



THE BULLETIN

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Yes! You Can Ride During a Pandemic

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Yes! You Can Ride During A Pandemic



It's year two of the Pandemic. And, we are ready for a summer of riding and look forward to making lifelong memories with our guests. Sure it's not ideal but, then again, there are upsides. Our groups are smaller, more intimate, tailored to your needs. Smaller, more intimate groups will allow for increased connections with nature and increase camaraderie with fellow riders.

Our selection of rides remains exceptional. This year, you have a choice of two different destinations of either four or six days in duration. Some offer shelters in traditional prospector canvas tents, others offer the comfort of rustic log cabin lodges. Check our website, call or email us to find out the details and our Covid plans.

Trail Ride to Little Elbow River

These 4-days or 6-days rides are in an incredibly unique location, riding into a remote area in the high mountains of Kananaskis Country with virtually no other users. Accommodations are in traditional canvas prospectors' tents with comfortable cots.

Trail Ride to Halfway Lodge (see cover picture)

A 6-days ride in Banff's backcountry immersed in famous vistas iconic to the Rockies. On day 3 you will find yourself overlooking the Allenby Pass at 8,100' in altitude. All on horseback. Log lodges accommodations are rustic but comfortable, and the food is amazing.

Forget the pandemic. Immerse yourself in the timeless experience of trail riding in the Canadian Rockies. *Book your ride at trailridevacations.com*

"No hour of life is wasted that is spent in the saddle."

Winston Churchill

The Ride

By Robyn Becher

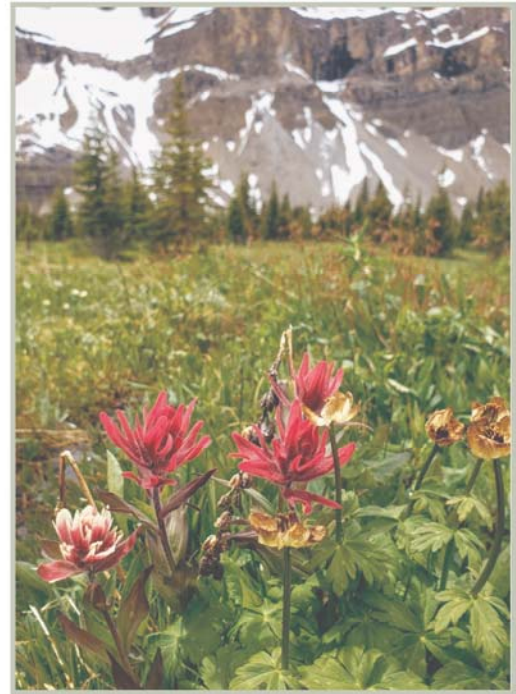
The birth of the day is upon us, with mountain tops high.
The clouds are white and puffy, with blue backing the sky.
Along the way of the mountain, the black spruce grows,
Lining the base of the forest to the Aspens down below.
It is here the terrain changes, bringing darkness into the light,
As a soft bed of the forest intertwines with the moss tight.

White water rivers and rippling creeks,
Rocky travels where Indian paintbrush sleep.
Awaiting for the morning to rise and awake,
Bringing the surroundings alive for our eyes to take.

At the corral, the horses wait, nuzzling and nickering for their
riding mates.

We all gear-up for a day to ride after coffee, breakfast
And a packed lunch, followed by our guides.

We saddle up to ride, pack it on to go,
Then head up the rocky trail nice and slow.
The Mossy green carpet is speckled with red & gold.
It fills the space around the skeletal roots of history untold.
Beauty surrounds every view we see.
Leaving an impression that will forever be a part of me.



