Equus Journeys
HORSEBACK TRAVEL & EQUESTRIAN TRADITIONS SINCE 1972

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Wyoming Lake Ranch

UNITED STATES

Embark on an immersive **horseback ranch holiday in Wyoming**! Nestled in the Black Hills, just 30 minutes from Devil's Tower, this ranch has been breeding Quarter Horses and cattle since 1890. Ride across 30,000 acres (12,000 hectares) of varied landscapes, from hills, to clear streams, forests and canyons. This ranch holiday in the USA lets you live your **cowboy dreams** with a mix of trail riding and some light cattle work. You will also discover unspoiled nature teeming with wildlife such as deer, pronghorn antelope, eagles, prairie dogs, coyotes and even mountain lions. Yeehaw!

Ranches and Cattle Drives	**8 Days / 6 riding days**	**From £1,977**	


Wyoming Lake Ranch - Western riding holiday


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ITINERARY

Highlights

- Enjoy a warm and welcoming stay and experience the daily life of a family-run ranch, operated by cowboys of Italian heritage.
- Explore the wild nature and vast open spaces of northeastern Wyoming on horseback - 30,000 acres of diverse landscape!
- Discover the dramatic landscapes of the Black Hills.
- Visit the nearby Devil's Tower National Monument.
- Experience the perfect balance between a working ranch and a guest ranch, combining cattle work and beautiful trail riding.

Day 1 — 1: ARRIVE IN RAPID CITY - No riding

Lake Ranch

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

Arrivals at the ranch are possible only on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Check-in at the ranch is from 5:00 pm. Transfers from Rapid City Airport are between 3:00 pm and 7:00 pm: please plan a flight arriving no later than 6:30 pm.

Transfer time is around 2.5 hours. Settle in and overnight at the ranch.

If you prefer, we can arrange a first night in Rapid City to recover from jet lag and enjoy a full 7-night stay at the ranch. Please contact us! In this case, the ranch will collect you directly from your hotel in Rapid City.

Note: The itinerary below is given as an indication only and may vary depending on the season, weather, and ongoing ranch work during your stay. It is very important that you are able to "go with the flow" and don't attach too much importance to a set programme.

Day 2 — 2: RANCH - 6-7 hours riding

Lake Ranch

Each morning begins with a hearty breakfast around 7:30 am, during which the day's activities are discussed and each rider is assigned their horse.

You generally ride 3 to 4 hours in the morning, return for lunch at around 1:00 pm, then head out again in the afternoon. Dinner is served around 8:00 pm in the ranch's communal dining room.

The daily program may vary depending on the ranch's specific needs, and sometimes you'll take a packed lunch to enjoy out on the range.

Guests may have the opportunity to take part in cattle and horse round-ups, seasonal branding and other ranch activities depending on the time of year (spring is usually branding, autumn is round ups and getting cattle ready to be shipped off). Cattle work is not necessarily daily as the herd is very small - this isn't a full working ranch. At certain times, you may simply ride out to check the herds or explore the landscapes, especially in the summer time when cattle work is minimal.

When no cattle work is scheduled, you'll enjoy rides with spectacular views of Devil's Tower, canyons, forests and open prairies. Please note: some rides can be fast-paced depending on the group.

Evenings are spent together in the ranch's common area, where you might enjoy karaoke or a game of pool.

Day 3 — 3: RANCH - 6-7 hours riding

Lake Ranch

The ranch activities vary by season:
- Spring: Calving season: you'll help monitor newborns and may take part in branding, which includes marking, castration, vaccination and tagging (late June).
- July/August: Pasture management, moving herds between grazing areas, checking fences and ensuring herd health. Minimal cattle work.
- September/October: Round-up season, gathering, sorting and driving the herds to their winter pastures.

Day 4 — 4: RANCH - 6-7 hours riding

Lake Ranch

Learn how to drive and move cattle and horses, practice lasso techniques, and experience the daily life of a working ranch while enjoying the vast Wyoming scenery. The ranch sits beside a beautiful lake, perfect for stunning sunsets!

Depending on the rodeo calendar, you may have the chance to attend a local rodeo during your stay.

When there's no cattle work, enjoy leisurely rides through breathtaking canyons, forests and open prairies, sometimes at a lively pace!

Day 5 — 5: RANCH - 6-7 hours riding

Lake Ranch

Instead of a full or half day of riding, you may be offered an excursion to explore the area's attractions, such as the Devil's Tower, Mount Rushmore, Rapid City, Deadwood and more.

Since the ranch is located near an Amish community, you may also be able to see their leatherwork and local craft shops.

If there is a rodeo happening nearby, guests are welcome to attend.
Transfers for excursions are included, but meals are to your own account.

Day 6 — 6: RANCH - 6-7 hours riding

Lake Ranch

Another full day of riding with morning and afternoon rides as before.
When ranch duties allow, you'll enjoy free riding across the stunning landscapes... canyons, forests, and endless open spaces.

