

# A Trail Rider's Guide to Tryon Horse County in Western North Carolina



Learn more about the most popular  
community for equestrians in North Carolina!

Compiled by [WesternNorthCarolinaLand.com](http://WesternNorthCarolinaLand.com)

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Tryon Horse Country is an area that includes Tryon, NC; Columbus, NC; and Landrum, SC. It is rich in equine history and continues to be a haven for equestrians.

This is a guide that describes the variety of resources and amenities available to those who choose to call Tryon Horse Country home.

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## **A Brief History of Tryon Horse Country**

This community began to focus on horses in regard to equestrian sport and leisure activities in the early 1900s. The Tryon Riding & Hunt Club was founded in 1925, and the first fox hunting club in the area, The Tryon Hounds, was founded one year later.

Under the Tryon Riding & Hunt Club, the Tryon Horse Show was founded in 1929, and still continues annually to this day. The first steeplechase in the area was hosted in the 1930s, and the current Block House Steeplechase is now over 60 years old. Tryon also hosted the US Equestrian Team during their training for the 1956 Olympics.

The equestrian lifestyle of Tryon Horse Country has continued to grow and expand throughout the years. Additional event facilities have been constructed, new equestrian-focused organizations have been formed, and equestrians from around the country continue to migrate to this unique, rural area along the NC/SC state line.

## **4-Season Climate and the Isothermal Belt**

One of the main components that makes this area so appealing to equestrians is the true four-season climate. With December and January temperatures averaging in the 40s and June-August temperatures averaging in the high 70s, residents of Tryon Horse Country, and their horses, are able to enjoy the sunny, comfortable outdoors all year long.

The Isothermal Belt is responsible for much of this mild weather. The community's location in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains allows its residents to enjoy the warm air/cool air transfer caused by the thermal belt. That's one reason why you'll find multiple vineyards in the area, the plants are much less likely to freeze since they are being shielded from the cooler temps of the mountains. It also makes for great riding weather.

To learn more visit this webpage: <http://polk.ces.ncsu.edu/thethermalbelt/>

## Trail Systems in Tryon Horse Country

The residents of Tryon Horse Country are committed to preserving the trail systems that wind their way throughout the community. There are three large community trail systems and several smaller trail systems that are for private use by individual equestrian-focused subdivisions.

Please note that all horse trail systems in the area are private, and you must be a member, or a guest accompanied by a member, to ride.

### Regional Membership-Based Trail Systems

#### *FETA (Foothills Equestrian Trail Association)*

This is the largest trail system in Tryon Horse Country, and it is estimated that it offers access to 100 miles of horse trails that stretch through Tryon, Columbus, and cross into Landrum. Membership to FETA is open to anyone who lives, boards their horse, or owns property in Polk County, NC; Landrum, SC; or Campobello, SC. [FETATrails.org](http://FETATrails.org)

#### *CETA (Collinsville Equestrian Trail Association)*

CETA is the next largest trail system, offering approximately 60 miles of trails. Membership is open to those who have CETA trails on their property or those who board their horses at a farm that has CETA trails. The CETA system is in Tryon and Columbus. [CETATrails.com](http://CETATrails.com)

#### *GENTS (Gowensville Equestrian Neighborhood Trail System)*

This trail system, much like the CETA trail system, is open to those residents who live along the trail system. It is located in Landrum, SC. The trail distance has not been measured, but it is smaller than the FETA and CETA systems.

### Planned Equestrian Communities with Private Trail Systems

#### *Caroland Farms - NPA (North Pacolet Association)*

This beautiful community of horse farms offers 12 miles of private trails that connect to the CETA trail system.

#### *Derbyshire - Community Trail System*

This community features non-farm homesites, a community stable, and a 4-mile community trail system that is part of the CETA trails.

#### *Overhill Farms - Community Trail System*

This equestrian-focused community located in Tryon hunt country offers a private trail system for residents.

## Equine Organizations in Tryon Horse Country

### Western Carolina Hunter Pace Series

The Western Hunter Pace Series (WCHPace.org) is a series of competitive horseback rides held at a variety of locations throughout the Western Carolinas. It provides riders an opportunity for friendly competition and the ability to see many properties across the western side of both South and North Carolina.

