



SADDLETRAVEL.COM

Learn To Ride Trail



This trail is for adult beginners and novices. On this introduction to riding in the hills, our purpose is that you should feel at home with your horse and enjoy being in the saddle as you travel along the tracks and trails. Even those with little or no previous experience will soon be able to prepare their horse for the trail – catch, feed, groom, and tack up. The course is absolutely practical and learning takes place out in the hills. As such it is also ideal for those

wishing to come along and introduce a non-riding friend to the pleasures of horseback travel and horse holidays.

The Riding

During the trail, riders will be offered instruction in:

Looking after your horse:

Catching, grooming, feeding, checking hooves and tacking up (putting on headcollar, bridle, saddle, numnah and saddlebags).

In the saddle:

Controlling your horse at the walk, leading, up and down steep slopes, dismounting and remounting. Progress from walk to trot and, for many, a canter or two by day three.

Route finding:

Those intending to do future Self Guided trails will be introduced to, and have practice using, the Freerein maps and route descriptions.

Level of Riding and Fitness

Our Learn to Ride holidays are aimed at adult beginners and novices. They are friendly and sociable holidays staying overnight at inns. Young adults are most welcome if accompanied, the minimum age for a bespoke learn to ride riding holiday is 14 years old.

Guides & Group sizes

The instruction and guidance we offer is relaxed, friendly and informal. The horses are patient and understanding. By the end of a Learn to Ride trail many riders will have significantly increased in confidence and be happy with all the basics.

Your guide is a professional adult who has undergone a large amount of training in routes, horses and customer service. Guiding at Freerein is a paid, full time profession. Our guides have lots of experience introducing people to hills and horses. They love what they do.



Horses and Tack

You will be matched to one of the incredible herd of fit, friendly, forward going trail riding horses and ponies. They are all a mixture of hardy breeds native to the UK. They live out all year round, working for 7 months of the year and enjoying a 5 month break over the winter months. They love their job and relish their happy, healthy lifestyle.

Each horse has its own individually fitted English tack, customised and fitted professionally for Freerein. All horses are ridden in simple snaffle bits. Your luggage is transported by us, by road. Each rider will be supplied with one of our specially designed saddle bags to carry lunch, drinks, cameras etc whilst out on trail.

Accommodation & Dining

All individuals are automatically booked a room for single occupancy. Accommodation is at basic, quirky, characterful, family run establishments that offer a warm welcome to trail riders.

Expect to be fed well on this trip; food is all homemade using locally sourced ingredients where possible. All accommodation places can cater for any dietary requirements.



Itinerary

Day 1

Arrive at Freerein HQ for 9am. Label trail luggage for delivery.

Basic trail preparation and instruction, then out into the hills en route to your B&B or inn for the evening.

Arrive, feed, groom and turn out horses.

Day 2

Prepare your horse for trail. Full day in the saddle across the Welsh Hills returning to your B&B or inn for the evening.

Day 3

By now you will have had time to bond with your horse and the ride back to Freerein HQ should consolidate the experiences of the first 2 days. Many may now be enjoying a canter as they return to base. Return to HQ for approx 4-5pm for tea/coffee and homemade cake.

Flights & Airport transfers

The closest airport is either Bristol or Birmingham and the nearest train station is Hereford. If you travel the day before your trail starts, you can get a taxi or bus from Hereford to Hay-on-Wye where you can stay the night (we can recommend local accommodation options). You will need to arrange a transfer from your accommodation on the morning of your trail.

What to bring

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

1/ One piece of overnight luggage per rider

Packed ready for road transfer:

Aircraft cabin carry on size, max 20kg

Towels are provided at all overnight stops

- Change of clothes for the evenings
- Spare riding tights/jodhpurs
- Comfy evening footwear
- Wash kit
- Phone charger

2/ Items & clothing for on trail

Wearing or to pack into Freerein saddle bags:

- Boots - waterproof, small heel, good grip
- Half Chaps
- Riding tights/Jodhpurs
- Waterproof jacket
- Waterproof trousers
- Spare layer(s)
- Riding hat

- Reusable water bottle(s)
- Sun cream
- Phone

X Self-inflating air jackets are banned on trail

X **DO NOT** bring a packed lunch - these are provided.



Climate

Wales has a reasonably temperate climate with typically warm rather than hot summers and cool to cold winters. This area rarely experiences very extreme weather. On average the hottest month is July in summer and the coldest is January in winter. The weather is unpredictable as with the rest of the UK and it is possible to see elements of all four seasons in one day. The area may experience some snowfall in the winter although heavy and sustained snowfall is rare.

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 the UK for non-British citizens, please visit your local embassy website to check entry requirements.

Having the correct travel documents is entirely your responsibility.

Currency & Tipping

The local currency in Wales is the Pound GBP (£). Your holiday is fully inclusive so we recommend not bringing too much local currency. We recommend just bringing enough cash to have a bit of pocket money for drinks in the evening.

Tipping your guide is at your discretion.

Riding declaration

I understand that horse riding & handling are potentially dangerous and can result in injury or death and that I am riding this trail entirely at my own risk.

I do not suffer from any illness or disability which could prejudice my safety or that of others.

Cancellation policy

Payment & Cancellation Terms

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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 a 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.