

9 MORE PLACES TO LEARN TO RIDE

1 TREWORGEY COTTAGES, CORNWALL

This 150-acre farm near Looe is a family paradise, with self-catering cottages, and a riding school just for guests. As well as learning to ride, or improving in the all-weather arena or on hacks around the farm, kids can play in the fields, streams and woods, swim in the pool and help feed animals. For parents, there is a babysitting service, homemade meals delivered to your door and wonderful walks.

• From £325 for three nights for four people.
cornishdreamcottages.co.uk



2 POLO VALLEY, SOTOGRANDE, SPAIN

No polo experience is necessary here, and you can ride or play as often as you like, with tuition in horsemanship as well as stick-and-ball sessions. Other activities include family hacks (with picnic), tennis, sailing, golf, cycling and beach time. Only for children aged eight and over.

• From £1,295 for seven nights room-only, based on a family of four sharing. Includes transfers, not flights. A Polo Pass (six sessions) for over-14s costs £1,080, or £720 for kids 7-13. powderbyrne.com



3 LUCKNAM PARK, BATH

This country house hotel, on a 500-acre estate in Wiltshire, is the only British hotel to have its own on-site equestrian centre. With 35 horses of all sizes, a 'sandschool' and cross-country course, plus cookery lessons, spa, tennis courts and pool, there's lots to keep the whole family amused.

• From £290 per night, based on two adults sharing, room-only, including use of the spa. Extra beds for children under 12 cost £25 per room per night. Riding starts at £90pp per hour.
lucknampark.co.uk

4 CASTELLARE DI TONDA, TUSCANY, ITALY

This 800-acre working wine estate above the medieval village of Montaiione offers a relaxed holiday for families. In The Saddle's 'Heart of Tuscany' itinerary includes 12 hours of riding, which can be a mixture of lessons and trail rides. It's Western-style riding (as opposed to English) here, so easy for novices to pick up.

• From £2,817, based on a family of four (two children under 12, but over seven) for seven nights' half-board in a two-bed apartment. Includes 12 hours' riding. inthesaddle.com



5 SIWASH LAKE WILDERNESS RESORT, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

Siwash is an 80,000-acre ranch in the heart of British Columbia's cowboy country that specialises in high-energy family holidays. Ride horses, hike trails, fish, swim and kayak on the lake. The ranch also has a helicopter to take guests further into the wilds.

• From £5,800pp for seven nights, based on a family of four. Includes flights, hire car, one night in Vancouver at the Fairmont Pacific Rim on arrival, fully inclusive. scottdunn.com

6 ANT'S LODGES, SOUTH AFRICA

One of the best ways to get close to game is on horseback, and Tess and Ant Baber, owners of Ant's Nest and Ant's Hill – fine lodges each in a private game reserve – have a reputation for matching children with ponies. While there's no instruction as such, even non-riders are encouraged to mount up to see the wildlife, including rhino, giraffe, zebra and more. There are no lion or elephant, so all levels of rider can be taken out safely.

• *From £4,627 for a family of four (two children under 12) for seven nights, all inclusive, plus transfers from Johannesburg. Return flights from London to Johannesburg from around £550pp. inthesaddle.co*



7 RUSHMORE ESTATE, WILTSHIRE

Immerse your children in all aspects of pony ownership on the Rushmore Estate. Families stay in 400-year-old estate cottages, a short walk from the village of Cranborne Chase, with daily maid servicing and a welcome hamper. While adults can enjoy three half-day rides across King John's hunting grounds on the estate, kids will be gone from 10am to 4pm, enjoying riding lessons, hacks and getting stuck in to stable management – from mucking out to grooming.

• *From £395pp, including three nights' cottage accommodation, three half-day rides for adults and three pony days for children. Two-night packages available. equestrian-escapes.com*

8 BORANA LODGE, KENYA

This working cattle ranch in Laikipia is a family haven, with far-reaching views across the Samangua Valley to Mount Kenya and beyond. Guests can get as involved as they wish with daily ranch life, while viewing game – which wanders freely (Borana is home to a healthy rhino population). For the adventurous with older children and teens, you can also choose a riding safari, 'fly camping' (staying in a basic mobile camp) overnight.

• *From £8,498, all inclusive, for five nights in Borana. Includes flights and transfers. Kids under five stay free. borana.co.ke*



9 CASTLE LESLIE, IRELAND

Horses are big business in Ireland, and this castle, on a 1,000-acre estate in Monaghan, offers riding holidays for all, novice to expert. There are 21 miles of bridleways to explore, and for good riders, 300 jumps to tackle on the estate. During school holidays, the equestrian centre holds The Saddle Club for kids every morning, with games and competitions. There's also a spa, walking trails, fishing, kayaking, clay-pigeon shooting, and falconry to keep the family entertained.

• *From £150pp, castleleslie.com* ■