

# 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



# Coast to Coast Trail in Sicily - Italy, Europe

Tour Code: IT-ITSIC02

8 days / 7 nights ~\$1,925.00

Dates: May-June, Sept-Oct

Trip Rating : ●●●●●

Difficulty : ●●●●●

Lodging : ●●●

Tack: English, Western (on request)

Horses: Sicilian, Andalusian,

Quarter Horse, A...

Pace: All riding paces - 6 to 8 hrs in the s...

Airport: Palermo, Catania



## Introduction

Sicily, Italy

The island of Sicily embodies the best of Italy; glorious landscapes, quaint coastal towns plus exquisite food and wine, all surrounded by centuries of history. Riding is an amazing way to explore places both near and far - it allows you to travel places no car can ever reach. The horse will take you anywhere from the snowy peaks of the Nebrodi to the sunny beaches of Sicily's coast. This magnificent trail explores the island from North to South and to immerse yourself in its real essence.

We take you on an evocative ride through an island characterized by a diverse history; a unique blend of cultures and traditions that have been evolving continuously since the Ancient times. Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs and Normans all have had their influence on the towns and villages in this distinctive region of Italy. The landscapes are mainly made of hills covered with endless fields of wheat and fodder, but there are also many "wild" traits and we also cross several villages of the interior whose origins are lost in history and legends, ancient farms abandoned witness of a not too distant past when Sicily drew its wealth from the earth, rivers and streams, olive and almond groves, and many amazing curiosity. Steeped in a distinguished history, here in Sicily you will find landscapes, castles and monasteries, and people that are individual in character in respect to the rest of the country. Come discover the exclusive flavor and flare of the Mediterranean's largest island.

The diversity and beauty of Sicily is such that German writer Johann Wolfgang von Goethe wrote:

"To have seen Italy without having seen Sicily is to not have seen Italy at all, for Sicily is the clue to everything."

The Coast to Coast Trail in Sicily offers the chance to explore a diverse area on horseback while discovering all the charms of the region's culture, food, and wine while resting in villas, B&Bs, hotels and farms.

## Accommodation



### Accommodations

This is a progressive ride so nights will be spent in different accommodations.

### Description

Accommodations along trail are in comfortable hotels, Agriturismo farms and B&B guesthouses.

Accommodation Itinerary - subject to changes based on availability

Day 1: Agriturismo Tenuta Luogo Marchese

Day 2: Agriturismo Casalvecchio Geraci

Day 3: Feudo Tudia in Tudia

Day 4: Agriturismo Mappa in Mappa

Day 5: Rifugio di Dedalo

Day 6: Principe di Aragona near Aragona

Day 7: B&B Villa Maiolica in San Leone







#### Agriturismo Tenuta Luogo Marchese

This traditional Italian farmhouse was recently renovated in order to provide comfortable accommodation to its guests. However, it has kept some of its original features such as exposed stones and beams. Rooms are decorated in Sicilian style and all come with ensuite bathroom and heating. There are common areas where guests can relax and access the free Wi-Fi. There is also a beautiful outdoor swimming pool with panoramic view of the surroundings.

#### Casalvecchio Geraci

This stonewall farmhouse was built in the 19th century and now provides guests with 7 well-equipped bedrooms. All rooms have private facilities, free Wi-Fi access and a TV. Guests can share about their adventure around the fireplace, in the house's living room. The property benefits from incredible views over the hilly landscape.

#### Feudo Tudia in Tudia

The building was built in the traditional Sicilian style with stones, terracotta floors and beamed ceilings. There are 6 guestrooms, all located in the main building and furnished with antiques.

#### Agriturismo Mappa in Mappa

This country house was built during the second half of the 18th century and has been well-maintained. It can accommodate up to 24 guests in comfortable rooms with private facilities that are furnished with taste and refinement. There is free Wi-Fi access.

#### Rifugio di Dedalo

This charming Agriturismo benefits from a wonderful view. It offers 5 simply decorated rooms all equipped with private facilities, air conditioning, free Wi-Fi access and a TV.

#### Principe di Aragona near Aragona

Tonight's accommodation is an old farmhouse that was restored in order to accommodate guests. It is surrounded by a beautiful 2-hectare park with olive trees, Indian figs and other fruit trees. From the large terrace, you can admire the panoramic view. You can also go for a swim in the outdoor swimming pool. The rooms are simply decorated and well equipped (private facilities, heating/AC, TV and free Wi-Fi).

#### B&B Villa Maiolica in San Leone

The B&B is only a short walk away from the beach and has a lovely garden and patio where guests can relax. The 4 bedrooms all have their own décor and feature air conditioning, free Wi-Fi access, a TV and private bathrooms.

#### Room Occupancy

If we are unable to find another rider to share the room with you, a single supplement fee applies. Single room accommodations are subject to availability.



#### Meals

All meals are provided during the riding tour from dinner on Day 1 to breakfast on Day 8.

You will have the opportunity to taste typical Sicilian dishes made with local products. All the dinners are at the accommodations and include 4 courses: starter, first dish, second dish, fruit, wine and water.

