



## **SADDLE UP to discover Lancashire's Countryside by Horse**

There's no finer way to discover Lancashire's many rural treasures than from the saddle of a horse. The county is the ideal destination for horse lovers – with 240 fantastic miles of bridleways to enjoy and explore at your leisure. There are also many trekking centres nearby through which you can hire a horse for the day.

Close to both the Yorkshire Dales and Lake District National Parks, **The Forest of Bowland** is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) which covers 312sq miles of rural North Yorkshire and Lancashire and includes the famous landmark Pendle Hill. Nearby, The Mary Towneley Loop is a 47 mile circular bridleway through the **Southern Pennines of East Lancashire and West Yorkshire**. Both offer great opportunities for those wishing to explore rugged, beautiful and remote landscapes running through hill farms and wooded valleys, along historic trails and across wild open scenery. For something a little more bracing, you could book yourself on an escorted hour-long ride along the expansive beaches of Lytham St Annes (available during the summer months), or for younger and more inexperienced riders, why not book a one-hour lesson with a local riding school? There really is something for everyone!

**Clough Bottom** is an ideal base from which to start your journey of discovery! After a restful night's sleep, choose a route that suits your ability while enjoying our 'Rise & Shine' Breakfast Hamper (organic muesli, homemade organic bread, croissants, Clough Bottom Jam, organic/free range eggs, washed down with organic apple juice), then take the reins and discover Lancashire's scenic landscape of majestic moorland, hidden reservoirs and sweeping valleys. Why not combine a short break with a day's trekking on one of the bridleways near us? More details on the routes that follow can be found in reception.

### **Lots House Circular Bridleway**

Within the Forest of Bowland, Lots House Farm is an upland farm in the lower Lune Valley rising 340 m above sea level at the top of the moor. The bridleway passes through a mixture of pastureland and woodland. On the eastern edge of the farm is sited an eight turbine wind farm. The route starts and finishes at the disused Sanstone Claughton Quarries near Caton-with-Littledale and is 6.5 miles.

### **North Lancashire Bridleway**

Offering a 47km journey that cuts through the heart of the spectacular Forest of Bowland, this route begins east of the city of Lancaster. Horse and rider wind their way up the beautiful Roeburndale Valley, visiting

picturesque and ancient Slaidburn before setting off through the striking Hodder Valley. The villages of Dunsop Bridge and Whitewell each have their own charm and the journey ends in the delightful village of Chipping. It is a mixture of surface tracks, fields and quiet lanes and is clearly way marked.

### **The Mary Towneley Loop**

The Mary Towneley Loop is a 47 mile circular route which forms part of the Pennine Bridleway National Trail. Taking you on a journey through the South Pennines on the Lancashire and Yorkshire borders, it is situated 12 miles north of Manchester, and passes over open moorland close to Watergrove Reservoir and the town of Rochdale. The Trail follows an old packhorse route from Bottomley to Erringdon with views across the Calder Valley and descends towards the historic town of Hebden Bridge. Between Widdop and Hurstwood Reservoirs, the ancient Gorple Road crosses open countryside providing splendid views towards Burnley. The Trail follows the Rossendale Valley to the small town of Waterfoot, climbing again to meet another historic route, Rooley Moor Road near Rochdale built with stone sets to provide work during the cotton famine in the 1860's. The best time to complete the trail is April to October when the weather is more favourable. The Trail follows a mix of old railways, packhorse routes and newly created tracks, and is signposted (follow the National Train Acorn) with easy to use gates and special road crossing points. Peers Clough Packhorses in Rossendale offers rides and ponies that will give you a taste of the Mary Towneley Loop.

### **Fellside Trail Beacon Fell Country Park**

Situated 12 miles north of Preston - the Fellside Trail is a circular route provided for horse riders to enjoy the fell, with views across Bleasdale, taking in riverside routes and local bridleways. The route takes approximately one hour to complete following the blue waymarker posts.

### **Billington Wood**

Billington Wood near Whalley is a circular horse trail of approximately 1km through the woods, with scenic views and the chance of see plenty of wildlife. There are steep narrow roads leading to the site, which can be difficult to navigate in winter, snow and ice etc. Please note that this site has limited parking facilities.

### **Wycoller Bridleway Circuit**

Wycoller Country Park – one of the prettiest parks in Lancashire and associated with the Bronte sisters. There is a short bridleway circuit in the country park, and the traffic free Dene Road links with a good section of bridleway along the base of Boulsworth Hill. This will be part of the Pennine Bridleway as it develops.

