



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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4406 Tennyson Road, Wilmington, DE 19802 USA

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Ph: 0-808 189-0420

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Skype: hiddentrails

Renaissance Castles of the Loire - France, Europe

Tour Code: IT-FRABR02
8 days / 7 nights ~\$3,095.00
Dates: June - August

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

Tack: Trail saddles custom-made for each hor...

Horses: Arabian, Paint horses, and Arabian/Pai...

Pace: Riders should be at ease at 4 paces (w...
Walk,Trot,Canter,Gallop,

Airport: Paris - Charles de Gaulle



Introduction

Loire, France

The Loire is the longest river in France and its banks are lined with beautiful forestland and handsome vineyards. Immersed in the landscape of beauty and nobility, the more you will come to understand why French aristocracy once flourished here and built their magnificent castles. The Loire valley has preserved its stately charm and lifestyle - the cuisine here is forever exclusive and refined, with splendid and distinguished wines. This horse riding holiday in the Loire provides riders with a pampered vacation experience with the best in local cuisine, wine, the arts and an endlessly romantic landscape that will seduce the hearts of travelers near and far.

This journey across the Loire landscapes and its forest areas is a leap into history of the Middle Ages but mostly the Renaissance. At the time, the royal house of Valois-Orléans-Angoulême had enough power and means to build fancy castles instead of fortresses. The Loire Valley offers a mild climate, fertile soils and biodiversity as well as monasteries, cathedrals, and of course, castles.

Accommodation

Accommodation

This is a progressive ride, so nights are spent in different locations.

Description

Accommodation in B&B or hotels with private facilities and free Wi-Fi available everywhere.

Accommodation Itinerary - subject to changes based on availability

Night 1 & 7- Hotel Restaurant "l'Auberge de l'Ecole" in Pontlevoy

Night 2, 3 & 4- Hotel du Cygne in Bracieux

Day 5 & 6- Hotel Restaurant « L'Hostellerie du Château » in Chaumont-sur-Loire

L'Auberge de l'Ecole at Pontlevoy

This auberge used to be a relay station and was in service for over 100 years. Nowadays, the auberge offers 11 renovated bedroom tastefully decorates with a rustic charm. The rooms all come equipped with a TV, a telephone and an ensuite bathroom with hairdryer. WiFi is available in public areas and guests can relax in the small garden.

Hotel du Cygne at Bracieux

This hotel, originally founded in 1880, offers simple accommodations in fully equipped bedrooms (TV, Wi-Fi and private bathroom with hairdryer). There is a beautiful terrace and a heated outdoor swimming pool which guests can enjoy year round.

Room Occupancy

Double or Twin rooms available. It is possible to request a single room but a supplement applies.

We try our best to match you with a roommate, but if this is not possible you may be placed in single room with a supplement to be paid.



Meals

All meals are included.

Continental breakfasts served at your accommodation.

The lunches are buffets with a wide choice (adapted to particular diets) & wine.

Dinner in the bed and breakfast, restaurant or hotel (wine not included for dinner).





Dietary Restrictions

We can cater to most dietary restrictions with prior notice.

For special dietary requirements – especially gluten-free diets:

We kindly ask riders to mention only genuine allergies or intolerances requiring special attention. Our team contacts restaurants, hotels and guesthouses in advance to arrange suitable meals, which involves significant organization. We sometimes find that guests who requested a special diet ultimately decide to eat normally once they arrive in France. We therefore thank riders for providing accurate and final dietary information in order to help us organize meals efficiently and facilitate the work of our partners.

Riding



Riding Ability

This ride is for the experienced rider who has mastered all 4 paces (walk, rising trot, canter/gallop in a forward seat) on a varied terrain, in open spaces. The experienced rider rides regularly, has good physical fitness, has good soft hands, a good attitude, and self-confidence. You should be able to control the speed and direction of the horse in all circumstances and be able to ride long distances including gallops of several minutes in open terrain.

There are certain sections of the trail where we might need to lead the horses. It is recommended that you be in good physical condition in order to participate.

Previous experience of trail rides over a number of days would be beneficial but is not required.

Riders who, on their own initiative, ask not to ride during the stay will be charged 300 euros for the transport of the horse.

Pace

The pace is varied depending on the terrain, with long periods of walk and plenty of opportunities to canter and gallop. We ride around 5-6 hours riding each day

Horses

Most of our horses were born on the farm. They live in herds in a 70 acre field and this is what makes them strong. This social lifestyle is very close to their ideal living conditions, which is a natural environment.

Every horse has its own character, but all are gentle, balanced, and multi-talented.

The horses are a mixture of purebred Arabian and Paint horses as well as Arabian/Paint crossbreds and Thoroughbreds.

The relationship with the riders and our horses is crucial. Above all, we place attention on the welfare and education of our horses.

Tack & Equipment

Our saddles are a French trail saddle (JMS brands), which blend the best of English and western styles to make the perfect trail saddle. Horses will work in bridles with Myler bits.

