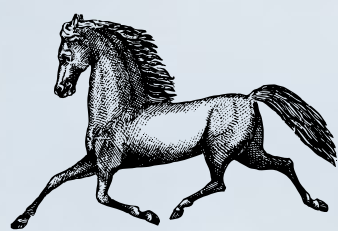


**ACTIVE**



**RIDING TRIPS**

**TRANS WALES  
TRAIL RIDE**





Get ready to ride folks – this is a truly epic trail ride conceived 40 years ago, and only a handful of people know the way, so you are in for the “real deal”!\*\*\*

The route passes through four mountain ranges – The Black Mountains, Mynydd Epynt, the Elan Valley and over Plynlimon before a final gallop on the beach near Aberystwyth. Check it out on the map – you are covering some amazing ground – both in terms of distance and technical ability.

The route uses mostly forgotten bridle-ways (some can be fairly overgrown and jungle like), some open moorland crossings and over private land. Luckily the guides know their way, and are there to make sure you get the most out of your trail ride. You’ll ride hearty, capable and totally sensible Welsh Section Ds (all ranging from 15-16h) uniquely bred for the job. They nimby take you through some of the most historic, beautiful and undiscovered countryside in Wales and all of Britain, for that matter!



duration:  
7 DAYS



8  
MEMBERS



country  
WALES



airport  
MANCHESTER



accommodation  
B&B / HOTEL



all meals  
INCLUDED



\*\*\*Please note, this is a challenging ride for competent and experienced riders only. We cross from the Black Mountains to the Irish sea, over several mountain ranges, covering great distances, mostly off-road, and riders must be fit, have good stamina, and be comfortable riding at speed, sometimes for longer distances. Give us a call or reach out via email to discuss this in detail.



# Suggested ITINERARY

## Day 1:

Riders arrive in the evening at 6PM or later, gather in the lounge over welcome drinks, and enjoy getting to know one another over a home-cooked dinner.

## Day 2:

We start with a local trail of 12-15 miles, so that riders can get a feel for our horses and riding style. We stop for lunch in a local pub, and afterwards head up onto the mountain where the hill-riding really begins.

We head back to Blaenau for a well-earned dinner. Guests are free to visit the local pub (1 mile away, bring/ borrow a torch for the way home!) if they wish. (13 miles)

## Day 3:

Time to set off on the trail! The morning is busy making sure we have everything we need for the adventure ahead. Once on horseback, country lanes lead us up to Llandefalle Common, with plenty of gently undulating wide grassy tracks to enjoy long and fast canters.

Meeting the wild relatives on Llandefalle Common is a special treat! We picnic in beautiful woodland before pressing on over the common, taking in the incredible Pant Y Llyn Lake high above Builth where wild ponies often congregate to drink. (20 miles)

## Day 4:

Today we track the route of the beautiful River Wye upstream, before reaching Llanafan Common, with more wild ponies and amazing views!

We drop down for a picnic lunch beside the beautiful river Cwm Cwerfru.

The afternoon finds us negotiating the ancient drovers trails across Llanwrthl common, part of the Cambrian Mountains, earning our first glimpse of Elan Valley. Red kites fly above us and the views stretch for miles.

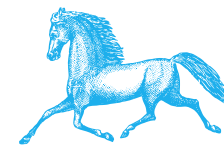
We reach Rhyader for the night where we stay in a very comfortable hotel. (17 miles)

## Day 5:

We head straight up onto the hill, a steep climb but while horses rest at the top, we are rewarded with unforgettable views down the stunning Elan Valley with its string of reservoirs and the Pen Cerrig Dam. We follow grassy tracks down the hill to our picnic spot at the bottom of the valley.

After lunch, we track the Elan Valley Mountain road before turning into the Tar Ennig Forest for some long adrena-line-inducing gallops to finish off the day!

We stay in the small hamlet of Llangurig, in the historic Bluebell Inn, which offers fairly basic comfort compared to the rest of the accommodation but a very warm welcome and fantastic food! (20 miles)



TACK  
English

RIDING LEVEL

Experienced.

