

# HORSEBACK RIDING

By practicing the Tread Lightly! principles you not only protect the outdoors but you protect access to recreation opportunities for years to come.

Tread Lightly!® is a national nonprofit organization with a mission to proactively protect recreation access and opportunities in the outdoors through education and stewardship initiatives. Not only is Tread Lightly! the nation's signature ethics message for outdoor enthusiasts that use motorized vehicles while enjoying the outdoors, Tread Lightly! offers unique training and restoration programs strategically designed to instill an ethic of responsibility in a wide variety of outdoor enthusiasts and the industries that serve them.

- T** TRAVEL RESPONSIBLY
- R** RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS
- E** EDUCATE YOURSELF

**A** AVOID SENSITIVE AREAS

**D** DO YOUR PART



To learn more contact Tread Lightly! at  
Phone: 800-966-9900  
Email: [treadlightly@treadlightly.org](mailto:treadlightly@treadlightly.org)  
Or visit us on the web at [www.treadlightly.org](http://www.treadlightly.org)

Thanks to our partners!



**TREAD LIGHTLY!'S**  
RESPONSIBLE RECREATION TIPS



## TRAVEL RESPONSIBLY

Travel responsibly on designated roads and trails or in permitted areas.

- ✓ Stay on designated roads, trails, and other areas open to horse use.
- ✓ Ride single file to reduce trail damage.
- ✓ Don't cut switchbacks.
- ✓ Spread out in open country where there are no trails. Spreading out, rather than following each other's footsteps, disperses impact and avoids creating a new trail.
- ✓ Comply with all signs and barriers.
- ✓ Buddy up with two or three riders. Traveling solo can leave you vulnerable if you have an accident.

## RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS

Respect the rights of others including private property owners and all recreational trail users, campers and others to allow them to enjoy their recreational activities undisturbed.

- ✓ Be considerate of others on the road or trail.
- ✓ Leave gates as you find them.
- ✓ If crossing private property, be sure to ask permission from the landowner(s).
- ✓ Keep the noise down.
- ✓ Be especially cautious around hikers, bikes, and motorized vehicles.

## EDUCATE YOURSELF

Educate yourself by obtaining travel maps and regulations from public agencies, planning for your trip, taking recreation skills classes, and knowing how to use and operate your equipment safely.

- ✓ Obtain a map of your destination and determine which areas are open to your type of pack animals.
- ✓ Make a realistic plan, and stick to it. Always tell someone of your travel plans.
- ✓ Contact the land manager for area restrictions, closures, and permit requirements.
- ✓ Check the weather forecast for your destination. Plan clothing, equipment, and supplies accordingly.
- ✓ Carry a compass or a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit and know how to use them.
- ✓ Carry water and emergency supplies even on short trips.
- ✓ Keep groups small and carry lightweight gear to reduce the number of animals needed.
- ✓ Pre-plan camp locations that provide plenty of room and the proper environment for confining animals.

## AVOID SENSITIVE AREAS

Avoid sensitive areas such as meadows, lakeshores, wetlands and streams, unless on designated routes.

- ✓ Other sensitive habitats to avoid unless on designated routes include cryptobiotic soils of the desert, tundra, and seasonal nesting or breeding areas.
- ✓ Avoid disturbing historical, archeological, and paleontological sites.
- ✓ Avoid "spooking" livestock and wildlife you encounter and keep your distance.
- ✓ Water animals in areas where stream banks and water access can withstand hard use and are downstream from campsites.
- ✓ Motorized and mechanized vehicles are not allowed in areas designated Wilderness.

## DO YOUR PART

Do your part by leaving the area better than you found it, properly disposing of waste, minimizing the use of fire, avoiding the spread of invasive species, restoring degraded areas, and joining a local enthusiast organization.

- ✓ Pack out what you pack in.
- ✓ Carry a trash bag and pick up litter left by others.
- ✓ Practice minimum impact camping by using established sites, and camping 200 feet from water resources and trails.
- ✓ When selecting a campsite, first consider your stock; the site should accommodate your animals without damaging the area.
- ✓ Inspect grazing opportunities before making camp.
- ✓ Use yards, paddocks, and hitching rails where provided.
- ✓ Use hitchlines, hobbles, and staking to confine animals. Erect hitchlines in rocky areas with established trees and use straps or tree savers to protect bark.
- ✓ If you use temporary corrals, move the enclosures twice daily.
- ✓ When breaking camp, remove or scatter manure; remove excess hay and straw; and fill areas dug up by animal hooves.
- ✓ Repackage snacks and food in baggies. This reduces weight and amount of trash to carry out.
- ✓ Observe proper sanitary waste disposal or pack your waste out.
- ✓ Bring pellets, grain, or weed-free hay to areas where feed is limited or grazing is not allowed. This helps reduce the spread of invasive species.
- ✓ Wash your gear and support vehicle and check your animal before and after every ride to avoid the spread of invasive species.