



The Riders

Ben Masters, the cowboy who launched *Unbranded*, enlisted a few of his friends

Thomas Glover

"It was a very easy decision for me to put everything on hold after graduation and go on this trip. I'm a city boy whose heart belongs in the mountains." Glover hails from the big city of Houston, Texas, but took to the mountains like an old school packer.

While getting his degree in Construction Science at Texas A&M University, Glover spent his summers leading horseback rides in Rocky Mountain National Park and one fall guiding elk hunts in Wyoming. His reliability, mapping, and horseshoeing skills were crucial to the success of the trip.

Ben Thamer

As a kid, Thamer spent every spare minute camping, fishing, hunting or skiing, which "taught me to appreciate the natural world and thrills that only Mother Nature can provide." He admittedly obsessed over the cowboy lifestyle and wore out copies of *Lonesome Dove*.

Thamer immersed himself in college, completing a degree in agricultural economics at Texas A&M, fulling expecting to secure an office job, wife, kids, and "house on a cul-de-sac." But when Masters asked if he wanted to go on the trip, he couldn't say no. Thamer's quick wit, willingness to be the cook, and vet skills made him an ideal traveling partner.

Jonny Fitzsimons

Fitzsimons grew up on a cattle ranch in south Texas, saddling up since he could walk, and is an accomplished horseman. He graduated from Texas A&M in December 2012 with a history degree. Summers for Fitzsimons meant working on a horse ranch in Argentina, or chasing poachers in Tanzania, or working a dude and cattle ranch in southern Wyoming. He was "the guy you relied on to get things done and to stay calm in a crisis," his partners said. Tagged "razor sharp," Fitzsimons had a dry sense of humor, and his experienced horsemanship was a huge asset to the team.