

# 2027 Clearwater Explorer

## Dates: 3 Options

- July 5<sup>th</sup> to July 12<sup>th</sup> 2027
- August 2<sup>nd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> 2027
- September 6<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> 2027

### Duration:

8 Days / 7 Nights - \$4,200.00 plus GST - 7 full days of riding

## Day 1

Riders will be picked up early morning, (7:30 AM) from their Calgary hotels for a transfer to base camp, which is approximately a 2.5 hr drive, arriving around 11 AM. Enjoy lunch while meeting the staff, horses, and fellow clients. Today's ride will be a combination of easy two-track trails and single-horse paths that wind up the valley through meadows and trees. As we venture deeper into the backcountry the majestic mountains draw nearer, a horse-drawn wagon will assist in transporting gear and supplies for our first two-nights locations. Tonight, we will camp at a fly camp situated in the valley fork offering stunning views of the surrounding Rocky Mountains and Banff National Park in the distance, enjoy dinner and a campfire before settling into cozy dome tents. **Saddle Time: 4.5 - 6 hours.**

## Day 2

Today's route begins with several crossings of the Clearwater River before embarking on a steep climb to Forty Mile Ridge, getting the horses' hearts pumping. The trail ascends through the forest, revealing a section of old, burnt forest that leads to an open alpine ridge. The ride along the ridge gives way to breathtaking 360-degree views of the Rocky Mountains. We then descend to the tree line to tie up the horses while the group enjoys lunch and takes in the scenery. The afternoon will have us descend and proceed to our main backcountry camp just before dinner for a two-night stay. This camp features large wall tents, cots, wood stoves and a spacious cook tent for inclement weather as well as an outhouse-style washroom facility. Guests can also enjoy an outdoor hot water on-demand shower and a large fire pit with ample seating. The camp is protected by an electric bear fence for peace of mind.

**Saddle Time: 5-6.5 hours.**

## Day 3

Today, riders will embark on a journey to the remote & pristine Lost Guide Lake. To reach this high alpine lake, we will navigate the narrow creek bottom, weaving through forested areas, crossing an old forest fire burn and traversing rocky scree slopes all the while crisscrossing

the creek as we climb. Upon reaching tree line we have finally arrived at our destination. This alpine lake is a wonderful spot for some cutthroat trout fishing as well as enjoying lunch by the lakeside. **Saddle Time: 7-8 hours.**

## Day 4

Guests can savor an extra cup of coffee this morning while packers load our gear on the packhorses. The day's adventures will focus on exploring further up the valley from our main camp to the northeastern boundary of Banff National Park. This area features mountain meadows and river views, highlighting its true beauty. The mixed route leads up the wagon trail before veering off into the trees and descending to the river to a single-track passing old outfitters camp as well as wolf and bear dens. **Saddle Time: 4-5 hours.** Camp location is at the edge of a meadow with small dome tents for two nights.

## Day 5

Today we will ride deep into Banff National Park to explore areas seldom seen by others. Capture photos as these postcard-perfect images cannot be bought in a store. A unique experience that is truly off the beaten path. The historic Indian Head Lodge Warden Cabin, Martin and Clearwater Lakes, or the spectacular Indian Head trail are among today's fabulous ride options. **Saddle time: 6.5-8 hours.**

## Day 6

Today, we will load up and head back down the valley towards our main camp but riders will part from the pack string to ascend Rum Punch Ridge. This trail is a local secret. Guests will need to participate in a short hike (about 20 minutes) from where the horses are tied to the ridge top to enjoy the breathtaking view. Lunch will be enjoyed as we sit in awe and soak in the views. **Saddle time: 4-7.5 hours.**

## Day 7

Our final day in the heart of the Rocky Mountains will have us making our way back to the base camp. Today's travel will be leisurely so we can savour and reflect on the past weeks adventure as we meander along the wagon trails on the valley floor. There will be numerous opportunities to stray off the wagon trail and explore the pack trails and river crossings allowing riders to capture the last views of the stunning Rocky Mountains. As on Days 1 and 2, the horse-drawn wagon will be available for those who wish to take a break from riding. We expect to arrive back at the base camp around 5 PM. **Saddle time: 5.5-7 hours.**

## Day 8

After breakfast, guests will spend a couple of hours observing wild horses, the young foals and multiple herds will provide plenty of activity and memorable moments to capture. Once

the memory cards are full, we will tour local sights and businesses en route back to Calgary, arriving mid to late afternoon.

**Please note:** All itineraries are provided for guidance only and may be adjusted on-site according to prevailing conditions by the organizing team.

### **Extra Costs**

- Shuttle Service \$50.00 per rider per direction
- Sleeping bag/foamy rental - \$50.00 per guest