

SUMMER SEASON

UPPER CANYON OUTFITTERS

GUEST GUIDE



MONTANA SUMMER ADVENTURE

Upper Canyon Outfitters is a family-owned and operated ranch in Montana's wild and beautiful Ruby Valley along the banks of the Ruby River. Surrounded by the ranges of the Snowcrest, Greenhorn, and Gravelly Mountains, our family has been exploring these lands since our grandfather homesteaded here in 1910. Since 1981, we've been proud to welcome guests to our ranch and share the lands we call home. We hope you'll come and join us for some authentic western hospitality, unforgettable scenery, and comfortable accommodations when you're planning your fly fishing, hunting, riding or exploring Montana adventure. We look forward to seeing you soon.



ABOUT US

Upper Canyon Outfitters is located in southwest Montana in a valley near Yellowstone National Park where Native American tribes of Crow, Shoshone, Snake and Bannock once summered beneath the mountains and along the streams that provided all they needed to survive through the changing Montana seasons. Our grandparents, Peck and Mary Tate, homesteaded here in 1910 and began a working ranch that would pass through our family for generations. In 1981, their son Bill and his wife Bernice opened the doors to guests and made a place for all who came to our family table. Since then, through the support and efforts of family and friends, Upper Canyon Outfitters has grown to become one of the premier guest ranches in Montana. Today, four generations of our family live on the ranch and in July of 2020, we will celebrate 110 years of calling the lands of the Ruby Valley home. We've been fortunate to raise our family in a place surrounded by the mountains of the Greenhorn, Gravelly and Snowcrest ranges, the waters of the Ruby River, and the wooded valleys of the Beaverhead National Forest, and we hope that you'll become part of our family as well and come visit us time and time again.



GUIDED FISHING



The Ruby River is one of the best trout rivers in Montana and we provide our guests the exclusive opportunity to fish more than two miles of its trout filled waters. And with the Beaverhead National Forest just outside our backdoor, you can spend your days fishing the Ruby or exploring the many smaller streams that run through our mountains and valleys. You can also introduce family and friends to fishing and practice your casting on our private spring-fed pond. Our full-time fishing guides are available at the ranch for instruction, float trips, walk/wade trips, and adventures into our numerous mountain spring creeks. For those who prefer to go unguided, you'll find them happy to help with hatch information, directions, access points and stream reports to ensure you have a great day on the water.

FROM OUR RIVERS TO YOUR NET AND BACK

At Upper Canyon Outfitters, we understand the importance of protecting our natural resources and doing all we can to ensure they endure for generations to come. That's why our ranch and guides are proud to support and practice catch and release fishing – so that your great catch of today can become someone's catch of a lifetime tomorrow.



GUIDED HORSEBACK ADVENTURES

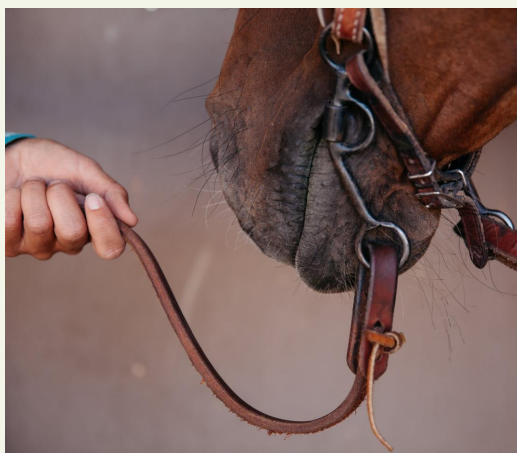
There's really nothing like seeing the lands of the old west the way they were first seen and explored – from horseback. At Upper Canyon Outfitters, we offer a full range of options for riders of all skill levels to saddle up and discover the rugged beauty of Montana's Big Sky Country. From two-hour rides to full-day excursions, you can explore the lands of the Ruby Valley at a pace that's comfortable and unforgettable.





EQUINE FACILITATED LEARNING

We offer Equine Facilitated Learning with our Equine Program Director, Cassie. Cassie has an undergrad in psychology and a Master's in Education with an emphasis in counseling. She uses her education of humans and her knowledge of horses to create a unique program for people to develop or refine a number of skills. She will create a program that is unique to your teams' needs and goals. Some skills that can be focused on include, but are not limited to, the following: leadership, teamwork, communication, and healthy boundaries. For more information about Equine Facilitated Learning [click here](#)



GUIDED HIKES

Whether you're an experienced hiker or just like gentle strolls through amazing landscapes, the Montana backcountry that surrounds Upper Canyon offers a variety of terrain just waiting to be explored by foot. Book a hike with one of our experienced staff to lead you through high mountain peaks and meadows where a diverse wildlife population and an array of colorful wildflowers native to southwest Montana thrive. We'll be glad to tailor a day out that's just right for you. Hikes range in distance from two to ten miles, and difficulty levels based on elevation gain and loss so you can choose a hike that fits your fitness and comfort level. Just bring your favorite boots, a lite daypack, binoculars and a camera and set out on trails right from the ranch. We also provide maps and information on area trails for those times you just want to head off on your own.



