

Biltmore Equestrian Trails

Stephanie LaPlante and Stagg Newman

Biltmore's equestrian trail system features approximately 150 miles of beautiful trails that encompass different views and terrain across the estate. Equestrian trails on the east side of the property are open year-round, but the estate's west side is primarily agricultural land with trails that are only open during competition weekends.



Nancy MacDonald

Biltmore West Range Trails include views of estate vineyards and the Blue Ridge Mountains.

East-side trails wind across the estate, offering views of Biltmore House with its stunning backdrop of Blue Ridge Mountains. Flat, easy treks along the French Broad River are perfect for all skill levels while miles of forested trails reward more savvy riding skills. There are no long climbs, but rolling hills and varied terrain provide a surprising amount of climb and descent.

Scenic west range trails include Biltmore's vineyards, Westerly and Long Valley Lakes, and beautiful views of Mt. Mitchell, which is the highest mountain east of the Mississippi River. Riders will see farm homes that are original to the estate as well as our managed forests. Long-range views of Biltmore House across the French Broad River allow you to see what inspired George Vanderbilt's vision for Biltmore. Beautiful grass and dirt paths along the river invite riders to hand gallop.



White Arrows indicate left turns, Black and Yellow Arrows indicate right turns (photo by Stephanie LaPlante).

In addition, trails pass working farms that are home to herds of Black Angus cattle, goats, and heritage breeds of sheep and pigs. Riders' horses should be trained to cope with the animals, or riders may dismount and walk past farm animals on foot.

Biltmore's equestrian trails are permanently and prominently marked: arrows within diamond shapes indicate the proper direction of travel while an "X" within an octagon indicates the wrong way. Riders follow the color that corresponds to the trail they are using.

Example: in the picture below, directional arrows indicate that for white, lime, and blue trails, riders turn left. For yellow and red trails, riders turn right up the hill. Red and yellow X trail markers indicate that riders do *not* go straight to follow those trails. Red and yellow arrows just beyond the turn are confirmation markers that help riders have confidence in their choice.



Example of directional trail arrows

Three keys to successful participation in Biltmore Endurance Rides:

- Maintain a proper pace for the terrain: "Never Hurry, Never Tarry."
- Proper equitation for the terrain and footing: a horse with good working gaits, trained to handle roots and uneven terrain and collect downhill.
- Proper shoeing: pads to handle the working farm roads that have light gravel for horses needing that type of protection.
 - NOTE: riders can often choose to move to the softer terrain at the side of the dirt/gravel roads or walk at the sacrifice of pace.

Visit <https://www.biltmoreendurance.com/trails.html> for maps for all distances for the 2026 Biltmore Challenge.

Visit http://biltmoreendurance.com/biltmore_trails.html for maps, trail descriptions, and profiles for all distances for the Biltmore Day Trails system.