

# 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



# Old Spanish Trail of Guanacaste - Costa Rica, Central America

Tour Code: IT-CR114  
8 days / 7 nights ~\$0.00  
Dates: All year except October

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

**Tack:** Western, English, McClellan  
**Horses:** Spanish Criollos, Paso and Quarter mix  
**Pace:** All paces according to riding level, 3...

**Airport:** Tamarindo Airport (TNO)



## Introduction

Guanacaste, Costa Rica

"Come to ride, relax and experience our very special corner of Paradise. We are not just a 'nose to tail' ride, but a ranch that caters to real riders who care about the quality, care and treatment of horses. Our goal is to provide an unforgettable cultural and equestrian experience to our clients and friends."

Join us for an exceptional riding getaway at a intimate horse ranch located minutes from the famous white sand beaches of Guanacaste. Known for their beautiful, well cared for and expertly trained Criollo horses, your hosts will personally treat you to a sincere home-style hospitality and excellent riding. They have developed their home into one of the finest horse ranches in the area, breeding and training their own special stock - including a vivid line of painted Pasos and Criollos!

Located in an oasis of large Guanacaste trees and surrounded by green pastures, you will be just minutes from some of the most beautiful beaches in Costa Rica. The ranch is also centrally located to take advantage of Guanacaste's famous tourists attractions and is a haven for wildlife, especially howler monkeys and tropical birds. After your daily riding ventures, take a refreshing dip in the casita -side splash pool, lounge in a restful hammock in the shade with a good book, or take a bird walk on the surrounding trails. Your host will take you to visit and play in the local seasonal fiestas and truly involve you in a taste the authentic culture with her friends and the locals. Visit the nearby national park and its resident volcano, ride along the pretty beaches and experience the traditional sabanero cowboy culture of Guanacaste! This trip can be designed to please both avid riders and their non-rider friends. Your hosts are more than happy to try and work with your vision of the perfect horseback vacation and deliver it in a big way!

## Accommodation



### Accommodations

This is a stationary ride, so all nights are spent in the same location.

### Description

We have 2 spacious private casitas with that can sleep up to 4 people each. All casitas have air conditioning, fridge, microwave, coffee maker, DVD, High speed internet, WIFI, and open sky shower in private bathroom. All accommodations have access to splash pool, bar, and maid service. Cool off in the swimming pool after your ride or sip a cold drink while you watch the horses from the porch rockers. There is a safe in the main ranch house. Laundry is available for an additional fee.

### Casita Mandrina

A comfortable casita with a queen and double bed, kitchenette, indoor star shower, cable TV with DVDs.

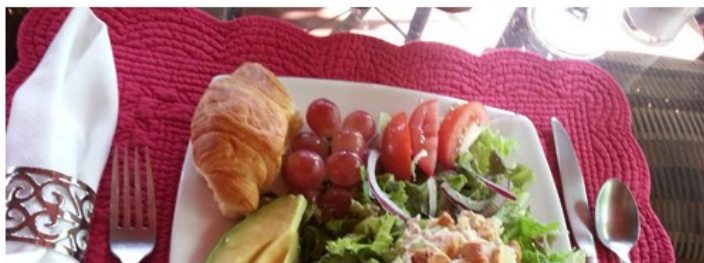
### Casa Roble

A new 1-bedroom furnished house with a queen bed, single bed, and LR single bed, dining area, and full kitchen bar.

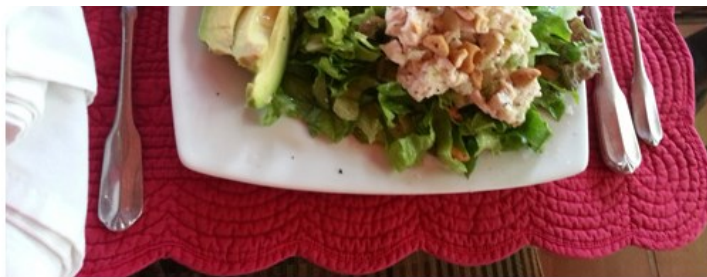
### Room Occupancy

There is no single supplement fee in 2021.

Starting from 2022, a single supplement fee will be charged.







#### Meals

All meals are included in the base package from lunch on Day 1 to breakfast on the last day. If adding on the Beach Extension dinner is not included on Day 7, lunch and dinner not included on day 8. For the 4 night Monteverde Extension lunch not included on day 7 and dinner not included on day 8 and 9.

