



Lake Ranch

Weight limit: 110kg
Nearest airport: Rapid city
8 days / 7 nights / 6 days riding



Come and stay at a real working ranch! Lake Ranch covers 30,000 acres of the North-East region of Wyoming in the famous Black Hills, not far from Montana and South Dakota borders. The ranch has around 100 horses, 2000 cattle and an abundance of wildlife, including pronghorns, deers, raccoons, marmots, beavers and prairie dogs. Get stuck in with cattle work, enjoy visits to local rodeos and enjoy trail rides in the vast wilderness of the area.

The Riding

Every rider will have the chance to try several horses and find a suitable match for the week. You may be allocated a different horse depending on the activity you are taking part in.

You will ride for 3-4 hours in the morning, return for lunch and will ride again in the afternoon for another 3-4 hours.

When no cattle work is necessary you will just ride for fun, enjoying the beautiful landscape through canyons, forests and endless prairies, enjoying the freedom and open space of the ranch.

Guides & Group sizes

The maximum number of guests is 8. Riding out is flexible and dependent on the group and the activities. Children are welcome but must be accompanied by parents at all times.

Horses and Tack

The ranch has 35-40 riding horses between 3 and 15 years old for every level of rider from beginner to advanced.

The herd mainly consists of Quarter horses with a few Paints and Mustangs, all with great cow-sense.

The ranch has an exceptional Quarter Horses breeding programme, and most of the horses are raised and trained by the ranch cowboys, ensuring that they have horses they can trust.

From April to October training begins for the youngsters who will become the new riding horses of the ranch.



Level of Riding and Fitness

All riding abilities are catered for and there are horses to suit everyone. Beginners are welcome to participate in cattle drives as the cattle are moved slowly and quietly, and there is always someone on hand to assist if needed. A good level of general fitness is beneficial as you could be in the saddle for around 6 hours a day.

Accommodation & Dining

The accommodation consists of a lodge with 8 double bedrooms (all with private bathrooms), a dining room, saloon complete with pool table and bar, and a separate cabin for those wanting a bit more privacy.

The food is plentiful and served buffet-style in the dining room. Your hosts are Italian-American and the cuisine reflects this; expect plenty of meats, pasta and vegetables. Mealtimes vary depending on the activities on the day - this is after all a working ranch!



Itinerary

Day 1

You will be collected from Rapid City Airport and transferred 2 hours to the ranch. Meet your hosts for the week and get settled into your accommodation. Depending on your arrival time you may wish to take part in some afternoon activities, or simply relax after your travels before dinner.

Day 2-6

The day begins with a good buffet breakfast; coffee, fruit, yoghurt, cereal, ham, cheese, cookies, eggs, etc.

Around the table the cowboys will explain the plan of the day, which will involve time in the saddle! The cowboys will gather the horses from the pasture into corrals, where one will be assigned to every guest for the day.

The schedule for the day will depend on the time of year, but will involve horses and time outdoors! Additional activities you can try are team penning, breakaway roping and barrel racing.

After a hard day's ranching, relax in the lodge bar with a drink before dinner.

Day 7

There will be one day during your stay without cowboys and cattle, where you will have some free time off the ranch. Visits include Devils Tower (First national monument of America), which

is a few miles from the ranch, Black Hills National Forest, Mount Rushmore, Badlands National Park, or Deadwood. There may also be the opportunity to go to a rodeo or horse auction.

Day 8

Depending on the time of your flight you may have time for a morning ride or to help the cowboys with their morning tasks. Transfer to Rapid City in time for your flight.

April-June

Calving Season. Guests will ride out to the herd to check on the babies every day to make sure that they are ok. At the end of calving season the calves will be branded which is still done in the traditional way of the "old West: horses, ropes, sweat and dust.

July-August

During this time the cowboys manage the pasture, which means cattle drives of approximately 1200 head of cattle. The cowboys will explain the technique used for the cattle drive.

August-October

This season begins with the roundup of cattle and choosing which ones to keep and to sell before winter. The cattle to be kept will be moved to the winter pasture. This is a period of hard work where you might be riding all day.



Price includes

- All meals at the ranch
- 7 nights accommodation
- All activities as per itinerary
- Transfers at set times
- Taxes

Not included

- Flights
- Tips
- Meals on free day off-ranch
- Alcohol

International flights & Airport transfers

Do not book flights until you have received the Booking confirmation email from saddletravel.com.

Please plan your flights to and from Rapid City Airport (RAP).

Transfers are included for Wednesday and Saturday arrivals between 10:00am and 8:00pm.

Arrivals outside of these times will need to take the airport shuttle which costs approximately \$220, or hire a car.

What to bring

We recommend wearing your riding boots when travelling and carrying one set of riding clothing and your helmet in your hand luggage, so should your luggage not make it to the destination you'll still be able to ride.

Please use the packing list as a guideline, bearing in mind the time of year you are riding.

- Riding hat (optional for adults, compulsory for children)
- Long riding trousers/jodhpurs
- Riding shoes/boots with a heel
- Long sleeved shirt
- Sweater
- Riding gloves
- Casual wear for evenings
- Swimwear
- Flip Flops/sandals

- Trainers/casual shoes for evenings
- Sunglasses
- Suncream
- Reusable water bottle
- Waterproof jacket (no ponchos)
- Camera
- Insect repellent

Climate

In Wyoming spring brings the winter thaw with plenty of mud, and the beginning of the warmer weather. The summers are warm, muggy, and wet, with temperatures ranging from 23-32 degrees. Winters are very cold, snowy, and windy; and it is partly cloudy year round.



Health

For health and vaccine recommendations, please consult your healthcare provider at least 8 weeks before your trip.

Country specific information can also be found at National Travel Health Network and Centre website: <https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/countries>.

Travel documents

For entry requirements to for UK citizens, please visit the Foreign Travel Advice website:

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/usa>

For any other nationalities, please contact your local embassy to check entry requirements.

Having the correct travel documents is entirely your responsibility.

Currency & Tipping

Local currency is USD. Tips are not included and are paid at your discretion.

Cancellation policy

Holidays are confirmed with a 20% non-refundable deposit. The full balance is due 56 days before the start date.

If you cancel your booking less than 56 days before the start date of your trail we are entitled to receive full payment, less refunds as follows:

42 days or more before booking date - 50%

30 days or more - 30%

less than 30 days - nil

Insurance

All saddletravel.com customers are required to take out appropriate travel insurance that covers horse riding and holiday cancellation. Proof of insurance details will be required during the booking process.

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