



border to coast

trail ride across wales

Our flagship six day, five night Border to Coast trail starts from Freerein HQ on the Welsh/English Border in the Wye Valley, and finishes on the sands of the Dovey Estuary, Ynyslas. This is a real trail riding expedition, covering 100 miles, crossing Wales along unmarked tracks and trails through wild, remote hills and valleys, staying overnight at small inns and guest houses along the way.



The Riding

The route to the coast is very varied, with stony tracks, open hills, river crossings, green lanes, and so on. The trails are a mixture of little used bridleways, old council roads and timeworn drovers routes crossing the Cambrian Mountains. The mixture of terrain means a varied riding pace each day – there will be lots of trotting to cover the

distance and canters when the terrain allows. There will be points where it is necessary to dismount and walk with your horse, such as steep down hill tracks which may be loose underfoot. On your sixth and final day of the trail, you will arrive on the beach at Ynyslas - here the group can enjoy an exhilarating canter on the sands.



Level of Riding and Fitness

You must be happy and confident cantering in open spaces to join this ride.

You will be riding between 6-7 hours each day, so riders must have a good level of current riding fitness. You must be physically fit enough to enjoy long trots and long days in the saddle on this riding expedition.

Guides and Group

All Freerein guides are full time, paid adults who all have an extensive knowledge of our horses, routes and the hills. They are relaxed, friendly & professional.

Strict maximum of 8 guests per trail.

Minimum age - 14 years old with 1+ riding adults.

The Horses

You will be matched to one of our incredible herd of fit, friendly, forward going trail riding horses and ponies. They are all a mixture of hardy breeds native to the UK. They live out all year round, working for 7 months of the year and enjoying a 5 month break over the winter months. They love their job and relish their happy, natural lifestyle.



Tack and Riding Equipment

Each horse has its own individually fitted English tack, customised and fitted professionally for Freerein. All horses are ridden in simple snaffle bits.

There is no luggage delivery on this trail. Each rider is supplied with our specially designed expedition saddle bags for spare clothes and personal belongings, and a smaller saddle bag for food and

drinks. The amount of luggage each rider can take is roughly equal to one aircraft carry on sized bag/case. We also supply liners for your main expedition bags – these are 100% waterproof and will keep your belongings dry.

Brushes and hoof picks will be dispersed throughout the group which will be shared on trail.



Accommodation and Meals

All individuals are automatically booked a room for single occupancy. Accommodation is at B&Bs and inns along the route. They are all basic, quirky, characterful, family run establishments that offer a warm welcome to trail riders. Expect to be fed well on this trip; food is homemade using locally sourced ingredients where possible. All accommodation places can cater for any dietary requirements.

Itinerary

DAY ONE - Arrive at Freerein HQ for 8:30am. Meet your guide, your fellow riders and pack your saddle bags. Meet your horse and prepare them for a day out on trail.

Out on trail all day. Explore the open tracks of the Begwns and Llanbedr hill, passing through the Village of Painscastle where one of the biggest battles in Welsh History took place in 1198. After lunch, cross up and over Aberedw Hill to arrive at the horse's accommodation for the night. Feed and untack before a short taxi ride into the agricultural town of Builth Wells, where you will spend the night.

Total length: 16 miles



DAY TWO - Enjoy your first welsh breakfast of the week before being picked up and taken to the horses. Feed, groom and tack up your horse. Out on trail all day. Climb up to Pant-y-llyn lake high above Builth Wells, and follow the northern stretch of the Mynydd Eppynt down to Abergwesyn, where the horses will stay the night. A short taxi ride will take the group to the town of Llanwrtyd, where you will stay at a local inn.

Total length: 22 miles

DAY THREE - Feed, groom and tack up. Out on trail all day. Today's route travels through the mid part of the Cambrian Mountains, across very remote terrain. Follow the ancient Monk roads, crossing large river fords, eventually dropping down to the historic Abbey at Strata Florida to stay the night at nearby Pontrhydfendigaid. Horses stay a short walk away with a local farmer.

Total length: 18 miles

DAY FOUR - Out on trail all day. Ride through the small Village of Ffair-Rhos and out across a deserted valley, passing the remains of an ancient marketing village. Enjoy a peaceful ride through the Bwlchgwallter forest before crossing the bridge over the Dologau waterfall. Pose for a photo under the old masonry Arch built in 1810 to mark the Golden



Jubilee of George III. After lunch, follow the river out onto open moorland and down into the village of Ponterwyd, where you will stay the night.

