

Hidden Trails

Ph. 1-888-9-TRAILS

*Equestrian Vacations
- on & with Hidden Trails*

About Hidden Trails

Hidden Trails is owned and operated by nature enthusiasts who love horses and adventure activities. We have been involved with riding and other outdoor vacations for over 20 years.

With our partners Voyage du Cheval (France), Pegasus (Germany) as well as Equitour (Switzerland and France) we have collected the best riding destinations all over the world in some hidden places we would like to share with you.

These rides are about galloping on endless beaches, forging rivers, cantering through forests, trotting along age-old trails, gazing at beautiful vistas and encountering foreign cultures. But most of all, these trips are about getting away from the cycle of too much work and never enough free time.

Escape from the rituals, which long ago froze our nights and days into little more than routine and away from the worries of our new tense times. It is so satisfying when we take the plunge of adventure - it's unfortunate that we invent so many reasons to put aside living our dreams of adventure. It is sometimes a tangled web that we weave through life. Some of the threads reveal a work-a-day world of commitments, duties and obligations. Other threads are of a quiet fabric of hope, responsibility and refreshment.

On our adventures you see the real country, its back country and meet the locals. The love for horses has no boundaries but possesses a common language we all speak and understand. The majority of the overseas rides are from inn to inn, some from castle to castle and a few are camping rides.

You will experience new countries and their customs and make new friends. The Hidden Trails trips are the best you can find.

They have been tested by our staff or associates and received our stamp of approval. If you are considering a special riding vacation anywhere in the world, call us first and let our experienced consultants match the perfect trip with your dream.

We will listen to you and give you objective advice to help you choose the best destination and adventure.

Your vacation is the most precious time of the year and we are committed to making it the most memorable time of your life. Wherever you go, have a great time and bring back some peace of mind.

Thank you for your continued support.

Hidden Trails

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Rhodope Mountains Ride - In the Land of Orpheus - Bulgaria, Europe

Tour Code: IT-BGRT10
8 days / 7 nights ~\$860.00
Dates: May-Oct

Trip Rating: ●●●●●
Difficulty: ●●●●●
Lodging: ●●●●

Tack: Western, but there is English tack available...

Horses: Most of the horses belong to the local...

Pace: (6-7 hours in the saddle each day). Ran...

Walk, Trot, Canter,

Airport: Sofia International Airport (SOF)



Introduction

Mountains, Bulgaria

The Rhodopes, occupying the southern part of Bulgaria and part of Greece, are the homeland of the mythological singer Orpheus. This ride spends 6 days of riding in this enchanting mountain – the land of high peaks and deep river gorges, unique rock formations, lush meadows and dense forests. The western part of the Rhodopes where our ride takes place, offers a variety of terrains in which one can experience of all types of riding and paces. We visit remote villages, stay with local people enjoying their hospitality, local food and excellent wines. We spend also some time in Plovdiv - Europe's oldest inhabited city and 2019 European Capital of Culture.

Accommodation

Accommodations

This is a progressive ride, so nights will be spent in different locations. You will be staying in 6 different locations total.

Description

You will stay overnight at local guesthouses and small family-run hotels in rooms with private facilities (except for maybe one night in Varhovich – depends on accommodation).

WiFi will be available at all locations.

Accommodation Itinerary - subject to changes based on availability

- Night 1: Hotel in Sofia
- Night 2: Villa Yustina near Plovdiv
- Night 3: Guesthouse in Dedevoh or Boikovo
- Night 4: Guesthouse in Orekhovo
- Night 5: Guesthouse in Lyaskovo
- Night 6: Hotel in Varhovich
- Night 7: Hotel in Sofia

Hotel in Sofia

You will be warmly welcomed in this small family hotel. There is a beautiful garden with many flowers, where guests can relax. The hotel has 15 rooms, all equipped with TV, telephone and bathroom with toilet, shower or bath. Internet is also available at this property.

Villa Yustina near Plovdiv

This lovely hotel was created in 2006. The owners also produce their own wine. The 10 guestrooms are modern and comfortable. Each room has a TV and private facilities. Wi-Fi is also available onsite. There is a pool and a small garden where you can relax in the evening.

Guesthouse in Dedevoh

Tonight, you sleep in a rural guesthouse with simple but comfortable bedrooms.

Guesthouse in Orekhovo

This Guest House offers 7 spacious bedrooms each with its own sanitary facilities and TV set. Free WiFi is available throughout the property.

Guesthouse in Lyaskovo

This lovely guesthouse provides simple accommodations in private bedrooms that are fitted with a private bathroom and Wi-Fi access. It is possible to do laundry here for a small fee.

Hotel in Varhovich

Surrounded by nature this hotel provides comfortable rooms featuring ensuite bathroom, Wi-Fi access and satellite TV.

Room Occupancy

Single supplement is mandatory if we are unable to find another rider to share.

Meals

All breakfasts are included. Your package also includes 6 lunch packs (day 2 to 7) and 4 dinners (day 3 to 6). The food is locally grown and home-style.

Alcoholic beverages are not included in the rates.

