

Western riding in Bournemouth



Itinerary

If you fancy trying something different and exciting then why not try Western riding in Bournemouth. This relaxed style of riding is the fastest growing equine discipline in the World. Western riding evolved from the ranching and warfare traditions brought to America by the Spanish Conquistadors, and both equipment and riding style evolved to meet the long hours in the saddle of the cowboy.



Day One

Arrive and settle into your accommodation. There is a choice of accommodation either in The Cottage B&B or in the local pub. Both are within walking distance of the riding stables and the beach. If time permits we can organise a ride for you today or if not riding will start tomorrow. Swanage is 3 miles away whilst Poole & Bournemouth are only 10 miles via the Sandbanks Ferry. Tonight, you may like to travel into Swanage and sample one of the pubs that offer traditional home cooked meals or a restaurant offering fresh fish.



Day Two

After a full English breakfast you will be heading to the riding stables. The stables are located in an area of outstanding beauty on a world heritage coastline and the coastline is renowned for its safe sandy beaches. This morning you are able to spend some time getting to know your horse before you head off on the forest ride. Initially, you will be working on developing a deep, secure seat in the western saddles. The Western saddles are designed to spread the weight of the rider over a larger area of the horse's back, making it more comfortable for long days out riding. Today you will be working on the western paces - walking, jogging (trotting) and loping (canter) across heath land as you head towards Newton Heath forest. You will be riding through some of the most beautiful lowland heath with a multitude of paths and sandy tracks to explore and not a road in sight to cross! During your ride you will see stunning views of Brownsea Island, Poole Harbour and Bournemouth and if you are lucky you may even see one of the resident Roe or Sika deer!





After a break, during which you will be able to enjoy lunch at one of the pubs close-by we will be meeting again at the stables. This afternoon you will be riding on the beach and you will be using one hand to hold the reins in the traditional western way as you canter along miles of golden sand. You can take your horse into the sea for a paddle and watch the waves lap over his hooves. This is a truly spectacular and memorable experience.

Day Three



After a hearty breakfast at the B&B, you will be heading to the stables to ride around Old Harry Rocks. This is a stunning ride that leaves the picturesque village of Studland and takes you up over the dramatic scenery of the coastal cliffs. This ride has the most spectacular views of the Jurassic coast and the entrance to Poole Harbour. Western horses are trained to neck rein. This is when the horse changes direction with light pressure of a rein against the horse's neck. You can practice this technique today. This afternoon you may like to travel into Bournemouth. In Bournemouth there are plenty of areas to walk in quiet surroundings including walking in the Stour Valley Nature Reserve or besides the River Stour. Alternatively, you may prefer to visit Oceanarium, an aquarium containing a wide variety of aquatic species.

Prices

Included in the package price of £340:

- 2 night's accommodation at either The Cottage or the pub on B&B basis in a shared twin
- 3 riding opportunities (rides are for 2 hours)

Single room supplement will apply, please call for details.

Please note if you are booking a weekend break you will be riding on the beach in the morning. During July, August and September no beach riding is permitted at any time of day. Beach rides are throughout the evenings in May and June.



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