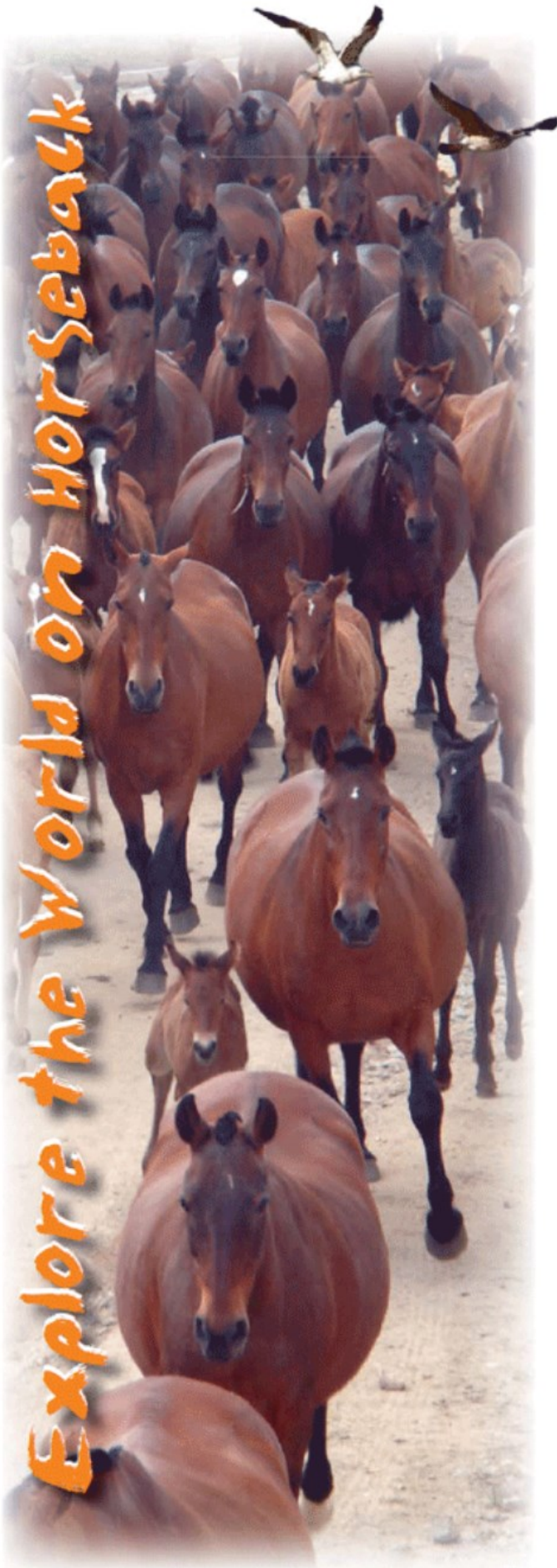


Hidden Trails

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

Website: 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

Horse Round Up in Iceland - Iceland, Europe

Tour Code: IT-ICRT24
5 days / 4 nights ~\$2,215.00
Dates: September/October

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

Tack: Icelandic
Horses: Icelandic
Pace: Daily rides are 4-6 hours -
Approx 120...

Airport: Keflavik Airport



Introduction

Iceland Shorts, Iceland

Imagine free and spirited horses rushing down from their highland summer pastures to be returned to their owners. Mares and their foals, young horses and geldings make their way through rough territory, not really willing to give up their freedom yet before winter returns once again. The ancient tradition of rounding up horses is only kept alive in the North of Iceland.

Join the farmers in this great autumn adventure. Ride along when they drive the herd, sort the horses and celebrate the safe return of horses and herders. The varied terrain includes the highland moors, green valleys just putting on their autumn coat of burning red and yellow, deep blue lakes and rivers and Kolugljúfur gorge where a troll woman is reputed to have lived in the old days.

