

A woman with long brown hair, wearing a black riding helmet, sunglasses, a bright pink long-sleeved shirt under a black vest, black riding pants, and black boots, is smiling and looking back over her shoulder while riding a brown horse. The background features a vast landscape with a blue lake, rolling green hills, and majestic snow-capped mountains under a clear blue sky.


in the saddle
Holidays on Horseback

179
rides in
44
countries

25th EDITION

Welcome

Our news feeds and papers are dominated by the challenges facing countries, governments and people around the world. More than ever we need space and time away from all this noise and bustle - to connect with nature and the people we share this planet with.

Jane Brook's story on page ten is a fascinating insight into the way horses can impact on our lives and how they enable us to see the world differently. For someone who had never ridden before to have experienced so much in just a few years is a real inspiration.

My great interests in life are horses and travel, and I am fortunate to have visited so many places and ridden some wonderful horses. I know that just being around horses is good for me. Like many people I spend long hours in front of a computer or attached to my phone. When I need calm I can always turn to my horses. I'm convinced we can learn a great deal from them. They show us how to be authentic and true to ourselves and to live in the present moment. So, whether you're new to riding or an experienced rider, by the end of your first day on holiday I am confident you will have started to shed some of the stresses and anxieties of modern life. As a recent guest said in her post holiday feedback "I haven't felt this alive in years".

This brochure is the result of 24 years' work. It is our collection of the best experiences we have found while searching the world for riding holidays. All of us at In The Saddle would love to share our knowledge and experience and help you choose your next riding holiday.

I hope this brochure will be the start of a journey for you to create your own stories like Jane.

Olwen Law

*Your
Riding Holiday
Starts Here*

Find out more at www.inthesaddle.com including detailed itineraries, reviews and expert advice. Call one of our travel specialists on **01299 272 997** or email rides@inthesaddle.com
Front cover and inside front - Torres del Paine. Back cover - Ol Donyo Lodge, Kenya.



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You must wear a hard hat when riding.

The information in this brochure has been checked and verified to the best of our knowledge but we do not guarantee the accuracy. All holiday bookings are subject to our terms and conditions available at www.inthesaddle.com.

Date published August 2019

Foreword

by Pippa Funnell

Horses have been my life and passion for many years, so when it came to booking a holiday, a horseback safari at Macatoo in Botswana was an easy decision. My husband William and I found that riding through one of Africa's prime wildlife areas was the perfect way to combine sightseeing with our passion for horses and provided a truly unforgettable experience.

In The Saddle are the experts at what they do and work together with the ride operators to make sure each guest has the most amazing experience. I've known In The Saddle for a good number of years now and they just make the whole process so easy and uncomplicated. The efficiency of the team allows you to sit back, relax, and enjoy the ride.

Take the leap and book your own holiday of a lifetime through In The Saddle as, after all, the world is best viewed through the ears of a horse and no hour of life is wasted, that is spent in the saddle.

Pippa Funnell MBE is one of the UK's most celebrated equestrians. She has won twice at Badminton and in 2003 became the first ever winner of the Rolex Grand Slam. Pippa has won two individual gold medals and three team golds at the European Championships. As well as her achievements in the saddle, Pippa is the author of a series of children's books, Tilly's Pony Tails.



How In The Saddle began



Spending some time researching I realised there was a gap in the market so putting together three of my great passions in life, travel, photography and horses, In The Saddle was born. That was almost 25 years ago.

Since then there has been a boom in active adventure travel and while not exactly mainstream, riding holidays have become a recognised way to experience the world. Today there is so much information and choice it can be bewildering, so now the work we do is even more important. In The Saddle has grown to a small dedicated team of twelve based in a converted barn in Shropshire. We recognise that a holiday is for many people the most important purchase they will make during the year. Our aim is to support you through this process and we continually strive to do the best we can.

While we are proud to be the market leader in the UK, helping more riders find their ideal holidays than any other company - we are even more pleased that we have a 98% satisfaction rating. For us the greatest reward is the feedback from customers when they come back and tell us their In The Saddle trip was their best ever holiday.

The idea of a travel company specialising in riding holidays first came to me during a six month sabbatical from my accountancy job. I was in Argentina, touring South America, an area famous for its equestrian culture – the Gauchos, estancias, Criollo horses and the home of polo.

I'd ridden in various countries around the world but it was all very hit and miss. You'd arrive somewhere and it was difficult to tell who was more bored, the horses or the guides, while at others the whole experience was fabulous. I knew there must be places where I could get great riding but I had no way of finding them. Horses had taken

me to some of the most beautiful parts of the world and even though their culture was a million miles from my own upbringing I'd made a real connection with people because of our shared love of horses. I thought, wouldn't it be great if there was someone you could go to who knew the best places to ride and who could help you find them.



ABOUT THIS PICTURE

Although it looks like a painting this is actually a photograph. It was taken at Dundlod in northwest India by equestrian photographer Dale Durfee and has hung in our office for the past 15 years. The Marwari breed has distinctive ears with tips that turn inwards, an adaptation to the semi-arid climate and sand deserts of Rajasthan. The image of a horse being schooled in between horse safaris takes up most of the wall so it's very prominent. For us it's a constant reminder of what we do. We see In The Saddle as the thin strand that connects people and horses and if we do our job well the whole process is seamless.



YOUR FEEDBACK

Customer feedback is central to In The Saddle. It helps us to continually improve the holidays we offer and ensure that any issues are picked up as early as possible.

We've been publishing all the feedback we receive for many years. It's one of the most read sections on our website and we know it really helps people choose the holiday that's right for them.

We recognise the importance of showing everything so you get the full picture - the occasions when things don't go to plan as well as the times when it does.

What We Do

In The Saddle is a travel agent specialising in riding holidays. Before we start to promote a new ride one of our experts visits the destination to ensure the experience meets our standards. There are many thousands of riding holidays around the world but we only work with a select few. The horses and guiding are the most critical aspects we check but these inspection visits are also vital to our role of matching the right person to the right holiday. We know the holidays we feature all offer a high quality experience, but each one is unique. What suits one person in terms of the number of hours on horseback, the pace of riding, type of horse and accommodation may be very different for another person. So, our expertise is in helping you find the holiday that's right for you. There's no substitute for first hand experience and it means we can talk to you with knowledge and confidence.

★★★★★ FIVE STAR RATING

98% of customers rated their experience with In The Saddle as good or excellent

“No travel company has a better understanding of riding holidays than In The Saddle.”

IN THE SADDLE

In The Saddle is an agent for a selection of amazing riding holidays all over the world. We have visited and checked that each holiday meets our exacting standards. Using our experience and knowledge we help you choose the right riding holiday for what you want. We make the booking process as simple and efficient as possible.

FINANCIAL SECURITY

In The Saddle is bonded with ABTA, the UK's most recognised consumer travel protection brand. The ABTA bond means you can be confident that any money you pay us is safe.



RIDE OPERATOR

Your holiday will be provided by the ride operator. These are knowledgeable and experienced horsemen and women, many of them known to us for over 20 years. If not guiding themselves, they employ the best local guides who will look after, inform and entertain you. Your contract is with the Ride Operator.

Desert Trail - Morocco

Planning Your Holiday

Our website www.inthesaddle.com is a vast resource of information that's constantly being updated. There are descriptions of the horses and the riding, day by day itineraries, pictures of the places you stay and ride through, as well as lots of video clips. Each ride also has a section for reviews and feedback that's posted by previous guests.

We understand that all this information on its own won't always help you find your ideal holiday so our specialist travel consultants are on hand via live-chat, email and phone. We're here to guide you through the choice of riding holidays and answer your questions. We are all riders and collectively we have over 100 years' of experience helping people choose their holiday. We can discuss your plans, offer advice and give you ideas and inspiration. If we can't answer your question immediately we'll get back to you promptly.

For us to guide you to the ride that matches what you're looking for it's essential to know about your riding experience and what you're looking for in your holiday. We will ask you questions like - how long you have been riding and how often do you ride at the moment? What's important to you - to be in the saddle for as long as possible, beautiful scenery or a warm climate? Maybe being with other riders is key to you, to feel part of a group or experience a different culture? We know some riders are keen to ride a particular breed of horse. Some want to develop a bond with their horse so being involved with grooming and tacking up is as important as time in the saddle.

“I have been a customer for many years, and I do not even look elsewhere when I start planning my next riding holiday. The service is excellent, I always get very appropriate information regarding different rides (both ups and downs and how the ride might suit me), which helps me to select the holiday from a wide range of options. It means there are never any unpleasant surprises and I cannot remember when I would have been disappointed when I actually got to the holiday destination.”



Ol Donyo Lodge - Kenya

Customer Stories

My first riding expedition was in Mongolia and it changed my life.

I had always wanted to visit Mongolia and was researching possibilities when I stumbled across a review of the ride. Having read that review I just knew that the best way to visit the country was on horseback. But there was only one problem – I had never been on a horse in my life. So I started taking riding lessons, got a job as a stable hand and two years later, after a very helpful discussion with Chris Day from In The Saddle, I booked the trip. Since that first amazing adventure I have ridden in ten more countries and now have my own horse.

When you travel on horseback through a country that has an equestrian culture you get a feel for the place, you get inside it in a way you can never achieve from a vehicle. You are greeted with such warmth as you ride through little villages.

The most memorable overnight camp was during a trip through Kyrgyzstan. We had a three day break up on the high pastures where semi-nomadic people bring their horses to graze in summer. We were privileged to stay in a family yurt with grandma and grandad, parents and children; learned to milk the mares; took part in equestrian games. Far better than any luxury hotel could ever be.

The most memorable sunsets were in Namibia. There was just me and the guide. We rode in the early morning and late afternoon to avoid the heat of the day and camped out under the desert stars. As the sun went down there was always a gin and tonic in hand to accompany the beauty of the enormous red sky.

I have so many wonderful memories of riding expeditions that it is really hard to pick one moment that stands out. But maybe the highest point (literally and figuratively) was in Kyrgyzstan when we crossed a mountain pass in an unexpected blizzard. Wearing Russian army issue nuclear suits to protect us from the freezing temperatures (in June!) we picked our way across the rocky pass on sturdy sure-footed ponies. When we dropped down into the green valley on the other side of the pass it was with a real sense of accomplishment. Now that's what I call endurance riding!

Once when I was riding in Jordan we had a race across the desert on wonderful Arab mares. I had only been riding for three years at the time and I will never forget the guide saying to me afterwards that he hoped he would be able to ride as well as me when he reached my age (I was 60). For someone who was never any good at sports at school and considered myself to be poorly co-ordinated, that comment gave me – and still gives – a tremendous sense of achievement and self-confidence. Riding is part of my life now and I can't imagine ever giving up.

Jane Brook



What to Pack

One of the most important elements of our Itinerary booklet is the Packing List. This has been finely tuned over the years for each of our destinations. It represents a combination of advice from our partners, our own personal experience and the feedback from many past guests.

HARD HAT

You will need to wear a hard hat. There may be hats to borrow at the riding centre but we always recommend you take your own properly fitted hat. When riding in hot countries lightweight vented hats are more comfortable and wide brims are available which shade your neck as well as your face. To protect your helmet either take it in your hand luggage or wrap it securely with clothes in your main luggage.

BOOTS

What's suitable for a dressage holiday in Portugal will not be right for an expedition in Kyrgyzstan or a horseback safari in Africa but generally a short boot/half chap combination is ideal. This will give you protection for the lower leg while allowing flexibility of movement. On many trail rides there will be some walking on foot so you will need comfortable boots that will support your ankle and have a sole that is not smooth.

RIDING CLOTHES

It's all about being comfortable rather than stylish so don't take your best jodhs. If you are buying new for your trip we recommend you wear and wash them a couple of times to make sure they are comfortable.

LAYERS

You'll be in the open and at some destinations in extreme environments where the weather can change quickly. Several layers that can be combined are much better than one thick coat or jacket.

WATERPROOF AND BREATHABLE

An outer layer that will keep you dry is important on many rides. But there's no point in keeping the rain off if you get too hot and sticky underneath, so make sure your waterproofs are breathable like GORE-TEX, eVent or Patagonia's H2No.

BUFF OR NECKERCHIEF

So many uses for hot and cold climates and it only takes a tiny amount of luggage space.

LESS IS BEST

It's not just about what you take with you, it's what you leave at home. This is key advice on many of the expedition rides where your kit will have to travel on horseback. Even where there is a luggage support vehicle, you'll find it easier if you don't have lots of stuff to rummage through.



Okavango Mobile Safari - Botswana

Riding holidays

are essentially a simple way of seeing the world,

WHERE THERE ARE NO BARRIERS OF METAL AND GLASS
BETWEEN YOU, THE SCENERY AND THE WILDLIFE

LEAVING ONLY HOOFPRINTS

We all want to limit our impact on the environment and the concept of sustainability, of respecting the destinations we visit, is at the very heart of riding holidays. Small groups travelling without vehicles are by their nature environmentally sensitive so it's not something that we need to shout about. Wherever possible guides and backup staff are recruited and trained from nearby towns and villages. The ride operators we work with are small, often family owned and run which means your money goes into supporting local communities. In identifying new destinations we work with tourist boards who are committed to encouraging growth in tourism away from the main visitor attractions which are often at capacity.

Uruguay, Coastal Estancias

Horses have been used by humans to travel for thousands of years and many of the great historical journeys were done on horseback. When you go on a riding holiday you are part of that ongoing tradition. Riding is about being in the moment, away from the distractions of the modern world. One of the comments we often receive when someone comes back from their holiday is that it felt like travelling back in time, to a time when life was less complicated.

Horses have shaped the world we live in and part of the fascination of travelling by horseback is coming face to face with different horse cultures around the world. Just look at the variety of saddles that have evolved in different countries. They all solve the same issue of how to ride comfortably over long distances but the approach in, say, Mongolia, Argentina or even Spain is very different to how we do it in England. The differences and questions are endless - why are horses in Romania adorned with red tassels and why do Chileans use ornately carved wooden stirrups?



SO WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A RIDING HOLIDAY AND A HOLIDAY WITH RIDING?

On a riding holiday, riding will be the main activity and the horses are typically ridden by one or two riders over the week. Contrast this with the hotel which may have horses they hire out by the hour and which, over the year, will be ridden by many hundreds of riders.

On a riding holiday there may be other things to do but you should expect to ride on most days. We let you know how much riding there will be on each trip since it can range from two to eight hours per day.

On a riding holiday the horses and guides have been checked by In The Saddle so you can be confident that you will be provided with a horse that is fit and healthy, well trained for its job and a pleasure to ride.

At the booking stage we find out about your expectations and level of experience. We also provide the ride operator with your details so they can match you up with a suitable horse. Some destinations like Horizon in South Africa have a herd of over 80 horses and take around ten guests at a time so there is a wide choice of horses and you may ride several different horses during your stay. Other places will have a smaller choice so it's vital to ensure that horse and rider are well matched.