Saddlebags, poncho, and water are provided. Helmets are not mandatory but are strongly recommended.

Logistics

There is a support van for the transport of luggage and riders. It is possible for a rider or a non-riding companion to follow along the horse riders in the van.

We ask the riders to have only one suitcase (size 69x47x27) and one handbag.

Group Size & Staff

Riding groups have a minimum of 5 and maximum of 10 riders, plus the Guide and the Translator.

David (GTE/ BPJEPS TE) is a certified Equestrian Tour Guide. He creates the routes and leads all the riding tours. He is also a trainer of apprentice instructors in Equestrian Tourism.

Britta is your riding companion and translator (English, Dutch, German, and Spanish). She is always available to facilitate any language concerns.

Facilities

The Farm covers 30 hectares (75 acres) of woods and meadows and facilities include a covered riding arena, rolling pastures, a round pen, cross country terrain, as well as a multitude of riding and hiking trails.



Itinerary



Sample Itinerary: Progressive option - subject to changes

Important note: The specific level required is the "confirmed rider level".

As a qualified professional of equestrian tourism in France, it is important for the safety of the groups of riders we receive that everyone has the required riding level (see description below).

A person, who doesn't have the required level, causes difficulties for the staff and other participants, with consequences on the good progress of the stay for everyone.

Therefore, we will test riders on horseback on the 1st day before departure on the trail.

If from the first day we judge that a rider doesn't have the required level for horseback riding, he/she will not continue on horseback. They will continue their stay with the logistics team. They will be able to make all the scheduled visits, and eat with the riders for lunch and dinner.

This decision will be made without any refund on the stay.

If, due to poor physical condition, riders ask to stop riding, they are still liable for the 300 euros we charge for transporting the horse. The rider is also required to pay the 300 Euro fee if the rider decides to stop riding for any other reason. Riders cannot decide to stop riding just because it rains one day, is windy another day, or too hot another day. Only the guide can decide to modify the horseback ride or stop it if he or she considers that the weather or another event may compromise the safety of the riders and horses, for example following a national weather alert.

Our rides are for the experienced rider who has mastered all 4 paces (walk, rising trot, canter/gallop in a forward seat) on varied terrains and in open spaces. The experienced rider rides regularly, has good physical fitness, has good soft hands, a good attitude, and self-confidence. He controls the speed and direction of the horse in all circumstances. He can ride long distances including gallops of several minutes in open terrain.

Participants need to have experience riding on English-style saddles. They need to know how to ride in balance: two point position.

Day 1: Arrival

Arrival at Montrichard train station, transfer at 6.30 pm to your hotel. Dinner at 8:00pm.

Meals included: Dinner

Overnight at Hotel Restaurant "l'Auberge de l'Ecole" in Pontlevoy

Day 2: Ride to Cheverny

After the presentation and distribution of the horses, we leave to reach Fougères sur Bièvre. We have lunch at the foot of this castle. It offers the ideal image of a small castle of the end of the 15th century with a curtain wall, a dungeon, gunboats, a walkway and machicolations. At the end of the afternoon, the beautifully furnished Cheverny Castle welcomes us for the visit. The Cheverny castle, beautifully furnished, also welcomes us for a visit. This property is owned by the same family for more than 6 centuries. There you'll discover a fantastic heritage, authentic and still vibrant.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Hotel du Cygne in Bracieux

Day 3: Cheverny to Villesavin

In the morning, we ride through the Cheverny forest, between wooded paths and wild moorland, where deer, roe deer and hares, if you're lucky enough to spot them, can be found. For our picnic lunch, we stop off at Château de Villesavin. Dating from the 16th century, it was built by the same French and Italian masters and craftsmen who built the great royal residences. It has survived four centuries in near-perfect condition.

After lunch, we take time to visit the castle. Free afternoon at the hotel.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner



Overnight at Hotel du Cygne in Bracieux

Day 4: Ride to Chambord

After breakfast, we ride to Chambord, where we have a picnic. Chambord is the largest of the Loire Valley's castles. It's an unrivalled feat of architecture, with its central double-revolution staircase, a marvel of elegance, set in the heart of a vast 5,440-hectare nature reserve where deer are king. We visit the château after lunch. Then, through the Bracieux forest, we return to Villesavin in the late afternoon.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at Hotel du Cygne in Bracieux

Day 5: Ride to Beauregard Castle & Candé-sur-Beuvron

We ride through the forest to Château de Beauregard, where we stop for our picnic lunch. Formerly Chambord's hunting lodge, built on the orders of François I, it has always been known for its famous Galerie des Portraits. A monumental work of 3 generations, it features 327 portraits of illustrious figures, a remarkable lapis lazuli ceiling (7 times the value of gold) and an exceptional paving of 5600 Delft earthenware tiles. After visiting the château, we set off with our horses for the village of Candé-sur-Beuvron.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at Hotel in Chaumont sur Loire

Day 6: Chaumont-sur-Loire

Riding along the banks of the Loire, we reach the village of Chaumont sur Loire. A charming village, listed as a U.N.E.S.C.O. World Heritage Site, Chaumont is also famous for its feudal castle, which dominates the valley and the village. We enjoy our picnic and we leave the horses to rest for the afternoon.

