

What to Wear & What to bring

Attire

We require all of our guests to dress traditional Western. You will be required to wear a cowboy hat, a **long-sleeve shirt**, denim jeans and cowboy boots. Every aspect of a cowboy's attire has a purpose. Besides the goal of offering a spectacular Western experience and sharing this wonderful West of ours with you, the Cattle Drive serves as a publicity arm of the Reno Rodeo. Members of the media may join you on the trail and we want there to be as authentic an appearance as possible. We encourage "period dress" or "vintage clothing," but contemporary cowboy outfits are fine as long as they conform to the "cowboy dress code." **So, there is no confusion, you may NOT wear baseball caps, English riding attire, shorts, kilts, midriff shirts, tank tops or other contemporary clothing AT ANY TIME DURING THE DRIVE, that includes while you are in camp.**

Attitude

We'll teach you a bit about *Cowboy Attitude*. But we need you to bring a positive attitude, a willingness to learn new and exciting things, and the desire to learn more about a disappearing lifestyle that we all dearly love. This is a REAL cattle drive. Bring patience and resilience. There may be significant hardships involved. It may rain, snow (it is very possible in Nevada at any time), or blow so hard we'll be eating dust the entire 65 miles. We camp at places where there are corrals available for the cattle at night. This will cause us to ride about 12 miles a day, with a 17 miler in there as well. These are not "prepared" campsites. We'll be simply camped on the range at locations where we can care for the livestock. Our first priority is always the cattle and horses, so you may need to clear the area of brush, sticks, and insects. As with Cattle Drives of the 1800's, the Trail Boss is the Law of the Land. As such, he reserves the right and has the duty to remove from the Drive, immediately, any crew member or guest who demonstrates behavior that is unsafe or impairs the quality of the Drive for everyone else. **Your Reno Rodeo crew is 100% volunteer.** We all take a vacation from our lives to give you this amazing experience. Please keep that in mind if you need to chew on someone because there are rocks under your bedroll! To us a Cowboy Attitude means pitching in when needed, heeding advice or warning from those that know, making the best of any situation and by gosh having a grin on your face at every moment!

Conditioning & Medical Conditions

Two things will be a bit new for most of you. First, the altitude will be between 5,000 – 7,000 feet for most of the Drive. You need to drink lots of water, especially if you are prone to dehydration or come from sea level. Second, get out and walk every day for twenty minutes, or hit the stair climber or do some kind of cardio/leg exercises. As we stated earlier, this is a REAL cattle drive, and you will be on horseback for 5-6 hours a day. Therefore, **you should spend at least 20 hours of preparation in the saddle, taking lessons, riding off trail, and becoming familiar with being horseback for multiple hours and days in a row.** While we strive to have dependable horses, horses have their own minds, and can react differently to the conditions, riders and the cattle. While we try to encourage novices, this is not an event for someone who has not spent time on a horse. You will not need to tack up, or untack your horses. That is done for you.

You must notify us of any medical conditions that might affect you on the Cattle Drive. We have medical personnel riding with us and in camp at all times for your assistance.

You will be limited to 40 pounds total of gear including bedroll and/or tent. This would include your duffel bag plus your tent and/or bedroll.

What to Bring

Your clothes and personal items must be in a soft sided duffel bag. No wheeled or hard sided suitcases. Our gear will be carried in authentic 1800's wagons, so pack light! You MUST be able to carry your bag! If you have never been camping and aren't sure what to do, e-mail us and we'll offer some suggestions! Definition: A cowboy's OUTFIT refers to all his/her stuff, not just the clothing they are wearing that day. An outfit will refer to bedroll, bag, everything.

Cowboy Bedroll or Tent

A cowboy bedroll is simply a very large piece of waterproof canvas, with a foam pad and blankets inside. Buckaroos keep their gear in this as well, and it can be rolled up and secured with leather straps for ease in transporting in the wagons. A tarp, foam pad, sleeping bag and some straps will take good care of you. Make sure your sleeping bag is rated to at least ten degrees, it can get cold at night. Here's a Martha Stewart hint...Put a top sheet in your sleeping bag for added comfort!

Tent: Small tents are also encouraged for additional protection. Please make sure you are able to assemble it yourself, as though our crew will be on hand to help, you are required to set up and take down your tent. A small, light, backpacker-type tent **with rain fly** that is easy and fast to put up. It should be waterproof. Or just sleep under the stars! After riding all day, the last thing you want is to spend hours working on your tent. Consider bringing a small tarp that will fit under your tent, in case it rains.