### Tryon Riding & Hunt Club

Tryon Riding & Hunt Club (BlockHouseRaces.com) is a non-profit organization which organizes the Block House Steeplechase, several nationally accredited horse shows and horse trials, and the Any & All Dog Show.

### Fox Hunting - Tryon Hounds & Green Creek Hounds

Western North Carolina also has two fox hunting clubs, the Tryon Hounds (TryonHounds.com) and the Green Creek Hounds (GreenCreekHounds.com). Both clubs host social and riding activities throughout the year.

### Foothills Riding Club

The Foothills Riding Club is an equestrian club which plans educational and recreational activities such as presentations, clinics, schooling shows and other mounted programs focusing on dressage and combined training.

### Carolina Carriage Club

The Carolina Carriage Club organizes and hosts several horse driving trials each year and also hosts social events for members.

### Blue Ridge Hunter Jumper Association

The Blue Ridge Hunter Jumper Association (BRHJA.com) plans various competitive events for members of all ages.

### River Valley Pony Club

The River Valley Pony Club (RiverValleyPC.org) is Polk County's local chapter of the United States Pony Club. They provide a program for youth in the area that teaches them riding skills along with how to care for their horse.

### TROT - Therapeutic Riding of Tryon

TROT (Fence.org/Trot) is a great program that is part of FENCE (Foothills Equestrian and Nature Center). It is a riding program teaching horsemanship skills to adults and children with physical and developmental difficulties.

## Equestrian Event Facilities

### **FENCE - Foothills Equestrian Nature Center**

FENCE is a 380 acre facility in Tryon, NC which currently hosts events for Tryon Riding & Hunt Club, Foothills Riding Club, Carolina Carriage Club, and other dressage and hunter jumper shows. [FENCE.org](http://FENCE.org)

### **Harmon Field**

This facility is a 46 acre park located in Tryon, NC which hosts multiple smaller horse shows.  
[HarmonField.com](http://HarmonField.com)

### **Tryon International Equestrian Center**

This new AA show facility is currently under construction. The Tryon International Equestrian Center will be an incredible asset to the equestrian community in Tryon Horse Country. It is being built on over 1,000 acres, and, when complete, will have a golf course, hotel resort and convention center, and spa and fitness center, in addition to the equestrian facilities.

## Tack, Feed, and Hay Resources

One of the benefits of living in an area with many equestrians is not having to travel far for the supplies needed for your horse and farm.

### **Farm Supply**

*Green Creek Farm Supply in Columbus*

*The Hay Rack with locations in Landrum and Columbus*

*Little Mountain Farm Supply in Tryon*

### **Hay Suppliers**

There are also multiple hay suppliers throughout the area offering many options for type, amount and cost.

### **Tack Shops**

*The Farm House in Tryon*

*The Hay Rack in Landrum*

*Re-Ride Consignment Tack Shop in Columbus*

## Equine Veterinarian and Emergency Services

### Veterinary Services

With six equine veterinarian practices in the area, residents have many options for the care of their horse in Tryon Horse Country.

*Bell Farm Veterinary Services, LLC*

*Rutherford Large Animal Services*

*Freer Mobile Equine Service*

*Tryon Equine Hospital*

*Mobile Equine Health Care*

*Twin Oaks Veterinary Clinic*

### Emergency Services

Tryon Equine also offers advanced surgical services in addition to their regular equine care.

Another important resource in the area is PEER (Polk Equine Emergency Rescue). They are a local emergency rescue organized with trained personnel to serve the area's many horses and riders and effectively address emergency situations.

## Other Resources for Equestrians

### Online

When we learn that someone is moving (or considering a move) to the area, one of the first things that is recommended is a visit to [TryonHorseCountry.org](http://TryonHorseCountry.org). It is an incredible website that lists equestrian news, resources, and events that are relevant to residents. They also publish a weekly e-newsletter.

### In Print

Another often-used resource for equestrian residents, new and old, is the Foothills Equestrian Directory. It is a printed directory with the names and contact information for all of the equestrian-oriented businesses, organizations, and services in the community.

