

HORSE TRAIL CLASSIFICATIONS



EASY (Class 1)

	Description
Overview	<p>Easy Trails are most suitable for novices; social groups and others seeking a relatively short distance trail requiring a basic level of skill and horse & rider fitness.</p> <p>Easy Trails are most likely to be fire roads or wide single tracks (bridlepaths) with a gentle grade (not exceeding 10%) and a relatively obstacle free, hardened natural surface.</p> <p>Easy Trails are likely to be multi-use and frequent encounters with other users including cyclists, walkers & runners can be expected.</p>
Elements for classification	
Corridor (Width) (Height)	(Min.) 3 m (Min.) 3.7 m
Tread (Minimum Width)	1.5 m Note: Short sections of narrower tread (.60 m to 1.2 m) are acceptable at ground level however 1.5 metres is required at the height of the riders stirrups.
Surface	Generally a natural surface (topped with dolomite or compacted surface if desired). Hardened surfaces like concrete or asphalt to be avoided due to concussion on horse legs and poor traction with metal horseshoes. Hardened surfaces may be utilised on Rail Trails or other tracks where horses would generally only walk.
Distance	0 – 14 km
Gradient	Desired gradient 0 – 10% Maximum 10% Maximum sustained pitch 5% Out slope 4% maximum
Minimum turning radius	N/a
Level of skill / experience	Novices will require a basic level of riding skill and fitness is required coupled with riding on a trained, experienced horse.
On-trail facilities	Facilities along the trail may include mounting blocks, step overs, shallow fords, bridges, watering points, interpretative and/or management signs.
Trailhead facilities	The trailhead will be marked with a sign, specifying the name, distance, classification, multi-use code of conduct and other relevant information. Trailhead facilities may include car and separate horse float parking, manure receptacle, map dispensers, toilets, drinking water and information shelters. Trailhead facilities may include overnight yarding for horses. (Facilities will be dependent on the number of visitors using the trail or other attractions in the area.)
Recommended trail flow	Open and Flowing

* There may be circumstances where trails with a surface and slope similar to Class 1 exceed the suggested distance. These trails should be upgraded to Class 2 or 3.

HORSE TRAIL CLASSIFICATIONS



INTERMEDIATE (Class 2)

	Description
Overview	<p>Intermediate Trails are most suitable for individuals and smaller social groups seeking a short to medium distance trail requiring a moderate level of skill and fitness.</p> <p>Intermediate Trails are most likely to be a combination single trail and/or fire road with obstacles, variable surface, and a moderate slope.</p> <p>Intermediate Trails are likely to be multi-use so encounters with other users including cyclists, walkers, runners and horse riders should be expected.</p>
Elements for classification	
Clearing (Width) (Height)	(Min.) 1.5m (Min.) 3.7m
Tread (Minimum Width)	1.5 m
Surface	<p>Generally a natural surface is desired and may include sections of rocky ground, sand, clay or gravel.</p> <p>Obstacles such as rocks, logs and gates that require dismounting are likely. Shallow ford crossings are acceptable. (Note: SA rainfall conditions vary widely - seasonal conditions may water depths significantly)</p>
Distance	Maximum 40 km
Gradient	Maximum 15% Maximum sustained pitch 10%. Out slope 4% maximum
Minimum turning radius	na
Level of skill / experience	An intermediate level of riding skill & fitness is required, and a horse with some trail experience & training is recommended. Knowledge of Basic horse health including first aid and conditioning requirements is highly desirable.
On-trail facilities	Facilities along the trail may include lookouts, bridges, watering points, interpretative and/or management signs, step overs, shallow ford crossings.
Trailhead facilities	The trailhead will be marked with a sign, specifying the name, distance, classification, multi-use code of conduct and other relevant information. Trailhead facilities may include car parking and separate horse float parking, toilets, drinking water, map dispensers and information shelters. (Facilities will be dependent on the number of visitors using the trail or other attractions in the area.)
Recommended trail flow	Generally flowing with some more challenging sections

* There may be circumstances where trails with a surface and gradient similar to Class 2 exceed the suggested distance. These trails should be upgraded to Class 3.

HORSE TRAIL CLASSIFICATIONS



ADVANCED (Class 3)

	Description
Overview	<p>Advanced Trails are suitable for individuals and small social groups seeking a very challenging trail requiring a high level of skill, fitness, and basic navigation skills.</p> <p>Advanced Trails are most likely to consist of challenging single trail and/or fire road with many obstacles, variable surface, and steep sections. Some trail routes may not be marked at all.</p> <p>Advanced Trails may possibly be multi-use so encounters with other users possibly including cyclists, walkers, vehicles and other stock should be expected, however, many of these trails may be located in remote areas and encounters with others is expected to be minimal.</p>
Elements for classification	
Clearing (Width) (Height)	<p>Min. 1.5m Min. 2.5m</p>
Tread (Width)	<p>Min. 30 cm</p> <p>Note: 1.5 metres is recommended at the height of the riders stirrups</p>
Surface	Usually a variable surface with sections of rock, sand, clay gravel, etc. Obstacles may include challenging rocks, logs, Forging creeks
Distance	Advanced Trails can be any length.
Gradient	Maximum 20% (Max. sustained pitch 10%.)
Minimum turning radius	N/A
Level of skill / experience	A higher level of skill and fitness is required. Navigation and personal survival skills are highly desirable. Previous riding experience essential. Packing skills may be required. Map reading skills and horse health knowledge is essential. An experience guide is recommended for riders with limited remote area experience
On-trail facilities	Generally facilities are not provided except in relation to specific safety or environmental considerations. Stock holding yards and watering points will be identified on maps but may not necessarily be specifically provided as part of the trail. Permission to access these facilities may be required.
Trailhead facilities	The trailhead will be marked with a sign, specifying the name, distance, classification, multi-use code of conduct (if relevant) and possibly management information. Trailhead facilities may include car and float parking, drinking water. (Facilities will be dependent on the number of visitors using the trail or other attractions in the area.)
Recommended trail flow	none