Selection from a breakfast menu daily, including fresh fruit, fresh juices, cereal, eggs, meats, pancakes, fresh baked breads. Breakfast is provided on the garden porch or poolside. Most lunches are at typical restaurants on the rides. Dinners at the ranch and at local restaurants.

Wine, beer and liquor are extra. Guests are free to bring their own.

#### Dietary Restrictions

We can cater to most dietary restrictions if given prior notice.

### Riding



#### Pace

The pace is adjusted to rider level and experience. Walk/trot on most of the trails, with cantering in safe and open areas, beaches, and country roads. Walk, trot and cantering in the arena. 4.5 riding days with 3-5 hours in the saddle per day.

#### Lessons

Learn to ride or just sharpen your riding skills. Private lessons are offered (at an extra cost) by internationally recognized instructors. Learn groundwork to dressage on well trained horses. Traditional, high stepping Spanish style instruction is also available on the famed Costa Rican Pasos.

#### Horses

We are proud of our horses, trained with natural horsemanship and known for their comfortable ride and noble character. You will love riding our well-trained horses, a mix of the noble Spanish horses, known for their easy ride and great temperament. Many of our horses were born and trained on the ranch using Natural Horsemanship techniques, Imprinting and other non-violent methods.

Most recently the finca began a "Paint and Paso" breeding program with a goal of breeding Criollo horses with "color and comfort" using their handsome paint stallion and Criollo mares.

We will match rider to horse to give the best riding experience available in the area.



### Itinerary







#### **Sample Itinerary - subject to changes**

This program can be adapted to less experienced and advanced riders.

*Please note that itineraries may change due to tides, weather, local fiestas, or request by clients.*

#### **Day 1: Arrival**

Arrive to Liberia Airport (LIR) or Tamarindo Regional Airport (TNO). We will provide private transport to the finca, located just minutes from the beautiful Pacific beaches of Guanacaste. Accommodations in comfortable air conditioned casa or casita. Late afternoon, you will have a ranch orientation. Dinner at the ranch or local restaurant.

*Meals included: Lunch & Dinner  
Overnight at the Ranch*

#### **Day 2: Old Spanish Trail**

After a full ranch breakfast, you will have a short introduction to riding the beautiful Spanish Criollo horses of Costa Rica known for their noble temperament and comfortable ride. You will then have a chance to try out your horses in the ring or take a refresher lesson.

After lunch mount your horse and ride through oxcart trails and large working cattle ranches on the Old Spanish Trail. Follow the trails of the conquistadors to the colorful town of Cartagena where we will meet you at a typical cowboy outdoor cantina for dinner.

*Riding approx. 3-4 hours  
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner  
Overnight at the Ranch*

#### **Day 3: Ride to Tempate**

This morning, you will ride along an old Spanish trail which traverses through large haciendas and backcountry trails. Along the way, you can look for monkeys, tropical birds and dry tropical vegetation. Stop in the cattle town of Tempate for a picnic lunch and cold drinks then ride the Old Spanish Trail back to the ranch.

Take a dip in the pool and relax before dinner at the ranch.

Afternoon option: you can watch the head trainer work with young horses using Natural Horsemanship Technique or take a lesson.

*Riding approx. 3-4 hours  
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner  
Overnight at the Ranch*

#### **Day 4: Ride to Lorena**

Start the day with a visit to Monkey Park and Rescue Center to see the native wildlife and birds found in Guanacaste or a Natural Horsemanship or Centered Riding lesson with our trainer.

After lunch, you will ride your horse through the beautiful ranch country and over the coastal hills to the small village of Lorena for a stop at one of the most popular cantina stops, Chilito's – La Cima to sample their famous fried chicken and chips – a real "Taste of Guanacaste". You will then ride back to the ranch at sunset.

*Riding approx. 2-3 hours  
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner  
Overnight at the Ranch*

#### **Day 5: Tico Trail Ride**

After a delicious cup of Costa Rican coffee, you will take an early morning Tico Trails tour, passing along rivers, through impressive wooded countryside, ranches and picturesque villages. Along the way, you may see Howler monkeys, and colorful tropical birds as well as getting a glimpse of the traditional Sabanero cowboy culture. When you arrive back at the ranch, a traditional Tico meal cooked over firewood will be served. A special afternoon to be arranged or visit to a local fiesta when available.

