

HUNTING SEASON

UPPER CANYON OUTFITTERS

GUEST GUIDE



MONTANA HUNTING 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.



HUNTING WITH UCO

Upper Canyon Outfitters offers guided and unguided hunting trips for archery or rifle season. Our hunts include elk, mule deer, whitetail deer, antelope, black bear, moose, and mountain goat. Hunts start right out our back door. Located in the heart of southwest Montana, hunting trips from the ranch give unlimited access to the ranges of the Snowcrest, Greenhorn, and Gravelly Mountains in the Beaverhead National Forest. The land varies from river bottom and hay meadows to rolling sagebrush hills and high mountain plains. Then the terrain transforms into high ridges, deep canyons, scattered timber and high mountain springs with aspen groves. With so much ground to cover, you can choose your terrain, choose your hunt and know that you'll rarely see the same place twice.



GUIDED MONTANA HUNTS

Upper Canyon Outfitters is one of the few outfitters permitted in the Beaverhead National Forest to offer guided archery and rifle hunts for elk and mule deer, plus rifle-only hunts for whitetail deer, antelope, moose and mountain goat. From our basecamp on the edge of the National Forest, you'll find game is plentiful and we encourage hunters to come prepared for a big game fair chase hunt. Youth hunts are also available. Limited hunts on a private ranch are available for an additional fee.

At Upper Canyon, we're happy to take the hassle out of your hunting adventure by helping you apply for your Montana hunting licenses and special permits.

NATIONAL FOREST ELK / MULE DEER HUNTS

Our guided National Forest hunts take place in the Snowcrest, Greenhorn, and Gravelly ranges on more than 800,000 acres of mountainous terrain. Each hunt pairs one of our UCO guides working together with two guests who will spend each day hunting resident herds. To ensure highest success, the majority of hunts are done by hiking. We also provide horses, four-wheel drive vehicles and ATVs when needed. For those who prefer to hunt one-on-one, upgrades are available.

WHITETAIL HUNTS

We offer whitetail hunts on private ranches leased exclusively by Upper Canyon Outfitters. Many of our wild whitetail bucks are record-book candidates that we actively manage year-round. By limiting hunter access and the number of deer harvested every year, we accomplish a high success rate and ample opportunities for you to take home a large whitetail buck.

ANTELOPE HUNTS

Upper Canyon Outfitters has been experiencing a growing population of antelope in our area, giving hunters wonderful opportunities to successfully harvest an antelope during their hunt. We use spot-and-stalk techniques along with some ground blinds for archery and rifle hunts. For those who love an extra rush of adrenaline with their hunt, we have also had proven success with antelope decoys as well.

ANTELOPE / ELK / MULE DEER COMBO HUNTS

For hunters interested in elk, deer and antelope, we make it easy to add antelope to your 5-day / 6-night elk / deer combo hunt. You can add an antelope tag during archery with a 100% draw rate for an archery license or a 25% draw rate for a license during rifle season.

Just ask for details.

MOOSE AND MOUNTAIN GOAT HUNTS

For those who book our guided Elk / Deer trip, Moose is included at no additional fee. If you'd like to find out more about Moose and Mountain Goat Hunts, please contact us for details.

**We can also accommodate non-hunting guests and youth hunters.
Please contact us for rates and details.**



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UNGUIDED HUNTS

For those who prefer to hunt without a guide, Upper Canyon Outfitters offers unguided hunts from the ranch during both the rifle and archery seasons. Our unguided hunts include elk, deer, antelope and black bear. We'll show you hunting areas in the Beaverhead National Forest and cover the best access points. You can also purchase custom topo maps and area photos to ensure the greatest opportunity for success. At the end of each hunt, we encourage you to check in with our guides to discuss the effectiveness of your chosen area. We'll even help with game retrieval for a minimal charge.





GAME RETRIEVAL

UNGUIDED AND HARVESTED SOMETHING?

We will retrieve the unguided hunter's game at a fee of \$450.00 for elk and deer. Anything over 8 miles from the ranch is \$20.00 extra per mile. Also, to cape the neck or skinning for a rug is an additional \$150.00. IMPORTANT: This is a large area you will be hunting in. It is very important to mark the trail where you harvested your animal - **MARK IT WITH TRAIL MARKING TAPE**, even if you use a GPS.



UCO STORE

FORGOT SOMETHING AT HOME? WE GOT YOU COVERED

We have a selection of hunting supplies and bear spray in the store, along with an assortment of UCO shirts, sweatshirts, hats, and Montana gifts for your friends and family back home. Store is always open – help yourself!



TIPPING

UCO strives hard to provide a quality experience for our guests. We ask our team to go above and beyond. If you noted our staffs' hard work and appreciated it, here are some tipping guidelines. Generally hunting guides receive 15-20% of the cost of the hunt. Housekeeping, kitchen and packing is at your discretion. If you were unhappy with any service we offered, please let us know.

GOOD LUCK AND HAVE A SAFE HUNT

GPS Coordinates of UCO

N 45*03.21.6
W 112*01.00.3



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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.

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.