The ranch will also organise a weekly shopping excursion to nearby clothing and western equipment stores, or to a shop specialising in Lakota art and

culture.

Day 7 — 7: RANCH - 6-7 hours riding

Lake Ranch

Every day again begins with a hearty breakfast and horse assignment. Rides typically last 3–4 hours in the morning and another ride in the afternoon after lunch.

Depending on what is going on at the ranch, you may again carry a packed lunch for a picnic out on the range.

When there's no cattle work, enjoy relaxing trail rides through spectacular canyon and prairie scenery.

Day 8 — 8: RANCH - RAPID CITY - DEPARTURE

Today is your departure day. You'll need to check-out before 11:00 am.

Transfers to the airport are included - please plan a flight departing no earlier than 12:30 pm. The first transfer departs from the ranch at 8:00 am, with a 2.5-hour drive to the airport.

You can also extend your stay with a tailor-made extension to explore more of the region (Yellowstone...). Please contact us for options!

DATES & PRICES

DEPARTURE	RETURN	PRICE WITHOUT FLIGHTS	STATUS
24/04/2027	01/05/2027	£2,062	Guaranteed departure
01/05/2027	08/05/2027	£2,062	Guaranteed departure
08/05/2027	15/05/2027	£2,062	Guaranteed departure
15/05/2027	22/05/2027	£2,062	Guaranteed departure
22/05/2027	29/05/2027	£2,062	Guaranteed departure
29/05/2027	05/06/2027	£2,062	Guaranteed departure
05/06/2027	12/06/2027	£2,062	Guaranteed departure
12/06/2027	19/06/2027	£2,062	Guaranteed departure
19/06/2027	26/06/2027	£2,062	Guaranteed departure
26/06/2027	03/07/2027	£2,062	Guaranteed departure
03/07/2027	10/07/2027	£2,062	Guaranteed departure
10/07/2027	17/07/2027	£2,062	Guaranteed departure
17/07/2027	24/07/2027	£2,062	Guaranteed departure
24/07/2027	31/07/2027	£2,062	Guaranteed departure
31/07/2027	07/08/2027	£2,062	Guaranteed departure
07/08/2027	14/08/2027	£2,062	Guaranteed departure
14/08/2027	21/08/2027	£2,062	Guaranteed departure
21/08/2027	28/08/2027	£2,062	Guaranteed departure
28/08/2027	04/09/2027	£2,062	Full

04/09/2027	11/09/2027	£2,062	Guaranteed departure
11/09/2027	18/09/2027	£2,062	Guaranteed departure
18/09/2027	25/09/2027	£2,062	Guaranteed departure
25/09/2027	02/10/2027	£2,062	Guaranteed departure
02/10/2027	09/10/2027	£2,062	Guaranteed departure
09/10/2027	16/10/2027	£2,062	Guaranteed departure
16/10/2027	23/10/2027	£2,062	Guaranteed departure
23/10/2027	30/10/2027	£2,062	Guaranteed departure

Price details

- Flights to your destination (international/domestic) are not included but can be booked on request - please contact us for rates. Arrivals and departures at the ranch are possible only on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

- Rates are per person and based on two riders sharing a twin or double room for 7 nights, starting on a Wednesday or Saturday (no other arrival/departure day). Shorter stays are possible on request and depending on availability, at a 25% daily surcharge (Wednesday to Saturday or Saturday to Wednesday).

- The ranch will accommodate up to 24 guests (divided into different riding groups).

- Return airport transfers from Rapid city airport to the ranch are included on Wednesdays and Saturdays only, at set times, according to the following schedule:
> Arrivals between 3:00 pm and 7:00 pm. Strictly no transfers fafter 7 pm.
> Departures from 12:30 noon onwards. First departure from the ranch is 8 am.
Alternative arrival or departure times cannot be guaranteed but may be arranged in advance for an additional $300 per trip.
A shuttle or car rental service can also be arranged at the airport.

- For stays of two weeks or more, a 10% discount applies to the second and subsequent weeks.

- Optional supplements:
> Extra night at the ranch: starting from $365 / £275 / €325 in 2026 - $380 / £290 / €340 in 2027 (on a sharing basis, subject to availability).
> Single room supplement: No supplement applies if you are happy to share a room with another rider of the same sex. If you require a private single room, a supplement applies at +25% of the ranch package ($640 / $665 2026/2027)
> Private cabin supplement: +25% of the ranch stay base private (on request and subject to availability).

- Tips are compulsory in the USA (10% of the cost of your stay is expected). Tips payable locally in cash or card.

Children:
- Children under 10 years old sharing their parents' room will receive a 50% discount (no riding under 10).
- To ride, children must be at least 10 years old, ride together with their parents, and pass the ranch's assessment.
- Riders under 18 years old may only ride when accompanied by their parents, who are responsible for them.
- A helmet and protective vest are mandatory for all riders under 18.
Please note: these items are not provided by the ranch and must be brought by the rider.

