

# 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

Phone: 604-323-1141

Fax: 604-323-1148

Toll Free: 1-888-9-TRAILS

from within the USA or Canada or

E-mail: [info@hiddentrails.com](mailto:info@hiddentrails.com)

Website: [www.hiddentrails.com](http://www.hiddentrails.com)

Address:

659A Moberly Road, Vancouver BC Canada V5Z 4B3 or

4406 Tennyson Road, Wilmington, DE 19802 USA

### Toll Free from the U.K.:

Ph: 0- 808 189-0420

Fax: 0-808-280-1860

### Toll Free Worldwide:

Skype: hiddentrails



# Norte Chico Adventures - Chile, South America

Tour Code: IT-CHRT14  
8 days / 7 nights ~\$1,565.00  
Dates: All year round

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

Tack: Gaucho-saddle with sheep-fur padding o...

Horses: Criollos

Pace: As we ride about 6 to 11 hours a day a...

Walk,

Airport: La Serena



## Introduction

Northern Chile, Chile

Riding the paths of the Inca and gold diggers, through the Andes, far from civilization. You will explore the wild Sierra, the huge Andes and experience the romantic and pure nature.

Planes from Santiago land in La Serena (health and seaside resort at the Pacific) three times every day, yet visitors from distant countries hardly know this region. Nevertheless, well known is the term "Pisco" which is a colorless and natural brandy extracted from the grapes of the local sunny vineyards. When autumn and winter starts on the Northern hemisphere, holiday season, which is from October to April, begins here in this mild and dry climate. The big, blue Pacific with its hidden fishing villages on the coast and the quaint mountain villages of the wild Andes are part of this region, as well as the lonely valleys, endless mountain trails, and the peace and quiet of the majestic Andes over which the condors fly. A well-known holiday resort of the region is Pisco de Elqui, its home in the valley of the same name. The Rio Hurtado valley is situated nearby, only 10 miles as the crow flies, to the west, and that is where the Hacienda is. One of northern Chile's Indian ceremony places in the best condition is situated in this green valley only 45 minutes ride from the hacienda.

More than forty rock paintings are the last traces of the ancient Indian culture of the Diaguitas. They owned gold mines which attracted the Inca to the Hurtado valley some time later. They introduced the irrigation system which is a labyrinth of channels and which was used by the Spaniards too from the 16th century on, and still the farmers today profit from it. The Spaniards followed the old trade trail of the Inca, known as Inca trail, upstream the Rio Hurtado and further over the Andes.

They gave this pass its name "Linia Santa Rosa" and still today thousands of animals with their herdsman follow this trail from Chile to the summer pastures in Argentina, like some hundreds years ago. The Hurtado district has only about 160 miles of roads which can be traveled by car, and thousands of miles of cattle trails which are traveled by the people (and by our guests) on horseback. Naturally, small changes to traditional life have brought small hospitals, schools, parish halls, restored villages and democratic developments to the area.

Visitors to this region will find a mixture of the old Chilean culture and the achievements of the new century. The hospitable people who can be met here are small farmers, herdsman, workmen and cattle breeders. They live in small villages surrounded by huge and colorful mountain massifs, semi-desert landscapes, steppes, and a wide Sierra.

## Accommodation



### Accommodations

This is a progressive ride where nights are spent either camping in different locations or at the hacienda.

Accommodation Itinerary - subject to changes based on availability

Night 1: Hacienda

Night 2: Camping at Cerro Negro

Night 3: Hacienda

Night 4: Camping at Maiten

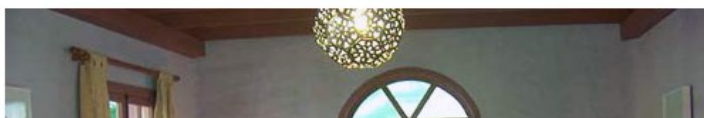
Nights 5 & 6: Camping in Las Breas

Night 7: Hacienda

### Hacienda

The Hacienda has 7 comfortable colonial style guest rooms. Each standard room (single, double or triple room available) comes with a private bathroom. It is possible to upgrade to a suite for an extra fee. The suites are bigger and have big windows with great views of the mountains

The hacienda also has a beautiful garden where guests can relax. WiFi is available in public areas and is free of charge. Laundry services are available for an extra fee.







#### Camping

While camping, we provide you with 1 or 3-person tents, an isothermal mattress and a sleeping bag. Outhouses are available at most camps but you might have to dig a hole in the ground in the most remote camps. Guests can go for a swim in nearby rivers to bathe while camping.

#### Room Occupancy

Single supplement is mandatory if we cannot find another rider to share.



