norfolk Island.

Currency exchange is available at banks, hotels and international airports. Australian banks offer the same range of services typical in other western nations, and Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) are widespread, although facilities may be limited in remote towns and the outback. EFTPOS (our electronic payment system) is widely available in most Australian shops, restaurants and hotels, allowing you to pay for purchases with your credit or debit card. Fees may be charged on transactions, particularly if withdrawing from an international account, so it is advised you check with your bank before travelling.

Telephone and jetlag

The mobile phone network generally works well in cities and large towns but coverage elsewhere can be very limited or non-existent. If you're travelling to remote areas, check with your phone provider about coverage. You can use your home mobile phone in Australia if global roaming has been activated, but making and receiving calls can be expensive. Many visitors prefer to buy an Australian SIM card on arrival. Australian SIM cards are available at some Australian airports, and at convenience stores and supermarkets.

The international dialing code for Australia is 61. Each region also has an area code, including Central East (New South Wales, Australia Capital Territory) with area code 02; South East (Victoria, Tasmania) with area code 03; Mobile telephones (Australia-wide) with area code 04; North East (Queensland) with area code 07; and Central and West (Western Australia, South Australia and Northern Territory) with area code 08. When calling from outside Australia, leave out the leading '0' from the area code or mobile phone number. The outgoing IDD (international direct dialing) code from within Australia is 0011.