

Gene Kilgore, 'The Ranch Guy' Reveals 10 Off-Radar Guest Ranches Offering Exemplary Experiences

The Ranch Guy shares 10 off-the-radar dude ranches that he thinks deserve their day in the sun

NAPA, CA, UNITED STATES, July 29, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- That tireless champion of dude ranch vacations, Gene Kilgore, aka [The Ranch Guy](#), shares 10 off-the-radar dude ranches that he thinks deserve their day in the sun.



Letting the horses out at sunset

"These 10 retain an Old West charm and authenticity," he said. Kilgore's name, aka The Ranch Guy, is synonymous with dude ranching, America's original nature-based outdoor vacation. For over 45 years he has traveled the United States, Canada and South America reviewing hundreds of guest ranches.

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These 10 unique and unparalleled off-the-radar dude ranches deserve their day in the sun. Each retain Old West charm and authenticity as America's original nature-based outdoor vacation.”

Gene Kilgore

Like in years gone by, he notes that today's ranch guests yearn for the outdoors for nature-based, laid-back experiences driven by the romance of the West. They seek ranches that are authentic in a breathtaking backdrop and paired with fine cuisine, cozy accommodations and a caring, professional staff. These under-the-radar ranches share a lifelong love of horses, an appreciation and stewardship of the land, from-the-heart hospitality plus the feeling that you are family. The ranches are featured in Kilgore's leading online guide [RanchWeb](#).

IDAHO

Diamond D Ranch is tucked within the Salmon River Mountains in the nearly 2.4 million-acre Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. A switchback road leads to this off-the-grid, 100 percent self-sustainable, hydro-powered green operation. Whether horseback riding, gold

panning or fly fishing, the magnitude of this wilderness permeates every waking moment. Sisters Kara Williams and Dana Demorest carry on hospitality traditions of the Demorest family, synonymous with the ranch since 1952. Accommodating up to 30 guests (families and kids welcome), a 7-night stay is from \$2350 per person. This truly is a diamond in the rough.
www.Diamonddranch-idaho.com

NEBRASKA

Rowse's 1 + 1 Ranch is a 10-guest (adult-only) working cattle ranch in the Sand Hills of Nebraska where cattle roping and branding may be part of the daily chores on trained quarter horses. Immersion in the daily rhythms of tending 800 pair (mother and calf) of cattle leads quickly to a true appreciation of what it takes to put steak on a plate. A day's task-oriented focus helps everyone feel they have roles to play. Hosts are Tammy and Jerry Rowse. A 6-night stay, single or double occupancy, is from \$2,000 from mid May to mid October (except July).
www.1plus1ranch.com



Real life working ranch experiences in Argentina



Kids and horses - a natural pairing

MONTANA

Deep Canyon Guest Ranch shares over one million wilderness acres south of Glacier National Park and its history with 10 guests (children welcome). Activities include unlimited horseback riding and hiking to canyons, coulees and mountains. The Teton River offers fly fishing. True ambassadors of western hospitality, Chuck and Sharon Blixrud have shared their way of life here for 66 years, engaging people in good conversation at family-style dinners. A 6-night stay is from \$2,845 double occupancy from mid-June through mid-September.
www.Deepcanyonguest ranch.com

Rocking Z Guest Ranch welcomes up to 18 equine enthusiasts weekly for a ranch experience that centers on horses, horsemanship and riding. Most novices will be successfully loping or cantering by week's end. As natural horsemanship is taught and practiced, guests gain insights into the care the ranch lavishes on their animals. Half days are often spent trail riding. Hosts

Patty and Zack Wirth offer ranch experiences from March into October. Six-night stays are from \$3,100 per person. www.Rockingz.com

WYOMING

Darwin Ranch offers up to 18 guests (children welcome) off-grid adventures in one of the most remote landscapes in the lower 48 with guided horseback rides, alpine hiking and fly fishing. From late June through late September guests discover the challenges of protecting an expansive ecosystem as they reflect on the privileges, responsibilities and complexities of recreating in a wilderness area. Owner hosts are Kathy Bole and her son Oliver Klingenstein. Rates for a 6-night stay start at \$6,700 double occupancy. www.Darwinranch.com

Lazy L&B Ranch, over-the-mountain from Jackson Hole and Yellowstone National Park, accommodates 35 guests (children welcome) in a forested river valley that's prime for exploring on horseback, hiking, fishing or swimming. Hosts Deb and Jason Halmay are known as the "big hearted couple" who embrace guests like extended family into the lifestyle of the Old West. From June to mid-September rates for a 6-night stay are from \$3,198/person double occupancy. www.Lazylb.com

Bitterroot Ranch, known as "the riders' ranch", accommodates 30 guests and 200 ranch-raised horses. The Bitterroot was established as a guest and working ranch in 1971 by the late Bayard Fox, his wife Mel and son and daughter-in-law, Richard and Hadley. They also run Equitours Worldwide Horseback Riding Vacations. The season runs from late May through late September. Rates for a 7-night stay are from \$2,800 double occupancy. www.Bitterrootranch.com

MEXICO

Rancho Las Cascadas immerses up to 24 guests in a hacienda embracing the healing power of horses. From the wilderness buildings rose from local materials and gardens grew from heritage seeds, local craftspeople poured their knowledge and heritage into every detail. Guests, part of the ongoing story, leave pieces of their hearts behind. Founder/owner/manager is Uschi Wiprachtiger Schreyer. Soulful escapes are available year-round. The nightly per person rate is \$493 USD. www.RancholasCascadas.com

ARGENTINA

Estancia Los Potreros accommodates up to 12 guests (including children 10 and up) who settle into the rhythms of this family-run estancia that embraces renewable energy, low impact farming and wine-paired farm-to-table cuisine. The Begg family, fourth-generation Anglo-Argentines, welcome guests to enjoy horseback riding, bird watching and hiking. The estancia is open during their summer months, September to May. Rates start at \$645 USD per person per night. www.Estancialospotreros.com

CANADA

Siwash Lake Wilderness Ranch shares 10,000 acres of rugged Cariboo rangeland with up to 16 guests (including children) along with its complex story of First Nation peoples, a Scottish settler,

prospecting for gold, and survival following a 2017 wildfire. A wildland ecology reveals itself while horseback riding or feasting on sustainably caught prawns from the coast and ethically harvested morel mushrooms. Owner Allyson Rogers shares adventures at this off-grid hidden treasure from May through September. The nightly per person rate is from \$975 USD.

www.Siwashlake.com

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