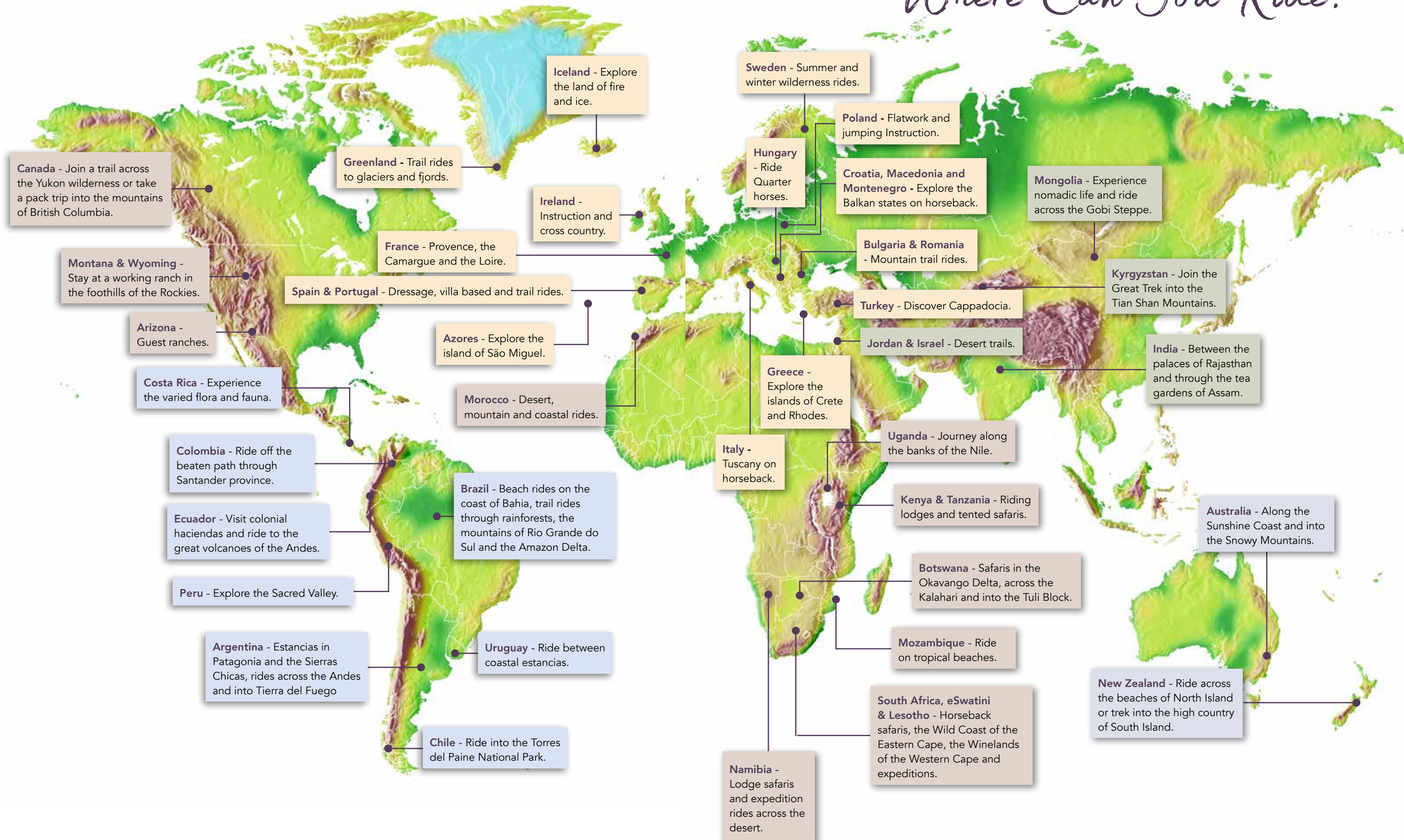
REAL LIFE EXPERIENCES

Authenticity is the Holy Grail of travel. One of the things you will know if you've been on a riding holiday is that you interact with people differently when you arrive on horseback. On the more adventurous trips you get to areas where very few outsiders visit so you will naturally generate a certain amount of curiosity. In other destinations where there is a strong horse culture being a rider will create an immediate link with the locals.

ESCAPING YOUR STRESSES

Many studies have shown the mental health benefits of being around horses and how they contribute to reducing stress. Holidays are also an opportunity to recharge and rebalance. On a riding holiday everything is looked after so you are free to enjoy the experience. The organising has all been done for you, the itinerary mapped out, routes checked, meals prepared and accommodation booked. So with the organisation being taken care of, you can simply enjoy the riding and the journey. You will be tired at the end of the day, sleep well and feel refreshed for the next day's adventures.

Where Can You Ride?

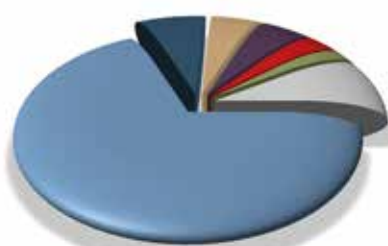


Who goes on Riding Holidays?

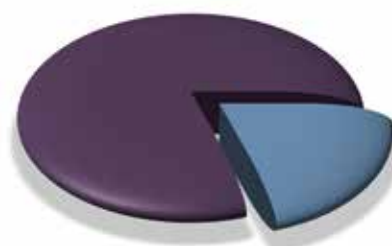
The vast majority of our customers are female and this has changed little since we first started selling riding holidays. There are a number of family friendly places which accept young riders from aged four or five but many riding holidays are for adults who can ride. There is not normally an upper age limit but it's important that you let us know about any health issues since some rides are in remote areas with limited medical resources.

NATIONALITY

The majority of our customers live in the UK but we have a broad spread of nationalities and over the past year people from 33 different countries have booked with us.



UK	69%
USA	7%
Belgium	5%
Norway	5%
Denmark	3%
Italy	2%
27 Other Nationalities	9%



GENDER

Male	20%
Female	80%



GROUP SIZE

One	29%
Two	37%
Three or more	34%

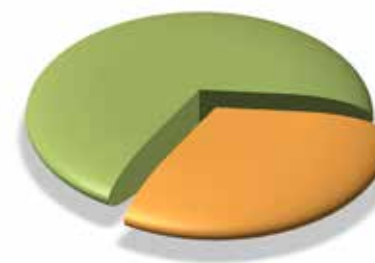
RIDING EXPERIENCE

Most of the riders who booked with us last year were at the Intermediate Plus level. That means someone who has been riding for a number of years and is confident on a forward going horse at a steady canter over uneven ground. On each web page there is a detailed description of the riding that you should expect; however, this is just a guide. If a trip is classified as only for experienced riders it doesn't necessarily mean that it's fast paced. It could mean that there are long hours in the saddle through wilderness or that you're riding in game reserves where there are potentially dangerous wild animals.



Beginners	3%
Intermediate	19%
Intermediate Plus	53%
Experienced	21%
Non Riders	4%

Owners

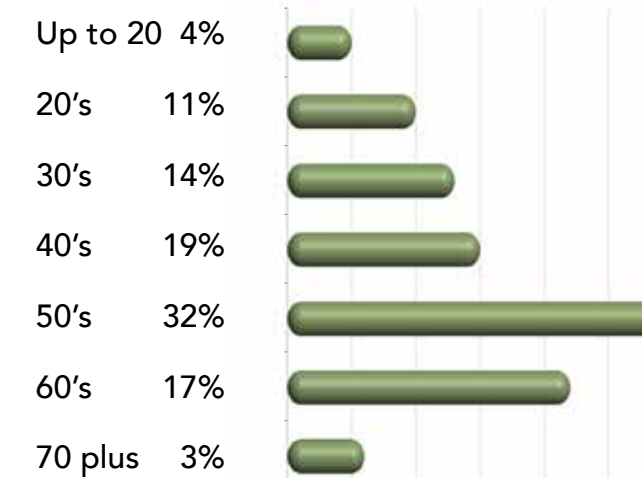


HORSE OWNERS

Owners	32%
Non Owners	68%

Almost a third of our customers are people who have their own horses and ride regularly. Equally we have lots of people who ride only occasionally - you don't have to be a technically accomplished rider to go on a riding holiday. We always take the individual's experience into account when recommending which rides to consider.

RIDER AGE



NON RIDERS

Many holidays are suitable for non-riding friends and partners. Look for the symbol on the ride panels on pages 71 to 82. In most cases these are centre based rides as moving non-riders to the next overnight stop is more challenging on the inn to inn rides.

Other activities are available for non-riders and the day can be structured so that friends and partners can share activities. For example on many of the horseback safaris a couple could do different things in the morning with one going on a wildlife ride and the other on a game drive in a jeep, then after meeting up for lunch, go together with a guide, tracking animals on foot. Other destinations have swimming pools, sports facilities or golf.

You might even be able to persuade non-riders to have a go. Horseback safaris and ranch holidays are particularly good for this as they give a purpose to the ride.

TIPS FOR GROUP BOOKINGS

Whether it's a special family celebration, a riding club trip or simply a bunch of riding friends - group holidays can be great fun.

- Ensure that everyone has a similar level of riding ability or choose a holiday where the group can be split according to individual riding experience.
- Pick a leader who will co-ordinate the booking.
- Keep everyone in the group informed. Your nominated leader can do this or we can include everyone in the correspondence. Each person will receive their own personal copy of the holiday documents.
- Let us know if you want to be invoiced separately or all together as a group.

If you are waiting for one or two people to make up their minds remember they can always be added later. There's nothing worse than waiting for everyone to decide and then finding the date you wanted is no longer available.

TRAVELLING SOLO

It's wonderful to share the experience of travel with loved ones but busy modern lives mean it can be a challenge to co-ordinate plans with friends and partners.

If you haven't been away on your own before it may feel like a bold step but ultimately it can be really empowering. In our experience other travellers and locals interact with you differently and are more likely to engage with someone who is on their own rather than part of a group or a couple.

Often partners may not be such keen riders so there is a certain freedom about travelling on your own - you don't need to worry about whether the other person is having as good a time as you are.

Riding holidays are ideal for anyone travelling on their own. Groups are small and made up of people with the same interests. Friendships made on horseback endure and we know of many cases where people will link up to go on future trips together.



It's All About the Horses



Horse welfare is always the first thing we look at when we visit a possible new destination. It doesn't matter how luxurious the accommodation or how spectacular the scenery, if the horses aren't fit, healthy and suitably trained for their job, we know there is no holiday.

The holidays we feature are across many different cultures and sometimes in countries much less developed than our own. Although we expect the horse care to be comparable to western standards, that doesn't mean that the horses will be looked after in the very same way that you may care for your horse at home.

Wait A Little in South Africa has a superb reputation for producing well-schooled horses to ride on safari. We are proud to have worked alongside Gerti and Philip Kusseler, who own Wait A Little, for the last 17 years. We asked Gerti to tell us how she selects and trains a safari horse to be brave and calm in front of wild animals.

"When a young horse arrives at Wait A Little at aged three we give them a lot of time, at least a year, before we start training them. By the age of six they will be ready to go with their first guest. Some horses are quick to learn and easy to train and others need endless schooling. Some horses are also braver with the game than others. We can tell this by their reaction when they first encounter giraffe as in our experience giraffes are the most intimidating animals for horses.

We like the South African Boerperd horse – it is nice to ride, brave and easy to keep. The disadvantage is that they only come in smaller sizes so we also like to find Friesian and Shire crosses as weight carriers. The Shire crosses have stolen our hearts - they are lovely rides, sporty but sane and very brave in front of the animals; the Friesian crosses can sometimes be a bit too steady for guests who like a faster horse. Thoroughbreds make great safari horses and are often very brave, but sadly they don't do well on our hard rocky ground.

After a horse has done a few safaris with guests, they will get a break and then have schooling in the arena. All our horses are schooled to a certain level in flatwork with pole work and jumping. This keeps them supple and fun to ride.

The training of our safari horses is of the highest importance. Our aim is to approach animals as close as possible, including lion, elephant and rhino, but we can only do this if the horses are calm. To train a horse to be relaxed in front of animals takes time, but starts in the arena by the horse learning to move off the leg and be responsive to the rider's aids. What is important for us is that even if a horse spooks or gets a fright, you can immediately rein it in and make it stand quietly again. Our horses have to respond 100% to the rider.

Tau is one of the bravest horses we have and gives Philip the feeling that even if an elephant charged he would rear up on his hind legs to box the elephant away. He obviously doesn't ever do this, but it feels like he wishes he could!"



“time to relax and discuss the highlights of the day”



Early morning on a Namibia horse safari

A Typical Day on a Riding Holiday

Usually it's an early start, so after a light breakfast the first task of the day is tacking up. Some of the more "luxurious" rides will have a team of grooms and your horse will be prepped to go, but others are more participatory so any help getting ready will be appreciated. Don't worry if you are not familiar with the tack there will always be someone to check buckles and tighten girths.

The first ride of the week will be a good chance for the guides to see how well you've been matched with your horse. This is usually a gentle start with the pace quickening as confidence grows. Even for experienced riders there may be lots of new and unfamiliar things. On many trail rides

the horses are used to a loose rein and this may take some getting used to, especially if you are used to riding on a contact. Take time to familiarise yourself with the commands the guide uses. It's also important to let the guide know as soon as possible if you're not gelling with your horse, especially on a trail ride as swapping mounts will not be so easy later on.

The morning ride will be typically two to three hours with stops for watering horses and riders before a break for lunch. You may want to take advantage of these breaks to add or remove layers of clothing as the temperatures change. There will be saddle bags or ties to hold fast any



Los Alamos - Andalucía

discarded fleeces or coats. If you do use the ties remember to do them securely as a flapping coat is sure to distract your horse and turning up at your destination with less kit than you set out with is not a good start.

Depending on where you are in the world, lunch could be at a bar or restaurant or, on the more remote rides, a carefully chosen picnic spot by a river or under some trees for shade. Picnics may appear out of saddlebags but more often brought by a support vehicle. Then there is a chance to rest after lunch before another two or three hours in the saddle in the afternoon. One useful tip is to carry some snacks in a bum bag in case your energy levels get low.

As the sun gets lower in the sky you arrive back at base or your next hotel, lodge or camp. Once the horses are attended to there's time for a quick wash and brush up before drinks and dinner. The evening meal is a time to relax and discuss the highlights of the day as well as a preview of what's planned for tomorrow. Those with stamina may stay up later discussing the specific merits of their horse, but often tired muscles demand early to bed, before doing it all again with new experiences and new sights tomorrow.



Lunch break in the Alentejo

The Guides

Whenever we look at the different elements that make up a riding holiday the guides are always top along with the horses. Of course they need the training and knowledge to keep you safe and informed, but beyond this, their ability to connect you with the people and the land you ride through can turn a good holiday into an exceptional one.

It is difficult to single out a particular guide as each one brings their own character, individual skills and knowledge to the role but if you've ever ridden with David Foot you will have been privileged to witness his love of Africa and watch him bring the smallest detail to life.

David currently runs the Okavango Mobile and Kalahari Safaris in Botswana. We caught up with David recently and asked him about how he got into guiding.



Where were you born and raised?

I was born in Malawi (then called Nyasaland) adding to the third generation of Malawian feet! We lived at the foot of Zomba Mountain where the capital of the country was situated.

What did you do as a young boy?

I was fortunate to have parents who loved the outdoors; we spent most weekends either climbing one of Malawi's mountains, sailing on Lake Malawi or visiting various national parks in Malawi and the neighbouring countries. Living such a life it seems obvious that I would want to be a "game ranger" when I finally grew up. But senior school in England followed by Exeter University came first.

