

Dude Ranch Discovery in Cody, Wyoming

Planning an epic vacation that children, young adults, honeymooners and baby boomers can get behind is a herculean feat. Everyone I met at this Cody, Wyoming dude ranch felt like they'd won the blue ribbon this holiday.

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WILD WEST DISCOVERY IN CODY

Located in northwest Wyoming, situated next to the Shoshone River and tucked in the Shoshone National Forest, a river really does run through Blackwater Creek Lodge & Guest Ranch. My husband and I landed at Yellowstone Regional Airport in Cody, Wyoming. I wore Western boots and a cowboy hat and blended right in with the locals.

We met a husband and wife from Florida who were happy to hang with the horses, while city dwellers from the East Coast wanted to support their teenage daughter's horse quest.

Julie Rojas from Ontario, Canada said, "our trip to Blackwater Creek Ranch was unforgettable. Our three boys were exposed to true western culture, reminding us about hard work, simplicity and finding your passion, while surrounded by breathtaking topography. We'll not soon forget the opportunity to experience riding through rugged mountains, casting flies, and the fun of the rodeo."

PONIES, PUPPIES AND GRIZZLIES

After our ranch tour, we were escorted to our log cabin and each provided with a canister of bear spray. We were advised to always carry the spray with us while hiking in the forest or visiting the river. We did see a young grizzly bear on our horseback ride.

Each night we selected activities such as white-water rafting, a Yellowstone National Park excursion, the Cody Nite Rodeo and horseback riding. All riding levels were welcome at Blackwater Creek with morning and afternoon rides. Guests may also fish, hike or visit historic downtown Cody.



SLEEPAWAY CAMP FOR ADULTS AND KIDS

Breakfast, lunch and dinner were fit for a rancher. However, vegetarian options were also on offer. I'm missing the crab cakes and huckleberry lemonade at the daily happy hour. Watching the wranglers bring in the horses in the morning and seeing them run by our cabin in the afternoon are memories we'll forever cherish.

To book your own Cody, Wyoming dude ranch vacation, visit Blackwater Creek Ranch, part of the True Ranch Collection.

For more travel adventures, follow @Nancydbrown on Instagram.