When this task is complete the locals celebrate with a special round-up dance or "réttardansleikur". We are of course more than welcome to join in the fun. The next day the horses get sorted. Experience the excitement of horses and men when the horses and foals are selected from the herd and returned to their rightful owners.

When you participate in the Round Ups you are experiencing the Real Thing! You will be one of the group to herd and sort the animals. Of course that means long hours outside in sometimes cold weather. Iceland in autumn has many colours and types of weather. Anticipate to be in golden sunshine one moment and to ride in rain and even sleet during the next. We therefore recommend to dress well during these tours, to bring long woolen underwear and lots of woolen socks and gloves. It is also good to bring some "quick energy supplier" like chocolate. A warm rider is a happy rider!

Skrapatungurétt Round Up:

From the Vatnsdalur area we ride through beautiful valleys and mountains to Laxárdalur valley. Here we team up with the Icelanders and help round up the horses and drive them down from the mountains to Skrapatungurétt communal corral.

Víðidalstungurétt Round Up:

From Hvammur Farm in the North we follow good riding tracks until we meet the Icelanders who have been gathering horses already for some days. We join them and help driving the herd down to the Víðidalstungurétt corral. When this task has been fulfilled the locals celebrate the successful round-ups with a ball "réttardansleikur" and we are welcome to join in the fun. The next day the horses get sorted. Experience the excitement of horses and men when the horses and foals are selected from the herd and returned to their rightful owners.

Laufskálarétt Round Up:

It is one of the most famous round ups in Iceland. It combine riding with a free running herd which is an amazing experience in the beautiful northwestern countryside.

Accommodation

Accommodations

These are stationary rides so nights will be spent at the same accommodation throughout the trips.

Description

All the Horse Round-ups include accommodation at Hvammur Farm, in the beautiful Vatnsdalur Valley. The farmhouse was renovated 4 years ago and has a hot tub in the garden with a view over the river. There are 6 dormitory style bedrooms (2-4 beds per room) that can accommodate up to 20 guests. Facilities are shared and include 3 washrooms and 3 showers. There is no Wi-Fi connection but cellphone coverage is usually available.

Room Occupancy

Single room are not available on this trip.

Meals

During the ride full board is provided.

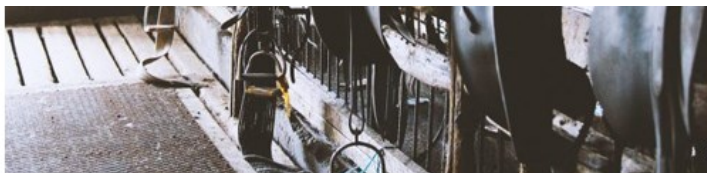
The menu consists of a large breakfast and traditional Icelandic meals (fish or lamb). All riders make their own packed lunch from the breakfast table

Dietary Restrictions

Vegetarian meals are available if requested when booking.

Riding





Riding Experience

This tour is a great riding experience that is suitable for intermediate riders. You need to be comfortable and in control at all paces, have a firm seat, and feel comfortable riding for up to 7 hours per day. Riders are expected to ride regularly and be capable of handling horses in an open country. Riding days can be as long as up to 35 km in the saddle so you should be in good physical condition and have a basic knowledge of horsemanship. You will get a thorough introduction into the gaits of the Icelandic horse and feel the Tölt, the extremely soft traveling gait of the Icelandic horse.

Riding Gear – Disinfect!

Riding gear (riding trousers, jackets, etc.) needs to be washed (40°C) or dry cleaned. Items which cannot be washed or dry cleaned (riding boots, riding hats) need to be disinfected at least 5 days prior to arriving in Iceland. The Icelandic Veterinary Authority recommends the broad-spectrum disinfectant Virkon S for disinfection. Used riding gloves, whips, saddles, bridles, chaps and other used leather gear may not be brought into the country. Please understand that these precautions are necessary because there are no contagious animal diseases in Iceland. Horses are not vaccinated and are therefore susceptible to infectious agents from abroad. Please help us to protect Iceland's fragile nature!

