

TRIP PLANNING INFORMATION

Guided Pack Trip

COMMUNICATION:

The Diamond 4 Ranch in Dickinson Park has little to no electricity, phone service, or internet. Once we move up to the mountain ranch in June, we will only be able to check e-mail and phone messages a few times a week, so please try to ask questions before June if possible. If you need to reach us, keep trying and leave a voice or text message at:

Main Line - (307) 332-2995 Ian - (307) 340-0958 Jessie - (307) 349-6675

TRAVEL:

Lander is the closest town to our ranch. It is 36 miles away but a 1½-hour drive, with part of it being a slow dirt road. The closest airport is the Riverton, WY Airport, which is 30 miles from Lander. It is served by United Express. From the Riverton Airport to our ranch in Dickinson Park, it is about a 2-hour drive. For a shuttle from the Riverton Airport to our ranch, please contact Gator Creek Taxi (307-851-2869) or Classic Cruise Control (307-855-1790 or 307-850-2090). Riverton Airport also has Priceless Car Rentals.

Some people prefer to rent a car from Denver (6-hour drive to Lander), Salt Lake City (4½-hour drive to Lander), Casper (2½-hour drive to Lander), or Jackson Hole (2½-hour drive to Lander). Jackson is near Yellowstone and the Tetons, a beautiful drive over the mountains to Lander. Flying into Jackson combines nicely with touring the national parks before or after your Diamond 4 Ranch visit. There are several hotels located in Riverton and Lander if you plan to come early or stay late. (We do encourage arriving in Wyoming a day or so in advance to help acclimate.)

DIRECTIONS TO OUR RANCH IN DICKINSON PARK:

Drive 14 miles NORTH from Lander on US Hwy 287 to **Hines General Store** and turn LEFT onto **Trout Creek Road**. In about 5 miles it **turns into a dirt road**, and in less than 1 mile is a fork - stay straight (right). Follow the dirt road another 15 miles across the Wind River Indian Reservation to **Dickinson Park**, staying on the main road (there are some shortcuts – don't take them). In the last couple miles of the drive, there will be a fork in the road with a sign ("**left**" to **Dickinson Park** / "right" to Moccasin Lake). Take the **LEFT to Dickinson Park**. It is a slow-going, dirt road gaining almost 4,000ft elevation in 15 miles. **Leave Lander with a full gas tank and a spare tire**. Usual drive time is 1½ hours from Lander. It is gorgeous but rugged. A compact or larger SUV or pickup is best for clearance. Please don't use your GPS – it is not always accurate.

***PLEASE NOTE:** A tribal crossing permit is required for the two days using the road to our ranch (all non-tribal members need to buy this pass, including all our staff and guests.) The crossing permit is a somewhat recent requirement from the Shoshone and Arapahoe tribes for all non-tribal members who drive across the Wind River Indian Reservation to access the National Forest, which is where our ranch is located. The permit is called a "**Tribal Fishing Permit**," which often confuses people. Even if you do not plan to fish, you need this permit to cross tribal land. And if you do plan to fish while on a trip with us, you will also need to purchase a **Wyoming State Fishing License** to fish on the National Forest/Wilderness Area. The Tribal Fishing Permit may be purchased ahead

<https://www.windriverfishandgame.com/non-resident-tribal-fishing-license/> or in Lander at the Exxon station or Wild Iris Mountain Sports, in

Dubois at Marlow's Fly Shop, in Riverton at Rocky Mountain Sports, or in Ft Washakie at Hines General Store. We know this extra expense can feel confusing for folks, but it is a rule beyond our control. Thank you for your understanding.

LODGING RESERVATIONS:

For a smooth start to your pack trip, we encourage you to reserve lodging the night before you pack into the mountains. This allows you to get to know your guides, go over the plan for the week, organize gear, and enjoy a night of ranch life. Lodging in cabins, glamping tents, or sheepwagons with dinner & breakfast is \$125/person. Please plan to share lodging space (whether in cabins and/or glamping tents) with your group, and we ask that you please use your sleeping bags. The ranch has no electricity, so have your devices fully charged. There are battery-powered lanterns in the cabins, sheepwagons, and glamping tents and we use propane to power the water heaters in each showerhouse, and the cooking appliances in the lodge. The cabins each have running water from a natural spring – it is delicious and safe to drink. Nearby your cabin, there is a showerhouse with plenty of hot water as well as nearby outhouses. There is no internet or cell service. We do have a cell phone amplifier in the lodge to use for business and urgent matters if you do need to make a call. Coming to our rustic ranch means escaping the crowds, immersing yourself in nature, and unplugging your devices. We find beauty and a sense of liberation in this kind of simplicity.

Please arrive at 4:00pm. Dinner is at 6:00pm, breakfast is at 7:00am.

See more information on our facilities on the **Lodgings** page of our website (www.diamond4ranch.com.)

If you choose not to reserve lodging at the ranch, there is also a free campground up the road from our ranch. If you stay at the campground or drive up to the ranch from Lander on the morning of your pack trip, please arrive at our ranch by **6:15 am** on the day of your trip fully organized and ready for gear to be packed on horses. All riders will have a horse safety class before hitting the trail.

WHAT TO BRING:

Weather can fluctuate from daytime highs in the high-70s to evening lows in the mid-30s, even in the middle of the summer. Bring layering options!

