

HOLIDAYS FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO RIDE THE SURF ON A HORSE

For some people the Autumn is the best time to hit the beach, not to get a tan or doze in a deckchair, but to splash about and feel the wind in the hair in the company of Father Ted, Monty and Angelo.

These are just three of the horses at Murthwaite Green Trekking Centre, in beautiful Silecroft, on the little known Cumbrian coast, where beach rides are a speciality and are drawing customers back, time after time, from as far away as Birmingham – a 2-3 hours drive.

Murthwaite Green's beach riding holidays can be of any duration, from a two-day weekend break, to a full week's stay. Whatever the chosen length of trip, Murthwaite Green offers guests the opportunity to experience the thrill of a flat out gallop through the surf down the five miles of golden sand and shallow waters of Silecroft Beach.

Beach riding is something many people have never experienced and the beautiful Cumbrian location makes it even more memorable. The appeal is such that day visitors can also sign up for a short beach ride lasting between one and two hours, or plump for a longer ride with a stop for a beach picnic, or a hearty pub lunch in the local inn.

Beach rides start at a price of £15 and can accommodate mixed abilities, with plenty of fully trained staff on hand to lead children or nervous riders, whilst others canter or gallop down the golden sands as fast as they like.

Weekend, mid-week or full week breaks start at a cost of £210 for two days (Friday to Sunday or other days of the guest's choice, subject to availability). A full week's beach riding holiday costs £590. Prices cover four hours riding a day – with the chance to trek across the wonderful Cumbrian fells for those also wishing to glory in the beauty of the scenic views afforded in this great location.

The hire of hats and boots is also included, if required, and guests on riding breaks have a choice of bed and breakfast accommodation within the local area, which is also covered in the price.

Those who long to ride to the beat of the waves hitting the shore and sweep away the cobwebs in the fresh, salty air, can contact Murthwaite Green on 01229 770876. Booking is essential and the timing of beach rides is dependent on the tides.

One final word of warning – if you are on a beach picnic ride, watch your sandwiches – some of the horses are pretty partial to them!

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