How did you get into guiding?

After university, together with some mates, we fixed up a four tonne Bedford truck and set off on an eight month journey from the UK to Johannesburg. Exploring many corners of the continent, this was the perfect way to return to Africa. The further south we ventured, the more I truly felt I had returned home.

Where have you guided in Africa?

I first worked in the Kafue National Park in Zambia before moving to the Matusadona and Mana Pools National Parks in Zimbabwe. I then returned to Zambia guiding walking safaris for a number of years. I established my own safari company in Malawi in 1989 initially running mobile safaris throughout the country and later setting up my first horse safari operation on the Nyika Plateau. This is undoubtedly one of Africa's extraordinarily beautiful places and we stayed here until 2008.

Then a change of circumstances meant that my family and horses left Malawi and moved to Botswana to resettle and start again. Malawi will always hold a special place in our hearts, but Botswana is home now for us and our horses.

What made you decide to become a full-time guide in Africa?

Adventure! And the overwhelming desire to be immersed in Africa's wildest places, living a life surrounded by Africa's great wildlife herds. Even at the start of my career, unpaid, doing all-day resupply runs along some of Africa's worst roads, I have always felt very fortunate.

What do you enjoy most about guiding?

All guides love to share their passion for Africa with their guests, but what I really love is that it has given me the opportunity to be in the African bush on a daily basis. Every day I get to see something special. A life of guiding has left me with a wonderful bank of memories.

Every day is different. I am incredibly fortunate to be riding alongside a herd of elephant in the Okavango Delta one week, privately guiding guests by vehicle to a wild dog den the next week, galloping across the Makgadikgadi (the biggest race track in the world) the following week, stalking buffalo on foot another week, canoeing remote river systems ... and so it goes on. The one constant is that the day ends around the campfire listening to the orchestra of the African bush.

What do you do when not working?

I have been told by many people that as I do not have a "proper job", I therefore do not have proper holidays. However, I love a morning on my veranda overlooking the Thamalakane River, with a good book about the early exploration of Africa whilst watching birds visiting the bird bath in the garden. And, of course, there is always the need to chill out on the sofa to support Tottenham Hotspur and the England Rugby Team!



Where will I stay?

There is often a perception that the accommodation on a riding holiday will be fairly basic. While there are some trips where you camp or stay in simple country inns, there are many more where the lodges, tented camps and country hotels add to the overall experience.

At Los Potreros in Argentina each room has been tastefully furnished with antiques in keeping with the history and style of the estancia. In Ireland at Castle Leslie you stay in one of the country's few remaining stately houses still owned and managed by its founding family. At Monte Velho, our most popular dressage ride in Portugal, the guest rooms have been designed by the architect and owner Diogo Lima Mayer to create a contemporary, light and airy feel.

The common factor is that the accommodation is small scale, locally owned and managed.

It sits comfortably in the environment and is in keeping with the riding holiday experience. Our principle is that we stay in the best places available and we won't rough it for the sake of it but equally we don't compromise the riding experience for the lack of a nice hotel.



Ant's Lodges in the Waterberg of South Africa is a beautifully designed wilderness retreat where the thatched guest rooms blend naturally into the landscape. The tented safari camps in Africa deserve special mention as they combine comfort with the feeling of being part of the wilderness.

Accommodation is probably the main factor affecting the overall price of a riding holiday and it's important that you let us know your expectations

when choosing your riding holiday. We can then guide you to the trips that will provide you with the level of comfort you're looking for.

We often find the variation in accommodation can add to the experience. Sleeping out in the desert in your swag, gazing at a star filled sky gives you a sense of scale and your place in the universe but it also makes you appreciate even more the luxury lodge the following night.



"we stay in some lovely places"

Borana Lodge, Kenya



Macatoo Camp, Okavango Delta



Monte Velho, Portugal



Castle Leslie, Ireland

Single Accommodation

Many of our customers travel on their own.

In most cases single supplements are not charged provided you are willing to share a room; although sometimes a charge is on your invoice until a sharer is found. Look for the 🧑 symbol on pages 71 to 82.

On some rides a single room is available at no charge. Look for the ❤️ symbol.

On rides in remote areas, where accommodation is very limited, single rooms may not be possible.



Estancia Los Potreros, Argentina



Macatoo - Botswana

What's Hot for 2019

During the first part of 2019 trips to the Americas have shown the greatest increase but Europe and Africa remain the most popular. Within Europe there is so much choice, from great beach rides around the Mediterranean to instruction holidays and lots of inn to inn trails. In Africa the big attraction continues to be the opportunity to view wildlife from horseback, whether cantering with plains game or tracking elephant through the bush. But, we've also noticed an increasing interest in African scenic rides such as the Wild Coast of South Africa, the desert trails in Namibia and the new mountain rides in Lesotho and eSwatini.

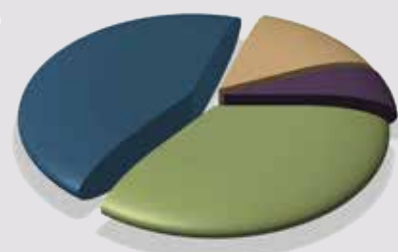


Ant's Nest - South Africa



Tuli Trail - Botswana

Bookings



THIS IS WHERE YOU HAVE ALREADY BOOKED TO VISIT THIS YEAR

Europe	44%
North and South America	14%
Rest of World	7%
Africa	35%



Beach ride at Los Alamos - Andalucia

Top selling destinations continue to be Macatoo in the Okavango Delta in Botswana and Ant's Lodges in South Africa.

We're yet to meet anyone who hasn't enjoyed their holiday to Ant's Lodges – they have horses for the beginner through to the most experienced rider; they can keep children and adults entertained whilst at the same time offer a spectacular romantic and exclusive honeymoon. Macatoo is for experienced riders only as you ride out in areas where there are potentially dangerous animals including elephant and lion.

Other African rides which have shown significant increase in popularity this year are the Tuli Safari in Botswana, Wait A Little in South Africa, the mobile safaris in Kenya and Tanzania and the exciting ride along the Nile in Uganda.

Los Alamos on the Atlantic Coast of Spain continues to be our most popular ride in Europe. Many people book Los Alamos a year in advance, so for the high season weeks you need to book now for 2020. The interest in dressage holidays hasn't abated. Monte Velho has more rooms and more horses; and the classical dressage instruction at Alcaínca has proved popular with individuals and groups. The new holiday in Crete is a

great place for riders of all ages and ability because it offers the flexibility of a centre based holiday or to join a trail ride. The new rides in Croatia and Montenegro are already almost full for 2019. Elsewhere we've seen a big increase in interest for Turkey which had been off the radar for a few years. This is very exciting because the riding in Cappadocia is unique and there are two great itineraries to choose from.

In Latin America bookings for Brazil, Chile and Peru have been strong. Brazil is such a huge, varied country we think it can be a bit daunting which ride to choose, but bookings have been good for our Brazilian Odyssey in September which combines two great rides (Darwin's Trail and Canyons & Waterfalls) and will be accompanied by an In The Saddle representative. In North America, The Hideout in Wyoming and Rocking Z Ranch in Montana continue to be popular.

India has been very busy both for people taking holidays in the last six months and also booking ahead for 2019-20 season. As well as Rajasthan and the Punjab, we've seen an increase in the bookings for the lovely Tea Gardens ride in Assam with guests rating it as one of their best holidays.



Fairy Chimneys - Turkey

Meet our Team

Our travel consultants are all horse riders. They have travelled widely, ridden at the destinations and are genuinely enthusiastic about sharing their knowledge and experiences of seeing the world from the back of a horse.



**OLWEN
LAW**

Olwen set up In The Saddle in 1995 but is still very involved in all the day to day aspects. She has an encyclopaedic knowledge of riding holidays and loves to talk about anything to do with horses and travelling.



**SARAH
DALE**

Sarah is one of our experienced consultants. Her key areas of expertise are horseback safaris, trail rides in Spain and France, and the new Balkan rides.



**IMOGEN
BROWN**

Imogen is responsible for Los Alamos in Spain. She has visited all the Portuguese dressage centres and has also ridden in South Africa and Botswana.



**JAMES
SALES**

James is Olwen's husband and has been involved in the business almost from the start. He works on all things technical and ensures our website and reservations systems are kept up to date.



**REBECCA
CLARKE**

Becky looks after most of our North American ranches and has visited several safaris in South Africa and Botswana. Her growing portfolio also includes a number of European destinations.



**CLAIRE
DOUGLAS**

Claire has recently visited Rhodes and El Bronco in Hungary as well as some of our most challenging rides in Mongolia. She also covers Ireland and other destinations in Europe.



**CHRIS
DAY**

Chris joined In The Saddle in 2003 and has a wealth of experience having visited more than 30 destinations over the last 15 years. Her passion is Iceland and she loves the challenging wilderness rides.



**LUCY
DOWNES**

Lucy looks after a wide range of destinations including India, Hungary, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Spain, Turkey and a number of our rides in southern Africa.



**LOIS
HOUSE**

As the newest member of the team Lois has been busy working her way through our portfolio of rides, learning all she can about the different destinations.



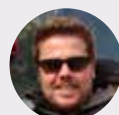
**ABBIE
WOOD**

Abbie has been with us since 2006 and has a wide portfolio including South America, southern Africa and Europe.



**HANNAH
MOSS**

Hannah covers rides throughout Europe and Africa. As a former riding instructor she is a natural choice for our destinations offering tuition.



**ANDREW
LAW**

Andrew looks after our finances so if you have any questions about your account he is the best person to ask for.

VISIT US AT A HORSE SHOW

Throughout the year we have a trade-stand at a number of horse shows and events across the country. These are great opportunities to meet our travel specialists and we're often joined by guides and owners from the holiday destinations.



Badminton Horse Trials, Gloucestershire
1st - 5th May 2019

Bramham Horse Trials, Yorkshire
6th - 9th June 2019

Burwarton Show, Shropshire
1st August 2019

Burghley Horse Trials, Lincolnshire
5th - 8th September 2019

Horse of the Year Show, NEC
2nd - 6th October 2019

Olympia Horse Show, London
16th - 22nd December 2019

We may be tucked away in a corner of rural Shropshire, which means most of our communication will be through email and phone, but we love having visitors. If you would like to discuss your holiday plans face to face please come and see us at In The Saddle, Reaside, Neen Savage, Cleobury Mortimer DY14 8ES. Our office is open Monday to Friday 9am to 6pm (other times by arrangement).

As well as our team in the UK we work with a number of other agents abroad. They are also riders and share our commitment to providing the best equestrian holidays.



BELGIUM
Stephanie Sap
www.vakantietepaard.be



DENMARK
Melina Woo
www.ridogrejs.dk



ITALY
Annuska Ghidotti
www.ilmondoacavallo.com



NORWAY
Ingunn Kvamme
www.inthesaddle.com/nb



Instructional Riding Holidays

*An instructional riding holiday is perfect “me” time -
the chance, away from the pressures of day to day life, for
you to learn new skills or improve your riding.*



Georges Malleroni at Alcaínça, Portugal



Abbie Wood

Choose from dressage instruction on highly trained Lusitano stallions to cross country in Ireland and everything in between. Try your hand at Western riding or the exciting game of polo. Alternatively, if you are new to riding, we also have Learn to Ride holidays.

USEFUL TIP Take a video of you riding your own horse at home - the Instructor may find it helpful. And have someone video your lessons so that you can review them later.

WHERE YOU CAN GO

We have dressage instruction in Portugal; polo holidays in Argentina; Western riding instruction in Italy and riding centres in Ireland, Italy and Poland offering flatwork and jumping. You can also learn to ride in the Azores and Crete. Destinations that provide instruction are shown with the 🐾 symbol on pages 71 to 82.

WHEN TO GO

Most of the destinations offer year-round riding. However, it is worth doing some research into the weather at different times of the year. If you are working hard in a lesson would a hot sunny day drain your energy or give you a boost?

WHAT TYPE OF RIDER DO I NEED TO BE?

The most important thing is to be open to learn. For the dressage holidays you should already be riding at walk, trot and canter, but you need not necessarily have done dressage before – although it will help if you have done some reading and are familiar with the terminology.

WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT IT?

You can eat, sleep, breathe horses all day long and spend your free time discussing hints and tips with like-minded fellow guests or perhaps watch the trainers work their own horses. The instructors will assess your riding and help you set realistic goals.

You will be amazed at what you might learn and how much you will improve in the space of a few short days. The skills you learn on a riding holiday could iron out a training issue with your own horse or might help improve your results at your next competition.



THE LUSITANO HORSE

The dressage holidays are home to the wonderful Lusitano horse. These horses really are the pride of Portugal and it's easy to see why they are so well loved by people all around the world. Although they are closely related to the Andalusian horse of Spain, the Lusitano was bred for its bravery, agility and calmness in the bullfighting ring and on the battlefield.

Today these horses are now more commonly found in the dressage arena. Their agility, spirit and amenable nature which made them such good cavalry horses allow them to shine in the dressage spotlight.

Their natural talent for collection makes the advanced dressage movements much easier and a pleasure to ride. With powerful hindquarters and a centre of gravity towards the back of the horse, they are a naturally collected breed. This allows them to be capable of elevated movements that other breeds can struggle with.

With their wonderful personalities, kind nature and patience they are superb teachers. If you would like to ride this fantastic breed then a holiday to Monte Velho, Quinta do Rol or Alcaíça is the ideal choice.

“After many years of challenging trail ride holidays, I decided on a change after seeing a video of Monte Velho at an In The Saddle stand. I was immediately drawn to the fantastic horses and accommodation and the fact that I could have instructional lessons and also still ride out. This seemed a perfect holiday.

Having now returned from three very enjoyable trips to Monte Velho with my riding friends, each party expanding in size, I have booked for a fourth.

Monte Velho has everything you could wish for: fantastic horses, lovely people, excellent teachers and wonderful accommodation. No matter what your standard of riding, everyone is treated with grace and encouraged to expand their riding.

Travelling with friends sharing the same interests only enhances the experience, as we all encourage each other and share our triumphs and challenges together. This is also a great bonding activity that we can talk about for months after returning. Having the diversity of lessons and riding out at Monte Velho ensures that everyone can tailor their own preferences, without compromising their enjoyment.

If you are thinking of trying an instructional holiday, whether you are travelling in a group or by yourself, you will not be disappointed with Monte Velho.”

Barbara McCarthy



INSPIRED TO LEARN?

Further information can be found on our website, where each destination has its own dedicated page with details on the location, riding, accommodation, dates, prices and weather, along with sample itineraries.

Speak to an expert on 01299 272997 or browse our full portfolio of riding holidays at www.inthesaddle.com



Tented & Mobile Horseback Safaris

*There is nothing so magical as being in the African bush;
the excitement of hearing the night time chorus through
the canvas and by day the adventure of finding
and encountering wildlife from horseback.*

asai Mara tented camp, Kenya



Maasai Mara, Kenya



Sarah Dale



SAFARI TENTS

The type of tents vary from basic dome tents with swags on camp beds to spacious semi-permanent tents set upon raised wooden decking with four poster beds and all the en-suite facilities a luxury hotel could offer. Some are so remote your only opportunity to wash is with campfire heated hot water dangling from an overhead bucket shower, while others have hot running water for baths and showers.

