

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How do you assist guests with their special requirements, requests and/or conditions?

As outfitters and guides for over 30 years, we have the experience to individually customize each trip for our guests. We assist in planning the location best suited to your group or family and provide and accept suggestions for meals with your particular menu preferences in mind. We also provide recommendations for fishing holes, horseback rides, day hikes and special spots to relax and enjoy the High Sierra scenery.

2. What level of horseback riding experience do we need to have?

You do not have to have any riding experience. We have a wide variety of trail horses for various levels of riding ability. We match each rider with an appropriate horse for a safe, enjoyable trip. However, riding is a physical activity and appropriate physical conditioning is required. Riders need to be able to get on the horse, sit up right and stay balanced in the saddle for the length of the ride. Generally, if children can ride a bicycle without training wheels then they have the right balance for riding horses.

3. What time do I need to arrive at the pack station?

Check-in and unloading of your gear is generally no later than 7:00am the day your trip is scheduled for departure unless previous arrangements are made with Ranch Headquarters. You are welcome to watch us packup, go into town for breakfast, or hang out at the lake and enjoy the scenery. On the first day, you will need to bring a sack lunch, water and/or snacks for the ride in.

4. When do we get to camp?

It depends on where we are camping and how long the ride will take. Usually we are in camp between 1:00pm and 2:00pm.

5. If we arrive the evening before our trip, or stay over after the trip, are there overnight accommodations available?

There are many lodges and resorts in the Lakes Basin Recreation Area. I highly recommend staying at anyone of them. However, they can book up early so make sure to call in advance to make your reservations. Lodging is also available in Graeagle and Sierra City (approximately 10-20 minutes away). In addition to staying at a Lodge or Resort, Gold Lake has "open camping" around the lake, camp spots are filled on a first come first served basis.

6. What time of the day do we return from our trip?

We arrive back at the pack station between 2:00pm and 3:00pm on the last day of your trip.