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## **WILDERNESS HORSE PACK TRIP**

### **WILDERNESS HORSE PACK EXCURSION SIX-DAY PACKAGE (OPTIMAL)**

\$3000 per person for 2 or more riders

Trip price includes accommodations and meals at ABO Lodge in Big Timber, Montana for arrival and departure days as well as all meals and lodging for mountain trip.

Arrival Day: Check in at 4:00 pm Departure Day: Check out by 10:00 am

*Custom Trips Available Upon Request*

This is an adventure trip. Accessed only by horseback, you will ride over a 10,000-foot pass followed by a pack string straight out of the old west and descend into beautiful Bull Moose Meadow and our camp, Hellroaring.

At this point you will be on scenic overload but that will not stop your eyes from lighting up when you realize the three forks of Hellroaring Creek meet right at camp. You are now among the lucky few who get to experience the solitude and life source of Hellroaring.

Your location is 8 miles north of Yellowstone National Park in the heart of the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness. Not to fear, our guides will escort you every step of the way. You will find them knowledgeable, skillful and HELPFUL. Your ONLY CARE will be to explore, have fun and enjoy what is justifiably called "God's country."

Those who just want to ride, explore, relax, read, backpack, bird watch, photograph or paint will prove just as satisfied as the angler.

Hellroaring camp accommodations consist of comfortable, roomy, carpeted, wall tents with wood stoves, cots with foam pads, a hot shower, a roaring campfire and first-class meals prepared by our camp cook.



Our guides are well acquainted with the areas where you will be riding, hiking, fishing, and exploring. They are experienced outdoorsmen and flexible to your needs. Whatever your endeavor, our guides are there to assist you every step of the way.

Our string of horses and mules are dependable. Previous riding experience is helpful but not required.

The weather in July and August is usually very comfortable. Daytime temperatures range from 60 to 80 degrees. On clear nights the temperatures can range from 20-40 degrees. However, the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness weather is variable. Prepare for the changing mountain weather. Be sure to check ABO's suggested Clothing & Equipment List.

The most important thing to remember is a great attitude. Be ready to enjoy an adventurous trip and the special things the mountains have to offer. This will be one for the memory book!

### **Trip Itinerary:**

**Arrival Day:** ABO's six-day fishing excursion begins with arrival at ABO Lodge & Headquarters in Big Timber, Montana at 4:00 pm the day before your trip begins. This meet and greet evening include dinner, lodging, introduction of guides and time for questions and answers about your trip.

**Day 1:** The following day you will arise to a hearty breakfast before departing to ABO's camp at Independence. This day will include caravanning by vehicle from the ABO Lodge to the trailhead at Box Canyon which takes 1 ½ to 2 hours, then riding 1 ½ to 2 hours on horseback to Independence. We provide you with a sack lunch to enjoy either at Box Canyon or Independence. The afternoon, evening and night will be spent at Independence where you can rest, fish, hike or become more familiar with your horse and the backcountry. Accommodations will be in a comfortable tent camp with meals provided by our camp cook.



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Day 2: The following day after a good breakfast, you will mount up and ride 4 ½ hours to ABO's camp, Hellroaring. The scenery is magnificent on this ride. We will take a break on top of the Hellroaring Divide, a ten-thousand-foot pass for which you will want to have your cameras handy. We should arrive camp around two o'clock which will give you plenty of time to settle in to your tent, explore or just relax before our evening meal and campfire.

Day 3,4,5: You could spend your days exploring, riding or hiking to various destinations. These might include a hike atop mountains exceeding 10,000 feet in elevation, horseback rides with spectacular views, panning for gold, exploring Indian encampments, photography trips filled with abundant wildlife or meadows lush with wildflowers. Maybe you would rather read a book, journal, meditate or paint by one of the pristine streams or high-country lakes. Montana is famous for its fly-fishing. If you are game to try it, we have plenty of guides who would be happy to teach you.

Day 6: Upon arising, you will turn your duffels over to the mule packers and head to the eating tent for your last Hellroaring breakfast. Full and satisfied you will mount the horse with which you have shared a lot of mountain hours and follow your guide out of the mountains to Box Canyon. This ride takes about 5 ½ to 6 hours. The mules will be packed with your gear once you are on your way to Box Canyon. When you arrive at Box Canyon, you will leave your horse with the wranglers and drive to the ABO Lodge in Big Timber to rest, relax and enjoy a well-earned feast. You will arrive at the lodge before your gear. It does not matter how proficient the wranglers, a pack string of mules and the mountains present constant challenges, so please plan to bring out of the mountains with you, your medication or whatever you will need for that evening as occasionally they do not arrive at the lodge with your gear until late.

