

# Plan your vacation... ...*On the back of a mule*

## *Our Guide to Vacations and Trail Riding for Mule People*

We love to hear you talk about the vacations and weekend trips you spend on the back of your mule. It is about the time of year to start planning these trips, and we have compiled our first "Trail Guide" to help. Whether you want to brush up on your riding skills with a destination clinic or take in the sights and sounds of the wilderness at a ranch or resort, our "Trail Guide" can help you find the right place.

We also gathered stories from subscribers and staff writers sharing their favorite riding vacation spots. So take a seat, set back, and get ready for trail riding season with the Trail Riding issue of *Mules and More!* You will be packing your suitcase and loading the trailer before you know it!

- **Included in our Web Exclusive:**

- **2011 Destination Clinic and Riding Vacation Guide**

*For our full Trail Guide, including the Front Cover Story on the Big Horn National Forest, stories from subscribers about their favorite place to trail ride, and articles on trail riding from our staff writers, purchase the April 2011 issue of Mules and More.*



**WALT SAMPLE and Toby, just off the trail in the Red River Gorge in Menifee County, in the beautiful hills of eastern Kentucky**



**MARENA RIGGIN, of Abilene, Kans., trail riding her hinny KA's Smokin Joe at Signature Equine in Morris, Okla.**



**LISA PRIMM, of Tuff Enuff in Greenwood, Ark., trail riding her mule KC's Surprise at Signature Equine in Morris, Okla.**

## DESTINATION CLINICS

### **Tim Doud and Bliss Creek Outfitter's Summer**

#### **Wilderness Pack Trip Clinics**

Tim Doud, John Lyons certified Trainer, will again be offering his unique All-Inclusive Wilderness Pack Trip Clinics in beautiful Cody, Wyoming. You can customize your entire trip, from length of your trip to what you work on during the clinic. Trips can be five, six or seven days in length with a limit of six clinic participants per trip. These all-inclusive trips are not only a great clinic, but also a great vacation!

With beautiful scenery and a master clinician, groups will spend the first day riding 22-miles into the Washakie Wilderness along side Yellowstone National Park. You will arrive to the deluxe camp accommodations which consist of heated wall tents with log beds, propane lanterns, a heated shower tent, wonderful all-inclusive family style meals and a nightly campfire round-table with Tim talking about the day's ride and answering all your training questions.

During your stay, groups will ride between 80 and 100 miles. Each day of your trip is spent riding and sight seeing on the same wilderness trails ridden by the famous Jeremiah Johnson.



While trail riding, you will also be learning lessons and exercises to teach your mule to be a safer riding partner. Tim emphasizes safety and gentle methods of training to ensure your mule understands what you are asking. While riding, you will also see elk, deer, big horn sheep and the occasional grizzly bears. The Wilderness Pack Trip Clinics are for those who really love to ride. Riding mules are provided. Call Tim at 307-527-6103 or visit [www.wyomingmuletrips.com](http://www.wyomingmuletrips.com)

### **Brad Cameron's**

#### **Mules and Mountains Trail Clinics**

Bring your mule and join Brad Cameron in Banff, Alberta, Canada August 6-10, and in Burns, Colorado, July 11-15 for his Mules and Mountain Trail Clinics. The Banff clinic will take advantage of a wide range of training opportunities on trails with varying degrees of difficulty. Copetent guides will pack your gear on mules as you ride from camp to camp each day. Back country meals, comfortable camps, and unequalled scenery are all included.

The Burns clinic includes great meals and comfortable bunkhouses for you and spacious stalls for your mule. Under Brad's guidance, participants will learn how to handle many different obstacles with safety and confidence. Ride out each and return to ranch headquarters each day.

For more information, visit [www.MuleTrainer.com](http://www.MuleTrainer.com) or call 406/369-5190.



*To be included in our 2012 Trail  
Guide, contact us at [mules@socket.net](mailto:mules@socket.net)  
or 573/646-3934*

# RIDING VACATIONS

## Wyoming Wilderness Outfitters

Step back in time, Ride with Wyoming Wilderness Outfitters. Born cowboys, we take pride in providing you, your family and/or friends with a unique and memorable summer adventure. With the vast number of trails in northwest Wyoming and Yellowstone to choose from we plan to make this one of the best vacation experiences of a lifetime. We'll arrange the trip to best fit your personal needs; fishing, riding, camping, exploring, wildlife viewing, and photography. Relax while we provide teepees, pack and riding animals, saddles, wrangler and a cook complete with kitchen.

Enjoy a full service summer trip; whether you travel from location to location, set up camp at the base of the mountain along a river and take day rides from your campsite to surrounding valley's and passes, or bring your own living quarters horse trailer and horses/mules – we can guide you through some of Wyoming's and Yellowstone's most spectacular country. Be entertained as you travel the backcountry's trails, past wildlife, spectacular meadows, streams, and mountain passes.

We have been traveling these trails for more than 40 years, we know the local history of the area, book now to enjoy our brand of cowboy coffee and western stories. Laugh with us, and let us entertain you. We'll have our mules/horses saddled waiting for your call. For more information call (307) 754-4320 or visit [www.wyomingwilderness.com](http://www.wyomingwilderness.com).



## Winding River Resort

The Winding River Resort's setting on the North Fork of the Colorado River, bordering Rocky Mountain National Park and the Arapahoe National Forest, offers limitless beauty and recreation.