GUIDED HISTORY TOURS

Look around the lands of the Ruby Valley and you'll see evidence of ranches and homesteads dating back to times when the West was still wild and untamed territory. Some still stand today, while others have faded into the pages of the history of the valley through the years.

Talk with us about taking one of our informative and scenic tours and discover our rich and colorful past.



GUIDED 4X4 TOURS

See the beauty of the Montana backcountry from a different perspective by exploring its varied terrain from the passenger seat in one of our 4x4 Rangers.

These excursions are fully guided and are available in three different length options to fit your needs.

The Ruby Valley is home to a variety of wildlife, from elk and antelope, to mule deer, moose, eagles and osprey and these tours will give you a great opportunity to catch a glimpse of these critters.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Where are you located? is there a shuttle available? Do I need a car at the ranch?

We are located 23 miles from the nearest town of Alder, the last stop for gas or any essential items. The blacktop ends about 12 miles out of town and you will find yourself driving on a beautiful dirt road the remainder of the way to the Ranch.

We are 100 miles from Bozeman - that is where most guests choose to fly into when planning their vacation. Shuttle service is included in some packages otherwise the fee is \$250 and includes pick up and drop off.

A car is not needed to enjoy the ranch and what we offer but if you are interested in exploring the surrounding areas during your free time you will need a vehicle as there is not other mode of transportation.

What are your rooms like?

The main lodge has 6 private rooms with private or semi private bathrooms. The lodge also boasts a comfortable living room a great place to read a book or relax.

We also have 6 cabins on the property.

The cabins come equipped with a full kitchen so you have the option to cook your own meals if you choose to do so. The cabins are great for families and groups as they offer more space and privacy.

For more information and photos of our accommodations [click here](#)

Tell me about your food?

We like to start the day with a hearty breakfast- a good way to get ready for a full day of activities. Breakfasts range from eggs, bacon, and hash browns, to stuffed french toast, pancakes, and biscuits with sausage gravy. Every day is different. We always have a bowl of fresh fruit, cereals, and yoghurts. This year we will be adding a daily baked muffin to the breakfast menu.

Lunch options will vary depending on your day. If you will be away from the lodge at lunch one will be provided for you, usually a hearty sandwich, fresh fruit and lots of snacks. At the lodge you might find soup, salads, sandwiches, a taco bar, or whatever treat our kitchen staff decides to make that day.

Our dinners can be classified as "hearty western" meaning meat and potatoes, but we never forget to include delicious vegetables and salads to compliment the main dish. At dinner time you can enjoy fresh baked bread and rolls and a dessert made from scratch every day. Meals are served buffet style and the seating is family style, a great way to meet and interact with some of the other guests staying with us!

Being a small operation we offer a lot of flexibility. If you have special dietary needs or preferences let us know and we would be happy to accommodate.

How does tipping work?

We are often asked by guests about how gratuities should be handled. This can be an uncomfortable topic – this note is to help you be informed, but not feel pressured. If you feel you have received exceptional service, you may show your appreciation by leaving a tip for our staff. Unless you specify differently, tips are divided equally among the staff. As a guideline, many guests leave a fifteen or twenty percent tip; however gratuities are left entirely at your discretion.

Do I need to be experienced to participate in the activities?

Not at all! our experienced and knowledgeable staff are happy to accommodate all experience levels with any of our activities. For beginners we will include an introductory talk/demonstration and training time,

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What's the weather like? What should I pack?

This is an excellent question and perhaps the hardest to answer. Montana as a whole has unpredictable weather but UCO in particular, being situated at 6,000 ft elevation falls under a different category with the ever changing mountain weather. Generally early spring (June) can be fairly chilly, and also rainy.

As we progress into summer the weather stabilizes somewhat and our summer days are dry and warm, usually not exceeding 80 degrees. Afternoon thunder and rain storms are not uncommon and early mornings and evenings can get chilly. Fall arrives fast here in the mountains and days start cooling off around mid September (nights can already be around freezing) and the cooling trend continues from here on out. It is not uncommon for us to get our first snowfall around October.

With all that being said the best advice we can give you is to be prepared for any type of weather and the best way to do so is to bring clothes that you can layer.

You can always take off layers but you can't add any if you don't have them.

Rain gear is a must no matter the season and proper footwear is crucial as well, a good pair of waterproof boots or a sturdy hiking boot in addition to lighter footwear is a good idea in case things get wet. Other important items not to forget- a brimmed hat or cap, warm hat, gloves, sunscreen, chapstick, sunglasses, bug spray, camera

What is the surrounding area like?