Departure Day: Enjoy a final breakfast in the ABO Lodge dining room. Check out is by 10:00 am. Your ABO adventure will have ended, but we hope we will have provided an experience that allowed you a retreat in the beauty and wonder of the Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness.



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## **WILDERNESS PACK TRIP DATES SUMMER 2019**

**The trip dates do not include arrival and departure days.**

The trip dates below are just the days you are in the mountains. For example: Trip 1: July 15-20 (Arrive ABO Lodge in Big Timber, MT at 4:00 pm on July 14. Ride into the mountains on July 15 and ride out of the mountains and drive back to ABO Lodge on July 20. Depart from ABO Lodge by 10:00 am on July 21.)

- Trip 1: July 15-20 (Monday-Saturday)
- Trip 2: July 22-27 (Monday-Saturday)
- Trip 3: July 29-August 3 (Monday-Saturday)
- Trip 4: August 5-10 (Monday-Saturday)
- Trip 5: August 12-17 (Monday-Saturday)
- Trip 6: August 19-24 (Monday-Saturday)
- Trip 7: August 26-31 (Monday-Saturday)



## **WILDERNESS HORSE PACK TRIPS**

### **DEPOSIT, PAYMENT AND REFUND POLICY**

A deposit of 50% of the trip is required to book your reservation.

This deposit is non-refundable.

The balance of the trip is due 30 days prior to trip date and is nonrefundable.

Trips not fully paid by this date will be considered cancelled.

We recommend Trip Cancellation Insurance. Montana Outfitters & Guides

Association suggests Global Rescue travel insurance.

<http://www.montanaoutfitters.org/travelersinsurance/>

We accept Credit Cards (Visa/MasterCard only) and Checks

Make Checks Payable to: Absaroka Beartooth Outfitters, Inc.

### **WHAT'S INCLUDED**

The rates for fishing and pack trips include:

- Lodging, meals and non-alcoholic beverages on incoming and outgoing nights at the ABO Lodge in Big Timber, MT. ABO Lodge includes bedding and towels.
- Caravanning to and from the trailhead (leaving from and returning to ABO Headquarters in Big Timber) You may be driving your vehicle to the trailhead.
- In the backcountry, use of horses, mules, tack, all camp accommodations, all meals, and non-alcoholic beverages
- Experienced Guides

### **WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED**

The rates for fishing and pack trips do not include:

- Transportation to Montana
- Montana fishing licenses
- Fishing equipment including rods and flies
- Sleeping bags
- Any additional transportation costs
- Gratuities for guides, cook and wrangler



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## TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS WILDERNESS HORSE PACK TRIPS

✚ **Upon arrival in Big Timber**, you will be staying in the ABO Lodge located at ABO Headquarters. Check in time is between 4:00pm and 6:00pm. Dinner will be at 7:00pm. The following morning, breakfast will be between 7-8 am with departure for the mountains soon after breakfast. You will spend 6 glorious days in the mountains. On the 6<sup>th</sup> day you will ride out of the mountains after breakfast and return to the ABO Lodge in Big Timber late afternoon, early evening. We will have dinner ready for you when you return. After a good night's rest and a hearty breakfast, you will depart by 10:00 am. Our wish is you leave wishing you could stay!

✚ **Please check in with ABO if you will be arriving later than 6:00 pm. (210-722-3817)**

✚ **Guests Driving:** Big Timber is located off Interstate 90 between Bozeman and Billings. Bozeman to Big Timber is 60 miles, driving time 1 hour. Billings to Big Timber is 90 miles, driving time 1½ hours.

✚ **Guests Flying:** Plan to fly into the **Bozeman International Airport** (BZN) the day before your trip begins. The following airlines service Bozeman:

Delta 1-800-325-1999

American 1-800-433-7300

Alaska 1-800-252-7522

United 1-800-864-8331

The service is usually very good into Bozeman. However, this is a college town, home to Montana State University, so make your reservations early. Check out **Montana Travel** (1-800-247-3538) or ([info@mttravel.com](mailto:info@mttravel.com)) for some of the best air fares available. Remember, Bozeman is on Mountain Time so keep that in mind when making your travel arrangements.