### **Quiet Lanes**

Within the Forest of Bowland you'll also find a network of Quiet Lanes. These are a network of minor rural roads that are appropriate for shared use by walkers, cyclists, horse riders and motorised users as they already have low levels of traffic travelling at low speeds. The pilot network has been established on the lanes around the picture-postcard villages of Chipping and Slaidburn, along with one from Downham to Worston. For more information, head to [www.lancashire.gov.uk](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk)

### **Don't forget to pack...**

- ✓ Warm and waterproof clothing and always allow for the worst weather
- ✓ A helmet and reflective clothing
- ✓ Map, food and water
- ✓ A collapsible bucket is useful to draw water for horses
- ✓ A protective *Equiboot* is recommended (just in case you can't obtain a farrier at short notice)
- ✓ Some form of identification in case of emergencies

### **And always ensure you...**

- ✓ Tell someone your plans and the route you will be taking

- ✓ Choose a route that is within your ability
- ✓ Pass other users and livestock with care
- ✓ Fasten any gates that you open
- ✓ Stay on the route, don't contaminate water and take your litter home
- ✓ Ride at a safe and controlled pace especially where your view is restricted
- ✓ Know where your nearest public phone box is as mobile phone network coverage can be poor in areas
- ✓ Take care when riding near sensitive wildlife areas or in wet conditions
- ✓ Avoid riding near nesting sites and disturbing birds during their breeding season
- ✓ **Ride carefully and come back soon!**

### Nearest horse riding centres, riding schools and pony trekking centres:

- **Longsight Stables and Riding Centre** Longsight Road, Langho, Blackburn BB6 8AD Tel: 01254 240443  
www.longsighttackshop.co.uk
- **Braeden Pony Trekking Centre & Stud at Beacon Fell** Bleasdale Lane, Claughton-on-Brock, Lancashire PR3 1UR Tel: 07944 244368 www.braedens.co.uk
- **Ribble Valley Riding Club** Tower Road Entrance, Witton Country Park, Blackburn, Lancashire  
www.ribblevalleyridingclub.co.uk
- **Greenhall Riding Centre** Greenhall, Tatham, Lancaster LA2 8RB Tel: 01524 261594  
www.greenhallridingcentre.co.uk
- **Earnsdale Farm Riding School** off Dudden Avenue, Darwen, Lancashire BB3 0LB  
www.earnsdalefarm.co.uk 01254 702647
- **Ribby Hall Equestrian Centre** Ribby Hall Village, Wrea Green, PR4 2PA
- **Peers Clough Packhorses** Peers Clough Farm, Peers Clough Road, Rossendale, BB4 9NG  
www.peerscloughpackhorses.co.uk

### Beach Rides

- **Elswick Equestrian Centre** Tel: 01995670925 www.elswickec.com

### Travel Information

Nearest bus stop is a 10 minute walk from Clough Bottom, located by the village hall in Bashall Eaves. Bashall Eaves is served by the Bowland Transit Service B10 (Clitheroe – Slaidburn Circular), the B11 (Clitheroe – Slaidburn Circular) and the B12 (Clitheroe – Chipping – Garstang route – operational Summer Thursdays only from last Thursday in May to last Thursday in October).

#### Bowland Transit B10

Bashall Eaves School    0936    1136    1336    1616    1836

#### Bowland Transit B11

Bashall Eaves School    0805    1120    1320    1520    1815

#### Bowland Transit B12 To Garstang

Bashall Eaves School    0941

#### Bowland Transit B12 To Clitheroe

Bashall Eaves School    1420

A timetable can be found in your cottage/in Reception. Please check for weekend and bank holiday variations.

## Timetable Planner and Journey Finder

Nearest train station is 5 miles in Clitheroe.

For timetables and journey finders visit [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk)

## Opening Hours, Nearest Shops and Late-opening Eating Establishments

Clough Bottom Reception is open Monday-Friday 8.30am-5.00pm. **Food from the Farm** ready meals, Breakfast Hampers and freshly-laid free range eggs can be purchased prior to arrival (we'll leave in the fridge for you) or during office hours. We also have a complimentary organic fruit and veg patch for guests while staying with us.

The Red Pump is our nearest pub and restaurant. Located a 10-15 minute walk away and on the B6243, its dining opening hours are Tuesday to Friday 12-2pm and 6-9pm, Saturdays 12-2.30pm and 6-9pm and Sundays 12.00pm (lunch), 7pm (dinner). The Red Pump is closed on Mondays. Opening hours may change, so call beforehand – 01254 826227.

Situated 2 miles away is Bashall Barn Food Visitor Centre - an excellent farm shop and café. Open daily from 9.00am to 4.30pm.

A post office and village store can be found in the nearby village of Waddington. For late-opening eating establishments and a wider choice of shops, Clitheroe can be found 5 miles away on the B6243.

## Other Facilities

We have a laundry (open 24 hours a day) with washing machine and tumble dryer. A clothes drier can be found in the Recycling Barn.

## Weather & Climate Information

North West England Weather Supplied by the Met Office

[http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/uk/nw/nw\\_latest\\_weather.html](http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/uk/nw/nw_latest_weather.html)

## Emergency!

Nearest public telephone box is a 10 minute walk, located in the village of Bashall Eaves.

Nearest A&E Hospital: Royal Blackburn Hospital – 01254 263555

## Other useful Info...

- **The British Horse Society** [www.bhsnorthwest.org.uk](http://www.bhsnorthwest.org.uk) (The British Horse Society Regional Bridleway Officer for the North West is Chris Peat - [mail@chrispeat.co.uk](mailto:mail@chrispeat.co.uk) or call 01254 386459.
- **North Lancashire Bridleways Society** [www.nlbs.org.uk](http://www.nlbs.org.uk) (download more riding routes)
- **BBC Radio Lancashire.** 103.9FM, 95.5FM, 104.5FM & DAB
- **Grid Reference: SD703465 Lat: 53:54:53N (53.9003) Lon: 2:27:13W (-2.45805)**