Some camps offer plunge pools for cooling down after your ride and at others you might have to improvise and use a small watering hole to take a dip. The level of comfort is shown on pages 71 to 82 as 🏕️ basic to 🏡 luxurious.

However, every tented safari will have the same thing in common and that is an evening bush fire to relax and socialise around. Being under canvas allows you to listen to the night time sounds of the bush, as passing nocturnal game proclaim their residency in the darkness. Tented and mobile safaris provide a true 'Out of Africa' experience.

NOT SURE WHICH SAFARI IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

To help you choose the right safari please email or call one of our experts on rides@inthesaddle.com or phone 01299 272 997. Each safari has its own dedicated page on www.inthesaddle.com with details of the location, riding, accommodation, dates, prices and weather, along with sample itineraries.

USEFUL TIP Combine your safari with a digital detox and become one with nature.

WHERE YOU CAN GO

Botswana has the unique Okavango Delta as well as the Kalahari Desert and vast Tuli Reserve. Kenya's Maasai Mara and Tanzania are famous for their herds of zebra and wildebeest. Visit South Africa and eSwatini (formerly Swaziland) or journey through the Namibian desert. Safaris show the 🐾 symbol on pages 71 to 82.

WHEN TO GO

Most people choose to safari in the "dry season" when the skies are clear and there are few leaves making it easier to see the wildlife. Many of the mobile safaris only operate in the drier months when the support crew are able to move camp. But a "green season" safari also has much to offer - the new bush is beautiful and many animals have young at foot.

WHAT TYPE OF RIDER DO I NEED TO BE?

If you are riding in an area where you might encounter elephant or lion you need to be an experienced rider confident in walk, trot and canter in the open. You need to have good stickability and to be in control of your horse should you need to react quickly.

There are also safaris in South Africa, Namibia and eSwatini where you do not ride with any dangerous animals. On some safaris it is possible for non-riders to join you and enjoy game viewing by vehicle or on foot.

WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT IT?

Viewing animals from horseback is wonderful and exciting, whether it's a beautiful giraffe peeping at you through the trees; a nervous zebra or wildebeest or a huge herd of elephant.

At the end of the day enjoy the quiet of your tent; or the camaraderie around the camp fire. Many people leave their hearts in Africa until they get to return.

"What makes a riding safari so special for me is that the animals such as antelopes, giraffe, even white rhinos, are unfazed to have you grazing alongside. Granted lions are also happy for you to appear but they, as with my favourites, the elephants, give you the most amazing adrenalin rush when you get close and personal. Then to slip quietly away leaving them to get on with their day unaffected by your visit- wow!

A mobile safari will enable you to explore further into the wilderness, yet there are surprisingly many luxuries. Having ridden all day - experience a bush shower before eating delicious food cooked over a campfire under the starry heavens with lions and hyena roaring nearby. Later you will no doubt be woken by nocturnal visitors to your camp and yes I've had an elephant standing between the guy ropes of my tent - I was convinced it was a lion!

Three things are of key importance when riding with the Big Five - the horses, the guide and the riders. The horses need to be experienced, well trained and controllable. Equally important is the guide, who needs to read the situation, be able to assess the body language of the animals and instruct the riders accordingly. Riders need to follow the guides' instructions as they know how to safely take control of events.

I've returned to nearly all of the African rides I have ridden. For me Africa is the perfect package and it's never the same twice, always with new opportunities and experiences awaiting my return."

Cathy Perkins



Lodge Based Horseback Safaris

*A lodge based safari offers the best of both worlds –
the excitement of a horseback safari and staying
in a beautiful lodge.*





Rebecca Clarke

A lodge based horse safari is the perfect holiday - good horses; exciting riding; wildlife viewing; gorgeous accommodation with a comfortable bed and hot showers; along with elegant meals and dreamy sun downers.

USEFUL TIP Pack light since the lodges normally offer a laundry service, so that will leave you plenty of space to return with souvenirs of your African adventure.

WHERE YOU CAN GO

We offer lodge based safaris in South Africa, Kenya and Namibia.

WHEN TO GO

The lodges are open all year round. South Africa and Namibia are at their hottest between November and March which is also when rain is possible; but if you want to enjoy some downtime by the pool and swimming with your horse in the dam then this is a lovely time to visit. Winter is between June and September. At this time rain is very unlikely and the days are perfect for riding, although it does get cool at night.

It's slightly different in Kenya which has almost the same temperature all year round but typically has most rain in April/May and again in November.

WHAT TYPE OF RIDER DO I NEED TO BE?

Most of the lodges accept all levels of riders from novice and nervous right through to experienced and confident. Some lodges also offer non-riding activities, so if you don't fancy riding every day, or are travelling with a non rider, there are plenty of other things to do. If the lodge is in an area where you might meet elephant and lion then you need to be a capable rider confident in walk, trot and canter out in the open.

WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT IT?

The beauty of a lodge based riding safari is being able to have the adventure of game viewing from horseback and also the opportunity to relax beside the pool, perhaps pamper yourself with a massage or swap to a non-riding activity. They are an excellent choice for families and groups of friends where some might be keener on the idea of riding than others.





SAFARI LODGES

The first safari lodges were restored ranch houses and homesteads. They nestle into their surroundings and retain plenty of original character. Clever design, including the use of outdoor showers and baths, blend the inside and outside. They help to connect you with nature, which, after all is the reason why you're there.

The more recent, purpose built lodges take inspiration from their surroundings and can be super luxurious. They are often built on higher ground or escarpments to provide uninterrupted views over the plains below. The most exclusive lodges have spacious individual chalets with private seating areas and sometimes their own plunge pool.

Either way, the best lodges have an informal relaxed feel. They sit comfortably in the landscape and the use of local materials helps them blend into the environment. Often a lodge or chalet will be built around existing trees giving the impression that you are staying somewhere that's living and organic. Nearby watering holes attract wildlife so you can enjoy game viewing from the comfort of your room.

On pages 71 to 82 we have classified lodges from  the most basic to  luxurious. Whatever you are looking for, we are sure to have a lodge safari that will meet your needs.

"There were too many memorable moments on my riding holiday to Horizon to be able to pick a most memorable, but I guess being close to the enchanting little warthogs as they trotted speedily Indian file after their mother, all with their tails pointing straight upwards, was pretty special. Of course the lovely surprise 'Pop-Up' bush breakfast was simply brilliant – under the Leopard Tree, where breakfast – full English – was being prepared on a camp fire, with all the lovely home baked breads etc.



I had two favourite horses, Viper and Mon Chic, both chestnut and so responsive. I could have ridden either in a halter, as they neck reined, which left me a hand free for my camera, and I could trust them to look after me. They were lively, well-schooled and obedient.

This had been on our wish list for a very long time. I would advise everybody to take the plunge, and as our lovely guide would have said, it is sheer paradise on earth.

My daughter had experienced several holidays booked through In The Saddle before, and all of them had been simply superb. Top banana accommodation, top banana horses, top banana food, lovely people and no stone left unturned. All queries answered by return, and everything taken care of. Can't ask for more."

Jane Goman

TO DECIDE WHICH LODGE BASED SAFARI WOULD SUIT YOU BEST

Email rides@inthesaddle.com or call one of our experienced team on 01299 272 997 and check out the images and feedback on each lodge at www.inthesaddle.com

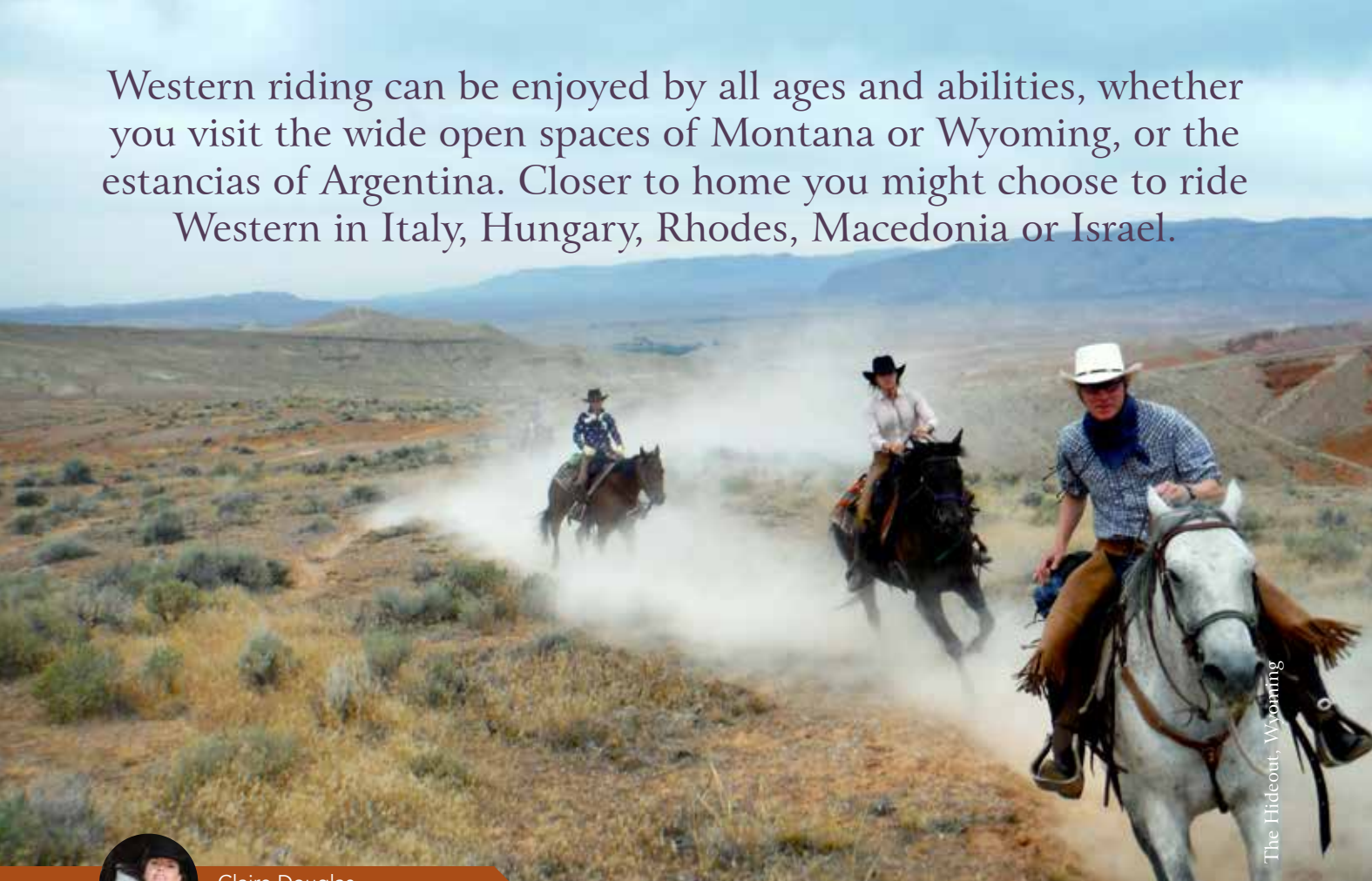


Western Riding and Ranches

*Once you've ridden Western on a well-trained horse
you may find it difficult to go back to English.
The slightest shift in your body weight
and the horse will turn or stop.*

The Hideout, Wyoming

Western riding can be enjoyed by all ages and abilities, whether you visit the wide open spaces of Montana or Wyoming, or the estancias of Argentina. Closer to home you might choose to ride Western in Italy, Hungary, Rhodes, Macedonia or Israel.



Claire Douglas



WHAT'S DIFFERENT ABOUT WESTERN RIDING

The most noticeable difference is the saddle. Western saddles have a higher cantle at the back and a horn at the front which is used when roping cattle. The saddles are designed for the comfort of horse and rider over long hours. They hold the rider more securely allowing beginners to improve quickly. Some paces are named differently - walk is the same, jog is a slow trot, a more active working jog is used for covering distances more quickly and finally lope, which is a canter. You ride with a longer leg and looser reins. Steering is achieved using the seat, weight and lastly the reins.

Horses start their training with two reins like English style riding, then progress to being ridden one handed - which is called neck reining. To turn right, move your hand forward and to the right, allowing the reins to touch the horse's neck on the left. The opposite to turn left. To stop, say 'whoa' and pull back on the reins, but remember to release the pressure or your horse will start moving backwards.

INSPIRED TO TRY WESTERN?

Further information on Western rides can be found on our website, where each destination has its own dedicated page on www.inthesaddle.com with details of the location, riding, accommodation, dates, prices and weather, along with sample itineraries or speak to one of our experts on 01299 272 997.

USEFUL TIP If you haven't ridden Western before, we recommend a lesson before your holiday or when you arrive. It's a different style of riding that sometimes takes a bit of getting used to.

WHERE YOU CAN GO

To meet some real cowboys who still work their cows from horseback, then you need to visit a ranch in North or South America. We offer working ranches in Montana, Wyoming and Argentina. There are also great ranch holidays in Arizona.

We also have some destinations in Europe which offer instruction and trail rides on Western trained horses, including Hungary, Italy, Israel, Rhodes and Macedonia. Holidays with Western riding show the 🐎 symbol on pages 71 to 82.

WHEN TO GO

There is no one answer to this because there are ranches in so many different countries, so you need to check the best time for each one. Some ranches are open all year round such as in Hungary, Arizona or Los Potreros in Argentina. Montana or Wyoming are best visited in their summer from May to September.

WHAT TYPE OF RIDER DO I NEED TO BE?

It really doesn't matter. Almost all Western riding holidays offer great riding for all abilities, whether you are experienced or just starting out – it's what makes Western riding so accessible to all. Most of the time, there is also the opportunity for instruction as well.

For the trail rides in Israel, Macedonia and Rhodes you should be confident at walk, trot and canter.

WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT IT?

If you've never ridden Western before or just had a dream of being a cowboy or cowgirl, these holidays allow you to bring those dreams to life.

You can get as involved as you want to with the horses and sometimes there is an opportunity to help with cattle work, which is particularly exciting on the working ranches in North and South America.

"El Bronco in Hungary was the ideal place to begin my Western riding adventure. Centre-based within a national park, the facilities at the ranch enable instruction of the style, as well as demonstrations of more advanced feats of Western riding, including rodeo-style acrobatics, by the guides and horse trainers. At first, it was rather daunting. Everything seems to be the opposite of English riding, but the rides around the national park each morning and afternoon gave ample opportunity to practise.

I decided to continue my Western style with a trail ride in Rhodes. This wonderful holiday introduced new challenges and opportunities, but again, there was instruction and guidance, and a test ride before setting out on the main trail.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, I realised that my weaknesses in Western style mirror my weakness in English riding – and that's another benefit of trying something new; it makes you rethink the things that have become second nature and learn from them.

What tips can I give for a Western riding holiday? Follow the example of the cowboys. Wear a scarf or buff as it will protect the back of your neck from sunstroke – it also helps cool the body when soaked in water beforehand – and can be used to cover your nose when sandy or dusty conditions are an issue. And most importantly of all, enjoy every new experience the holiday has to offer."