Cowboy boots

Don't bring your two-steppin' or brand-new boots. You need to bring a pair of riding boots that are broken in, comfortable, and have a substantial heel. This keeps your feet from passing through the stirrup in a wreck. No participant is allowed to wear spurs on the vendor horses. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Denim Jeans (2 or 3 pairs)

Denim jeans have long been the choice of cowboys, due to their comfort and durability. And did you know that a man named Levi Strauss invented the denim pant right here in Reno when it was still called Lake's Crossing! However, we like Wranglers, as they are one of our national Sponsors, and you want to get them a little long so they will hang down over your boots when in the saddle (it's called "stacking").

Long-sleeved shirts (4-5)

Long-sleeved western style button up shirts are **mandatory for the entire drive, both on the horses and in camp**. Stay away from polyester or other odd fabrics as they don't breathe. Long sleeves will keep the bugs and trees and other various inhabitants of the desert from nagging at you and protect you from the sun.

Cowboy hat

This is a mandatory part of the gear. Cowboy hats are a practical piece of gear as well as conforming to our dress code, it will protect you from sun and rain. Please make sure it fits well enough not to blow off in wind. We strongly recommend you buy a **stampede string**, which will keep your hat on your head. Felt hats are best. Straws are okay, but be aware that many outfits won't hire a guy with a straw hat, because

he'll spend so much time chasing it, he can't get much work done. You may also want to invest in a hat cover in case of rain.

Jackets

This really depends on your own comfort zones, but we are in the high desert, so it is cool in the mornings, hot in the afternoons, and back to cool or cold in the evenings. Layers are the key! A light weight jacket that can be taken off and tied to your saddle if needed, and a heavier coat for mornings and nights is good.

Saddle slicker or rain gear

A yellow saddle slicker that will cover you while in the saddle is what you want. Try and stay away from the heavy vinyl rain jackets. You'll have a pool of water in your saddle!

Personal gear bag

Pick up a zippered bag (for man or woman), and use ziplock bags inside it. Bring a small metal mirror (available at sporting goods stores), sunscreen, lip balm, moleskin (to cover chafed hide), Band-Aids, aspirin, hand lotion, soap, medications etc. It is a good idea to bring a few plastic garbage bags to store your bag and clothes in case of wet weather and to carry dirty clothing.

Underclothing, socks, etc.

You know what you need to pack. A couple tips. Always carry an extra pair of socks and underwear in a zip closing plastic bag...just in case. Here's another tip from the Martha Stewart Cowboy Manual-Try wearing a pair of bike shorts, or tights/pantyhose under your jeans while riding. It will keep the rubbing and chafing down.

Showers

Hot portable showers will be provided. Shower shoes will be permitted only at the shower trailer. Bringing a towel, washcloth or baby wipes are handy as well. No one will be permitted to bathe in the cattle or horse troughs, as soap would be harmful to our animals.

Flashlight

After the nightly entertainment, or an evening stroll to the outhouses, this is handy to have to find your way to and from your tent. Remember, we will be 50 + miles from any kind of streetlight. The plus side to this is the night sky and stars are so much more beautiful that way.

Here Are Some *optional* gear choices to bring:

Pocket knife

Lock-back type only please.

Chaps or Chinks

In this country, we mostly wear the "chink" type, which will shed rain, but allows for warm weather and leg motion. Light batwing or shotgun styles are okay, No nylon, competition or motorcycle chaps please!

Pommel Bags

You are provided a pommel bag and a water bottle, but you can bring your own if you wish. A pommel bag will fit over the horn of the saddle. Saddle bags are not allowed on the vendor horses.

Sunglasses

The Nevada sun can be extremely bright when riding all day and sun glasses can offer some protection from blowing sand and trail dust. Wrap around types are the best protection. Bring an extra pair in case of loss.

Photos

We know that you want to record those special moments with a camera or your phone, but please remember that your safety is our first priority. If it is not a safe time to take a picture, please keep your phone away. We have a photographer that rides with us and is in camp all week and she will post images on a special website for you to purchase after the drive. She also puts a book together for the guests after the drive.

Moccasins / Camp Shoes

These come in handy if one needs to get up in the middle of the night or if you need a break in camp from your boots. Remember, **NO** sports shoes, sandals or other funky footwear. It's gotta be western. Uggs are ok as well. Something waterproof is always helpful in wet weather.

Cash

Some of the entertainers bring CD's and tapes to sell. Also, it is customary to tip the horse wranglers from our vendor. This crew works hard and keeps your horse fed, watered and saddled all week. The amount is up to you and the level of personal service you received; however, we recommend \$20 per day. Your Wrangler can assist you more once we get going. Additionally, if you forget something, we do have runners that go to town every day and can purchase what you need, so you will need to have cash for that.

Food and Beverages

Breakfast, lunch and dinner are provided, as well as water, Gatorade, soda and usually lemonade and iced tea. You are welcome to bring your own snacks for the trail. We have an open bar once you are off your horses for the day. The horse vendor does not allow consuming alcohol while horseback. We want you to have a great vacation, but riding for 6 hours in the sun or bad weather is not as much fun if you are not feeling well.