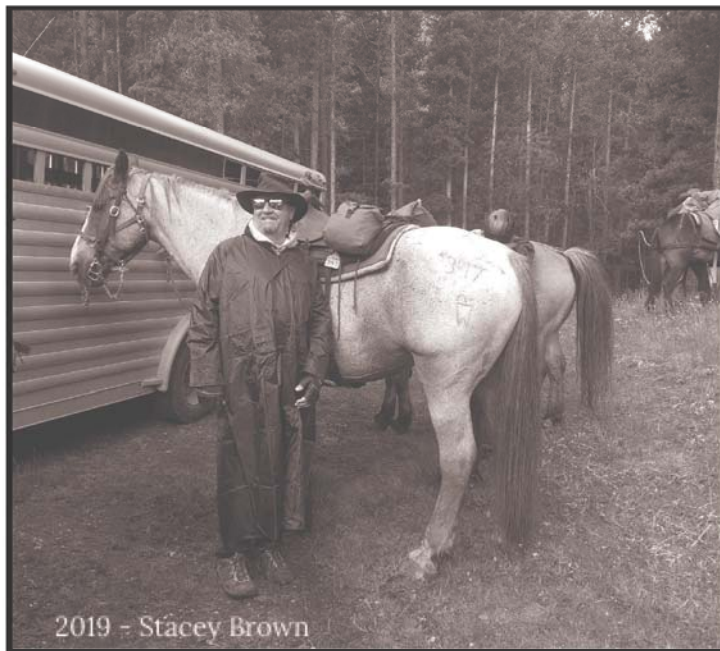
2020 - both photos by by Renée Delorme



On Riding A Trail Horse

By Bradley Bischoff

The outfitter references your riding experience, including your height and your weight, based on what you put in your application. All trail horses are good. They are calm and forgiving. Forget about your horse's looks and pedigree. He knows his job: safety first. The horses are in the string for a reason and you should keep your horse in this formation throughout the ride.



2019 - Stacey Brown

Be aware. If your horse stumbles frequently or his head comes up when a front foot comes down, there may be a problem. Mention it to your guide. Don't wait. Watch your horse during breaks, if he is kicking or biting at his belly tell your guide. Listen for that clinking loose shoe. If you suspect ANYTHING tell your guide. I've got a sick horse story to tell. Ask me about it if you are on my ride.

Trail etiquette is a thing. Be engaged. Keep your horse moving and have fun.

If you need to stop for any reason that's fine. Just holler. If you want to talk to the person behind you, turn your head as best you can to carry out a conversation. For the most part, I believe people enjoy the quiet and solitude on the trail. There is always plenty of time to visit and chat during breaks and in camp. It's your call really. Try to keep up with the horse ahead of you but give him some room. Don't be up his rear end all the time.

Be prepared for a few minor aches and pains. Ride a horse prior to your trip if you can. If you are not a full-time rider you may be sore in places you'd never suspect. It is always good to bring a selection of meds with you. You know your body best. Good stretching before and after rides has helped me over the years. We've had yoga sessions on previous TRCR trips! Try getting off your horse and walking for a bit. That will get some of the kinks out.

Best practices when riding. Be confident and don't be just a passenger. Stay active on your horse and be the leader. These trail horses are all broke and know their job well. Be kind to your horse. Stay out of their mouths. Pay attention to your reins. The horses all know left, right and back. Your guides will be watching and will help you. It's all about the horse when on the trail.

50 Years Riding The Rockies With TRCR

Photos and article by Dennis Orr

In 1973, TRCR commissioned Mac MacKenzie, Ron Warners' partner and a gifted artist, into designing and making 50 bronze statues of a Brewster packhorse. The sculptures were unveiled at the 50th Gala Anniversary of the Trail Association held that year at the Indian Grounds in Banff.

I was one of the lucky ones to get a copy. I proudly displayed mine on my mantelpiece for 48 years - A daily reminder of all of the wonderful days on the trail. I spoke to Ron Warner a few days ago, and we were reminiscing about the TRCR and its history. We agreed that the experience of a Trail Ride in the Rockies on the back of a good horse was just about as good as it gets. I'm approaching 80 years now, and as I look back over my life events, membership in the TRCR is one of the most important things that ever happened to me. It was an experience that has shaped and defined much of my life. I was incredibly lucky to have had the opportunity to be a 'rider' on the trail.



As a musician and a guide, I rode many times a year. I came to love the backcountry of our Alberta Rockies with a passion and a commitment to revisit as often as I could. I rode to the top

of Allenby Pass more than 50 times in my role as MC and guide. The thrill of introducing new riders to the wonders of the high mountains never lost its appeal.



The picture above is taken just at the crest of Allenby Pass, and the horse in the foreground is called Allenby, who was named after the Pass.



I came to appreciate nature at its finest and became an avid photographer and passionate outdoor wilderness enthusiast. Indeed, my teaching years in Calgary were defined by when the last trail ride was and when the next one would happen.

Life on the trail wasn't the only thing that drew me to the mountains. The camps and evening fires with the comradeship of fellow riders and staff members were equally as important. Sharing the trail experience with others who were often overwhelmed with it was a gift I'll never forget.



Dennis Orr entertaining his guests at Halfway lodge
Ron Warner and Pat dancing at Sundance Lodge

The events of the past 98 years have been well documented by Michelle Tilley and revised by Stuart Watkins. The history can be found on the TRCR website. Just look under TRCR History, or go to trailridevacations.com. The narrative takes you from 1923 to 2017. It hits the highlights of the important people of the TRCR history and the important events of the Association. An astounding number of riders, outfitters, guides, and leaders have contributed to the life and longevity of the TRCR.

I look forward to seeing you all at the 100th Anniversary, Happy Trails.