#### Meals

While staying at the hacienda, breakfasts and dinners are included (no drinks) and while camping all meals are included and wine is served for dinner.

For our meals we use exclusively local products of traditional cultivation that we obtain directly from the small holding farmers of the Río Hurtado valley.

#### Dietary Restrictions

We can cater for special diet requirements with prior notice.

### **Riding**



#### Horses

Our horses are descendants of the Chilean Criollos. They are calm and sweet-natured. Growing up in rocky and difficult areas has made them sure-footed and reliable animals.

Our horses are specifically trained for trail rides. We use neither spurs nor whips. We use the same paths as the men called "Huasos" in Chile and "Gauchos" in Argentina. That is how our horses gain strength and endurance. We find the right horse for every customer. Our herd ranges from calm, easy-going horses to more lively ones.

#### Tack

The saddles provided are local Chilean type, which are called Avios. Its origin is Spanish and they have been designed specially for long distance trips. Its wooden mount, reinforced with iron, is cushioned with "chiporro" and protected with leather. The other cloth beneath the saddle is called batán, pellón and matra, and are normally laid on ground by gauchos to provide a soft and warm bed.

#### We Provide:

sleeping bag, thermal mat, tent, personal pannier (cup etc.), ice-box, thermos bottle, (by request) safety helmet, sombrero head and riding gaiters, first aid kit, saddle bags and finally one of the well trained and calm Chilean mountain horses. Explorations accompanied by English, German and Spanish speaking guides.

### **Itinerary**





**Sample Itinerary - subject to changes.**

**Day 1 (Sunday): Arrival**

Transfer to the hacienda. Time for Jacuzzi, sauna, a walk across the 500 ha nature reserve. Dinner and meeting with the team, followed by briefing of the tour.

*Meals included: Dinner*

*Overnight at Hacienda*

**Day 2 (Monday): Ride to Cerro Negro**

After breakfast we meet at 9:30 am to prepare for our expedition. You will meet and get to know your horse and the Chilean riding style (similar to Western style), and of course, our safety precautions. We set off at 10:00 am after having packed all we need for our trip and head into the wilderness towards Hurtado. We will take lunch today under a Algarrobo tree and afterwards make our way along the Ruta Antakari towards vicuña and after a long climb we finally reach the height of 3000 meters. The crystal-clear air lets us enjoy incredible views over the Rio Hurtado Valley, which is located around the Cerro Gigante that now seems so small. We set up our camp at the goatherd station of Alejandro – the brother of our guide. At a bonfire we serve you dinner. Alejandro spends the summer with his 200 goats, his horses and dogs in the mountains and produces his own goat cheese, which he regularly sells in the valley.

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

*Overnight camping at Cerro Negro*

**Day 3 (Tuesday): Ride back to Rio Hurtado Valley**

After the first night in wilderness we enjoy the breakfast before packing up and starting the days ride. Today we will make our way through the high plateaus of the Cerro Negro and witness extreme contrasts of nature. Minerals make the Sierra shine in various colors. After a short time we reach the bottom of a gigantic rock. At its top there is the scientific observatory Gemini, which is directed by Americans. High cactuses and the silence of the loneliness are fascinating us. We pass beautiful landscapes until we see paintings of the Molle culture, which are over 2000 years old. We have lunch under an old pear tree before we head back to the Hacienda. This time our way follows a dry river bed, where we admire the wonderful rocks, which are formed by the water. Once we reach the Hacienda we have time to relax and we can even enjoy a bath in the Rio Hurtado. In the evening we will serve a three course dinner in the Haciendas garden.

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

*Overnight at Hacienda*

**Day 4 (Wednesday): Ride to Maitén**

After a rich breakfast at the hacienda we prepare what we will need to reach our next destination of Maitén. We pass through wild plateaus and canyons, ride the endless Sierra and enjoy a picnic lunch and a traditional siesta. In the afternoon, we pass over heights of 2000 meters. Crystal clear air allows magical views down the valleys of the Andes. We camp in an oasis of the Andes called Maitén. In front of a camp fire we serve dinner and enjoy the beautiful colors of the sunset.

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

*Overnight camping at Maitén*

**Day 5 (Thursday): Maitén to Las Breas**

After spending a calm night next to the camp fire we will have breakfast and start our tour to Las Breas. We continue to climb up the Sierra enjoying the beautiful views over heights of 2800 meters. Perhaps we are lucky to see the snow covered Andean Mountains at the horizon. We have lunch close to a big tree in an old dry river. We spend the night in the village Las Breas where we put up our camp once again next to the river side. Before dinner we have time to refresh ourselves with a quick bath in the river. Tonight we will have dinner together with a Chilean family and exchange information about our different cultures.

