



the welsh prince trail

trail ride through mid wales

Overview

This four day, three night trail ride starts and ends at Freerein HQ on the Welsh/English Border in the Wye Valley. This is an incredible journey covering 70 miles, exploring the heart of Mid-Wales along unmarked tracks and trails through wild, remote hills and valleys, staying overnight at two country inns and a family run B&B along the way. The route is steeped in mystery and historic tales, dating back to the 1st Century.



The Riding

The route on this trail 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. The mixture of terrain means a varied riding pace each day – there will be lots of trotting to cover the distance and canters wherever 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.

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 holiday.



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Guides and Group Sizes

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.

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 and between 14hh – 16hh.. 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, healthy lifestyle.

Tack, Riding Equipment and Luggage

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

Your luggage is transported by us, by road. Each rider will be supplied with one of our specially designed saddle bags to carry lunch, drinks, cameras etc whilst out on trail



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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 all 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, passing the 'Roundabout' an unusual landmark built in the 19th Century to honor Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. After lunch, drop down off the Begwns and cross over Rhulen hill and 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 at a local B&B. Dinner will be at 7pm at one of the restaurants in town.

Total length: 16 miles



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DAY TWO - Enjoy your first welsh breakfast of the trip before being picked up and taken to the horses. Feed, groom and tack up your horse. Out on trail all day. Sweep back across Aberedw Hill before dropping down into the hamlet of Hundred House. Today, Hundred House is a small hamlet but it was once regarded as a strategic location and was built by both Romans and Normans in the first century AD. From here, climb up onto Gwaunceste Hill and enjoy some fabulous panoramic views. Pass the remains of Black Yatt, an old farmhouse built in the 18th Century which was blown up in the 1960s to feature in a film about the second world war. Wind down through the country lanes to Old Radnor, where day two will end. Untack and feed the horses before heading to a local Inn for the night. Horses are a two minute walk down the road.

Total length: 16 miles

DAY THREE - Catch, feed and prepare your horse. Start the steep climb onto the spectacular Hergest Ridge. Enjoy a canter around an abandoned racecourse on the very top of the ridge. This racecourse started up in 1825 and held regular events until around 1880. Pass the 'Whet Stone' a traditional gathering point where, in this case, would have been used for betting and bargaining. Drop down through the Parish of Gladestry and follow the quiet country lanes to join part of the Offa's Dyke path across Disgwylfa Hill, before passing through the village of Newchurch. Enjoy the views atop Newchurch Hill and Bryngwyn hill as you head down to the horse's accommodation for the night. You will be transferred by road to a local Inn in the village of Painscastle - the location of the biggest and most brutal battle in all of Welsh History, The Battle of Painscastle in 1198.

Total length: 16 miles

DAY FOUR - After breakfast, transfer back up to the horses. Catch, feed and prepare your horse. Head straight up onto the rugged moorland of Llanbedr Hill, taking in the spectacular views of the Black Mountains. Spot Pen-y-fan, the highest peak in South Wales. Travel the length of Llandeilo hill where you'll pass the mysterious grave of Twm Tobacco. Look down into the hamlet of Aberedw, where the last Prince of Wales - Prince Llewelyn - once took refuge in a cave hiding from the English in the early 13th century. After lunch it's time for some exhilarating canters on the Begwns before a relaxing stroll down the country lanes back to Freerein HQ for around 4pm. Enjoy tea and homemade cake with your new friends before departing.

Total length: 15 miles

Start 8:30am first day, finish 4:30pm final day



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What's Included?

- All arrangements for the duration of the holiday.
- Trail riding horse, tack, saddlebags & other equipment for the duration of the holiday.
- Backup & use of trail riding advice line as required.
- Services of guide
- Accommodation
- Breakfasts
- Packed Lunches
- Evening Meals

What's Not Included?

- All drinks at any bar
- Transport to and from Freerein HQ
- Accommodation before and after trail
- Tips

What to Bring

- Riding tights/jodhpurs
- Extra layers
- Boots - waterproof boots that have a small heel and good grip
- Waterproof jacket - Goretex or equivalent
- Waterproof trousers - GoreTex or equivalent
- Half chaps
- Riding hat
- Suncream
- Reusable water bottle(s)
- Change of clothes for the evening
- Flip-flops or similar

Please do not bring these items:

- Inflating air jackets
- Wellingtons, fashion boots, ponchos, camelbaks & backpacks
- Footwear with a smooth sole

Riding Declaration

All riders will be required to sign this declaration before departing -

"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."



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How To Book

<https://www.free-rein.co.uk/riding-holidays/guided-welsh-prince/#book-now>

This page shows live availability for all dates

- Deposit payment is 20% per rider by card

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 the owner's risk.
- No dogs or pets on trail or at overnight accommodation.
- We accept no responsibility for riders' personal effects. 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 56 days before your holiday.
- If you cancel your booking less than 56 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



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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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