Unbridle Your Spirit…
and Rein In the Memories

As Colorado’s highest guest ranch at 9,600 feet elevation, the views are awe-inspiring.

Elk Mountain Ranch overlooks the Arkansas Valley with breathtaking views of the Collegiate Peaks and is adjacent to the Browns Canyon National Monument.

Here, we have the largest collection of peaks over 14,000 feet in the lower 48 states. Our quaint, local town of Buena Vista is considered the "Whitewater Capital of Colorado." The pleasant two-hour drive from Denver or Colorado Springs airports will bring you the heart of the Colorado Rockies.

The ranch was once the Futurity Millsite and is completely surrounded by the San Isabel National Forest. A 10-mile dirt road is your gateway to adventure.
Welcome to Our Mountain

Elk Mountain Ranch is a dude and guest ranch nestled among the aspens and evergreens of the beautiful San Isabel National Forest. We chose this spot for its breathtaking views of snow-capped peaks, its abundant wildlife and wildflowers, and its secluded but convenient location.

The Elk Mountain Ranch experience is a one-week adventure encompassing the best of Colorado at reasonable, all-inclusive prices. Days are filled with horseback riding, white water rafting, hiking, rifflery, fishing, and other activities set against a spectacular backdrop of unending vistas. It’s the ultimate in traditional Western vacations – perfect for families, couples, singles and small groups.

Speaking of small groups, one of the best things about Elk Mountain Ranch is our number of guests – 30. We don’t want you to feel lost in a crowd. This intimate atmosphere allows us to tailor activities to meet our guests’ needs, interests and abilities.

Elk Mountain Ranch has been our home and passion since 1985. We would like to invite you to our little piece of heaven, where family flourishes, souls are renewed, and precious memories are made. We hope to see you soon.

Tom & Sue Murphy
All the Comforts of Home

Enjoy cozy log cabins, Pioneer Lodge rooms or the spacious suite in the main lodge. All have private baths and are tastefully furnished with western décor. Daily housekeeping is provided. Fresh flowers and a gift basket await your arrival.

The main lodge is a hub of hospitality, offering meals, a fireplace, a library, an enclosed porch and sun deck. A cookie jar, fresh fruit bowl, coffee, teas and cocoa are always available.

Tastes of Colorado

Three full-course meals each day delight both hearty and discerning appetites. From home-cooked breakfasts and trail ride cookouts to hors d’oeuvres, a candlelight supper and indulgent desserts. Elk Mountain Ranch is sure to satisfy every taste. Children’s menu items are also available and special diets and special occasions are happily accommodated.
Saddle Up!

Superb daily trail rides are Elk Mountain Ranch’s most distinguishing features. The high, remote location offers miles of trails through aspen forests and open parks. The ranch owns an excellent string of horses, and they are matched to the rider’s abilities, offering you a chance to bond with your very own horse for a week. Rides are kept small in size and all are accompanied by a competent and caring wrangler.

Ride options include lunch on the trail, a champagne brunch ride, and opportunities to trot and canter based upon riders’ abilities.

Elk Mountain Ranch encourages families to enjoy their vacation time with one another. Families ride, dine and play together. For our little buckaroos, seven years and under, we have designed a children’s program where the kids can enjoy riding in the arena, hiking, fishing, arts and crafts, and caring for the petting zoo animals while still ensuring plenty of quality family time.

Make It Memorable

Horseback riding is just the beginning of the Mountain Ranch experience. Each day promises exhilarating outings and activities including:

Van trip to Aspen over Independence Pass
Children’s program for ages three to seven
Excursion to Browns Canyon Adventure Park
Evening entertainment
White water rafting
Fishing
Trap shooting
Marksmanship
Archery
Hiking
Mountain Biking
Volleyball
Hayride
Campfires
Sit Back & Relax

The week is packed with activities – all organized and enjoyable. Hopefully, we have something for everyone. However, it is your vacation, so do not feel obligated to participate in every activity.

Be sure to allow time to relax and enjoy the beauty of Colorado and create vacation memories to last you a lifetime!

Proud Members of the
Colorado Dude and Guest Ranch Association
The Dude Rancher’s Association
Certifited Horsemanship Association

DRA Member Ranch Horse Safety Certified
and Adaptive First Aid for the Trail Certified

Elk Mountain Ranch is a permittee of the San Isabel National Forest. Elk Mountain Ranch is an equal opportunity employer and service provider.
A Week of Wonders...

Sunday
Arrive at Elk Mountain Ranch after 3 p.m. – it's breathtaking!

A guided hike will help you get familiar with the surroundings.

In the evening, everyone gathers in the lodge dining room for supper and a warm welcome program.

Monday
The day will begin with a hearty breakfast, followed by Tom's horse orientation and morning trail ride.

Fill up on a picnic lunch buffet, then take in another trail ride to Big Meadow or stay behind for a .22 marksmanship tournament (or... just relax).

Join us for our daily hospitality hour before enjoying mouth-watering steaks cooked over the open fire. A hayride and campfire complete with s'mores, popcorn and cocoa make this a night to remember.

Tuesday
Enjoy a continental breakfast before getting an early start on our trail ride to a brunch cookout and fat ball game on Aspen Ridge. For those who do not care to ride, the ranch offers transportation with four wheels rather than four legs!

Return to the ranch in the late afternoon for a leisurely hike, a hands-on fly fishing clinic or a welcome soak in the hot tub.

Get your second wind just as the hospitality hour begins. Supper family-style is followed by a fun night of music and square dancing.

Wednesday
Wake up to another gorgeous day in Colorado! After a big breakfast, test your skills in the archery tournament, then load up for one of the week's highlights – a thrilling white water raft trip down the Arkansas River. For a little tamer excursion, choose to spend the day at the Mt. Princeton Hot Springs pools. For the die hard rider, stay back at the ranch for a discovery ride.

Tonight, enjoy some western entertainment from one of our many local favorites.

Thursday
Getting used to these home cooked breakfasts?

In the morning, ride to a fantastic mountain locale for a luncheon cookout. Enjoy a beautiful ride back to the ranch through open parks with scenic vistas, allowing opportunities to spread out and ride. Return to the ranch and take a mountain bike out on the dirt road or single track. Or, pamper yourself with a therapeutic massage for a small additional charge. Basketball, pool table, air hockey, tetherball or horseshoes are also available for your enjoyment.

Friday
This day is filled with a bevy of choices. Take a van trip to Aspen via Independence Pass, over the Continental Divide, or an excursion to the Browns Canyon Ropes and Adventure Park. Always an option – take a luncheon trail ride with views of the Arkansas Valley.

Hospitality hour, supper and a rousing game of volleyball are waiting at the end of this busy day.

Saturday
The smell of a hot breakfast will lure you to the lodge. Then, choose between a morning trail ride or trapshooting tournament.

In the afternoon, the children will show off their new skills at the kids' ranch rodeo. Or, opt to enjoy one last trail ride.

After the usual hospitality hour comes a special treat, a country candlelight dinner with awards presentation.

Sunday
One more breakfast before saying goodbye to new found family and friends. Checkout by 10 a.m. Happy Trails!

Weekly schedule subject to change.

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