This afternoon is left free to visit the Château de Chaumont sur Loire (hotel at the foot of the château). Dating from the late 15th century, it illustrates both the defensive architecture of the Gothic period and the pleasure architecture of the Renaissance. Don't miss the 19th-century stables, considered the most luxurious in Europe at the time.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at Hotel in Chaumont sur Loire

Day 7: Chenonceau

After breakfast, we'll enjoy a long gallop through the Amboise forest to reach the Château de Chenonceau, built on the Cher River. Named "Château des Dames", it was built in 1513 by Katherine Briçonnet and successively embellished by Diane de Poitiers and Catherine de Médicis. Chenonceau was saved from the rigors of the Revolution by Madame Dupin. It is the jewel of the Loire Valley. We have lunch on site and visit the château. In the early afternoon, we leave the banks of the Cher for and ride to Pontlevoy.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at Hotel Restaurant "l'Auberge de l'Ecole" in Pontlevoy

Day 8: Departure

After breakfast, time to say "goodbye" and depart for the Montrichard train station around 9:00 am.
Meals included: Breakfast



Non Riders

Non-riding companions are welcome to join this trip. It is best to have a car in order to do some sightseeing while the rest of the group explores on horseback.

Other Info

Meeting: Hotel on day one.

Airport: Paris - Charles de Gaulle

Train station: Montrichard

Pick-up is at 6:00pm from Montrichard / drop-off for this trip is at 9:00am to Montrichard train station.

Tack: Trail saddles custom-made for each horse and "Myler" bridle

Horses: Arabian, Paint horses, and Arabian/Paint crossbreds.

Pace: Riders should be at ease at 4 paces (walk, rising trot, canter/gallop in a forward seat), or varied terrain. Can gallop several minutes. We ride moderate to fast paced around 5-6 hours riding each day

Walk | Trot | Canter | Gallop |

Level: 🐾🐾🐾🐾 (3.5 to 4 out of 5) Strong Intermediate

Age: Min 16

Weight: 200 lbs / 90 kg

Riders: Min 5 riders

Max 10 riders

Riding helmets are mandatory for this ride.



Rates and Dates 2027 - IT-FRABR02

Rates include: Accommodations, All meals, Wine with lunch & 6 riding days
Saddlebags and water are provided during this trip.

Packages and Options

Season	Description	EUR	~US\$
A 2027	8 day trip	€3185	\$0

The US Dollar Rate is based on a EUR Exchange Rate of 0 and subject to currency fluctuation

Rates Note: Single supplement will be applied if we cannot find another rider to share.

Transfer Option

Description

2027	Pick-up/ drop-off from Montrichard train station roundtrip, pp (paid in cash)	€20	\$20
2027	Single supplement	€570	\$630
2027	Non-rider rate -- please inquire		
2027	Wine tasting, pp (estimated cost)	€100	\$105

Tour Dates

Season	Tour Dates		
A 2027	06/19/2027 - 06/26/2027	8d / 7n	8 day trip
A 2027	06/27/2027 - 07/04/2027	8d / 7n	8 day trip
A 2027	08/28/2027 - 09/04/2027	8d / 7n	8 day trip
A 2027	09/05/2027 - 09/12/2027	8d / 7n	8 day trip
A 2027	09/18/2027 - 09/25/2027	8d / 7n	8 day trip

Min/Max: 5/10

Rates do not include: Beverages in hotels and restaurants, Transfers from/to Montrichard train station, Wine tastings, Entrance fees & Gratuities

Rates and Dates 2026 - IT-FRABR02

Rates include: Accommodations, All meals, Wine with lunch & 6 riding days
Saddlebags and water are provided during this trip.

Packages and Options

Season	Description	EUR	~US\$
A 2026	8 day trip	€2815	\$3095

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

Rates Note: Single supplement will be applied if we cannot find another rider to share.

Transfer Option

Description

2026	Pick-up/ drop-off from Montrichard train station roundtrip, pp (paid in cash)	€20	\$20
2026	Single supplement	€515	\$565
2026	Non-rider rate -- please inquire		
2026	Wine tasting, pp (estimated cost)	€100	\$105

Tour Dates

Season	Tour Dates		
A 2026	06/27/2026 - 07/04/2026	8d / 7n	8 day trip
A 2026	07/05/2026 - 07/12/2026	8d / 7n	8 day trip
A 2026	08/29/2026 - 09/05/2026	8d / 7n	8 day trip
A 2026	09/06/2026 - 09/13/2026	8d / 7n	8 day trip

Min/Max: 5/10

Rates do not include: Beverages in hotels and restaurants, Transfers from/to Montrichard train station, Wine tastings, Entrance fees & Gratuities

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

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