We provide saddle bags, rain wear and safety helmet.

Tack & Riding Style

The tack used for Icelandic horses is slightly different than the tack ordinarily used for other breeds.

The saddle is built close to a dressage saddle and has a relatively flat seat. Saddles come with plain or quilted seats. On longer rides, a crupper helps keeping the saddle in place. Riding style used on Icelandic horses is close to English riding style, but stirrups are worn long.

Bits used are mostly simple snaffles. Bridles have a detachable noseband and clip on reins.

The Farmers

The real connoisseurs of the local terrain and history. We make sure that each tour has its own charm and is organized by the local expert, the farmer, and his family. They use their own horses and ride through the part of the country they know so well.

Our farmers have over 30 years of experience in leading riding groups through Iceland.

Herd of Horses

On this ride, you will be riding several days (except for two days) with a free running herd of horses. Herding along free running horses is the traditional way of travelling in Iceland, since horses are changed at least once a day on longer tours. You get to ride a variety of horses.

Horses

The Icelandic horse is best known for its four-beat smooth gait, the "tölt", which is very comfortable for the rider, especially on a longer tour. Riding an Icelandic horse in its native habitat land is an authentic riding experience. The horses are especially chosen for this trip and are suited even for riders who have not had much riding experience.

Itinerary

Sample Itinerary: Skrapatungurétt Horse Round-Up - subject to changes

Day 1 (Thursday): Arrival & Introductory Ride

Pick up between 07:30 - 08:30 am from pick up points in Reykjavik (www.busstop.is). Please be ready at the earliest pick up time and be ready in your riding clothes. Transfer by bus to Hvammur Farm, where we meet horses and guides. On our way to the north we visit a factory outlet for woollen goods.

We start our ride in Vatnsdalur valley, a beautiful valley that is the setting of the Vatnsdæla-Saga. We ride on the eastern side of Vatnsdalur valley, past Hvammsfoss waterfall, surrounded by impressive basalt columns. The horses rest close to Stóra - Giljá Farm and we return to Hvammur Farm, home of our host Haukur, for our overnight stay.

Riding approx. 20 km

Meals included: Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Hvammur Farm

Day 2 (Friday): Stóra-Giljá Farm to Björnsólfsstaðir Farm

After rejoining with our horses, we start our ride along the shore of Lake Húnavatn, following the expensive salmon fishing river Laxá á Ásumm on our way to Blönduós village. Here, we cross the glacier fed river Blanda on a bridge and continue to Björnsólfsstaðir Farm in Langadalur valley. This farm belongs to Haukur's grandfather who is known for his storytelling and warm personality.

Riding approx. 30 km

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Hvammur Farm

Day 3 (Saturday): Gathering horses in Skrapatungurétt

We meet up with our horses again at Farm Strjúgsstaðir. Today we meet the farmers coming down from the mountains where they already spent some time gathering the horses in their summer pastures. Hundreds of horses are coming down from the highlands and we participate in herding them to the round up place: Skrapatungurétt. Join in the singing of the farmers, celebrating this great event of the fall during this long riding day.

Riding approx. 45 km

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Hvammur Farm

Optional (not included in the tour price):

"Stóðrétardansleikur" dance at Blönduós, where everybody relaxes after the excitement of the day and celebrates yet another successful round up.

Day 4 (Sunday): Sorting of the horses and driving the herds to their home pastures

Our day starts at the round up place Skrapatungurétt where horses are sorted out. Experience the excitement and view beautiful horses while joining in this great event. When the horses are sorted, we participate in returning some of them to their meadows at their home farms. Dinner at Hvammur Farm and time to share our personal experience on this riding adventure with our fellow riders.

Riding approx. 25 km

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Hvammur Farm



Day 5 (Monday): Departure

Departure from the North and return to Reykjavík. Approx. arrival in Reykjavík for 1:00pm.

