



## Horse Trail Difficulty Ratings

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**DISCLAIMER:** Our trail difficulty ratings are intended only as helpful guidelines. It is the sole responsibility of each rider to know their own level of ability as well as that of their horses, and to accept the associated risks of participation in our rides.

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**Easy  
(Novice Riders)**

Any combination of the following:

- o Level to gentle elevation changes
- o Wide trail with good footing
- o Minimal rocks and other obstacles
- o Relatively shallow and easy water crossings

Suitable for any rider/horse

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**Moderate  
(Intermediate Riders)**

Any combination of the following:

- o Some relatively short or steep elevation changes; easy switchbacks (if any)
- o Some relatively short narrow trail sections; brief patches of loose footing
- o Some relatively short rocky or muddy areas; some obstacles
- o Some relatively shallow water crossings

Suitable for rider/ horse with some trail experience and conditioning

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**Challenging  
(Proficient Riders)**

Any combination of the following:

- o Relatively prolonged or extreme elevation changes; moderate switchbacks
- o Multiple narrow or loose footing trail sections; relatively wide ledges (if any)
- o Frequent rocky or muddy terrain; more frequent or larger obstacles
- o Frequent and deeper, faster or rockier water crossings

Suitable for rider/horse with considerable trail experience and conditioning

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**Rigorous  
(Advanced Riders)**

Any combination of the following:

- o Frequent prolonged or extreme elevation changes; sharp, difficult switchbacks
- o Frequent narrow trail sections or loose footing; narrow ledges (with drop offs)
- o Very rocky or muddy terrain; significant obstacles and vegetation overgrowth
- o Relatively deeper, fast current or heavily rock-filled water crossings

Suitable for rider/horse with extensive trail experience and conditioning

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