



At Bogong Horseback Adventures we have a wonderful team of mountain bred and trained horses, mounts to suit all riders. For some, the option of riding your own horse on a tour with Bogong Horseback Adventures is something some riders are keen to do. If you are considering this option there are a number of things to consider.

It is important to us that we operate our tours in a safe and enjoyable way for all our guests. Our tours are a group expedition and staff and guests travel as a team, your horse will be part of that team. We have 20 years experience of operating in the Victorian High Country and our methods have been learnt in a working environment, you will have to trust our judgement which considers the human needs just ahead of that of the horses.

Cost

The tour cost is the same whether you ride your horse or ours.

The riding environment

Our tours are over multiple days into remote mountain terrain and wilderness. The ground varies from maintained fire tracks to narrow rocky tracks, steep scrambles up slopes, open grassy high plains, rocky river crossings, fallen timber, in weather that can vary from hot to snowstorms (we do not carry horse rugs)

Fitness

Your horse needs to have a reasonable level of fitness, although the walk up the mountain soon hardens them up. Our packhorses take on the first trip of each season straight out of 6 months rest and are fit by day 5.

Soundness

Pre existing soreness and lameness needs to be carefully considered. Options for evacuating a lame horse are very limited and most would be expected to walk out, treated with "butes". Options for providing an alternative mount once we are away are also very limited.

Behaviour

Introducing your horse into our mob can create tensions. It is best if you can arrange to turn your horse out into the paddock with our mob 1 day prior to tour, to allow socializing to take place without risking other riders. During the ride we maintain a fast walking pace for most of the ride. We have a lead horse to maintain the pace to try to avoid trotting and jiggling with the whole mob. This protects the backs of our horses, packhorses and riders backsides. When faster riding is arranged the riders move away from the main mob before lifting the pace. Will your horse settle into a relaxed extended walk?

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Horse camp

When we are away in the bush most camps do not have secure yards or paddocks. The horses are generally hobbled out until dark to get a good pick, then called into the electric tape yard for a nosebag. National Parks will not permit horses being tethered overnight, to protect the trees and avoid pawing the ground. Your horse will learn to be hobbled first night if they have not worn them before.

Brumbies

Some camps are in brumby country and we cannot guarantee the security of mares, in season, in that environment.

Feeding

Enough horse feed is carried in the packhorses to provide a nosebag twice a day. We use Mitavite Economix because it is lightweight for the amount of energy it provides and meets National Parks requirement of being processed to remove any viable seed. Our nosebags are made from shadecloth so horses can breathe through them and they are not affected by water. Your horse will learn to use a nosebag first night if they have not used one before.

Shoeing

The nature of the terrain is such that well fitted shoes are essential. Please ensure that your horse has been recently shod. We would prefer to not take horses that are difficult to shoe so as to avoid risk of injury to staff in a remote environment. If your horse needs work on shoeing behaviour, give us a call in advance and we may be able to arrange a problem solving session.

Drenching and Health

Our horse stock enjoys a relatively isolated environment and they are seldom exposed to other horses. We maintain a drenching program and appreciate if visiting horses have been recently drenched. The possibility of accident and injury to a horse whilst away in the mountains is real. We carry extensive horse first-aid and can communicate with our vets if necessary. In the rare event of a serious injury a horse may need to be destroyed on site.

Your saddle

Most people who bring their own horse will also choose to bring their own saddle. Please bear in mind that cruppers and breast plates are essential in the steeper country. Your saddle must also have sufficient "D's" to fix our saddlebags for your clothes and attach an oilskin coat across the withers and a bedroll over the loins.

Risk management and liability

Bogong Horseback Adventures and staff reserve the right to make directives where considered necessary for the well-being and safety of other tour participants. You will also be required to sign an agreement to these terms before riding with your own horse on our tour.

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