Many of you will remember Louanne Jones, one of our wonderful cooks in this picture.

Gearing up

For the 100th Anniversary Celebrations

OFFICIAL
TRAIL RIDE 1939
BANFF to
MORAINÉ LAKE
JULY 28 to AUG. 1

RATE INCLUDES SADDLE HORSE, FOOD,
TENT ACCOMMODATION AND GUIDES
\$45.

Reservations should be made to
L.S. CROSBY, WESTERN SECY.
TRAIL RIDERS OF THE CANADIAN ROCKIES, BANFF, ALBERTA
OR ANY AGENT OF THE CANADIAN PACIFIC

Geez, time flies. 2023 is our 100th anniversary. One hundred years of riding, come hell or high water -- two great wars, one great depression, Disco and bell bottoms, twenty Prime Ministers and four pandemics. Riding trips were never cancelled. Perhaps reduced in number but, that's it. Amazing, isn't it?

This brings me to the matter of the 100th-anniversary celebration. What are we to do? Museum exhibitions? Gala? Documentary? Create legacy rides and programs with youth at risk or in need? All of the above?

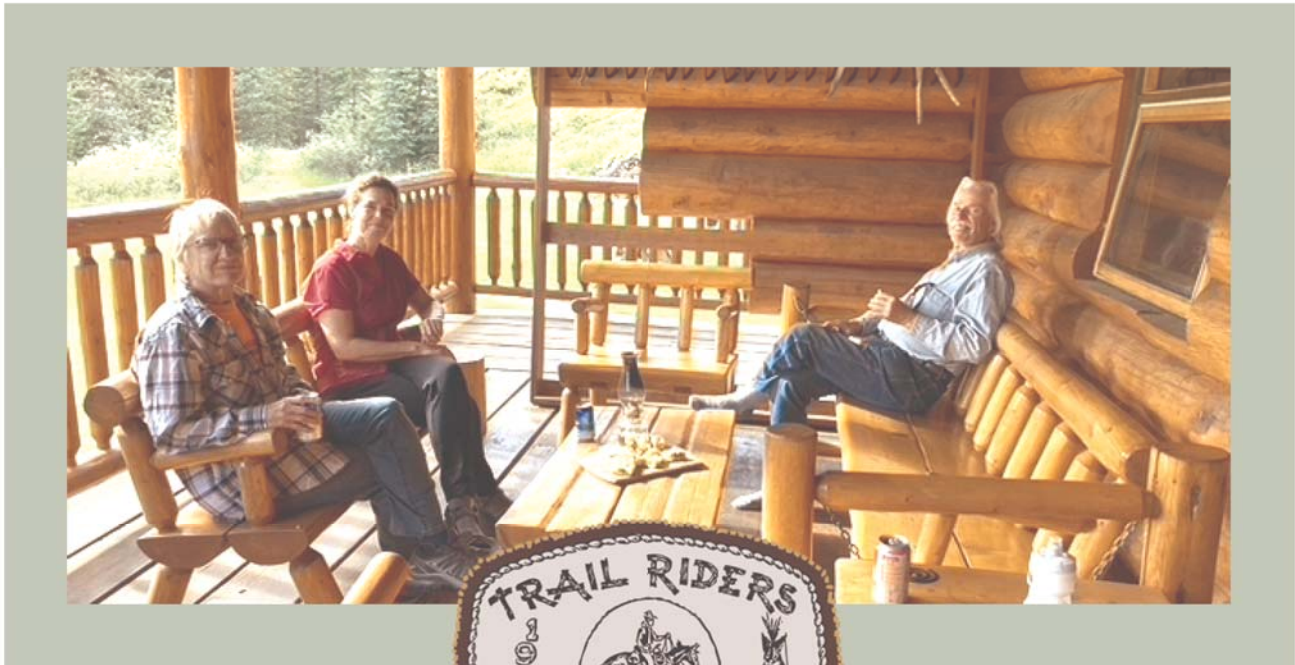
We are the oldest riding organization in Canada. What should we celebrate? How? What is our legacy? What will our next one hundred years look like? We want to hear from you.

Five committees are proposed: Steering committee, Heritage

Committee, Legacy Committee, Museum Exhibit/Gala Committee and Fundraising Committee.

The best part is that you do not need to be based in Alberta to be part of the celebration. Zoom meetings are making it possible for everyone to participate. Interested! Want to know more! Have questions? Suggestions! We want to hear from you. Contact admin@trail-rides.ca

JOIN US



For The Ride of Your Life

You can reach us at 1-844-560-5522

Email: admin@trail-rides.ca

www.trailridevacations.com

MEMBERS

Check the website under “Refer a friend” for a possible \$100 credit towards your next ride.