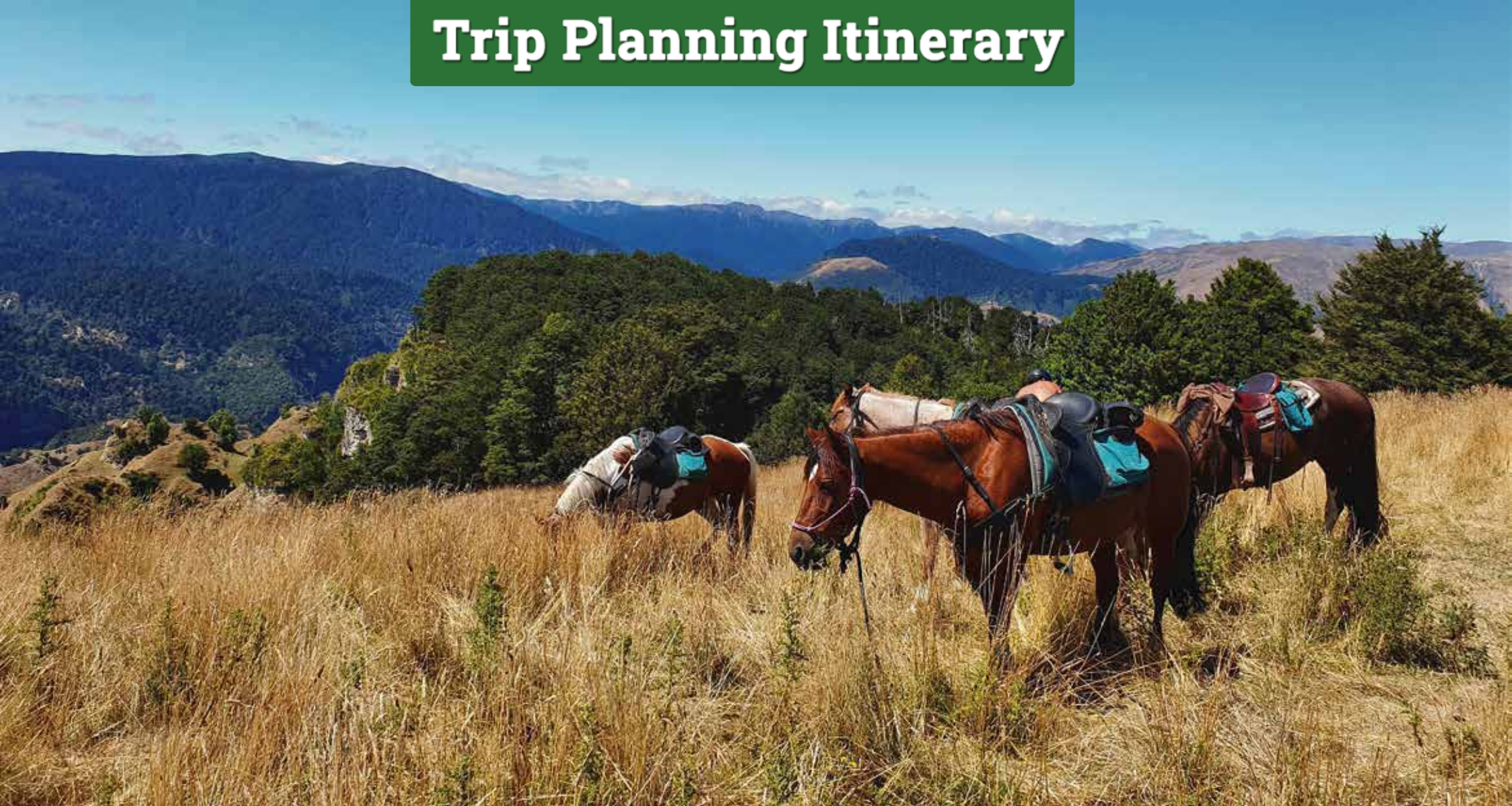


Trip Planning Itinerary



HOME ON THE RANGE

A Multi-Day Horse Riding Holiday
Central North Island, New Zealand

Thanks For Choosing River Valley

About River Valley

Since 1982, family owned and Taihape based adventure company, River Valley, has been offering trips on the rivers of the central North Island of New Zealand. Based from River Valley Lodge, the company offers raft and inflatable kayak trips on the Rangitikei and Ngaruroro Rivers, and through Whanganui River Dories, dory trips on the Whanganui River through the Whanganui National Park. Our river trips vary from 1/2 day to 6 days in duration.

Part of the experiences River Valley also offers are horse treks with River Valley Stables. These treks, from 1/2 day to 8 days, explore central North Island high country. A point of difference for River Valley Stables is the emphasis on a learning experience using Natural Horse Training as well as the ride itself.

