

## **TRIP PLANNING - SPOT PACK TRIPS**

### **MESSAGES:**

The Diamond 4 Ranch in Dickinson Park has no electricity, regular phone service, or internet. E-mail and phone messages are checked on weekly trips to town. Verizon cell service in the lodge changes with the wind (literally). If you need to reach us, keep trying or leave a voice or text message to: Jessie 307-349-6675 Jim 307-349-6784 Mary 307-349-7736

### **TRAVEL & LODGING:**

Riverton, WY Airport is 30 miles from Lander, served by Denver Air Connection [www.denverairconnection.com](http://www.denverairconnection.com). Riverton airport has Hertz car rentals. For an airport shuttle from Riverton to Dickinson Park contact Wind River Shuttle [www.windrivershuttle.com](http://www.windrivershuttle.com) 307-438-9740, or Classic Cruise Control [www.classiccruisecontrol.com](http://www.classiccruisecontrol.com). Some groups prefer to rent a car from Denver or Salt Lake, either is a 6 hour drive to Lander. Jackson Hole airport is 3 hours from Lander, near Yellowstone and the Tetons, and a beautiful drive over the mountains to Lander. This combines nicely with touring Yellowstone before or after your Diamond 4 Ranch visit. There are several motels located in Riverton and Lander.

### **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 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). The last 15 miles are dirt, so leave with a full gas tank and spare tire. Usual drive time is an hour and a half from Lander. You will gain 4,000 feet and 35 miles on this rugged but spectacular trip. Compact or larger SUV is best for clearance. Don't use your GPS. A tribal crossing permit is required for the 2 days using the road and 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 Store.

### **CABIN:**

For a smooth start in the morning, we encourage reserving a cabin the night before your trip. Cabin with dinner & breakfast is \$90/person, w/ breakfast only is \$75/person. There is also a free campground up the road. Please plan to share a cabin with your group and use your sleeping bags. The ranch has no electricity so have your devices fully charged. There is a shared shower house and outhouses separate from the cabins.

Dinner is at 6:00pm, breakfast at 7:00am. Have gear sorted, packed and ready to be loaded on horses before breakfast. Riders will have horse safety instruction before hitting the trail.

## WHAT TO BRING:

Gear must be LIGHT and COMPACT. Please limit personal gear to 30 lbs. Some favorite resources are: Backcountry.com, REI.com, Moosejaw.com

Sleeping bag with compression stuff sack

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

Base layers (top and bottom)

Jacket – fleece and/or puffy

Vest (optional) – fleece/puffy

Rain jacket and pants (lightweight)

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

Jeans and boots for riding

Comfortable hiking shoes

Socks – wicking fiber (Smartwool, merino)

Gloves and beanie – fleece/wool

Day Pack – for day hiking from base camp

Refillable quart water bottle, aquamira water treatment drops, iodine tabs or packable filter

Sunglasses, sunscreen, chapstick, small toiletries/first aid/medication, mosquito repellent

Headlamp (or small flashlight), batteries

## GEAR / FOOD:

Everything will go in our panniers and hang equally on either side of the pack horse. Maximum load is 140 lbs. per horse and must fit in panniers. Nylon zipper bags 26” or smaller work well for most everything. Soft insulated coolers are fine for frozen meat. Please have your gear, especially kitchen supplies, “horse friendly” - quiet and smooth. USFS requires food storage in containers or by hanging (bring cord). “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 and not riding, please be sure to arrive at the drop site before the wrangler 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 either wait for the wrangler or have food and trash bearproof. We charge for each pack horse you use so PACK LIGHT & TIGHT.

## FISHING:

Rods must be in protective cases and “quiet”. Shorter pack rods are better on the pack horse. 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](http://www.WindRiverOutdoorCompany.com) next to the Exxon in Lander, or The Good Place on Main Street. All trip participants are expected to follow all applicable Forest Service rules and Game & Fish laws while with us.

### DAY 1 – RIDING INTO CAMP:

Your saddle horse will have saddle bags to carry only what you need for the day: Full water bottle, lunch, rain jacket and pants, one warm layer, gloves, hat, medication if needed, small camera. Everything else will go in panniers on pack horses and will be inaccessible until reaching your camp. Backpacks will go on the pack horses – we do not allow backpacks to be worn while riding the horses, even if they are small. Hikers can drive to the trailhead and start hiking. Your wranglers will ride in with you, then turn around and bring the empty horses out in the same day, which makes a long day for horses and wranglers - often getting home after dark. Please help them and yourselves get to a campsite early by moving efficiently along on the trail.

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 + 1<sup>st</sup> wrangler @ \$250/horse/day, each additional wrangler is 200/day.

### SAFETY & EMERGENCIES:

To go on any of our trips you must be in good health and not adversely affected by high altitudes. You should bring an ample supply of any medication that you normally use. Cell phones usually don't work in camp due to high peaks & ridges. However, we do recommend taking them as you can sometimes find a signal at high vantage points. If you would like to bring Satellite phones or InReach devices, that is your responsibility to rent/buy those devices before arrival. Any expenses resulting from helicopter evacuation are your responsibility.

### HELPFUL HINTS:

Stay hydrated – in higher altitude and dry climate your body requires more fluids. Drink lots of water, even starting before you come up to the ranch which is at 9,200 ft elevation. We always ride our horses at a walk for safety and high-altitude considerations. Enjoy the solitude and alpine beauty! Prior riding experience is very helpful for your own comfort, balance and reducing soreness. Your horse will appreciate it too!