



## **Award-Winning** 2016 Classic Ride Itinerary

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### **NOTES: Please read carefully.**

*Your order for a packed lunch will be taken at dinner each evening. Remember to order then collect this each day after breakfast. A drink should be included. If it is not, please ask for one.*

*We cater for vegetarians and other special dietary requirements.*

*All bags to be labelled throughout the ride. Maximum weight 25-28 Kilos for safe handling by our staff. Maximum 2 bags per person.*

*Overseas visitors\* are not required to bring sleeping bags - bedding will be supplied for the overnight stop at High Wallabarrow.*

*Given our remote location we select the best hotels available on our route but we cannot always guarantee en-suite facilities. Where there is no en-suite, a bathroom is close by.*

*Route/Accommodation subject to change.*

**DIRECTIONS:** Set satnav for CA18 1RD - Muncaster Country Guest House [www.muncastercountryguesthouse.com](http://www.muncastercountryguesthouse.com). Junction 36/M6 A590 A5092 A595. For specific directions and a helpful map, check out their website. If arriving by Train the nearest station is Ravenglass - 1 mile away. Arrangements will be made for a Taxi to collect you. **(This is an extra and costs £5.00)** Please contact Carol Filby if you require assistance with your route. ([carol.ibb@btinternet.com](mailto:carol.ibb@btinternet.com)).

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### **DAY 1: FRIDAY**

MUNCASTER COUNTRY GUEST HOUSE/Sue & Vin Weston (Props). Arrival after 2.00pm in good time to unpack, settle into your accommodation get your bearings, maybe stroll around Muncaster Castle opposite, before being joined for dinner (7.30 for 8.00) hosted by Annie and Peter, and possibly other of your ride leaders for the week, introduction to your group, with much chat re horses, routes, safe practice, prior experiences and hopefully some hilarity!



## **DAY 2: SATURDAY**

08.00 Breakfast. 09.30 Arrive at Baystone Bank Farm - approx 15 miles - for the first day's ride where cars can be safely left at owner's risk for the duration of the ride. (Transport is available for those without a car). After an introduction to the site and a brief safety talk we introduce you to your beautiful and rather large horses! We will work through general horse care, grooming, saddles, bridles, as appropriate for the ride. After a snack/drink we travel to the beach where the riding starts!! This West Coast beach stretches for miles, and Annie will guide you on her favourite ride ensuring you relax with your horse, and feel confident to ride at all paces today. Sand, sea, paddling, photos ...! We will eventually arrive at Gutterby Farm where the horses remain for the night. After feeding and checking the horses, plus the joys of cleaning the tack, we pop them in to the field for the night before heading back to Muncaster for a well-earned meal! You will be joined tonight by Annie and possibly other team members.

## **DAY 3: SUNDAY**

07.30 Breakfast. 08.45 Transport with staff to Gutterby Farm where your steeds will be awaiting you. Once everyone is ready we head inland along tracks, crossing the A595 to venture out onto the foothills of Black Combe, the highest Hill in England! The views along here, and as you head across the fells, are stunning. Dropping down towards Bootle through fields and on rough tracks you will end up down by Bootle Station, for lunch, before heading for Eskmeals and an afternoon's riding on the beach. You can see Ravenglass as you head North with beautiful sandy dunes on your right, which you will meander through before emerging to cross the estuary. From there it is a pretty ride through the village or past the Roman Baths, skirting Muncaster Castle Gardens before arriving at Muncaster Country Guest House! Yes, the horses are in the fields behind you tonight - they are on-site! After the usual evening routine, relax with a fine meal and we will see you tomorrow.

## **DAY 4: MONDAY**

07.30 Breakfast plus pack and **label** your bags. 08.30 Prepare horses for the day's ride. By now you will be getting used to your horses and should be feeling very comfortable with them both on the ground and



under saddle! A bond does develop as the week goes on! This morning you will bring them in for their morning feed before getting ready to head inland into the heart of the Western Lake District. Riding over Muncaster Fell is very pretty with the biggest mountains of Scafell, Green Gable and Great Gable coming into view. Dropping down into Eskdale you will then ride up into Miterdale Forestry, a good lunch stop, then some lovely riding, stunning views, as you head into Nether Wasdale, through woodlands and open fields, with the horses staying at Church Stile Farm and our guests at the Strands Inn. [www.thestrandsinn.com](http://www.thestrandsinn.com). Prop: Lesley Corr. Your Ride Leader will join you for dinner, after the usual 'tucking the horses up' routine.

