HORSEPACKING ADVENTURES

JUNE 9-12
Mustangs: A Living Legacy

JULY 8-14
Mountain Horsemanship: Veterinary Care and Horsepacking in the Wilderness
MUSTANGS: A LIVING LEGACY

June 9-12, Sat.-Tues.

Track mustangs in the Sierra backcountry

Track wild horses and relive the Old West in the seldom-visited Pizona area of the Inyo National Forest. From a central meadow camp, riders track mustangs in their natural pinyon forest habitat. Observe and photograph mustang herds and wildflowers. Learn about the social behavior of the horses and their current struggle. Enjoy the spectacular sunsets of the Sierra and White Mountains while a cook prepares dinner over an open fire.

This program is a special opportunity that combines a superb outdoor adventure with a unique educational experience in exploring the biology, ecology and behavior of a proud and beautiful animal — the North American wild horse.

MOUNTAIN HORSEMANSHIP: VETERINARY CARE AND HORSEPACKING IN THE WILDERNESS

July 8-14, Sun.-Sat.

Learn horsepacking and veterinary care in the high Sierra

This deluxe pack trip covers all the essentials of horsepacking in the wilderness—with the Golden Trout Wilderness of the high Sierra as your laboratory. The instructors will discuss equipment, emergency veterinary care, feeding and managing livestock in the backcountry, and more. Past participants have acclaimed it as an outstanding adventure.
3 units academic credit.

LOCATION
The program site is the Montgomery Pass Wild Horse Range, a pinyon pine forest and high desert region northeast of Bishop, Calif. This area, on the Nevada-California border, is nestled in view of the Sierra to the west and the White Mountains to the south.

FORMAT
The program consists of a series of informal but structured presentations and discussions spread throughout a wilderness horseback camping experience. The mixture of organized and free time permits you to enjoy the full spectrum of this pristine environment. Throughout this trip, you will be riding with the instructor and his staff members. The group stops periodically for observation, food, informal discussion, rest and seminars. Be prepared to ride at least six hours each day.

LECTURE AND LABORATORY TOPICS
• The historical background and political evolution of wild horse populations
• Aspects of the physical environment of the horse range, including climate, geology, water and seasonal changes
• The relationship between wild horses, other animals and plant life in the ecology of the horse range
• Aspects of physiology, reproduction, behavior and nutrition of wild horses
• The principles of wild horse management and the current policies of the federal government

You will also learn practical skills such as:
• Backcountry and range riding
• Interpretive field observation and wildlife tracking

ITINERARY
Day Before  It is suggested that you spend the night prior to day one at the Benton Hot Springs Bed and Breakfast, where you can rent a room or camp. Advance reservations are required. Visit bentonhotsprings.org for more information and directions. Gas and food can be found at the Highway 120 and Highway 6 junction. Detailed information will be mailed to enrolled participants. Below is the scheduled itinerary that may vary according to weather conditions.

Day 1  Check-in, orientation and breakfast are at 7 a.m. at the Benton Hot Springs B&B. Arrive dressed in riding gear and bring water, a hat, riding gloves, bug spray, a bandanna, sunglasses, rain gear and a jacket. The group departs to River Springs, where you meet the horses and ride into the Pizona Springs camp. You will discuss:
• General and map orientation
• The history of the wild horse

Days 2–3  Spend two full days in the field, tracking and observing horses and other animals on the open range and at watering sites. Topics include:
• The seasonal range and ecology
• Social structure and behavior of wild horses
• Current issues affecting maintenance of free roaming wild horses
• Comparative ecology: U.S. horse ranges and ranges in other countries
• Wild horse population control: methods and application

Day 4  The morning seminar covers obtaining, training and using wild horses. Then, take a ride to the western range for lunch before returning to your car at River Springs.

ENROLLMENT, COURSE FEE AND REFUND POLICY
• June 9-12: Sat.-Tues., 7 a.m.-3 p.m.
• Bishop, Calif.
• $900. Includes horse, saddle, meals and instruction. Enroll in section 1746C800.
• Refunds, less a $150 processing fee, will be given only if we receive written notification prior to May 11, 2018. No refunds will be granted after May 11, 2018.
MOUNTAIN HORSEMANSHIP: VETERINARY CARE AND HORSEPACKING IN THE WILDERNESS

3 units academic credit.

LOCATION
Originating from Horseshoe Meadows, this course travels through the Golden Trout Wilderness of the high Sierra, near Sequoia National Park.

LECTURE AND DISCUSSION TOPICS
• Wilderness conduct of people
• Trail riding
• Methods of feeding livestock in the backcountry
• Management of livestock in the backcountry
• Preventive medicine
• Evaluating the normal horse
• Treating a hurt or sick horse in the wilderness
• Mules

LABORATORY TOPICS
• Packing: equipment, fitting saddles, making loads, hitches, leading strings of mules, etc.
• Backcountry shoeing
• Veterinary skills: physical examination, floating teeth, intramuscular/IV injections, applying wraps, animal restraint and aging horses
• Evaluating conformation
• Shoeing
• Diagnostic techniques in evaluating lameness

ITINERARY
The following scheduled itinerary may vary according to weather conditions.
Meet at the corrals of Mt. Whitney Pack Trains next to Cottonwood Pack Station.

Day 1 Meet at Horseshoe Meadows for breakfast at 7 a.m.—ride over Trail Pass to Kern Peak Stringer
Day 2 Layover—ride to the top of Kern Peak
Day 3 Kern Peak Stringer to Little Whitney Meadow
Day 4 Layover—ride to Volcano Meadow
Day 5 Layover—ride to Volcano Falls or Kern River
Day 6 Little Whitney Meadow to Big Whitney Meadow
Day 7 Big Whitney Meadow to Horseshoe Meadows via Cottonwood Pass. Expect to arrive back at your car around 5:30 p.m.

ENROLLMENT, COURSE FEE AND REFUND POLICY
• July 8-14: Sun.-Sat., 7 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
• Lone Pine, Calif.: Horseshoe Meadows, Inyo National Forest
• $1,625. Includes horse, saddle, meals and instruction. Enroll in section 181AGC800.
• Refunds, less a $150 processing fee, will be given only if we receive written notification prior to June 10, 2018. No refunds will be granted after June 10, 2018.

extension.ucdavis.edu/beyond
GENERAL INFORMATION

These courses are conducted by Rock Creek Pack Station as a permittee of the Inyo National Forest and the Bureau of Land Management.

Instructors

CRAIG LONDON, D.V.M., is co-owner of Rock Creek Pack Station and Mt. Whitney Pack Trains in the southeastern Sierra Nevada mountains. He practices veterinary medicine in Bishop and has taught many UC Davis Extension courses on veterinary care and wilderness horsepacking.

JANET ROSER, Ph.D., is a professor with the Department of Animal Science at UC Davis. She directs and teaches the equine program and is currently researching hormone regulation of reproductive function in the stallion and mare.

Who may attend

These programs are open to anyone 18 or older. Those under 18 may attend only by special permission from Craig London. Although riding experience is not required, the trips require riding up to six hours some days, so you should be in reasonably good physical condition.

Prior approval is required for persons weighing more than 200 pounds or those who are very heavy for their height, and for persons with physical traits or disabilities that may pose a safety risk to themselves.

For more information about these programs

For general information or to enroll, please contact UC Davis Extension at (800) 752-0881.

For specific program information, call (530) 757-8899, fax (530) 757-8634, email extension@ucdavis.edu or visit our website at extension.ucdavis.edu/beyond.

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“A fantastic course. I learned a lot and had the trip of a lifetime!”

~ Bill Bealmear
GO BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

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