

# WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU ARRIVE ON A HUNTING TRIP

As you approach Budge's Wilderness Lodge, you'll drive past the South Fork trailhead. As you enter the lodge grounds, the first thing you'll see is our horse corral. Go on past the corral and across Wagonwheel Creek. After fording the creek, the first building you come to is the main lodge. Feel free to park anywhere around the main lodge. One of our crewmembers will greet you.

We'll start by giving you a tour of the main lodge. Make yourself at home. Grab a cup of coffee or a snack. Once you're settled in, feel free to take up a chair out on the deck or by the fireplace.

Next, we'll show you to your cabin. If you're staying at the main lodge, this will be your home for the duration of the trip. Feel free to unpack and make yourself at home.

If you're striking out for a wilderness camp, this will be your home for the night, and you'll depart for your camp the next morning. Feel free to get organized and our crew will take your duffel bags that will be packed onto our packhorses or mules the next day. If you have questions about what should go on the mules or what should go on your personal horse, see our packing list for details. Or just ask!

After you've settled in, the rest of your arrival day is completely up to you. Relax in your cabin, or come on down to the main lodge and relax. Either way, welcome home!

Again, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to ask.

## WHAT TO EXPECT DURING YOUR STAY

### Lodge Based Hunts

Guests staying with us at the main lodge can expect breakfast to be served well before daylight. The time will vary, depending on daylight hours and your guide's intended destination for the day. After dinner each evening, we will confirm breakfast time for the following day. At breakfast, we'll lay out a table of lunch items where guests can pack their own sack lunch for the day.

After breakfast, we'll meet at the hitching rail where your saddled horse will be waiting. The first morning will take more time to get moving, because we'll need to adjust stirrups for each hunter. Bows and rifles will go into a scabbard on your horse. Then, we'll saddle up and hit the trail. It will still be dark when we leave camp each morning. We do not ride with headlamps on. This actually blinds your horse's night vision. Riding a horse in the dark may seem unnerving at first. But rest assured, our horses know these trails. Enjoy the experience and the stars overhead!

Depending on the destination, horseback rides may range from one hour up to three hours in length (one way). When hunters reach their destination, your guide will tie up the horses. From here, we will hunt on foot. Keep your lunch, water, rain gear, extra layers and any other critical items with you in your daypack. We may not return to the horses for several hours. In some situations, we may ride back to the main lodge for lunch and then go back out in the afternoon. Other times, we might stay out all day. Always be prepared to stay out all day in case the situation requires. Either way, a home-cooked dinner will be waiting when you return to the lodge after dark each day after hunting.

On the final morning of your trip, come on down to the main lodge for breakfast. After breakfast you can finish packing and load up the vehicle for the drive home. Before you depart, take a moment to stand out on the deck and soak in the view, take a few photos, and of course say goodbye! Sadly, all great adventures must come to an end. We will certainly miss you and hope to see you again at Budge's Wilderness Lodge!

## Wilderness Camp Trips

After your first night in the cabin, you'll come down to the main lodge for breakfast. At breakfast, you'll find a table of lunch fixings laid out. Pack yourself a lunch for the day.

After breakfast, we will meet at the hitching rail, where your horse will be saddled and ready for you. You'll want to put your lunch, rain gear, water bottle, and any other essential items in the saddlebags on your personal horse. Anything that gets loaded onto our packhorses or mules will not be accessible during the ride to camp. Bows and rifles will go into a scabbard on your horse.

We will adjust your stirrups for the ride. Then, we will load up and hit the trail. Horseback rides to our wilderness camps can be anywhere from two hours to four hours long. If your legs or your rear end get sore along the way, just tell your wrangler or guide. It can feel nice to get off and walk your horse for a ways. Or, we can take breaks along the way.

When we reach the wilderness camp, we'll unload the mules and you can begin settling in. This is a great time to have a snack or eat lunch. Then, you can spend the rest of the afternoon relaxing or preparing for the hunt. Each evening throughout the hunt, we'll have a hot dinner for you at camp. And each morning, you can expect a hot breakfast and plenty of lunch items to pack your own lunch for the day. After breakfast, you will strike out to hunt on foot.

On your last day in camp, our pack team will arrive with the packhorses and mules sometime between mid to late morning. They will also bring a saddle horse for your ride back to the main lodge. Remember to keep your rain gear, water bottle and lunch in the saddlebags on your horse. When we've loaded up, we will hit the trail and begin our trip back.

When we arrive at the main lodge, our pack team will work to unload. In the meantime, you can begin loading your vehicle for the drive out. Before you depart, take a moment to enjoy the view, take a few final photos, and of course say goodbye! Sadly, all great adventures must come to an end. We will certainly miss you and hope to see you again at Budge's Wilderness Lodge!

## WOUNDED GAME POLICY

Here at Budge's we take hunting ethics very seriously. In order to keep ethical practices at the front of our minds while hunting, we ask that the Client be prepared, and know their weapon before arrival. If in the unfortunate circumstance the Client wounds an animal, the guide and Client will make every effort to recover the animal. If the animal cannot be recovered, the guide and the Outfitter will determine if the hunt is complete, and the Outfitter reserves the right to terminate the hunt at that point. If the Outfitter determines that the hunt should continue, the Client may be required to target check their weapon before continuing the hunt.

If the Client continues to hunt after wounding an animal that is not recovered, we would ask (but will not enforce) that the Client make a \$500 donation towards either the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation or Backcountry Hunters & Anglers to give back to the resource.

