



Drowsy Water Ranch

Weight limit: 110 kilos

Nearest airport: Denver

7 days / 6 nights / 6 days riding



For over 90 years this 600 acre family guest ranch has provided authentic western ranch holidays for all levels of rider. Nestled in its own private mountain valley in Colorado, the ranch promises an exciting week under the backdrop of big mountains and starry skies. Explore the vast Colorado backcountry on one of the Quarter horses crossing creeks, passing hot springs and climbing through the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. The ranch suits adults and children

alike and is considered a fantastic family destination where guests of any age and ability can enjoy ranch life, adult only weeks are also offered.

The Riding

The ranch is set in a deep valley next to the Rocky Mountains and offers 600 acres of trails to explore. The riding varies according to the groups wishes, and groups are split according to experience level so you won't be stuck walking for hours if what you really want to do is gallop over the open fields, and vice versa of course. All riders are invited to take part in cattle work while at the ranch and there are weekly team penning sessions where you can try your hand at herding a few cattle from horseback.

Level of riding and fitness

The ranch can cater for all levels of rider and all age groups. Horses are selected to match your riding skills and abilities and daily instruction is available if requested, both in the arena and out on the trails. Advanced riders have many opportunities to explore the 600 acres at all paces including smooth lopes and gallops. Less experienced riders can enjoy the stunning scenery on slow and scenic trail rides.



Guides & Groups sizes

Your guides for this trail are all experienced adult wranglers and you'll ride out in groups of between 2-8.

Horses & Tack

There are over a hundred horses at this ranch, mostly Quarter horses but also some draught horses and Paints. There are more spirited horses for advanced riders but also quieter horses for nervous or novice riders as well as children. You'll be matched with one of the horses best suited to your riding level and can ride the same horse for the whole week. All tack is Western style.

Accommodation and Dining

Accommodation is in either a private cabin or a private room with the lodge. There are one, two, three, and four bedroom cabins to suit single travellers as well as groups and families. There are also private bedrooms and a communal living room in the Lodge where you can meet other guests, play cards, browse the library and enjoy fresh coffee. Bedrooms are snug, comfortable and typically western styled, all have private bathrooms.

All meals at the ranch are home-cooked and you can eat as much as you like. Many family recipes are used for the western-style meals and even the bread is made from scratch. Most meals are served on large sharing tables in the dining room but outdoor meals are sometimes offered with barbecues for example. Breakfast is served between 7.30 and 8.45, lunch is at 12.30 and dinner is at 6pm each day. All hot and soft drinks are included but there is no alcohol served due to the family atmosphere. You are welcome to bring your own, which can be enjoyed in your own cabin or verandah. If visiting during an adult only week you are welcome to enjoy alcoholic drinks anywhere on the ranch.

Itinerary

Day 1

Arrive in the afternoon after 3pm and get settled into your cabin. Meet your fellow guests and your hosts over dinner. Dinner is followed by introductions to the staff and a short orientation of what the week holds.

Day 2

Enjoy your first ranch breakfast before meeting the horses. You'll be matched with one of the 100+ horses in the herd and can get to know each other either with a lesson or by heading out

on a short trail ride. Return to the ranch for a home-cooked lunch before heading back out on the trail in the afternoon. You can either join a fast ride or a slower and more leisurely paced trail. After dinner you'll be treated to a night of traditional country dance.



Day 3

This morning you can either join a guided raft trip on the Colorado river or enjoy two half day trail rides that depart throughout the day. After a full day of excitement the adults can enjoy a quiet and relaxing dinner while if you have travelled as a family, the children can go on a hayride and have a campfire.

Day 4

Today there are various activities for everyone. Choose from all-day and half-day trail rides, yoga, or fly fishing. Or if you prefer you can just relax at the ranch, making use of the pool and hot tub. The evening ends with a grand carnival, bringing everyone together again after a day of adventures.

Day 5

Welcome in a beautiful Colorado summer day with a breakfast trail ride to the highest point of the ranch, surrounded by the Rocky Mountains. The afternoon comes with options to mountain bike, hike, go riding again or just simply relax at the ranch. In the evening you can join a hayride and campfire.

Day 6

After breakfast you can saddle up for an all day or half day trail ride. There is also the option to try out the ranch's zipline or take part in rodeo practise in the arena. In the evening there's live music to celebrate your final night.

Day 7

Enjoy a final ranch breakfast and depending on your onward travel plans an optional last morning ride before departing after lunch.

Flights & Airport transfers

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

Please plan your flights to/from as follows:

Arrive at Denver in time to meet one of the shuttles which leave the airport at 1pm and 5pm. We recommend booking your departure flight for the evening on the final day so that you have time for a morning ride on the last day.

Airport Transfers

There is a shuttle service from Denver Airport to Granby which leaves at 1pm and 5pm and costs approximately £65 each way. The ranch will then collect you from Granby (a 20 minute drive).

There is also a train departing daily from Denver to Granby, one of the most spectacular rail journeys in the world which costs approximately £20

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 and there are none available to borrow)
- 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

Typically the night time temperatures drop to around 10C and daytime temperatures are usually around 22C but can reach 28-30 C in July and August. It is cool enough to sleep under a blanket and pleasantly warm to ride during the day. The ranch is situated in a deep valley, so early mornings can feel chilly until the sun hits.



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 the National Travel Health Network and Centre website: <https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/countries>.

Travel documents

For entry requirements to the US for UK citizens, please visit the Foreign Travel Advice website:
<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/usa/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 is US dollars (\$). Although this is an all inclusive holiday You should bring enough spending money to cover any alcoholic drinks you want to buy which are not included. Tipping between 12-15% is usual at American ranches if you are happy with the service.

Cancellation policy

Payment & Cancellation Terms saddletravel.com

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

Book with confidence – Covid Guarantee:

If the ride operator is closed or 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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