



Canadian Rockies Lodge Trail

Weight limit: 110kg

Nearest airport: Calgary

6 days / 5 nights / 5 days riding

Travel high into the wild mountains and valleys of the Canadian Rockies on this adventurous pack trip in the Banff National Park. This is a pack trip where you'll travel from lodge to lodge with towering snow-capped mountains on three sides. Ideal for all levels of rider, however a good head for heights is necessary, the trail takes you up to over 8,000 ft for some truly spectacular views. A trail for adventurous riders who want to explore the wild-life filled mountains off the beaten track.



The Riding

You'll be riding along a historic pack trail that winds through the craggy Sundance Range, venturing to places most visitors to Banff National Park never get to see. You'll pass by the shimmering waters of the Bow River and then ride up Allenby Pass, where jagged rock formations line the route. The riding is all done at a walk and the terrain can be steep and rocky in places. On occasion riders may need to dismount and lead their horse for short periods.

Guides & Group sizes

All the guides on this trail are friendly, warm and experienced. They know how to work with both new and experienced riders. The maximum number of riders in a group is 6.



Horses and Tack

There are around 300 horses and mules available for riding and as pack horses. There is a large variety of sizes, breeds and temperaments within the herd, something suitable for any level of rider. Guides at this destination are highly skilled at matching horses and riders.

The tack used is mostly Western and all riders are provided with saddle bags to transport daily essentials while on the trail.

Accommodation & Dining

You will be staying in two different lodges while on the trail. Your first and last night will be spent at Sundance Lodge. Just 10 miles from Banff, this secluded, warm and cosy lodge is at the edge of the mountain range. Complete with solar power and a wood-burning stove for a crackling evening fire. Hot showers and electricity are available here, although neither of the lodges has internet or Wi-Fi. There is a porch where you can sit and watch for wildlife and a sitting room with a fireplace perfect for relaxing in the evening. The shared bathroom facilities are inside and there are 10 rooms available.



The middle three nights of the trip will be spent at Halfway Lodge set at the base of the Allenby Pass. It was built in the 1920s for riders on their way to Mount Assiniboine. This is a more basic lodge than Sundance. Propane lanterns and candles provide the lighting while a wood-burner provides the heat. There is a cosy kitchen, dining and sitting room inside, and two shared outhouses (outdoor basic toilet facilities) and an outdoor shower on site. There are 4 bedrooms that have space for up to 4 people each.

At both lodges meals are cooked on-site by professional chefs, breakfast and dinner are eaten at the lodge while lunch is packed into the saddle bags and enjoyed while out on the trail. A traditional cowboy barbecue is served on your first day, usually an Alberta steak paired with home-made baked beans, baked potatoes and other sides. Dinners at the lodges could be braised beef short ribs (vegetarian alternative available) matched with a side of fluffy mashed potatoes and cheesecake for dessert. Camps and lodges are licensed and offer a small selection of wine and beer.

Itinerary

Day 1

Arrive at the stables for 9:30am to meet your guides, fellow guests, and the horses before setting out on the 10-mile ride to your first lodge. The path follows the rushing Bow River through the valley and lunch is a barbecue next to the river. Relax on the banks of the river as the food is cooked over an open fire. A gentle afternoon of riding brings you to the lodge at about 4:30pm where you can freshen up with a warm shower and relax for the rest of the day.

Day 2

After a hearty breakfast, mount up and follow the historical Erling Strom Trail with the rugged Sundance mountain range to the east as you follow in the footsteps of the early explorers of the Rocky Mountains. Enjoy a picnic lunch in an open mountain meadow where the plants start to indicate the change in altitude before continuing to ascend until reaching the lodge. With propane lanterns, candles and a wood-burning stove for warmth, this secluded lodge offers a real mountain retreat.

Day 3

Today you'll ride along the Allenby Pass, climbing up to 8,100 ft. There are stunning panoramic views of the valleys and distant mountain ranges. Fossil remains can be spotted in the mountain rock over a picnic lunch before you make your way back down the mountain pass returning to the lodge for dinner. As the sun sets behind the mountains you can relax around the fire with a glass of wine and share stories with your fellow travelers.

Day 4

Today the horses take a break and you can either hike to a sparkling glacial-fed lake at the end of the valley or you can relax at the lodge which is situated in an incredibly peaceful spot and perfect for wildlife spotting. Dinner and overnight at the lodge.

Day 5

Today you'll be riding away from this idyllic spot but there is still more to see in this wild region. Follow the winding trail along Brewster Creek, criss-crossing the valley as the early pioneers did to find exciting new places and a different perspective of the mountains around you. Lunch is

taken out on the trail and you arrive back to the original lodge in the afternoon complete with hot showers and electric lights! Dinner and overnight at the lodge.

