

# TRIP PLANNING INFORMATION

## Spot 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 (307-575-8602 or 307-855-1790). 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 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 on the morning of your pack trip, we encourage you to reserve lodging at the ranch the night before you pack into the mountains. 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.

If you booked a night at the ranch, please **arrive at 4:00 pm**. Dinner is at 6:00 pm, breakfast is at 7:00 am. See more information on our facilities on the **Lodgings** page of our website ([www.diamond4ranch.com](http://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.

#### GEAR & FOOD:

All of your gear will go in panniers, which will hang equally on either side of the pack horse. Maximum load is 140 lbs per horse and must fit in panniers. (Please see photos of pannier dimensions on our website.) Nylon zipper bags 26" or smaller work very well in panniers. Soft insulated coolers are fine, but please avoid large, hard coolers. Please have your gear, especially kitchen supplies, "horse friendly" – quiet and smooth – by minimizing any loud rattling sounds and softening hard edges so the load doesn't sore the sides of our horses.

USFS requires food storage in containers or by hanging (bring rope). "Ursack" is a great option approved for food storage and much more efficient to pack than containers. Search Ursack on REI.com. Per USFS rules, food and other attractants may not be left unattended. If your party is hiking not riding, please be sure to arrive at the drop site before the wranglers or have all food and other bear attractants within approved storage bags or containers. The same applies when we come to pick up your gear; you must wait for the wrangler or have food/trash bearproofed.

We charge by the number of horses you use, so please pack light and tight. Remember that large, bulky, awkward-shaped gear may fill up pannier space without necessarily reaching the 140 lb weight maximum, which may result in additional horses being used.

#### FISHING:

Fishing rods should be in hard protective cases; shorter pack rods are best (less than 36") on the pack horse 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 please visit local Lander shops: Wind River Outdoor Company or Wild Iris Mountain Sports. All trip participants are expected to follow all applicable Forest Service rules and Game & Fish laws while with us.

### ON THE TRAIL:

For anyone in the group who rides instead of hikes, your saddle horse will have saddle bags to carry only what you need for the day: full water bottle(s), lunch (you provide), rain jacket and pants, one warm layer, gloves, hat, medication if needed, small camera. 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.

On the day of packing your group into the wilderness, the wranglers will drop you off then turn around and bring the empty horses out on the same day you ride in. This makes for a long day for horses and wranglers, often getting home after dark. Please help our hard-working horses and wranglers (as well as yourselves) get to a campsite early by moving efficiently on the trail. We stop for bathroom and snack breaks, but we do not take extended lunch breaks.

Each wrangler can lead up to 4 horses. When more than 4 horses are used, another wrangler is added. Total horse numbers are used to calculate the cost of your spot pack trip: saddle horses + pack horses + wranglers.

### 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. No backpacks while riding, please.)

#### *Upper Body*

Base layer (optional on the trail)

Short and/or long-sleeve shirt

Mid-layer and/or vest

Jacket (warm layer)

Rain Jacket

### *Lower Body*

Base layer (optional on the trail)

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

Small Camera (optional)

Leather gloves (optional)

*\*Rain jackets/pants and warm layers can be tied to the back of your saddle; lunch (you provide), water, 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, fishing rod & case (36" length maximum), flies, tackle

#### SAFETY & EMERGENCIES:

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 recommend consulting your physician. To go on any of our trips you must be in good health and not severely affected by high altitudes. 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. If you have any medical concerns that may affect your experience while in the backcountry, please inform us ahead of time. 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. 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 4 to 9 hours in the saddle, depending on your campsite destination, riding through very rocky, steep terrain. Preparing your body for the ride will make your experience much more enjoyable. Gaining experience and a deeper understanding of horses ahead of time will also help to mitigate the risks involved in this activity.
- You are welcome to walk/lead your horse periodically throughout the ride, 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, even starting before you come up to the ranch.

\*Please re-visit our [Terms & Policies](#) and [FAQ](#) pages of the website for more helpful details as you plan your trip.

*Thank you!*

*We look forward to welcoming you to the Wind River Mountains.*