






TRAIL  
DIFFICULTY  
RATING  
SYSTEM —  
HORSE



## HORSE TRAIL CLASSIFICATIONS

	EASIEST	INTERMEDIATE	ADVANCED
			
<b>Description</b>	<p>Most likely to be fire roads or wide single tracks (bridlepaths) with a gentle gradient (not exceeding 10%), smooth surface and a relatively obstacle free, hardened natural surface</p> <p>Frequent encounters are likely with other users including cyclists, walkers and runners.</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>	<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>
<b>Suitable for</b>	Most suitable for novices; social groups and others seeking a relatively short distance trail requiring a basic level of skills and horse and rider fitness.	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.	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.
<b>Level of skill / experience</b>	Novices will require a basic level of riding skill and fitness is required coupled with riding on a trained, experienced horse.	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.	<p>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.</p> <p>An experience guide is recommended for riders with limited remote area experience</p>
<b>Trail Corridor</b>			
(Width)	(Min.) 3m	(Min.) 1.5m	Min. 1.5m
(Height)	(Min.) 3.7m	(Min.) 3.7m	Min. 2.5m
<b>Tread</b>	1.5 m	1.5 m	Min. 30 cm
(Minimum Width)	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.	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.	Note: 1.5 metres is recommended at the height of the riders stirrups
<b>Trail Surface</b>	<p>Generally a natural surface (topped with dolomite or compacted surface if desired).</p> <p>Hardened surfaces like concrete or asphalt to be avoided due to concussion on horse legs and poor traction with metal horseshoes.</p> <p>Hardened surfaces may be utilised on Rail Trails or other tracks where horses would generally only walk.</p>	<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>	Usually a variable surface with sections of rock, sand, clay gravel, etc. Obstacles may include challenging rocks, logs, fording creeks

## HORSE TRAIL CLASSIFICATIONS (CONTINUED)

	EASIEST	INTERMEDIATE	ADVANCED
			
<b>Distance</b>	0-14km	Maximum 14km	Advanced Trails can be any length.
<b>Trail Gradient</b>	Desired gradient 0 - 10% Maximum 10% Maximum sustained pitch 5% Out slope 4% maximum	Maximum 15% Maximum sustained pitch 10%. Out slope 4% maximum	Maximum 20% (Max. sustained pitch 10%.)
<b>On-trail facilities</b>	Facilities along the trail may include mounting blocks, step overs, shallow fords, bridges, watering points, interpretative and/or management signs.	Facilities along the trail may include lookouts, bridges, watering points, interpretative and/or management signs, step overs, shallow ford crossings.	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.
<b>Trailhead facilities</b>	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.)	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.)	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.)
<b>Recommended trail flow</b>	Open and Flowing	Generally flowing with some more challenging sections	none

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.



TRAILS SUB COMMITTEE OF RECREATION SA

## **HORSE SA**

For more information  
[www.horsesa.asn.au](http://www.horsesa.asn.au)

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