

2022 PLANNING GUIDE



COLORADO

* DUDE & GUEST *
RANCH ASSOCIATION





WELCOME TO YOUR “WEST” ADVENTURE

Colorado Dude & Guest Ranches offer something you won't find anywhere else. The Centennial State has a rooted sense of “Old West” heritage that's completely unmatched elsewhere in the world. These ranches represent the best way to immerse yourself in the Western lifestyle for a different change of pace, and are offered with a convenient yet affordable, all-inclusive price tag.

If you're reading this, chances are that you and I share something in common—the desire to experience a taste of the old west. Luckily for you, that's exactly what we're here for.

Since 1934, the Colorado Dude & Guest Ranch Association has been helping people locate their “dream ranch” experience along with memories that last for a lifetime. Since the beginning, we've made an effort to represent the very best in Colorado ranching. As certified member ranches, our Colorado member ranches meet the highest merit in horse programs, top notch hospitality operations, and overall exceptional guest experiences. When you choose one of our ranches, you can trust it'll be an extraordinary and authentic experience.

Adventures are two-fold here—horseback riding through the rugged Rocky Mountains, fishing in pristine alpine lakes and winding rivers, and sharing stories over the campfire under the stars. It's the kind of place where families, friends, and teams unplug to refocus on what matters most. This guide was crafted to make planning such an experience easier. We invite you to peel through the pages and envision your perfect trip. When you're ready, give the ranch(es) of your choice a call to check availability, confirm pricing and to book.

We hope for the chance to host you to a truly unforgettable experience in the real Old West. You might even find your inner cowboy or cowgirl is waiting for you at one of our wonderful ranches!



THE WILD WEST,

IT'S NOT JUST A PLACE,
IT'S A RACE TO FREEDOM,
UNCHARTED TERRITORY,
AND A WAY TO FEEL ALIVE.

NOW, IT'S A RACE TO THE NEXT TIER IN TECH.
AND IT'S FAIR TO SAY THAT JUST LIKE
WE CAN'T STOP LOOKING DOWN,
THE ORIGINAL SETTLERS OF THE WEST
CAN'T STOP LOOKING DOWN ON US.

BUT IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO GET BACK TO OUR ROOTS
AND PUT ON OUR BOOTS,
TO STOP SCROLLING WITH OUR THUMBS
AND PUT SOME BLISTERS ON 'EM.
TO START UP A FIRE, NOT A VENTURE.
AND CONNECT WITH ONE ANOTHER,
NOT WITH THE WIFI.

THE WEST IS STILL WILD.
BUT THIS TIME,

IT'S ASKING US TO SETTLE DOWN.



RANCH TYPES

21

WORLD-CLASS
DUDE RANCH
DESTINATIONS.



3

UNIQUE
RANCH
TYPES.



1

CENTENNIAL
STATE WITH
ENDLESS ACTIVITIES.

Our ranches are unified by a common thread—Old West Colorado heritage. You'll find it wherever you go, yet each branch has something very unique to offer. To better understand what ranch is the best fit for you, it's helpful to learn what ranch types are offered.

LUXURY DUDE RANCH

Along with the horses, cowboy hats, and home-style hospitality you'd find at all of our member ranches, luxury guest ranches often offer some options to pamper the highest of expectations, such as spa treatments, creative gourmet food, upscale lodging and amenities, a variety of adventure activities to fill out your day, and a larger staff to meet your specific needs.

TRADITIONAL DUDE RANCH

Today's traditional dude ranch invokes the spirit of the American West for all to experience and gives everyone a special touch of western hospitality. These horseback-centered ranches offer multi-night stays with affordable rates, delicious chef-prepared meals, rustic but elegant cabins, and many special amenities unique to ranching, and a host of mountain adventures.

WORKING DUDE RANCH

These are working cattle operations. Your horseback experience will revolve around the ranch's livestock and the work they require. Be prepared to experience hands-on activities such as herding, feeding, and checking the health of the cows on a daily basis. Relax and enjoy cowboy hospitality in this authentic environment.



