

A pack trip with McKenzie's Trails West is a unique way to experience the Canadian wilderness. We guide adventurers many km from the nearest road into wilderness areas accessible only by horse, foot, or helicopter.

The experience is a rustic return to traditional roots, travelling much the same way explorers did in the early days of the Canadian West.

We move both supplies and riders by horse via long established horse trails. We operate without electricity, cell phone service or running water. Meals are prepared by a skilled backcountry cook with a small tin wood burning camp stove and served out of a common cook tent. Guests stay warm and comfortable in canvas wall tents outfitted with cots and heater stoves. Camp facilities include small bag showers and outhouses.

Your guides are very experienced with horses, trails, wildlife, and all things backcountry. Their first priority is your safety. Their passion for their way of life and many adventures along the trail provide much entertainment around an evening campfire.

The scenery is among the best in the world. Towering mountains, pure crisp streams, subalpine lakes and high mountain passes provide much awe and inspiration. We share the area with plenty of native wildlife and sightings are common.

We are located outside of the national parks of Banff and Jasper and as a result have far fewer travellers. We are often the only people in the mountain valleys we are exploring. Motorized vehicles are prohibited and the terrain is unsuitable for all but the hardest of hikers.

People best suited for a pack trip are adventurous, physically active, and open to rustic experiences. Although experience with horses is an asset, it is not necessary. Complete beginners will likely experience some muscle soreness with longer riding days (day 1 is a 7 hour ride). It is usually taken care of with over-the-counter pain relievers.

Groups are typically small, ranging in size from 4 - 8 guests.

Our trips, excluding the 2 day trip, include complimentary pick up and drop off at Calgary International Airport and shuttle to and from Rocky Mountain House to our base camp. Guests are responsible for hotel rooms in Rocky Mountain House, however we can help with those arrangements if need be.

Trips commence approximately 8:30am on the first day and return 5pm on the last day. Riding varies from 3 - 7 hours/day.

Bookings are taken up to 2 years ahead with guaranteed pricing. Upon deciding to book a trip, you will be sent an information package that includes an invoice, a list of things to bring, a guest profile form and a map of our location. A 20% non-refundable deposit holds your spot. Final payment is made just prior to trip departure.