

# TYPES OF ENDURANCE & TRAIL SADDLES

The following are representatives of the some saddles marketed for trail use. Any saddle can be used to trail ride, however, it is especially important that your trail saddle fits and is comfortable for both you and your horse as you may spend many hours together.



**Endurance:** The endurance saddle is designed to be light weight and comfortable with multiple rings on which to carry supplies needed for long distance rides. The endurance saddle does not have a horn despite it's western appearance as endurance rides are conducted primarily at the trot which requires the rider to post for comfort and safety. Endurance stirrups usually have a large surface to prevent foot cramping and increase security.



**English Endurance:** The English endurance saddle is similar to the endurance saddle in that it is designed to be lightweight and comfortable however it is fashioned more like an English saddle. Riders using English endurance saddles may use stirrup leathers and stirrups with narrower foot beds.



**Australian:** The Australian saddle is known for it's deep seat and comfort. Australian saddles are available with or without a horn. All Australian saddles have pommels which are located on either side of the pommel and help keep the rider securely in the saddle when riding downhill. Note the wide stirrup leather and overgirth common to many Australian saddles.



**Plantation:** The plantation saddle comes in a variety of styles some with horns, others without. Some plantation saddles have very broad low cantles and a flatter seat than the pictured saddle. The plantation saddle is designed for riding gaited horses over long distances and generally places the rider behind the horse's center of gravity.