WHAT EXACTLY IS A MEMBER RANCH?

Member ranches reflect the very best of the Colorado Dude Ranch scene. A certification means that a respective ranch has maintained and met specific quality standards set by our organization in effort to preserve and foster a genuine hospitality and ranching environment.

Each ranch listed is regularly inspected for compliance to these standards, and further evaluation includes cleanliness, management of facilities, honest representation in promotional efforts, and more. As a member, each ranch strives to exceed your expectations.

THE BEST WAY TO SEE WEST IS FROM THE BACK OF A HORSE



- 1 Badger Creek Ranch \$\$\$
- 2 Bar Lazy J Guest Ranch \$\$\$
- 3 Black Mountain Ranch \$\$\$
- 4 C Lazy U Ranch \$\$\$
- 5 Cherokee Park Ranch \$\$\$
- 6 Colorado Trails Ranch \$\$\$
- 7 Devils Thumb Ranch \$\$\$
- 8 Drowsy Water Ranch \$\$\$
- 9 Emerald Valley Ranch \$\$\$
- 10 Latigo Ranch \$\$\$
- 11 Lost Valley Ranch \$\$\$
- 12 Majestic Dude Ranch \$\$\$
- 13 Rainbow Trout Ranch \$\$\$
- 14 Rawah Ranch \$\$\$
- 15 Sundance Trail Ranch \$\$\$
- 16 Sylvan Dale Ranch \$\$\$
- 17 Tumbling River Ranch \$\$\$
- 18 Vista Verde Ranch \$\$\$
- 19 Wind River Christian Ranch \$\$\$
- 20 Zapata Ranch \$\$\$

*Most ranches offer adults only weeks in the fall season. Inquire further with individual ranch locations if interested in adult-only stays.

COLORADO DUDE & GUEST RANCH TRAVEL SERVICES

1-800-729-5521
 VACATION@COLORADORANCH.COM
 WWW.COLORADORANCH.COM












COLORADO
 DUDE & GUEST
 RANCH ASSOCIATION










































RANCH PICKER






LUXURY RANCH RESORTS

-    C Lazy U Ranch
-    Devils Thumb Ranch
-    Emerald Valley Ranch
-    Lost Valley Ranch
-    Vista Verde Ranch




TRADITIONAL DUDE RANCHES

-    Bar Lazy J Guest Ranch
-    Black Mountain Ranch
-    Cherokee Park Ranch
-    Colorado Trails Ranch
-    Drowsy Water Ranch
-    Latigo Ranch
-    Majestic Dude Ranch
-    Rainbow Trout Ranch
-    Rawah Ranch
-    Sundance Trail Ranch
-    Sylvan Dale Ranch
-    Tumbling River Ranch
-    Wind River Christian Ranch

WORKING CATTLE DUDE RANCHES

-    Badger Creek Ranch
-    Zapata Ranch

PROGRAMS OFFERED

-  **TEENS (12-18)**
-  **KIDS (6-11)**
-  **YOUNGINS (0-5)**

The Ranch Map arranges every one of our 21 partner ranches by unique categories: cost bracket, ranch type, and also identifies programs based on age.

RANCHES ARE ALL INCLUSIVE

One transaction allows our guests to spend less time financing, and more time enjoying authentic experiences. Meals, activities, programs, and other activities are all included in the single ranch price.



CHOOSE YOUR SEASON

In Colorado, the world changes along with the current season. Each one offers its own unique palette of vibrant colors and favored activities fit for the conditions. And the best part? There's no bad time to visit! Many of our ranches offer year-round availability. Summer months tend to be more sought-out after, while the winter months see fewer crowds and more tranquility. Regardless of your choice, you'll find a myriad of things to add to your itinerary.



● AUTUMN

Autumn may very well be Colorado's most underappreciated season. It's the best time to see the state's truest colors, made possible by vibrant aspen groves and speckled trees lining the foothills and mountainside of the Rockies. It's stunningly beautiful and complemented further by crisp air—an appreciated break after the summer's heat has passed. Many ranches offer discounted rates for this season as well.