Packing in small/compact bags is preferred rather than large bulky bags. Please pack gear in duffle bags no more than 26" in length.

It is best for us to pack items like sleeping bags, boots, fly rods, etc. separately rather than in big bags to utilize pannier space and horses most efficiently.

ON THE TRAIL:

Your saddle horse will have saddle bags to carry only what you need for the day: 2 full water bottles, lunch (we provide), a rain jacket and pants, one warm layer, gloves, hat, and medication if needed. No backpacks while riding. All other gear will go in panniers on pack horses and will be inaccessible until reaching your camp. Hikers can drive to the trailhead and start hiking separately from the horses.

RECOMMENDED GEAR:

Upper Body

Base layer

Short and/or long-sleeve shirt

Mid-layer and/or vest

Jacket (warm layer)

Rain Jacket

Lower Body

Base layer

Jeans

Rain pants

Wool Socks

Boots with a heel

Extra

Refillable water bottles (we suggest bringing 2 bottles – about 32oz + 16-20oz)

Hat with brim for sun protection

Sunglasses

Sunscreen & bug repellent

Medication if needed

Leather gloves (optional)

Rain jackets/pants and warm layers can be tied to the back of your saddle; lunch, water bottles, medications, sunscreen, and whatever else you may need for the day will be put in saddle bags on your riding horse; no backpacks while riding, please; **all the gear that goes on pack horses will be inaccessible until you reach your campsite, so please plan accordingly to keep out your essentials (like rain gear!) for the ride to camp.)*

AT CAMP:

Upper body layers (short-sleeve, long-sleeve, fleece/synthetic layers, vest, warm jacket, rain jacket – mountain weather fluctuates!)

Hiking pants

Hiking shoes

Comfortable shoes for camp

Socks - wicking fiber (Smartwool, Darn Tough, and other wool blend brands)

Fleece/wool gloves

Warm beanie

PERSONAL GEAR:

Sleeping bag (we suggest a compact 0 to 15-degree Fahrenheit bag to stay plenty warm on chilly nights)

Sleeping pad (we suggest finding a comfortable inflatable option)

Small daypack for hikes

Insulated bottle for hot drinks (optional but suggested!)

Sunglasses, sunscreen, mosquito repellent, chapstick, small toiletries, feminine products, personal medications, facewipes, etc.

Headlamp & batteries

*If you plan to fish: Wyoming State Fishing License (either a 5-day license or by-the-day), rod & case (**36" length maximum**), flies, tackle

FISHING:

Fishing rods should be in **hard protective cases and maximum of 36" length**; shorter pack rods are best on the pack horse in order to avoid getting caught or scraped on low-hanging tree branches. We encourage catch and release fly fishing. Wyoming fishing licenses may be purchased ahead online at <https://wgfd.wyo.gov/elso/ELSOWelcome.aspx> or for fishing licenses and supplies locally visit www.WindRiverOutdoorCompany.com next to the Exxon in Lander, or at Wild Iris Mountain Sports on Main Street. All trip participants are expected to follow all applicable Forest Service rules and Game & Fish laws while with us.

SAFETY & EMERGENCIES:

If you have any medical concerns that may affect your experience while in the backcountry, please inform us ahead of time. We will be in areas ranging from 9,000 to 12,000ft. If you have any health concerns that may be affected by elevation, we strongly recommend consulting your physician. To go on any of our trips you must be in good health and not severely affected by altitude. It is normal to experience some slight symptoms of altitude at the start of a trip if coming from a lower elevation, so if possible, it can be helpful to arrive in Lander a day or two before the trip to help acclimate. We suggest drinking plenty of fluids to stay hydrated before and upon arrival and bringing an ample supply of any medication you normally use.

Cell phones usually don't work due to high peaks & ridges. However, we do recommend taking them as there are a few high spots along the trail where we find service. Our guides will have an InReach device with them. If you would like to bring a Satellite phone or InReach device, you can rent/buy those devices before arrival.

HELPFUL HINTS:

- We always ride our horses at a walk for safety and high-altitude considerations. Enjoy the solitude and alpine beauty from the back of an experienced mountain horse.
- Prior riding experience is very helpful for your own comfort, balance, and safety. If you are able to ride before the trip, please do so! The more experience you can gain before your trip, the better! This will help reduce soreness as you prepare your muscles for multiple hours in the saddle. Anticipate spending about 3 to 8 hours in the saddle each day, depending on your campsite location, riding through very rocky, steep terrain. Preparing your body for the ride will make your experience more enjoyable. Gaining experience and a deeper understanding of horses ahead of time will also help mitigate the risks involved in this activity.

- You are welcome to walk/lead your horse periodically throughout the rides, in order to stretch your legs. This will help mitigate soreness from long hours in the saddle. Please take this into consideration as you plan footwear that is both suitable for riding (smooth bottom with a heel) and is comfortable for walking on rocky trails.
- Once again, stay hydrated! In higher altitudes and dry climates, your body requires more fluids. Drink lots of water, starting before you come up to the ranch.

*Please re-visit our [Terms & Policies](#) and [FAQ](#) website pages for more details and other helpful planning information.

We look forward to seeing you in the Wind Rivers!