### In Person

Libbie Johnson is an invaluable equestrian resource in Tryon Horse County. She offers informative and entertaining tours of the area. She can be reached at [Inveigh@aol.com](mailto:Inveigh@aol.com).

## Trainers, Farriers, Boarding, Etc.

There is a large number of providers of these services in the area. If you are considering moving to Tryon Horse Country, we would recommend that you obtain a copy of the Foothills Equine Directory (mentioned in the section above) so that you can have a complete list of all resources in the area.



## Options for Equestrian Living

For those looking to relocate to Tryon Horse Country, there are several options for equestrians and their horses. Depending on the space needed, the desire to take care of your own horse or have someone else to help, and whether you are seeking privacy or a sense of community, there's something for everyone.

### **Purchasing a Home and Boarding Your Horse Nearby**

With such a focus on the equestrian lifestyle, those looking to board their horses nearby won't have to look very far. With options for everything from the perfect location for a retired trail horse to a bustling training facility with an on-site trainer, making sure your horse is well taken care of couldn't be easier. There are more boarding options in the area than you can count.

As for a home for the people in this equation, Tryon Horse Country offers options for quaint downtown apartments, historic homes nestled on quiet small-town streets, planned subdivisions with amenities, sprawling properties with plenty of privacy, and mountain-top retreats.

### **Purchasing a Home in a Development with a Community Stable**

For those who wish to board their horses as close to home as possible without having their own farm, there are planned communities in Tryon Horse Country that offer a community stable. Two of these communities are Derbyshire ([DerbyshireNC.com](http://DerbyshireNC.com)) and The Traces.

### **Purchasing a Hobby Farm or Farmette**

Another option in the area for those who wish to have their horses on their own property is a hobby farm or farmette located in the Tryon Horse Country area. These farms offer enough pasture for a trail horse or two, but don't carry the responsibility of maintaining an excessive amount of acreage.

### **Purchasing a Large Horse Farm**

Whether you're looking for a private estate or a commercial boarding farm, Tryon Horse Country is a perfect location. Another benefit of being in such an equestrian area is that, if you do need help on your farm, there are plenty of experienced workers in the community.

## Plan a Visit to Learn More about Life in Tryon Horse Country

If you would like to visit Tryon Horse Country to learn more about the area and consider making this community your new home, we'd be happy to help you plan your trip. Below is a list of recommended places to stay.

### Preferred Local B&B's

#### *Butterfly Creek Inn*

The Butterfly Creek Inn in Columbus, NC is a beautifully decorated home that has been converted into a truly relaxing space for visitors. [ButterflyCreekInn.com](http://ButterflyCreekInn.com)

#### *The Red Horse Inn*

The Red Horse Inn in Landrum, SC is quickly becoming one of the most popular places to stay in upstate South Carolina. They were recently featured in Travel + Leisure magazine as one of "America's Most Romantic Hotels". [TheRedHorseInn.com](http://TheRedHorseInn.com)

#### *The 1906 Pine Crest Inn and Lodge*

The 1906 Pine Crest Inn and Lodge is situated right in downtown Tryon, NC. In close proximity to restaurants, shops, and the Tryon Theatre, the inn also features its own restaurant, Carter's at Pine Crest, where they serve up 3-course gourmet breakfasts. [PineCrestInn.com](http://PineCrestInn.com)

### A Place For You and Your Horse

#### *Cross Creek Farm*

Cross Creek Farm is a unique inn in Columbus, NC that offers a bed for you and boarding for your horse. With several single rooms and an two-bedroom cottage available, they are sure to have accommodations to suit your needs. [CrossCreekBBB.com](http://CrossCreekBBB.com)

#### *Regalo Farm*

Regalo Farm offers a well-appointed, one-bedroom apartment for rent on a private farm in Columbus, NC. They are also able to provide boarding services. [RegaloFarm.Weebly.com](http://RegaloFarm.Weebly.com)

**For any additional questions that you have regarding a visit to Tryon Horse Country, we would be happy to help you however we can. Please feel free to email us at [info@WesternNorthCarolinaLand.com](mailto:info@WesternNorthCarolinaLand.com).**

**You can also visit our website and blog for more area information.  
[WesternNorthCarolinaLand.com](http://WesternNorthCarolinaLand.com)**