

Best practice guide for riders

Horse & rider

- I ride a horse that is healthy, injury-free and suited to my level and the effort required. I only ride outdoors if I know how to control my horse in all situations.
- I use equipment that is suitable for the horse and the planned activity (not forgetting halter, rope and lead rope, collapsible canvas bucket, human and equine first aid kit and small farrier's equipment depending on the duration of the planned activity).
- I take care of my horse by managing his pace according to his physical condition, the nature of the terrain and the relief. I walk beside my horse if necessary.
- When I'm away for several days, I make sure my horse has the right feed for each stage.
- When I'm away for several days, I book my accommodation in advance and make sure that the infrastructure is suited to my needs and those of the horse.

Security

- I choose equipment that guarantees my safety (helmet) and that of the horse. I always remain visible in all weathers and by wearing light-colored clothing and reflective strips at night.
- I take an electronic map and/or paper so that I can find my way around at any time.
- I inform a third party of my departure and the broad outlines of my itinerary. I will take with me the emergency numbers to contact in the event of a problem (accommodation provider, doctor, vet, farrier, etc.). I have third-party liability insurance. I bring my horse's up-to-date vaccination record.

Environment

- I adapt my pace to the state of the paths and only use them if their condition allows me to, so as not to make them impassable. If it snows, I only use stable paths to avoid damage.
- I respect the work of the farmers and make sure that the place and the animals are not disturbed.
- I do not ride on paths that are off-limits to horse riders, and I do not cross crops, meadows or plantations. I avoid mown grass fields. I do not let my horse eat trees I collect dung in urban areas. I don't throw my rubbish out in the open and I don't make fires. I spontaneously report any damage I may have caused.

With other users

- I am courteous to everyone I meet on my route. I behave in a way that does not hinder or endanger other road users (cyclists, walkers).
- I walk at a walking pace before meeting someone. I will be noticed if I approach from behind.
- If I have a dog, I must keep it under control, if necessary, on a lead, so that it does not frighten livestock or game and does not pose a threat to anyone. If possible, I should avoid busy paths.

- I am particularly vigilant during hunting season. If there is a problem, I keep calm and seek dialogue. I leave the tree houses clean when I leave.

Traffic

- I respect the highway code and all traffic bans. If I have to
- I walk in single file. When crossing a road, it's a good idea to group together and cross together.
- Pavements are for pedestrians only, I don't use them with my horse.
- I close any fences or gates I have opened. In winter, it is forbidden to use the cross-country ski trails. I report any anomalies I encounter on my route.

Organisations to contact for further information:

Vallée de Joux Tourisme : www.myvalleedejoux.ch

Office fédéral de l'agriculture : www.agate.ch