● WINTER

In the wintertime, you're likely to find your ranch covered in a blanket of white. Quiet, relaxing, and the least busy of all four seasons, winter marks a fantastic time to visit if you're looking for a slower pace with less hustle and bustle. The snowy months (typically December - April depending on location and elevation) offer a handful of new activities. Sledding, snowmobiling, skiing, and snowshoeing are all on the docket for those interested in playing in the snow.



● SPRING

When the mountains begin to thaw come spring, Colorado waterways get replenished offering stunning wildflowers and green meadows. With cool temperatures and snow-covered peaks to be found from any given vista, it's an inspiring time to be in the mountains and the perfect chance for a corporate getaway.



● SUMMER

Colorado summers are hard to beat—warm temperatures, fresh air, and long nights under the stars are what our cowboy dreams are made of. With longer days, you can fit in twice as many activities and adventures compared to the winter months. Is your itinerary ready?



CHOOSE YOUR ACTIVITY

HORSEBACK RIDING

Cantering a horse through an alpine meadow or climbing a steep trail through a pine forest is something you never forget. Being in the saddle of a Colorado dude ranch well-trained horse is the fastest way to connect to a truly western experience. Whether you are a new rider or experienced, it's also a whole lot of fun. Trail riding, cattle roundups, team penning, overnight pack trips, gymkhanas and family rodeos are a few of the ways you can get to know your mount.

HIKING

There are many ways to explore the wilderness and hiking happens to be one of Colorado's most popular pastimes. Many ranches offer guided historic tours, nature walks and hikes to summit some of the Colorado's tallest peaks.

SKIING

Light snow and great ski resorts are ubiquitous in Colorado. Many ranches offer access to epic backcountry and cross country trails, and world class ski resorts.

FISHING / FLY FISHING

Many of our dude ranches can outfit you with the latest gear or put you in touch with a seasoned outfitter for instruction and guided trips.

SWIMMING

Looking up at the summer sky while floating in cool water or lounging poolside is a great way to relax after a long ride or hike. Some ranches offer ponds and streams with swimming beaches and decks.

CAMPFIRES AND COOKOUTS

Campfires bring people together for conversation, stories, songs and the occasional marshmallow. Camp cooks love to create over an open flame. From Dutch oven soufflés and cakes to stews and steaks, campfire cooking is mighty tasty.

RIVER RAFTING

Float a class-one river with a fly rod or paddle through class-five whitewater. Most dude ranches offer a time in the week for rafting. Our dude ranches contract with the best, most reputable outfitters around.

KAYAKING

Not offered as part of a standard package but this sport is growing in popularity. Ask before you book to see if kayaking is an activity that can be arranged.

FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE TRIP

4x4s can take you to some pretty scenic places high in the Rockies, through old ghost towns, abandoned gold mines and into deep woods.

SIDE TRIPS

Every great vacation needs a little side trip. Trips to historic monuments, quaint mountain towns, resort villages, gold and silver mines, narrow-gauge railways to local attractions and for shopping can be arranged.

MOUNTAIN BIKING

If you're a mountain biker bring your gear. Many ranches have loaner bikes or can arrange a rental with a local bike shop. Not only is it great exercise, it's another great way to see wildlife and spectacular Rocky Mountain scenery.

FAMILY PLANNER TOOL

Planning early is key to making a great group or family trip! If you're planning a reunion, we recommend booking 12 to 24 months in advance. Most of our ranches have dedicated arrival & departure days (typically a Saturday or Sunday arrival) so double check your travel dates. Most stays are week-long during the summer months (6-7 nights). If you have kids or teens in the family, the best time to visit a Colorado Dude Ranch is June through August! You can send this sheet out to all of your guests to start your planning.