Like any business operating for the long term in beautiful rural and natural environments, you soon realise that all these places, and the creatures that inhabit them, are both fragile and vulnerable. At River Valley, we see it as part of our role as kaitiaki, or guardians, to help protect these areas and provide the conditions for our native species to flourish. We do this by operating predator trap lines and advocacy.

Thanks for choosing River Valley for your trip.

What is in the Trip Planning Itinerary?

This Trip Planning Itinerary has been composed to help you plan and prepare for your multi day trip and to give you an overview of the area. You will receive more detailed information from orientation talks and discussions given by your guides both prior to departure and while on your trip.

Please review the following information carefully. If you have any questions or need additional assistance with your arrangements, don't hesitate to give us a call. You may also contact us by e-mail at thelodge@rivervalley.co.nz.



Guides

The men and women who work at River Valley are fun loving, and professional, individuals. Many of them have worked for River Valley for years, and either stay and guide right through the winter, or return for each summer season. Over this time through a mixture of personal experience and formal education they gain a huge amount of knowledge about guiding and the area.

Many of our guides also have a good knowledge of both the area's natural and human history, along with current environmental issues. They are also great cooks! These are the kind of people you enjoy being around—happy, helpful, thoughtful, intelligent and responsible and they love what they do!

Trip Summary

Having operated a Trekking business for a number of years, one thing we have noticed is the desire amongst many of our riders for more. Specifically more knowledge. More knowledge in particular about how to work with their horse for a more enjoyable experience for both rider and mount.

Home On The Range is more than just a riding holiday. It is an experience where you can get to know your horse, bond with it, and feel your confidence and enjoyment improve as you explore new countryside, learn new techniques, and undertake rides that have greater levels of challenge. An opportunity to gain more skills and knowledge and put them into practice.

To allow enough time for this, a Home On The Range is a minimum of 2 days. If you have more time we highly recommend adding on extra days so you can really get the most out of your experience, and bond with your horse.

As well as the horse treks all your meals and accommodation will be taken care of. Enjoy luxury accommodation at River Valley Lodge in a deluxe guest room, relax in the spa or sauna, add some great country style meals paired with a New Zealand wine from our selection, and you have the makings of a great break away.



A Home on the Range holiday is all about YOU. A custom horse riding holiday tailored to your needs. There is no set itinerary for this holiday, but this trip planning itinerary is intended to give you some ideas.

Quick Facts

Duration: Flexible - Minimum 2 Days/Nights

Cost: 2 Days: \$2290 2 Pax Twin Share / \$1360 Single
Per Additional Day \$1150 Twin Share / \$680 Single

Season: 1st November to 30th April

Riding Ability: Intermediate– Advanced

Time in Saddle: 4 to 6 Hours per day

Group Size: No minimum, maximum 5 people

Restrictions: Minimum Age 13 Years. Maximum weight 100kg

Type of Tack: We have Western and stock saddles.
Please let your guide know if you have a preference.

Breed of Horses: We have a mix of horses at the stables. These include Kaimanawa (NZ Wild horse), and NZ Station bred which is a cross of Clydesdale, Standard-bred, Quarter Horse, Thoroughbred, and Arabian. Also, Tennessee Walking and American Saddlebred.

Accommodation: Accommodation is provided at River Valley Lodge in a deluxe ensuite room. Rooms can be made up as doubles or twin share.



Preparing For Your Trip

What is Included each day:

- Riding equipment - riding boots, helmet (compulsary), short chaps, and long oilskin riding coats for changeable weather.
 - Meals – A 3 Course Dinner, Cooked Breakfast, Trekkers Lunch.
- Please advise us before your trip if you have any special dietary requirements.
- Rides – A full day of riding - you can choose what you would like to do.
 - Accommodation – A private deluxe ensuite guest room at River Valley Lodge.
 - Spa - Complimentary use of the spa and sauna at the lodge.

What to Pack:

- All riding equipment will be supplied by River Valley. If you would prefer to use your own gear, or bring extras like gloves, this is fine.
- We will provide saddle bags, so you are welcome to bring medication, or other small items, on the ride with you. When we are riding through private property only the guide will be allowed to take photos, however you are welcome to bring your phone/camera to the stables or arena.

Recommended Items:

- Long pants for riding.
- Comfy socks to wear in your riding boots
- Warm top on cooler days.
- Sunscreen (NZ sun can be very strong!) and sunglasses.
- Lodge clothing to wear in the evenings.
- Riding gloves, if preferred.
- Water Bottle

What is not Included:

- Transfers to/from River Valley Lodge (a shuttle from Taihape can be arranged for an additional cost).
- Travel insurance
- Any extra food or beverages

Optional Items:

- Medication. If you require daily medication please bring it on the trip with you. Please advise the Trip Leader if you require cold storage or other special storage facilities for your medication. If you have allergies make sure you bring an epi-pen or medication.
- If you use glasses, contact lenses, hearing aids, or other health aids, it's a smart idea to bring "extras" on the trip with you.