Sarah Weston



Beach Riding Holidays

*The roar of the ocean; the wind in your
hair; the excitement as you feel your
horse's hooves sink into the sand.*





Lucy Downes

Essaouira, Morocco

Riding by the ocean is a glorious feeling. Whether you're meandering along the water's edge or stretching at full gallop on perfect sand; a beach riding holiday is hard to beat. Listening to the sea and watching the sunset at the end of an exciting day is something truly special.

USEFUL TIP Don't forget your sun protection or sunglasses and a buff over your face can stop you getting a mouthful of sand from the horse in front.

WHERE YOU CAN GO

There are wonderful beach rides all over the world. Los Alamos in Andalucia, Spain is our most popular. Other places in Europe offering beach riding include Portugal, Iceland, Rhodes, Catalonia and France.

In Africa you can really let loose on the deserted beaches of the Wild Coast in South Africa, on the coast near Essaouira in Morocco and in Mozambique. Further afield, there are beach rides in Australia, New Zealand, Brazil and Uruguay.

WHEN TO GO

You can ride on the beach, somewhere in the world, anytime in the year. Even in the middle of summer, riding along the coast is superb since the sea breeze keeps you and your horse cool (just don't forget your sun protection). If you are riding in a popular tourist area then you might not be permitted to ride along the water's edge at certain times, although if that means you ride along the beach at dawn then it's an experience not to be missed!

WHAT TYPE OF RIDER DO I NEED TO BE?

It is important that you are confident in walk, trot and canter. One of the best things about riding on the beach is being able to have a blast! Flat hard sand is the perfect terrain for fast riding, so feeling confident and being in control of your horse in the open is essential.

WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT IT?

Being beside the sea on a beach riding holiday offers so much variety - from galloping up a beach, crossing rivers and estuaries to riding along a cliff top looking out to sea. It is always worth keeping a look out for dolphins, whales and other marine life hiding in the waves.



BEACH RIDING

The most popular type of holiday, throughout the whole travel industry, is the beach holiday. The idea of sun, sea and sand is often used to entice people abroad. However, many beach getaways can be overcrowded, with a race in the morning for the best sun-loungers with a sea view.

To ride horses on a beach, especially at speed, requires space. You will find remote beaches that look untouched, almost undiscovered as you ride over the sand dunes or down from the clifftops. The places with beach riding are shown with 🏖️ on pages 71 to 82.

The sandy terrain is the ideal location to stand up in your stirrups, relax your reins and let the horse stretch out into a gallop underneath you, while your guide in front directs you across the sand, avoiding the soft spots. After letting off some steam, have a splash in the waves. At some of our holidays such as Mozambique you can even swim with your horse.

"Beach rides offer unique experiences. My personal favourite is the Wild Coast Beach Ride in South Africa which does what it says on the tin, delivering on all four descriptors. Life just doesn't get any better than the full-on 1.5km gallop (entirely optional of course!) along a deserted beach into the overnight stop at Wavecrest, capped off by a cold beer while spotting passing whales and 50 strong pods of dolphin lazily cruising the coastline of a cobalt Indian Ocean.

Beach rides are rarely, if ever solely beach riding which would be a case of too much of a good thing for more than a few days. Most will head inland for periods of time, adding to the experience.

On many rides the remoteness lends a timeless elemental feel to the terrain. Had you ridden through here 5,000 years ago, it would have looked no different. Like any ride it's not all canters and gallops. Many hours are spent quietly walking along the water line, chatting to your fellow riders or lost in your own thoughts against the rhythmic and hypnotic soundtrack of gently crashing waves. A canter is never far away though and you really feel the horses look forward to splashing through the shallow surf.

One practical point to note is that beach rides inevitably involve sand, and sand is camera death - having had several cameras expire through sand ingress! However, the photos you can get are spectacular so it would be a shame not to take a good camera capable of capturing the many special moments to look back on at some far distant point in the future when you are shuffling about on a Zimmer frame, no longer able to participate in these trips."

Tony Marshall



FINDING IT DIFFICULT TO CHOOSE?

Browse our full portfolio of beach riding holidays at www.inthesaddle.com, email us at rides@inthesaddle.com or speak to an expert on 01299 272 997.

Trail Rides

A trail ride is a journey on horseback - each day different to the one before – as your horse becomes your means of transport.





Lucy Downes



Catalonia, Northern Spain

PACKING FOR TRAIL RIDES

A key element for a successful holiday where you move each or some nights is clever packing. While on a trail ride, it is very unlikely that you'll be able to completely unpack your luggage for more than one or two nights. You will be living out of your suitcase or backpack and on some rides, your bags might even be carried with you along the trail on pack-horses. Packing only the essentials and as light as possible will avoid you having to rummage around for items you might not even use. It is also a great excuse to leave certain items at home; such as laptops, cosmetics and too many clothes. A chance to get away from the modern world, relax and even enjoy a digital detox if you wanted.

With most riding holidays the dress code is relaxed and you certainly don't need a new outfit for each evening. As part of your holiday confirmation pack, you will receive a comprehensive recommended packing list, which will hopefully help in the weeks before your departure.

NOT SURE WHICH TRAIL RIDE IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

To help you choose the right ride email or call one of our specialists on rides@inthesaddle.com or phone 01299 272 997. Each trail has its own dedicated page with details of the location, riding, accommodation, dates, prices and weather, along with sample itineraries.

USEFUL TIP Pack light – you won't want to have to carry a heavy bag in and out of your hotel each day and it will make getting ready to leave each morning much easier.

WHERE YOU CAN GO

Within Europe you might choose holidays in Bulgaria, Crete, France, Iceland, Macedonia, Montenegro, Portugal, Rhodes, Spain, Sweden or Turkey.

Further afield there are exciting trail rides in Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, India, Israel, Jordan, Morocco, Peru, South Africa, eSwatini, Uganda and Uruguay. Trail rides show the 🐾 symbol on pages 71 to 82.

WHEN TO GO

Since you are moving on each day you do have to keep going, even if it's been raining all week or you are experiencing a heatwave. Although we can't rely on the weather trips are scheduled for the best time of year.

So, depending on where you want to go; when you can take time off and your preferences for riding in the heat or cold, there should be a holiday for you.

WHAT TYPE OF RIDER DO I NEED TO BE?

As trail rides tend to cover longer distances most days, you need to be a competent rider at walk, trot and canter out in the open on a well behaved horse. You do also need to be physically fit since the option for a day off isn't easily available.

Some rides will have longer hours in the saddle when compared with others; some will be faster with plenty of fast canters; others mainly at a walk due to the mountainous terrain through which you travel.

WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT IT?

The wonderful sense of achievement on reaching your destination each day and at the end of the week; of completing the journey; the many special memories of the places you have seen and people you have met along the way.

"I have taken a number of holidays with In The Saddle and have to say that I have especially enjoyed the trail rides I have been on. One such ride was in Morocco where we rode beautiful forward going stallions. All had different personalities but were kind and gentle.

We rode into the lowlands of the Atlas mountains and always ended each day having a gallop on the beaches. My steed, Laskar "soldier", who I got to know well, was a gentleman but appeared to have an extra gear when we galloped.

It was interesting seeing first-hand the real Morocco and riding through a different village each day, waving to the locals and trying out my very bad French! We had well prepared and tasty meals, and slept in comfortable tents each night, following long relaxing chats with our guides and fellow travellers. We did some sight-seeing in Marrakesh and visited the enchanting town of Essaouira where we were able to haggle in the traditional, car free, narrow streets.

I was sad to say goodbye to Laskar, but I knew he was in the hands of caring and devoted guides, who looked after him well. The riding on this trail was not difficult with these sure-footed horses, but riding on the beaches was fast and great fun. You really get to see Morocco, behind the scenes, and can appreciate this picturesque country, whilst on this trail ride."

Janet Formby





Expeditions on Horseback

Venturing into the wilderness with just the bare essentials, your horses and companions, brings home what is important in life.

Torres del Paine, Chile



The Grande Traversee - Across the Andes



Chris Day

An expedition is all about the personal journey you make. Your sights might be set on reaching a particular vantage point, but once the trail has begun your goal may change to finding a dry place to pitch your tent.

USEFUL TIP All the expeditions are different and whilst every care is taken with the description, itinerary and packing list, there is nothing like talking to someone who has been to help you prepare.

WHERE YOU CAN GO

From the glaciers and fjords of Iceland to the steppes of Mongolia, there are expeditions all over the world. Crossing the Namib Desert is a feat of endurance or you may prefer to strip away the luxuries and join a pack trip in Yukon or British Columbia. Crossing the Andes from Argentina into Chile brings challenges of its own, whilst Kyrgyzstan takes you on a cultural journey of discovery.

WHEN TO GO

The weather is important when you are living out of a pack and under canvas and the guides choose the best time to run their expeditions from personal experience. Each continent has different seasons but there is somewhere to tempt you away throughout the year.

WHAT TYPE OF RIDER DO I NEED TO BE?

For your safety and your own enjoyment of the expedition, you should be at least an intermediate rider with good general fitness. Some rides require more expertise due to the challenging nature of the terrain but for all of them you need to be prepared that things may not go according to plan so a 'can do' attitude is essential.

WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT IT?

A holiday should relax you and rejuvenate you. A riding expedition is no different but will also give you a wonderful sense of achievement and the satisfaction of overcoming a challenge. By the end of your adventure you will have travelled to places few have seen and been touched by the raw beauty of the lands before you.

PACKING FOR EXPEDITION RIDES

I am often asked for my top tip on what to take on a riding expedition. My immediate answer is spare bootlaces and small cable ties. From mending a water bottle strap to securing sunglasses, both items have proved invaluable on my travels. In no particular order, here are the other things I would not travel without.

1. Good quality waterproofs. As the saying goes, there is no such thing as bad weather, only unsuitable clothing.
2. A versatile penknife such as a Swiss Army knife or small multi tool is a good bit of kit to carry. Personally, I never like to travel without a backup corkscrew.
3. My favourite smelly stuff always finds its way into my pack. The right scent can have a wonderfully uplifting effect for those times when it seems that you are not on holiday.
4. A metal water bottle can double as a hot water bottle on cold nights, essential if temperatures drop below zero.

5. A good expedition sleeping bag is worth the extra pennies. There is nothing like burrowing into a cosy sleeping bag after a long day in the saddle.

6. A pillow case stuffed with a jumper makes an excellent pillow, and can double as a laundry bag on the way home.

7. A buff is an essential part of equipment and I never travel without at least two.

8. An assortment of colour coded dry bags make it easier to find things in my pack in the confines of a tent, and keep things dry and clean.

But not everything you take on an expedition is tangible; you need to pack your adventurous spirit too! On an expedition, it may be that not everything goes according to plan and so a sense of humour is important, as is a positive attitude and the ability to take pleasure in the little things.

“Late in 2005, a colleague was diagnosed with a terminal illness at a point in his life when everything seemed to be going to plan, and the future looked rosy. This crystallised something which had been forming in my mind over the previous couple of years – don't put things off, do them while you can. Months later, my friend Jackie and I rode from Estancia Huechahue across the Andes to Chile. This holiday was the beginning of a passion for exploring some of the more remote and beautiful places on the planet from the back of a horse with a group of like-minded people.



Being on horseback brings you closer to the people you encounter who frequently rely on horses for their way of life - to see their pride in their horses. Travelling on horseback feeds the imagination too - picture yourself as a pioneer, a cowhand or a Bedouin and come home knowing a little more of what that means.

Expeditions aren't always easy or comfortable. I have been wet through, cold and uncomfortable and so tired I could have slept on the horse; I have eaten things which I would prefer not to think about! But I have also seen the sunrise from a hot air balloon, pumped up a deflated airbed under a dazzling Milky Way, woken up warm and comfortable in a tent encased in frost glittering in the early morning light, had a hot wash (the first for days) in an old meat cache in the Yukon, and made friends from across the world. In fact, meeting new people, sharing experiences outside our comfort zones (and the contents of our luggage or first aid kits in some cases!), and the camaraderie of a trail ride is what makes these trips so satisfying.

Experiences like these are priceless and I realise how fortunate I am. In The Saddle have done a wonderful job for me over the past 14 years. I know I can discuss the demands of a trip with people who understand the detail, and by being prepared to take a chance on some exploratory rides, I have been rewarded with not one, but many, holidays of a lifetime.”

Barbara Slater



Family Riding Holidays

A family riding holiday is a time for you to be together which will create memories for a lifetime.



Rebecca Clarke

Rocking Z Ranch, Montana



FAMILY RIDING HOLIDAYS

The fast pace of modern life can make it hard to find the time to really appreciate your loved ones. That's why it is so important to get your family holiday just right and the team at In The Saddle are here to help.

A family holiday is something that can be enjoyed by children, parents, grandparents and anyone else who wants to join in! We have lots of wonderful family friendly destinations across the world, some suiting a mix of riders and non-riders and others for groups of riders of all ages and abilities.

Centre based trips are usually best suited to families as they mean you are staying in the same place each night. This allows for extra flexibility and means each person can either ride or do other activities before all meeting up later in the day. It also means that most levels of riders can be catered for and in some places, non-riders can even learn to ride. It's all about striking the perfect balance for everyone.

NEED HELP CHOOSING A RIDING HOLIDAY FOR YOUR FAMILY?

To help you find the right ride email or call one of our specialists on rides@inthesaddle.com or phone 01299 272 997. Or visit www.inthesaddle.com, each holiday has its own dedicated page with details of the location, riding, accommodation, dates, prices and weather, along with sample itineraries.

USEFUL TIP In our experience children like spending time around the stables before or after the ride making new friends. The most stunning scenery in the world doesn't always excite a teenager.

WHERE YOU CAN GO

The weather in South Africa makes it a great family location and we offer super holidays at Ant's Lodges, Horizon and on the Wild Coast.

Ranch holidays are also ideal for families, mainly because Western riding is so accommodating of all abilities, so you could choose Arizona, Montana, Wyoming or Argentina.

In Europe there are rides in Crete and Hungary or for instruction try Castle Leslie in Ireland; Galiny Palace in Poland or Berardenga in Italy.

WHEN TO GO


The African lodges, ranches in Arizona and Argentina are open all year. European riding holidays are typically from March to October. The ranches in Montana are only open from May to October.

WHAT TYPE OF RIDER DO I NEED TO BE?

Some places will take children of all ages, with the youngest on lead rein or in the arena; others have a minimum age of twelve to join the daily trail rides; in some cases it's possible for children to ride in the arena while parents join more challenging rides; other places prefer the family to ride together as a group. So, it's important to decide what your family would prefer to do on their holiday.

WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT IT?

One of the best things about a riding holiday is that each day is planned out for you; all you have to do is turn up at the stables at the right time to ride. That makes it particularly relaxing as a family holiday since Mum (or Dad?) doesn't have to think "what will we do today?"

The most family suitable holidays are shown with the  symbol on pages 71 to 82.

"We have two daughters and have always enjoyed family holidays but as they now have their own families and one lives in Ireland the opportunity seldom arises. However as we all ride we realised that Ant's Nest, where we have been going regularly for almost twenty years, would be the perfect venue for an exceptional family holiday and would provide a very different and very special Christmas.



We have had many adventurous riding holidays but we have always found the safari ones to be the most exciting, partly because game viewing on horseback means that you really are at one with the animals. As our youngest granddaughter is only six we knew that Ant's Nest would give them all this great experience but without some of the risks attached to some of the more adventurous venues.