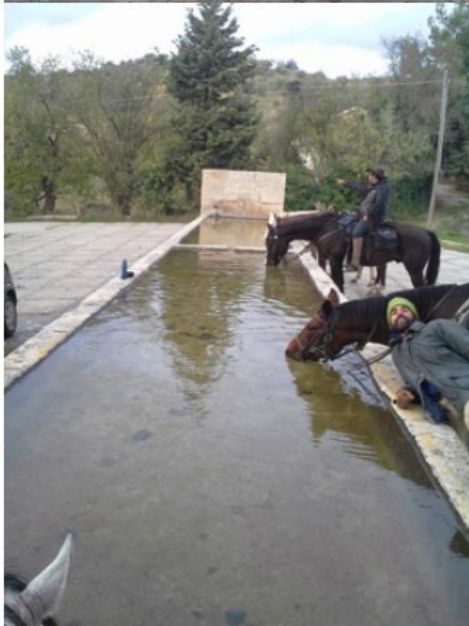
Wine is included with dinner and you can bring your own bottle(s) if you wish.

#### Dietary Restrictions

We can cater to all dietary restrictions with advance notice.







## Riding



### Riding Experience

You need to have a strong intermediate riding level. You must be able to control the horse on every paces, in difficult situations (ex. crossing rivers, walking on rocky tracks) and able to lead the horse on foot for short parts of the ride, if the ground is not the best.

You should be able to sit on horseback for up to 8/9 hours, with a considerable physical effort.

### Horses

The horses are bred by us. They are Sicilian-native (indigenous), Arabs, Arab mixed, Andalusians and Sanfratellani. They are trained with a good attitude for long distance rides. They are safe, proud and happy to go everywhere you ask them to go.

### Staff

Luciano is a breeder of indigenous Sicilian thoroughbred horses and has extensive knowledge of the paths and brideways of the Nebrodi and Madonie mountain range. In addition, he is an expert guide of all the trails and speaks fluently French, Italian, Sicilian as well as basic English.

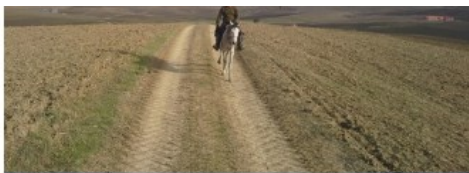
Sergio has been an expert in the field of tourism in Sicily for many years. His passion for promoting tourism in Sicily is second to his passion for horses. He speaks fluently English, French, Italian and Sicilian.



## Itinerary







## Sample Itinerary - subject to changes

### Day 1 (Saturday): Arrival

Pickup and transfer to farm.

Meals included: Dinner

Overnight at Tenuta Luogo Marchese

### Day 2 (Sunday): Tenuta Luogo Marchese to Casalvecchio Geraci

Breakfast. Assignment of the horses and departure from Luogo Marchese around 8:30am.

Step around the historical town of Castelbuono that have been for several centuries the administrative headquarters of Ventimiglia barons, who were feudal aristocrats among the most powerful of the island, mainly through cultivated fields with olives and manna ash. Ascent of the river Pollina and its tributary Rainò, in the territories of San Mauro Castelverde and Geraci Siculo covered with bush and scrub alternating semi-abandoned fields of ancient olive trees, notorious in the years between the late 800 and early 900 to the legendary exploits of bandits and outlaws who infested the area. Picnic with local products along the way. Arrival in the late afternoon in "Casalvecchio Geraci", a farm of IXX century restored. Dinner with local organic products made in the farm.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Casalvecchio Geraci

### Day 3 (Monday): Casalvecchio Geraci to Feudo Tudia

Breakfast and departure from Casalvecchio at around 8:00am.

Through an old "trazzera" we reach Gangi, a typical medieval village among the most beautiful in Italy (awarded in 2014) at about 1000 meters above sea level, proceed to the territory of Petralia, crossing characteristics villages until the arrival at the Shrine of Our Lady of the oil, in the territory of Blufi, where there is an outcrop of oil, for centuries considered miraculous, where it is eaten lunch / picnic. In the afternoon continuation towards Resutano, crossing the river Imera, passing through ancient farms semi-abandoned, fields and pastures and late afternoon arrival at "Feudo Tudia", an old farmhouse restored within an agricultural village now almost completely uninhabited. Dinner based on local products.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Feudo Tudia

### Day 4 (Tuesday): Feudo Tudia to Agriturismo Mappa

Breakfast and departure from Tudia at around 8:30am.

Step through organic vineyards of the farm and then deep immersion in the granary that is Sicily since ancient times, that is traversed along the "royal trazzere", routes established by the Bourbon government in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries to ensure the free movement of herds and people across the island. Passage from the sanctuary of Our Lady of Bilici, the Train Station of Marianopoli, a eucalyptus forest today private game reserve and arrival in "Mappa" the ancient residence of Spadafora Prince. Sumptuous dinner.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Agriturismo Mappa

### Day 5 (Wednesday): Agriturismo Mappa to Rifugio di Dedalo

Breakfast and departure from Mappa at around 8:00am.

