



GUIDED OVERNIGHT BACK COUNTRY RIDES

Have you been looking for a way to go from dreaming about overnight camping rides with your horse to actually doing it? This is your opportunity to take that next step with the support of an experienced coach at your side, helping you translate what you know in theory to something you can do with confidence.

Drawing on a decade of solo long-distance trail rides, Gillian Larson is now offering weekend overnight outings for you and your equine partner, so you can practice all the necessary skills for a safe and enjoyable back country camping trip. Whether you plan to use a single riding horse to carry you and your gear, or if you want to have a pack animal as well, these sessions are designed to ensure that you have the equipment, knowledge, and abilities to make your goals a reality.

Each trip requires the following:

- Before joining a session, all riders must have attended either an in-person equestrian camping workshop or completed the online course, so that they have the necessary background knowledge (concurrent enrollment okay).
- Riders demonstrate their commitment to executing back country trips by using their own riding/pack animals and equipment for the outing.
- Prior to the trip, riders will receive a preparatory check list to follow; they are expected to complete "homework" consisting of 1) acquiring and knowing how to use their gear; 2) practicing suitable stock containment methods; and 3) familiarizing their riding/pack animals with saddlebags and/or packsaddle equipment.
- Participants will engage in three individual video chat sessions with the guide before the trip, to assess their progress and preparation.

To promote a focus on individual support and learning, each trip will have no more than four riders, with the potential to accommodate two pack animals per group.

For 2024, there are four planned trips at two different locations:

Klamath National Forest, CA: July 12-15 & Sept. 27-30

Bridger-Teton National Forest, WY: July 26-29 & Aug. 2-5

Rates and Payment:

Guided Backcountry Equestrian Camping Trip

\$1750

This is a weekend-long outing on a backcountry trail to put into practice the skills and information acquired through taking an equestrian camping workshop/online course. Participants gather at the trailhead on Friday afternoon for equipment and skills review, a discussion of safety protocols, a preview of the ride route, and packing preparation before enjoying an evening cookout together. On Saturday, we pack up our horses and ride out through beautiful wilderness to the trail campsite, where we'll camp overnight under the stars after setting up stock containment, tents, etc. On Sunday we break camp and return to the trailhead for another cookout.

Included in the trip cost are all route planning, permits, and reservations; three preparatory video chat meetings before departure to review gear and supply requirements and necessary skills for safe participation; gear and skills lists; individual and group coaching and assistance throughout the weekend session; trailhead meals on Friday and Sunday evening.

Not included are transportation to and from the trailhead for you and your equine partner(s); any personal, camping, or horse-related equipment or food necessary for participation in the session other than the arranged meals; any other non-specified items.

Previous completion of an in-person backcountry equestrian camping workshop or online course is required for participation in a guided camping session.

Backcountry Equestrian Camping online course with Guided Trip

\$1900

Combines the guided overnight camping trip described above with the online course which is required for participation. (If the online course or an in-person workshop was previously completed, only enrollment in the guided trip is necessary).

Deposit: \$500 required to hold your place (non-refundable unless another participant becomes available)

Balance: The remaining \$1250 is due 60 days before the trip beginning date; if paid in full in advance, refunds (minus the deposit) are available up to 60 days before the trip starts.

Online Course Add-on: \$150 non-refundable for course access; payable with deposit.

(If a trip is canceled by the organizer for any reason, a full refund or rebooking will be offered.)

Contact Gillian Larson directly with questions about availability and to make a reservation or payment.