

FIVE DAY RIDE IN RURAL WALES



Guests will arrive at Upper Noyadd in time for tea. Upper Noyadd is a traditional white washed Welsh farmhouse with magnificent views over the Brecon Beacons and Black mountains. It was once visited by the Victorian writer Kilvert in the 1860's who wrote about it lyrically in his diary.

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

DAY 1

The first morning after a cooked breakfast your horses will be ready and waiting for you. You will set forth on the horses over the Begwyns, a chain of hills owned by the National Trust, with 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. Riding off the Begwyns you will descend gently down the valley passing Great House Farm and on through ancient woodlands until you reach the River Wye.

Lunch will be a picnic by the banks of the River Wye.

In the afternoon, you will ride across a stream and up through ancient woods passing the magnificent Cilliau a medieval farmhouse untouched since the 15th C.

From there you will ride through Fferm and back over the North side of Begwyns and on to Upper Noyadd in time for tea. Dinner will be three course meal at Upper Noyadd cooked by a lovely local chef.



Riding across the Begwyns

DAY 2

Today's ride takes you north across the Begwyns and on through the small village of Painscastle and onto Llanbedr Hill. From there you continue north towards over Red hill until you reach Doctors Pool.

Lunch will be in a tent in a sheltered position on the edge of the common.

From Doctor's Pool, you continue North over Glascwm hill until you reach the hamlet of Glascwm.

You will then take the ancient drovers track west through valleys lost in time until you finally arrive at Huntington Court a Georgian country house on the Welsh Borders nestled away in the little hamlet of Huntington. Surrounded by seventeen acres of garden and woodland with dramatic views of Hergest Ridge, Malvern Hills and the Black Mountains, Huntington Court is family home. You will spend the night here and have a three-course dinner cooked by Fiona your hostess with produce coming from her garden.

DAY 3

After a hearty breakfast, you will ride south and then turn up on to an ancient track which takes you up onto the magnificent Hergest Ridge. Hergest Ridge is a large elongated grassy hill which traverses the border between England and Wales. It is also where the long distant footpath of Offa's Dyke runs. At its highest point it is 426 metres high. The ridge inspired an album by English instrumentalist Mike Oldfield who was a resident of the area and wrote Ommadawn and Hergest Ridge in his nearby home The Beacon. At the end of Ommadawn is a short song entitled On Horseback. The lines of the lyrics are as follows: 'So if you feel a little glum, to Hergest Ridge you should come. In summer, winter, rain or sun, it's good to be on horseback'.



Stopping for a drink on Hergest Ridge

Lunch will be a picnic in a secluded spot just off the ridge.

In the afternoon , you will ride back over the ridge to Huntington Court for tea and dinner.

DAY 4

After a hearty breakfast, you will ride south and then turn up on to an ancient track which takes you onto the wild open moorland of Gwaunceste Hill passing ancient standing stones and the Mawn Pool en route. From there you will head south down on a drovers' track that takes you along a deep valley past peaceful old farms.

Lunch will be a picnic somewhere on route.

After lunch, you will ride on over Bryngwyn Hill and on through Painscastle and back to Upper Noyadd in time for tea and dinner.



DAY 5

Today's ride will take you east across the wild open moorland of Llandbedr Hill on past 'Twm Tobacco's Grave' along the Dancing Ground (where according to legend the fairies were last seen dancing in Wales) and on to Rhulen Hill until you

drop down through the small and historic hamlet of Painscastle where you will stop for lunch at the Roast Ox Inn. Painscastle is the sight of an immense border castle now reduced to a grassy mound from which Henry 3 ruled England for a summer of 1326.

The afternoon's ride will take you back onto the Begwyns and 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 and Red Hill and Glascwm Hill to the North, over which you have 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!

