



## **Canadian Wilderness ESL Program at Chilcotin Holidays Ranch**

With the world becoming more and more a global village and English it's common language for work and recreation, there is an increasing demand for students to improve their English.

Our school is unique. We do not compete with the big "city" schools. We have much more to offer our students.

Here at the ESL Wilderness Ranch we combine a high standard of English language study with the adventure of being on a horse ranch with over 40 horses. The ranch is situated in the South Chilcotin Mountains, deep in the wilderness of British Columbia, Canada. We prefer using the Communicative Language Teaching (CLT) approach. This is the most widely practiced approach to teaching a second language. Our goal is to have our students achieve "Communicative Competence". This means that our students are able to communicate in English using the four language skills, speaking, listening, reading and writing.



*A student riding in an alpine meadow*

Canada is one of the best destinations to study English. Many students decide to come to Canada because of the nature and wilderness that can be found here, especially in British Columbia. However, most of the schools that are available to students are to be found in the big cities such as Vancouver and Toronto.

Our ESL Wilderness Ranch is unique; we are attached to a horse ranch deep in the Chilcotin Mountains, surrounded by snow-covered mountains, lush forests, crystal clear lakes and rivers. Where else can you sit in a classroom and watch deer grazing outside or a coyote moving through the shadows?

**At the ESL Wilderness Ranch we offer;**

- 15 hours of classroom study per week
- Studying in a beautiful and natural setting
- A wilderness lifestyle experience
- Active participation on a horse ranch
- Afternoon horse riding activities included in the tuition fee!



*Classroom study is relaxed and informal*

In a city, students attend classes then return to their home-stay. At all other times they are left in a strange city struggling with a strange language. Here on the ranch, students are accommodated and have all their meals on the ranch (also included in the tuition fee). They study in the classroom in the mornings and in the afternoons they mix with the ranch staff and learn to saddle and ride the horses “Western” style while they continue to improve their language skills – at no extra cost! It is this continuity, speaking and listening to English 24/7 that really improves their language ability.

The best way to learn a language is total immersion in the culture of the country. When students leave the classroom here they do not revert to their native language, from eating all meals together to learning how to saddle a horse, English is the only language used.

## Home stay is on the Ranch

Accommodation and meals are all included in the tuition fee. Stay on a real horse ranch! No commuting, no city noise. It is important that you have a place where you can feel at home so that your experience is unforgettable and enjoyable from the start to finish.

Students usually have a private room, facilities include shared bathrooms and showers, laundry facilities, and a TV room with a large selection of English movies and books.

## Afternoon and Evening Activities

Afternoon activities are as varied as they are exciting. Obviously horseback riding is very popular, regardless of any previous riding experience and before we ride on the trails, we give a full orientation into “Western” style riding followed by some time in our Gymkhana to gain experience and confidence. Students also have the opportunity to try many other ranch activities such as target shooting, shoeing horses, driving a Skidder or quad bike, even trying their hand at using a lasso!



*A student learning Long Reining*



*Another student tries target shooting*



*Students and staff relax around a campfire*

## *Weekend Adventure Opportunities*

**On the weekends students can take the opportunity to go on longer horseback rides or take part in some Wildlife viewing. Because of our environment here in the South Chilcotin Mountains, wildlife is in abundance and many students enjoy viewing such rare sights as a Grizzly with four cubs. Some of these extra activities may incur charges.**



*A Grizzly with her 4 cubs in a meadow*

**Just being able to ride on a horse on trails through amazing flower covered meadows and along the mountain tops is an experience our students will remember for a lifetime!**



*Riding in the meadows*

## **Program Details**

**Here at the ESL Wilderness Ranch we combine a high standard of English language study with the adventure of being on a horse ranch with over 40 horses. The ranch is situated in the South Chilcotin Mountains, deep in the wilderness of British Columbia, Canada. We prefer using the Communicative Language Teaching (CLT) approach. This is the most widely practiced approach to teaching a second language. Our goal is to have our students achieve “Communicative Competence”. This means that our students are able to communicate in English using the four language skills, speaking, listening, reading and writing.**

**The course is designed to improve communication skills that most often take second seat to grammar lessons. Instead of being the mainstay of the program, grammar lessons give you a basis for the intensive conversational aspect of the program. All levels of students will benefit from the course, gaining both better grammar and communication skills. Our students will gain more fluency and the vocabulary necessary to work and play in the outdoors in an English-speaking environment.**

**Students arrive for lunch on the Sunday before the class starts; they spend the afternoon getting acquainted with the ranch and each other while they get an introduction to the program. Work in the classroom begins Monday morning with a placement test.**

**Workshop-style classes focus on conversational English as well as academic skills such as reading, writing, and listening. Each class includes a reading lesson where students read and listen to various articles devoted to wildlife and the environment. Some topics covered are bear safety, wildlife management, tracking animal signs and articles on the many types of wildlife that can be seen here from the tiny mosquito to the Grizzly Bear.**

**Afternoons are spent practicing English in fun, interactive activities around the ranch. Whether it is learning the parts of a horse and saddle, riding a horse to a hilltop to look out and describe the valley, hiking through the forest to look for animal tracks in the mud or snow, or learning how to throw a lasso, students will go through lots of exercises to improve their communication. At the end of the program, students are awarded a certificate to recognize their achievements.**

## **Wilderness Guide School**

Located on the same ranch as our Language School is a Wilderness Guide School. This school offers students a chance to continue their language skills while developing their knowledge of working with horses and the skills required to become a guide in the wilderness. Once our students have had a taste of life on a wilderness ranch this is a natural continuation of their interests.



*A successful Guide School at the end of their training*

**The Programs combine theoretical and practical training. Each training objective is achieved under guided supervision and time is allocated for individual practice and study. The first half of the Program is based out of the Ranch, where theoretical and practical training is provided in a controlled environment. The last half is spent in base camps where the students have first hand experience by applying their newly learned skills to the "real thing".**

**At the completion of the Program, a certificate confirms successful completion. Graduates may be offered a non paid internship at the ranch. Graduates are not guaranteed employment but may be hired by us and licensed as an Assistant Guide, or referred by us to other guide outfitters, guest ranches and fishing lodges in BC, Alberta and the Yukon.**

***These courses fill up very quickly so interested students need to apply early to ensure a place!***

## Student Participation in Ranch activities

Afternoons, evenings and weekends are never boring for our students. Very quickly they become friends with the staff and are included in all the ranch activities which can include;

*Target shooting, Shoeing a horse, Bareback Riding, Long Reining, Fishing, Archery, Lasso Lessons, Driving a logging skidder or Back Hoe, Wildlife viewing, Exploring the inside of a Grizzly Den, Running a chainsaw, Riding a Bucking Barrel, Pole climbing....*

*..... And so much more*

*Some extra weekend activities may incur a fee*



*Using a chainsaw for the first time!*



*Bareback riding is always popular*