*Riding approx. 2 hours  
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner  
Overnight at the Ranch*

#### **Day 6: Cowboy Ride**

After breakfast, you will be taken to a working cattle ranch for a half day Cowboy Ride. Your afternoon is free to go to one of the beautiful Pacific beaches to relax, swim or shop. Or opt for one of the many day tours. We will arrange the day with you.

*Riding approx. 3 hours  
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner  
Overnight at the Ranch*

#### **Day 7: Beach Ride**

When you reach the beach, saddle your horses starting in Puerto Viejo then travel along the pristine white Pacific beach of Puerto Viejo: Conchal and Brasilito. Here you will take time to play in the water and take photos. You can then either swim or walk on the beach before lunch or dinner at the beach. (times depend on the low tide)

*Riding approx. 2-3 hours  
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner  
Overnight at the Ranch*

#### **Day 8: Departure**

You will be transferred back to the airport. Horse-riding activity depending on transfer times.

*Meals included: Breakfast*



#### Beach Riding Extension

##### Day 9: Guanacaste Village Ride

Today, take an early morning breakfast ride along the old Spanish oxcart trails, passing through beautiful wooded countryside, ranches and small typical villages. Along the way you may see Howler Monkeys, colorful tropical birds, or other wildlife, while getting a glimpse of the traditional *sabanero* (cowboy culture) of the Guanacaste people. When you arrive at the village of Portegolpe, tie up your horse for a typical breakfast cooked over *lena* (firewood) at the home of a local family. After, ride around town to see life in a small Guanacaste village. Free afternoon at the ranch and sunset dinner on the beach.

*Meals included: Breakfast & Lunch*

*Overnight at the Ranch*

##### Day 10: Sightseeing (no riding)

After breakfast enjoy a free day. You have the option of being taken to Tamarindo Beach and go shopping, swimming, or surfing. Later on, enjoy a sunset and a dinner on your own in Tamarindo. We will pick you up by arrangement. If you would like, you can opt for one of the many other tours offered in the area including Canopy/Zip line, Monkey Park, Coco Beach, or all day tours to Arenal Volcano or Granada Nicaragua.

*Meals included: Breakfast*

*Overnight at the Ranch*

##### Day 11: Ride to la Garita

After breakfast, meet your horses in the small village of La Garita and ride on secluded back country roads through dry tropical forest to the beach. Stop at Puerto Viejo for a cold drink, then ride along the beautiful Pacific beaches of Pt. Viejo, Conchal, and Brasilito. Tie up your horses for a lunch at the beach, at Don Brasilitos, with an option to swim before you are taken back to the ranch. In the afternoon, you can choose between two options: take a private lesson or work with your own horse using Natural Horsemanship Training in the ring. A sunset ride or dinner rides arranged depending on the tides.

*Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

*Overnight at the Ranch*

##### Day 12: Departure

After breakfast, if time permits ride in the ring or take your last photos and say goodbye before you transfer to Liberia or Tamarindo Airport. Optional stop at a gift shop or market is available depending on return flight times.

*Meals included: Breakfast*



#### Monteverde Extension

##### Day 9: Transfer to Montverde

After breakfast, your private driver will transfer you to your hotel in Monteverde (to be determined). Stop for lunch on route or add white water rafting with lunch.

*Meals included: Breakfast & Dinner*

*Overnight at Hotel in Montverde*

##### Day 10: Cowboy Tour

Breakfast at the hotel. Enjoy riding the all day Cowboy tour (6 hours in the saddle - If you wish we can arrange a shorter ride)! The rest of the day is free for optional tours or visit the Quaker Community or Santa Elena.

*Meals included: Breakfast & Lunch with Cowboy Tour*

*Overnight at Hotel in Montverde*

##### Day 11: Guided hike in the Monteverde Clouded Forest Preserve

Breakfast at the hotel. Look for resplendent quetzal, other tropical birds, and unique flora and fauna while walking a variety of trails. A wildlife guide and transportation is included. Visit to the hummingbird area at the visitors center. Afternoon free for riding or natural history tours. Option for a Night Rainforest Walk.

*Meals included: Breakfast*



*Meals included: Breakfast  
Overnight at Hotel in Montverde*

#### **Day 12: Departure**

After breakfast, private transfer to Liberia or San Jose for your flight home.

