Canada – A visit to Cranbrook Ranch

Visiting Cranbrook Ranch in British Columbia

Just under 30 minutes' drive from the town of Cranbrook, I arrive at the guest ranch in the morning.
Photo: The complex blends beautifully into the natural surroundings. From the main building, there is a magnificent view of the vast plain and the mountains beyond, some with snow-capped peaks. Buffet-style meals are served in the restaurant or on the terrace. There is also a bar and a lounge with pool tables, laundry facilities for guests and a small shop.

There is a swimming pool in a separate building, and the log cabins are scattered around the well-tended lawn. They are furnished to a high standard and, of course, each has its own bathroom and terrace.
I head straight to the horses, as I'm scheduled for the ride at around 9 am. Groups are kept small and organised by riding ability. This means families and friends can ride together, even if their riding levels vary.
Solo travellers are assigned according to their level, so that more advanced riders can also get a chance to gallop (depending on the terrain).

I ride Slim, a lovely red-grey Quarter Horse, and off we go into the countryside: partly through woods, partly along fields, up and down slightly undulating paths. The

river rushes through the valley whilst we ride along above it – a perfect photo spot, which we make the most of.

On the first day, guests are given an introduction to riding and start with a slow ride before moving on to cantering. Groups are divided up, but this can be adjusted flexibly. The horses are saddled by the wranglers and are ready for the ride. I enjoy my ride at the foot of the Purcell Mountains with a view of the Rocky Mountains in the background.

Today's buffet lunch consists of pizza, salads and a fresh glass of lemonade, all accompanied by a fantastic view from the terrace. Coffee and tea are available all day.
Rafting is on the agenda for the afternoon; the week is packed with various activities, though the focus is always on horse riding. Combined with the lovely accommodation, you can't help but feel at home here!
Unfortunately, I only have time for a short visit before I head on to the next ranch.

A travel report by Julia Wies | Pegasus Reiterreisen Further information here: http://www.equitour.com/grbc03.htm