Dietary Restrictions

We can cater to dietary restrictions given prior notice.

Riding





Riding Level

The ride is suitable for confident intermediate riders. There will also be occasions where you need to dismount and lead your horse for short periods of time (20 – 30 min) – this can be both uphill as well as downhill so you will need to be reasonably fit.

Pace

This trip includes 6 days of riding in enchanting mountains, deep river gorges, lush meadows and dense forests. The trail offers a variety of terrains in which one can experience of all types of paces. We ride between 4 and 6 hours every day.

Horses

Most of the horses are crossbreeds between the local East-Bulgarian and Karakachan with a mid-height of 150 cm. They are well known as thoughtful and tough, and are thus extremely well-adapted to the mountainous region of the Stara planina (Balkan).

They are well behaved and are used to each other so you will not experience any trouble with them walking, trotting or cantering in a group together.

Though our horses are suitable for riding, saddling etc. they are still working horses and they are taken care of just like the typical free grazing horses in the region. This might be quite different from what a rider with an experience abroad must have seen, but please, keep in mind that this is how the local people have raised their horses for centuries. As a company that has always tried to help the small local communities in Bulgaria by bringing tourists to them, we would like to ask you to respect and understand these traditions and practices.

Itinerary



Sample Itinerary - subject to changes

Day 1 (Saturday): Arrive Sofia

Transfer to our hotel in Sofia for overnight.

Meals included: None

Overnight at Hotel in Sofia

Day 2 (Sunday): Test Ride

After breakfast at the hotel, we head to our base Villa Yustina at the foot of the Rhodope mountain (15 km from Plovdiv). Here, we will meet our horses and do a short test ride. While riding, we will pass through meadows and forests. Depending on the season, we will have the opportunity to enjoy the ripe fruits in the area and meet the local people, who work in the fields. Sightseeing in Plovdiv in the afternoon. Back to Villa Yustina for overnight.

Riding: 3 hours

Meals included: B/L/-

Overnight at Hotel in Villa Yustina

Day 3 (Monday): Villa Yustina to Dedevo/Boikovo

This morning, we start our riding adventure. Passing through green pastures and picturesque villages, we will reach the village of Dedevo for overnight. Alternatively, we can take a slightly different route and spend the night in another charming mountain village - Boikovo.

Riding: 6-7 hours

Meals included: B/L/D

Overnight in Dedevo or Boikovo

Day 4 (Tuesday): Ride to Orehovo

Today we are heading to the village of Orehovo - one of the most picturesque mountain villages in this region. On the way, we will stop for a lunch near the scenic Bash Mandra area.

Riding: 6 hours

Meals included: B/L/D

Overnight in Orehovo

Day 5 (Wednesday): Orehovo to Lyaskovo

Our trail for the day will lead us through pine forests and vast meadows, on the way to the village of Lyaskovo. We will make a short stop at the unique rock formation Chudnite Mostove (Miraculous Bridges).

Riding: 6 hours

Meals included: B/L/D

Overnight at Guesthouse in Lyaskovo

Day 6 (Thursday): Lyaskovo to Vruhovruh

Today, we are heading South, making our way up in the mountains to the small resort of Varhovuhr. Following the





Varhovorah ridge, we will enjoy great panoramic views before reaching Persenk hut, where we will stop for lunch.

Riding: 3-4 hours

Meals included: B/L/D

Overnight in Varhovorah

Day 7 (Friday): Last Ride

For our last riding day, we ride back to our base in Brestovitsa. Then we transfer back to Sofia where we will spend the night.

Riding: 6 hours

Meals included: B/L/-

Overnight in Sofia

Day 8 (Saturday): Departure

Transfer to Sofia airport for departure (half hour drive).

Meals included: B/-

*B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

Other Info

Meeting: Sofia

Airport: Sofia International Airport (SOF)

Train station: Sofia

Transfer: Sofia International Airport (SOF)

Distance: 10 km / 6 miles

Pick-up/ drop-off for this trip is from Sofia Airport (SOF). Transfer times are available anytime on the first and last day of the trip.

Transfers on days other than designated first and last day will be subject to a surcharge.

Tack: Western, but there is English tack available on request. Riding helmet is not mandatory.

Horses: Most of the horses belong to the local East-Bulgarian breed with a mid-height of 150 cm they are well known as responsive, careful and tough mounts, and are thus extremely well-adapted to the mountainous region of the Rhodope Mountains.

Pace: (6-7 hours in the saddle each day). Ranges from a walk on the steeper slopes and rough terrain to trots and canters on the open spaces. Rough estimate is 50 % walking, 25 % trotting and 25 % cantering.

