

Below is the proposed itinerary for the trip. As is true on any adventure travel trip, plans for any specific day may be modified due to weather considerations, unforeseen circumstances, new opportunities, and group interests.

DAY 1

Welcome to the West! Fly into Denver.

Arrive anytime today at the Denver Airport. We'll be staying at a nearby hotel with an airport shuttle, so you can arrive whenever it's convenient. Our first formal get together will be tomorrow.

DAY 2

Settling in at the Ranch

We'll meet each other Sunday morning for breakfast and to start getting acquainted. We'll then depart for the 3 hour drive up to Laramie, stopping along the way for lunch (not included) and a possible opportunity to visit a cowgirl store where you can purchase western wear, boots, hats and any forgotten items as well as those must-have ones (depends on store hours)! We'll get to the ranch about 2:30 and will have time to settle in, before meeting with our host for the week. We'll learn about the history of the ranch (it's third generation) and then get a tour of the ranch and buildings. Obviously knowing where the hot tub is located will be of prime importance! We'll then enjoy the first of many hearty and delicious dinners, home-cooked from scratch and served buffet style. Our western or gourmet meals are supplemented with fresh salads, fruit, homemade breads, pastries, and desserts at every meal. Obviously if we're going to eat like ranch hands, we'll need to work up an appetite like them! After dinner we'll meet for an orientation to the ranch and our activities for the week.

(B,D)

DAY 3

Yee Haw! Let's Start the Fun!

We'll start our week with a "Meet and Greet" - with our horses for the week! We'll learn a little about how horses think and how we can out-think them, setting our week-long relationship on firm footing. We'll get our saddles fitted, learn trail etiquette, and receive some riding instruction that will help whether you're new to riding or an experienced rider. After this introduction, most of the rest of our rides will be based on experience level and everyone will have the chance to improve her riding skills.

Each day will be full of riding, fishing, hiking - and relaxing. Every evening we'll review our options for the next day and everyone can choose what sounds good to her; with lots of flexibility built in. Horseback riding is one of the main delights here. The horses are well cared for and well trained. You will be matched to a horse at the beginning of the week that is appropriate for your experience level, and you will have the chance to improve your riding skills over time. We'll split into groups based on experience; nose-to-tail rides are minimized and loping rides are available for those who are interested.

The terrain varies greatly: at the beginning of the week we'll ride directly from the ranch through lush meadows near the river and up onto high plateaus. Later in the week we'll head for more mountainous country. There will be morning and afternoon rides offered each day and at least one day we'll have the option for an all day ride up in the mountains. All rides are adapted to any level of experience. In addition to trail riding, once we are comfortable with our horses we'll get to try team penning, learning how to get cattle to go where we want. The Vee Bar's horses are turned out to pasture each night and rounded up each morning. If you want to meet the wranglers at the barn in the morning to help groom and saddle your horse, and/or help unsaddle and turn horses out, you are most welcome to. (You are equally welcome to leave your horse with your wrangler and go back to your cabin for a hot shower!)

There will be also optional activities each day for those who choose not to ride or only ride half the day. The Little Laramie River flows right through the ranch and is perfect for fly fishing, and there is also a stocked pond which is ideal for learning. Those who are interested can attend a demonstration from a local guide who will teach the basics and cover topics such as techniques, equipment, flies, and fish. Those who are really interested in improving their skills or going for guided expeditions can hire the guide - he's always on call.

For those who want to do some hiking, the nearby Snowy Mountains offer a variety of well-marked trails. For those who want to relax, you can go for a quiet walk on ranch property, read your book while listening to the river, soak in the hot tub, and take naps.

Other activities to look forward to include trapshooting, working sheep dog demonstrations, dance lessons, happy hour with live music, outdoor barbecues, evening campfires, roasting marshmallows (yes!) and singing wranglers!

After a full day of activity, we'll gather for a relaxing drink at the John Wayne Saloon or in the lodge in front of the large river rock fireplace. We'll enjoy a delicious hearty dinner, served buffet style. Our meals are cooked from scratch and supplemented with fresh salads, fruit, homemade breads, pastries and desserts at every meal. Before retiring to your comfortable bed each night, you can sit outside in the hot tub, soak well-used muscles, and gaze up at the stars that may be brighter than any you've ever seen before.

(B, L, D)

DAY 4

Riding, hiking, fishing, relaxing, eating, hot tubbing

See "Day 3" for a complete description!

(B, L, D)

DAY 5

Riding, hiking, fishing, relaxing, eating, hot tubbing

Yup, more of the same (see Day 3)

(B, L, D)

DAY 6

Riding, hiking, fishing, relaxing, eating, hot tubbing

Yup, more of the same (see Day 3)

(B, L, D)

DAY 8

Happy Trails to You!

The week is over way too quickly! We'll pack up this morning, eat our last breakfast, and then get a shuttle back to the Denver airport. We'll be back by 1:00 PM and you can plan to fly out anytime after 3PM.

(B)