*Meals included: Breakfast*

#### **Non-Riding Activities**

Located minutes away from the most popular Pacific Beaches, there is ample time to take advantage of beach activities, canopy tours, fishing, river floats, and more. On the ranch, watch the Howler Monkeys feeding in the trees, and colorful tropical birds and flowers in our gardens while you enjoy a cup of Costa Rican coffee.

We can book the following activities for you at an extra cost (inquire for rates):

Canopy/Zip line tours – Add horseback riding or ATV for a real adventure.

Private Natural Horsemanship or Centered Riding Lessons

Palo Verde National Park river tour – See a variety of monkeys, tropical birds, crocks, and other wildlife from a covered motorized launch.

Catamaran Sailing and Snorkeling and Kayaking

Surfing Lessons and Board Rental Tamarindo

Sport Fishing – on and off shore, half or full day

Snorkeling and Scuba Diving – Choose from a variety of tours and times, transportation arranged – card needed for Scuba, refresher course available.

Buena Vista Combo Tour – Full Day tour to hot springs with horseback riding, zip line, sauna and water slide

Arena 1 Volcano all day tour – Hot springs, national park tour and other options

White Water Rafting – Class 2 & 3, or 3 & 4 – seasonal

Lunch and Shopping Day in Tamarindo or Liberia – by arrangement

Private Driver to take you on an all day adventure to your choice of beaches, natural areas and national parks. We'll design a day for you. Spend an evening at a local fiesta to watch bull riding and a taste of Guanacaste Culture.

Overnight Tours available.

## **Other Info**

**Meeting:** Ranch

**Airport:** Tamarindo Airport (TNO)

**Train station:** --

**Transfer:** Tamarindo airport, Liberia airport, or hotels

**Distance:** 15km

Transfers are available from Liberia International Airport (LIR), Tamarindo Airport (TNO), or hotels at anytime on any day of the week.

**Tack:** Western, English, McClellan

**Horses:** Spanish Criollos, Paso and Quarter mix

**Pace:** All paces according to riding level, 3 hrs per day

**Level:** 🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾 (2.5 to 3.5 out of 5) Low intermediate+

**Age:** Min 10

**Weight:** 210 lbs

**Riders:** Min 1 riders Max 6 riders

## **Fiestas and Topes**

### **Fiestas**

From the end of November to the end of July is Fiesta Time Costa Rica. Every weekend traditional small town fiestas feature bull riding, traditional foods and dance. Horses abound, from Guanacaste cowboys to residents and visitors riding a variety of Costa Rica horse breeds. Costa Rican pasos offer a smooth highstepping ride. Excellent horses available for all riding abilities. Your horse will be waiting for you at the fiesta.

### **Topes**

Sundays from 50-500 horse enthusiasts meet for the colorful Topes or horse parades and fiestas. Anyone can join in the festivities as a band leads the high stepping horses through town to the fiesta. After the parade, riders and their guests are treated to a reception with traditional food, drinks and music. Later riders join the fiesta to watch the bulls on horseback or can ride through the surrounding countryside. Half day rentals by arrangement, all ages and riding levels welcome, a real Costa Rican cultural experience.

Rates and Dates 2024 - IT-CRIT14

Rates include: Accommodations in casitas, All meals & riding according to program  
Riding helmets from size 6 1/2 to 7 3/8 available to borrow

Packages and Options

Season	Description	~US\$
A 2024	8 day trip	\$0

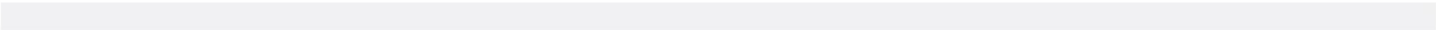
Transfer Option

Description

Tour Dates	
Season	Tour Dates

Your arrival and departure can be any day of the week!  
Shorter stays also available (min 4 nights stay)  
Closed between December 18th to January 4th

Rates do not include:Gratuities, Alcoholic beverages and soft drinks & Airport transfers (except Tamarindo)





# 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"/>
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"/>
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"/>
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"/>

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

659A Moberly Road  
Vancouver, BC  
Canada V5Z 4B2

Toll Free: 1-888-9 TRAILS  
(1-888-987-2457)

Phone: 604-323-1141  
FAX: 604-323-1148

From the U.K.:

Phone 020-323-96201  
Fax 0203-004-1200

Skype hiddentrails

E-mail [info@hiddentrails.com](mailto:info@hiddentrails.com)  
Website [www.hiddentrails.com](http://www.hiddentrails.com)

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