- 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.
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

English-speaking local team

INLAND TRANSPORT

Airport transfers at set times (see dates and prices)

ACCOMMODATION

7 nights on the ranch - prices are based on a shared room

MEALS

Full board from dinner on arrival to breakfast on departure

ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT

Western equipment

EXTRAS

Activities on the ranch
In season, visit to a local rodeo (meals not included)

Price doesn't include

MEALS

Beverages and personal extras

TRANSPORT

International flights (bookable upon request)
Visa fee (ESTA) - this must be arranged in advance

EXTRAS

Tips to the local team are compulsory in the USA and represent around 10% of the cost of your stay - payable locally

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

EQUESTRIAN INFO

Horses

The ranch is home to over 100 horses, including both breeding stock and around 40 riding horses. The horses live and breed freely in the surrounding nature and share the land with the local wildlife. Most are Quarter Horses, with some Paints and Mustangs, all with exceptional cow sense.

The ranch also manages a cattle herd ranging between 50 and 150 head, depending on the season.

Horses on a working ranch are working horses, and as such, they have a different way of life from horses in the UK and Europe. However, they are healthy, happy and love their job.

Guide & local team

The team consists of owners Ferdinando and Robby, along with Alessandro and Alberto, Ferdinando’s sons, all attentive to the riders’ needs and always ready to help.

Chase, a cowboy from Arizona, often demonstrates colt starting and training, and accompanies guests on rides along with other cowboys.

A dedicated team of wranglers, cooks, and lodge staff, mostly from Italy, where Ferdinando and Robby originate, helps ensure smooth operations and warm hospitality.

Minimum riding ability

MINIMUM RIDING ABILITY

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

A good general fitness level is recommended, as you may spend up to 6-7 hours per day in the saddle. Some rides can be a little faster paced, so you must be confident cantering in open country.

Maximum rider weight limit: 95 kg / 15st / 210 lbs.

PACE

You ride at all three paces, 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.

When not working cattle, there will be opportunities for a faster pace.

TACKING ABILITY AND PARTICIPATION

You will be asked to groom, tack and untack your horse. A degree of independence is required, though the team are always available to assist if needed.

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 3-4 days to feel useful. That's completely normal! There is no "tuition" provided and you will learn on the go - but feel free to ask questions!

The itinerary is provided as an indication, it is by no means exhaustive but reflects the kinds of activities in which you will be asked to participate. Your time at the ranch is dictated by the needs of livestock, as well as your expectations and your previous experience on horseback. Plans change quickly on a working ranch and you must be happy to 'go with the flow'.

EQUESTRIAN EQUIPMENT

Western tack.
Limited saddlebags are available.
We recommend that riders wear a helmet to the correct standard. There are no helmets available to borrow at the ranch.

TRAVEL INFO

COMFORT

There are 8 bedrooms, each with its own private bathroom, plus one separate cabin with its own facilities. Rooms can have twin, double, triple or queen beds, and all have a hair-dryer.
The main lodge, decorated in Western style, includes a dining room, a pool table, table football and a shop selling riding gear, apparel and tack. Please note laundry is not available at the ranch.

Rooms are located in the main building and open onto the shared living area. If you prefer more privacy, a separate cabin can be booked for an additional charge (please see dates and prices).

MEALS

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

Meals are offered buffet-style: continental breakfast, lunch, and dinner featuring hearty, home-cooked dishes blending American and Italian influences.

Expect freshly baked bread and desserts, barbecues, grilled meats and a variety of international dishes. Meal schedules may vary depending on daily ranch activities.
For full-day rides, lunch will be a picnic out on the range.

Coffee, fruit, and cookies are always available in the dining room.

Alcohol is not included but can be purchased locally.

CLIMATE

The ranch sits at an altitude of around 1,450 meters (4,760 ft) and enjoys a continental, low-humidity climate.

April–May and September–October: widest temperature variations (5°C to 20°C / 40°F to 68°F). Expect changeable weather and bring layers.
June–August: warmest months, with average temperatures of 20–25°C (68–77°F) and peaks up to 30–35°C (86–95°F) during the day. Evenings are always pleasant and breezy.

TIPS

Tips are compulsory in USA. The local team expects to get 10% of the cost of your stay. Traditionally, guests give one envelope to the head cowboy, who then distributes it among the team.
Tips can be given in cash or by card.

PACKING LIST

We recommend layered clothing, including a jacket, hat, boots, and sunscreen. If you plan to enjoy the lake, don’t forget your swimsuit.
A shop is available on site for purchasing clothing and gear. Please bring a US plug adapter for charging phones and laptops (not provided by the ranch).
The ranch has a few saddle bags available to borrow, but not one per rider - we recommend bringing your own.
Pack warm clothing regardless of season, as weather conditions can change quickly and rain and storms are always possible.

Head
- Equus Journeys strongly recommends 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

Our recommendations:
- 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!
- Please print copies of your passport and insurance documents and take them with you.
- Please carry any valuables in your hand luggage.
- Backpacks should not 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 (camera, sunscreen, lipbalm etc)