

GUIDED OVERNIGHT RIDES: EQUIPMENT AND SKILLS LIST

In order to successfully participate in the guided camping trips, it is essential that riders and their equine partners have both the appropriate gear and the necessary abilities for back country travel.

For the human:

- Sleep System
 - Tent, sleeping pad, sleeping bag or quilt, inflatable pillow (optional)
- Cooking Kit
 - Stove, pot, fuel, utensils, lighter, mug, bowl
- Clothing
 - Wearing: shirt, underwear, pants, socks, shoes, sun-protective hat
 - Packed: warm layers (such as a fleece sweater and down jacket), rain slicker or poncho, extra socks and underwear, long underwear, warm socks for sleeping, warm hat
- Utility Items
 - Headlamp and trowel for cat-holes
 - Optional: Battery banks, InReach or SPOT, appropriate cords for charging phone and InReach, storage bags (for food/waste/keep items dry), compression sacks for clothes and sleeping bag, knife
- Navigation
 - Choice of phone apps (FarOut for national scenic trails or Gaia for manually inputting route) or topographic maps (optional compass)
- Toiletries
 - Keep it simple!**
 - Suggestions: toothbrush, toothpaste, face wipes, hairbrush, sunscreen, lip balm, toilet paper (feminine hygiene products as appropriate), hand sanitizer
- First Aid
 - Suggestions: Mild painkillers, Benedryl, Pepto Bismol chewable tabs, Band-aids, medical tape / finger tape, antibiotic ointment packets
- Food and water
 - Water treatment or filter, water containment (2L minimum), food (**keep it light and dehydrated**--see backpacker blogs for creative meal suggestions)
- Optional or location dependent
 - Bear spray, pepper spray, folding saw, half chaps or chinks, camp shoes, backpack, bear canister, rain pants, bug headnet, bug spray

If trying to travel light, aim to keep this list between 15 to 25 lbs., not including the weight of food and water.

We will be discussing this equipment as part of our preparation for the trip and there will be additional specific suggestions regarding gear selection.

For the riding horse:

- Tack
Saddle and girth, saddle pad, possible breast collar and/or crupper, bridle and reins, saddle bags, halter and lead rope
- Stock containment
Have at least one of the following: hobbles and highline kit; picket line and stake; or electric fence kit
- Food and water
Collapsible water bucket (6 gal), feed bags or additional feed buckets, optional small collapsible bucket (2 to 3 gal), additional feed as necessary
- Med kit
I will be carrying a well-stocked vet kit; if you want to prepare your own kit, these are some items I suggest you consider having available: 20 grams Bute, 20 grams Banamine, antibiotic ointment, small Vaseline or BioGel, Ever Ready First Aid 2" elastic bandage, vet wrap, feminine pads or gauze, iodine prep pads and alcohol prep pads, syringe for flushing wounds, digital thermometer, duct tape
- Protection (optional)
Rain sheet, fleece sheet, fly masks, bug spray
- Grooming
Curry comb, grooming brush, hoof pick
- Hoof Protection
Spare hoof boots and/or farrier kit
Optional basic farrier kit should have spare nails, nail nipper, clinchers, hammer (I like the Tough-1 Professional multi-purpose farrier tool and a set of clinchers)

For the pack animal:

- Tack
Packsaddle and pad plus britching, panniers or boxes (bear-resistant as required by location), lash cinch, top pack and rain cover
- Stock Containment
Ensure that containment choices accommodate additional stock
- Food and water
Additional collapsible water bucket, feed bags or buckets, feed as needed

Your specific equine equipment will vary depending on your individual choices and whether or not you are using a pack animal.

Skills for the human:

- **Riding ability**
Sufficient experience to feel capable of navigating single-track trails with a variety of terrains, including possible water crossings and uphill/downhill slopes; able to ride at least 4 hours at a time (optional opportunity to walk on foot as desired)
- **Physical fitness**
Able to handle necessary tasks independently, such as mounting/dismounting, tacking/untacking horse, setting up campsite and stock containment (or be accompanied by someone who will assist with these tasks). Guide will provide coaching but participants are expected to be capable of caring for themselves and their stock.
- **Preparation**
Participants should practice in advance so that they understand how to set-up/take down their tent and other personal gear, as well as their stock containment of choice. (Guide will assist with coaching as needed.)
- **Navigation/Communication**
Selection and use of appropriate navigation and communication devices is part of the preparatory instruction for the ride provided by the guide; individual use of preferred navigation format is highly recommended during the trip.

Skills for the equine:

- **Ground manners**
Will lead and stand tied as necessary, accepts presence of other stock
- **Riding/packing suitability**
Sufficiently obedient to aids to be safe and responsive while ridden and/or led behind a riding horse; accustomed to the equipment that will be used for riding/packing; can be reliably handled around other stock; comfortable navigating technical terrain
- **Fitness**
Able to travel at a walking pace for up to 10-12 miles while carrying a rider and/or equipment, with possible elevation gain/loss
- **Stock Containment**
Familiar with and secure while using your choice of stock containment
- **Special Situations**
Will load and travel reliably in a trailer, has experience overnighting calmly while away from home stable (such as at a horse campground or show environment); will cross water, bridges, or step over obstacles as needed

If you have questions or concerns about any of these items, please discuss at the first opportunity so they can be addressed.