As grandparents well into our seventh decade the flexibility of being able to ride as and when we wanted and at a suitable pace was just as important! There were eleven of us in all but each ride was always divided into smaller groups depending on ability and inclination and the photograph of everyone of the three generations on horseback together came about by pure chance as three groups all came across each other one afternoon. Needless to say this is now a very special family photograph.

We all found attending bush church on Christmas Day very special and of course the lovely swimming pool at the Nest was a major attraction."

John & Diana Mellows

Centre Based Rides

Unpack, settle into your room and enjoy great riding out each day as well as time to relax and get to know the surrounding area.





Horizon, South Africa



Imogen Brown

Sometimes known as petal rides, your riding on a centre based stay will take you in a different direction each day. Each evening you return to familiar surroundings. They are the ultimate relaxing riding holiday.

USEFUL TIP Follow our packing list recommendations but do check the weather forecast just before you go, in case some unseasonal weather is forecast.

WHERE YOU CAN GO

There are centre based riding holidays all over the world. In fact our most popular holidays are all centre based - Quinta da Terça in the Azores, Los Alamos in Spain, Macatoo in the Okavango Delta, Botswana and Ant's Lodges and Horizon in South Africa. Centre based rides are indicated by the ✿ symbol on pages 71 to 82.

Western riders could choose El Bronco in Hungary, Castellare di Tonda in Italy as well as ranches in North and South America. Riding instruction is available in Portugal, Ireland, Poland and Italy.

WHEN TO GO

With so many places all over the world we can offer you a great riding holiday every month of the year.

WHAT TYPE OF RIDER DO I NEED TO BE?

Each holiday is different: some can take all levels of rider; others are only for experienced riders, either because of the pace of ride or the wildlife you might encounter. If you are unsure you have the appropriate riding experience please do ask.

One of the great benefits of a centre based holiday is the flexibility to skip a ride and just relax. Staying right at the stables means it's normally possible to ride different horses throughout your holiday until you find the perfect match.

WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT IT?

Staying at one base allows you to settle in and really get to know the guides and your hosts. We often receive feedback about the family, friendly atmosphere, and guests requesting their favourite room when returning to destinations such as Los Alamos or Quinta da Terça.



CENTRE BASED RIDES

For anyone who hasn't been on a riding holiday before, a centre based riding holiday is a great start. Your accommodation for the duration of your holiday becomes your 'home from home'. You will often have the same hosts throughout your stay and at many of the destinations everyone, guests, hosts and guides, will eat together.

As well as becoming part of the family, when you're not moving on each day your holiday can be much more flexible. If you are in need of a rest or would like to sunbathe next to a pool, riding can easily be opted out of. Obviously, the riding is a highlight and another advantage of being based at or near the stables is being able to try out a number of different horses. However, it isn't uncommon for guests to fall in love with the first horse they sit on.

"I've been on over ten centre based rides with In The Saddle. Hungary, Romania, Italy, the Azores and Los Alamos in Spain which I've visited many times.

Whether you are a single traveller or travelling with friends, you'll be sure to have the time of your life while on horseback, making memories to treasure forever. It's a wonderful way of seeing the world and making new friends.

The most special thing about a centre based holiday to me is that you can unpack, relax and forget about everything. Each day you ride out knowing that you will return to the same place and you're not living out of a suitcase. If one day you don't want to ride and instead want to explore your surroundings - the choice is yours to make.

A perfect day on a centre based ride for me: breakfast with your fellow riders, chatting about your ride that day, walking to the stables together feeling happy, can't wait to see your horse, mount up and set off, galloping on a beach, leaving hoof prints in the sand, cantering through the forest on sandy tracks, racing on a fire break, trotting through a vineyard or walking through a quiet little village, having lunch at a bar or a picnic near a lake. Then back to base at the end of a truly perfect day to relax by a pool with a glass of wine or a book, later get ready for dinner and chat about your day. What more could you ask for? Just perfect."

Linda Potts



WANT TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT RIDING HOLIDAYS?

Further information can be found on our website, where each destination has its own dedicated page at www.inthesaddle.com, email us at rides@inthesaddle.com or speak to an expert on 01299 272 997.

Riding Holiday Calendar

JANUARY

It's summer in Southern Africa and South America so a great time to visit, and the dry cool winter days of Arizona are perfect for riding.

This is Costa Rica's driest time and it's perfect for the Wilderness Adventure into the forests which stay green because they have a supply of water and cool misty nights.

Closer to home there are trail rides in Spain across the plains of Extremadura and along the coast north of Barcelona.

Castle Leslie in Ireland and Galiny Palace in Poland have indoor arenas which means they can stay open all year. Castle Leslie offers a personalised programme to include show jumping, cross country, flatwork lessons and estate rides, whereas Galiny Palace focuses more on show jumping lessons with some hacking around the estate.

Dressage instruction in Portugal is also possible year round or you might visit the island of Sao Miguel in the Azores. The Azores offers different itineraries for beginners or less confident riders to the more experienced rider.

Exciting winter rides in the snow are possible in northern Sweden or the Carpathian mountains of Romania.

It's a great time for a trail ride in the southern deserts of Morocco or in northern India to visit the Nagaur Fair.

FEBRUARY

It is still a great time to join the Estancias rides in Torres del Paine or the Grande Traversee from Argentina to Chile.

The trail rides are running in Ecuador or you could visit Hacienda Zuleta which is open all year.

The first Portuguese Alentejo Trails get running; these are very popular rides which tend to book up quickly. Rides in Israel start now and run through to the end of the year with a break from June to August when it's too hot. This is a good time for the Serengeti Safaris in northern Tanzania. Following the December rains the grasslands are fresh and green hosting large herds of plains game.

MARCH

The first of the rides in Provence and to the Camargue, an area famous for flamingos and white horses, take place; the season also starts in the stunning mountains of Sierra Nevada, Spain.

Los Alamos on the coast of Andalucia, Spain offers beach riding all year round. March is a lovely time to visit without the baking temperatures of the summer months.

El Bronco in Hungary offers Western riding year round.

The Northern Lights winter rides run in Iceland.

In northern India the Hola Mohalla ride is timed to coincide with the Sikh festival. It's possible to extend your trip to visit the hilltop town of Shimla and the Holi festival of colour.

APRIL

By Easter most European rides are running including Bulgaria, Croatia, Pyrenees, Montenegro, northern Portugal's Wolves and Wild horses, the Château rides in the Loire, trail rides in Rhodes and Tuscany.

Crete has a centre based holiday year round and their Lassithi trek runs from April to November.

In Namibia temperatures have cooled enough to start the rides across the desert - these run until September.

The Sacred Valley rides start in Peru and run through to the end of October.

In Israel the rides move away from the southern deserts to the cooler highlands around Galilee.



Alentejo Trails, Portugal

MAY

In Botswana the floods usually arrive in late May or early June bringing life to the Okavango Delta. Large herds of lechwe and buffalo start to form.

It's getting warm in the desert and the Moroccan horses are moved to where it is cooler for the Essaouira Coast and Toubkal Mountain Rides.

May is the start of the main season for the Montana and Wyoming Ranches and for the rides in Mongolia.

The dry season starts in the Kalahari, enabling fast riding across the Makgadikgadi Pans.

Mlilwane Safaris start in eSwatini (formerly Swaziland) and run each month until September.

JUNE

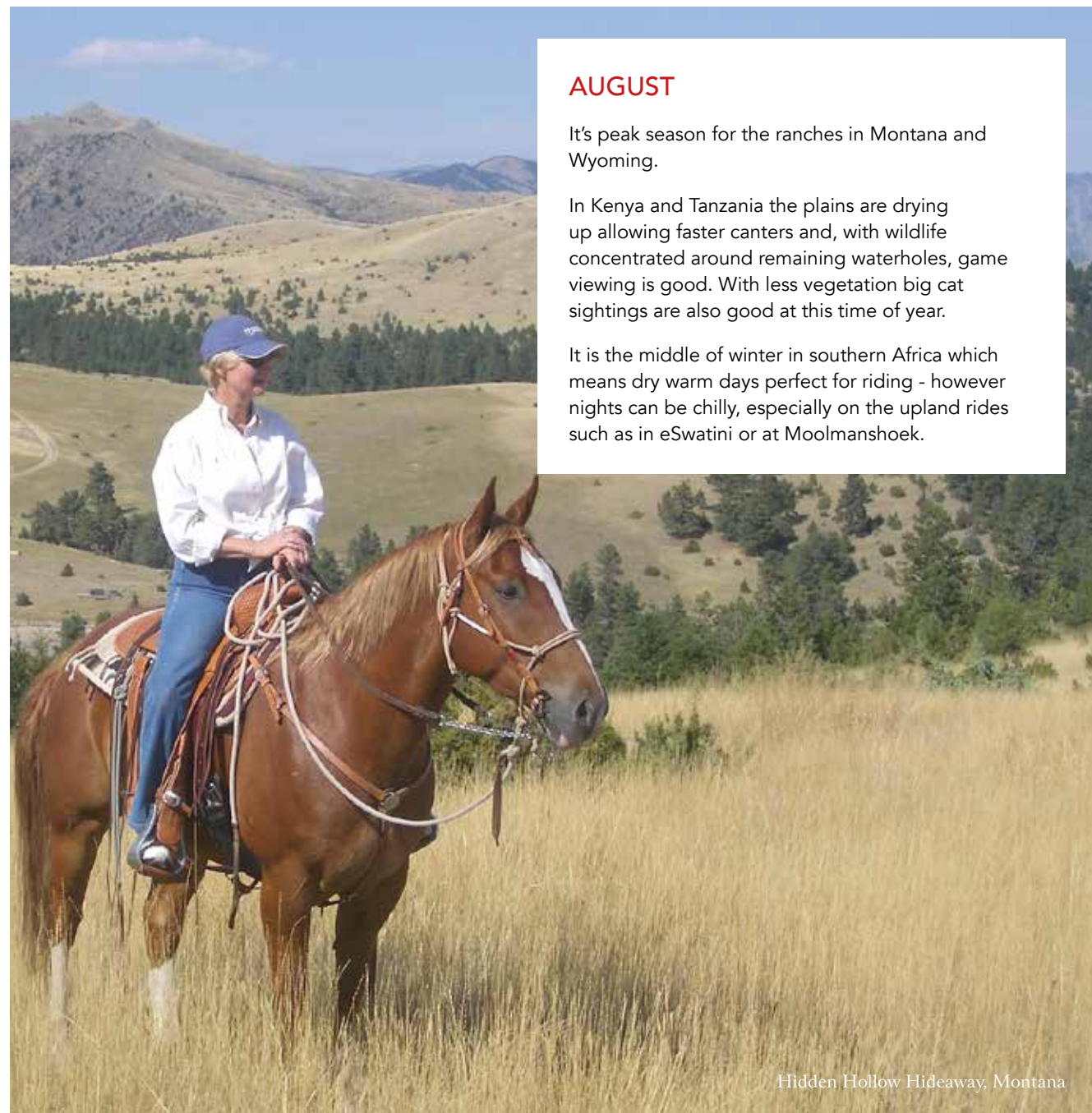
Tsylos Lodge opens in British Columbia and further north the first pack trips head into the Yukon.

June is also the start of the main Icelandic rides and the mountain rides in Kyrgyzstan. These continue until September. Our expedition ride through Macedonia is running.

In the savannah of Kenya the 'long rains' mean plenty of grass bringing in herds of zebra and wildebeest. The mobile safaris into the Maasai Mara run from now to September.

The Transhumance ride takes place as the horses are moved from Extremadura to the Sierra de Gredos.





AUGUST

It's peak season for the ranches in Montana and Wyoming.

In Kenya and Tanzania the plains are drying up allowing faster canters and, with wildlife concentrated around remaining waterholes, game viewing is good. With less vegetation big cat sightings are also good at this time of year.

It is the middle of winter in southern Africa which means dry warm days perfect for riding - however nights can be chilly, especially on the upland rides such as in eSwatini or at Moolmanshoek.

Hidden Hollow Hideaway, Montana

JULY

The Tsylos pack trips, summer trail rides in northern Sweden and Greenland Fjord trips are running.

It is the Naadam games in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia and so a popular time to visit.

As temperatures rise across Europe many of the rides in low lying areas switch to a programme of shorter hours in the saddle or find routes which take them into higher mountains. The next two months are peak season for many of the mountain rides in central and southern Europe.

SEPTEMBER

As spring arrives in the Southern hemisphere it's the start of the season for many rides in South America including Estancia Huechahue in Patagonia. It's a great time to visit Brazil especially the Odyssey ride.

By September it has also cooled down in the Mediterranean so trail rides start again in Spain, Portugal and Italy. There are autumn round-ups in Iceland as the sheep are brought down from the high pastures. See the autumn colours on the Transylvania Trail in Romania.

September to October (as well as April to June) are the best times to ride in Cappadocia, Turkey and the Wadi Rum, Jordan.

September is also a great time to ride in Uganda; not too hot and before the rainy season starts.

OCTOBER

The first pack trips head into the Southern Alps of New Zealand and the trail rides into Torres del Paine National Park in Chile start up. Temperatures have cooled in Arizona so it's a good time to visit White Stallion and Tombstone ranches.

There are horse round-ups in Iceland bringing the animals down from the summer grazing.

The Fairs and Festivals ride takes place in Rajasthan, northwest India; it's also the time of the Pushkar Fair.

October has some of the best game viewing in Botswana as the temperatures start to rise and the waters recede.

The horses in Morocco are moved back to the warmer south of the country and it's the autumn Transhumance ride moving from the Sierra de Gredos back to Extremadura, Spain.

NOVEMBER

The Golega Horse Fair in Portugal is in the middle of November. This is a splendid colourful affair.

Pack trips start into the Snowy Mountains of Australia. The rides between Argentina and Chile across the Andes take place from now until March. Between November to April is a great time to visit Uruguay.

It is spring in Lesotho so the mountains will be awash with flowers making it a great time to ride.

Summer rains start in much of southern Africa - hot during the day with possible heavy showers. The evenings are warm.

DECEMBER

There are special Christmas and New Year weeks at Los Alamos and also a Christmas ride in Rajasthan.

Summer arrives for the Western Cape rides in South Africa, while the winter rides start in Sweden with the option to stay in the Ice Hotel.

It is hot in Botswana and South Africa and rain is possible but this brings new grass and means plentiful wildlife with lots of young antelope being born.



Winter ride, Romania

Symbols

- Centre Based Ride
- Trail Ride
- Game Viewing / Horseback Safari
- Beach Riding
- Ideal for Families
- Western Riding
- Suitable for Non Riders
- No Single Supplement if willing to share
- Free Single rooms
- Instruction Available
- Basic dormitories or huts
- Rooms with shared bathrooms
- Rooms with private bathrooms
- Luxury accommodation
- Small tents, sleeping bags, limited loos
- Simple camping, shower and loo facilities
- Comfy camping with made-up beds
- Luxury camping

RIDING EXPERIENCE

For each holiday we use a colour guide to indicate which level of rider the holiday would suit.

- Beginner** Someone who has never sat on a horse or had only very limited riding.
- Intermediate** Has had a number of lessons, reasonably confident on a horse at walk trot and canter.
- Intermediate Plus** Confident on a forward going horse at a steady canter over uneven ground. Has ridden for a number of years.
- Experienced** A frequent and regular rider. Very fit and confident on a forward going horse at all paces in the open over rough and variable ground.