Total length: 20 miles



DAY FIVE - Out on trail all day. Follow the old mountain road up past Dinas Reservoir, on to cross the dam at Nant-y-moch reservoir at the base of Plynlimon – the highest point of the Cambrian Mountains. Get your first glimpse of the sea before heading down into the valley in Ceulanamaesmawr. Follow the bridleways looking out over Cardigan Bay before arriving at your final overnight stop.

Total length: 17 miles



DAY SIX - A shorter ride over the hills before dropping down into the coastal plain & the seaside town of Borth. Enjoy a trot up the high street before arriving on the beach! Time for a canter and a splash in the sea before arriving at your final meeting point. Untack the horses and enjoy a cup of tea and an ice cream. Pick up is at midday. Arrive back to Freerein HQ for tea and cake and a farewell to the horses to finish around 3pm.

Total length: 7 miles

Packing and What to Bring

Please arrive at Freerein with the following -

1/ One small piece of luggage per rider

Ready to repack into the Freerein expedition saddlebags:

- One small Aircraft cabin carry on size bag will fit into the pair of saddlebags.
- Towels are provided at all overnight stops
- 1 x Change of clothes for the evenings
- 1 x Spare riding tights/jodhpurs
- Flip flops or similar
- Wash kit
- Phone charger

2/ Items & clothing for on trail

Wearing or to add to the expedition saddlebags:

- Boots - waterproof, small heel, good grip
- Half Chaps
- Riding tights/Jodhpurs
- Waterproof jacket
- Waterproof trousers
- Spare layer(s)
- Riding hat
- Reusable water bottle(s)
- Sun cream
- Phone

- Self-inflating air jackets are banned on trail
- DO NOT bring a packed lunch - these are provided



Riding Declaration

To take part in this trail riding expedition, all riders must be able to truthfully sign this declaration. Riders who are untruthful in signing will be removed from the trail and no refund will be given.

"I can:

Walk unaided along tracks which may be steep & slippery.

Mount & dismount unaided.

Trot & canter over uneven ground.

I understand:

Horse riding & handling are potentially dangerous and can result in injury or death.

That I am riding this trail entirely at my own risk.

I do not suffer from any illness or disability which could prejudice my safety or that of others."

How to Book

We would love to welcome you on this trail riding expedition. Visit the link below to check dates and book your saddle:

<https://www.free-rein.co.uk/riding-holidays/guided-border-to-coast/#book-now>



Booking Conditions

- Charges quoted are based on prices & conditions at time of quoting. If these alter we reserve the right to offer the choice of paying extra or accepting a full refund.
- If any holiday has to be cancelled for reasons outside our control we will refund all monies paid but will be under no further obligation.
- We shall not be liable for any loss, damage or injury sustained by any person during the time of their booking.
- We reserve the right to alter itinerary, routes and accommodation without notice should this become necessary due to circumstances beyond our control.
- Horse riding and horse handling are potentially dangerous. Though horses and ponies offered to customers are tried and tested for behaviour and reliability, they are hired to the rider on the clear understanding that they are flesh and blood and that NO horse or pony is ever completely reliable.
- No horse will be allowed to leave HQ in the care of a person who has been careless or untruthful in placing their signature on the Declaration of Horsemanship. Their trail will be cancelled and no refund will be due.
- We reserve the right to cancel the trail of any rider who at any time appears to constitute a risk to her/himself, other riders or the horses. Any expenses incurred shall be the responsibility of that rider and no refund will be made.
- Vehicles and contents are left entirely at owners risk.
- No dogs or pets on trail or at overnight accommodation.
- We accept no responsibility for riders personal affects. Do not bring items of value.
- No booking is confirmed until a non-returnable deposit has been received.
- We reserve the right to cancel bookings with long overdue invoices.

Cancellation Policy

- All deposit payments are non-refundable & non-transferable.
- The balance is due 42 days before your holiday.
- If you cancel your booking less than 42 days before the start date of your trail we are entitled to receive full payment, less refunds as follows:
 - 28 days or more before booking date - 50%
 - 14 days or more - 30%
 - less than 14 days - nil

Insurance

During the whole time of your holiday you are automatically insured for Public Liability and the risk to horses is entirely ours. We strongly recommend that you take out your own insurance to cover cancellation, Freerein Organisation Limited will not act as your holiday cancellation insurer.

Contact Details

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