Day 6

A final breakfast with your warm hosts before riding back to the stables. Follow the gently winding river trails through the thick pine forest with the Rockies as your backdrop. Stretch out on the riverbank one last time for lunch before making your way back to the stables, arriving back at approximately 4:30pm.



Price includes

- 5 full days of riding
- Trail riding horse, tack and saddlebags
- 5 nights accommodation
- All meals
- Luggage transfer
- Services of guide

Not included

- Flights
- Transfers to/from the stables
- Alcoholic drinks
- Tips

International flights & Airport transfers

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

You will need to arrive at the stables at 9.30am on the first day of the holiday. We recommend staying the previous night in Banff. The stables are a 20 minute walk from Banff town centre or a 5 minute taxi ride.

You will arrive back at the stables at approximately 4.30pm on the last day of the trail. We recommend staying an additional night in Banff and booking your flights for the following day.

The closest airport is Calgary, around a 90 minute drive from Banff. Transfers from the airport can be arranged through [Banff Airporter](#). From \$118 per person return.

What to bring

Mountain weather is unpredictable and you can experience all four seasons in one day. The air is crisp in the mornings and often takes till mid afternoon to reach daily highs. There's a big difference between the shade and sun and if there is a slight breeze, it's chilled by alpine snow and glaciers. To be comfortable, bring one more extra layer, just in case.

All supplies are carried by hard working mules, so pack in soft-sided, cloth or nylon bags. No hard edges, frames or wheels. Your luggage is restricted to a total maximum weight of 30lbs. If you do not have a water-resistant bag, it is a good idea to line the inside with plastic bags in the event of rain.

- Comfortable riding trousers / jodhpurs
- Your own well-fitted hard hat
- Riding boots/ walking boots with a good grip (riding boots with smooth sole are not recommended as they can be slippery when walking)
- Riding gloves
- Warm coat
- Warm clothing for layering. Essential to ward off chilly nights or a windy day
- A heavy sweater (wool is a great insulator) or fleece jacket
- Warm fleece / jumper for the cooler nights

- Waterproof jacket and trousers. Please DO NOT bring rain ponchos, they flap in the wind and can scare the horses. There is a limited supply of full-length waterproof slickers (traditional cowboy rain coat) available based on a first come first served basis.
- Hiking shoes and small backpack if you want to join the optional hike on the non-riding day
- Lightweight shoes for evening
- Thermal gear to sleep in
- Sun cream
- Sunglasses & sunhat
- A small torch
- Portable charging devices (there is no electricity at the lodges)
- Large, reusable water bottle

Climate

Mountain weather is unpredictable and you might even experience all four seasons in one day. The air is crisp in the mornings and often takes until mid afternoon to reach daily highs. Overnight temperatures at higher elevations often dip down below freezing. And it's not unheard of to get snow even in the summer. In Banff town from June-September expect highs of 22C and lows of around 7C. Higher elevations are cooler.

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 Canada for UK citizens, please visit the Foreign Travel Advice website: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/canada/entry-requirements>

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

Having the correct travel documents is entirely your responsibility.

Currency & Tipping

The local currency in Canada is the Canadian Dollar. We recommend bringing enough local currency for any additional drinks you may want to purchase while at the lodges.

Tipping your guide is at your discretion and gratuities are greatly appreciated - a suggested amount is \$50 per day to be shared between staff.



Booking conditions

Your booking is with the ride operator, Banff Trail Riders and these are their booking conditions:

- Rates are based on double occupancy and a single room supplement is available for an additional fee.
- Riders must be at least 9 years old.
- Riders aged 17 and under must be accompanied on the ride by a legal guardian.
- Riders must weigh less than 230lbs / 104kg, fully dressed (your weight may need to be verified on our scales).
- Riders must wear fully enclosed shoes (no heels).
- Each rider must be able to speak and understand fluent English.
- Riders must be in good physical condition.
- Helmets are mandatory and to be worn by all riders under 18 years. Helmets are optional but recommended for riders aged 18 years and over.
- All adult riders must sign a waiver prior to the tour. A waiver must also be completed by the parent or legal guardian of any rider under the age of 18 (documentation may be required to confirm the signatory's authority).
- COVID-19: Guests should not attend our tour if showing any signs or symptoms of illness.
- COVID-19: Guests must wear a non-surgical face covering when checking in for their activity.

Refunds are not issued if guests are disqualified from riding due to not meeting these requirements.

Cancellation policy

Payment & Cancellation Terms

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

Book with confidence – Covid Guarantee:

If ride operator is closed/you are unable to travel – due to lockdown:

1/ The deposit is reissued as a rebooking voucher to rebook anytime.

2/ Any balance payment will be refunded to you in full within 1 week of departure date.

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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