

THREE DAY WELSH RIDE



ARRIVAL

Guests will arrive at Upper Noyadd in time for tea. Upper Noyadd is a lovely Welsh farm with magnificent views over the Black Mountains and set down a track from an open common known as the Begwyns. Once visited by the Victorian writer Kilvert, Upper Noyadd is comfortable and romantic. The Begwyns which is reached up an old track is owned by the National Trust. Locals have 'rights' to graze a certain number of their animals on common land. This is a tradition that goes back nearly a thousand years. It was once true in the UK but sadly under the many 'Enclosures Acts' of the 17th and 18th Centuries much of the common land was taken away from the peasants and given to 'landowners' by the Crown.

Dinner will be a three-course dinner at Upper Noyadd cooked by a local chef.

DAY 1

The first morning after a full English breakfast you will set forth on the horses over the Begwyns. From the Begwyns you can enjoy spectacular views over the Black Mountains to the south and the Brecon Beacons to the west. The Begwyns is an area of approximately 800 acres of open moorland. It is a rich breeding ground for rare newts, frogs, butterflies and birds. You might also come across the odd heard of wild ponies on the hill.

Coming off the Begwyns you will ride on along small lanes through woods and up old drovers' roads passing traditional Welsh Farmsteads on route.

Lunch will be in a tent on the Begwyns.

After lunch you will ride on a network of little lanes. You will ride past old farmhouses lost in time and along winding green tracks.

You will then ride back over the Begwyns and on to Upper Noyadd where a lovely tea will be waiting. After a relaxing bath, you will have a delicious three course dinner.





DAY 2

Today's ride will take you north. You will ride over the Begwyns and then on through the village of Painscastle and up onto Llanbedr Hill.

Painscastle is the sight of an immense border castle now reduced to a grassy mound from which Henry 111 ruled England for a summer of 1326. From the earliest days the Welsh proved difficult to govern and constantly crossed the border to fight the British. Castles were built to keep the Welsh out but by 1325 the entire English Court was forced to relocate from Westminster to Painscastle in order for the king to regain control of the border countries.

On Llanbedr hill you will take the lower track past Ireland (once a stop off for the Drovers) and the Raddle Pool where you will have a picnic lunch.

In the afternoon you will head off over Painscastle Hill and down through Trowley farmhouse and Penlian.

You will arrive at Upper Noyadd in time for tea.

DAY 3

Today's ride will take you above the lovely Llandewi Fach a 14th Century church (only accessible on foot) and up onto the wild open moorland of Llanbedr Hill passing the cave where the celebrated vicar known as the 'solitary' lived in the mid 19th C. From there an ancient drovers track will take you past 'Twm Tobacco's Grave' and along the Dancing Ground (where according to Welsh legend the last of the fairies were seen dancing) and on to Rhulen Hill where you will descent into the historic hamlet of Painscastle for lunch.

Lunch will be at the Roast Ox Inn.

The afternoon's ride will take you back onto the Begwyns and up onto the 'roundabout'. The 'roundabout' is the highest point on the Begwyns. At 1200 feet you have 360 degree views over towards the Brecon Beacons and Black Mountains Red Hill, Glascwm Hill and Llanbedr Hill to the North where you have just been riding.

You will arrive back in time for a final tea at Upper Noyadd before going back to the real world from which you have escaped!

