

TRAIL GUIDE FOR THE MULTIDAY RIDE LYFORD – HANMER TRAIL (AND RETURN)

This trip takes us through 11 working farming properties from 1500 feet at our start point at Mt Lyford to 2,500 feet along the way. We pass through native beech forest and a range of farmland and domestic and wild animals. This trail is exclusive to Mt Lyford Horse Treks.

Information

In preparation for your ride there are some things I need to tell you that might be different from other riding trips you have taken and some helpful information about our climate near the Southern Alps of New Zealand.

We have a theme of natural horsemanship that is integral with our trekking, so we ride in natural rope halters. You have a warm up afternoon to learn about your horse and how to communicate with them using these halters. See *Prey Animal to Partner* on www.lyfordtreks.co.nz.

We lead our horses down steep terrain, which is in keeping with the high country mustering traditions of the area, so make sure you have footwear suitable for riding and walking.

The weather in this area is highly unpredictable. You must have 4 layers of clothing with you on the horse every day including one for heat with a collar and long sleeves. You will be provided with a long riding coat as your 5th layer. We have saddlebags and ties on the saddles to carry your extra clothes, lunch, water bottle, camera and thermos.

All care of fences, gates and riding through stock is taken and no rubbish is left behind.

Enjoy your ride.

Itinerary:

Day one: 2.00pm to 5.00pm — Warm up session
Stay at Mt Lyford Lodge bunkroom. Or self-contained unit

Day Two: Ride to Sherwood Huts 5-6 hours

Today we reach one of our highest points on the trail at 2,500feet. We ride along the foothills of the Amuri Range through farmland and native mountain beech forest before dropping gently down to the Lottery river valley where we find the Sherwood huts nestled in the trees on the Lottery river bank. Sherwood Lodge is near by high above on the riverbank.

Day three: Ride to Bush Camp 7-8 hours

This is our longest and most remote day with the trail taking us into the back country above the little lottery river through tussock country before dropping down into the Waiau side of the Amuri range, and sidling through lowland hills to our camp or the homestead at Toppesfield.

Day Four: Ride to Barcledean hut 5-7 hours

Today has different views of the Waiau river basin. We head back into the hills, and follow a valley to a saddle before dropping into the next valley to the famous Barcledean homestead built in 1904. Here we stay in a hut dating back to the 1870s. Or the Barcledean Homestead.

Day Five: Ride to Hanmer Springs 5-7 hours

Today is our most spectacular day as we climb steadily over the impressive Birch Toppings Pass to see Hanmer Springs at the top before dropping down into the Hanmer River Valley and along the flats to our base at Chatterton Farm, where we stay the night in a cottage or stay at the Amuri Estate Retreat.

Day Six: Ride to Barcledean 5-6 hours

We ride back to Barcledean following the Lesley Pass Trail that takes us on the other side of Mt Lesley from the Birch Toppings Pass. Again we take in stunning views of the Hanmer Springs basin from the top of the pass. Stay the night at Barcledean hut or homestead.

Day Seven: Ride to Bush camp 5-6 hours

We follow a different trail back to the Bush camp taking in a southern facing view this day of the whalesback and the Waiau river basin.

Day Eight: Ride to Sherwood huts 7-8 hours

Weather permitting we take a different trail taking in a northern aspect of this remote day in the Amuri Range.

Day Nine: Sherwood huts to Mt Lyford 5-6 hours

We take a different trail from the first day with an adventurous forest track in the middle of the day and lunch in the lottery river. Arrive at Mt Lyford around 3.00pm. Stay at Mt Lyford lodge that night or drive to Christchurch.

Say good bye.

Kate Tapley Horse Treks

Mt Lyford Horse Riding

<http://www.lyfordtreks.co.nz>

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