PRICES

For each holiday we show the per person price excluding flights. The price usually includes riding, accommodation and meals and in certain cases drinks and transfers. Please call 01299 272 997 or visit www.inthesaddle.com for exact details. Where there are seasonal variations throughout the year the price is the from or low season price. Prices are current at date of printing.



São Miguel, Azores

Argentina - Estancia Huechahue

Open from September to April
Arrive any day (Junin de los Andes/Chapelco)
Minimum 3 nights
4 – 6 hours riding per day
Price from £2,734 for 7 nights



The estancia is set in northern Patagonia in the foothills of the Andes. Fun and fast riding in a spectacular location. Ride across water meadows and try your hand at helping the gauchos as they work cattle.



Argentina - Estancia Los Potreros

Open all year
Arrive any day (Cordoba)
Minimum 3 nights
4 – 6 hours riding per day
Price from £2,298 for 7 nights



A beautifully restored farmhouse steeped in history. There is plenty of variety of riding including helping the gauchos bringing in the mares and foals, polo, trail rides into the hills and visiting local sites on horseback.



Argentina - Fin del Mundo

Exploratory ride from 12 - 23 November 2019
Set departure (Ushuaia)
11 nights / 8 days riding
6 – 7 hours riding per day
Price from £3,030



An expedition ride on the island of Tierra del Fuego, at the extreme tip of South America. This is your chance to explore on horseback 'Fin del Mundo' - the End of the World.



Arizona - Tombstone Monument Ranch

Open all year
Arrive any day (Tucson)
Minimum 3 nights
1 – 4 hours riding per day
Price from £1,284 for 7 nights



At Tombstone you step back in time to a western town with boardwalks and dirt roads. Ride into town and hitch up outside the saloon. Stay overnight in the post office or wake up in the county jail!



Arizona - White Stallion Ranch

Open all year
Arrive any day (Tucson)
Minimum 3 nights
1 – 4 hours riding per day
Price from £1,233 for 7 nights



This charming, family owned and run ranch really gives you the feeling of the Old West. Adjacent to the Saguaro National Park, ranch hospitality is blended perfectly with the comforts of a top resort.



Australia - Bush & Beach

Runs from May to October
Set departures (Sunshine Coast)
6 nights / 5 days riding
3 – 5 hours riding per day
Price from £1,836



This inland ride combines trails through the rainforest and into the bush with a beach ride to finish the week.



Australia - Snowy Mountains

Runs from November to April
Set departures (Sydney)
From 4 nights / 3 days riding
4 – 5 hours riding per day
Price from £906 for 4 nights



A rustic camping trail through the alpine country of Kosciuszko National Park, New South Wales. Rich in legends of mountain horsemen and some of Australia's most picturesque riding country.



Azores - Atlantis and Green Island Trail

Open all year
Arrive any day (Ponta Delgada)
7 nights
3 – 6 hours riding per day
Price from £1,284



You are based at the historic Quinta da Terça and the various riding trails take you to dramatic areas of the island. For those wanting a greater degree of sight-seeing the Atlantis Ride has fewer hours of riding.



Azores - Learn to Ride in a Week

Open all year
Arrive any day (Ponta Delgada)
7 nights
3 – 6 hours riding per day
Price from £1,199



Learn to ride in the lush green landscape of São Miguel the largest of the Azorean islands. This ride is suitable for beginner and novice riders or those wishing to gain confidence.



Botswana - Kalahari Safari



Runs from December to September
Set departures (Maun)
From 3 nights
4 – 6 hours riding per day
Price from £2,121 for 3 nights



Long loping canters across the salt-en-crustured pans. Interact with the habituated meerkats, view the reclusive brown hyaena, spend time with the Bushmen and sleep out under the desert sky.



Botswana - Kujwana



Open all year
Arrive any day (Maun)
Minimum 3 nights
4 – 6 hours riding per day
Price from £3,990 for 7 nights



A safari through the Okavango Delta. Canter with herds of antelope or watch a family of giraffe as your horse grazes nearby. At night a lion's roar or hippo's grunt may accompany the campfire reverie.



Botswana - Macatoo



Open all year
Arrive any day (Maun)
Minimum 3 nights
4 – 6 hours riding per day
Price from £3,395 for 7 nights



Macatoo combines a fun filled riding safari with a fabulous tented safari camp. It's also perfect for taking your non-riding companions as they have their own itinerary when you are riding.



Botswana - Motswiri Camp



Open all year
Arrive any day (Maun)
Minimum 3 nights
4 – 6 hours riding per day
Price from £4,338 for 7 nights



Situated on the Selinda Spillway to the north of the Okavango Delta, there is a diversity of habitats and plentiful wildlife. Each tent has its own veranda overlooking the river where elephants regularly come to drink and bathe.



Botswana - Okavango Mobile Safari



Runs all year
Set departures (Maun)
7 nights / 6 days riding
4 – 6 hours riding per day
Price from £3,140



Explore the south of the Okavango Delta in this new safari, staying in simple mobile tented camps. Equipment and luggage is transported by dugout canoe or pack donkeys.



Botswana - Tuli Safari



Runs all year
Set departures (Johannesburg)
7 nights / 6 days riding
4 – 7 hours riding per day
Price from £2,100



The quality of the horses is matched by the superb game viewing. These safaris in the Limpopo area of Eastern Botswana are particularly famous for their sightings of elephant and leopard.



Brazil - Amazon Delta



Runs from May to August
Set departures (Belem)
7 nights / 5 days riding
2 – 6 hours riding per day
Price from £2,862



An exploration of Marajo, the largest fluvial island in the world. It's a place like no other where the houses are built on stilts, the local police patrol on water buffalo and where dragonflies grow to the size of small birds.



Brazil - Bahia Beach Ride



Runs from March to November
Set departures (Porto Seguro)
6 nights / 5 days riding
3 – 5 hours riding per day
Price from £2,262



Bahia is known for its golden sands and emerald seas. This part of Brazil is the perfect spot for an exotic riding holiday. Ride along the palm-fringed coastline, traverse tropical beaches and explore characterful villages.



Brazil - Canyons and Waterfalls



Runs from March to June and August to Nov
Set departures (Porto Alegre)
6 nights / 5 days riding
5 – 6 hours riding per day
Price from £1,463



Ride across a high plateau through quite astounding scenery of open pasture which is cut through by canyons up to 900 metres deep. From the edge of the escarpment you can see for miles.



Brazil - Darwin's Trail



Runs March to November
Set departures (Rio de Janeiro)
6 nights / 5 days riding
4 – 6 hours riding per day
Price from £1,631



This trail takes you from the Atlantic rainforest to the beaches of Buzios. We call this ride Darwin's Trail as it offers the chance to see some of the environments that he encountered on his expeditions.



Brazil - Pantanal Experience



Runs May to October
Set departures (Campo Grande)
6 nights / 5 days riding
3 – 6 hours riding per day
Price from £2,014



With its immense diversity of bird and wildlife species, the Pantanal is Brazil's top destination for wildlife viewing and bird watching. The best way to explore these wetlands is on horseback.



British Columbia - Tsylos Lodge



Runs from June to October
Set departures (Vancouver)
7 nights / 5 days riding
4 – 6 hours riding per day
Price from £2,918



Tsylos Lodge is set at the north end of Chilko Lake, fed by glacial streams and surrounded by majestic peaks. A land of log cabins, snake fences and pick-up trucks; slower time zones and a never empty coffee pot.



British Columbia - Tsylos Pack Trip



Runs in July and August
Set departures (Vancouver)
7 nights / 6 days riding
4 – 6 hours riding per day
Price from £2,574



An adventurous trip in stunning surroundings. Seldom visited and largely untouched the Chilcotin is like a rare gem. There are a few areas in the world as beautiful to explore.



Bulgaria - Balkan Rides



Runs from April to October
Set departures (Sofia)
7 nights / 6 days riding
3 – 7 hours riding per day
Price from £945



Large open meadows of gently undulating terrain provide the opportunity for long canters. This alternates with forest trails up to waterfalls and riding through historic villages.



Chile - Estancias



Runs October to April
Set departures (Punta Arenas)
9 nights / 8 days riding
4 – 8 hours riding per day
Price from £5,050



A trail ride through the spectacular Torres del Paine national park staying in estancias and guesthouses. Riding Criollo horses, follow a route through the park encountering towering peaks, azure lakes and glaciers.



Chile & Argentina - Grande Traversée



Runs from November to March
Set departures (Bariloche)
13 nights / 11 days riding
4 – 7 hours riding per day
Price from £5,884



An expedition starting in Argentina crossing the Andes and ending in the Chilean Lake District. The route of this adventure includes river crossings and trails over high mountain passes with panoramic views.



Colombia - Barichara Ride



Runs from January to November
Set departures (Bogota)
9 nights / 5 days riding
4 – 9 hours riding per day
Price from £2,189



A challenging trail ride following historical routes through the province of Santander in eastern Colombia. Your horseback adventure starts at Oiba and ends in the colonial town of Barichara.



Costa Rica - Rainforest Adventure



Runs from January to April
Set departures (San Jose)
7 nights / 5 days riding
3 – 5 hours riding per day
Price from £1,514



Exploring the surrounding forests from horseback where you might spot scarlet macaws, parakeets, toucans, monkeys and anteaters. A true rainforest adventure with other activities included when not riding.



Costa Rica - Wilderness Ride



Runs all year
Set departures (San Jose)
8 nights / 6 days riding
4 – 7 hours riding per day
Price from £1,848



An adventurous expedition trail ride taking you through the tropical rainforests and giving an insight into rural Costa Rican life. This journey starts inland near to the Carara National Park and ends at the Pacific coast.



Crete - Lassithi Trek



Runs from February to November
Set departures (Heraklion)
7 nights / 6 days riding
3 – 6 hours riding per day
Price from £1,110



A trail ride through the Dikti Mountain Range to the south coast. As well as remote trails in the mountains, the route takes you through Cretan villages past olive groves and vineyards.



Crete - Velani Country Hotel



Open all year
Arrive any day (Heraklion)
Minimum 3 nights
From 2 hours riding per day
Price from £713 for 7 nights



The hotel lies on a hillside overlooking Aposelemis Lake and is an ideal place from which to explore the island. The countryside is dotted with olive trees, oak forest with lots of space for riding and relaxing.



France - Provence Trails



Runs from March to December
Set departures (Marseille)
From 5 nights / 4 days riding
4 – 6 hours riding per day
Price from £1,228



Provence is known for its cuisine and landscapes that have inspired great artists. There are a number of itineraries to choose from, all journeying through Provence and also some venturing into the Camargue.



Greenland - Glaciers and Fjords



Runs in July and August
Set departures (Narsarsuaq)
7 nights / 5 days riding
4 – 8 hours riding per day
Price from £1,578



Explore the high mountains and glacial valleys of southern Greenland on sure footed Icelandic Horses. Your guides are local sheep farmers committed to preserving this stark but beautiful land.



Hungary - El Bronco



Open all year
Arrive any day (Budapest)
From 3 nights
4 hours riding per day
Price from £737 for 6 nights



This ranch is a great choice whether you are new to riding, new to Western or an accomplished Western rider. Discover the Kiskunsági National Park on well-trained, horses.



Croatia - Old Mulberry



Runs from April to October
Set departures (Zagreb)
7 nights / 5 days riding
3 – 5 hours riding per day
Price from £1,034



A centre based riding holiday which features some fun and fast riding, staying at a family owned farm estate. During your holiday you visit the Plitvice National Park with its unique terrace of 16 lakes connected by waterfalls.



Ecuador - Colonial Hacienda



Runs all year
Set departures (Quito)
7 nights / 7 days riding
4 – 7 hours riding per day
Price from £3,195



Ride along ancient Inca highways and Spanish colonial routes staying in charming haciendas along the way. The ride begins in the northern highlands around Otavalo and ends in the Cotopaxi area.



Ecuador - Hacienda Zuleta



Open all year
Arrive any day (Quito)
Minimum 4 nights
1 – 5 hours riding per day
Price from £2,368 for 7 nights



Dating back to the 16th Century, Zuleta is a colonial working farm nestled in the heart of the Andes. During your stay you are sure to experience exquisite views, wonderful Ecuadorian cuisine and top-quality horses.



Iceland - Golden Circle



Runs from June to August
Set departures (Reykjavik)
From 5 nights / 4 days riding
3 – 7 hours riding per day
Price from £1,379 for 5 nights



Visiting the magnificent waterfalls and hot springs of southern Iceland, this ride is also ideal for those who do not have the required experience for the more challenging highland tours.



Iceland - Highland Adventures



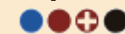
Runs in June and July
Set departures (Reykjavik)
6 nights / 6 days riding
2 – 5 hours riding per day
Price from £2,814



These trail rides in the north of Iceland combine comfort and adventure on horseback, driving a herd of free running horses to discover the high moors of Eyvindarstaðaheiði.



Iceland - Home at Hestasport



Open from May to October
Arrive any day (Reykjavik)
Minimum 4 nights
1 – 5 hours riding per day
Price from £918 for 4 nights



A self-catering lodge based ride in the north of Iceland. Ideal for families and groups of mixed ability this tour combines well with an extended self-drive tour of Iceland.



Ecuador - Volcanoes and Vistas



Runs all year
Set departures (Quito)
10 nights / 10 days riding
4 – 7 hours riding per day
Price from £3,026



A challenging ride with stunning scenery, testing terrain and some fast riding. Ride in three very distinct areas of Ecuador; the scenic northern highlands, the remote Pinan region and the rugged Cotopaxi area.



eSwatini - Mlilwane Explorer



Runs from May to September
Set departures (Johannesburg)
9 nights / 6 days riding
4 – 6 hours riding per day
Price from £1,915



Mlilwane offers a unique safari experience with a rich mix of cultural interaction and scenery. Riding in to the western highlands and through rural communities takes you to remote areas where visitors seldom reach.



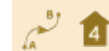
France - Châteaux of the Loire



Runs from May to October
Set departures (Loire Valley)
3 or 6 nights
2 – 5 hours riding per day
Price from £1,199 for 3 nights



A ride from château to château takes you back to the 16th century in this historic and beautiful area of France. Enjoy fine French cuisine with gourmet picnics and elegant candle lit dinners.



Iceland - Kjölur



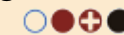
Runs from June to August
Set departures (Reykjavik)
7 nights / 6 days riding
4 – 7 hours riding per day
Price from £2,163



A classic trail ride through the remote highlands and interior of Iceland, running south to north or vice versa on an ancient route across the heart of the country.



Iceland - Northern Lights Ride



Runs in March, April and Oct to Nov
Set departures (Reykjavik)
2 nights / 2 days riding
2 – 5 hours riding per day
Price from £944



By day explore the birch forests of Haukadalur valley on horseback and visit the Golden Waterfall at Gullfoss. In the evening guided walks in search of the Northern Lights.



India - Assam Tea Gardens



Runs from October to April
Arrive any day (Dibrugarh)
Minimum 3 nights
2 – 4 hours riding per day
Price from £1,519 for 9 nights



More than just a riding holiday amidst the lush tea gardens of north east India; this is an opportunity to experience the sights and sounds of rural India in this seldom visited part of the world.