Upper Canyon Outfitters is nestled in the foothills of three mountain ranges, the Gravelly, Bighorn, and Snowcrest. The Ruby River, a blue ribbon trout water meanders through the property. Along the road you will see several ranches some are working operations and some are family homes. There is almost no traffic on our main road. If you continue up the road you will find yourself surrounded by public land of the Beaverhead Deerlodge National Forest. You can explore this area to your heart's content via unpaved mountain roads and numerous hiking trails. As a whole we are surrounded by wilderness and the opportunities for outdoor experiences are endless.

If you desire some town life during your visit and would like to explore some of the local communities you can visit Ennis (1 hour away) on the banks of the famed Madison River, Ennis offers lots of shopping and dining options. Virginia City and Nevada City (40 minutes away) both are historic gold rush towns, several shops and restaurants, an ice cream and candy store. Sheridan (1 hour away) a quaint town and the center of our community. Dillon (1.5 hours away) a true western town, Dillon offers some unique shopping experiences and an exciting rodeo over Labor Day weekend.

What is NOT included in lodging rates/packages?

Any special licenses that you need to purchase such as a fishing license are not included but we are happy to help you obtain one upon your arrival to the ranch.

Alcohol and soda are not included in the rate EXCEPT for two daily complimentary drinks served during happy hour. You are responsible for providing any additional beverages for you and your party.

Gratuuity for staff is encouraged if you enjoyed your time but is not required nor included.

Is there phone service/internet available?

Cell Phone service is not available at the ranch, however a landline is available if you have an urgent call to make or are expecting a call.

Wifi is available in all buildings on the property.

PACKAGES

SEE WEBSITE FOR CURRENT PRICING

Montana Get Away Package

Your four-night minimum stay includes lodging, three meals per day and fishing access at the ranch on the Ruby River and our spring fed trout pond. Plus your choice of one of the following activities: a two-hour horseback ride, guided hike, history tour, 4x4 tour or a trip to the shooting range.

Big Sky Deluxe Unlimited Package

Your four-night minimum stay includes all lodging and meals, and unlimited ranch activities: guided fly fishing, rod fees, horseback riding, hiking tours, history tours, 4 x4 tours, firearms course and fishing access at the ranch on the Ruby River and our spring fed trout pond. Shuttle to and from the Bozeman Yellowstone Airport included.

Explore It All Package

This exclusive package includes all lodging and meals, and a day full of UCO activities. Choose one of each activity per day: One day of guided fly fishing on the famous Ruby River, one day exploring the mountains on horseback, one day of touring backcountry roads in 4x4 rangers, a one-day hiking tour, a one-day history tour or repeat a day of your favorite activity.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

406-842-5884 | WWW.UCOMONTANA.COM | ALDER, MT 59710

PACKAGES

Angler's Dream Package

This package includes all Lodging & Meals and Basic Ranch Activities: 2 Hour Horseback Ride, Fly Fishing from the ranch on the Ruby River or Spring Fed Pond and a guided hike. Also includes everyday/unlimited guided walk/wade fly fishing. Includes all rod fees. You can fish a number of different rivers and streams!

Dude Rancher's Package

All-inclusive horseback vacation gives you the option to choose your horseback riding adventure daily, as well as enjoy guided hiking, self-guided fly fishing and tours of historic and nearby Virginia City. You can easily upgrade your package to include guided fly fishing as well.

Ages 6-12 years, 50% discount.

Package prices are based on double occupancy.

An additional fee of 25% is charged for solo travelers.

Private water rod fees are extra.

NON-RIDING COMPANIONS-Ask about our special rate for your non-riding friends and family to come and spend quality time together at the ranch.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

406-842-5884 | WWW.UCOMONTANA.COM | ALDER, MT 59710

BUILD YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

Upper Canyon Outfitters offers guests the opportunity to customize your stay so you can do all the things you want to do to make your Montana adventure something you'll always remember. In addition to the activities included in the packages noted above, you can add anything from our special Build Your Own Adventure Options to your stay as well.

LODGING PRICE

Summer Lodge Guests (includes meals)

Summer Cabins Guests (excludes meals)

Small Cabin (1-3 Guests)

Large Cabin (1-4 Guests)

Large Cabin (4+ Guests)

ACTIVITIES

Guided Walk/Wade Fly Fishing

Rod Fees

Fly Fishing Lesson

Hourly Horseback Rides

Lunch Horseback Rides

Full-Day Horseback Rides

Equine Facilitated Learning

Guided Hikes 1/2 Day

Full Day w/ Picnic Lunch

All-Terrain Excursions



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

406-842-5884 | WWW.UCOMONTANA.COM | ALDER, MT 59710