

## San Rafael Swell Wilderness Trailrides

The San Rafael Swell is 2,800 square miles of uninhabited wilderness--nearly two times the size of Rhode Island without a single human resident. The Swell is a gigantic bubble in the earth's crust which has eroded into a maze of deep, multi-hued canyons punctured by the mesas, buttes and pinnacles typical of the world famous canyonlands geography.

Riders will explore intricate trails established by native Americans, herdsman and outlaws during the day, then hear stories about these trailblazers while relaxing around the camp fire at night.

Always a high point of the trips are views of mustangs or bighorn sheep which occur, with rare exception, daily. From a deluxe basecamp riders will visit Red Canyon, The Penitentiary, The Chute, Muddy River Gorge, Chimney Canyon Gorge, Head of Sinbad, Courthouse Butte, Family Butte, Golden Gate, Twin Priests, Devil's Monument, Devil's Racetrack, Joe and his Dog, Sid's Mountain, Swasey Arch, Dutchman Arch, Saddle Horse Canyon, Cold Canyon, The Snake Dance pictographs, South Fork pictographs, The Blue Man pictographs, and more.



### Departures

April 21  
April 28  
May 4  
Aug 27  
Sept 3  
Oct 12  
Oct 21

### Highlights

Wildflowers & Wildlife/Wild Horses in the Hondoo Country  
Wildflowers & Wildlife/Wild Horses on Muddy River Gorge  
Wildlife/Desert Bighorn Sheep in Sid's Mtn. Wilderness  
**Rockart** & Slickrock Mountains of Sid's Mtn. Wilderness  
Wildlife/Desert Bighorn Sheep in the Canyonlands  
**Fall Foliage** & Wildlife/Wild Horses on Muddy River Gorge  
**Fall Foliage** & Wildlife/Wild Horses on Muddy River Gorge

### Detailed Itinerary

#### San Rafael Swell Wilderness

**Note:** This is a sample itinerary for two of several camps we may use. Each camp is unique and often offers more trails to explore than time will permit.

### **Day 1**

Arrive scenic Torrey, Utah and check into your specified lodging--either the Boulderview Inn or the Chuckwagon Inn. Torrey is a town of a little over 200 population which is located at the junction of highways 12 and 24 near the west entrance of Capitol Reef National Park.

The Boulderview Inn is located on highway 24 at the west end of Torrey. The Chuckwagon Inn is located downtown one block west of Hondoo's office. At 8:00 PM meet at either the lobby of Boulderview Inn or pool side at the Chuckwagon Inn for an orientation and final packing session with your trip leader and the trip's interpretative specialist.

### **Day 2**

After breakfast, you'll travel a short distance down the road to Hondoo's headquarters. Transfers will be provided as needed. Hondoo's headquarters are located on highway 24 in the middle of downtown Torrey. At Hondoo's office and gift shop, we'll pack your gear in the camp 4X4, meet the remainder of the crew and your horse, then depart (9:00am) for our trailhead near Penitentiary Canyon or at the Head of Sinbad.

From the Penitentiary trailhead you'll ride to the mouth of Red Canyon, then to Tomsich Butte, then to Hondoo Arch, and then on to our basecamp at the old mining camp on Muddy Creek. From the Sinbad Trailhead you'll visit Locomotive Point, Devil's Race Track, Twin Priests and the Golden Gate before arriving at basecamp in Cold Canyon. Note: most days of the trailride, you should see mustangs or desert bighorn sheep. Mustangs from the Muddy Creek basecamp and bighorn sheep from the Cold Canyon basecamp.

### **Day 3**

After breakfast and preparing lunch, from the Muddy Creek basecamp you'll visit Red Canyon Narrows, Courthouse Butte, Family Butte and Penitentiary Canyon before returning to camp situated under majestic cottonwoods along the picturesque stream. From the Cold Canyon basecamp you'll ride thru the Golden Gate to Bullock Canyon and the Blue Man pictograph panel, then on to the South Fork of Coal Wash and the pictograph panel there before returning to the hot showers and cold drinks at the slickrock canyon basecamp.

### **Day 4**

Daylight at the Muddy Creek camp brings the prospect of visiting the magnificent Chute gorge and Chimney Canyon. From the Cold Canyon basecamp you'll ride to the pinnacles of Devil's Monument and Joe and his Dog, then on the return to camp you'll stop at the historic outlaw camp and mining ruins of the ZCMI mine. You should note that you will always arrive back at camp with plenty of daylight and time to clean up and enjoy hors d'oeuvres before dinner.

### **Day 5**

From the Muddy Creek camp you'll explore the upper reaches of the Muddy Gorge where it meanders through the splendidly colored slickrock of Triassic sandstones. Mustangs are numerous along the stream where they come for water from their pastures in the deep side canyons. From the Cold Canyon location you'll ride to the Long Neck for views of Swasey Arch, Saddle Horse Canyon and upper Cold Canyon. After lunch, you'll ride up the McCarty Canyon trail to the head of Mesquite Canyon where a promontory point will provide a striking vista encompassing all the country you've covered during your trip.

### **Day 6**

Departure day. After packing personal gear and breaking camp, you'll ride to McKay Flat via Red Canyon and the Grey Breaks. This route will take us to a favorite watering spring of the wild horses and furnish breath-taking panoramas of the country you've visited on your trip. From the Cold Canyon basecamp you'll ride the length of the Devil's Race Track to the incomparable Snake Dance pictograph panel. At the McKay Flat or the Snake Dance panel you'll exchange your saddle seat for the cushioned comfort of a vehicle ride over the San Rafael Swell to Torrey, Utah. You'll arrive Torrey late afternoon.