India - Fairs & Festivals



Runs in October
Set departures (Delhi)
From 9 nights with 6 days riding
4 – 6 hours riding per day
Price from £2,326 for 9 nights



This trail through rural India combines riding the iconic Marwari horses in Rajasthan, with visits to Jaipur, horse and cattle fairs, the Taj Mahal at Agra and ending with the sights of Delhi.



India - Punjab Rides



Runs in March
Set departures (Delhi)
10 nights / 5 days riding
2 – 5 hours riding per day
Price from £2,420



A trail ride in the Punjab to one of India's most colourful and dramatic festivals.



India - Pushkar Fair



Runs in October and November
Set departures (Delhi)
From 11 nights / 6 days riding
4 – 8 hours riding per day
Price from £3,225 for 11 nights



The Pushkar Fair in Rajasthan is one of the worlds largest horse and camel fairs and a real spectacle to behold. These tours include a visit to the Pushkar Fair as well as riding Marwari horses in rural India and sightseeing.



Kenya - Borana



Open all year
Arrive any day (Nairobi)
Minimum 3 nights
4 – 6 hours riding per day
Price from £4,213 for 7 nights



Combine riding with game drives and guided bush walks while staying at a luxury lodge. Lion, rhino, elephant, buffalo and herds of antelope roam the plains while the cooler forests shelter bushbuck and leopard.



Kenya - Maasai Mara



Runs in January and June to September
Set departures (Nairobi)
From 6 nights / 5 days riding
3 – 6 hours riding per day
Price from £6,095 for 6 nights



A safari in the true sense. Your guide Gordie is extremely knowledgeable about the animals you see and the land across which you ride. Visit from June to October for a chance to witness the classic migration.



Kenya - Ol Donyo Lodge



Open all year
Arrive any day (Nairobi)
Minimum 3 nights
4 – 6 hours riding per day
Price from £4,213 for 7 nights



Situated between Tsavo East and Amboseli, Ol Donyo Lodge offers adventure, relaxation and privacy in abundance. The guest chalets blend into the African bush where you can watch the wildlife on the plains below.



Ireland - Castle Leslie Estate



Open all year
Arrive any day (Belfast or Dublin)
Minimum 3 nights
3 hours riding per day
Price from £921 for 3 nights



This 1,000 acre estate offers endless opportunities for great riding with something for all levels of rider. There are 20 miles of bridleways and 300 jumps.



Israel - Tour Israel



Runs from November to May
Set departures (Tel Aviv)
8 nights / 6 days riding
3 – 6 hours riding per day
Price from £2,736



An exhilarating tour of Israel, its history, people and nature. The ride takes in the northern and southern parts of the country, from Galilee to the Judean Desert along with visits to historical sites and a day in Jerusalem.



Italy - Castellare di Tonda



Open from April to November
Set departures (Pisa or Florence)
7 nights / 5 days riding
2 – 6 hours riding per day
Price from £1,049



A country resort and spa based on a working wine estate in Tuscany. There are several different itineraries based on riding ability and hours in the saddle.



Kyrgyzstan - The Great Trek



Runs from June to September
Set departures (Bishkek)
From 9 nights / 6 days riding
6 – 8 hours riding per day
Price from £1,133 for 9 nights



An adventurous trail ride across the mountains and valleys of central Kyrgyzstan. There is a real contrast of landscapes with deep fertile valleys and arid canyons separated by high mountain passes.



Lesotho and South Africa - Lesotho Expedition



Runs from February to November
Set departures (Durban)
8 nights / 7 days riding
5 – 8 hours riding per day
Price from £1,664



Explore the Kingdom in the Sky in this off-grid adventure. Experience the untouched wilds of the Sehlabathebe National Park, a part of Lesotho most tourists never get the chance to see.



Macedonia - Miyak Tribe Trail



Runs from May to October
Set departures (Skopje)
7 nights / 6 days riding
5 – 9 hours riding per day
Price from £1,071



An adventurous trail ride through the mountains of Macedonia experiencing the shepherd's way of life - staying in remote guesthouses and camps.



Italy Chianti Castles and Wine Tasting



Runs from Apr to Jun and Sep/Oct
Set departures (Pisa or Florence)
7 nights / 6 days riding
3 – 6 hours riding per day
Price from £1,724



Ride over the Chianti hills, criss-crossing the trails of wildlife such as deer and wild boar, between medieval villages and local vineyards. On some days you'll stop at a wine makers for a tasting.



Italy - Chianti Riding



Open all year
Arrive any day (Pisa or Florence)
Minimum 3 nights
From 2 hours riding per day
Price from £777 for 7 nights



Explore Tuscany from an 18th century farmhouse in Chianti. Located close to Siena, Florence and Pisa, this holiday offers a combination of instruction for all abilities and trail rides for more experienced riders.



Jordan - Footsteps of Lawrence



Runs from September to May
Set departures (Amman)
9 nights / 6 days riding
4 – 6 hours riding per day
Price from £1,779



A trail ride through the Wadi Rum on Arabian horses with nights camping under a star-filled sky. You also visit the amazing ruins of Petra, the 'rose red city' set deep inside a narrow gorge.



Mongolia - Gobi Steppe Ride



Runs from June to August
Set departures (Ulaanbaatar)
11 nights / 9 days riding
4 – 7 hours riding per day
Price from £2,020



This trail ride takes you to the semi-arid grassland steppes south of Ulaanbaatar. You ride across the Bogdkhan mountains and sand dune areas as well as the giant rock formations of Zorgol Hairhan Uul.



Mongolia - Mongol Horse Trail



Runs from June to September
Set departures (Ulaanbaatar)
10 nights / 8 days riding
4 – 7 hours riding per day
Price from £1,852



A trail ride through the Khan Khentii Special Protected Area, north-east of Ulaanbaatar. Experience two strikingly different areas, from the treeless steppes to the Gorkhi-Terelj National Park.



Mongolia - Orkhon Valley



Runs from May to September
Set departures (Ulaanbaatar)
From 12 nights / 9 days riding
2 – 7 hours riding per day
Price from £1,506 for 12 nights



Explore the wilderness on the Camping Trail with pack yaks or ride through two diverse areas on the Dunes & Steppes of Mongolia ride.



Portugal - Quinta do Rol

Open all year
Arrive any day (Lisbon)
Minimum stay 3 nights
1 or 2 lessons per day
Price from £620 for 3 nights

A centre based holiday just north of Lisbon featuring excellent dressage instruction on well-schooled pure-bred Lusitano horses. The estate is dedicated to rural tourism, wine making and the art of dressage.

Portugal - Wolves and Wild Horses

Runs from March to December
Set departures (Porto)
7 nights / 5 days riding
2 – 5 hours riding per day
Price from £1,389

Ride through the Peneda-Gerês National Park in the very north of Portugal. You are based at a very comfortable private house and enjoy a week of riding and sightseeing in this stunning landscape.

Rhodes - South Rhodes Trail

Runs from March to November
Set departures (Rhodes)
7 nights / 5 days riding
3 – 5 hours riding per day
Price from £1,171

This trail combines riding on the coast with mountain rides across the interior. It's a exploration of the island on horseback taking in some of the best and least visted parts of Rhodes.

South Africa - Moolmanshoek

Open all year
Arrive any day (Johannesburg)
Minimum stay 3 nights
5 – 6 hours riding per day
Price from £1,091 for 6 nights

Moolmanshoek is home to a variety of game and over 300 homebred horses. Surrounded by some of the highest mountains in South Africa, this ride offers some thrilling riding on endurance trained horses.

South Africa - Wait A Little

Open all year
Set departures (Hoedspruit)
From 5 nights / 4 days riding
4 – 6 hours riding per day
Price from £3,150 for 7 nights

Adjacent to Kruger National Park, this safari gives some of the best opportunities to view all of Africa's Big Five from close proximity whilst on horseback.

South Africa - Wild Coast

Open all year
Set departures (East London)
7 nights / 6 days riding
4 – 5 hours riding per day
Price from £1,387

The Wild Coast is one of the most spectacular beach rides in the world. Explore mile after mile of deserted sandy beaches and rocky headlands sculpted by the crashing surf of the Indian Ocean.

Romania - Equus Sylvania

Runs from April to November
Set departures (Bucharest)
7 nights / 6 days riding
3 – 6 hours riding per day
Price from £945

A great ride exploring a land where people still live much as they have done for centuries. Ride fit horses and encounter beautiful scenery whilst passing castles, medieval towns, and spotting wildlife.

Romania - Transylvania Trail

Runs from April to October
Set departures (Bucharest)
7 nights / 6 days riding
3 – 7 hours riding per day
Price from £1,574

Journey through a landscape of meadows, forests, hills and small villages on the back of a well-trained, fit and forward going horse. Experience what life is like in rural Romania by staying with local families en route.

South Africa & Botswana - African Explorer

Runs all year
Set departures (Johannesburg)
7 nights / 6 days riding
4 – 7 hours riding per day
Price from £1,660

The first four nights are spent at Camp Davidson in South Africa, then you transfer to Botswana to explore the Tuli Block at Limpopo for three nights.

Spain - Andorra Trail

Runs from June to September
Set departures (Barcelona)
12 nights / 11 days riding
5 – 8 hours riding per day
Price from £2,352

An adventurous and tough trail ride through the Pyrenees. This is one of the toughest riding trips we know of and is only for fit and experienced riders who love the outdoors and enjoy camping in remote locations.

Spain - Catalan Coastal Trails

Runs fom September to June
Set departures (Barcelona)
From 6 nights / 5 days riding
3 – 7 hours riding per day
Price from £1,124 for 6 nights

Trail rides through the coastal hills of Catalonia, along the Mediterranean coast and onto the beaches. These trails are for confident and fit riders. There are three different itineraries to choose between.

Spain - Los Alamos

Open all year
Set departures (Malaga)
From 4 nights / 3 days riding
3 – 4 hours riding per day
Price from £1,295 for 7 nights

Our top selling ride in Europe for several years and for good reason. The warm welcome extended to guests, the fun atmosphere, the well trained horses, and the fabulous riding ensure guests often return.

South Africa - Ant's Lodges

Open all year
Arrive any day (Johannesburg)
Minimum stay 3 nights
4 – 5 hours riding per day
Price from £1,802 for 7 nights

Two beautifully designed and luxurious lodges based on their own private game reserve. All levels of rider are catered for on a variety of well-schooled horses. Non riders are very welcome.

South Africa - Cape Winelands

Open all year
Arrive any day (Cape Town)
Minimum stay 3 nights
2 – 6 hours riding per day
Price from £1,347 for 4 nights

Explore the winelands of the Western Cape around Paarl. Trail rides take you through the vineyards and fruit orchards, past gabled Dutch homesteads set against a mountain backdrop.

South Africa - Horizon Lodge

Open all year
Arrive any day (Johannesburg)
Minimum stay 3 nights
4 – 6 hours riding per day
Price from £1,148 for 7 nights

Horizon is a great fun place for a riding holiday with many different riding activities on offer. All riding abilities are catered for. Perfect for families wanting a great introduction to Africa.

Spain - Pyrenean Adventures

Runs from March to November
Set departures (Barcelona)
From 6 nights / 5 days riding
4 – 8 hours riding per day
Price from £1,218 for 6 nights

Fast riding on the high mountain pastures and coastal hills of Catalonia. These trails are for experienced and fit riders only since you spend long hours in the saddle and will ride into the evening.

Spain - Sierra de Gredos

Runs from June to November
Set departures (Madrid)
From 6 nights / 5 days riding
4 – 7 hours riding per day
Price from £1,181 for 6 nights

West of Madrid these trail rides explore the mountains of Castile and Leon. At the start and the end of the season the rides go into Extremadura. Both places have great horses and great tapas.

Spain - Sierra Nevada

Runs from March to November
Set departures (Malaga)
Minimum 4 nights
4 – 6 hours riding per day
Price from £1,318 for 7 nights

With over 30 years experience of leading trails through whitewashed villages and across mountain passes, your guide will show you the hidden Spain on her Andalusian horses.

Sweden - Explore Winter

Runs from December to March

Set departures (Kiruna)

6 nights / 4 days riding

2 – 3 hours riding per day

Price from £1,742

This is a winter riding holiday with lots of other activities including snowmobiling and reindeer sledding. To make it really special, one night is spent in the famous Ice Hotel 150km north of the Arctic Circle.

Sweden - Ratekjokk Trail

Runs from June to August

Set departures (Kiruna)

6 nights / 5 days riding

3 – 5 hours riding per day

Price from £1,045

A trail ride in the mountains of northern Sweden, 200km north of the Arctic Circle. A real outdoor wilderness adventure with campfires, sleeping in Sami tents (Lavvu) and learning about the Sami nomadic culture.

Tanzania - Kaskazi

Runs in January and from June to October

Set departures (Kilimanjaro)

7 nights / 6 days riding

4 – 7 hours riding per day

Price from £5,086

As well as superb and varied game viewing, the landscape is a big part of these safaris. Set against a backdrop of Mount Kilimanjaro this pacey safari takes you through some of the most scenic areas of Africa.

Tanzania - Serengeti Migration Safari

Runs in February and March

Set departures (Kilimanjaro)

8 nights / 6 days riding

2 – 6 hours riding per day

Price from £5,297

Adjoining the Serengeti-Mara ecosystem the area is teeming with magnificent wildlife and offers an adventurous horseback safari; an incredible opportunity to indulge your sense of adventure off the beaten track.

Turkey - Cappadocia Trails

Runs from April to October

Set departures (Kayseri)

From 6 nights / 5 days riding

3 – 6 hours riding per day

Price from £1,127 for 6 nights

Starting from the historic town of Ortahisar in the heart of Cappadocia this ride takes you off the beaten path and allows you to explore the remote valleys and villages where few tourists go.

Uganda - Nile Explorer

Runs in Jan, June and September to October

Set departures (Entebbe)

7 nights / 6 days riding

3 – 5 hours riding per day

Price from £3,367

This adventure starts in Jinja and heads north from Lake Victoria exploring the banks of the Nile from horseback. After the riding you can take a trip to Bwindi to visit the Mountain Gorillas in their natural habitat.

Uruguay - Gaucho Trails

Runs from Feb to Apr and Oct to Dec

Set departures (Montevideo)

7 nights / 7 days riding

3 – 6 hours riding per day

Price from £3,106

The trail takes you over coastal estancias, along beaches and over shifting sand dunes, through palm groves and along the shores of the wetlands, some of the largest expanses of inland water in South America.

Wyoming - The Hideout

Open from March to November

Set departures (Cody)

6 nights / 5 days riding

3 – 6 hours riding per day

Price from £2,792

A luxury cattle ranch, located in the beautiful Shell Valley of the Big Horn Basin. The ranch welcomes guests of all ages and abilities, with challenging riding for experienced riders.

Yukon - Shine Valley

Runs from May to September

Set departures (Whitehorse)

12 nights / 10 days riding

4 – 7 hours riding per day

Price from £2,397

Yukon, the last Canadian border before Alaska, is a true experience of wild beauty. On this expedition, you follow the old trapper routes and paths of wild animals such as moose, caribou and wolves.



How to Book

Visit www.inthesaddle.com to find out more about each ride; filter your list of rides online and read the feedback for each trip.

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