BEST EMAIL/PHONE CONTACT FOR YOUR CREW _____

ALL INCLUSIVE TRAVEL BUDGET (EXCLUDING AIR/GROUND TRANSPORTATION): \$ _____ **/PERSON/WEEK**

ALL AVAILABLE TRAVEL DATES BETWEEN _____ **TO** _____

TOP 2 PREFERRED TRAVEL WEEKS: _____ **OR** _____

WHO IS COMING WITH YOU?

NAME	AGE	RIDING ABILITY (BEG/INT/ADV/NON-RIDER)	DIET RESTRICTIONS	FLY OR DRIVE	ADDITIONAL NOTES

RANCH TYPE PREFERENCE

WORKING \$

Lower occupancy. Typical max is 15 people, primarily adult only. Your horseback experience will revolve around the ranch's livestock and the work they require. Be prepared to experience hands-on activities such as herding, feeding, and checking the health of the cows on a daily basis.

LUXURY \$\$\$

Occupancy ranges from 20 - 150 people. These ranches often offer some options to pamper the highest of expectations, such as spa treatments, creative gourmet food, upscale lodging and amenities, a variety of adventure activities to fill out your day, and a larger staff to meet your specific needs.

TRADITIONAL \$\$

Occupancy ranges from 20 - 100 people. These horseback-centered ranches offer multi-night stays with affordable rates, delicious chef-prepared meals, rustic but elegant cabins, and many special amenities unique to ranching, and a host of mountain adventures.

ACTIVITY PREFERENCES In addition to horseback riding; Fishing , Hiking, Swimming, Zip Lines, Whitewater Rafting, Mountain Biking, Trap Shooting, Archery (and more)

OTHER PRIORITIES

ALTITUDE LIMIT _____

Colorado's elevation starts around a mile high, 5280ft, above sea level. Most ranches are between 7000 - 9000ft.

MEAL FORMALITY _____

Plated meals/wine pairings, family style, cookouts, etc,

KID AND TEEN PROGRAMS

FAMILY PLANNER TOOL

Now that you have all the information from the other travelers, we encourage you to spend some time on our website: www.coloradoranch.com and visit OUR RANCHES to help narrow down your options. You can also reach out to the CDGRA Office for assistance. Once you've narrowed down to your top 2-3 ranches, you will want to call the ranches directly to confirm pricing and availability. Once you have picked your #1 ranch, you will call the ranch again directly to book and they will likely be asking for a deposit at that time.

TOP THREE RANCHES

NAME	PRICE/WEEK	DATES AVAILABLE

THE TOP PICK

DATE BOOKED	DEPOSIT AMOUNT	REMAINDER DUE

OTHER NOTES

FAMILY REMINDER EMAIL

- WHAT TO PACK
- DATES OF TRAVEL
- BOOK FLIGHTS, RENTAL CAR, OR SHUTTLE
- FILL OUT THE RANCH GUEST INFO FORM
- OTHER

CDGRA CERTIFICATION

The Colorado Dude & Guest Ranch Association prides itself on being a support network for its members as well as certifying each ranch to ensure you will have the best experience possible at one of our ranches! Think 'AAA for the dude ranching world'. To receive a CDGRA certification, our ranches are frequently inspected for cleanliness, facilities, hospitality, and honest representation in advertising messages.

Our CDGRA ranches (collectively) own over 1000 horses so it's incredibly important that each ranch has a well thought out herd management program and riding programs that can accommodate a variety of rider experience levels. Applying ranches need to prove they have a well developed riding orientation program for guests and thorough training for staff.

Each year, our ranches hire top notch staff from all over the country and from around the world! You will find that their genuine sense of welcoming hospitality really makes the dude ranch vacation stand out from any other type of vacation. We hear many stories about guests keeping in touch with ranch staff for years to come after their trip. Whether people come to a dude ranch to work or vacation, the common sense of feeling like you are being 'welcomed home' is an intangible yet incredibly important component that we look for when bringing a new member ranch into 'the herd'.

These are just a few of the reasons people choose to book a dude ranch vacation through an organization like the CDGRA. We are also here to help you in finding the best ranch! So don't hesitate to reach out to office@coloradoranch.com with any questions.

