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11 Dude Ranches for a Western-Inspired Getaway

From horseback riding excursions to crackling campfires, these retreats are perfect for a Wild West adventure.

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At Alisal Ranch, visitors can explore over 10,000 acres of unspoiled land. Courtesy of Alisal



By Audrey Enjoli

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The cowboy archetype has long been a staple of pop culture, galloping across

The cowboy archetype has long been a staple of pop culture, galloping across the silver and small screens in wide-brimmed hat-wearing, gunslinging form.

Today, the hardy, horse-riding herdsman remains a powerful symbol of the American spirit, representing resilience, rugged individualism, and a deep-rooted connection to tradition and the great outdoors.

The enduring appeal of the cowboy way of life has led to a growing interest in Western-inspired vacations. According to Holafly, demand for ranch-style stays across the country has **surged** by more than 40 percent over the past year.

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Looking for the best places to saddle up? From horseback riding excursions and crackling campfires to naturalist hikes and rustic cabins, here are 11 dude ranches across the United States that are perfect for a Wild West getaway.

1. Alisal Ranch (Solvang, California)



Alisal Ranch offers a variety of horseback rides, including picnic rides, group rides, and private rides. Courtesy of Alisal Ranch



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The Oak Room is a favorite place for relaxing and enjoying a beer or glass of wine. Courtesy of Alisal Ranch

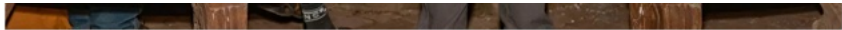
A “modern taste of the Old West” can be found in Southern California’s Santa Ynez Valley. Nestled in the heart of Santa Barbara Wine Country, **Alisal Ranch** seamlessly blends contemporary amenities with rustic charm. Set on 10,500 acres, this working ranch offers a range of luxury accommodations for the cowboys at heart, including studios, cottages, and spacious homes, complete with Americana artwork and wood-burning fireplaces. Roam the grounds on horseback or wander the waters of the ranch’s 100-acre spring-fed lake.

2. Circle Z Ranch (Patagonia, Arizona)



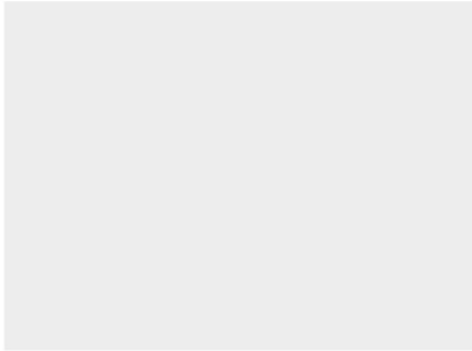
At Circle Z Ranch, riders can explore over 200 miles of trails through grasslands, canyons, and mountain ranges. Courtesy of Circle Z Ranch





Wednesday evenings mean campfire night at Circle Z Range, where wrangler Johnny leads the group in campfire songs. Courtesy of Circle Z Ranch

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Step back in time at the **Circle Z Ranch**, where “authentic tradition meets unspoiled adventure.” Dating back to 1926, this historic dude ranch lies about an hour south of Tucson, Arizona, in the sweeping sands of the Sonoran Desert. Ride across thousands of acres of Arizona wilds, marked by rugged canyons, mountain ranges, and the rushing waters of the Sonoita Creek, before winding down in a Spanish-style abode. Cowboy cookouts, smoky campfires, and pool lounging round out the itinerary at this home away from home.

3. Diamond D Ranch (Stanley, Idaho)

Go off-the-grid like a true frontiersman at the **Diamond D Ranch**, a backcountry getaway tucked away in the untamed Frank Church Wilderness, just a few hours northeast of Boise, Idaho. This all-inclusive guest ranch features charming cabins set against a backdrop of the verdant Salmon River Mountains. Teeming with family-friendly fun, the ranch’s activities include horseback riding, hiking, bonfires, archery, swimming, clay shooting, gold panning, arts and crafts, and much more.

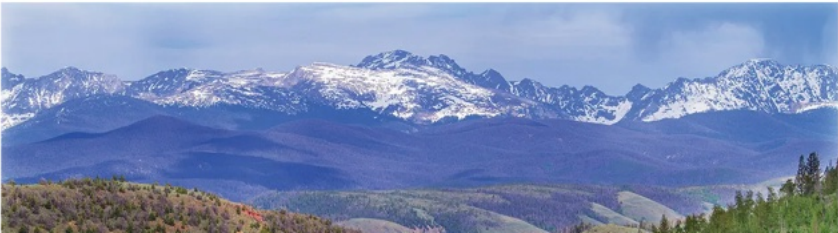
4. C Lazy U Ranch (Granby, Colorado)

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C Lazy U Ranch has 200 horses available for visitors to work with, depending on their skill levels. C Lazy U Ranch



C Lazy U is an all-inclusive, year-round guest ranch with activities for both adults and children. C Lazy U Ranch

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Bounded by the Rocky Mountains, northern Colorado's **C Lazy U Ranch** has been around for more than 100 years. The all-inclusive retreat, which is open year-round, serves up “high-class amenities and down-home experiences.” Meander along 8,500 acres of the Granby countryside on horseback during a working cattle ride. Don't want to rough it? Get a taste of the American West by tucking into farm-inspired, gourmet meals. Or, relax in the full-service spa before enjoying some shut-eye in a luxury cabin.

5. Holmstead Ranch Resort (Central, Utah)

Hidden in the shadows of Pine Valley Mountain, **Holmstead Ranch Resort** is southern Utah's best-kept secret. Pick between luxury lakeside cabins and

forest-flanked cottages, or glamp it out in Conestoga-covered wagons. Best of all, the ranch is within driving distance of many of the state's best attractions, including Snow Canyon State Park and the Zion and Bryce Canyon National Parks.