Walkway across fields to the charming and really old town of Sutera, considered one of the oldest of the known history of humanity, with several prehistorical remains. Crossing and short stop in the village and continuation to the valley of the river Platani, one of the major rivers of western Sicily, after passing through the picturesque nature reserve of Monte Conca. Picnic and continuation through the valley up to our next stop: the farmhouse "Rifugio di Dedalo" an other old farmhouse restored.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Rifugio di Dedalo

### Day 6 (Thursday): Rifugio di Dedalo to Principe di Aragona

Breakfast and departure around 8:30am in the direction of Sant'Angelo Muxaro, another little town of earliest origins that would have been the seat of Kokalos, king of Sicans, mysterious indigenous people that inhabited the island before the Greeks and Sicules.

Walk along the prehistoric tombs carved into the rock at the base of the town, some of which turned into stables during centuries. Tour inside the quaint town and stop for a tasting and demonstration of ricotta production, fresh typical Sicilian cheese. Continuation and picnic in a wooded area of eucalyptus. In the afternoon stop at the Tower of Anjou, ancient aristocratic mansion of the thirteenth century, then in an old abandoned sulfur mine, and arrival at our farm "Principe di Aragona".

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at Principe di Aragona

### Day 7 (Friday): Principe di Aragona to San Leone

Breakfast and departure around 8:00am.

After going through an agricultural area near the town of Aragona, arriving at "Macalube" curious resurfacing of methane gas which in its ascent from the depths of the earth carries with it the clay mud, leaving small cold craters. Continue in the direction of Agrigento, the ancient Agrakas, founded by people originating in the islands of Crete and Rhodes around 580 BC. Short stop in the typical village of Monte Aperto and picnic near by the city under the shade of a little wood. In the afternoon ride in the direction of the temples, guided tour of the monuments of greater importance in the list of Unesco (temples of Hera, Concordia, Hercules, Zeus, Castor) and then continuation in the direction of the animated seaside village of San Leone, where is spent the last night of our journey, in a B&B.

Dinner of fish in a prestigious local restaurant.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Overnight at B&B in San Leone

### Day 8 (Saturday): Departure

Breakfast then transfer back to the train station (optional transfer to the airport—please inquire).

Meals included: Breakfast





### Other Info

**Meeting:** Cefalu - ends in Etna

**Airport:** Palermo, Catania

**Train station:** Cefalu

**Transfer:** Cefalu - drop off Catania

**Distance:** 40 miles, 110 miles

Your ride tour starts and ends in different locations.

Pick-up from Cefalù (~45-minute drive) is free.

Pick-up from Palermo airport (~2-hour drive) and Catania airport (~2-hour 20-minute drive) are possible for an additional cost.

Drop-off to Catania airport (~1-hour 15-minute drive) or Palermo airport (~3-hour 45-minute drive) is possible for an additional cost.

**Tack:** English, Western (on request)

**Horses:** Sicilian, Andalusian, Quarter Horse, Arab and "San Fratellani" mix

**Pace:** All riding paces - 6 to 8 hrs in the saddle

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

**Riders:** Min 6 riders Max 12 riders



Rates and Dates 2024 - IT-ITSIC02

Rates include: Accommodations, All meals, 6 riding days with support vehicle & Transfers from/to Cefalù railway station  
Helmet and half chaps can be provided

Packages and Options

Season	Description	EUR	~US\$
A 2024	8 day trip,	€1750	\$1925

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

Transfer Option

Description

2024	Single supplement	€250	\$275
2024	Pick-up from Cefalù railway station -- free of charge		
2024	Pick-up from Palermo airport, per car, one way (1-3 pax)	€290	\$320
2024	Pick-up from Palermo airport, per car, one way (4-6 pax)	€350	\$385
2024	Pick-up from Catania airport, per car, one way (1-3 pax)	€315	\$345
2024	Pick-up from Catania airport, per car, one way (4-6 pax)	€375	\$410
2024	Drop off from San Leone to Catania or Palermo airport, per car, one way (1-3 pax)	€225	\$250
2024	Drop off from San Leone to Catania or Palermo airport, per car, one way (4-6 pax)	€275	\$300

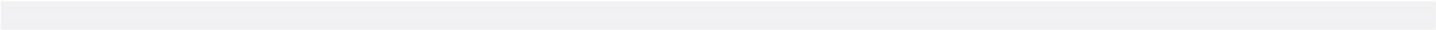
Tour Dates

Season	Tour Dates		
A 2024	05/18/2024 - 05/25/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip,
A 2024	06/22/2024 - 06/29/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip,
A 2024	09/21/2024 - 09/28/2024	8d / 7n	8 day trip,

Min/Max: 6/12

Dates run Saturday to Saturday. Additional dates are available on request for groups of 4+ riders!

Rates do not include:Alcoholic beverages, Transfers from/to Catania or Palermo & 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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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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



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Pacific Standard Time



