

# TRIP PLANNING INFORMATION

Wilderness Cowgirl Camp: July 7-13, 2024

## COMMUNICATION:

The Diamond 4 Ranch in Dickinson Park has no electricity, regular phone service, or internet. Once we move into the mountain ranch in June, e-mail and phone messages are checked on weekly trips to town, so please try to ask questions before June. If you need to reach us, keep trying and leave a voice or text message to: 307-332-2995 Jessie 307-349-6675 Mary 307-349-7736

## TRAVEL:

Lander is the closest town to us. Our home ranch (where you will drop off/pick up your girl) is 4 miles out of town. Our mountain ranch is 36 miles from town 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. For a shuttle from the Riverton Airport to Lander, please contact Eugene Koch (307-349-2683), Gator Creek Taxi (307-851-3619), or Classic Cruise Control (307-855-1790 or 307-850-2090). Riverton Airport also has Priceless Car Rentals.

\*Please let us know if your girl is flying without a chaperone and needs picked up from the airport by us.

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 DROP-OFF/PICK-UP LOCATION:

On **July 7 at 8:00am**, please bring your girl to our home ranch, which is just 4 miles north of Lander. We will drive the girls to the mountain ranch after orientation/gear check/introductions/etc. On **July 13 at 3:00pm**, please meet us in the same location for pick-up.

- Drive north on Highway 287 toward Ft. Washakie/Dubois/Jackson/Yellowstone.
- After about 3.5 miles, you will drive across the North Fork of the Popo Agie River and start going up a gradual hill.
- On the right side of the highway, you will see the Shoshone Rose Hotel (big red sign), but before you get all the way to the Shoshone Rose, our driveway will be on the left.
- Be looking on the left side of the highway to see our ranch, with a long dirt driveway that goes down a hill toward a brown house, corrals, barn. There may be horse trailers parked as well. We have big hayfields (my dad may or may not be out cutting hay), surrounding the buildings.
- Drive to the end of the driveway, passing the corrals, brown house, shed, etc. to get to the second house.
- The second house is about 1/4 mile further, just past a big haybarn and log barn structure. You can park your vehicle, and we'll meet on the lawn of the "Orchard House"

#### DIRECTIONS TO OUR RANCH IN DICKINSON PARK:

\*This is only relevant for any parents who plan to visit the mountain ranch. Otherwise, we'll be driving all the girls to/from the mountain ranch.

Drive 14 miles NORTH from Lander (toward Ft. Washakie/Dubois/Jackson) 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. Compact or larger SUV is best for clearance. Please don't use your GPS – it is not always accurate.

**\*PLEASE NOTE:** The following applies only to any parents who drive to the mountain ranch (it does not apply to kids under 15). A tribal crossing permit is required for 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 very much for your understanding on this recent enforcement.

#### AT THE RANCH:

Our ranch is off-the-grid. Besides the little bit of solar power in the main lodge, we do not have electricity. We use propane to power lights in each cabin, 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 the cabins, there is a showerhouse with plenty 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. Coming to our rustic ranch means escaping the crowds, immersing in nature and unplugging your devices. \*We realize that for any girls who have a phone, this is often their camera. We will only allow phones strictly for camera use, but if they become a distraction, they'll be taken away. We will also have the girls turn in phones before bedtime to minimize any technology distraction in the tents. There is no service at the ranch or at our campsite, so phones will remain on Airplane Mode.

## PACKING LIST:

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

Please pack gear in duffel bags no more than 26" in length. Sleeping bag and backpack can be left separate.

Visit our local shops in Lander: [WildIrisClimbing.com](http://WildIrisClimbing.com) or [WindRiverOutdoorCompany.com](http://WindRiverOutdoorCompany.com)

Sleeping bag with compression stuff sack (\*we suggest a 0-degree bag. Up to 15F degree bags may be fine, but 0-degree is better to ensure staying plenty warm!)

Sleeping pad – “Therm-a-Rest” or similar inflatable pad

Light duffel bag for clothing – 26 inch length, or smaller

Base layers (top and bottom) \*Please limit the amount of cotton layers and opt for synthetic/wool layers that dry much quicker & stay much warmer than cotton.

Mid-layers – fleece jacket(s), vest, windbreaker (Again, please opt for synthetic layers over cotton that gets cold when wet and takes long to dry out.)

Warm puffy jacket

Rain jacket and pants (lightweight, no ponchos please)

Jeans (x 2-3 pairs) and boots (smooth bottom plus a heel) for riding

Hiking shoes or trail running shoes

Comfortable camp shoes that can get wet (lightweight sneakers, Crocs, Chaco's or rubber boots)

Socks – wicking fiber (Smartwool, merino) x 4-5 pairs

Gloves – 1 pair leather, 1 pair fleece/wool

Warm beanie – fleece/wool

Comfortable clothes for hiking and yoga classes

Daypack for hikes

Refillable quart-sized water bottle

Insulated bottle for hot drinks

Sunglasses, sunscreen, chapstick, small toiletries/medication, head net (optional), bug spray (the mosquitos tend to be active this time of year)

Headlamp & spare batteries

Camera (\*If your girl needs to use her phone as the camera, please have the understanding that it is only allowed for taking pictures. If it becomes a distraction, it will be taken away. We take the phones each night at bedtime to minimize distraction and encourage sleep. 😊)

## FISHING:

The girls are welcome to borrow fishing gear. However, if she'd like to bring her own, fishing rods should be in hard protective cases; shorter pack rods (less than 36") are better on the pack horses. We will teach lessons on fly fishing and encourage catch-and-release.

## SAFETY & EMERGENCIES:

We will be in areas ranging from 9,000 to 10,500ft. If your girl has any health concerns that may be affected by elevation, we strongly recommend consulting your physician. If there are any medical concerns we should be aware of (physical, mental, behavioral, etc.), please inform us ahead of time so that we can best support your girl. Please understand this is a fun, challenging adventure, but it should not be classified as a wilderness therapy program. To go on any of our trips all participants must be in good health, up for a physically active adventure, and not

severely affected by altitude. If your girl is on any medication, please have her bring ample supply and inform us of its details. It is normal to experience some slight symptoms of altitude at the start of a trip if coming from low elevation, so if possible, it can be helpful to arrive in Wyoming a day or two before the trip to help acclimate. We suggest the girls drink plenty of fluids to stay hydrated before and upon arrival.

HELPFUL HINTS:

- We ride our horses at a walk for safety and high-altitude considerations.
- Beginners are welcome on this trip, but prior riding experience is very helpful for the rider's comfort, balance, and safety. If your girl is a novice rider but able to ride at all before the trip, please snag the chance! The more experience she can gain before the trip, the better it will be to help reduce soreness and build a base foundation of comfortability with horses. We strongly prioritize safety, and our goal is for each girl (no matter how much experience she has) to broaden her knowledge of horsemanship and have a confidence-building adventure.
- Once again, encourage your girl to stay well-hydrated before arriving. In higher altitude and dry climate our bodies require more fluids. Drink lots of water, even starting a few days before camp begins.

\*Please re-visit our **Terms & Policies** and **FAQ** pages of the website for more details to help you prepare for this adventure.

.....

*Thank you for trusting us to lead your girl in the Wind River Mountains on this adventure. I look forward to the community we will build and the meaningful adventures we will share.*

*See you in July!*

*Jessie & the Diamond 4 team*