

Welcome to the Virtual Front Porch

Remember the front porches of yesteryear that were a feature of nearly every home? As gathering places for family, friends, and neighbors, these in-between spaces were neither indoors nor outdoors; porches were the public parts of private homes. They were where neighbors swapped stories and shared the happenings of the neighborhood. Sometimes people were invited at a specific hour to enjoy a meal or a sing-along. At other times, groups formed spontaneously to enjoy a warm summer evening sunset, watch the kids and dogs play ball in the yard, and simply enjoy one another's company. Friendships formed on front porches—and they still do if we take the time to visit.

Yes, Dunrovin Ranch has a real front porch. And now, through the magic of web cameras and the internet, we have a *virtual front porch*. What started as a collaboration with the University of Montana with a single webcam on the ospreys' nest, has turned into a network of multiple webcams and a whole community of people, animals, and nature. Our *virtual front porch* creates an online place for an interactive community, and just like traditional neighborhoods, events take place, conversations get started and friendships form.

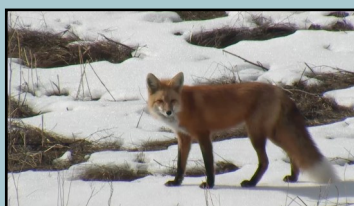
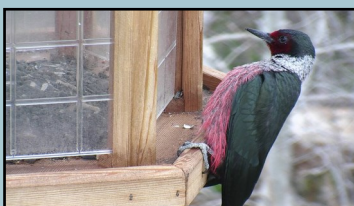
The Nest Cam

Has an ambient mic and infrared night light. It provides intimate views of ospreys during spring and summer and of the many colorful birds both big and small that visit the bird feeders during winter



The Bench Cam

Is on a natural bench where fields drop off to the riparian forest. With an ambient mic and infrared night light, it overlooks a bird feeding station where small mammals gather to eat seeds scattered on the ground.



The River Cam

Watches over a world unto itself that is a highway for birds and wildlife, forever changing with foggy mornings, floods in the spring, and ice in the winter. A herd of wild horses is in the mountains within its view.



The Ranch Cam

Uses directional mics that staff and guests wear to bring you right into all the ranch activities, from maintaining the webcams, to training our horses, to feeding the herd, to giving riding lessons. You are included!



At Dunrovin, life is both spontaneous and planned. Nature and animals do not adhere to our human clocks or desires. So we have to go with the flow, fix the broken water trough in winter, rush to the aid of a horse in need, scatter when thunderstorms bring lightning and hail, and be ever ready for what comes next. But we can also create and schedule special events, host weddings, offer riding lessons and pony rides. Our days are never the same. The Dunrovin experience includes long hot days with bright pink sunsets, BIG smiles on happy children's faces, our outrageous donkey DIVAS prancing about in their costumes, cries of danger from the ospreys, and quiet moments fishing on the river. Perhaps, most importantly, we let our and YOUR curiosities lead the way. Welcome to the neighborhood!