### **DAY 5: TUESDAY**

07.00 Breakfast. Horses are close by. After breakfast for horse and rider you will head off into Wasdale, traversing fells and the small single track road, this day has the stunning backdrop of Wasdale Screes, with opportunity to paddle in Wastwater itself, and some fabulous photo opportunities! Lunch is at the Wasdale Head Inn (the Real Ale is rather good by the way!) before heading out of Wasdale on a steady uphill climb crossing the fell beside Burnmore Tarn, amazing views, following bridleways before dropping into Boot. On a hot day this is a 'must do' Ice Cream Shop stop! A trot along the road takes us back onto bridleways alongside the river through trees, a really pretty part of the day, before arrival at the horses' destination. Accommodation tonight is split out of necessity, at Wha House Farm ([www.whahousefarm.co.uk](http://www.whahousefarm.co.uk)) Prop: Marie Crowe) and The Woolpack Inn. Dinner will be at The Woolpack - walking distance from Wha House - where your Ride Leader will join you. Sensible footwear and a torch!

### **DAY 6: WEDNESDAY**

08.00 Breakfast plus pack bags, etc. Horses are on-site to prepare. This morning is a big pull for the horses. Once everyone is ready to go we head further inland through Eskdale and up, up, up on the Hardknott Pass. This is a steep pull so make sure you get up out of the saddle to help the horses! The views as you climb are fabulous, with the whole of Eskdale spread out before you. We stop at the Roman Fort which is magical - imagine what those poor Soldiers thought, living their lives here. Situated at the junction of three valleys it has stunning views. After this it is onwards and upwards until you hit the summit, with the whole of the



Lake District National Park appearing as you climb, then a drop down into the forestry for lunch. What goes up must come down, so after a lovely meander through the forestry, be ready for the steep drop into High Wallabarrow Farm, a lovely National Trust farm (Prop: Chris Chinn), the horses overnight home. You might well be amazed at what these beautiful big horses can do! Overnight you will be either in the camping barn (\* sleeping bags will be useful here) or at Seathwaite Lodge. Dinner will be at 8.00pm at The Newfield Inn - walking distance. Sensible footwear and a torch again essential.

### **DAY 7: THURSDAY**

08.00 Breakfast. Back to the horses. The last day on the trail ..... After breakfast it's off again. A wonderful day's riding as we pass Seathwaite Lodge heading on bridleways and tracks through Dunnerdale, across the tops of these lower fells - do look out for the local Herdwick Sheep - before heading down to cross the river towards Ulpha and home. Some roadwork is required on the last stretch as we cross the river Duddon again, with pretty villages and lovely views towards Kirkby and Askham it's a relaxing ride towards the ride's finish. As you arrive at Baystone Bank Farm we will all come out to meet you and welcome you back!

There are opportunities for final photos and tea and coffee, a browse in the shop, and generally relaxing before heading back to Muncaster tonight for the last meal. You will be joined tonight by Annie, Peter and other of your ride leaders for much hilarity (no sadness allowed!) as firm and enduring friendships are often made on this ride.

### **FRIDAY DEPARTURE - after breakfast.**

It's a quiet goodbye to the Lake District as you return home.

Do call in and see us, you are welcome to book an additional ride today, dependant upon your plans, your behinds (!! ) and travel arrangements! There are opportunities to extend your vacation in the area, it is a very lovely part of the UK, so let us know if this is the case, and we will try to facilitate additional nights and any extra riding anyone might wish to do.

We can also assist with arranging transport to and from the Lakes when possible.



### **ARRIVING FROM OVERSEAS \***

Fly to Manchester International Airport where there is a rail link conveniently in the Airport. The easiest route is a train to Ravenglass with one change at Lancaster. This takes approximately 3 ½ hours and you can check out the rail times at [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk) Please contact Carol Filby for further details.

### **AND FINALLY ...**

For any further information on the horses or your riding ability/fitness level please refer to the website and download our pdf *Cumbrian Classic Ride Information* or contact [annie@cumbrianheavyhorses.com](mailto:annie@cumbrianheavyhorses.com).

For our Short Breaks, which are based at Baystone Bank Farm, please call Annie to make arrangements on 07769 588565.

For booking forms, payments and travel arrangements, contact Carol Filby, Holiday Rides Logistics Manager at [carol.ibb@btinternet.com](mailto:carol.ibb@btinternet.com)

**Many thanks for your interest in joining us!**

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