Meals included: Breakfast



Sample Itinerary: Viðidalstungurétt Horse Round-Up - subject to changes

Day 1 (Wednesday): Arrival & Introductory Ride

Pick up between 07:30 – 08:30 am from pick up points in Reykjavík (www.busstop.is). Please be ready in your riding clothes. Transfer by bus from Reykjavík to Hvammur Farm, where we meet horses and guides. We start our ride through Vatnsdalur valley, a beautiful valley that is the setting of the Vatnsdæla-Saga. We ride along the banks of River Vatnsdalsá before crossing over to the western side of the valley. Our ride ends at Sveinsstaðir Farm and we return to Hvammur Farm for our overnight stay.

Riding approx. 25 km

Meals included: Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Hvammur Farm

Day 2 (Thursday): Sveinsstaðir Farm to Dæli Farm

This long and exciting riding day. We go alongside the Hóp lagoon and across the Gljúfurá River, through the friendly countryside of Vestur-Hóp and into the beautiful valley Viðidalur. We follow Viðidalsá River to Dæli Farm where we will leave the horses. We return to Hvammur farm for our overnight stay. The outdoor hot tub is waiting, as well as a hearty dinner.

Riding approx. 40 km

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Hvammur Farm

Day 3 (Friday): Gathering the horses at Viðidalstunguheiði

Today, we ascend towards the highland plateau (Viðidalstunguheiði) and meet the horses coming down from their pastures into the highlands. We enjoy a warm lunch at a mountain shelter before we join the farmers in driving the herd down from the mountains. Before ending our ride at Dæli Farm we stop at Kolugili Farm for refreshments.

Riding approx. 32 km (8-9 hours including lunch and coffee breaks)

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Hvammur Farm

Day 4 (Saturday): Viðidalstungurétt Horse Round Up

Our day starts at the round up place, Viðidalstungurétt, where horses are sorted out. An auction is held right on the spot and we can join the farmers in their joyful singing, celebrating the return of their horses.

In the afternoon, we join up with our horses close to Borgarvirki and ride towards Lake Hóp. Feel the excitement of the horses as they reach the open plain. Our trail leads us right across Lake Hóp, Iceland's fifth biggest lake, on a safe track across the water. We ride past Thingeyrar, a place of great historic importance and into Vatnsdalur valley. It is time to say goodbye to the horses.

Riding approx. 30 km

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Hvammur Farm

Optional (not included in the tour price):

"Stóðréttardansleikur" dance at Viðihlíð, where everybody relaxes after the excitement of the day and celebrates yet another successful round up.

Day 5 (Sunday): Departure

Departure from the North and return to Reykjavík. Approx. arrival at Reykjavík for 2:00pm.

Meals included: Breakfast

Sample Itinerary: Laufskálarétt Horse Round-Up - subject to changes

Day 1 (Thursday): Arrival & Introductory Ride

Pick up between 07:30 – 08:30 am from pick up points in Reykjavík (www.busstop.is). Please be ready in your riding clothes. Transfer by bus from Reykjavík to Hvammur Farm, where we meet horses and guides.

On this exciting day, we will ride by Lake Hóp, in a very beautiful area. We will pass the place where the dramatic story of the last execution in Iceland took place and was made famous in the bestseller book "Burial rights". We cross the rivers Gljúfurá and Viðidalsá on our way to our friends' farm Stóra Borg where we leave the horses for the night.

On our way back home, we will visit Borgarvirki, an old basaltic cliff which was used as a fortification by Vikings.

Meals included: Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Hvammur Farm

Day 2 (Friday): Lake Hóp crossing

Today our path leads us to the cliffs of Nesbjörg and to a place called Vaðhvamur. This is where we enter the lake Hóp to cross it. It is an extraordinary experience to glide through the biggest lake of Iceland on the back of a horse. The horses are very happy running in the shallow water with the tight sand underneath. For sure one of the most special horse tracks in Iceland.