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

*Overnight at Las Breas*

**Day 6 (Friday): Ride around Las Breas**

After breakfast we leave to explore the surroundings of Las Breas. We will find some old and original Molle paintings on the rocks. In the afternoon we come back to Fernando's house where we spend another night. You will have time to take a cold, but fresh bath in the River Hurtado. You can also relax, lying in the sun and preparing your energy for your next ride.

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

*Overnight at Las Breas*

**Day 7 (Saturday): Ride back to Hacienda**

Today we pack our belongings for the last time and leave the village of Las Breas in order to go back to the hacienda on a ride through valleys, passing small rivers and villages. We cross an old horse racing place where many Chileans have bet and lost their money on a Sunday afternoon. We will arrive at the hacienda around 5 o'clock. Just in time to take a fresh shower and enjoy the rest of the afternoon in our garden, listening to the sound of the river and the birds.

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

*Overnight at Hacienda*

**Day 8 (Sunday): Departure**

After breakfast transfer. Or if you wish, you may stay some more days at the hacienda and join other activities.

*Meals included: Breakfast*

[Click here for Norte Chico Condor Trail](#)

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## Other Info

**Meeting:** Ovalle or Vicuna/Rio Hutado

**Airport:** La Serena

**Train station:** bus station in Ovalle

**Transfer:** La Serena or Orvalle

**Distance:** 100 miles, 2.5 hrs

Transfers are available from Ovalle, La Serena, and Vicuna. Check out is at noon on the last day.

**Tack:** Gaucho-saddle with sheep-fur padding or Wintec trekking saddle

**Horses:** Criollos

**Pace:** As we ride about 6 to 11 hours a day and we also climb the mountains, which are sometimes higher than 3000 - 4000 meters, we only walk our horses on this intense terrain therefore we can accept novices without fear of steep ascents, descents & heights

Walk |

**Level:** 🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾 (2 to 3 out of 5) Novice+

**Age:** Min 18 Max 65

**Weight:** 200 lbs / 90 kg

**Riders:** Min 1 riders Max 6 riders Max Capacity 12  
(per riding group)

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Rates and Dates 2024 - IT-CHRT14

**Rates include:** Accommodations (standard room while staying at hacienda), All meals, 6 riding days, All camping equipment (sleeping bag, inlet, thermal mat & tent), Transfer from/to Ovalle  
Guiding available in English, German and Spanish  
Safety helmet, sombrero head, chaps & saddle bags can be provided

Packages and Options

| Season | Description | ~US\$  |
|--------|-------------|--------|
| A 2024 | 8 days trip | \$1565 |

Transfer Option

Description

|      |   |       |
|------|---|-------|
| 2024 | Transfer from Ovalle, one way, per car    | \$100 |
| 2024 | Transfer from La Serena, one way, per car | \$120 |
| 2024 | Transfer from Vicuña, one way, per car    | \$100 |
| 2024 | Single supplement (standard room)         | \$450 |
| 2024 | Upgrade to Suite, dbl, pp                 | \$315 |
| 2024 | Upgrade to Suite, sgl, pp                 | \$735 |

Tour Dates

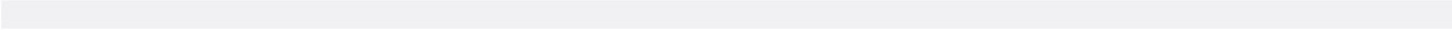
| Season | Tour Dates              |         |             |
|--------|-------------------------|---------|-------------|
| A 2024 | 01/01/2024 - 04/30/2024 | 8d / 7n | 8 days trip |

Min/Max: 1/6

Additional departure dates are available from October to March

Transfers are to be paid locally in Chilean Pesos

Rates do not include:Transfers from/to Vicuña or La Serena & Gratuities





# Reservation Form

Tour : \_\_\_\_\_ Code #: \_\_\_\_\_ from: \_\_\_\_\_ to : \_\_\_\_\_

| The Travelers<br>(Last Name, First Name) | Male<br>Female           | Single<br>room /<br>or tent | Birth Date<br>MM/DD/YY | Height | Weight | Special diets            |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|--------|--------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
|  |                          |                             |                        |        |        | Special diets            | Beginner                 | Novice                   | Intermediate             | Strong Inter.            | 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Hidden Trails Ltd. 659A Moberly Road Vancouver, BC V5Z 4B3 FAX: 604-323-1148 Phone: 604-323-1141



## Hidden Trails

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Mo-Fr 8:30 am to 6 pm  
Pacific Standard Time