✚ **If you are flying** do not make your outbound flight **too early**. Remember, **you are an hour and 15 minutes from Big Timber to the Bozeman airport. Add 1 ½ to 2 hours for airport check-in and rental car return.** Plan on leaving Big Timber 3 hours before your flight time.

✚ We recommend you rent a car. It is an easy drive from the Bozeman airport east on Interstate 90 to Big Timber. It is a very busy time of year and all our "hands" are busy preparing a great adventure for you.



**If you have the time**, arrive a day or two early or stay a day after your ABO trip to enjoy some of what Bozeman and Big Timber to offer. Bozeman and Big Timber are delightful old western towns.

**Big Timber** has 5-star dining at the Grand Hotel and the best Huckleberry Milkshake you will ever experience! Check out McLeod Street for fun and unique shops with great prices. Don't miss Gusts Department Store (it will take you back in time), Cinnabar Creek for a great espresso and gifts, the Bakery for yummy treats and many other fun shops.

**Bozeman** has great restaurants, wonderful art galleries, the Museum of the Rockies, a fabulous shop on Main Street called Go West and many other fun places to shop and visit.

**If you plan to extend your trip, we recommend the following hotels.**

## **Big Timber, Montana**

**The Grand Hotel** ([www.thegrand-hotel.com](http://www.thegrand-hotel.com)) (406-932-4459).

**The Grand Hotel Bed and Breakfast** is a charming and beautifully renovated historical hotel in downtown Big Timber. The hotel provides a wonderful full breakfast but not before 8:00 am. It has a well-stocked vintage bar which serves lunch and dinner. But for those with a "grander" palette it sports a fabulous restaurant that serves delicious gourmet dinners. The dining room is very popular so be sure to **make a reservation**.

## **Bozeman, Montana**

**The Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites Bozeman West**

([www.holidayinnexpress.com](http://www.holidayinnexpress.com)) (406-582-4995).

The **Holiday Inn Express** is a small, friendly hotel conveniently located at 2305 Catron Street. The Inn has a breakfast bar that opens at 5:30 each morning, comfortable rooms, pool and exercise facility. They provide shuttle service to the airport. Make your reservations early. The summer is a busy time for tourists while the fall is filled with college related activities.

**The C'mon Inn** ([www.cmoninn.com](http://www.cmoninn.com)) (406-587-3555).

The **C'mon Inn's** heavy timbered look with Montana's big game animals perched on rocks and above waterfalls has the charm and feel of a mountain lodge. Comfortable rooms, an indoor pool, several hot tubs, a breakfast bar and shuttle service to the airport leave you wanting for little. The Outback Steakhouse is conveniently located next door. The C'mon Inn is located off Interstate 90 at Exit 305 on East Valley Center Road.



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## **EQUIPMENT AND CLOTHING LIST WILDERNESS HORSE PACK TRIPS**

*Recommended personal gear for 6 day wilderness trips*

Weather may vary during the summer months from very warm to very cold, so be prepared for everything. We recommend the layered system of dressing.

- wading shoes/sandals (Preferable on warm summer days)\*\*\*
- water resistant hiking/riding boots (like Danner)
- wool socks—at least 2 pairs
- cotton or regular socks
- 2 complete changes of clothes
- lightweight shorts, jeans and t-shirts
- personal toiletries (toothbrush, glasses/contacts/personal medications etc.)
- towel
- WARM SLEEPING BAG and Pillow
- warm coat (we recommend wool)
- light coat/fleece vest
- rain gear (jacket w/ hood or poncho)
- hat and gloves
- flashlight or head lamp
- sunglasses, sunscreen, insect repellent
- water bottle (example: Bota Outback w/water filtration system)  
([www.botaofboulder.com](http://www.botaofboulder.com))

### OPTIONAL OR LUXURY ITEMS

Float tubes (You must bring a life jacket to use float tubes.)  
Binoculars, GPS, Range Finder, Cell phone, Camera/extra film  
Spirited beverage if desired

### **LIMIT WEIGHT OF GEAR TO 50 LBS OR LESS IN DUFFEL BAGS AND KEEP MULTIPLE BAGS EQUAL IN WEIGHT.**

**\*\*\* We ask that all footwear worn into Montana's waters has non-slip rubber bottoms, NO FELT. This is due to the potential for aquatic invasive species (non-native invasive species). Cleaning the bottom of your rubber sole sandals, waders and wading boots with 409 is an excellent way to protect against spreading non-native invasive species.**