

# AMERICAN DISCOVERY TRAIL

## HORSE FRIENDLY PORTIONS OF THE TRAIL

Delaware	most of 45 miles
Maryland/DC	most of 267 miles
West Virginia	most of 276 miles
Ohio/Kentucky	most of 407 miles
Southern Indiana	most of 326 miles
Northern Indiana	most of 195 miles
Southern Illinois	most of 286 miles
Northern Illinois	most of 210 miles
Missouri	not much of 346 miles
Kansas	most of 574 miles
Iowa	most of 504 miles
Nebraska	ALL of 515 miles
Southern Colorado	most of 150 miles
Northern Colorado	most of 195 miles
Western Colorado	most of 586 miles
Utah	most of 560 miles
Nevada	ALL except 3 miles
California	parts of 389 miles

## **DELAWARE**

The entire route through DE is road shoulder except the 1 mile in Cape Henlopen State Park. The trail in Cape Henlopen is designated bike/pedestrian, but equestrians can easily parallel the trail by following the road.

## **MARYLAND and DC**

Horses must be trailered over Chesapeake Bay Bridge.

Horseback riding is not allowed on the C&O Canal between Georgetown (mile 0) and Swains Lock (mile 16.6). Horses are not allowed in the Paw Paw Tunnel. Riders must take the tunnel hill trail that goes over the tunnel instead.

Riders may not exceed the speed of a slow trot.

Riders must dismount and walk their horses across aqueducts. Horses may not cross wooden footbridges, which are not designed to carry their weight.

## **WEST VIRGINIA**

Dolly Sods area - Horses are allowed on the trail, as long as the group is 10 or less

North Bend Rail Trail (72 miles) – horses are allowed

Harrison County Rail Trail (< 4 miles) – horses are allowed

Canaan to BlackWater Falls (8 miles) - if it is a group that fund-raises or rides for a cause in any way, they must have pre-approval. Call (304) 859-5216 for more information.

Horses are allowed on highway travel, but some places the roads have no shoulder and so using common sense is extremely important.

## **OHIO/KENTUCKY**

\* Information Coming

## **INDIANA**

Horses can be ridden and often are on county roads used throughout the state. There are at least two specific prohibitions:

### ***Southern Route:***

1. Horses are prohibited in the State parks on the Southern route through Indiana.
2. Horses are prohibited on the 12 miles of the Knobstone Trail the ADT uses. But the state parks and Knobstone Trail can be bypassed using local roads.

### ***Northern Route:***

Most of the new trails are paved and do not have specific horse trails, but some have plans to add them in the future.

## **ILLINOIS**

### ***Northern Route:***

There is currently no equestrian riding along the I & M Canal; however, the Hennepin Canal allows for 73 miles of equestrian use along its 96 miles.

### ***Southern Route:***

Southern Illinois: There are 160 miles of the trail utilizing the River to River trail that is horse friendly, with very few of those miles being on roads. The other miles of the trail could still be ridden on horses, but will be higher traffic areas due to it nearing St. Louis.

## **IOWA**

### ***Horses are permitted on:***

1. Public roads and highways that are part of the Iowa ADT. Riders would generally prefer to ride on the shoulder rather than on the paved portion.
2. Pioneer Trail (Grundy Center to Reinbeck -- only about 5 miles).
3. Heart of Iowa Trail (Rhodes to Slater -- 27 miles)
4. Wabash Trace Nature Trail (67 miles total trail, but the ADT is only on about the last ten miles into Council Bluffs).

Iowa does have an extensive system of gravel roads laid out in one-mile section squares, which horse riders could use and stay very close to the official ADT route.

## NEBRASKA

The entire ADT in Nebraska is open to horses.

## MISSOURI

The Katy Trail is closed to horses EXCEPT from Tebbetts to Portland in Callaway County.

## KANSAS

Along the Tomahawk and Indian Creek and Mill Creek paved trails in Johnson County Kansas, horses are not allowed. Contact the local city police departments for permission to ride on suburban streets.

Along the Flint Hills Nature Trail, between Ottawa to Quenemo, the trail is very near a busy, active rail line. Depending on the disposition of the horse, trail noise, include horns at crossings can spook horses.

Kansas Department of Transportation advises that, while horse riding is not forbidden along state highway shoulders, the shoulders have not been specifically designed to accommodate horses.

## COLORADO

### ***Horses are Prohibited in the following areas:***

Northeast Segment - In Denver: ADT mile 220.44 McKay Road to Mile 240.5, on the Bear Creek Trail (South Platte River Trail)

Front Range Segment - In Colorado Springs: ADT mile 155.32 to mile 161.84 (Fountain Creek Greenway)

East Mountain Segment - In Sheridan & Lakewood (Metro Denver): ADT mile 73.23 to mile 78.51 (Bear Creek Trail)

## UTAH

Utah poses problems for equestrians more because of the shortage of water than regulations. However, the national parks do have some restrictions for horses.

1. Capitol Reef NP (Hite to Boulder section) has a "Hiking Only" trail on the ADT which would need to be bypassed on Notom road by both cyclists and equestrians.

2. Canyonlands NP (Moab to Hite section) requires a backcountry permit and has rules about where folks can camp with horses, and how to leave no trace (like you have to scatter the manure). ADT equestrians will need to check in at a visitor center, or make email or phone contact with the park. Going east to west, they will encounter the visitor center in the Needles area of Canyonlands. But going west to east, they will need to call ahead (435-979-4007).

## NEVADA

The three horseback routes across Nevada are: 1) the original ADT hiking route, 2) the newly established ADT Bike Route, and 3) Highway 50.

All three routes are open to horses over the entire ADT.

However, the original ADT hiking route is so rugged and overgrown over the Hot Creek Range and the 3 high-elevation wilderness areas (Arc Dome, Alta Toquima and Table Mountain), that it is NOT advisable for horses over those sections.

The ADT Biking Route is good for horses but requires a fully-equipped and knowledgeable, 4WD-equipped, support person.

## CALIFORNIA

### ***Horses are Prohibited in the following areas:***

1. The ferries from Jack London Square in Oakland to the Ferry Building in San Francisco.
2. Horses are not allowed on the Bay Bridge. As an alternate route, riders should get permission to ride across the Golden Gate Bridge from the Bridge district.

Depending on the disposition of the horse caution should be used when riding on the bridge and through populated areas like the waterfront of San Francisco and the streets of Oakland. Trailering the horses from San Francisco to the University of Berkeley may be best.