Walk | Trot | Canter |

Level: 🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾 (2.5 to 4 out of 5) Low Intermediate+

Age: Min 12 Max 70

Weight: 198 lbs

Riders: Min 2 riders

Max 6 riders

Bachkovo Monastery



Second only to Rila Monastery in national significance, Bachkovo dates from 1083 when it was established by Grigori Bakuriyani, a high-ranking Georgian in the Byzantine administration. At the end of his life he wanted to exonerate his sins and so he had this monastery built. He himself stipulated in the code of ethics (kept in the monastery museum) that "a man of Byzantine descent not be accepted as a monk here." Over the centuries the monastery has been ruined and rebuilt several times; only the eleventh century ossuary is original. The latter, a two-story building, is 200 meters east of the monastery; on the second floor is a mural depicting Tsar Ivan Alexander and his wife, and another of the monastery's founder and his brother. In the refectory, the dining room table consists of a large marfale slab. Underneath the wall and ceiling plaster researchers have found portraits of philosophers Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Diogenes and Aristophanes.





In the museum (formerly the kitchen) there is a sabre which belonged to crusader Fridrich Barbarosa and icons by Zahari Zograph and his followers. The Zograph mural in St Nicola church (dating from 1850) depicts the Apocalypse and is one of the most interesting examples of Bulgarian revival art. It features realistic portraits of highly-placed contemporary figures in full dress as well as sinners in the nude awaiting judgment. On the same wall, Zograph drew a portrait of himself standing alongside the head abbot of the monastery.



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Rates and Dates 2024 - IT-BGRT10

Rates include: Accommodations, All breakfasts and lunches + 5 dinners (from Day 2 to Day 6), 6 riding days, Luggage transport, Airport group transfers & Taxes
Helmets and saddle bags are provided upon request.

Packages and Options

Season	Description	EUR	~US\$
A 2024	8 day trip, 6 riding days	€780	\$860

The US Dollar Rate is based on a EUR Exchange Rate of 1.1 and subject to currency fluctuation

Transfer Option

Description

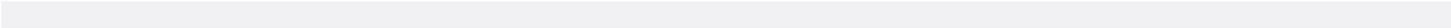
2024 Transfer from/to Sofia airport is included	
2024 Bachkovo visit, per car (max 3 pax)	€70 \$80
2024 Single supplement	€165 \$180
2024 Other local expenses paid in cash, pp	€100 \$110
2024 Private transfers to/from Sofia Airport to city centre or Plovdiv Airport to city centre, one-way, per vehicle	€20 \$20

Tour Dates

Season	Tour Dates		
A 2024	05/11/2024 - 05/18/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip, 6 riding days
A 2024	06/01/2024 - 06/08/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip, 6 riding days
A 2024	06/22/2024 - 06/29/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip, 6 riding days
A 2024	07/06/2024 - 07/13/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip, 6 riding days
A 2024	07/23/2024 - 07/30/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip, 6 riding days
A 2024	07/27/2024 - 08/03/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip, 6 riding days
A 2024	08/10/2024 - 08/17/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip, 6 riding days
A 2024	08/31/2024 - 09/07/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip, 6 riding days
A 2024	09/14/2024 - 09/21/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip, 6 riding days
A 2024	10/12/2024 - 10/19/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip, 6 riding days

Min/Max: 2/6

Rates do not include:2 dinners, Alcoholic drinks, Gratuities, Private airport transfer



Reservation Form

Tour : _____ Code #: _____ from: _____ to : _____

The Travelers (Last Name, First Name)	Male Female	Single room / or tent	Birth Date MM/DD/YY	Height	Weight	Special diets													
						Special diets	Beginner	NoVICE	Intermediate	Strong Intern.	Advanced	ride English	ride Western	mostly arena	mostly hacking				
1. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Special Diets: _____

Your fitness level: Excellent ☐ Moderate ☐ Poor ☐ How long have you been riding? _____

How often do you ride? _____ Have you been on other riding tours? No ☐ Yes ☐ last trip when? _____

If Hidden Trails offers a transfer from the local airport/station: I would like the transfer to be included: YES ☐ NO ☐

In an emergency, name and phone number of contact: _____

Attention: Please, if there is more than one participant, all have to sign the reservation form - make copies if needed

With my signature I confirm my reservation of the listed program(s) under the Hidden Trails Booking Conditions. I'm aware, and I made all participants aware of the risk involved with these outdoor adventure activities. All participants have read and agree with the Hidden Trails Booking Conditions and the Hidden Trails Recreational Activity Release and Indemnity Agreement in this brochure or as listed on the Internet.

I (we) will sign and forward the Recreational Activity Release and Indemnity Agreement at least 10 weeks before trip starting date.

Last Name and First Name (The Traveler) _____

Street _____ e-mail _____

City _____ State _____ Postal/Zip Code _____

Phone (wk) _____ (hm) _____ Cell _____ Fax _____

Date _____ Signature (mandatory) 1. _____

Please, charge a 25% deposit (minimum \$ 350 per person) now and full payment 10 weeks before the travel date to my credit card.

For payments by VISA ☐ or Mastercard ☐ (no debit cards)

Cardholder: _____

Card # _____ 3 digit Security # _____

Exp.Date: _____ Signature _____

Billing Address for Credit Card (if different than mailing address):

I have enclosed a check for the deposit ☐

Additional Signatures:

2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Travel Cancellation Insurance Credit Card required

Sign me (us) up ☐ initial _____

No, we will provide our own ☐ initial _____

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