

RL MAGAZINE

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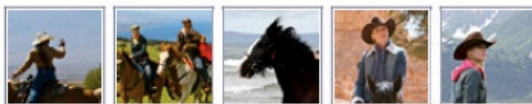
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Darley Newman rides Orca beneath the snow-capped mountains of Seward, Alaska.

*T*V host Darley Newman brings new meaning to the term “globe-trotter”

When Darley Newman couldn't find her dream job, she grabbed the reins and invented it. A veteran of *48 Hours*, *Frontline*, and networks including CBS and the WB, the Washington, D.C., native had always loved riding horses and traveling, so she came up with a TV concept that married her two passions. Today she is the host and producer of the PBS show *Equitrekking*, which follows her as she travels around the world on horseback, exploring not only the lands but also the cultures that develop around horses.

In the show's third season, premiering this fall, Newman and her intrepid crew venture to remote locations in Costa Rica, Belize, Québec, Utah, Arizona, western Texas, and Kentucky to ride with locals and finds that no matter where she is, she and other riders all speak the same language.

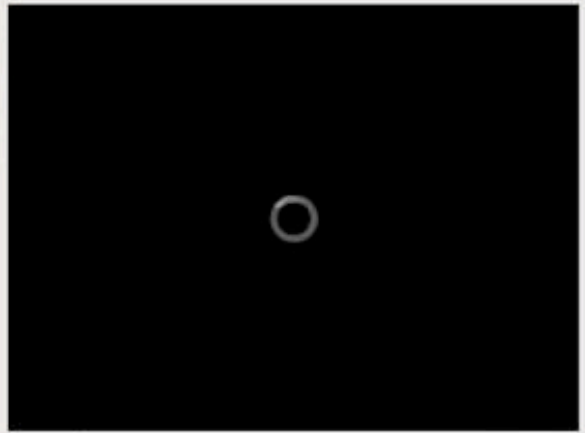
Newman's experiences are also collected in the book *Equitrekking Travel Adventures on Horseback*, out this month from Chronicle. She also writes columns for *True West* and *Practical Horseman* magazines and blogs for equitrekking.com. In these videos, produced exclusively for *RL TV*, Newman describes her favorite parts of her job and provides a cheat sheet of her top-ten riding destinations below.



Equitrekking Revealed

In an RLTV exclusive interview, Darley Newman, host and producer of the PBS program Equitrekking, explains the concept and origin of her show, which takes viewers on horseback to some of the world's most exotic destinations.

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My Top Ten

By Darley Newman

Doñana National Park, Spain: I rode the Queen of Spain's horse among herds of fearless fallow deer and other wildlife en route to a pristine beach at the tail end of Europe.

Haleakala National Park, Maui: I ventured down the Sliding Sands Trail into Haleakala volcano, listening to volcanic cinders crunch beneath my horse's hooves as the

sun moved across the sky, illuminating the rich colors of the crater. You'll want to be on a fit horse accustomed to this surreal and harsh environment. The altitude changes quickly as you descend to the crater floor amid the shiny and rare Haleakala silversword plants and unearthly colors.

Cappadocia, Turkey: Cappadocia's lunarlike landscapes are a sublimely exotic place to explore on horseback. I rode an Arabian horse through a forest of sandstone chimneys. Along the way we explored first-century churches carved into the rocks, Roman ruins, and seven-story underground cities.

Sea Island, Georgia: One of Georgia's Golden Isles, Sea Island is a retreat for horse lovers who want to combine nature excursions and romantic beach rides with spa service and gourmet meals. I cooled off with what the locals call "swim riding"-riding bareback through the surf along the island's private five-mile beach.

Omey Island, Ireland: Twice a day the tides swallow the sand bridge you must cross to get to and from this mythical tidal island in the far west of dramatic Connemara. I felt a few shivers as I rode to an ancient holy well said to possess healing properties and a partially excavated eighth-century stone church left over from the island's monastic past.

Central Pacific coast, Costa Rica: Pure freedom is the only way to describe a sunset gallop along a secluded beach on Costa Rica's Pacific side. I rode a smooth Paso Fino horse along the shore as the sky shaded from orange to red, and small fishing boats in the distance made their way under the neon colors of the horizon.

Antelope Island, Utah: With the snow-capped Rockies in the distance and plenty of room to gallop, Antelope Island is a hidden gem for riders. During a bison round-up I felt the danger and exhilaration that cowboys experience when running with a herd.

Traditional horse drive, Iceland: Leading a herd of fifty horses through the treacherous lava fields in the wilds of Iceland was true test of my riding skills and adaptability. The small but mighty Icelandic horse's smooth movements and surefootedness is confidence-inspiring and thrilling.

Engineer Mountain, Colorado: On this ride in the challenging San Juan National Forest, I found myself climbing through delicate wildflowers and among hummingbirds to a vast expanse above the timberline. There were endless views of the surrounding mountains, valleys, and lakes and the vivid reds and greens of Engineer Mountain rising into the clouds.

Arenal Volcano, Costa Rica: We rode closer than any tourists will ever get to the famously furious Arenal Volcano while riding on a private farm. I felt the power of nature as smoke billowed from the top of the cone and bright red lava rumbled down its side, growing brighter and brighter as the sun set behind us.

Sarah P. Hanson is an editor at Assouline Publishing and has written for ARTnews.