6. Geronimo Trail Guest Ranch (Winston, New Mexico)



The weather is temperate year-round at New Mexico's Geronimo Trail Guest Ranch. Courtesy of Geronimo Trail Guest Ranch



Geronimo Trail Guest Ranch sits at the heart of Gila National Forest, which is famous for its breathtaking beauty. Courtesy of Geronimo Trail Guest Ranch

Experience the wild beauty of the “Land of Enchantment” at **Geronimo Trail Guest Ranch**. Founded as a hunting lodge in the 1980s, this family-owned ranch has since transformed into a horse-loving paradise. Nestled in the mountainous Black Range in southwestern New Mexico, the ranch is enveloped by the more than 3 million-acre Gila National Forest, so saddle up for spectacular scenery galore.

7. Cibolo Creek Ranch (Marfa, Texas)

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Cibolo Creek Ranch, one of the oldest ranches in Texas, pays tribute to the region's rich past. Courtesy of Cibolo Creek Ranch



At Cibolo Creek Ranch, nature is just outside the door and waiting to be explored. Courtesy of Cibolo Creek Ranch

West Texas's very own **Cibolo Creek Ranch** sits in the foothills of the Chinati Mountains, which guests can roam via horseback or ATV. With roots stretching

back to the mid-1800s, this historic property spans 30,000 acres in the heart of Big Bend Country. See Native American rock art, tour the on-site museum, or set out to experience the dazzling Marfa Lights, a mysterious phenomenon of luminous orbs that can be seen near the desert town of Marfa.

8. The Ranch At Rock Creek (Philipsburg, Montana)



At the Ranch at Rock Creek, wranglers are on hand to give visitors the full Western experience, whether in the corral or on the trail. The Ranch at Rock Creek

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At the Ranch at Rock Creek, guests are invited to breathe deeply and embrace everything Big Sky Country has to offer. Courtesy of The Ranch at Rock Creek



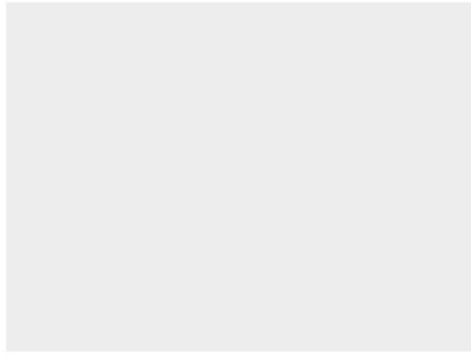
Luxury cabins at The Ranch at Rock Creek come with all-inclusive five-star amenities. Courtesy of The Ranch at Rock Creek

Sleep under Big Sky Country's canopy in a remodeled 19th-century barn, a National Park-inspired lodge, a charming log abode, or a glamping cabin at **The Ranch at Rock Creek**, which has been recognized with the prestigious Forbes Travel Guide Five-Star Award. The historic homestead preserves the spirit of the Old West while offering guests an all-inclusive stay in the wilds of western Montana.

9. The Hideout Lodge & Guest Ranch (Shell, Wyoming)



The Hideout, in the foothills of the Big Horn Mountains, specializes in horsemanship. Hideout Lodge & Guest Ranch



With the Bighorn National Forest to its east and Yellowstone National Park due west, this horse-centric upscale property is primely positioned about an hour away from Cody, Wyoming. The **Hideout Lodge & Guest Ranch** offers access to almost 650,000 acres, giving riders a true taste of the cowboy days of yore.

10. Westgate River Ranch Resort & Rodeo (River Ranch, Florida)



Courtesy of Westgate River Ranch Resort & Rodeo





At Westgate, seating is available for 2,400 spectators to watch the longest-running Saturday night championship rodeo in the country. Courtesy of Westgate River Ranch Resort & Rodeo



At Westgate's petting farm, kids can meet animals such as goats, ponies, llamas, and peacocks. Courtesy of Westgate River Ranch Resort & Rodeo

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An authentic dude ranch can be found in the Florida wilderness about an hour and a half south of Orlando, Florida. Called the **Westgate River Ranch Resort & Rodeo**, the 1,700-acre property overlooks the beauty of the winding Kissimmee River. Go horseback riding, visit the petting farm, embark on a river cruise, take a swamp buggy ride, or make a splash at the on-site water park. Cowboy hats are optional; fun is guaranteed.

11. Driftwood Ranch Resort (White Lake, New York)





The rich traditions of the Western lifestyle beckon at Driftwood Ranch, offering an immersive experience in nature and ranch life. Courtesy of Driftwood Ranch

Experience the unbridled spirit of the Wild West out East with a stay at the **Driftwood Ranch Resort**, one of the Empire State's newest ranch-style offerings. Opened in April, the working horse and cattle ranch sits on 200 acres in the Catskills, only a few hours' drive away from New York City. The themed abodes, which include the Western Barn Suite and the Longhorn Suite, feature elements of cowboy folklore for an Instagrammable getaway not easily forgotten.

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Audrey Enjoli

Author

Audrey is a freelance entertainment reporter for The Epoch Times based in Southern California.

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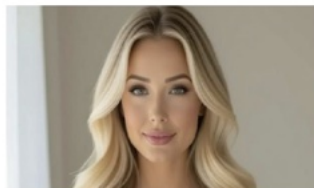
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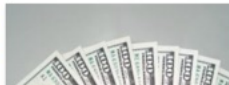
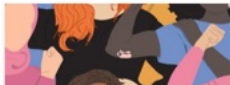
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