The Winding River Resort is a year-round location featuring horseback riding, pony rides, an animal farm, hayrides, an ice cream social, chuckwagon breakfasts and dinners, and cowboy church while visiting. Mount a trusty horse and tour Rocky Mountain National Park on scenic trails filled with mountain flowers, scampering wildlife and gentle flowing streams. Rides are scheduled eight times daily.

Camping facilities include showers, restrooms, and laundry. RV and trailer spaces with electric and water available. With activities available for all ages, the Resort is an ideal venue for family reunions. Online reservations are now available for all camping sites. For more information visit [www.windingriverresort.com](http://www.windingriverresort.com) or call 970-627-3215.

## Adventure Trails

Located near Mena, Ark., surrounded by the Ouachita National Forest, the Adventure Trails Retreat provides many recreational opportunities. Bring your mules, ATV's, mountain bikes, or canoes and kayaks, as we have assets nearby that support all of these activities.

After a day of adventures, relax in our well appointed cabin. The two bedroom cabin has modern kitchen, washer/dryer, king size bed, and queen size bed, covered and screened front porch, TV with Dish Satellite and DVD/VHS player, AC/Heat and all linens included. Nearby is a covered outdoor pavilion for cookouts. Cabin and bunkhouse are in a very private setting.

Adventure Trails and Retreat are set up to corral your horses or mules and have a U shaped drive for easy access for ATV and horse trailers. Ride horses or mules right from the retreat to some of the best trails in Arkansas.

The Retreat is located in Shady, Ark., in the middle of the Caney Creek Wildlife Management Area (85,000 acres). Bordering Caney Creek Wilderness Area (14,460 acres of non-motorized access) and Ouachita National Forest (1.8 million acres). Cossatot river located ¼ mile away. Call 479/394-5505 or visit [www.adventuretrailsretreat.com](http://www.adventuretrailsretreat.com) for more information.





## Watt Mule Company

The Mission of Watt Mule Company, LLC is to provide safe, quality, comprehensive trail-riding services to the public and to develop outstanding trail systems and camping areas for public use in order for people to enjoy the great outdoors with their horses, mules, and donkeys.

Our beautiful animals and friendly staff will guide you along the south rim of the Royal Gorge - famous for its breathtaking scenic views. From half hour trail rides, campfire suppers, and storytelling to full service camping excursions, we provide an ideal balance of adventure, safety, and fun.

Equestrian guests can bring their own equines to the Royal Gorge and enjoy camping and riding at the Royal Gorge South Park Equestrian Camp and Trails. Our primitive camp area offers water, pens, and porta-potties and our trails are outstanding, including vistas of the Royal Gorge that can

only be seen by riding into the rugged country lying on the South Rim of the Royal Gorge. We do offer large group discounts for saddle clubs, family reunions, active duty military families, and equestrian organizations! You can even bring along your dogs, assuming they're leashed or contained at the campsite. A trail map will be available and a guide can be at your service for a reasonable fee. If you want to include friends without their own riding animals on your ride, our mules are there to serve (must be accompanied by a guide)! Campsite and trails are open from May 1 - September 15. Come ride the Gorge! [www.wattmules.com](http://www.wattmules.com)

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## Hay Creek Ranch

Visit Hay Creek Ranch, a secluded campground surrounded by the Black Hills National Forest on three sides. It's a peaceful haven for horse and mule lovers, bicyclists, hikers, or anyone who just wants to get away from the rat race.

Hay Creek Ranch offers cabins with kitchenettes and full bathrooms, tent sites, shower houses with bathrooms, RV sites and a dump station. We also have spacious shaded corrals for your horses or mules.

With thousands of acres of Black Hills National Forest around Hay Creek Ranch there is no need to load and haul horses or mules to ride. The hundreds of miles of trails right outside the gate include everything from Forest Service roads to elk and deer trails. There is a great variety of terrain to fit everyone's level of experience. Hay Creek Ranch's goal is to provide you, your family, or group with a vacation that will send you home wishing every day could be a "Hay Creek Ranch" day!

For more information contact Doug and Jody at [www.haycreekranch.net](http://www.haycreekranch.net), email us at: [contact@haycreekranch.net](mailto:contact@haycreekranch.net), or call 605/578-1142. Come to Hay Creek Ranch and enjoy an unspoiled adventure in the Black Hills of South Dakota.



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## Bay Creek Ranch

Enjoy the Beautiful Shawnee National Forest in southern Illinois. Bay Creek Ranch is open March 1 through November 30 for camping, trail riding, and lodging at its best!

With direct access to the Shawnee National Forest, Bay Creek Ranch welcomes trail riders, hunters, fishermen, bicyclists, hikers, and rock climbers. No seasonal or rain trail closures. Trails are well marked.

The campground is roomy and pleasant, with water and electric hook-ups, and high lines at each site. Shower house, laundry, ice, and dump station are available, along with a four bedroom lodge and dining hall. Pens, stalls, and permanent sites are also available.

Ride through beautiful woods, rock bluffs, and creeks in the Shawnee National Forest. The trails vary from peaceful pine forests to the more challenging bluff areas. Shoeing your horses/mules is recommended.

Private group rides are available. Plan your club rides, family reunions, youth rides, and family vacations with Bay Creek Ranch. Join Bay Creek Ranch for a week-long organized ride in October! For more information, contact Chuck and Linda at [www.baycreekranch.com](http://www.baycreekranch.com) or call 618/695-2670.