

CHECK LIST FOR RIDING CAVALCADERS

Please read carefully. The ultimate safety of your trail depends on these requirements.

We understand that any horse can kick if provoked – however for the purposes of the Cavalcade where you will be riding in groups and over some sections of 'perilous trail' please leave skittish and kicking bastards at home. Thanks.

1. Remember that your horse is your responsibility.
2. Choose a suitable horse – **AVOIDING** a stallion, rig, pregnant mare, horses under 5yrs old or any unruly horses!! (Yep, we're reiterating the first paragraph there.)
3. Ensure your horse is fit – long hours walking fit plus a lot of hill work.
4. All horses must be freshly shod and wormed. Most find selenium beneficial and electrolytes are advisable, especially if weather hot. Also a salt replacement such as Hummidimix and salt blocks are worth considering.
5. Have your horse Vet checked BEFORE starting your trail if you have any doubts at all. Your Trail Boss has the right to exclude any unfit or unsuitable horse.
6. Avoid dramatic diet changes – if your horse is used to hard feed please bring enough for the days on your trail. Your horse will benefit from a little daily boost of hard feed even if not used to it – so start them on it now to get them used to it.
7. Train with the gear you intend to use. Nothing New! All gear needs to be well broken in before the start of your trail.

You will need:

A thick or multiple saddle blankets to avoid sore backs.

Breast plate and cropper for hill work.

Horse cover – the nights are cold in the hills.

Basic grooming and first aid needs. A couple of spare shoes. As your personal gear will be carted for you, all you need to take each day will be wet weather gear, sunblock, camera and whatever personal stuff you may need. Keep it light.

8. Expect an individual gear and horse check at the start of your trail. The Trail Boss and the Wranglers will be quietly observing for signs of possible stress of all animals throughout the trail. Please ensure all blankets and covers are secure on your horse at night. Night stampedes have been caused by slipping covers and torn straps.
9. Get yourself fit along with your horse and practise walking down steep hills. If the Trail Boss directs riders to get off and walk, all must do so without exception.
10. Please respect Landowners property and woolsheds. The cavalcades would simply not be possible without their permission.
11. Please give way to a harness horse if you are a rider – they have to allow for wheels as well as hooves.
12. Don't be afraid to ask for help or advice. Your Trail Boss and Wranglers are not babysitters but are there to guide and ensure safety.
13. Your horse must be either trained by you or by the person you may be borrowing it from. Collecting a horse from the paddock the day before is not on! These horses are easily identified and have a good chance of being stood down.
14. Your horse comes first at the end of the day. No-one leaves their horse until it is unloaded, any cares attended to and it is watered, fed and covered.