Home on the Range Options

A Home on the Range holiday is all about YOU! A custom horse riding holiday tailored to your needs. There is no set itinerary for this holiday, we are happy to tailor things to suit you. This page is intended to give you some ideas and suggestions.

How Long Is A Home on the Range Holiday?

Home On The Range is a minimum of 2 days/2 Nights. If you have more time we highly recommend adding on extra days so you can really get the most out of your experience, and bond with your horse. You can add on additional days at a discounted cost.

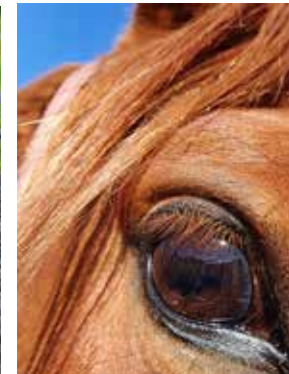
The basic 2 day trip usually includes 2 full days of riding. If you would prefer you can split this into 1 full day and 2 half days.

What is Involved in the Rides?

On your night of arrival, your guide will meet you at the lodge to discuss what you would like to do during your holiday, and to get an idea of your riding ability. This is a great opportunity for you to think of some things you would like to work on and put into practice.

Here are a few suggested ways to spend your time....

- Arena work with the horses
- Learning natural horsemanship techniques
- Meet and learn how we train our Kaimanawa wild horses
- Short rides
- Full day rides
- Catching, grooming, tacking and saddling horses
- Working with obstacles



Suggested Itinerary



Night 1

Arrive and check in at River Valley Lodge, anytime from 3pm. Enjoy a 3 course dinner at the lodge. At River Valley we believe in Farm-To-Table food that is healthy and ethical. A lot of the produce used comes from our own on-site gardens and our meat is all free range and organic. You will meet your guide this evening to go over the trip details and any questions you may have about the rides.

Tonight you can relax before your adventure, in the comfort of one of our deluxe ensuite rooms. You can also enjoy complimentary use of the spa and sauna at the lodge.

Day 1

The morning begins with a hearty breakfast in the lodge. You then drive up to the Stables to meet your guide, who will be there to set you up with your horse for the ride. Your adventure begins.

Your riding experience starts off with a couple of hours in the saddle on the first morning. During this time your Stables guide will have a chance to assess your riding ability and to match you with the appropriate horse for the duration of your stay.

That afternoon you will spend time learning about Natural Horsemanship techniques and how you can apply them.



Suggested Itinerary

Night 2

Late afternoon, head back to River Valley Lodge. After your day of riding relax and unwind in the spa or sauna.

Then, enjoy another home cooked, 3 course , Farm To Table dinner.



Day 2

The second day is an exploring day, putting into practice some of the Natural Horse Training techniques you learned the previous afternoon while taking in some of the magnificent scenery in our area, the hill country of the northern Rangitikei District. Riding will finish up at about 3.00pm allowing you time to return home if staying only two days.

Additional Days

If you have more time we highly recommend adding on some additional days of riding, so that you can really get the most out of your experience. Additional Home on the Range days are at a discounted rate and also include your food and accommodation. Or, why not try something totally different and stay another night then hop on one of our rafting trips.

Further Information

Seasons, Climate & Weather

In New Zealand you can often expect 4 seasons in one day, blue sky, cloud cover, sunshine, or rain. It is generally colder at night and early morning. In January, February and March the weather is usually more settled and it can be very hot during the day with less chance of rain.

Trip Insurance

We strongly recommend that you obtain travel insurance that will cover any emergency contingencies. While New Zealand ACC will cover emergency evacuation and medical costs in the event of accident, disruptions to your travel plans, or voluntary evacuation are not covered.

Health & Fitness

All participants should be in basic good health and good physical condition. Please tell us if you have any health conditions of which we should be aware, or if you are taking any medication.

Allergies

Please let us know if you have any allergies that we should be aware of. This would include food allergies, plant allergies, potential reactions to insect bites or stings and allergies to certain elements such as iodine. We need to know the severity of your reaction to these allergies, as well as the correct emergency first-aid procedures.



Emergenices

Our guides are capable of handling emergencies as they arise (although they are generally few and far between). Trip leaders and guides are certified in First Aid and CPR. Our emergency equipment includes wilderness oriented first aid-kits, and satellite communications systems. We are able to call for medical assistance or evacuation if necessary. If an evacuation is necessary, you will be helicoptered out to a nearby hospital.

In the event of an emergency at home, please have your family call the lodge on +64 6 3881444. We will do our best to get word to you and to evacuate you from the trip if necessary. The cost is your responsibility.

Questions?

Feel free to contact us and discuss any questions or concerns you might have in regard to your trip or this itinerary.

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 www.facebook.com/River.Valley.Stables



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