The horses then rest on the fields of Þingeyrar farm while we go together to the horse show in Skagafjörður. The locals and special guests entertain us by showing their best horses for competition and breeding as well as singing and having fun.



singing and having fun.
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at Hvammur Farm

Day 3 (Saturday): Round Up

Now it is time for the round up action at Laufskálarétt in Skagafjörður, close to the Hólar the University of horsemanship. When we arrive, we saddle up and ride with the farmers to witness the free running horses being gathered from their summer pastures in the beautiful mountain area and the deserted valley Kolbeinsdalur. We visit Laufskálarétt (the round up) where the mares, foals and youngsters are sorted by their owners and brought home to the farms for the winter. The roundup is a festival for the farmer and their families as well as the many guests that visit the event. Some of the best breeding farms of Iceland have their horses at Laufskálarétt and some are offering horses for sale. Tonight, we enjoy the evening together with great traditional lamb meat, stories and singing.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at Hvammur Farm

Day 4 (Sunday): Ride to Hvammur Farm

Today, we will meet our horses at Þingeyrar and ride home to Hvammur farm with our herd, through the hills of Vatnsdalur. Perhaps we will make a stop by our friend Dóra who is an artist on the farm Vatnsdalshólar. We cross the river Vatnsdalsá and enjoy the ride on our happy horses on the riverbanks.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Overnight at Hvammur Farm

Day 5 (Monday): Departure

Departure from Hvammur after breakfast. Drop off in Reykjavík at BSÍ. Arrival Approx. 14 in Reykjavík.

Other Info

Meeting: Keflavik Airport

Airport: Keflavik Airport

Transfer: From Keflavik airport included

Pick up at BSÍ Bus station in Reykjavík between 7:30-8:30am on Day 1.

Tack: Icelandic

Horses: Icelandic

Pace: Daily rides are 4-6 hours - Approx 120km total. 4 riding days

Level: 🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾 (5 out of 5) Advanced

Weight: 242 lbs / 110 kg

Riders: Min 8 riders Max 20 riders



Rates and Dates 2024 - IT-ICRT24

Rates include:
Skrapatungurétt: Accommodations, All meals, Transfers from/to Reykjavik city center & 4 riding days
Viðidalstungurétt: Accommodations, All meals, Transfers from/to Reykjavik city center & 4 riding days
Laufskálaréttir: Accommodations, All meals, Transfers from/to Reykjavik city center & 4 riding days
Rain wear, Water bottle, Saddle bag & Riding helmet can be provide

Packages and Options

Season	Description	EUR	~US\$
A 2024	5 day trip, Viðidalstungurétt	€2015	\$2215
B 2024	5 day trip, Skrapatungurétt	€2105	\$2315
C 2024	5 day trip, Laufskálaréttir	€2015	\$2215

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

Transfer Option

Description

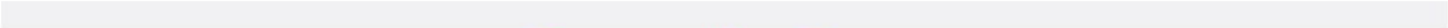
2024Pick up at BSÍ Bus station or at Reykjavik official bus stops near your accommodation on Day 1 between 07:30- 8:30am
2024Children's discount (under 12) - 25% off

Tour Dates

Season	Tour Dates		
B 2024	09/12/2024 - 09/16/2024	5d / 4n	5 day trip, Skrapatungurétt
C 2024	09/26/2024 - 09/30/2024	5d / 4n	5 day trip, Laufskálaréttir
A 2024	10/02/2024 - 10/06/2024	5d / 4n	5 day trip, Viðidalstungurétt

Min/Max: 8/20

Rates do not include:Alcoholic beverages (can be bought at Duty Free ahead of time), Gratuities & Optional dance at the community centre in Blönduós or Víðihlið (entrance fee to be paid locally)



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	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"/>
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"/>
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"/>
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"/>

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

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Fax 0203-004-1200

Skype hiddentrails

E-mail info@hiddentrails.com

Website www.hiddentrails.com

Office hours:

Mo-Fr 8:30 am to 6 pm

Pacific Standard Time