Riders are also responsible for grooming, tacking and cleaning tack daily.



# Suggested ITINERARY

## Day 6:

The final day, Day 5 of riding, is literally a marathon day – 26 miles to the sea, crossing mountains with no trail to follow! This is challenging terrain with deep bogs and sheer drops! It's not for the faint-hearted but by this time your bond with your horse is unshakeable, and the sense of achievement at the end is just incredible!

We drop down for lunch in the middle of nowhere, far from civilization, and by now you will really understand the extent of the wilderness of Wales. After lunch we enjoy a less challenging but beautiful afternoon, with two more hills to hop over, and our first guaranteed view of the sea as Aberdovey Estuary comes into view.

We stop for tea at a lovely cafe, then trot down the road, around the headland of Ynyslas, and hit the beach! After a refreshing paddle in the waves, horses and riders enjoy galloping along the firm sand – you won't want to stop!

But eventually you and the horses will be glad of a lift home, stopping en-route for dinner at the Blue Bell Inn. Tea and cake waits for you back at Blaenau, and it will feel like coming home! (26 miles)

## Day 7:

Relax and reminisce with your fellow riders over a huge home-cooked Welsh breakfast, before saying goodbye and heading home.

\*\*\*Program may be changed a little according to the season and weather conditions.

## Facilities and Terrain:

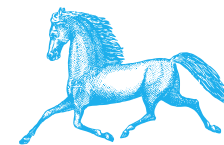
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The route passes through four mountain ranges – The Black Mountains, Mynydd Epynt, the Elan Valley and over Plynlimon before a final gallop on the beach near Aberystwyth and uses mostly forgotten bridle-ways, some open moorland crossings and several specially-negotiated trails over private land.

## Horses:

Approximately 30 homebred Welsh Section D Horses await you (14h-16h) - our farm is a registered stud farm for the breed and all of the herd have been born and raised onsite. Our horses are beautiful, fine, fit Welsh cobs who will surprise you with their sureness of foot and superb balance. Compact, intelligent and strong, they are ideally suited to the hills and mountains that surround us. They have big characters and we guarantee you'll love getting to know them.

We ask riders to get involved with all aspects of riding, not just the sitting on top part! So together we catch the horses, groom them, and tack them up. This gives horse and rider a chance to build a relationship before your bottom hits the saddle. Don't worry if you haven't done much of this sort of work before – we work together as a team, and help you with every stage.



## BREEDS OF HORSES

Welsh Section D

## ACCOMMODATIONS

Accommodations are in local hotels and historic inns, some do not have ensuite bath on one or two nights.



# Rider REVIEWS



**I** loved this ride – so much, that I took it 3 times with the father of the current guide – many many many years ago.....  
From small towns to vast open moors to the seaside the landscape is always changing and fun. The Turner family gives you a very wonderful trip! **J.G.**



# Other items OF INTEREST

## Hay on Wye

- this is a not-to-be-missed town, famous for the second-hand bookshops that line the street, and lovely for an all-day wander. Plenty of fantastic food options too, from Booths' Bookshop Cafe to Tomatitos Tapas Bar. Market Day on a Thursday is well worth getting to if you get the chance.

## Walks

There are a couple of nice walks that you can do from the farm, including one that takes in some small waterfalls - just ask one of us to point you in the right direction.

You can also wander up through our 'dingle' - just head away from the guest annex to the kitchen end of the house, and then up across the lawn past the greenhouse. There is a small waterfall up there. Do feel free to explore.

There are maps that you are welcome to borrow - usually in the guest lounge, or just ask us.



### INCLUDED:

Accommodation with all meals from the evening of your arrival until breakfast on your departure, horse and all tack, guiding services, all local taxes.

### NOT INCLUDED:

Airfare

Travel Insurance

Alcoholic beverages

Airport/Train Station transfers

Gratuities for the team at the end of the stay

\*\*Alcoholic beverages are not included however you are welcome to bring your own for the first and last evenings (all other nights are at local hotels that have bar service).

The Co-op or The Old Papershop down in the village have supplies; it is a one mile walk down the lane

